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FARMERS

BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY

JANUARY 6, 2012



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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 72

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Body found

Apparent hit and run, PD says

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Law enforcement officials with the Big Spring Police Department say they are investigating what appears to be the hit and run death of a man near the intersection of Sgt. Paredez and Trades Avenue on the city's north side sometime Thursday night. According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD, investigators are not releasing the name of

the victim pending notification of next of kin, which has not yet been confirmed. Everett said the body was discovered Thursday evening and taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center, where the man was pronounced dead by a Howard County justice of the peace. "An autopsy was ordered and is expected to be completed this afternoon in Lubbock," Everett said. "Right now, it appears the man was struck by a vehicle, but we

won't know what the cause of death was for sure until we get the autopsy results. Nothing has been confirmed at this point, but this does appear to be a vehicle/pedestrian accident." Everett declined to comment on further details of the case, citing an open investigation. *Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@big-springherald.com*

FIRST BABY



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Debra Castillo and Roy Garcia Jr. of Big Spring show off their son, Roy III, who was the first baby born in Howard County in 2012. Little Roy was born at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. He was 18.5 inches in length and weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces.

Nominations due now for Man, Woman of Year

By **AMANDA MORENO**
 Staff Writer

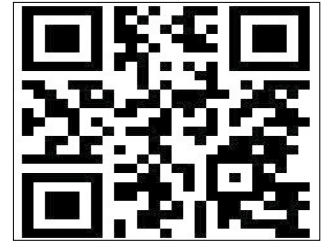
Nominations for Man and Woman of the Year are being accepted through Monday at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The Man and Woman of the Year will be announced during the annual Chamber ban-

quet Jan. 31. Any member of the Chamber can make a nomination, but it must be submitted in written form. All nominations will need to be approved by the selection committee in order to ensure the relevant information is received about the nominee. "The winner will be chosen based on all-around contributions to the community, not just for extraordinary performance in the person's businesses or employment," Chamber Executive Director Debbye ValVerde said. A consistent track record of contributions to the com-



ValVerde

munity is recommended for the nominee. Those holding a political office are not eligible for nomination. "People can nominate those who are out there behind the scenes making things happen in Big Spring," ValVerde said. "Those are the people we would like to see nominated. There are also those in the forefront making things happen. We want to see those people nominated as well." All nominations will be voted on based on the information provided on the nomination sheet in order to keep it from becoming a popularity vote, according to ValVerde. In addition to nominee *See CHAMBER, Page 3A*



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 Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.



Abilene has new VA clinic

Special to the Herald

Daniel L. Marsh, director of the West Texas VA Health Care System, has announced that the Abilene VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will be expanding services to veterans in a new clinic. The new clinic will be located at 3850 Ridgemont Drive in the former Toys r Us building. A ribbon cutting and open house will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday. Immediately following a short program, tours and refreshments will be available for all attendees. With the additional space available, Marsh said he is excited about the expanded services that will be provided. A fifth primary care team will be added as well as a home-based primary care team. Ophthalmology, audiology and physical therapy will be available at the clinic on certain days weekly. Compensation and pension exams will also be available at the Abilene CBOC. All Veterans with appointments on or after Monday should report to the new location. Veterans with questions or concerns may call Iva Jo Hanslik, public affairs officer at 1-800-472-1365, ext. 4824.

TAKE TO THE SKIES

Museum seeks more volunteers

By **AMANDA MORENO**
 Staff Writer

Volunteerism is brewing at Hangar 25 Air Museum. For those wanting to volunteer at the museum, a training session — Brewing Helpers: Hangar 25 Volunteer Training — will be held from 10 a.m. until noon Jan. 14. "Being a part of the community is an important thing and volunteering at the museum is a great way to take part in your community," Museum Administrator Genevieve Stockburger said. During the training, coffee and pastries will be provided. There will be time allotted for a meet and greet at the beginning of the session. "People will have a chance to introduce themselves to other volunteers before the session starts," Stockburger said. The two-hour session will include a tour of the museum, volunteer training and collections management training. This is the first time



Stockburger collections management has been offered, according to *See MUSEUM, Page 3A*

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Obituaries

Olga DeAnda Chávez



Olga DeAnda Chávez, a lifelong resident of Big Spring, passed away Jan. 4, 2012, in the loving care of family and friends. She courageously fought a battle with cancer for 10 months.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012, at the Holy Trinity Catholic Parish. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

A vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. Friday at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Olga was born May 2, 1941, to Gumecindo (Chindo) and Amanda DeAnda. She attended Big Spring schools and graduated from Big Spring High School in 1959. She worked for Sears and Roebuck after graduation and retired from the Big Spring State Hospital. She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and a supporter of the Lance Armstrong Foundation.

Olga was very active and had many friends in the community. She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. In her retirement, she met a wonderful group of new friends and enjoyed traveling. In recent years, she traveled to Italy where she visited the Vatican.

She took a Caribbean cruise with family and friends to Cozumel, Cayman Islands and Jamaica. She also traveled to different parts of Mexico. She took her last trip to South Padre Island, where she spent a week in the warm company of friends.

A source of cheer and inspiration to her family and friends, Olga was a kind and giving spirit.

She is survived by her children, Cathy Chávez, Tony Chávez, Danny Chávez and wife Janette, Grace Duncan and husband Todd, Garry Chávez and girlfriend Belinda Mendez, and Paul Chávez; her brother, Albert DeAnda and wife Margie; sister-in-law, Pat DeAnda; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Gumecindo and Amanda DeAnda; and her brothers, Benjamin DeAnda and Ismael DeAnda.

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

Paid obituary

Sandra Krejci Fisher



Sandra G. Krejci Fisher, 56, died Sunday, Dec. 18, 2011, at her home in San Antonio, Texas. She was born April 29, 1955, in El Campo, Texas. She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Annie Krejci; and her grandparents, John and Rosina Veselka and Jim and Aloise Krejci, all of El Campo.

She is survived by a daughter, Veronica A. Fisher of Big Spring, Texas; a son, James D. Fisher of Rosenberg, Texas; sisters, Betty Giesie, of Glendale, Ariz., Rosie Giesie, of Sun City, Ariz., and Marie Enax of Rosenberg, Texas; one brother, Mark Krejci of Rosenberg, Texas; and one granddaughter.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 28, 2012, at St. Philip's Catholic Church, El Campo, Texas, with the Rev. Gary Janak officiating.

Ruth Robinson

Ruth Robinson, 93, of Big Spring died Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Norma Wheeler

Norma Wheeler, 87, of Big Spring died Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012, in a Lubbock Hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Marion Newton

Marion Newton Jr., 67, of Big Spring, died Friday, Jan. 6, 2012, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

- DUSTIN WAYNE OLSEN, 28, of 3800 Noble Dr. in Snyder, was arrested Thursday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.
- NATIVIDAD TREVINO ROBLES, 36, of 2202 S. Runnels, was arrested Thursday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.
- FELIPE HERNANDEZ HERNANDEZ, 58, of 2707 Hernandez Rd., was arrested Thursday on two warrants from two other agencies.
- LANCE WAYNE LAND, 22, of 5203 Sterling Rd., was arrested Thursday on a warrant for theft – shoplifting.
- RODRICK LAMOND CONELY, 43, of 1425 E. Sixth St. Apt. 10, was arrested Thursday on charges of interfering with an emergency phone call and assault – family violence.
- CHANCE ALLEN PERRYMAN, 27, of 225 Brooks Rd., was arrested Thursday on warrants for theft, failure to appear and a warrant from another agency.
- SHAWNA DNAY HESSON, 20, of 220 Texas Rd., was arrested Thursday on a warrant from another agency.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1500 block of S. Benton.
- THEFT was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 800 block of W. FM 700.
- UNATTENDED DEATH was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 block of W. Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

FRIDAY

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

meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

- Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program, is held at Cornerstone Covenant Church, 706 E. 12th St. at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call at 264-0015 or visit www.ccbigspring.org

SUNDAY

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

SATURDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers

MONDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, noon-1 p.m., 615 Settles.

- PEP – Parent Education Program for

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sun 1/8	Mon 1/9	Tue 1/10	Wed 1/11	Thu 1/12
64/35 Plenty of sun. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	44/33 Showers. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the low 30s.	55/35 Occasional showers possible. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	60/28 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 20s.	52/28 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 20s.
Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:57 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:58 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:59 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 6:00 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 6:01 PM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	63	38	cloudy	Kingsville	79	62	pt sunny
Amarillo	42	26	mixed	Livingston	71	56	cloudy
Austin	67	51	cloudy	Longview	65	48	cloudy
Beaumont	73	59	rain	Lubbock	53	28	mst sunny
Brownsville	79	65	windy	Lufkin	70	57	cloudy
Brownwood	66	43	cloudy	Midland	64	35	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	75	63	cloudy	Raymondville	79	62	pt sunny
Corsicana	62	46	cloudy	Rosenberg	73	60	cloudy
Dallas	63	46	cloudy	San Antonio	70	57	cloudy
Del Rio	70	51	cloudy	San Marcos	68	52	cloudy
El Paso	60	34	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	61	46	cloudy
Fort Stockton	66	36	mst sunny	Sweetwater	62	37	cloudy
Gainesville	59	39	cloudy	Taylor	63	47	cloudy
Greenville	60	43	cloudy	Weatherford	61	40	cloudy
Houston	72	60	cloudy	Wichita Falls	60	36	cloudy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	63	47	rain	Minneapolis	37	29	pt sunny
Boston	40	26	mst sunny	New York	44	33	pt sunny
Chicago	42	28	cloudy	Phoenix	65	41	sunny
Dallas	63	46	cloudy	San Francisco	63	43	mst sunny
Denver	33	21	snow	Seattle	51	44	rain
Houston	72	60	cloudy	St. Louis	50	35	cloudy
Los Angeles	76	45	sunny	Washington, DC	49	35	pt sunny
Miami	77	64	pt sunny				

CPS participating and non-participating parents, single parent, grandparents, adoptive or fostering parents. Every first and fourth Monday of the month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Northside Community Center. Classes are free. For information, call 263-2673.

- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting, 8-9 p.m., fourth floor, VA Medical Center.



Jan. 14
Volunteer Coffee and Orientation Hangar 25 Museum
For more info contact the museum at **432-264-1999**

Jan. 26
Healthy Woman "Three Thrilling Years"
Dora Roberts Community Center
Featuring special guest **Lisa Smartt**
For more info contact **Kim Howell** at **432-268-4842**

Jan. 28
Fraternal Order of Eagles 10th Annual Chili Cook-Off
Eagles Lodge 703 W. 3rd St.
Benefiting WTC Children In Need Fund
For More info contact **Landon Sturvidant** at **264-3247**

Jan. 31
Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet
Dorothy Garrett Coliseum 6pm-9pm
For more info contact the Chamber at **432-263-7641**



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State briefs

Funeral Saturday, armed Texas boy shot by police

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Family and friends will gather this weekend to remember a 15-year-old South Texas boy fatally shot by police who say the youth refused to drop a weapon.

The funeral for Jaime (HY'-may) Gonzalez has been set for 10 a.m. Saturday at Holy Family Catholic Church in Brownsville, with burial at Buena Vista Cemetery in Brownsville.

Brownsville police on Wednesday responded to reports of a student with a handgun at Cummings Middle School. Police say Gonzalez pointed the weapon at officers and refused repeated commands to put down what turned out to be a pellet gun.

Classes and regular operations resumed Friday at the school, which was closed Thursday and classes were moved to another campus.

A wake Thursday night drew about 400 mourners.

Texas fugitive turned over to federal authorities

GULFPORT, Miss. (AP) — Texas fugitive Steven Ray Milam is now in the hands of federal authorities.

Milam appeared in federal court Thursday in Gulfport to face 11 counts of bank robbery. The 44-year-old Milam, of Tyler, Texas, was denied bond by U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert H. Walker.

Each bank robbery charge carries a penalty of up to 25 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Afterward, Milam was turned over to U.S. Marshals to await extradition back to Richardson, Texas. Authorities would not disclose where he was being held.

Milam was arrested Tuesday after Jackson County Sheriff Mike Byrd shot out a tire on his vehicle during a westbound, high-speed chase on Interstate 10. Milam was wanted in Texas for shooting at officers during a New Year's Eve robbery of a Richardson bank.

Soldier with explosive in carry-on due in court

MIDLAND (AP) — A North Carolina soldier who was arrested after a powerful, military-grade explosive was found in his carry-on luggage at a Texas airport could learn Friday whether he'll be released from federal custody.

Trey Scott Atwater is charged with trying to bring explosives onto an airplane, which carries a maximum 10-year federal prison sentence. Authorities said security officers at Midland International Airport found C4 explosives in his carry-on luggage Saturday. C4 is used in Iraq and Afghanistan to blow the hinges off doors or destroy unexploded ordinance.

According to court documents, Atwater told the FBI that he's a demolitions expert and had returned from his third tour in Afghanistan in April. He said his Army special forces team always carried C4, but he didn't know it was in his bag.

Atwater, 30, is scheduled to appear before a federal magistrate Friday afternoon in Midland during a detention hearing. Atwater grew up in Midland and was at the airport with his family to return home to Hope Mills, N.C. He is stationed at nearby Fort Bragg.

Atwater was stopped when a Transportation Security Administration agent spotted a suspicious item in his carry-on during passenger screening. A police bomb squad identified it as C4.

Court documents show that Atwater told FBI agents his special forces team always had at least two blocks of C4, but he didn't know any explosives were in his bag when he returned to Fort Bragg after his most recent deployment.

The bag had been in his garage since then, Atwater said, and he saw no explosives in the main compartment of the bag when he packed for his trip to Texas. He did not say where he got the C4, although his comments in court documents indicate he could have brought it from Afghanistan.

Atwater also was detained at the airport in Fayetteville, N.C., the city adjacent to the sprawling Army post, on Dec. 24 when security agents found a military smoke grenade in his carry-on bag. After the smoke grenade was confiscated, Atwater was "admonished" and allowed to fly to Texas, according to court documents.

Typically, bags are thoroughly searched and placed on X-ray machines for a second time after a suspicious item is found, although court documents do not say whether that was done in Atwater's case.

Ex-Texas computer teacher guilty of child porn

EL PASO (AP) — A former computer science teacher in West Texas caught with hundreds of child pornography images faces up to 20 years in prison.

Prosecutors in El Paso say 46-year-old Joachim Rudolf Hees remains in custody after pleading

guilty Thursday to receipt of child porn.

Sentencing has been set for March 5 for Hees, who formerly taught in the Canutillo Independent School District.

FBI agents in late 2008 searched the man's home and seized three computers. Experts found nearly 600 images of child porn on the devices.

Hees had been the computer literacy teacher at Canutillo Middle School. He later resigned.

IDs on 3 who died in Irving canal car crash

IRVING (AP) — A University of Texas student and her boyfriend have been identified as victims of a sports car crash into a Dallas-area canal that left three people dead.

Irving police say the victims were 21-year-old Kaat Debeuckelaer of Austin, 23-year-old Kenneth Lark of Austin, plus the driver, 41-year-old lawyer Ronald Eddins of Southlake. The woman was a UT senior, originally from Colleyville.

Police believe speed was a factor in the single-vehicle accident before dawn Wednesday.

Maintenance personnel Wednesday afternoon noticed a broken guard rail at the Las Colinas Canal. A search led to the submerged Porsche with two bodies inside.

Investigators later received information that a third person might have been in the car. Divers on Thursday found Lark's body in the water.

Toxicology results are pending.

U.S. teen deported to Colombia could soon return

EL PASO (AP) — The grandmother of a 15-year-old Dallas girl who was deported to Colombia after giving immigration officials a fake name is questioning why U.S. officials didn't do more to verify her identity.

U.S. immigration officials said they're investigating the circumstances of the case involving Jakadrien Lorece Turner. But they insist they followed procedure and found nothing to indicate that the girl wasn't — as she claimed — a woman from Colombia illegally living in the U.S.

The girl, who ran away from home more than a year ago, was recently found in Bogota, Colombia, by the Dallas Police Department with help from Colombian and U.S. officials.

The Colombian government said late Thursday that the U.S. Embassy had submitted the necessary documents for Jakadrien to return to the U.S., though it was unclear exactly when she might be back.

Her grandmother, Dallas hairstylist Lorene Turner, said she's hoping Jakadrien will soon be home.

U.S. immigration officials deferred questions to the State Department about when the teen might return. The State Department said it was aware of the case but declined to comment further, citing privacy reasons.



HERALD file photo

The gift shop at Hangar 25 Air Museum offers an array of items for guests of all ages. The museum is looking for volunteers to help in the shop and other areas of the facility. See article, Page 1A.

MUSEUM

Continued from Page 1A

to Stockburger.

"It is something everyone needs to know if they are going to be working in a museum. Not everyone will handle the artifacts, but this way they will each know how to if there ever comes a time that they need to," she said.

A question and answer session will wrap up the training and give those attending an opportunity to share ideas and provide input on projects.

The training session is open to all those wanting to volunteer, whether they have volunteered before or are a new vol-

unteer. Currently there are seven volunteers, but only four who are available on a daily basis. Stockburger said an ideal number would be 10 volunteers with seven available daily. Shifts have been set up in three-hour increments Tuesday through Friday.

Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Until the end of February, however, the museum will be closed Saturdays.

For more information, call the museum at 264-1999.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1A

information, the contact information of the nominator should also be included: name, address and phone number. While the nominator is required to be a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the nominee is not.

"The people nominated for Man and Woman

of the Year are very humbled because this is something they want to do for the community and it's not about the recognition for them," ValVerde said. "They are doing what they do because they want to. This is our way of saying thank you to them."

Forms can be picked up at the Chamber office or can be faxed or emailed upon request.

Forms should be addressed accordingly:

2011 Man and Woman of the Year Nomination, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Third or P.O. Box 1391, Big Spring, Texas 79721. To find out more information or request a form, call the Chamber at 263-7641.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

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Jose A. Regalado, 70, died Monday. Funeral services were at 10 a.m. today at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial followed at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Tammy Torres, 47, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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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.

Bill McClellan Managing Editor	Ron Midkiff Publisher	Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Amanda Moreno Staff Writer	Thomas Jenkins 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:

- All residents who have provided donations to the Howard County Humane Society and helped them with food, items or by adopting a pet.

- Volunteers who have continued to search for missing Colorado City teenager Hailey Dunn and still vow to continue to search after a year.

- EMS, Big Spring Police Department and all fire firefighters who continue to strive daily to ensure all area residents are protected in any and all emergency situations.

- Law enforcement officials who were on patrol for New Year's Eve ensuring all those on the roadway remained safe.

- For all those who celebrated the New Year in a responsible way and found a designated driver or used one of the services provided instead of drinking and driving.

- All who volunteered for the Festival of Lights and took part working in the gift shop, as greeters or helped set up or take down light displays.

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 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 newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we follow Your agenda, Lord,
for our lives.

Amen

Concerns for the coming 2012

Sometimes things come along that can change the entire outlook for a community. We are faced with a couple of those possibilities in 2012, one very much in our control, the other not so much.

The first is the mayor's suggestion that economic development monies be used to fund \$11 million in repairs and upgrades to the city's water and wastewater treatment facilities. Such a move would require a vote of the people to allow for the 4B project.

Well, I am in favor of almost anything that can be done to improve the quality of our water. It is an embarrassment, and probably a detriment when it comes to attracting top workers and businesses. However, tying up economic development funds for 10 to 20 years — the funds the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation uses to attract and retain jobs in our community — could be disastrous. In this dog eat dog world, businesses know communities will provide incentives should they choose to locate there. Big Spring needs those funds to compete with other communities that are also trying to attract business and industry. By cutting those funds in half — as the mayor's tentative

plan calls for — we take a huge, huge risk.

Two other solutions the mayor outlines are raising taxes or raising water rates, and admittedly neither would be very popular. However, I wonder how much research as been done into seeking other sources of funding?

Some of you may remember Mark Gentry, the city's former housing director, who suggested the city turn to the federal government for help.

"The reason we have the huge infrastructure we do is because of the air base," reasoned Gentry. "I think we should be trying to get the government to help us out. After all, they caused this problem, they bailed out."

Those might not be Gentry's exact words, but the meaning is clear. Big Spring grew because of its commitment to keeping America free by putting pilots in the air. In 1977, the government shut down Webb Air Force Base, eliminating a sizable part of our population. However, the infrastructure remains and must be maintained.

Perhaps the idea has been looked into. I do not know. But if it hasn't — if it's only been talked about — then it is certainly worth pursuing.

Good news or bad news? Somewhat troubling is the fact the VA is expanding in Odessa and Abilene. The VA announced this week the opening of a new clinic in Abilene while in Odessa the VA is looking at joining with

Medical Center Hospital to add an \$8 million veterans facility.

"MCH wants to build a fully-loaded, state-of-the-art, two-story VA health clinic," NewsWest 9 reported this week.

I'm all in favor of veterans getting help where they reside, but how many agree it is just a matter of time before the VA moves entirely to Midland/Odessa and Abilene and touts only a small, day clinic in Big Spring? Wait. That's already taken place.

What I fear is eventually our community will be left with a hulk of a vacant building — a hundred or more lost jobs — and veterans who will be going out of town for treatment.

We can all hope I am terribly mistaken and the expanded clinics are a good thing for all veterans, who currently get shipped off to Albuquerque for any major medical problems — a costly, inconvenient and absolutely silly practice which needs to be stopped. There are plenty of decent hospitals in this area the VA could contract with.

Finally, tell me this: If a sizable water park costs \$3.3 million and a 10,000 to 15,000 square-foot VA clinic costs \$8 million, why does it cost \$11 million for repairs and upgrades to a couple of already-existing treatment plants?

Bill McClellan is the managing editor at the Big Spring Herald. To get in contact with him, send email to editor@bigspringherald.com or call the office at 263-7331 ext.230.



Presidential candidates weeping

It has been a trail of tears. Newt Gingrich, Rick Santorum and Rick Perry all cried on television in the days before the Iowa caucuses.

What they did was warm, human and utterly genuine. A few years ago, we would have called them sissies.

But America has grown far too sensitive for that. Today, we look upon male lacrimation as a combination of manly sensitivity and manly courage.

Santorum seems to have done the best with his tears. He ended in a virtual tie for first place with Mitt Romney.

Gingrich and Perry didn't do as well. Gingrich, as is his wont, tried a range of emotions in Iowa, including rage. He called Romney a "liar," a word almost never uttered in political discourse — unless President Barack Obama is addressing Congress, that is. (Bob Dole bitterly called for George H. W. Bush to "stop lying about my record" in 1988, but Bush didn't and became president.)

Lying in politics happens every day, of course. Public crying is a newer phenomenon. There used to be no crying in politics. And if there was, it could be ruinous.

In 1972, Ed Muskie appeared to shed a tear or two while defending the honor of his wife outside the offices of the Manchester Union Leader just before the New Hampshire primary.

Muskie said later it was

merely melted snow, but some reporters saw it differently, and the damage was done. Muskie was finished as a presidential candidate.

And it took 36 years for crying to re-emerge.

When Hillary Clinton teared up in public just before the New Hampshire primary in January 2008, her campaign staff grew terrified — a female candidate had to be strong! — and she was forced to do damage control.

"I actually have emotions," she said on CNN.

"If you get too emotional, that undercuts you," she said on "Access Hollywood." "A man can cry; we know that.

Lots of our leaders have cried. But (for) a woman, it's a different kind of dynamic."

But after Clinton won New Hampshire, everybody decided her crying was a good thing. Barack Obama's campaign decided it was the reason she won, in fact.

"Did her choking up have a positive effect among women? Did they say, 'We are not going to run her out of the race here?'" an Obama adviser told me. "There is no other reason we can see. Every poll showed us even with Clinton with women, and then we lose women to her. There was a big gender gap that didn't show up until yesterday."

Clinton agreed. "Yesterday," she said in her victory speech in New Hampshire, "I found my own voice."

Unfortunately, her voice remained firm and steady for the rest of the race, and she lost her fight for the Democratic nomination.

Ironically, her husband had been one of the few sitting presi-

dents to cry in public.

On June 14, 1993, Bill Clinton announced his nomination of Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the Supreme Court in a Rose Garden ceremony. Ginsburg remained dry-eyed as she made her acceptance speech, but Clinton wiped a tear from his cheek as Ginsburg thanked her late mother.

Losing candidates often joke about crying.

When the Gerald Ford-Bob Dole ticket lost in 1976, Dole said, "Contrary to reports that I took the loss badly, I want to say that I went home last night and slept like a baby — every two hours, I woke up and cried."

And Adlai Stevenson, who lost the presidency twice to Dwight Eisenhower, repeated a story told by Abraham Lincoln about the man who lost an election and was asked by his friends how he felt the next day. He said he felt "like a little boy who stubbed his toe in the dark. He said that he was too old to cry, but it hurt too much to laugh."

But that was the 19th century. Today, nobody is too old or too male or too anything to cry.

Political life is but a vale of tears.

Oh, yeah, one more thing: The presidential candidates and their super PACs spent more than \$12.6 million just on TV ads in Iowa.

Want a hankie?

To find out more about Roger Simon, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.

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Church News

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

The Lectionary Bible study, led by Craig Holstedt and Tom Koger, meets Wednesdays at 5:17 p.m. in the church library. Children's choir will meet at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday and the chancel choir will practice at 6 p.m.

Working Women's Bible study group will meet Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the church parlor. Helen Glass will lead Lessons 3 and 4 from our study book and the offering will go to PW Churchwide.

The session will have a training retreat Saturday, Jan. 14.

The Children's Sunday school group concludes their study of "The Gift of Jesus," and will begin a study of the boy Samuel. Chris and Don Boling are leading the youth in the study "The Me I Want to Be" by John Ortberg. The adult covenant class begins Unit II "God's Protection" with a study entitled God Establishes a Faithful People with passages from Genesis and Exodus. The discovery class, which meets in the theater room, is viewing a DVD study called "The Case for Christ" by Lee Strobel, an investigative journalist with legal background who probes the evidence for the truth of Biblical Christianity. All classes begin at 9:45 a.m.

Christine Boling is in charge of "Take Ten" refreshments; Kay Kennemur furnished them last Sunday. Liturgist is Helen Glass. Communion servers for January are John Yater, Lucy and Paschal Odom, and Danny and Kay Kennemur. Ushers for the month are Don and Charlie Boling, Paula Farquhar and John Yater.

The lectionary is Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11. The chancel choir will offer the anthem "Arise, Shine; For Your Light Is Come" by Mark Bender and sing "The Beginning of Wisdom" by Austin Lovelace for the offertory. The Rev. Craig Holstedt will deliver the sermon. Sunday will be the ordination and installation of church officers during worship. Following worship, we ask people to stay and help with the removal of the greens.

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.fpcbs.org. On our website, you can find a link that will enable you to listen to several recent sermons by the Rev. Craig Holstedt.

First Church of the Nazarene

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. and Wednesday evening group meetings are at 6:30 p.m. Small groups meet throughout the week for all different interests. We also have all church prayer time Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

For toddlers and children, there are classes for all school ages and a nursery available. Sunday morning children's classes begin at 9 a.m. with children's church following. Adults are welcome for fellowship with coffee and snacks prior to the 10 a.m. service. Children also have Wednesday caravan classes at 6:30 p.m.

Kaylha Martin keeps the youth energized with IMPACT on Wednesday and Sunday evening with activities at 6:30 p.m.

First Church of the Nazarene is located at 1400 Lancaster.

For more information, contact the church office at 432-267-7015. Visit us on the web at www.nazfamily.org where you can view a live service. We are also on Facebook and Twitter.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist is at 10:30 a.m. We are having our second annual meeting Sunday after the service and taking down the Christmas decorations.

The Vestry's regular meeting is Monday at 6 p.m. in the library.

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.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is located at 911 Goliad St. Sunday fellowship is at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m. Worship service is at 10:50 a.m. Sunday, the Rev. Kenneth McIntosh will deliver the message "The First Words" from Genesis 1:1-5.

Choir practice and youth group will reconvene Sunday at 6 p.m. Samaritan Counseling will be meeting in the library Thursday morning from 9 a.m. until noon.

Client hours for Isaiah 58 are Mondays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Isaiah 58 is located at 107 Runnels. Volunteers are needed to unload the truck Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and to help clients. Contact the church for more information on volunteering.

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

First United Methodist

The Senior Adult Ministry (SAM) at First Methodist ushered in 2012 with an all-church luncheon following the late service New Year's Day. A traditional meal of black eyed peas, cornbread and all the fixings was served.

Our thanks to Chuck and Bonnie Miller and crew for their leadership in preparing and executing this event.

Pastor Bill Ivins will be delivering the message at both services of worship Sunday. His sermon topic is titled, "God's Greatest Dreams" with scripture readings from Genesis. Worship services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. with Sunday school classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

Sunday evening, Pastor Bill and members of the administrative board will honor our new church members with a dinner at the Parsonage.

Music rehearsals are Sunday afternoons with time assigned for chancel choir, praise team and bell choir. Monday and Wednesday we have our Children's Day Out program. Wednesdays at noon we have weekly Bible study and luncheon while Real Life Wednesday begins at 5:30 p.m. with ac-

tivities for adults, youth and children's music following the meal.

Work has begun on the new flower calendar for 2012. If you have been a part of this program in the past and wish to continue or want to be included in this next year, contact Ernestine Day at 264-6120.

The Nicaragua Mission Planning Team is excited about the mission opportunities for 2012.

Big Spring First United Methodist is partnering with Western Hill United Methodist Church, El Paso, to provide three weeks of mission to the people of Matagalpa, San Jose and surrounding areas. The trip is scheduled to begin in late February.

It's time to start thinking about our team for Relay For Life. Youth Director Beau Niewoehner will be heading up this effort and asks Sunday school classes to begin planning fundraising activities as they have so successfully done in the past. The Epworth Sunday school class will again be sponsoring our team. First Methodist has been an active participant in the local Relay For Life since it's beginning here in Howard County.

Spring Creek Fellowship

A deacon weekend is scheduled for Jan. 27-29. More information to come.

We will be hosting a "Super Bowl Party" Sunday, Feb. 5. The game will be shown on the large screens in our worship area.

Coming soon at Spring Creek University, here are a few of the offerings for 2012:

"The School of the Spirit," "Financial Peace University," "Celebrate Recovery," "Weird: Because Normal Isn't Working," "Experiencing God," "Breaking Free," "The Secret to the Marriage You Want" and "Be Prepared" (parenting)

Many new ministries, outreach opportunities and studies are also planned for the New Year.

Sunday school classes meet from 9:15-10:15 a.m. "Holy Grounds Cafe" is open from 10:15 a.m.-10:45. See **CHURCH**, Page 6A

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Trusting the right source

Now wait a minute! I just received the following quote from my favorite daily quotation site: "The thing about quotes on the internet is you cannot confirm their validity." — Abraham Lincoln

While I have never completely trusted the internet, I have always had a high regard for Able Lincoln. If the great president were alive today, he probably would chuckle at the thought of such a tongue-in-cheek quotation being attached to this good name.

Unlike the famous 16th president who was renowned for his integrity, the internet gives us reason to doubt its validity. Consider all those heart-warming e-mail forwards with no author's name attached that guarantee a blessing if we will only click and send them on to everyone else in our address books within 30 seconds. Then there are those advertisements

for miracle-working products that will absolutely change our hair color, our shapes, our pocket-books, and our housekeeping skills within seconds of purchase.

Just imagine the absurdity of a common-sense man like Mr. Lincoln searching an invisible source in a box with a keyboard for information in preparation for his Gettysburg Address. Somehow the image of the tall, bearded president in a top hat sitting in front of a computer just doesn't seem right.

Yet those of us with internet addictions have slowly been brainwashed into believing that everything we read

online is true. We Google and click for medical advice, historical information, weather reports, and driving instructions. We shop online, bank online, and pay our bills online, trusting some mythical little guy inside our computers to faithfully carry out our commands. But we seldom question the reliability of the words we read.

Although the electronic information that daily invades our homes can't always be trusted, most of us still like to believe that we can rely on a man like Honest Abe for truthful information. However, the words that we read in the Bible are even more reliable, and the Scriptures we quote are always trustworthy. The Bible is timeless. God's word is as valid today as it was when it was first spoken.

The prophet Isaiah wrote: "The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:8 NASB).

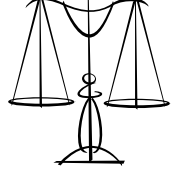
The prophet's words are just as valid for the internet age as they were for his own time. We may momentarily be fooled by some fictitious quote, but we can never be misled never be misled by the Word of God..

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



BONNIE WHEAT

Charles Myers Attorney At Law Family Law And Criminal Law Ward & Myers, L.L.P.



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By Steve Becker

Test Your Play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Hearts. North leads the ten of spades, and dummy's jack wins the trick. How would you play the hand?

WEST	EAST
♠ A K 5 2	♠ J 6 3
♥ A K 7 6 5 4	♥ Q 3
♦ A	♦ 9 7 6 5 3 2
♣ K 4	♣ A Q

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Five Clubs, reached via this sequence:

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	1 ♦	3 ♣	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	5 ♣	Pass

North leads the king of diamonds. How would you play the hand?

WEST	EAST
♠ K 10	♠ J 9 5
♥ A K J	♥ Q 7
♦ J 3	♦ A 4 2
♣ J 10 8 6 4 2	♣ A K 9 5 3

1. If the trumps are divided 3-2, you're sure to make the slam, so you start by assuming they're divided 4-1. Similarly, if the spades are divided 3-3, you'll have no problem, so you assume that suit is divided 4-2 or 5-1, with North holding either Q-10-9-x or Q-10-9-x-x.

To guard against both possibilities,

you cash the queen of hearts at trick two and then lead a spade toward your hand. If South ruffs, you have the rest of the tricks, so let's assume he either follows suit or discards a club.

You win the trick with the ace, return to dummy with a club and repeat the spade play. Again you're confident of the outcome, regardless of what South does. If he discards, you win with the king and ruff a spade in dummy to assure 12 tricks, while if he ruffs, you are also home free.

Observe that the suggested method of play is equally effective if North has the heart length.

2. Your potential losers are two spades and a diamond, since North might have the A-Q of spades in addition to the K-Q of diamonds. In order to overcome this possibility, your best bet is to arrange an end-play.

Accordingly, you win the king of diamonds with the ace and draw trumps. You then play the A-K-J of hearts, discarding a diamond from dummy. Now you play the jack of diamonds, saddling North with the lead and forcing him to lead a spade or yield a ruff-and-discard. Either way, the contract is home.

Tomorrow: A tale of two endings.

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CHURCH

Continued from Page 5A

a.m. with snacks and fellowship. Worship is scheduled from 10:45 a.m.-12 p.m.

We meet Wednesdays for a meal at 5:30 p.m., Bible study, youth and children's activities are at 6 p.m. and praise team practice is at 7 p.m.

Youth meets Wednesday evenings for junior and senior high students. Plans for Sunday evening events and field trips are in the works.

A weekly Men's Prayer breakfast and fellowship is scheduled at 7:30 a.m. Saturday in the dining room at the church.

Our "Between the Lines" Women's Ministry will meet Saturday, Jan. 20.

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.

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

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church LCMS

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

Sunday service is at 9 a.m. with Sunday school at 10:15 a.m. Pastor Carroll Kohl will conduct the worship service Sunday. His sermon title is "You are My Son" based on Mark 1:4-11 (the Baptism of Jesus).

Richard Knocke will be reading the liturgy. The readings are Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Romans 6:1-11 and Mark 1:4-11.

The poinsettias on the altar are given in Glory to God and in Honor of Jesus Christ's birth by the members of Alive in Christ Lutheran Church. If you are interested in donating flowers, sign up on the flower chart. The new 2012 flower chart is located on the kitchen door. The general consensus is to plan on using the flowers for two or three weeks. Schedule accordingly when donating.

Pastor Carroll Kohl is on KBYG every morning for a devotion sponsored in part by the Lutheran Hour. Tune in to 106.3 FM or 1400 AM between 6:45 and 6:50 each morning for these devotions: "Morning Meditation Thoughts." Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on KBYG Sunday morning.

Monday the LWML will serve coffee/juice/refreshments at the VA. The Board of Education will meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the church. We will re-

sume our Wednesday Mid Week School this week. Join us from 6-6:30 p.m. for the meal and at 6:30-7:15 for the Bible studies. LWML will meet Thursday, at 7 p.m. at the church.

The pastoral call committee is still meeting. Thank you for your dedication in its huge endeavor which is a slow but complicated process. The call committee has done an excellent job representing our members and church during this extremely critical process.

The Elders meet Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. at the church. The Board of Assimilation will meet Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. at the church.

Scheduled 7 p.m. meetings at the church for February include: The LWML will meet Feb. 9. On Feb. 13, the LWML will serve coffee/juice/refreshments at the VA. The Board of Education will meet Feb. 14. The Elders meet Feb. 16. The Board of Assimilation will meet Feb. 28.

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, meets Wednesdays at 5:17 p.m. at First Presbyterian in Big Spring.

The lectionary for the Baptism of the Lord is Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11.

Reflections

Time to close the chapter of 2011

This week we close the book on 2011 and open the first pages of 2012.

Closing the book on the past is important. First, we need to close the book on the insults and injuries that we may have suffered. Failure to close the book on these can cripple us in our efforts to embrace the future. We can only overcome past insults and injuries by practicing forgiveness. Jesus had a lot to say about forgiveness. He taught us to pray, "Father, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." And, after teaching us to pray, drew the application: "For, if you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

When Peter, feeling rather generous, asked Jesus, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus responded, "Seventy time seven."

As we close the book on 2011, it is important that we forgive those who have mistreated, insulted or injured us in any way.

Second, we need to close the book on our own sins and transgressions. We all regret things we did and things we left undone, words spoken and words we failed to speak. The guilt and regret of the past can become a huge burden that weighs us down and prevents us from achieving our best. God wants to take this weight from our shoulders. The Psalmist wrote, "For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His loving kindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgres-

sions from us. Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him." (Ps 103:11-13). "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool." (Isa. 1:18). The writer of Hebrews wrote, "Let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus." (Hebrews 1:1-2).

As we open first pages of 2012, the possibilities are endless. A recent poll indicated that most Americans are optimistic about the future. On Jan. 1, ABC News ran the headline: "Public Optimism Prevails Nationally and Globally." The article went on to say, "Despite the still-deep downturn, Americans overwhelmingly express positive views about what 2012 holds for them personally." God wants us to be optimistic and hopeful. We can look forward to the future based on God's promises. "For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope."

Both Paul and Peter agreed that Jesus is the source of this confidence. "Just as it is written, 'Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.'" (Ro. 9:33; 1 Pe. 2:6; Ps 118:22; Isa. 28:16).

May this year be a year of forgiveness and faith! May it be your best year ever!

Bill Tinsley reflects on current events and life experience from a faith perspective. For more info visit <http://www.tinsleycenter.com>. Email bill@tinsleycenter.com.



BILL
TINSLEY

Reader's Corner

Where the word of the king is, there is power

Psalm 61:24, From the end of the earth I cry to you when my heart is overwhelmed lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

In the world we are living in today, there is no time to pray; no time to read the Bible. Jobs and family can be very demanding and we find ourselves overtaken by the cares of life, overwhelmed, overpowered, engulfed and defeated easily by a greatly superior opponent. Heartbroken and so on. Maybe today you feel powerless perhaps you're going through something and no one seems to care. But, I believe God has a people who know how to pray, who have been given power over all the powers of the enemy.

And we have a Bible that holds the promises of God that we can stand on. Psalm 62:11 says God has spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongs to God. Luke 1:37, no word from God shall be without power. Psalm 118:8, it is better to trust in the Lord than to have confidence in man. When my heart is overwhelmed, when it's breaking, when I feel defenseless and see no way out I cry to God and He leads me to the rock that is higher than I.

Psalm 62:2, He only is my rock and my salvation: He is my defense; I shall not be moved. Psalm 51:16-17 talks about sacrifice if that was what God wanted then that's what he would give God, but there's nothing we can give God to make Him do something for us. We could never earn his blessings, but I believe a contrite heart and a broken spirit He will not turn away.

Psalm 56:9, When I cry unto you, then shall mine enemies turn back: This I know; for God is for me. This is the word of the king of kings. The king will do as he pleases. How can you calm a raging sea? Jesus will speak for you, defend you, He will save you and be the rock you can stand on and remember He is for you.

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Why am I here

Why am I here?
Because I heard there was a God that could heal.
One that could fill my life with the Holy Ghost,
with the evidence of speaking in tongues.
A heavenly language I've heard so much of
One that could deliver and restore anyone.
And yes I'm glad I believe in His existence
But it doesn't end there.
It's developed into a relationship with an unconditional love.
With the one who knew me from my mothers womb
It's amazing how God's kept me all

these years.
Not always obedient, not always faithful.
So ashamed and undeserving of His grace.
But today is another day
And he's still by my side.
I feel whenever I sit in my Father's house
I'm in the mercy seat
And if he said shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing
Surely He's hid nothing from me
And certainly there is no secret what God can do
When I think why I am here.

JoElle Ludington

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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Religious briefs

Sculptor chisels St. Damien statue

HILO, Hawaii (AP) — A sculptor on the island of Hawaii is creating a life-size statue of St. Damien for the Sacred Heart Church in Pahoa, located in the district where the venerated Roman Catholic priest first worked after being ordained in 1864.

William McKnight is chiseling a 7-ton basalt boulder into a statue depicting a 5-foot-10, 210-pound Damien topped by his signature hat.

The sculpture will show Damien extending his hand to help people. The base will feature Hawaii Island's main volcanoes, which also are meant to represent the Trinity, along with water symbolizing Damien's crossing to Molokai, McKnight said.

Damien was just 24 when he arrived in Puna, his first parish. Church records show he

baptized nearly 100 people and performed seven marriages in the few months before he moved north to minister to people in Kohala and Hamakua.

The priest is best known and honored for work he did after moving to isolated peninsula of Kalaupapa on Molokai, where he cared for exiled leprosy patients in the mid-1800s when no one else would.

He contracted leprosy 12 years after he arrived, and died of the disease four years later in 1889.

The Vatican canonized Belgian-born Joseph de Veuster, or Father Damien, in 2009.

A dedication ceremony will be held in March to coincide with the arrival of Bishop Larry Silva, who heads the Diocese of Honolulu.

Emory and Saint Joseph's finalize healthcare partnership

ATLANTA (AP) — Emory Healthcare and Saint Joseph's Health System have finalized the terms of their partnership.

The announcement comes nearly 10 months after the two organizations announced their intent to form a joint operating company. The move, effective Jan. 1, 2012, forms the largest, most clinically comprehensive health system in Georgia.

The proposed arrangement will give Emory Healthcare a majority ownership of Saint Joseph's, with a 51/49 fraction split. Saint Joseph's will retain involvement in governance of the joint operating company, including super majority voting rights on issues critical to Saint Joseph's mission, values and Roman Catholic religious and ethical directives.



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TREASURE HUNTERS PAYING CASH FOR GOLD, SILVER, COINS AND ANTIQUES TODAY THROUGH SATURDAY!

"It's a modern day gold rush as precious metal prices soar due to the unstable economy—it's a seller's market" says Archie Davis, THR Representative.

By Jason Delong
STAFF WRITER

Roll up your sleeves and get ready to start your spring cleaning early this year. THR's Treasure Hunters Roadshow opens today in **Big Spring**—and is looking for antiques and collectibles. Remember those Hot Wheels cars you played with as a kid? What about those old musical instruments? You know, the ones that have been stored away in the attic for the past 30 years. Well it's time to dig 'em out, along with any other forgotten treasures. You might be sitting on a small fortune and not even know it.

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Event representative, Archie Davis, explains what the event is all about. "It's a chance to get paid today, on the spot, for your classic collectibles. We host over 3,000 shows every year throughout the U.S. and Canada. Toys, dolls, trains, pocket watches, old advertising signs, gold jewelry, coins, antiques and collectibles—

WE BUY ALL GOLD & SILVER JEWELRY

just about anything can be sold at the event." This event is popular because it puts money in people's pockets. At a typical show, they will see hundreds of people during the five day event. A few unusual items will be seen, but mostly it will be a lot of old coins, gold jewelry, and a wide variety of antiques and collectibles. Last week at a show in Missouri, a retired dentist walked in with over 5 lbs. of dental gold fillings. "I would say that is pretty unusual,



Above—THR's Treasure Hunters Roadshow runs tomorrow through Saturday this week in Big Spring.

wouldn't you say?" commented Davis. The gentleman received over \$31,243 for his gold fillings. He told Davis that over the years he would keep the extracted teeth when the owners didn't want them. He would throw them in a jar and over the years it added up to over 5 lbs. of gold. Now, not everyone has a jar of gold teeth lying around, but according to Davis, more than you might think have some sort of gold they can cash in. Davis says, "The event receives a fair amount of gold each day of the 5 day event." Broken jewelry, gold coins and dental gold have been the largest payouts so far with today's high gold prices.

Whether you have 5 lbs. of gold or a single gold tooth, a pickup full of old toys or a single Barbie doll, you should visit the event this week. It's free, it's fun and it could put some money in your pocket, maybe a lot of money!

THR's Treasure Hunters Roadshow is not affiliated with or related to the Antiques Roadshow television series, PBS or WGBH

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MILITARY ITEMS & SWORDS Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, etc: swords, badges, clothes, photos, medals, knives, gear, letters. The older the swords, the better.



GUITARS & OTHER INSTRUMENTS Fender, Gibson, Martin, Rickenbacker, Gretsch, new and vintage amps, saxophones, wood winds, mandolins and all others.



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News in brief

Obama shifts focus to Asian security threats

WASHINGTON (AP) — In recasting his defense strategy, President Barack Obama is looking beyond the wars he inherited to focus on Asian security risks — mainly China and North Korea — that took a back seat to Iraq and Afghanistan.

This marks a turning point not only for the U.S. military but also for Obama, entering the final year of his White House term. Facing a re-election battle, he is declaring success in Iraq and Afghanistan and taking a forward-looking stance on the how to preserve U.S. military pre-eminence.

A prominent theme of the new strategy that Obama and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta unveiled Thursday is what Panetta has called a renewed commitment to asserting America's position in the Asia-Pacific region.

"This region is growing in importance to the future of the United States economy and our national security," Panetta said. "This means, for instance, improving capabilities that maintain our military's technological edge and freedom of action."

Government to report on December job growth

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. job market strengthened in the second half of 2011, and December is expected to cap a solid finish.

Economists forecast that employers added a net 150,000 jobs last month, according to a survey by Factset. They also predict that the unemployment rate ticked up to 8.7 percent from 8.6 percent, which was the lowest rate since March 2009.

The Labor Department will issue the December jobs report at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time Friday.

The projected hiring gains would mark a six-month stretch in which the economy generated 100,000 jobs or more in each month. The last time that happened was in April 2006 — more than a year and a half before the country plunged into the Great Recession.

A more robust hiring market would coincide with other positive data that show the economy ended the year with some momentum.

Syrian TV: Suicide attack in Damascus kills and wounds dozens

DAMASCUS (AP) — A suicide attacker detonated his explosives in central Damascus Friday, killing and wounding dozens of people, state TV said. The TV footage as well as an official suggested that the target of the attack was a police bus.

Syrian television said the explosion went off at an intersection in the central Damascus neighborhood of Midan, while scores of people were in the area. It said most of the casualties were civilians.

The explosion comes two weeks after two blasts in Damascus targeting security buildings killed 44 people.

A Syrian official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not allowed to talk publicly to the media, said the target of the attack appeared to be a bus carrying policemen.

Perry's first-ever election loss sure to sting, but won't stop him

AUSTIN (AP) — Rick Perry did something in Iowa he's never done in three decades of public life: He lost.

But those who have known Perry for years expect him to take his fifth-place finish in Iowa's caucuses in stride and keep campaigning, even as his chances of winning the presidential nomination shrink.

"He'll go with the strategy of leaving the best image as possible even as he fades away, leave America with that as his legacy instead of all those debate errors that shot his credibility," said Royal Masset, a former state GOP political director.

Iowa ended an unbeaten electoral streak for Perry that stretched back to 1984, when he won a Texas House seat as a Democrat. He switched parties and won his first statewide post as agricultural commissioner before being elected lieutenant governor, ascending to the governorship when George W. Bush left for the White House in December 2000 and winning election to three full, four-year terms.

Some who know him say the Iowa loss — it well could foreshadow a failure to win the nomination — has probably already had a deeper personal impact than Perry is letting on.

NASA questions Lovell's right to sell key flight checklist

MIAMI (AP) — NASA is questioning whether Apollo 13 commander James Lovell has the right to sell a 70-page checklist from the flight that includes his handwritten calculations crucial in guiding the damaged spacecraft back to Earth.

The document was sold by Heritage Auctions in November for more than \$388,000, some 15 times its initial list price. The checklist gained great fame as part of a key dramatic scene in the 1995 film "Apollo 13" in which actor Tom Hanks plays Lovell making the calculations.

After the sale, NASA contacted Lovell and Heritage to ask whether Lovell had title to the checklist.

Greg Rohan, president of Dallas-based Heritage, said Thursday the sale has been suspended pending the outcome of the inquiry. The checklist, he said, is being stored for now in the company's vault.

Rohan said Lovell provided a signed affidavit that he had clear title to the ring-bound checklist, which is standard procedure. Heritage does robust business in space memorabilia and has worked with many former astronauts, he added.

Winter Survival Kit app designed to help drivers in bad weather

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — When a powerful blizzard ripped through North Dakota last winter, hundreds of drivers were stranded as white-out conditions shuttered interstates spanning the state. Snow whipped up by wind marred the lines between pavement and grassy drop-offs, leaving some scared motorists unsure what to do.

Two local software developers had a thought: There should be an app for that.

Bob Bertsch, an employee with the North Dakota State University Extension Service, and Jake Joranstad, an NDSU computer engineering major, had just finished developing an app to help residents during floods when the blizzard hit in March, convincing them to shift their attention to winter disasters.

Winter Survival Kit was born.

The free program, available for iPhones and Android smartphones, is both a primer to help motorists prepare for winter driving and a beacon when things go badly.

It can pinpoint a motorist's location, call 911, notify friends and family, and monitor how long the gas will hold out.

Fish farmers keep fingers crossed during unseasonably cold weather

LAKELAND, Fla. (AP) — It's a tense time at Imperial Tropicals, one of central Florida's largest ornamental fish farms.

It will be days, if not weeks, before farmer Frank Drawdy discovers how the recent cold snap will affect her fish.

Her millions of platies, mollies and guppies in outdoor ponds could die quickly from the drastic temperature change — it went from 80 degrees on Christmas to 20 degrees two weeks later — or they could fall sick and linger from stress or a fungus.

Almost all the nation's domestically-raised tropical and ornamental fish come from Florida, and when cold weather strikes the results can be devastating.

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NFL playoffs kick off with new faces

By **BARRY WILNER**

AP Pro Football Writer
Hey, Stranger.

Here's a playoff head-scratcher: accompanying the Patriots and Packers, Steelers and Giants, are the Lions and Texans.

On Saturday, the Texans kick off the NFL playoffs by hosting Cincinnati. It's merely their first postseason game in franchise history, a life span of 10 seasons.

At night, the Lions, whose last trip to the playoffs came

in 1999 — and whose last win was eight seasons before that — play at New Orleans.

There they are, Detroit and Houston, both 10-6, in there among recent champions and frequent playoff qualifiers.

The lack of familiarity with such surroundings doesn't seem to concern Detroit coach Jim Schwartz, who has 17 players with playoff experience, but only kicker Jason Hanson got it with the Lions.

"We haven't always played our very best, I don't think

any team ever does, but I think we've learned from some of the things that have happened and I think we're a little bit more battle-tested, a little more seasoned," he said. "There's one thing of learning about something, there's another thing experiencing it firsthand and seeing how it affects the team and things like that. I think that every time we're presented with one of those situations, we've done a pretty good job of doing it better the second time."

This is their first playoff

appearance in more than a decade, but their second go-round with the Saints (13-3) in five weeks. The Lions fell 31-17 at the Superdome on Dec. 4.

Then again, everyone lost at New Orleans this season.

Saints coach Sean Payton dismisses the newcomer factor, saying he doesn't expect to see a wide-eyed, nervous opponent in the prime-time wild-card game.

"I don't think that there's really any correlation to new teams or experienced teams,

necessarily, in the playoffs," said Payton, whose new playoff qualifier in 2006 went to the NFC championship game. "I think teams have players, typically that are on their team that might have been in the playoffs with another team, but I think it's the week of preparation. I think it becomes the key thing that wins and loses games each week in the turnover ratio, big plays, the red zone and third-down

See **PLAYOFFS**, Page 3B

Heat grabs late win in triple OT

ATLANTA (AP) — No LeBron James? No Dwyane Wade?

No problem.

Mario Chalmers and Chris Bosh made up for the absence of the Miami's injured stars, carrying the Heat to a 116-109 triple overtime victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Thursday night.

With James and Wade cheering from the bench, Bosh scored 33 points and Chalmers had 22 of his 29 points after the third quarter, including five of Miami's seven points in the third overtime.

"Coach said I had to be aggressive," Chalmers said.

Wade missed his second straight game with a sore left foot and James was held out after he turned his left ankle late in the third quarter of Wednesday night's 118-83 win over Indiana. Neither was in uniform.

Bosh hit a last-second, tying 3-pointer at the end of regulation to force the first overtime.

"It was a lucky shot," Bosh said.

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said his team survived a test of its character.

"That game, the way

it went down in the end, was an exercise in absolute endurance and mental toughness," Spoelstra said.

"Both teams played their hearts out there at the end."

Joe Johnson had 20 points for the Hawks, who did not score in the third extra period. It was only the 10th time in NBA history that a team did not score in an overtime period.

Josh Smith added 17 points and 13 rebounds for Atlanta, which was seeking its second win over the Heat in four days but missed 15 of 46 free throws.

Hawks coach Larry Drew said his players ignored his warning against a letdown if James and Wade didn't play.

"There was a total, total mental letdown," Drew said, adding his spark they had when they won 100-92 in Miami on Monday.

"I didn't see the sense of urgency I saw in Miami," Drew said. "The tendency is to let your guard down, and we certainly did tonight."

See **HEAT**, Page 3B

Pats' O'Brien takes close look at Penn State job

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — New England Patriots offensive coordinator Bill O'Brien will be Penn State's first new head football coach in nearly a half-century, according to multiple reports.

ESPN, citing unnamed sources, first reported Thursday night that an official announcement would be made Saturday, and that O'Brien would continue as an assistant with the Patriots the rest of the postseason.

Penn State coaches contacted by The Associated Press said they had not received any word late Thursday night

about O'Brien or anything else related to the two-month long search to replace the former Joe Paterno. The Nittany Lions' leader for 46 seasons was fired Nov. 9 in the aftermath of child sex abuse charges against retired defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky.

O'Brien has no apparent ties to Penn State, which has rocked by a scandal that also led to the departure of school President Graham Spanier.

A Patriots spokesman declined to comment. Penn State athletics spokesman Jeff Nelson cited department policy to not comment on reports to

"protect the integrity of the search."

O'Brien interviewed on Thursday, his agent said. Joe Linta told The Associated Press, earlier Thursday, that O'Brien was "flattered by the interest."

USA Today first reported that O'Brien was scheduled to interview, citing an unidentified person with knowledge of the situation.

This was O'Brien's first year coordinating the Patriots' high-scoring offense, but has

See **PENN**, Page 3B

Defense key in BCS title game

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The points have been piling up so fast this postseason it's as if they're giving away touchdowns along with all those video games and watches the bowls hand out to players.

41-38. 45-38. 67-56. 70-33.

Seemingly end Michael Brockers wondering: "Where is the defense at? Does it exist?"

It will in the BCS title game.

When No. 1 LSU and No. 2 Alabama meet at the Superdome on Monday, expect every yard to be earned and touchdowns to be at a premium — again.

Round 1 between the Tigers and Crimson Tide was the definition of a defensive standoff. LSU's 9-6 overtime victory turned into a field goal-kicking contest and left many fans outside SEC country less than thrilled about watching Round 2.

But for LSU defensive coordinator John Chavis, who spent 20 years as a defensive assistant at Tennessee before joining coach Les Miles in Baton Rouge in 2009, that first game was a thing of beauty.

"When you got guys that are scoring every two minutes, that's certainly exciting football for the fans to watch, but jeez," he said Thursday. "I got enough gray hair. I don't ever want to see any of that."

Then the Southeastern Conference is the place to be — especially this season.

Coming into the bowl games, the top four teams in the nation in total defense were from the SEC, led by Alabama at No. 1 and LSU at No. 2, and followed by Georgia and South Carolina.

See **DEFENSE**, Page 3B

Tournament of Champions begins Friday in Hawaii

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) — One par was worth two trophies. One tournament paid Bill Haas just over \$11.4 million.

He starts over with a clean slate Friday at the Tournament of Champions, with one less perk than the other winners from last season. Haas won the Tour Championship, the one PGA Tour event in which the winner is not guaranteed a chance to defend his title.

Haas will have to play well over the next eight months, then work his way through the FedEx Cup playoffs and be among the top 30 players who get to East Lake for a shot at the \$10 million bonus.

"The goal is to be consistent and try to get back to the Tour Championship to give myself that chance to defend," he said Thursday. "If I don't defend, hopefully it's because I finish 31st and my year was still

somewhat successful. "We'll just see how I'm feeling about that in October."

That seems like such a long way off. There are still four majors ahead of him, including a return to The Olympic Club in San Francisco for the U.S. Open, and to Royal Lytham & St. Annes for the British Open. There is that huge incentive of making the Ryder Cup team; Haas played his first team event two months ago at Royal Melbourne in the Presidents Cup.

It's a lot to digest. And there's a lot of competition.

Even though 11 players decided not to play — or because of injuries, could not play — in the winners-only tournament that kicks off the new season, all anyone has to do is look around at some of the new faces.

Twelve players in the 28-man field are at Kapalua for the first time.

Nine of the players are in their 20s.

"Right now it seems that young is good," said Steve Stricker, who turns 45 next month.

Stricker is making his fourth consecutive trip to Maui, the longest streak of any player in the field. It's a familiar start to the season. Not so familiar are some of the guys he'll be trying to beat. A year ago Stricker didn't know who some of them were.

Keegan Bradley? He was known more as the nephew of LPGA great Pat Bradley until he won two times, including that unlikely comeback in Atlanta to capture the PGA Championship in his first try at a major.

Jhonattan Vegas was the first PGA Tour member from Venezuela. Scott Stallings? Brendan Steele?

"I know them now a little bit," Stricker said Thursday on the eve of the opening round.

The PGA Tour season

gets under way Friday. It wants to get away from the NFL playoffs on Sunday, so the final round will end Monday just before the BCS Championship game starts.

The new faces at Kapalua are not the only difference.

Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods are no longer part of the top 10 in the world ranking. There are no Americans among the top five for the first time in nearly two decades. And even without the likes of U.S. Open champion Rory McIlroy, Masters champion Charl Schwartzel or Martin Kaymer in Hawaii, the young guys are making a strong push.

"There's been a transformation of players out here, and it was going to happen eventually," said Stricker, who turns 45 next month. "We saw Tiger and Phil slip out of the top 10, and we have some European

players coming in there — young European players and young Americans — playing well and stepping right up early on in their careers. So it's fun to see."

Haas is among those players expected to take his game up another notch. He has known all along that it's not easy to get to the next level, having Jay Haas as his father.

"I guess I knew going in ... obviously, I was a cocky young kid, but I knew how good everybody was," he said. "I was playing with my dad on the weekend and getting beat every time. Inside, I knew I wasn't quite good enough yet to be as cocky as I was. I got out on the Nationwide Tour, wanting to be out here, thinking I deserved to be out here."

"But I quickly learned you don't deserve to be out here," he said. "You earn everything."

And now, everyone starts at zero.

Stricker hopes he gets some advantage through his experience on the Plantation Course, unlike any other course on tour. It was built on a mountain, offering severe changes in elevation, massive greens with slope and grain, and uninterrupted views of the Pacific Ocean.

The surf has been particularly strong on Maui this week, and it creates quite the contrast. Players working their way along the back nine can look down the cliffs and see the ocean littered with surfers off the point at Honolulu Bay.

It's relaxing, but it's still work.

The winners get a small head start on the rest of the PGA Tour in a short field with no cut, essentially free money from the \$5.6 million purse and a jump in the FedEx Cup standings.

It worked beautifully last year for Jonathan Byrd.

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PLAYOFFS

From Page 1B

efficiency, those are the things that matter.”

Schwartz is no newbie to the postseason, making several trips while an assistant with the Titans — including to the 2000 Super Bowl, which ended with Tennessee near St. Louis’ goal line trying to tie the game.

“I think every game ... you learn something, so I don’t know that there’s anything other than that,” said Schwartz, 18-30 in his three seasons as coach. “Other lessons — we’ve had some success in the playoffs, also had failures. I’ve been part of a wild-card team that went to

the Super Bowl, also been a part of a team that had home-field advantage throughout the playoffs and lost in the first game.

So, I think the finality of playoffs — win and advance, keep playing; lose and your season’s over — I think that’s probably the thing that’s the most different from a regular-season game.”

The Texans wouldn’t know. Born in 2002, they didn’t have a winning record until last season. Their AFC South crown seemed destined when Peyton Manning was sidelined in Indianapolis, but they struggled down the stretch and lost their final three games.

Indeed, Houston’s last win was at Cincinnati 20-19. And

it’s the Bengals (9-7) who visit Reliant Stadium on Saturday.

Fourteen Texans have made it to the playoffs with other clubs.

“From that standpoint, as far as our players, maybe that’s a good thing that they don’t have a lot of things to pull from. It’s just, go play it like any other game,” coach Gary Kubiak said. “They know that the result — the biggest factor — is you can move on. If you don’t play well, you’re not moving on, you’re going home. “They all understand that, but this is the Houston Texans’ first taste of a playoff game.”

This is Cincinnati’s third playoff appearance in seven

seasons, but the Bengals have flopped every time. Their last postseason victory was in January 1991.

“It would be a tremendous feeling for us to get rid of that stigma of not being able to get to the playoffs and win it,” offensive tackle Andre Smith said.

On Sunday, Atlanta (10-6) is at the Giants (9-7), followed by Pittsburgh (12-4) at Denver (8-8).

Yes, the wild-card teams in those two games have better records than the division winners.

The Falcons haven’t won in the postseason with Matt Ryan at quarterback, not even as the No. 1 seed in the NFC last year. Ryan’s doesn’t dwell on blown chances.

“It is the first opportunity that I have and we have as a team this postseason. We are excited about that,” he said. “All the stuff that happened in the past doesn’t really make a difference. It comes down to preparing this week and doing whatever we can to keep advancing throughout the playoffs.”

The Broncos’ last playoff trip was in 2005, when they lost to the Steelers for the AFC title. Pittsburgh, also a wild card then, won the Super Bowl.

“It doesn’t matter how you get in,” Denver linebacker Mario Haggan said.

“We have an opportunity, and when you get in anything can happen. That’s what we’re hoping for.”

PENN

From Page 1B

he coached Tom Brady since 2009 and spent 2008 coaching receivers.

O’Brien recently was in the spotlight when he and New England’s star quarterback got into a heated argument,

shown on national television, after Brady threw an interception in the end zone in the fourth quarter of the Patriots’ 34-27 win over the Washington Redskins on Dec. 11.

“He’s been a great coach and friend. We have a great relationship; probably a very

unique relationship in that we communicate all the time,” Brady said Sunday about O’Brien. “I always enjoy working with him and he’s done an incredible job with this team and this offense.”

The Patriots are off this week, and will host a divisional round play-

off game next weekend. They went 13-3 this season, won the AFC East championship going away, and secured the conference’s No. 1 seed throughout the playoffs.

New England closed the regular season on an eight-game winning streak, and scored 513 points, the most in the

AFC. Brady threw for 5,235 yards and 39 touchdowns, while being picked off just 12 times.

“I don’t know what’s going to happen,” Brady said when asked if he would miss O’Brien’s coaching. “I hope he’s here for a long time and I told him that, too.”

O’Brien joined New

England in 2007 following 14 seasons on the college level, including stops at Duke, Maryland and Georgia Tech. He played football at Brown — Paterno’s alma mater. Paterno, Division I’s winningest coach with 409 victories, coached 46 seasons before being ousted by trustees.

DEFENSE

From Page 1B

During the SEC’s run of what will be six straight BCS titles after Monday night, the conference’s top teams have often separated themselves from the best teams from the rest of the nation by excelling on defense and neutralizing potent spread offenses, like those from Oklahoma, Texas and Oregon.

Florida’s championship teams in 2006 and 2008 finished sixth and ninth, respectively, in total defense, and held their BCS title game opponents to a total of 28 points. LSU was third in the nation in total defense after it won it all in ‘07 and Alabama was second in ‘09.

Auburn was the exception last season, ranking 60th, though the Tigers did manage to limit Oregon to 19 points in the title game.

“The SEC has the best defensive linemen, no doubt,” Alabama center William Vlachos said. “The team speed is stronger with the SEC defenses. I think as a unit, the SEC defenses are head-to-toe just better. We’ve played some outstanding players from other conferences ... but as far as a unit, I think the SEC defenses, nobody touches them.”

The league has come to define itself on the less glamorous side of the ball, and at places such as Alabama and LSU the players understand that as soon as they arrive on campus.

“When you grow up watching LSU, LaRon Landry, Chad Green and those guys, they set the bar really high so you just aspire to be like them,” Louisiana-native Eric Reid said of the great safeties that preceded him at LSU.

Gary Danielson, the former NFL quarterback who has been the lead analyst for CBS’s SEC coverage during the conference’s run of dominance, said it’s not coaching, schemes or even an emphasis on defense that separates the deep South’s football powers. It simply comes down to SEC teams having better athletes to stock those defenses.

“There’s nothing (Alabama coach) Nick Saban is doing that Michigan

or Iowa State or Arizona State style-wise isn’t doing,” Danielson said. “They just don’t have the parts.”

Danielson said the evolution of the spread offenses and the passing game in college football have made it impossible to hide a weak link or two on defense, and the top SEC defenses have fewer weak links — especially in the secondary.

“With the spread passing attacks, you need a third corner to survive,” he said. “There are more third corners in this league than there are in any other league.”

No better example of that will be on display Monday night in the Superdome. LSU became the first team to have two cornerbacks selected to the AP All-American team. While Tyrann Mathieu was a Heisman Trophy finalist, Morris Claiborne won the Thorpe Award as the nation’s best defensive back. Behind them Tharold Simon and Ron Brooks could start almost anywhere in the country.

Except for maybe at Alabama, where Dre Kirkpatrick was a second-team All-American, senior DeQuan Menzi is an NFL prospect and sophomore Dee Milliner has potential to be as good as either of them.

“Their third corners, I think are superior to the No. 2 corners on most teams in college football,” Danielson said.

Danielson said LSU’s and Alabama’s units are on par with the other national title defenses from the SEC — though he admits that the numbers Alabama and LSU have put up, they have allowed a combined 19.3 points per game this season, have been skewed by some unusually poor SEC offenses.

“Even the SEC defensive coordinators said this is as down a league as they’ve ever seen,” he said.

Still, LSU and Alabama have shown they can bring down the best. Arkansas had the top-ranked offense in the SEC this season averaging 445 yards per game. The Razorbacks gained 226 yards against Alabama and 254 against LSU. Come to think of it, Alabama and LSU have had productive offenses in just about every game they’ve played.

HEAT

From Page 1B

Bosh, the only healthy member of Miami’s Big Three, also had 14 rebounds. Rookie Terrel Harris had nine points and 14 rebounds.

The Hawks led 93-90 when Bosh launched the tying 3-point attempt from the wing over Marvin Williams with only six-tenths of a second remaining in regulation.

Miami took a 67-54 lead on a 3-pointer by Chalmers midway through the third before the Hawks closed the quarter with a 16-1 run to take control.

Little-used rookie Ivan Johnson was a big surprise with 13 points for Atlanta. Johnson, an undrafted player from Cal State-San Bernardino, had a steal and jam to cut Miami’s lead to one point and then closed the third quarter with two free throws to give the Hawks their first lead of the second half.

Ivan Johnson and Al Horford fouled out in the third overtime.

Drew said he turned to Ivan Johnson and Willie Green, who had 14 points, because he was “really searching” for players who showed “a sense of urgency.”

Spoelstra said before the game that Wade “was a little bit more unlikely” than James to play.

Afterward, Spoelstra said he was trying to

protect Wade from a more serious injury.

“He’s making progress with it, but we really want to take care of this before it’s something that can linger,” Spoelstra said.

Wade hurt his foot at Charlotte on Dec. 28.

James participated in pregame warmups but his status for Miami’s game at New Jersey on Saturday remains uncertain.

“He’s walking around and hopefully he’ll be able to play soon,” Spoelstra said. “Whether that will be Saturday, I don’t know.”

James and Wade were often active and animated as they watched from Miami’s bench, at times leaping up as they reacted to plays.

James Jones and Shane Battier were the fill-in starters.

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BY OWNER/ No Owner Finance. 1202 Buena Vista. 3 Bdrm, 2 bath, 2 car garage, shop, 1 acre of land. Coahoma ISD. Call 432-466-1616, 413-7400.

BY OWNER- 2705 Coronado. Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Completely remodeled, many extras. Serious Inquires Only Please. \$151,500.00 No Owner Finance. Call (432)213-4203 or (405)613-5680.

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BY OWNER: 1004 Baylor, 3 bdrm, 2 bath brick, attached garage, separate large 6 car garage. New AC & heating. No owner finance. (432)270-0851, (432)213-0741.

BY OWNER: 3/2, metal shop, 7.3 acres, city/country living, F.I.S.D.. Call (432)816-7806 for details.

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The Colorado River Municipal Water District and Garney Companies are soliciting General Contractor, supplier and subcontractor participation including those that qualify as SWMBE's for the following: Bid Package 6. Above Slab Construction for the Ward County Water Supply Expansion Project. Bid Deadline is February 23, 2012 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.
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Legals

INVITATION TO BID
The Colorado River Municipal Water District and Garney Companies are soliciting General Contractor, Subcontractor and supplier participation including those that qualify as SWMBE's for the following: Bid Package 7 Big Spring Pump Station for the Ward County Water Supply Expansion Project. Bid Deadline is January 26th, 2012 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
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

It will be lucky to gather and share information. The moon in Gemini makes it feel as though just about any topic under the sun is up for discussion. Having prior knowledge of the subject will seem like more of a bonus than a requirement. Much will be learned by asking simple, open-ended questions or lobbing prompts such as "tell me more."

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll deliver lighthearted fun. It will be good for relationships of all kinds, including professional. Your quick wit and active life will be a magnet for new friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll feel youthful and unburdened by responsibilities. Feeling this way makes it true to some extent. As if by magic, your schedule will be clear of worry and chores.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Could it be that the energy and intention you give to your goals have greater power than the actual steps you take to make them happen? You'll get evidence to suggest this today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll be spending time with a complimentary individual. This person will confirm your attractiveness, not that you need such an ego boost. Your own opinion of yourself is what really matters.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There will be people on either side of an issue trying to get you to side with them or take action on their behalf. How do you know whether you're doing the right thing? It feels right.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The only way to see the big picture is to go to the top of the proverbial mountain. You can do this in your mind, or you can do it physically by heading to the highest point in your immediate geography. Either way will give you clarity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Accepting reality is the first step to co-creating it. Your will is strong, but the universal will is stronger. You'll defer to it as you realize that any other move would be pointless.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You may be prone to silly mistakes. Try to slow down and think things through. Luckily, your reflexes are so quick that even if you blunder, you can probably recover without mishap.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If you don't get what you want right away, it may be the best thing for you and everyone else. Sometimes what doesn't happen may keep something really catastrophic from happening.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your sense of fun and adventure is going strong. You have responsibilities, but you don't let them define who you are — mainly because that would make you boring!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The world desperately will require your patience. So few people really are patient these days, and so many rely on patience from others. Without it, life will run them over.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). New resources will inspire you to put an effort into raising your attractiveness quotient on both the inside and the outside. Consider yoga. It will help you do both at the same time.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 6). You have the perfect combination of passion and practicality, and you'll apply yourself. You'll receive stellar advice and follow it to a windfall in March. There will be a May reunion. June features investment and commerce. You'll use your knack for knowing what the public wants. Romance fills the end of summer. Cancer and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 38, 14, 30 and 15.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES: You convey power and trustworthiness, partly in the way you dress. TAURUS: You'll meet someone who makes you rethink past prejudices

and preferences. GEMINI: Wanting to look good for someone sends a message that you think that person is very special. CANCER: You'll let a partner think he or she is in the right. You really don't care either way. That's love. LEO: You'll reach out to a lonely heart, and that person will never forget the gesture. VIRGO: You can be deeply emotional at times, but right now you're not in the mood. LIBRA: You'll share "secrets" with another person, except it's really just a fun way of telling that person what you really want him or her to know. SCORPIO: You'll spend a good deal of time in a far-off romantic location of your own imagining.

SAGITTARIUS: You'll cobble together a good time out of your intelligence and someone else's resources. CAPRICORN: The one you love loves you, too. What could be better? AQUARIUS: Someone who can't say everything out loud will tell you quite a lot between the lines. PISCES: Happy with your own company, everything else is just a bonus.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: With the sun in Capricorn and the moon in Gemini, these two may realize how much they need each other this weekend. These signs have complementary strengths. Capricorn will help Gemini stay grounded and on track. Gemini will feed Capricorn's ambition by introducing Capricorn to new inspiration. Once they cross paths, the world is not the same for either sign.

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

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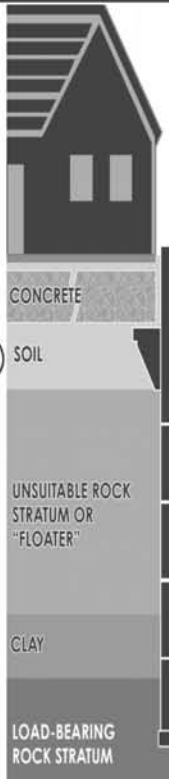
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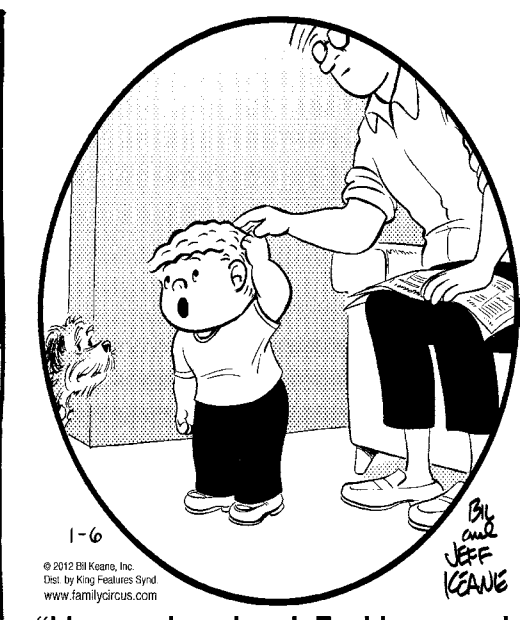
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5 :PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Big Bang	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News News	King King	Bible Enerson	Charlie Rose	'Til Death King	Gold Rush	CSI: Miami	Gangland	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	NFL32	SportsCenter
6 :PM	Jeopardy!	Quando Me	Two Men	News	Caso Cer-rado	News	Seinfeld	Dr. Denis Upd	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Gold Rush	CSI: Miami	Gangland	Law & Order	Wizards	NFL Kickoff		
7 :PM	Extreme Makeover	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	College Football: AT&T Cotton Bowl -- Arkansas vs. Kansas State.	A Gifted Man	Una Maid en	Chuck	Payne Seinfeld	Door-Wis-dom	Wash. Need	Nikita	Gold Rush	Movie: Desperado, Joaquim de Almeida	Gangland	Movie: The Fifth Element, Ian Holm	Movie: Lep-rechaun 5: In the Hood	Wizards-Place	NBA Basketball: Chicago Bulls at Orlando Magic.	
8 :PM	Extreme Makeover	20/20	Rosa de Guadalupe	Blue Bloods	La Casa de al Lado	Dateline NBC	Movie: Diary of a Mad Black Woman, Shemar Moore	Upd Alewine	Charlie Rose	King	Flying Wild Alaska	Movie: Desperado, Joaquim de Almeida	Gangland	Movie: I Am Legend, Dash Mihok	Movie: Lep-rechaun: Back 2 the Hood	Austin Good	Boxing: Dyah Davis vs. Alfonso Lopez.	NBA Basketball: Trail Blazers at Suns
9 :PM	News	Impacto	Noticiero	Letterman	Titulares	Jay Leno	(35) Movie: The Cookout, Jenifer Lewis	Baruch	World	South Pk	Flying Wild Alaska	Movie: The Last House on the Left	MAN	Movie: Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life	Wendy Williams	Jessie	SportsCenter	NBA Basketball: Trail Blazers at Suns
10 :PM	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Dr. Yohanan CCM	Dr. Yohanan CCM	T. Smiley (Off Air)	Roseanne	Gold Rush	CSI: Miami	MAN	Movie: Lep-rechaun 5: In the Hood	Fish	NBA	SportsCenter	
11 :PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Insider	Pagado	Holiday Gift Guide	Best of Light of the Southwest	Best of Light of the Southwest	Best of Light of the Southwest	TV One	Gold Rush	CSI: Miami	MAN	MAN	Good	NFL Live	SportsCenter	
12 :AM	Extra	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond Fam. Guy	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
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DENNIS THE MENACE



"But you told me to behave... you didn't say how!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

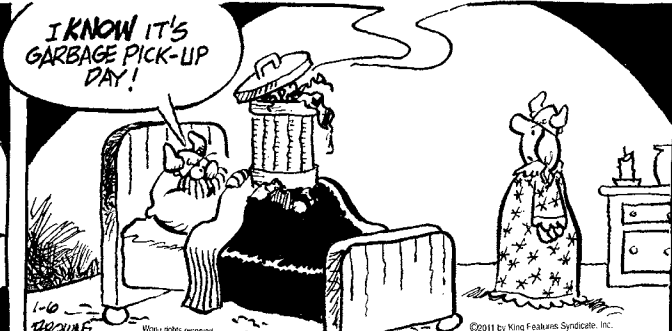


"I bumped my head. Feel how much it hurts."

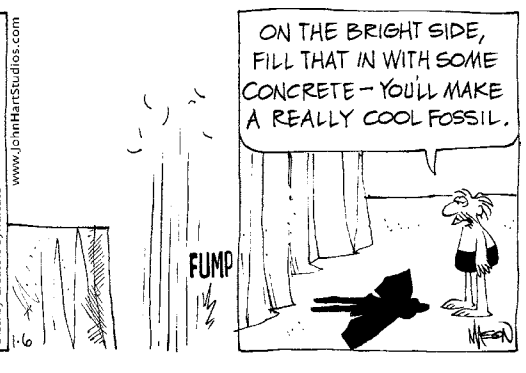
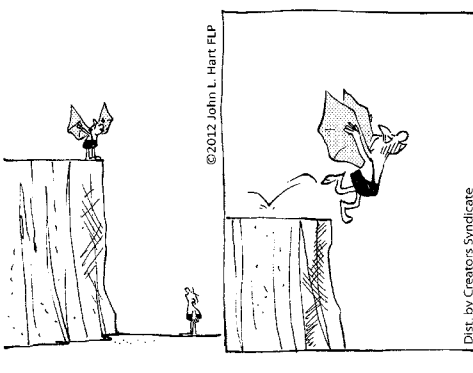
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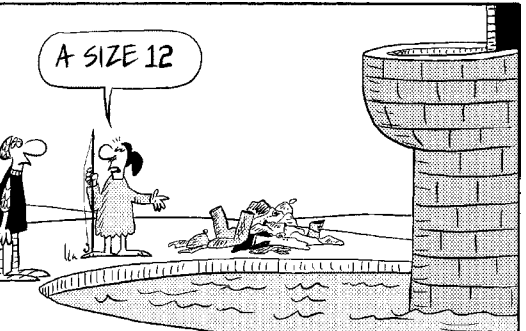
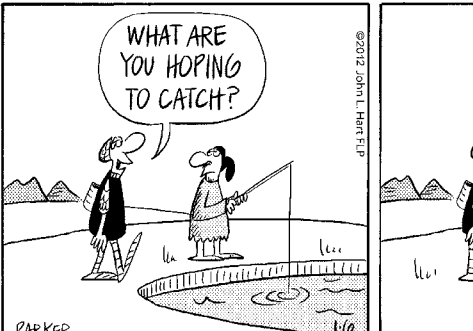
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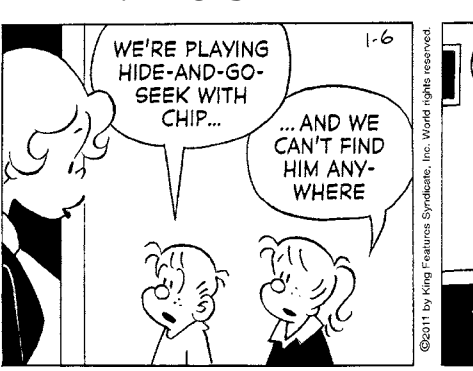
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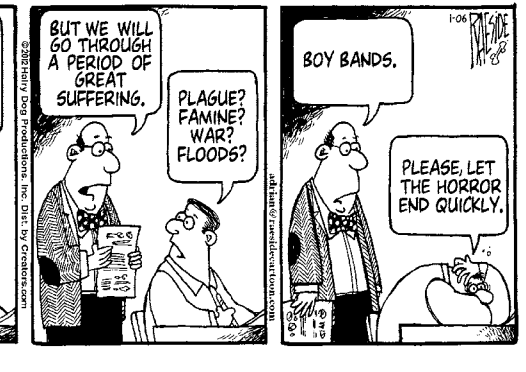
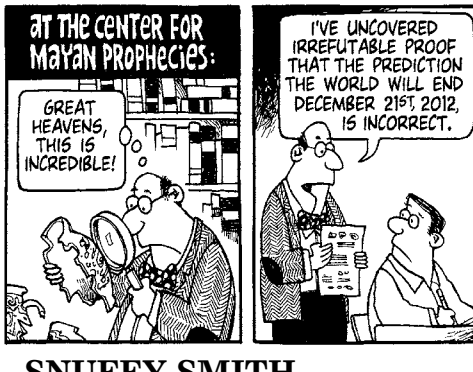
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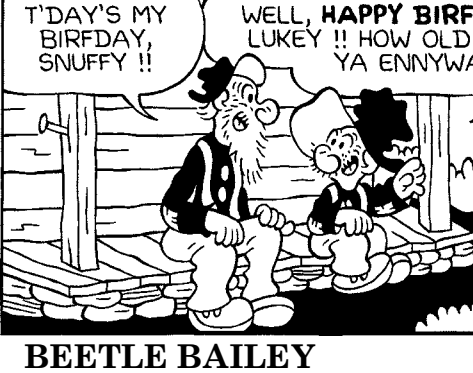
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THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



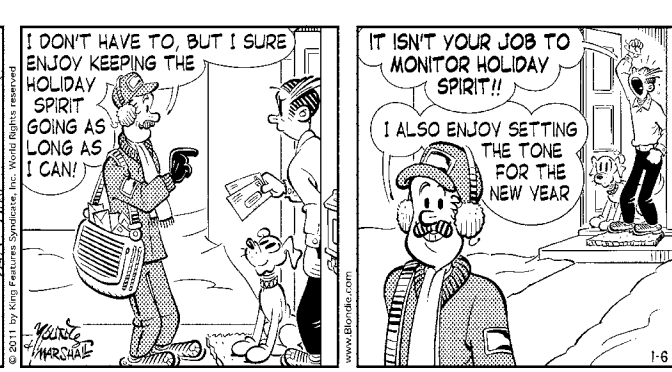
BEEBLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



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This Date In History

Today is Friday, Jan. 6, the sixth day of 2012. There are 360 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 6, 1912, New Mexico became the 47th state.

On this date:

In 1412, tradition holds that Joan of Arc was born this day in Domremy.

In 1540, England's King Henry VIII married his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves. (The marriage lasted about six months.)

In 1759, George Washington and Martha Dandridge Custis were married in New Kent County, Va.

In 1838, Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail gave the first successful public demonstration of their telegraph, in Morristown, N.J.

In 1912, entertainer and philanthropist Danny Thomas was born in Deerfield, Mich.

In 1919, the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, died in Oyster Bay,

N.Y., at age 60.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, outlined a goal of "Four Freedoms": Freedom of speech and expression; the freedom of people to worship God in their own way; freedom from want; freedom from fear.

In 1942, the Pan American Airways Pacific Clipper, a flying boat built by Boeing, arrived in New York more than a month after leaving California and following a westward route.

In 1950, Britain recognized the Communist government of China.

In 1967, U.S. Marines and South Vietnamese troops launched Operation Deckhouse Five, an offensive in the Mekong River delta.

In 1982, truck driver William G. Bonin was convicted in Los Angeles of 10 of the "Freeway Killer" slayings of young men and boys. (Bonin was later convicted of four other killings; he was executed in 1996.)

In 1994, figure skater Nancy Kerrigan was clubbed on the leg by an assailant at Detroit's Cobo Arena; four men, including the ex-husband of Kerrigan's rival, Tonya Harding, went to

prison for their roles in the attack. (Harding, who denied knowing about plans for the attack, received probation after pleading guilty to conspiracy to hinder prosecution.)

Today's Birthdays: Pollster Louis Harris is 91. Bluegrass performer Earl Scruggs is 88. Retired MLB All-Star Ralph Branca is 86. Author E.L. Doctorow is 81. Actress Bonnie Franklin is 68. Country musician Joey, the CowPolka King (Riders in the Sky) is 63. Former FBI director Louis Freeh is 62. Rock singer-musician Kim Wilson (The Fabulous Thunderbirds) is 61. Singer Jett Williams is 59. Rock musician Malcolm Young (AC-DC) is 59.

Answer to previous puzzle

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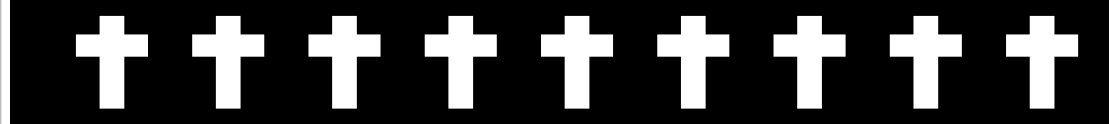
Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Layered hairdos
 - 6 Bidding site
 - 10 Neckline shape
 - 13 Begin to bubble
 - 14 Sotto
 - 15 Scottish John
 - 16 Reason for cockpit glare?
 - 18 Go astray
 - 19 Lampon
 - 20 "Now me down..."
 - 21 Edifying facts
 - 22 "Speed it up!"
 - 24 Invalidate
 - 25 Toward the rudder
 - 28 Autumn at its poorest?
 - 30 Big benefit
 - 32 Merit: Abbr.
 - 33 Major DC lobby
 - 34 Anticipates
 - 36 Take advantage of a sale
 - 40 Reporter's query
 - 41 "You mean me?"
 - 42 Box-office receipts
 - 43 Agrarian outerwear?
 - 48 Evergreen tree
 - 49 Exultant cry
 - 50 Major Maine merchant
 - 52 Poker declaration
 - 53 High wind
 - 54 Team leader
 - 58 Budgetary excess
 - 59 Imperfect place to play tennis?
 - 61 I: Lat.
 - 62 Statistics
- DOWN**
- 11 Sharp rebuke
 - 12 Join the club
 - 13 Real-estate ad abbr.
 - 17 Units of petrol
 - 21 Really
 - 23 In a way
 - 24 Cloudlike
 - 25 Presidential nickname
 - 26 Wolf cousin
 - 27 Outdo
 - 29 According to schedule
 - 31 One of the giants of science
 - 35 Bok (Chinese cabbage)
 - 36 Popular palate cleanser
 - 37 Diane Keaton, in *The Godfather*
 - 38 Oahu instrument
 - 39 Seat for a service
 - 41 Teen shopper
 - 43 Styled in a salon
 - 44 Electrical resistance
 - 45 Some
 - 46 Filled tortilla
 - 47 Baseball play, for short
 - 51 Free, as a bank account
 - 53 Aspiration
 - 55 Rickman of the Potter films
 - 56 Beloved, in Bologna
 - 57 Numbered rte.
 - 59 Interest-bearing accts.
 - 60 "That's impressive!"

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