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**FRIDAY**

**DECEMBER 16, 2011**



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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 56

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## Zoning tabled in Coahoma

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
 Staff Writer  
 COAHOMA — The Coahoma City Council is taking a "slow and steady" approach to adopting the first-ever zoning maps for this community. The council tabled plans to vote on adopting the maps during its Thursday meeting, giving city officials more opportunities to fine-tune the proposal and address concerns raised by residents during a series of public meetings on the subject.

The zoning map push has been a topic of much debate in the community for more than six months, ever since city officials decided the action was needed to help attract more business and revenue to their community.

"It came out of a comprehensive plan we did in order to encourage growth," Coahoma Mayor Warren Wallace said.

See **ZONING**, Page 3A



**HERALD photo/Steve Reagan**  
 Newly hired Coahoma Independent School District Superintendent Amy Jacobs, left, meets with well-wishers during a reception in her honor at the elementary school Thursday night.

## New super visits with CHS board

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
 Staff Writer  
 COAHOMA — Education is equal parts occupation and family tradition for Amy Jacobs. Jacobs, an educator who

is the daughter of teachers and the wife of a teacher, was introduced as the new superintendent of Coahoma Independent School District

See **JACOBS**, Page 8A

## Two more busted on drug charges

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

Investigators with the Big Spring Police Department Narcotics Division made two more arrests Thursday afternoon, bringing this week's total to 19 collars since local, state and federal law enforcement agencies began rounding up alleged traffickers earlier this week.

Dijuan Ausbie, 23, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of marijuana. Also arrested was Tina Ausbie, 24, who was charged with possession of a controlled substance.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD, the pair were arrested at a home in the 1100 block of Pickens.

"The arrests were made by



D. Ausbie T. Ausbie

agents with the Big Spring Police Department Narcotics Division, BSPD Criminal Investigations Division, deputies with the Howard County Sheriff's Office and agents with Homeland and Security conducting an investigation into drug violations," Everett said. "They also seized narcotics and cash from the residence."

Everett said crack cocaine, marijuana and approximately \$5,800 in cash were seized.

See **DRUGS**, Page 3A

## 'Nutcracker' to take stage Saturday

**By AMANDA MORENO**  
 Staff Writer

The venue may be different, but the show must and will go on.

"The Nutcracker Ballet" — performed by the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra and Midland Festival Ballet — is still set for Saturday at 7:30 p.m., but the performance will



Grauman

be taking place in the Big Spring High School Auditorium.

"The high school auditorium is not satisfactory for the performance, but we will make it work," said Big Spring Symphony Orchestra Conductor Dr. Keith Gra-

mann.

The annual performance was originally set to be held in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium, but construction there to comply with ADA regulations has yet to be completed and the show had to be moved.

The high school stage is less than half as deep and more narrow than the Municipal

Auditorium stage — which will cause the setup to be altered a bit, but the composition of the ballet will remain true to its traditional form.

"The Midland Festival Ballet has been very cooperative about changing things," Graumann said. "The space we have is going to be very

See **NUTCRACKER**, Page 3A

## Deadline for filing is extended

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

Area residents considering running for a public office in November will have a little extra time to decide

See **FILING**, Page 3A

## Motorcycle club different, Xmas mission the same

**By AMANDA MORENO**  
 Staff Writer

Just because something changes doesn't mean the kids are going to be left behind. Members of the newly formed Xiled M.C. Club have kept the season of giving going

with their X-Mas for Kids program. "The kids are still out there and just because things changed, it doesn't mean we forget about the kids," said Ron "Smurf" Sawyers, founder of the local Xiled chapter.

Several of the Xiled members were at one time part of another local motorcycle club, but decided to branch off. However, they want to keep the Christmas spirit going.

"We are proud to help people have a good Christmas who otherwise probably wouldn't have one," Xiled Vice President Randy Smith said.

The club has been planning the toy

See **XILED**, Page 3A



**HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno**  
 Xiled M.C. Club has gathered enough donations to provide 21 families with a little extra joy this Christmas season. The toys will be delivered to the families Saturday as part of the X-Mas for Kids program.

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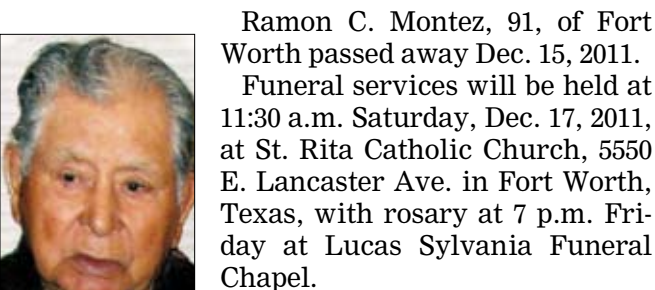
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## Obituaries

## Ramon C. Montez



Ramon C. Montez, 91, of Fort Worth passed away Dec. 15, 2011. Funeral services will be held at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, 2011, at St. Rita Catholic Church, 5550 E. Lancaster Ave. in Fort Worth, Texas, with rosary at 7 p.m. Friday at Lucas Sylvania Funeral Chapel.

Ramon was born in Ruidosa, Presidio County, on Jan. 25, 1920, the son of Dionicio "Nieho" Montez and Isabel Canava. When he was very young, his mother brought him to Marfa, where he spent most of his young life with his mother and later his grandmother, Ros Quintana.

As a teenager in the 1930s, Ramon worked for a year-and-a-half in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camps in the Big Bend Country and New Mexico, planting trees, building dams and working on roads. In Big Spring, he worked odd jobs and as a handyman before landing a job with the Southern Pacific Railroad, which had a line from El Paso to San Antonio running through Marfa.

In December 1940, Ramon married Alicia Alvarez in Marfa. In 1944, the family — then with three children — moved to Big Spring, where Ramon first worked for a roofing company owned by John Underwood, then for an airport and farm, both owned by Mr. Underwood. He later began operating his own roofing business, getting referrals from the lumber yards in Big Spring.

In late 1952, after some years of little rain and

little roofing work in Big Spring, Ramon moved his family to El Centro, Calif., where he and Alice picked grapes and vegetables. Ramon then found work with a roofing company. It was so hot in El Centro the roofers' workday was from 4 a.m. to 11 a.m. After a few months of that, the family moved at the urging of a Big Spring friend to Fresno, Calif., where Ramon continued doing roofing.

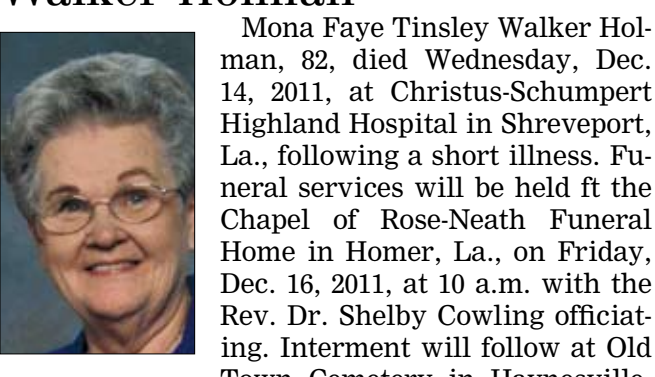
Ramon was intending to stay in California, but he returned to Big Spring in 1954 to sell the house he had built in 1949 and move the family's things to California. At that time, he found a project building 500 homes was under way and there was a need for roofers. Ramon was hired as a foreman. Work on the project lasted about three years. Ramon then operated his own roofing business in Big Spring for the next 42 years.

Ramon was hard-working all his life and very sociable, easily entering into conversation with people he encountered prior to suffering a stroke Dec. 5, 2010. Ramon was used to being in supervisory positions as a foreman or a business owner.

Ramon is survived by a daughter, Isabel (Pau) Menge; and sons, Ramon A. Montez and Joe A. (Iris) Montez, all of Fort Worth; grandchildren, Henry (Julie) Vasquez of Kemp, Alice Diaz of Terrell, Steve (Glyn) Vasquez of Mansfield, Helen (Burt) Mains of Waxahachie, Annie (Marcus) Daub of The Colony, Naomi Montez of Dallas, Soccoro (Brian) Jones of Mesquite, Lena (Fernando) Adame of Fort Worth and Joe H. Montez of Fort Worth; 15 great-grandchildren; a great-great-grandchild; and by a dear friend, Gloria (Goia) Gonzalez of Big Spring.

*Paid obituary*

## Mona Faye Tinsley Walker Holman



Mona Faye Tinsley Walker Holman, 82, died Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011, at Christus-Schumpert Highland Hospital in Shreveport, La., following a short illness. Funeral services will be held at the Chapel of Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Homer, La., on Friday, Dec. 16, 2011, at 10 a.m. with the Rev. Dr. Shelby Cowling officiating. Interment will follow at Old Town Cemetery in Haynesville, La.

The family received friends at the funeral home on Thursday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mrs. Holman was born Sept. 6, 1929 in the Standpipe Community near Homer to Roy Clyde and Myra Ione Beavers Tinsley. She enjoyed quilting, crocheting and traveling. Mrs. Holman retired

from the First Guaranty Bank in Homer as vice president, after a career that spanned more than 39 years.

Mrs. Holman was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 53 years, Durwood E. Walker; and brothers, Percy Tinsley and Drew Tinsley.

She is survived by her husband, Louis Holman; two daughters and sons-in-law, Carolyn and Aubrey (Poley) Guinn of Homer and Carlene and Gary (Speedy) Hollan of Homer; brother, Leroy Tinsley and wife, Olarene of Homer; sisters, Camilla Bauldree and husband, Travis of Homer, Brenda Rainey and husband Royce of Haynesville, Billie Joyce Teague and husband Ronnie of West Monroe, and Judy Bolt and husband Jack of Houston; sister-in-law, Laura Tinsley of Haynesville; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be sent to the American Cancer Society, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., or the First Baptist Church of Haynesville.

## Jacqueline Ann Martin Durham (Christi)

Jacqueline Ann Martin Durham (Christi), age 50, of Grandview, Tenn., died at her home on Dec. 1, 2011, after a 13-year battle with cancer. Services were held Dec. 4, 2011, in Crossville, Tenn.

Christi was born to Harold C. Martin and Jacqueline Martin "Bitsy" on Jan. 24, 1961, in Big Spring, Texas. She attended Big Spring High School, and later moved to Midland, Texas, where she met her husband, Bobby Durham. The two later moved to

Grandview, Tenn.

Christi worked at Lazy Boy for several years. She is survived by her husband, Bobby Durham; a daughter, M. Beth Ann Durham; and a son, Colton Durham; along with two granddaughters, all of Tennessee; her sister, Terri Martin Prater and husband Guy; two brothers, Harold C. Martin Jr. "Tim," and Walter Martin "Bingo" and wife Laura, all of Big Spring; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Christi is preceded in death by her parents. The family suggests memorials to the Susan G. Komen foundation or Relay for Life for Cancer.

## Bill Bennett

Bill Bennett, 80, of Big Spring, died Thursday, December 15, 2011 in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

## Police/Sheriff/EMS

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

- THOMAS RAY CAMARILLO, 38, of 413 S. Fifth St. in Coahoma, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- STEVEN VALENCIA GAMBOA, 28, of 506 N. Nolan, was arrested Thursday on charges of public intoxication and expired registration.
- JULIAN JAY TORRES, 18, of 500.5 N.W. Seventh St., was arrested Thursday on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- RUBEN ANTHONY GONZALEZ, 28, of Midland, was arrested Thursday on warrants for evading arrest or detention — previously convicted (state jail felony) and failure to identify as a fugitive — giving false information.
- RUBEN JUAREZ JR., 26, of 2526 Hunter, was arrested Thursday on a warrant for manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.
- GABRIEL AGUILAR, 34, of 1612 Lark, was arrested Thursday on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.
- RUSSELL CHARLES HESSON, 43, of 800 W. FM 700 Apt. 28, was arrested Thursday on a warrant from another agency.
- TAMMY KAY LOCKHART, 35, of 1106 W. Third St. Apt. 13, was arrested Friday on a warrant for assault by contact.

- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported: In the 600 block of E. Sixth Street. In the area near County Road 50 and FM 1584. In the 2500 block of Carol Drive.
- ASSAULT was reported: In the 700 block of N. Gregg Street. In the 1000 block of S. Goliad. In the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1400 block of Dixie.

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 63 inmates at the time of this report.

- DAVID CANALES JR., 26, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a bench warrant for manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.
- JONATHON MICHAEL PAUL, 31, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated.
- RUSS C. HESSON, 43, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a motion to



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See **POLICE**, Page 8A

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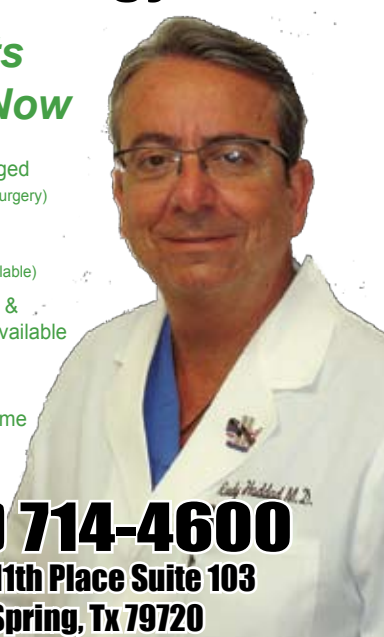
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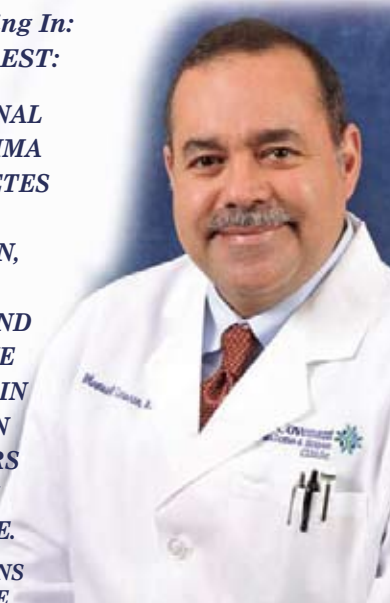
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**ZONING**

Continued from Page 1A

“By establishing zones, it will be easier for the city to obtain grants and recruit new businesses ... plus, people would know what can or can't go in a certain place.”

The plan, crafted by Cameron Walker, planning director for the city of Midland, would establish three dedicated residential zones in Coahoma, as well as designated areas for commercial, industrial and agricultural use.

However, several objections have been raised to the plan, especially from residents whose property might be found in violation of the new ordinances.

Wallace said a solution to that problem would be to allow a grandfather clause in the new regulations, in effect allowing owners' current property status to remain as is in the future, without being subject to fines or having to apply for “special use permits.”

But Councilwoman Linda Luce expressed other concerns about the proposal.

“I think this is a well thought-out plan, but some adjustments need to be made,” Luce

said. “I would like us to adopt zoning ordinances ... but I don't think it's ready to be passed as it's written right now.”

Luce's objections included how fines and related fees would be assessed and enforced, possible conflicts between new zoning rules and existing city ordinances and if the city would have to hire more personnel to oversee and enforce the new plan.

Until those concerns were addressed, Luce said she would continue to have reservations about the proposal.

“I am not against this ... but I don't want to rush this through until these points are addressed,” she said.

In response, Wallace said he didn't object to tabling the vote until a later time, which the council did by unanimous vote. The issue will be revisited in future council meetings.

Despite the delay, Wallace remained confident zoning maps are in Coahoma's future.

“It will happen,” he said. “But we want to get this done right. If it isn't addressed concisely, people have a right to be concerned.”

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at [reporter@big-springherald.com](mailto:reporter@big-springherald.com)

**DRUGS**

Continued from Page 1A

“Both (Dijuan Ausbie and Tina Ausbie) were booked into the Howard County Detention Center,” Everett said.

Dijuan Ausbie had his bond set at \$20,000 for the charge of possession of a controlled substance and \$1,000 for the charge of possession of marijuana. Tina Ausbie had her bond set at \$20,000 for the charge of possession of a controlled substance.

According to officials with the Howard County Detention Center, both had posted bond and been released at the time

**“A lot of the same agencies have been working on these busts this week, but the investigations themselves aren't related. They are all separate narcotic investigations.”**

of this report.

Everett said these arrests — while coming on the heels of the Wednesday drug sweep that netted more than a dozen suspects and Tuesday's arrests in the 1600 block of Lark Street — are not part of the same investigation.

“The investigations are unrelated,” Everett pointed out. “A lot of the same agencies have been working on these busts this week, but the investigations themselves aren't related. They are all separate narcotic investigations.”

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@big-springherald.com](mailto:citydesk@big-springherald.com)

**FILING**

Continued from Page 1A

— and possibly more in the not-so-distant future — as a federal court order handed down Tuesday by the U.S. District Court has extended the deadline to file to Monday.

The new deadline — previously established as Thursday, Dec. 15 — comes as part of a lawsuit regarding

election district boundaries which rages on in three federal courts.

U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia, on behalf of a three-judge panel in federal court in San Antonio, extended candidate filing deadlines for the second time during Texas's continuing redistricting fight, and said candidates will have yet another chance to file for office once the boundaries are made final.

“The court will reopen the filing period at a later time, at

which time applications may be filed, amended or withdrawn,” Garcia said in the four-page order.

The judges extended the filing window after a day-long hearing Tuesday in which Democrats and Republicans debated whether Texas should hold one primary election for all races or split various races into separate primaries. Garcia's order said the extension of the filing deadline doesn't affect that continuing discussion.

The debate was prompted by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to hear a challenge stemming from complaints by Hispanic voting rights groups and the U.S. Justice Department that election maps drawn by the Republican-controlled Texas Legislature are racially gerrymandered.

Seats up for election in the 2012 election will be 118th Judicial District Attorney, Howard County sheriff, county attorney, tax assessor collector,

Precinct 3 county commissioner and Precinct 1 county commissioner.

To file candidacy with the Republican party, contact Chairman Craig Bailey at 267-2464. To file with the Democratic party, contact Chairman Walter Shipman at 264-6660.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@big-springherald.com](mailto:citydesk@big-springherald.com)

**NUTCRACKER**

Continued from Page 1A

small and cramped, but we are going to make adjustments where we have to and unless people attended the performance in Midland last week, the changes most likely won't be noticed.”

Those attending will

still see the Sugar Plum Fairies, Snow Prince, Toy Soldiers and the Kingdom of Sweets dance across the stage as in years past.

“We are going to overcome these problems and put on a great show,” Graumann said. “People can expect the usual, wonderful show. We are going to overcome all the obstacles.”

Two dancers will be featured from the Houston Ballet, Elissa Hough and James Gotesky, along with local resident Wiley McIntosh. McIntosh, son of Ken and Eulaine McIntosh, will play the role of the Nutcracker Prince.

“The seating capacity is less than what the Municipal Auditorium holds so we encourage

people to show up early if they are wanting to get a good seat,” Graumann said.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students and can be purchased at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, KBST, BigSpringHerald, Feyes Flowers and Western Bank locations. Tickets will also be available at

the event.

“There will still be the full, complete performance,” Graumann said. “Since it was brought here in the 1950s it has become a holiday favorite, especially for the children.”

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at [life@bigspringherald.com](mailto:life@bigspringherald.com)

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**  
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Leah Cooper, 90, of Big Spring, died Monday. A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. today at Alive In Christ Lutheran Church.

**XILED**

Continued from Page 1A

drive since May and started receiving applications for assistance in October. Through this process, 21 local families will be receiving a little extra help this Christmas.

“We are very appreciative of the donations we have received this year,” Smith said. “There is a lady from Midland who not only gave us a generous donation, but is also loaning us her trailer to help deliver the toys.”

The program is made possible through support of the the American Legion, Eagles Lodge, Southwest Tool, Partee Drilling and several other individuals and businesses in the community.

“Wal-Mart was a big help in this when it came to purchasing the bicycles,” Sawyers said.

Smith added, “We were really lucky to receive the donations that we did this year. It was through those donations that we were able to go out and purchase all the toys and the bicycles that we did this year.”

For those wanting to offer support for the X-Mas for Kids program, donations can be taken to the Xiled clubhouse at 600 W. Third.

“One thing we do want to point out is that we aren't taking Christ out of Christmas when we say X-Mas for Kids, it's just a catch phrase since

we are the Xiled M.C. Club,” Sawyers said.

All monetary and item donations are accepted as well as the help of volunteers.

The donations will be distributed Saturday, beginning at 1 p.m. Other MC clubs and all Xiled MC Chapters in Texas will be coming to Big Spring to ride that day, according to the Rev. L.C. “Trip” Gibbs. Clubs like “Guardians of the Children” are expected to have several Texas chapters come and ride.

The parade will leave RO's Shop on the north I-20 service road at 1 p.m.

“Riders may join us in

the back of the formation as we ride or join us at the Fourth and Birdwell Seven-11 at College Park Shopping Center, as we stop for a break, or as the parade ends at American Legion Post 506,” said Gibbs.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at [life@bigspringherald.com](mailto:life@bigspringherald.com)

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# 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.

|  |                                 |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Bill McClellan</b><br>Managing Editor | <b>Ron Midkiff</b><br>Publisher | <b>Steve Reagan</b><br>Staff Writer   |
| <b>Amanda Moreno</b><br>Staff Writer     |                                 | <b>Thomas Jenkins</b><br>Staff Writer |

## We salute:

*Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.*

*We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play*

*This week we salute:*

- Big Spring ISD for considering becoming an Early College High School which could potentially help more students be able to pursue a college education.

- Big Spring High School band for their performance of their annual Christmas concert, which was held in the high school auditorium this past weekend.

- Spring of Siloam, Christian Woman's Job Corps and all the other volunteers who have agreed to donate their time to help build a local resident in need a new house.

- SWCID student organizations for hosting a food drive and donating to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The drive brought in more than 300 cans to be donated.

- County Commissioners for noticing the fire danger still exists and deciding to ban rockets and finned fireworks, as well as extending the burn ban for another 90 days.

- For the five families who opened their homes to the community in support of the Symphony Guild and took part in the 2011 Tour of Homes.

- All area residents who purchased tickets for the Tour of Homes this past weekend. The money will be used to support the Symphony Guild and its involvement in the community.

- Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and all other entities located in the chamber building for hosting an open house and allowing residents of the community to come in and get to know them.

*Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.*

## 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 Bill McClellan at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Steve Reagan 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

# I column as I see 'em and James Taylor said it best in his song

One of my favorite songs is by James Taylor and the lyric that I like the most says "the secret of life is enjoying the passage of time."

I am one of those people with a genuine appreciation for life. I recognize life is fragile and I cherish every breath.

Everybody has proverbial good days and bad days but I make an honest attempt to get everything out of every hour of every day because I am really starting to realize how quickly time passes.

I feel like a kid. Sometimes I act like a kid. But I'm not, and when I think about days gone by I am somewhat saddened by the reality of aging. Now don't get me wrong. I would much rather be getting older, or more mature as I prefer to think of it, than the obvious alternative and I am blessed by my Creator to have good health.

Research that places a high priority on genetics encourages me because I come from a healthy family including a great-grandmother that almost made it to her 101st birthday and parents who still enjoy relatively good health in their 80's.

Life is indeed very precious and I thank God for it every day. He allows me to enjoy His awesome creation, my wonderful wife and children, other family members and precious friends.

This time of the year seems to make everyone keenly aware

of the blessings of life, family, and friends and as we prepare for these special times with our loved ones to celebrate the holidays it reminds us of how priceless the opportunity to grasp each and every moment of our life really is.

"Carpe diem," Latin for "seize the day," is one of my favorite motivational sayings. It reminds me even though the past may have been great and the future is bright and hopeful today is the only real thing I have to embrace and enjoy.

Even though I know it isn't true I sometimes wonder if I wasn't born out of season because many of my favorite things are from a generation that existed before I discovered America in 1950. I absolutely love the fashions, automobiles, movies and music from the 40s and when I talk to people who actually were alive during that era, they usually tell me it was also a very difficult time as the country struggled to recover from the Great Depression and World War II. Then I am once again aware of perspective and how important it is to make today count by finding the good and the positive in every situation.

When we remember that the sun is always shining, regardless of whether we can see it or not, then we understand why clouds have silver linings.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said "To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and to endure the betrayal of false friends. To appreciate beauty; to find the best in others;

to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."

Gilda Radner, the famous Saturday Night Live actress who died from ovarian cancer at 42, said "I wanted a perfect ending. Now I've learned, the hard way, that some poems don't rhyme, and some stories don't have a clear beginning, middle and end. Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next."

James says it best in the Bible, "Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." (James 4:14 NKJ)

So my advice is simple, yet valuable. Make the commitment to live every day to the fullest making every moment special. Find the peace and joy that is yours through a relationship with God and all of His creation, including that neighbor whose name you don't even know and that family member you haven't called or visited in a long time. Maybe it's time to start enjoying this life that is "passing us by at the frightening speed of 60 minutes per hour" (Ashleigh Brilliant). You may not agree with anything I've said, but I column as I see 'em.

*Eddy Prince is the senior pastor at Grace Fellowship Church. He can be reached by email at pastorprince@msn.com.*



EDDY PRINCE



## What to be when I grow up?

About a year back, I sat down with my son and asked him the age-old question: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" He studied the question for a moment, then told me he really was not sure. He had some ideas, but simply had not settled on an absolute plan for the entirety of his life.

I told him it was understandable, given his age, and we spent the next several hours discussing possibilities — never pressuring in any direction, only offering advice or tales of experience from various fields I had personal experience with.

As he walked into his bedroom after wondering exactly what it was I wanted to be when I grew up. After all, I was still young at that time, barely getting my feet wet in this pool of old age called my 40s.

However, the other day, I came to a realization. I want to be an adult when I grow up.

Are you scratching your head? Let me explain.

I had witnessed an interaction between two people, who are both ever-so-much more than

18 years of age. Clearly adults, right?

Not so fast.

They were going at each other like a couple of schoolyard kids.

"Stop picking on me."

"You started it."

Sound familiar?

While I wanted to pass judgment, it got me thinking. Do I act like a child at times? (Please don't send the letters in response just yet. It was a rhetorical question.)

Looking back, even over a short span of time, I found I could not deny the facts. I have to say there are times when I do act younger than my years. Much younger. (Aren't you glad you didn't hit the "send" button?)

Turns out, I was passing judgment on those around me for doing things I do myself. Just because I was not doing it at the time, I somehow decided it gave me the right to elevate myself above them and look down upon them with a disapproving grimace. Believe me, when I looked in the mirror, what stared back was more hideous than I could have possibly imagined.

No response needed here either.

So, what do I want to be when I grow up? An adult. Apparently, I have allowed Peter Pan to be my role model for entirely too long.

Lying awake at night dreaming improbable dreams, entertaining an entirely delusional view of my own self-importance, has caused me to waste a lot of years.

A line from one of Stephen King's novels — yes, I know he is not quite the wordsmith Dean Koontz is — has always stuck with me over the years and now I see why. In the book, one of his characters said, "When you got one foot in the future and one in the past, the only thing you can really do is piss all over today."

Something I have done for quite some time I imagine. It is time to face the facts. I will never be a relief pitcher for the Rangers or be called in to replace an injured Don Meredith, Roger Staubach, Troy Aikman or even Tony Romo. My, how the years have passed.

I am just a father, a husband, and while my writing skills might leave a little something to be desired — get your finger away from the "send" button — I can only hope I have not failed in these areas. Let's face it, after stripping away the dreams, it's really all I have left.

*Robert Griffin is the sports editor at the Big Spring Herald. He can be contacted by email at sports@bigspringherald.com or by calling the office at 432-263-7331 ext. 237.*

# Church News

## St. Paul Lutheran Church

Worship is Sunday morning at 9 a.m. in our sanctuary at 810 Scurry. Sunday school, led by Pastor Don Rosentreter, is in the parish hall after worship.

Wednesday noon Bible study studies "Held in High Esteem." Bring a brown bag lunch.

We continue to collect supplies for the Candelaria Medical Mission and a complete list is available at the church.

## First United Methodist Church

Sunday will be Christmas Music Worship Service during both service featuring chancel choir, bell choir, praise teams and our local instrumentalists. There will be traditional carols sung by the congregation as well as traditional and new arrangements of Christmas music sung and played by all the choirs and instrumentalists.

Pastor Bill Ivins will be giving the Children's sermon, as well as the congregational message, "The Possibilities of Love" with scripture text from Luke 1:26-38.

The Advent Candle will be lit by Steve and Sandra Waggoner at the 8:30 a.m. service and by the Richard Steel family at 10:50 a.m.

The congregation at First Methodist rejoices in receiving 17 new members in our late service last Sunday. Pastor Bill plans to honor these families with a New Member Dinner at the Parsonage on Jan. 8.

Special thanks to the congregation for providing Christmas gifts for more than 70 Big Spring children.

These kids with a parent in prison got to meet Santa who was on hand to pass out gifts. There was food, games and lots of fun.

Pastor Bill is planning to lead a nine-day Wesley Heritage Tour to England in 2012. For those of you who might be interested in joining the group there will be another planning meeting after the new year or give Bill a call for additional information.

Saturday, Dec. 24, we will hold our Christmas Eve Candle Lighting service at 6 p.m. There will be special music by the chancel choir, bell choir and praise team as well as instrumentalists. There will be an open communion service.

The Advent Candle will be lit by the Chuck Bagwell Family.

Christmas Day, there will be only one service at 10 a.m.; there will be no Sunday school classes or youth meetings.

## Gateway Baptist Church

Gateway Baptist Church is located at 2302 Gatesville Rd. Sunday school is at 10 a.m. Worship is at 11 a.m. with Pastor Jim Mills leading the service.

Sunday evening service is at 6 p.m. and Wednesday evening service is at 6:30 p.m. Both evening services are followed by a fellowship meal.

Revelations is being studied in both evening services.

DuePraise Ministries with Bro. David Garrett and his wife Karen, from Mesquite, Texas will be signing, praising and preaching through Sunday. Services are at 7 p.m.

Gateway has a clothing ministry and food pantry open Thursdays from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. for individuals needing assistance with these items.

## First Christian Church

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is located at 911 Goliad. Sunday fellowship is at 9:30 a.m. Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m. Church starts at

10:50 a.m. Sunday the Rev. Ken McIntosh will bring the message from Psalm 89: 1-4; 19-26 "Restore Us, O God: Love."

Elders will be Erma Dunne and Jim Shelton; Deacons will be Joe McCright, Shirley Lee, Frank Sickles, Laura Sickles; Worship Leader will be Hollis McCright; Frank and Laura Sickles will be in charge of communion preparation. Greeter will be Joe McCright. Homebound communion will be Erma Dunne.

Saturday, there will be a membership committee meeting at 11 a.m. at the church all those on this committee are asked to come Saturday.

After church at 5:30 p.m. there will be the Carols and Casseroles Christmas Dinner in the Fellowship Hall with the St. Mary's Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church and First Christian Church. There will be an extra at the dinner.

Mondays, ISAIAH 58 Food Pantry needs volunteers at 9 a.m. to help unload the food bank truck. We will be open Monday at 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. for food delivery to clients.

Wednesday at noon, there will be a Stewardship meeting at the church. Choir practice will be at 6 p.m. in the Choir Room.

Youth will meet at the church at 6 p.m. for their weekly meeting.

For questions or further information, call the church office 432-517-4821, view our website at www.fcbs125@yahoo.com or email to fcbs125@atyahoo.com

## Spring Creek Fellowship

Thank you to all who participated and helped us meet our goal with the United Blood Services Blood Drive Saturday, Dec. 10.

Men's Prayer Breakfast and Fellowship is scheduled at 7:30 a.m. Saturday in the dining room at the church.

"Between the Lines" Women's Ministry will meet Saturday from 2-4 p.m. at the church. We will be having a "Red Dress Tea Party." Bring an ornament to exchange!

"The Star of Bethlehem" is an inspiring and informative video which explains the astronomical events that took place at the time of the birth of Christ. We will present this video Sunday at 6 p.m.

Pastor Derrick will be presenting a sermon series titled "Keep the 'mas' in Christmas."

Candlelight service is set for Saturday, Dec. 24. We will also have a special Christmas morning service at our regular time.

Our "Manna House" food pantry is low on supplies. Contact Casie Fillingim and Jennifer Boyd for more information. "Free Indeed," a ministry of Spring Creek Fellowship, is in need of donations of new underwear, socks, coats, etc. for the cold months ahead. Monetary donations would be greatly appreciated as well.

Sunday school classes meet from 9:15-10:15 a.m. "Holy Grounds Café" is open from 10:15-10:45 a.m. with snacks and fellowship. Worship is scheduled from 10:45-12 p.m.

Christmas Day and New's Year's Day schedule will be "Holy Grounds Café" at 10:15 a.m. and worship at 10:45 a.m. No Sunday school classes.

There will be no Wednesday meal or activities Dec. 21 or 28.

If you would like any further information regarding any of our ministries or events, contact the church office.

Spring Creek Fellowship meets at the College Park Shopping Center at 501 Birdwell Lane.

Contact us at 432-714-4584 or visit our website at www.springcreekfellowship.org

## First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

The Lectionary Bible study, led by Craig Holstedt and Tom Koger, at 5:17 p.m. in the church library, has resumed weekly meetings. The children's choir and the chancel choir practice Wednesdays, at 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. respectively.

Encourager's Support Group meets in the Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m. Monday.

Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the church library, there will be the stated session meeting for the month.

Our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in the sanctuary will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Jamie Walker is in charge of this week's "Take Ten." Liturgist is Danny Kennemur. Ushers for the month are Susan Holstedt, John Yater, Jamie and Baylor Walker.

Christmas Day, during the Sunday school hour the children invite everyone to join them in the fellowship hall for the cooking component of their study of the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke.

Sunday, we are invited to bring a casserole to the fellowship hall at First Christian Church at 5:30 p.m. to join with that congregation and St. Mary's Episcopal and First Presbyterian, Coahoma for "Casseroles and Carols."

The lectionary is II Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 or Luke 1:47-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38. The choir will offer "A Prayer for Advent" by Williams/Nolan as the anthem and "Il Est Ne" arranged by Craig Courtney for the offertory. The Rev. Craig Holstedt will deliver the

sermon. There will be a called congregational meeting following worship. We will also receive the Christmas joy offering.

Listen on KBST 1490 AM at 11 a.m. To have a printed bulletin for Sunday services, call the church office at 263-4211. Visit our website www.fcbs.org. On our website, you can find a link that will enable you to listen to several recent sermons by the Rev. Craig Holstedt.

## Alive in Christ Lutheran Church LCMS

We are located at 2805 Lynn Drive. Our church phone number is 432-264-7818. Our new website is http://www.m2ctexas.org/chweb/aliveinchrist/. Our e-mail address is aliveinchrist@crcom.net.

Sunday service is at 9 a.m. Sunday school is at 10:15 a.m.

Pastor Carroll Kohl will be preaching his sermon titled "You're Gonna Have a Baby" based on today's New Testament reading.

Shyrlee Reid will be reading the liturgy. The readings are 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Psalm 89:1-5 (19-29), Romans 16:25-27 and Luke 1:26-38. Anyone interested in reading, contact Dolline Budke.

The poinsettias this week are given to the glory to God and in honor of Jesus Christ's birth by our members of Alive in Christ Lutheran Church. If you are interested in donating flowers, sign up on the flower chart. The general consensus is to plan on using the flowers two or three weeks.

Tomorrow at 1 p.m. is the final practice for the children's Christmas

See CHURCH, Page 6A

## Fighting the grinch of Christmas

It was Dr. Seuss who loosed the Grinch upon us. This green, mythical character has been trying to steal Christmas ever since. Dressed in a Santa Claus suit, Dr. Seuss' Grinch came down the chimneys in the town of Who-ville to loot and to destroy Christmas. To the Grinch's dismay, even after he had stolen all the food, all the lights and trees, and all the stockings, toys, and presents, Christmas still came.



BONNIE WHEAT

Even those of us who think we're too old to read a children's book are plagued with some little grinch that may have escaped Dr. Seuss. Like the grinch who tried to steal Christmas in Who-ville, these little grinch distort the meaning of Christmas and rob us of the joy of the season.

The Grinch of Frustration is a snare for Christmas shoppers. He hides things on the store shelves so they can't be found. He prompts stores to run out of chocolate chips and candy canes on Christmas Eve. He makes check-out lines long and causes feet to hurt.

The Grinch of Worry instigates tenseness over picking the right gift in the right size and the right color. He produces stress when the money runs out before the bargains stop being advertised and he stirs up anxiety about cooking the perfect meal.

The Grinch of Exhaustion induces apathy about decorating the tree and vacuuming the rug. He causes tem-

pers to flare when traffic gets crazy and parking spaces are hard to find. He piles up dirty dishes in the sink, and prevents Christmas cards from getting mailed.

The Grinch of Depression thrives on thoughts of loneliness, self-pity, and despair. He encourages negative thoughts and discourages positive thinking. His stocking stuffers are lumps of coal and bitter reflections instead of candy and sweet memories.

Perhaps, though, the worst grinch of all is the Grinch of Greed. He works overtime to convince both children and adults that Christmas is about getting instead of giving. Temptation is his favorite game. He works overtime creating new enticements. However, he always leaves a trail of disappointment because greed is never satisfied.

Whether we fight off the grinch of Christmas this year or embrace them whole heartedly, Christmas will come. It will come because Christ came. The scripture records that after Jesus was born a multitude of heavenly host praised God, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14 KJV).

Just as Christmas came to the Whos in Who-ville, Christmas comes to Any-ville. Christmas isn't about the trappings of the holiday. Christmas is a celebration in the hearts of those who believe. It is the source of peace and good will.

Bonnie Wheat is an author and a minister's wife. She can be contacted at brwheat@suddenlink.net.

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# Reader's Corner

## Jesus

Your name is the name I call on when things are wrong in my life.

Your name is the name which cost you dearly.

It made you suffer untold pain until you died on a cruel cross.

Oh my dear sweet Jesus, it's hard to think that you, that sweet baby boy born to be our savior so long ago, would some day die just so others could live.

What a gift you gave to all.

A savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11

Lana F. Anguiano

## It is more blessed to give

By JOELLE LUDINGTON

In the book of Acts, Paul says, "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, you must support the weak. Remember the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, when He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'."

And when he said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. They all wept freely and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, crying most of all for the words which he spoke that they would see his face no more. Then they accompanied him to the ship — the Apostle Paul, a man who once persecuted Christians, the man known to kick against the bricks.

This world is no different today as it was then. The truth is not allowed to be preached and I'll tell you why. It is because it sets people free from the sin which has them bound.

I believe it is a sin not to pray. I don't agree with silent prayer in the schools; we have the right to pray, our God has ears.

Those who are filled with the Holy Spirit

need to pray in the spirit and open their mouths. The Holy Spirit is the Power of God, Amen. We need to pray out loud, speak in tongues.

Don't be ashamed of it.

Paul said in Act: 20:22-23 "And see now I go, bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things which will happen to me there, except the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying 'chains and tribulation await me.'"

I know in my last article I said you are only as strong as the object you worship.

I can't help but think of the apostles who were martyred for what they believed in.

Are we as God's people, ready to die for what we believe in, to stand up for what we believe in?

If God is not real, His word is not true and prayer is vain, why is it such a threat to the unbeliever?

Why are we attacked from both sides, the secular side and the religious side?

Yes, the religious side still has Him on the cross and in a box, but to His children, He is on the throne. You know, no one told me if I gave my life to God, one day I might suffer

persecution or even be martyred because of my faith in Jesus Christ.

I don't know about you, but when I read about the martyrs, it does something to my heart and the way I see things.

I believe the disciples had a choice and their choice was not death, but eternity with Jesus Christ.

We, as His people, are anointed. We have a purpose and are empowered by God's Spirit to carry it out successfully.

Those who were martyred believed, loved, embraced and will live again. I don't know what awaits me, whether it be chains and tribulation, persecution.

Paul reminds me of the scripture which says: "He who is forgiven much loveth much, but even if you were forgiven just one sin, that one sin would have kept you from entering into heaven."

It would have taken the blood of Christ for just one sin.

So think about it, think of God's forgiveness.

Love much.

Pour yourself out as Paul did to souls in giving, ministering, witnessing, praying, but know the cost what it is to serve and love God.

## Reflections

### Music For the Season and the Soul

Everywhere we turn we hear the sounds of Christmas.

The little drummer boy drums; the nutcrackers crack; the babe sleeps in a manger in the little town of Bethlehem while the angels herald his coming. How could we celebrate Christmas without music? The angels could not contain themselves.

On a dark meadow outside Bethlehem the heavens were opened and the hills echoed with music human ear had never heard. The angels of heaven joined in a thunderous chorus praising God for His goodness and grace and announced His mysterious gift: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

God is not against us. God is for us. He has extended his hand to us and touched us in the flesh with the flesh of His son. He has healed us and saved us from our sins. The best acoustic theaters of Greece dim in comparison to the music that echoed on the hills outside Bethlehem.

The most extravagant speaker systems of today cannot reproduce it. The greatest composers of history have stretched their talents to capture the emotions and the significance of that moment. They have found their highest inspiration when reflecting upon the birth of Christ.

On Aug. 22, 1741, George Frideric Handel secluded himself in a room in London and started writing an oratorio to celebrate the birth of Christ. Twenty-four days later he emerged with the Messiah. At the end of his original manuscript he wrote the letters "SDG" – Soli Deo Gloria, "to God alone the glory."

Music is an integral expression of faith. Most of the Psalms written by David were written as songs to be sung in worship. The Song of Solomon is a love song between the believer and God likened to a lover. Music is a gift God has given us as human beings to express our longings, our emotions and our faith. No other creature is endowed with this unique gift. It has always surrounded the Christ event.



BILL TINSLEY

I expect that Mary and Joseph sang. Early in her pregnancy, Mary burst into song when she met her cousin, Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55). I wonder what lullaby she must have sung to the infant in her arms? Music was part of Jesus' life. The Bible says after the last supper, Jesus sang with his disciples before going out.

Imagine those 12 male voices singing in the upper room. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God." (Col. 3:16).

During this Christmas season, may your spirit be renewed and lifted by music celebrating God's unspeakable gift.

Bill Tinsley reflects on current events and life experience from a faith perspective. For more info visit [www.tinsleycenter.com](http://www.tinsleycenter.com). Email [bill@tinsleycenter.com](mailto:bill@tinsleycenter.com).

## CHURCH

Continued from Page 5A

gram. The children's party will follow. Each child needs to bring a generic \$5 gift to exchange.

Sunday will be the Congregational Christmas Party and Chinese Auction. Bring a "finger food," a "white elephant" item to be auctioned and your change for the auction.

Wednesday is our Children's Christmas Program at 7 p.m.

Last Wednesday, we had the final of our Advent services. Thank you, Pastor Carroll Kohl, for preaching during this Advent season.

The LWML ladies had a great time at Jeanie Knocke's home last Thursday. Thank you Jeanie Knocke for inviting us into your home. The Christmas salads and desserts were delicious and the ornaments/decorations exchanged were beautiful.

Thank you to the individuals who helped with the Christmas For Our Troops boxes. Your donations will help make Christmas a very special time for those away from home.

Scheduled 7 p.m. meetings for January at the church include: Jan. 9, the LWML will serve coffee/juice/refreshments at the VA. The Board of Education will meet Jan. 10. The LWML will meet Jan. 12. The elders meet Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. at the church. The Board of Assimilation will meet Jan. 24.

### First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma

We meet at 11 a.m. Sunday to share the scriptures, sing, pray and worship, led by Commissioned Lay Pastor Tom Koger.

The lectionary Bible study, led by Tom and Craig Holstedt, at 5:17 p.m. at First Presbyterian in Big Spring will meet on Wednesdays, following worship in the church social hall.

Our congregation is invited to take part in an informal Casseroles and Carols event on Sunday at 5:30 p.m. at First Christian Church in Big Spring, along with First Presbyterian, Big Spring and St. Mary's Episcopal churches. Bring a casserole and be ready to sing Christmas carols.

The lectionary is Isaiah 61:1-11; Psalm 126; I Thessalonians 3:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.

### St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist is at 10:30 a.m. St. Andrew's Brotherhood meeting and breakfast is Saturday at 8 a.m. The Daily Grind with God — Coffee Hour meets Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the parish hall.

For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-8201. St. Mary's is located at 1001 S. Goliad.

### Anson

The Texas Cowboys' Christmas Ball will be held 8 p.m.-midnight tonight-Saturday at Pioneer Hall, 2300 Avenue G.

The historic re-enactment of the original 1885 ball honoring area cowboys will be celebrated with western music, dancing and refreshments. Call Suanne Holtman at 325-537-2589,

Nettie Lee at 325-823-2159.

### Snyder

The 8th Annual Rehab Big Country Christmas Ball will be Saturday at The Coliseum. Tickets are \$15 each and the music will be provided by Bobby Flores and the Yellow Rose Band. Call the West Texas Rehabilitation Center at 325-660-8836 or 660-8838 for information.

### Holy Trinity youth group collecting for community

Holy Trinity Catholic Youth Group is collecting good coats, blankets, heaters, scarves, gloves for the community. Items may be dropped

off at the Holy Trinity Office on Main or you may call Meranda Reyes at 935-0694 or Merlinda Moron at 213-3456. The needy in our community can come to Holy Trinity Church Hall on Sunday, Dec. 18, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 1009 Hearn St. in Big Spring to look through the items we've collected. Refreshments will be served.

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- over KBYG 1400 AM    Evangelistic Service....6:00 p.m.
- on your dial    Wednesday Service.....7:00p.m.

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## News in brief

### House to vote to avert shutdown while payroll tax cuts talk continue

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress appears on track to avert a government shutdown this weekend, even as President Barack Obama's push to extend a payroll tax cut and jobless benefits for another year is encountering snags.

Those hiccups in finding spending cuts to pay for extending a 2 percentage point cut in Social Security payroll taxes and jobless benefits for millions have prompted Democratic leaders to suggest just a two-month, \$40 billion extension of expiring tax breaks and jobless benefits might be needed.

But the first act in clearing away a pile of unfinished business for an unpopular Congress is for the GOP-controlled House to pass a massive, bipartisan, \$1 trillion-plus spending measure funding 10 Cabinet departments and U.S. operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

That vote is on track for Friday afternoon, but a stopgap bill could be needed to fund the government into next week.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., told reporters Thursday night that he was still optimistic that bipartisan talks on yearlong extensions of the Social Security payroll tax cut and unemployment coverage would succeed. But as a "Plan B," he said, they were working on a two-month extension as well, which would also prevent cuts in Medicare reimbursements for doctors during that period.

### Analysis: Final pre-lowa debate throws light on frontrunners' liabilities, dark horses' hopes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The final Republican presidential debate before the Jan. 3 Iowa caucus crystalized the strengths and weaknesses of the chief contenders as perhaps no other event thus far.

It reinforced the notion that this is a battle between Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich unless one of the other five can make a dramatic late run.

Given his likely strength in the Jan. 10 New Hampshire primary, Romney may be able to survive a so-so finish in Iowa. It appears more important for Gingrich to win Iowa, or come close, and Thursday's two-hour televised debate in Sioux City probably helped his cause.

It wasn't so much that the former House speaker had a solid second hour after a somewhat shaky start. It's more that Rep. Ron Paul, the libertarian-leaning Texan, expressed his anti-war, anti-interventionist views so vehemently that he may have turned off mainstream Republicans who otherwise might have helped him to a surprising first-place finish.

"To declare war on 1.2 billion Muslims and say all Muslims are the same, this is dangerous talk," Paul said of the idea of taking pre-emptive action to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. "Yeah, there are some radicals. But they don't come here to kill us because we're free and prosperous ... They want to do us harm because we're bombing them."

### Poll: Americans about evenly split on whether Obama should be voted out of office

WASHINGTON (AP) — Entering 2012, President Barack Obama's re-election prospects are essentially a 50-50 proposition, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll. It found that

most Americans say the president deserves to be voted out of office even though they have concerns about the Republican alternatives.

Obama's overall standing in the poll suggests he could be in jeopardy of losing re-election even as the survey showed that public's outlook on the economy appears to be improving. For the first time since spring, more people said the economy got better in the past month than said it got worse. The president's approval rating on unemployment shifted upward — from 40 percent in October to 45 percent in the latest poll — as the jobless rate fell to 8.6 percent last month, its lowest level since March 2009.

But Obama's approval rating on his handling of the economy overall remains stagnant: Thirty-nine percent approve and 60 percent disapprove.

Heading into his re-election campaign, the president faces a conflicted public. It does not support his steering of the economy, the most dominant issue for Americans, or his overhaul of health care, one of his signature accomplishments, but it also is grappling with whether to replace him with Republican contenders Mitt Romney or Newt Gingrich.

The poll found Americans were evenly divided over whether they expect Obama to be re-elected next year.

### Hitchens, militant pundit, essayist and author dies after battle with cancer

(AP)—Cancer weakened, but did not soften Christopher Hitchens. He did not repent or forgive or ask for pity. As if granted diplomatic immunity, his mind's eye looked plainly upon the attack and counterattack of disease and treatments that robbed him of his hair, his stamina, his speaking voice and eventually his life.

"I love the imagery of struggle," he wrote about his illness in an August 2010 essay in Vanity Fair. "I sometimes wish I were suffering in a good cause, or risking my life for the good of others, instead of just being a gravely endangered patient."

Hitchens, a Washington, D.C.-based author, essayist and polemicist who waged verbal and occasional physical battle on behalf of causes left and right, died Thursday night at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston of pneumonia, a complication of his esophageal cancer, according to a statement from Vanity Fair magazine. He was 62.

"There will never be another like Christopher. A man of ferocious intellect, who was as vibrant on the page as he was at the bar," said Vanity Fair editor Graydon Carter. "Those who read him felt they knew him, and those who knew him were profoundly fortunate souls."

He had enjoyed his drink (enough to "to kill or stun the average mule") and cigarettes, until he announced in June 2010 that he was being treated for cancer of the esophagus.

### Commission: Thousands suffered sex abuse in Dutch Catholic institutions

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Thousands of children suffered sexual abuse in Dutch Catholic institutions, and church officials failed to adequately address the abuse or help the victims, according to a long-awaited investigation released Friday.

The report by the an independent commission said Catholic officials failed to tackle the widespread abuse "to prevent scandals."

Based on a survey among more than 34,000 people, the commission estimated that one in 10 Dutch children

suffered some form of abuse. The number doubled to 20 percent of children who spent some of their youth in a Catholic institution.

The commission said it received some 1,800 complaints of abuse at Catholic schools, seminaries and orphanages and that the institutions suffered from "a failure of oversight."

### Army begins argument for court-martialing accused leaker Manning

FORT MEADE, Md. (AP) — The U.S. military is making its case for why Army Pfc. Bradley Manning should be court-martialed on charges of endangering national security by stealing and leaking an enormous trove of government secrets.

Manning, 23, was to make his first public appearance Friday at the opening of his pretrial hearing at Fort Meade. The Army post near Washington is, ironically, home to U.S. Cyber Command, the organization whose mission includes protecting computer networks like the one Manning allegedly breached by illegally downloading huge numbers of classified documents in Iraq.

He is suspected of giving the documents to WikiLeaks, the anti-secrecy website that last year began publishing the materials.

The hearing was expected to last through the weekend and possibly beyond. Manning's lawyer asserts that the documents' release did little actual harm.

The case has spawned an international movement in support of Manning, who is seen by anti-war activists as a hero who helped expose American mistakes in Iraq and Afghanistan. To others he is a villain, even a traitor, who betrayed his oath of loyalty by deliberately spilling his government's secrets.

### Santa gets help: Anonymous donors are paying off strangers' layaway accounts

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — After a Good Samaritan helped her pay off the layaway bill she'd accumulated to buy Christmas gifts for her grandchild-

ren, Lori Stearnes planned to collect her paycheck Friday and head to Kmart anyway.

Her new plan: Pay the stranger's kindness forward by using the money she'd budgeted to instead support somebody else.

"It just gives you a warm feeling," said Stearnes, 53, of Omaha. "... With all the things going on the world, just to have someone do that is so, I don't know, it's hard to put into words."

At Kmart stores across the country, Santa seems to be getting some help: Anonymous donors are paying off strangers' layaway accounts, buying the Christmas gifts other families couldn't afford, especially toys and children's clothes set aside by impoverished parents.

Stearnes said at first she thought it was a joke when someone from the Omaha store called to say someone had paid off most of her layaway bill for toys and outfits she bought for the youngest four of her seven grandchildren.

### Immigration reform adrift, Calif. startup sets course to house foreign entrepreneurs offshore

SUNNYVALE, Calif. (AP) — You've heard of tech companies starting in a Silicon Valley garage. What about on a ship?

That's the idea being floated by a California startup that wants to dock a vessel off the coast to house foreign entrepreneurs who have dreams of creating the next Google but can't get visas to work in the United States.

Sunnyvale-based Blueseed Co. says current immigration rules can sink promising ventures and torpedo innovation and job creation.

The ship aims to provide a remedy by giving foreign entrepreneurs a place to build their companies only a short boat ride from high tech's hub.

"A lot of people say, 'I'd like to go to Silicon Valley' but there is no way for them to do it," said Max Marty, Blueseed CEO and co-founder.

To subscribe, call 263-7331

### Romney picks up governor's endorsement

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (AP) — Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney scooped up a coveted endorsement Friday from South Carolina's governor as he sought to halt the momentum of rival Newt Gingrich in a final weekend of campaigning for the GOP nomination before the holidays.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, a rising GOP star, said Romney is "someone that knows what it's like to make a

decision and lead." And she said President Barack Obama seems most scared of facing Romney in the general election. She announced her endorsement Friday on Fox News.

Romney, campaigning in western Iowa for the Jan. 3 caucuses, planned a swing later Friday with Haley through South Carolina, the first Southern state to hold a primary election.

Gingrich was returning to Washington after

defending his conservative credentials Thursday night in a nationally televised GOP debate.

Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann attacked Gingrich during the debate, saying he "had his hand out and received \$1.6 million to influence senior Republicans and keep the scam going in Washington, D.C.," for Freddie Mac, a government-backed housing entity.

"Just not true," Gingrich shot back.

Down from His Glory

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JACOBS

Continued from Page 1A

during a Thursday night reception at the elementary cafetorium.

Currently serving as assistant superintendent for Marble Falls ISD, Jacobs was officially hired as Coahoma's new superintendent during a brief trustees' meeting prior to the reception. She will officially assume her duties

March 19, 2012.

The Monahans native said returning to her West Texas roots was a big factor in seeking and accepting the position.

"I think this will be a great fit for me and my family," Jacobs said. "Being in a community where the school district is the focal point of the community is a great opportunity."

The next few months promise to be hectic for

Jacobs as she transitions from her current job to new one.

She is currently assistant superintendent of academic programs at Marble Falls ISD, where she has also served as executive director of curriculum and instruction, executive director of secondary education, associate high school principal and as a high school English teacher.

Prior to joining Marble Falls ISD, she held

teaching positions at Cayuga and Palestine school districts.

While Jacobs ties up her responsibilities at Marble Falls, Gary Harrell will continue to serve Coahoma as interim superintendent

"Mr. Harrell has done a wonderful job for us," CISD School Board President Brian Moore said. "He is a top-notch man who ... has done an outstanding job for Coahoma ISD. We've been

truly blessed to have him here."

For Jacobs, accepting the CISD post is almost like returning home.

Education is in her lineage — both of her parents were teachers — and growing up in that kind of environment installed in her a keen appreciation for the vocation.

"My father was the track coach at Monahans ... and my mother was a business teach-

er," she said. "Having been born and raised in an education family, it was always important to me."

Her two main objectives as superintendent will be ensure CISD students receive the best possible education, and that district tax dollars and used "wisely and efficiently for that sole purpose," she said.

Her husband, Bryan, is a science teacher and coach at Marble Falls.

POLICE

Continued from Page 2A

revoke probation for terroristic threat.

• CURTIS HAROLD JEFFERY JR., 28, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a bench warrant.

• PAUL ROSTUM RAMIREZ, 46, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated — second offense and a charge of driving while intoxicated — second offense.

• JUAN ANGEL MADRID, 25, was booked into

the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on an Austin parole violation.

• KATHERINE DELORES SCAGGS, 40, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a parole violation.

• TAMMY LOCKHART COKER, 35, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a Howard County warrant.

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of 25<sup>th</sup> Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 3600 block of Con-

nally. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Avenue C in Forsan. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Chanutte. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Hunter. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Fairchild. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

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# Former Cowboy busted buying drugs

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago Bears wide receiver Sam Hurd was locked up in federal custody Thursday as his stunned teammates learned he had been teaming with a drug-dealing network following his arrest with more than a pound of cocaine.

U.S. Magistrate Young Kim ordered Hurd held until at least Friday while prosecu-

tors and defense attorneys work out bond details before he is sent to Texas to face charges.

The handcuffed Hurd declined to comment on the charges. Asked before the hearing if he was still a member of the Bears, he said: "As far as I know." He shook his head when asked if he had talked to anyone on the team.

"Sam intends to fight these

charges, and we intend to defend him fully," said high-profile defense attorney David Kenner, one of Hurd's lawyers. "We have complete confidence in him."

Kenner told The Associated Press that he and partner Brett Greenfield had not evaluated all of the information in the case. But Kenner — who successfully defended rapper Snoop Dogg against murder

charges — said he had other cases where the evidence appeared to be stacked against his client.

"They start off looking terrible, and then we end up with 'not guilty,'" Kenner said.

Kenner and Greenfield said they expected Hurd to be released from custody Friday.

Hurd, 26, was arrested Wednesday night after meeting with an undercover agent

at a Chicago restaurant, according to a criminal complaint that says the player was first identified as a potential drug dealer over the summer as the NFL lockout was coming to an end.

Hurd told the agent that he was interested in buying five to 10 kilograms of cocaine and 1,000 pounds of marijuana

See **HURD**, Page 2B

## Lady Steers basketball tonight at 6 p.m. Steers basketball tonight at 7:30 p.m.



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Chazzell Robertson shoots a long 2-pointer in recent Steers action. The Steers will play host to Lubbock Coronado tonight, while the Lady Steers will square off against Lubbock High.

# Falcons use air attack to rout Jacksonville

ATLANTA (AP) — As the Atlanta Falcons learned so painfully in last season's playoffs, the key is peaking at the right time.

Maybe they'll get it right this season.

With their best effort of an up-and-down season, the Falcons clinched a fourth straight winning record

with a 41-14 rout of the Jacksonville Jaguars on Thursday night. Matt Ryan had another big game, throwing three touchdown passes in less than three quarters of work, and John Abraham terrorized rookie quarterback Blaine Gabbert with

See **NFL**, Page 2B

# Benn leads Stars over the Islanders

UNIONDALE (AP) — Jamie Benn can't explain the correlation between his multi-point games and the Dallas Stars' success.

He's not wasting any time attempting to figure out the link, either.

"I don't know. Guess it's good luck," Benn said after he scored the go-ahead goal 4:33 into the third period and also had an assist in the Stars' 3-2 victory over the New York Islanders on

Thursday night.

Loui Eriksson and Brendan Morrow also scored and Richard Bachman made 25 saves to improve to 3-0 in the NHL and help the Stars run their winning streak to three games.

"We're at a point mentally that we know if we play a certain way, (we can) win," Stars coach Glen Gulutzan said.

See **STARS**, Page 3B

# NCAA puts stipend on hold for now

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The NCAA is putting its \$2,000 stipend on hold.

The governing body said Thursday the number of schools seeking an override had reached 125 — the necessary number to suspend the rule until it can be reconsidered by the Division I Board of Directors at January's NCAA convention.

The board passed legislation in October to give some athletes an additional \$2,000 toward the full cost-of-tuition, money that would go beyond tuition, room and board, books and fees. Some schools have expressed opposition because they believe it violates the NCAA's philosophy on amateur sports. But most are concerned about compliance with Title IX rules requiring schools to treat men's and women's sports equally, or the budget hit athletic departments will face with incoming recruits next fall.

NCAA President Mark Emmert says he believes the concerns can be addressed.

The board has three options when it meets: Rescind the stipend and operate under previous NCAA rules, modify the rule or create a new proposal that would go back to the schools for another 60-day comment period, or allow members to vote

on the override. It would take a 5/8ths majority of the roughly 350 Division I members to pass.

Some conferences already have agreed to start giving out the additional money, and NCAA vice president David Berst acknowledged Wednesday that many of the 1,000 or so student-athletes who have signed national letters-of-intent did so with the expectation of receiving the additional money.

Those athletes will get the stipend, the NCAA announced in a statement on its web site.

But unless the override measure fails or the board passes a modified version, athletes who sign with schools in February or April would be prohibited from receiving additional money.

Emmert has insisted over the past several months that the additional money is not pay-for-play and compares it to stipends non-athletes receive beyond the cost of tuition, room and board, books and fees. Until 1972, college athletes were permitted to receive a small monthly payment as laundry money.

Some critics contend \$2,000 is not nearly enough and cite studies showing the average athlete pays roughly \$3,000 to \$4,000 out of his or her own pocket in college costs.

## Girls Track Schedule

| DATE        | MEET                           | SITE          |
|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Feb. 18     | Texas Tech Indoor              | Lubbock       |
| Feb. 25     | Comanche Relays                | Ft. Stockton  |
| March 3-4   | Tall City Relays               | Midland       |
| March 9     | Big Spring Invitational        | Big Spring    |
| March 17    | OPEN                           |               |
| March 24    | Lady Steers Relays             | Big Spring    |
| March 28-31 | Texas Relays (qualifiers only) | Austin        |
| April 11-12 | DISTRICT 5-3A TRACK MEET       | Abilene Wylie |
| April 27-28 | REGIONAL TRACK MEET            | Lubbock       |
| May 11-12   | STATE TRACK MEET               | Austin        |

HEAD GIRLS TRACK COACH: Nick Roberson

ASSISTANTS:

Annie Roberson

Mike Warren

Lynn Osborne

Athletic Director: Phillip Ritchey

Athletic Trainer: Jim Campbell

**HURD**

From Page 1B

per week to distribute in the Chicago area, the complaint said. He allegedly said he and a co-conspirator already distribute about four kilos of cocaine every week, but their supplier couldn't keep up with his demands. A kilogram is about 2.2 pounds.

Hurd told the agent "his co-conspirator is in charge of doing the majority of the deals" while he focused on "higher-end deals," the complaint said.

He agreed to pay \$25,000 for each kilogram of cocaine and \$450 a pound for the marijuana, according to the charges, and then said he could pay for a kilo of cocaine after "he gets out of practice." He walked out of the restaurant with the package and was arrested.

The criminal complaint was filed in Texas, where the U.S. attorney said Hurd faces up to 40 years in prison and a \$2 million fine if convicted of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine, or half a kilogram.

Hurd's agent, Ian Greengross, did not return messages seeking comment. The NFL said it was looking into the incident while the NFL Players Association declined to comment.

Coach Lovie Smith said the arrest was a disappointment and a "total surprise," adding that Hurd was still a member of the Bears for now.

"Sam wasn't in meetings this morning and that's how from there of course we started searching trying to find out why a player wouldn't be here," Smith said. "There was no tipoff, didn't know it was coming."

Smith said there was no reason to believe Hurd had problems when the Bears signed him before the season.

"No issues, no reason. I'm in shock over it. I never saw it coming," Smith said. "But just like I think I know most of you, you don't really know what people do once you're not with them. But I know that anyone we bring through here, we've had an extensive search to find out everything, if there is something out there, and that wasn't the case. There was nothing we knew about Sam."

Hurd, a San Antonio native who played college ball at Northern Illinois, spent five seasons with the Dallas Cowboys and is in his first stint with the Bears. He has contributed mostly on special teams, playing in 77 games overall with six starts and two career touchdowns. He has played in 12 games this year, catching eight passes for 109 yards.

The complaint says an informant tipped off authorities in Texas in July, leading to an investigation in which an unidentified acquaintance of Hurd's "negotiated" for approximately five kilograms of cocaine on the player's behalf. The acquaintance wanted to buy the drugs quickly to take it to a "northern destination that same day," the complaint said.

The Bears reached a three-year deal with Hurd this summer that was reportedly worth up to \$5.15 million, including a \$1.35 million signing bonus and base pay this season of \$685,000.

The deal was announced on July 29 — the day after federal authorities say he had agreed to a "consensual interview" with Homeland Security investigators over \$88,000 in cash that had

been seized in a car he owned in the Dallas area. The money was inside a canvas bag that authorities said was covered in a plant-like material that tested positive for "properties of marijuana."

The acquaintance told authorities that Hurd "routinely leaves large amounts" of money in his vehicles, while Hurd said the money was indeed his and that he had given the car to his acquaintance, a car shop employee, for maintenance and detail work.

Hurd showed authorities a bank statement he said showed he had withdrawn \$88,000 from his account, but authorities said it did "not reflect the transactions and amounts" he claimed.

Teammates said they couldn't believe what they were hearing.

"It's a situation that you don't, I don't, want anybody to be in, especially a close friend, a teammate that I've been playing with now for four or five years," said wide receiver Roy Williams, who played with Hurd in Dallas before being reunited on the Bears this year. "Especially a guy from Texas with a wife and a daughter. ... I know it has to be tough for him because he has his family."

Linebacker Brian Urlacher said it's sad for Hurd, who he called a good teammate and good guy. But he said it won't affect the team's play.

"Football-wise it's not going to be an issue," Urlacher said. "We'll go out there and practice like we do every day and hopefully put it behind us when Sunday gets here."

In 2009, four years into his NFL career, Hurd established a charitable organization, Running with the Hurd, aimed at mentoring kids. The organization sponsored a football camp in the South Texas city of Harlingen last year.

Hurd's sister, Jawanda Newsome, told the San Antonio Express-News in 2008 that her brother was paying to fix up their parents' home as well as covering his younger brother's junior college tuition. She said she worried about her brother because he was so prone to give his money away.

Newsome told the newspaper Thursday she is hoping people will refrain from speculating about her brother's case.

"We need to see what the outcome is," she said. "He has a lawyer. I hope San Antonio doesn't lose its trust in Sam. We are praying for a positive outcome, because we don't yet know hard-core facts either."

Linebacker Lance Briggs said the Bears were going to focus on practice and Sunday's home game against Seattle.

"You hate to see this happen to anyone. That's just it. We all make mistakes," Briggs said. "You don't go through a football season without distractions."

**Coaches take stand against Jerry Sandusky**

HARRISBURG (AP) — A Penn State assistant football coach testified Friday that he believes he saw former assistant coach Jerry Sandusky sexually molesting a boy but said he wasn't 100 percent sure it was intercourse.

Mike McQueary, speaking for the first time in public about the 2002 encounter in a Penn State locker room, said he believes that Sandusky was attacking the child with his hands around the boy's waist. He also said there was no doubt in his mind that he fully conveyed what he had seen to two Penn State administrators now accused of lying to a grand jury about what McQueary told

See SANDUSKY, Page 3B

**NFL**

From Page 1B

3½ sacks.

"I feel like we've hit our stride," said Roddy White, who had 10 catches for 135 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

A year ago, the Falcons won the NFC South with a conference-leading 13 wins. But they were one-and-done in the playoffs, blown out at home by the Green Bay Packers in the division round.

The Packers went on to claim the Super Bowl title and haven't lost since.

Atlanta would like to follow their lead.

"You know, Green Bay did a heck of a job last year peaking at the right time," White said. "I feel like we haven't hit our stride. The last two games, we've been hitting it."

Atlanta led 27-0 at halftime and stretched it out to 41-0 before Jacksonville scored on a blocked punt. Going back to the previous week, when the Falcons overcame a 16-point halftime deficit at Carolina, they ripped off 65 points in a row over five quarters.

Now that's more like it from a team that was projected as a Super Bowl contender but had not quite lived up to expectations.

Atlanta (9-5) strengthened its hold on an NFC wild card and clinched its fourth straight winning season. Ho hum. This team has much higher goals than finishing above .500.

"I'm glad we've been able to accomplish that as an organization and a football team," coach Mike Smith said. "But believe me, it's not one of those expectations we really want to talk about. If we're where we think we are as an organization and a football team, that's expected each and every year."

It wasn't so long ago that nine victories was a big deal. The Falcons went through the first 42 years of their existence without so much as back-to-back winning seasons.

All that changed when Smith and general manager Thomas Dimitroff took over in 2008.

"I can't speak to the people who came before, but I know since Thomas and I had the opportunity to be here, we've just kind of put our heads down and gone to work," the coach said. "When you do that, good things usually happen. We are not finished, believe me. Our expectations and internal goals are much higher than having a winning football season."

This one was over by halftime, Gabbert and the shell-shocked Jaguars (4-10) saddled with a net passing total of minus-1 yard. It got as bad as minus-29 before Jacksonville piled up some meaningless yards on its final two possessions.

Gabbert had one of his worst games in a miserable rookie season, coughing up the ball twice on hits by Abraham. Both fumbles led to Atlanta scores, with defensive tackle Corey Peters scooping up the second one and scooting 13 yards to the end zone early in the third quarter for a touchdown that ended any thought of the Jaguars getting back in the game.

"It wasn't just me," said Abraham, who came into the game with only five sacks on the season. "The whole team was able to get to the quarterback."

Ryan was 19 of 26 for 224 yards and three touchdowns, with a season-high rating of 137.3. Rookie Julio Jones had the other TD on a 29-yard reception, his third score in the past two weeks. Gabbert was 12 of 22 for 141 yards, also throwing an interception during a truly awful night full of bad decisions when he wasn't running for his life. He was sacked five times and got most of his yards on an irrelevant final drive, which resulted in Jacksonville's only offensive touchdown: a 16-yard pass to Chastin West with 59 seconds remaining.

"It wasn't our best night," Gabbert said. "We've just got to learn from it, take the positives out of it and just get better."

The injury-riddled Jaguars, playing out the season with an interim coach and a new owner, were coming off their best performance, having scored 41 straight points in a 41-14 victory over Tampa Bay.

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**sudoku**

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

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**SANDUSKY**

From Page 2B

them.  
McQueary took the stand Friday in a Pennsylvania courtroom during a preliminary hearing for the two officials, Tim Curley and Gary Schultz.  
McQueary said he saw Sandusky was behind a boy he estimated to be 10 or 12 years old, with his hands wrapped around the boy's waist. He said the boy was facing a wall, with his hands on it.  
He said he peeked into the shower several times and that the last time he looked in, Sandusky and the boy had separated. He said he didn't say anything, but "I know they saw me. They looked directly in my eye, both of them."  
McQueary said he reported what he saw to coach Joe Paterno.  
He said he did not give Paterno explicit details of what he believed he'd seen, saying he wouldn't have used terms like sodomy or anal intercourse out of respect for the longtime coach.  
He said Paterno told him he'd "done the right thing" by reporting what he saw. The head coach appeared shocked and saddened and slumped back in his chair, McQueary said.  
Paterno told McQueary he would talk to others about what he'd reported.

Nine or 10 days later, McQueary said he met with Curley and Shultz and told them he'd seen Sandusky and a boy, both naked, in the shower after hearing skin on skin slapping sounds.  
"I told them that I saw Jerry in the showers with a young boy and that what I had seen was extremely sexual and over the lines and it was wrong," McQueary said. "I would have described that it was extremely sexual and I thought that some kind of intercourse was going on."  
McQueary said he was left with the impression both men took his report seriously. When asked why he didn't go to police, he referenced Shultz's position as a vice president at the university who had overseen the campus police  
"I thought I was talking to the head of the police, to be frank with you," he said. "In my mind it was like speaking to a (district attorney). It was someone who police reported to and would know what to do with it."  
Curley and Schultz are charged with lying to a grand jury and failing to properly report what McQueary allegedly told them. Their lawyers say the men are innocent and contest McQueary's statements  
District Judge William C. Wenner was hearing testimony Friday to help him decide whether state prosecutors have enough evidence against the pair to send their cases to trial.

**STARS**

From Page 1B

The Pacific-Division leading Stars improved to 18-11-1 and are 7-0-1 in Benn's eight multi-point games.  
"Coast-to-coast has been a long go," Brendan Morrow said. "We wanted to focus on the game. All of our games have been down to the wire. We know how much things can change (in the Western Conference). A bad week can send you to 10th, 11th place."  
Michael Grabner and Kyle Okposo scored for New York. The Islanders have lost four in a row.  
New York's Brian Rolston left the game because of a concussion in the first period. He had

played only five shifts, totaling 3:47 of ice time.  
"Rolston is day-to-day with concussion symptoms," Islanders coach Jack Capuano said.  
Kevin Poulin made 26 saves in his first start of the season. He's the fifth goalie to start for the Islanders this season, joining Rick DiPietro, Evgeni Nabokov, Al Montoya and Anders Nilsson.  
"Poulin was great," Capuano said.  
The Islanders didn't give Poulin a lot of early support, and Eriksson opened the scoring at 8:36 of the first of-the-goal redirection of Benn's cen-

tering pass. Eriksson was credited with a secondary assist on Benn's game-winner and also finished with two points.  
"It's the same old, 'Shoot pucks, go to the net,'" Gulutzan said about Benn and Eriksson.  
Eriksson had not scored a goal in eight games and hadn't had a point in five. Benn only had two goals and three assists in his previous 10 games. Grabner tied it with 3:32 left in the period. Grabner he slipped behind Trevor Daley, and Okposo's centering feed went in.

**sudoku**

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

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

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**Contract Bridge**

By Steve Becker  
**Bidding Quiz**

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:  
East South West North  
1♦ Dble Pass 1♣  
Pass ?

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?  
1. ♠AQ92 ♥Q95 ♦74 ♣AKJ6  
2. ♠Q8 ♥AQ76 ♦AQ ♣KJ982  
3. ♠AQ73 ♥AQ52 ♦6 ♣AQ94  
4. ♠A64 ♥AQJ ♦10 ♣KQJ873  
\*\*\*

1. **Two spades.** Your takeout double has forced partner to bid, so he might have no values at all. The best you can do, therefore, is to make a single raise, indicating spade support and about 16 to 18 points (with less than that, you would pass one spade). Partner can have anywhere from zero to at most nine points (with a better hand, he would have jumped in spades). You don't have to guess what he has, though; all you need to do is to tell him what you have and let him decide what to do next.  
2. **One notrump.** The choice lies between one notrump and two clubs, both of which show substantial extra values. The notrump bid is slightly better because it is more apt to induce a further bid from partner. He might pass two clubs with a hand

where he considers an 11-trick game too remote to be pursued, yet act over one notrump because a nine-trick game would seem within the realm of possibility.  
Note that a jump to two notrump would be overly exuberant, as it would indicate the values for an opening two-notrump bid, which you clearly don't have.  
3. **Three spades.** While partner's response is forced, he might still have the few ingredients necessary to produce 10 tricks. For example, he might hold:  
♠J8652 ♥K763 ♦93 ♣85, or  
♠K854 ♥96 ♦82 ♣J7632,  
and with either of them he should happily bid four.  
4. **Two clubs.** It might seem cowardly to bid only two clubs, but the fact is that game is unlikely unless partner voluntarily bids again.  
The alternative bids are two spades or three clubs, but neither of them can be recommended. It would be dangerous to raise spades with only three-card support, as partner might have only four cards in the suit. It would be equally dangerous to leap to three clubs, since if partner has a worthless hand, you are not likely to make nine tricks.

Tomorrow: A wise expenditure.  
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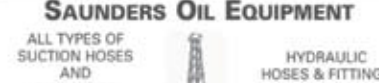
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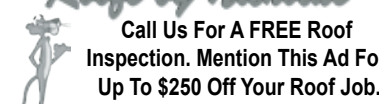
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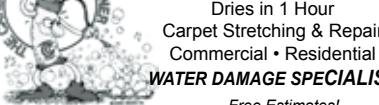
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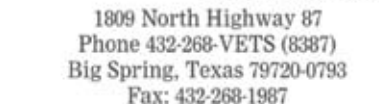
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Psalm 91: 14-16

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HUGE SALE 2504 S.Anderson Rd. Saturday only 8 a.m. Kitchen tables and chairs, Hutch, bar size pool table, tractor blade, kitchen appliances, something for everyone. Dont miss this one!

TOO MUCH to list: Something for everyone! 5101 Wasson (Corner on Borden), Friday 8:00am-6:00pm & Saturday 8:00am-noon.

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• Make cash everyday  
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Apply at Domino's Pizza  
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\*\*\*\*\*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 and can earn a weekly incentive bonus. Please send resume to [LucasR@reprsvr.com](mailto:LucasR@reprsvr.com) or apply at 8220 W. Hwy 80, Midland, TX 79706 432-561-7620 - Ricky Lucas Equal Opportunity Employer

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BLUE BELL Creameries is seeking a responsible, dependable Full Time Shipping Clerk. Position involves physically working with ice cream products in a cold environment. Must be 18 years old and have reliable transportation. No experience necessary, we will train. We offer competitive pay and great benefits. Apply in person at: Workforce Solutions; 1001 Birdwell Lane (Howard College).

Help Wanted

CDL DRIVERS and equipment operators wanted. Contact Baird Companies at 432-213-2661 or 432-466-4056

COASTAL TRANSPORT is seeking Owner-operators with a Class A CDL. Must be 23 years, X endorsement with one year tractor trailer experience. For More Information, Call 877-314-0700 between 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday.

Coastal Transport

We now have a \$2000.00 Sign On Bonus!

We are now hiring drivers to deliver petroleum products in and around the Permian Basin. Qualifications:

- \*Class A CDL drivers w/hazmat and tanker endorsements
- \*23 years of age or older
- \*1 year verifiable tractor/trailer experience
- \*Scheduled Days Off
- \*Home Everyday

Please contact 1-888-527-7221

DANLIN CHEMICALS is Hiring for Truck Driver/ Delivery Driver with Hazmat Endorsement for Big Spring and surrounding areas. Good Family and Employee Health Benefits. Must be self motivated. Call (325)226-5209.

DRIVERS WANTED. Find out why our average length of driver employment is 9 years. Reagent Chemical, a family owned company is dedicated to providing great service to our customers and taking care of our employees, is currently hiring professional drivers in Stanton, Texas. Requirements include Class A CDL with Tank and Hazmat endorsements. Minimum of 2 years driving or 1 year tanker experience. Paid weekly by check or direct deposit. Benefits include family health & dental insurance with no premium contribution by the employee. 401K with company match plus profit sharing. Company paid life insurance, short and long term disability, additional life and disability is available thru group coverage. Up to 10 days vacation starting first year plus 10 paid holidays. Uniforms provided. Call 432-458-3446 or 432-661-4079.

John Crane Production Solutions has an immediate opening for an EHS Technician at our Big Spring Texas facility. Responsibilities include: strong working knowledge of EHS regulations and requirements (EPA, OSHA, DOT, etc.), 3 to 5 years related work experience, familiarity with ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 EHS management systems preferred. Qualified individual must possess excellent verbal/written communication, analytical and problem-solving skills, skilled in using all Microsoft Office Software, ASP or CSP preferred, and ability to travel 25% of the time. Bachelors Degree preferred, but not required. This full-time position offers competitive wages, health insurance, and 401K. Apply online at [www.johncrane.com](http://www.johncrane.com)

Howard College is accepting applications for the following position.

Director of Child Development Center/ Howard Cottage- Big Spring Requirements:

Bachelor degree in Early Childhood Education, Child Development, or a related field with a minimum of 12 credit hours of child development or early childhood education and 6 credit hours in business management required. Three years experience required in an early childhood education setting and a minimum of one year experience in administration of an early childhood program of licensed child care facility. Ability to manage a site with children, parents and staff in compliance with TDFPS minimum standards and Howard College/Head Start Performance Standards.

For complete position and application visit our web site [www.howardcollege.edu](http://www.howardcollege.edu) (Human Resources).

Help Wanted

Join our professional cleaning team! \$10/Hrs. & advancement opportunities. We provide paid training, all necessary supplies & uniform. Must have own transportation & speak English. All cleaners are drug tested & background checked. Bonded and insured. Call J. Williams Management at 432-699-2090 M-F 8-4.

LEARNING TREE Academy now hiring friendly energetic Pre-School Teacher with High School Diploma or equivalent. Experience preferred, but will train right person. Must pass background and drug test. Apply in person at 1901 West 16th St.

LIGHT HOUSEKEEPING/ Companion for Elderly Lady. Monday thru Friday, Hours Negotiable. \$8.00 per hour. Must have drivers license. 432-517-0373.

John Crane Production Solutions has an immediate opening for a Maintenance I Technician at our Big Spring Texas facility. Responsibilities include: maintain, install, and repair a variety of machinery and related equipment. Perform preventive maintenance on buildings, grounds, and machines. Assist with installation and alignment of equipment. Qualified individual should have knowledge of plumbing, painting, equipment repair and electrical wiring, and have some welding experience. Operate forklift. This full-time position offers competitive wages, health insurance, and 401K. Apply online at [www.johncrane.com](http://www.johncrane.com)

MIDWEST FINANCE CORP now hiring Part-time/Temporary CSR. Income tax experience a plus. Apply in person, 600 S. Gregg. No Phone Calls!

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PART-TIME MAINT Tech needed for property in Big Spring. Applicant must have strong organizational skills and enjoy working outdoors. 20 hrs/week plus Vacation. Fax resume to (432)264-1761.

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Help Wanted

PIZZA INN NOW HIRING DELIVERY DRIVERS. MUST HAVE CLEAN DRIVING RECORD AND INSURANCE. MUST BE ABLE TO PASS DRUG TEST. MAKE UP TO \$12.00 PER HOUR. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG.

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

SECURITY OFFICERS Needed for Hospital Federal Inmate Protection detail. All positions are Part-time and PRN.

Physical Requirements: Must be in general good health and vision must be correctable to 20/30 (SNELLEN) in one eye. The ability to distinguish basic colors is required. Emotional and mental stability is required.

Other Requirements: Must be able to pass State and Federal Backgrounds and Credit Checks.

Experience Requirements: One year (2040) hours of experience in the armed forces or coast guard which involved significant performance of guard duty of detainees or prisoners; or the equivalent experience in a federal, state, or local government, or private organization which involved protecting/police duties, or college level training in courses such as corrections or police science may be substituted for experience at the ratio of two hours of instructions for one hour of experience. Apply at Workforce Center (in the Post Office), KEYWORD: PARAGON. EOE.



Seeking Experienced Sitters/CNA's to work for Private Duty Clients. Hourly Rate. Call: (432)522-5080. All shifts available. 1-800-201-5904 E.O.E.



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TOP NOTCH Landscaping is Hiring for all positions. Experience preferred. Call (432)213-0031 Mon.-Fri. 8-5.

Help Wanted

TECH SERVICE

John Crane Production Solutions has an immediate opening for a Tech Service Technician at our Big Spring facility. Responsibilities include: provide unmatched customer service, knowledge covering oil well completion, trouble shooting, and failure analysis. Qualified individual should have Clear Driving Record. Experience in general oil well installs, rod delivery, inspection, and down hole pump experience. This full-time position offers competitive wages, health insurance, and 401k. Apply online at [www.johncrane.com](http://www.johncrane.com)

THE COLORADO River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following positions in the Big Spring Area.

Central Control Operator - Responsible for monitoring water flows, pressures, and tank levels using SCADA system. Perform administrative support including recording readings, monitoring phones, and basic data entry. Basic computer skills including Excel needed. This position involves shift work.

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 our website [www.crmwd.org](http://www.crmwd.org)

WESTERN BANK is seeking

An experienced Executive Assistant

Excellent customer service skills and a willingness to work extensively with the public is required. Must have experience handling legal and loan documents. Should be skilled in Word and Excel. Job duties will include loan processing, scheduling appointments, reviewing documents, and other secretarial duties. Legal Background preferred but not required. Salary is DOE. Western Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Please send resume to P.O. Box 2767, Big Spring, TX 79720 or email to [hr@thebank.net](mailto:hr@thebank.net).

WORLD FINANCE

Accepting applications for motivated individuals looking for an assistant manager position.

Applicants should be goal oriented with great people skills. Experience not necessary. Must have a high school diploma and clean background/credit. World offers a competitive salary with full benefit package. Apply in person at 121 E 3rd St Big Spring, TX.

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Lost and Found

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**Legals**

**INVITATION TO BID**

The Colorado River Municipal Water District and Garney Companies are soliciting supplier participation including those that qualify as SWMBE's for the following: Bid Package 4. Pre-Purchase of Electrical Equipment for the Ward County Water Supply Expansion Project. Bid Deadline is December 22, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. Bids will be received at CRMWD 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, TX 79721-0869 For more information contact Marcus Grace at (816)536-6485 or email mgrace@garney.com Garney Companies, Inc is an Equal Employment/Opportunity Employer. #7191 December 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22, 2011

**Legals**

**INVITATION TO BID**

The Colorado River Municipal Water District and Garney Companies are soliciting supplier participation including those that qualify as SWMBE's for the following: Bid Package 5. Slab and Below Construction for the Ward County Water Supply Expansion Project. Bid Deadline is December 22, 2011 at 3:30 p.m. Bids will be received at CRMWD 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, TX 79721-0869 For more information contact Marcus Grace at (816)536-6485 or email mgrace@garney.com Garney Companies, Inc is an Equal Employment/Opportunity Employer. #7192 December 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22, 2011

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**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

The Virgo moon urges us to analyze our situation logically. While we know that what is reasonable and factual doesn't paint the whole picture, it certainly leads us to a more accurate understanding than could happen were we never to focus our left brain on the issues at hand.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Your ability to help others will depend on seeing how they really need help and — perhaps more importantly — how they don't. Some kinds of help will make things worse.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). There are times when you think that being shy isn't acceptable. You will feel compelled to reach out and risk rejection, partly because you see potential benefit and partly because it's the right thing to do.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Becoming a superstar depends on completing several actions in the direction of your dreams

— not just one or two. Go over the top wherever possible. Use your imagination.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). If someone is pulling you down, say goodbye for a while. The break could be the best thing that ever happened to you or the other person. It's nice to know where you stand as an individual, outside of the context of a group.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You have a way of making things work out for the more neurotic people in your crowd. You calm them and help them relax into all that's going on beyond their control.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are highly influential now, so use your powers for good. You can convince someone to do what's right even though it might also be the more difficult choice available.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have no desire to do what everyone else is doing. In fact, there is so much activity going on around you that you may feel the need to sequester yourself to get some peace and quiet.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your honest opinion

will be appreciated by one who has proved strong enough to hear the truth. That same opinion might simply be too much for a person who is less mature.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You never stop improving. Your commitment to making life for you and yours better and better will be the driving force behind your choices for the next three days.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Rules and contracts may be restrictive, but those restrictions may not be enforced. People deal with other people — not with paper. Agreements come together outside of the norm.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People around you may use sarcasm so they don't have to show their true emotions. Your compassion will help you see beyond what's being said and understand the deeper emotional implications.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You won't be met with rejection, but your ideas may be confronted with indifference. That's almost worse than a strong "no" if you let it hang you up in limbo

land. Move forward with velocity.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Dec. 16). You'll benefit from a holistic approach to living. Adjustments in diet and your choice of entertainment will have a profound effect on seemingly unrelated areas such as your professional and romantic life. Education figures prominently into the year. Financial risk will bring a February reward. Your family expands in June. Taurus and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 11, 20, 14, 39 and 5.

**WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST:** ARIES: You have forgiven and forgotten the sins of a past love, but you'll not tolerate the behavior in a current love. TAURUS: Your perceptions of status will affect how much attention you'll give to a certain someone. GEMINI: You find many people attractive, but you are more inclined to spend your time with one ultra-attractive person.

CANCER: The opinion of family members will affect how you and a loved one relate to each other. LEO: You'll maintain a good deal of flexibility in your plans because of your desire to include someone special. VIRGO: Your current needs for attention are different from what they were. LIBRA: To whatever degree you can, you'll trade places with your love so that you may carry this person's burden awhile. SCORPIO: You'll mind your own business, and a loved one will appreciate the privacy. SAGITTARIUS: Your care for a loved one's family will make him or her love you even more. CAPRICORN: You will be extremely grateful for all that friends do for you, including helping you come across well to the one you want to impress. AQUARIUS: What you read will spice up your love life. PISCES: You'll accept a loved one's condition, but at the same time, you are secretly intent on helping this person change.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://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](http://www.creators.com). © 2011 CREATORS.COM

**Dear Margo: When turning the other cheek is not the thing to do**

**Dear Margo:** I wrote to you four years ago when my wife was openly chatting on the Internet. Predictably, it led to an affair, but we worked through it and had a good couple of years.

At 45, she is now having another affair. Rather than issuing an ultimatum, I am working on persuading her that our relationship is worth persevering.

There is, on my part, lots of TLC and as few judgmental statements as I can manage. Our relationship has improved significantly as a result, but she says that despite this man's rather low ranking on the social scale (suggesting he is not a marriage prospect), he is so good in bed that she is not inclined to give him up.

I travel a lot for work, and she feels that what we do when apart does not matter.

Nevertheless, I want her to stop this behavior. Giving lots of TLC is fun in a way, a bit like courting again, but it is draining without any enthusiastic

feedback. Luckily, I'm not a jealous person. I am unsure, however, about how long I should persevere without positive action on her part. Another three to six months?

Do you have any experience with this approach and its ultimate success rate? I am emotionally able to split, but not before doing all I can to hang on to the family life we have. — *Forever the Giver*

**Dear For:** I hope you are Catholic, because I believe you are a saint. What is going on is an open marriage ... though it seems only for your wife.

When you say you are not jealous, are you tolerant enough to permit your wife to have bedroom friends who are not replacement material for you because she finds them socially inferior? (By the way, should this not have dawned on you, it is quite insulting for her to say she's disinclined to give him up because he's so good in the sack. Just sayin'.)

As to your direct question: I have no experience or data on the approach you are talking about.

You sound to me like a good schnook with a paycheck,

especially when you say you are not getting positive feedback, and the situation goes back at least four years.

I suggest that you have, in fact, done all you can to hang on to your family life, and you should cut your losses and reclaim your dignity. I think you are being played for a fool. — *Margo, lucidly*

**A Sister Who Does Not Tell the Truth**

**Dear Margo:** My sister is a chronic liar and has been for years.

Over the years, as tough times have befallen her (getting fired, husband losing his job), she increasingly has drawn attention to herself by exaggerating — whether it's physical ailments or financial problems.

She has had some actual physical problems, including Meniere's disease, which, of course, would draw someone's compassion.

But she goes on to completely fabricate other medical conditions, not to mention other facts about her life. An example: "I took a two-hour walk today," when two days previous she could barely walk.

Long story short, I feel guilty that I no longer call her, but I find myself unable to listen to the lies anymore.

My distance alienates her — which intensifies the fabrications. What to do? — *Sally*

**Dear Sal:** If you feel unable to stop communications altogether (your call, no pun intended), when you do talk to her, simply hold the phone away from your ear and every so often say, "Mmmm." Or you could also try telling her your news.

I suspect you've already discovered it does no good to call her out about her conflicting stories. When I am trapped on a not particularly engaging phone call, I mute my computer and play Spider Solitaire. Just a thought. — *Margo, pragmatically*

*Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via the online form at [www.creators.com/dearmargo](http://www.creators.com/dearmargo). Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.*

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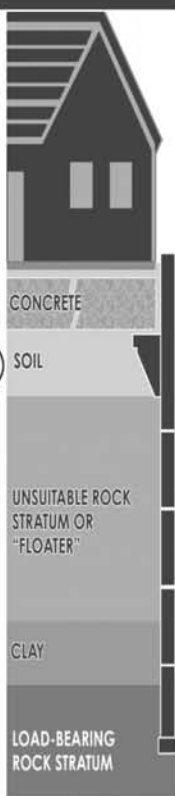
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| 5:PM  | News ABC            | Alma Notic.         | Big Bang             | News CBS           | Noticias Noticiero    | News CBS            | King King                             | Bible Enerson                  | Charlie Rose                          | 'Til Death          | Gold Rush                           | Mission: Impossible, Emmanuelle Béart                                   |                        | Law & Order                           | 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live | Shake It Good       | NFL32  | SportsCenter        |
| 6:PM  | Jeopardy!           | Quando Me Wheel     | Two Men Happiness Is | News Ent           | Caso Car-rado         | News Millionaire    | Seinfeld Seinfeld                     | Dr. Denis Upd                  | PBS News-Hour                         | Seinfeld Seinfeld   | Gold Rush                           |   | (5:57) DEA             | Law & Order                           |                               | Austin Austin       | NFL Kickoff  | To Be An-nounced    |
| 7:PM  | Extreme Makeover    | Familia-Suerte      | Happiness Is         | A Gifted Man       | Una Maid en           | Chuck               | Payne Door-Wis-dom                    | Wash. Need                     | Nikita                                | Gold Rush           | Movie: The Aviator, Kate Beckinsale | (10) Movie: Star Wars: Episode I -- The Phantom Menace, Natalie Portman | Christmas 2011         | Movie: The Wash, George Wallace       | Movie: State Property 2       | Good Good           | College Foot-ball: NCAA Division I, First Semi-final: Teams TBA. | To Be An-nounced    |
| 8:PM  | Extreme Makeover    | Fuerza-Des-tino     | Ice Age Simpsons     | CSI: NY            | Flor Salvaje (SS)     | Grimm               | Payne Payne                           | Best of Light of the Southwest | Great Performances The Little Mermaid | Supernatural        | Gold Rush                           |   | Christmas 2011         | Movie: Fred Claus, Miranda Richardson | Good Good                     |                     |  |                     |
| 9:PM  | 20/20               | Protagonis-tas (SS) | Simpsons How I Met   | Blue Bloods        | La Casa de al Lado    | Dateline NBC        | Worse                                 |                                |                                       | Cops                | Flying Wild Alaska                  |   | (40) DEA               | Christmas 2011                        | Wendy Williams                | Wizards             | NFL Live   | SportsCenter        |
| 10:PM | News Nightline      | Impacto             | How I Met            | News Letterman     | Noticias Titulares    | News Jay Leno       | Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy | Upd                            | Alewine                               | Western             | South Pk                            |   |                        | Christmas 2011                        | Movie: Good Morning, Killer   | Wizards             | NBA  | SportsCenter        |
| 11:PM | Jimmy Kim-mel Live  | Hasta que el Dinero | Law Order: CI        | Late               | Decisiones (SS)       | Late Night          | Best of Conan                         | Yohanán CCM                    | (Off Air)                             | Roseanne            | Gold Rush                           |   | (11:54) DEA            |                                       | Wizards                       | SportsNation        | SportsCenter   |                     |
| 12:AM | Extra Paid          | Mañana-Siempre      | Raymond Faith        | Insider            | Pagado                | Holiday Gift Guide  | Kicking & Screaming                   | Best of Light of the Southwest |                                       | Youthbyt            | Gold Rush                           | Movie: Graveyard Shift  | (09) DEA               | Christmas 2011                        | Ultimate                      | Football            |  |                     |

### DENNIS THE MENACE

12-16

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"IF YOU HAVE ALL THOSE ELVES, HOW COME MY DAD HAS TO ASSEMBLE ALL THE TOYS YOU BRING?"

### THE FAMILY CIRCUS

12-16

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"Mommy, get the decorations ready! Daddy finally captured our Christmas tree!"

### HAGAR

"EARLY TO BED AND EARLY TO RISE MAKES A MAN HEALTHY, WEALTHY AND WISE!"

BUT WHO WANTS TO SLEEP YOUR LIFE AWAY?!

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### BLONDIE

IT'S OKAY, ELMO... I DON'T NEED ANY HINTS

HINTS? WHAT HINTS?

OH, HIM?! I THINK HE'S JUST CALLIN' IT LIKE HE SEES IT, MR. B.

UH-HUH.

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### BC

THIS IS THE BEST BACHELOR PARTY I'VE BEEN TO YET!

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### This Date In History

Today is Friday, Dec. 16, the 350th day of 2011. There are 15 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 16, 1811, the first of the powerful New Madrid earthquakes, with an estimated magnitude of 7.7, struck the central Mississippi Valley. (There were, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, three main shocks in all; the second struck in Jan. 1812 and the third was in Feb. 1812.)

On this date:

In 1653, Oliver Cromwell became lord protector of England, Scotland and Ireland.

In 1773, the Boston Tea Party took place as American colonists boarded a British ship and dumped more than 300 chests of tea into Boston Harbor to protest tea taxes.

In 1809, the French Senate granted a divorce decree to Emperor Napoleon I and Empress Josephine (the dissolution was made final the following month).

In 1907, 16 U.S. Navy battleships, which came to be known as the "Great White Fleet," set sail on a 14-month round-the-world voyage to demonstrate American sea power.

In 1944, the World War II Battle of the Bulge began as German forces launched a surprise attack against Allied forces in Belgium (the Allies were eventually able to beat the Germans back).

In 1951, a Miami Airlines Curtiss C-46 Commando crashed just after takeoff from Newark Airport in New Jersey, killing all 56 people on board.

In 1960, 134 people were killed when a United Air Lines DC-8 and a TWA Super Constellation collided over New York City.

In 1971, Bangladesh won its nine-month war of liberation against Pakistani forces.

In 1976, the government halted its swine flu vaccination program following reports of paralysis apparently linked to the vaccine.

In 1991, the U.N. General Assembly rescinded its 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism by a vote of 111-25.

Today's Birthdays: Civil rights attorney Morris Dees is 75. Actress Joyce Bulifant is 74. Actress Liv Ullmann is 73. CBS news correspondent Lesley Stahl is 70. TV producer Steven Bochco is 68. Former Nevada Gov. Jim Gibbons is 67. Pop musician Tony Hicks (The Hollies) is 66. Pop singer Benny Andersson (ABBA) is 65. Actor Ben Cross is 64. Rock singer-musician Billy Gibbons (ZZ Top) is 62. Rock musician Bill Bateman (The Blasters) is 60. Actor Xander Berkeley is 56. Actress Alison LaPlaca is 52. Actor Sam Robards is 50. Actor Jon Tenney is 50. Actor Benjamin Bratt is 48. Country singer-songwriter Jeff Carson is 48. Actor Daniel Cosgrove is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer Michael McCary is 40.

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### WIZARD OF ID

EXCUSE ME, FROSTY?

YES?

I'LL TAKE THOSE COALS PLEASE

PRICE OF HEATING OIL MUST BE UP AGAIN

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### AGNES

OK... LET'S PLUG IN THE GPS AND FIND OUT WHERE WE ARE.

NO GPS.

OK... WE CALL A TOW TRUCK WITH THE CELL PHONE.

NO CELL PHONE.

ACCORDING TO THE MANUAL, WE SHOULD CHECK THE TRAY FOR EXCESSIVE CRUMBS.

THAT'S THE MANUAL FOR THE TOASTER.

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### HI AND LOIS

SOME GUY SENT A REALLY NASTY E-MAIL ABOUT OUR BAND

WHY WOULD HE BE SO MEAN?

SOME PEOPLE ARE JUST HATERS. THEY ENJOY BEING NEGATIVE.

HEY! THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA FOR A SONG!

JUST DON'T EXPECT THAT GUY TO LIKE IT

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### THE OTHER COAST

IT'S GREAT TO GO OUT AND GET THE CHRISTMAS TREE, JUST LIKE MY GRANPA USED TO.

TO SHOULDER AN AX AND TRUDGE THROUGH THE WOODS, JUST LIKE MY GRANPA USED TO.

DID YOUR GRANPA ALSO HAVE THE SAME LOUSY SENSE OF DIRECTION?

SHADDUP, KID. HELLO, SEARCH AND RESCUE...?

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### SNUFFY SMITH

WHATCHA KNITTIN', MAW?

NEW CHRISTMAS STOCKIN'S FER TH' YOUNG-UNS, PAW !!

WHAT'S WRONG WIF TH' ONES THEY HAD ?

SIGH... TOO BIG TO FILL !!

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### BEEBLE BAILEY

I LOVE FISHING

GREG + MORT WALKER

I HATE FISHING

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### Newsday Crossword

TRIATHLON by Clive Probert  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

1 Odist's spheres

5 Office writing

9 Knee protectors

13 Run into

14 Destination of interest?

15 Help in wrongdoing

16 Jazz singer James

17 Wild

18 "Dover" delicacy

19 Done what everyone else did

22 Close by

23 Sector

24 Gave emphasis to

27 Cross

31 Move briskly

33 Kind of convent

34 Has a great day batting

40 Karl Marx exhortation

41 Immunization fluids

42 Full range

43 Extremely precise

49 California cop contingent

52 Threaten

53 1861 combat

58 Prefix for lateral

59 Devour

60 Green land

61 Turned-up fold

62 Needing to reorder

63 In \_\_\_ (fully)

64 Singer Perry

**DOWN**

1 Frat letters

2 Snappy comeback

3 High roller, e.g.

4 Park art

5 Extra-long

6 On the same level

7 I Love Lucy landlord

8 It means "straight"

9 Window shopper

10 Take \_\_\_ (acknowledge applause)

11 Cold-cut department

12 Flower feature

14 Faxes, perhaps

20 USCG rank

21 Pioneering computer

25 Goes wrong

26 Showers

28 Grey's Anatomy network

29 Business-card letters

30 \$1 bill illustration

32 Prefix for way

34 Warm greeting

35 \_\_\_ moment (very soon)

36 Director Burton

37 Thwart

38 Beyond embryonic

39 Winter warmer

44 Form of toothpaste

45 Fjords, for instance

46 Stick

47 Sharpness

48 Air conditioning giant

50 Change in Chile

51 Breakfast sweet

53 Summoning gesture

54 Pastel shade

55 Clump of hair

56 Lot in life

57 Something to furrow

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