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'Affluenza' teen detained in Mexico

Couch had been sentenced to probation after killing 4 in drunk-driving wreck

DALLAS (AP) — Authorities said a Texas teenager serving probation for killing four people in a drunken-driving wreck after invoking an "affluenza" defense was in custody in Mexico, weeks after he and his mother disappeared.

Mexico's Jalisco state prosecutors' office said in a



Couch
 Ethan Couch and his mother,

statement that its agents had been working with American authorities via the U.S. Consulate in Guadalajara since Dec. 26 to track down and capture 18-year-old Ethan Couch and his mother,

Tonya Couch. The office said the two were located and detained Monday evening in a beachside neighborhood of the Pacific Coast resort city of Puerto Vallarta.

After their detention, they were handed over to Mexican immigration authorities for deportation, the statement said.

During the sentencing phase of Couch's trial, a defense expert argued that Couch's wealthy parents coddled him into a sense of irresponsibility — a condition the expert termed "affluenza." The condition is not recognized as a medical diagnosis by the American Psychiatric Association, and its invocation

drew widespread ridicule.

The Tarrant County District Attorney's office also told local media outlets that the two had been taken into custody. A spokeswoman for the office could not immediately be reached by The Associated Press for further comment.

See **TEEN**, Page 3A

To the dump with thee, Christmas tree

Landfill to accept living trees free of charge through Jan. 9, officials say

BY **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree, just what the heck do I do with thee?

Now that the winter holiday season is winding down, Christmas trees will soon be heading out the door for disposal.



On Monday, the city of Big Spring landfill began accepting living Christmas trees without charge and will continue through Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016, a city press release announced. Only trees will be taken. All other debris and trash disposal is subject to normal landfill charges, the release said.

The trees will be turned into compost at the city's composting facility located in the land-

fill.

However, residents can also get the most of their trees by making mulch. The boughs can be cut off and placed among plants susceptible to windburn. The tree can be used as a natural shelter for birds. Once established outside securely, the tree can provide food and shelter for wild birds. To help attract birds to the tree, place it near a bird feeder or birdbath or hang bird treats from the tree.

And if you have a small body of water on your land, sink the tree into the pond. The tree can also be used to provide a habitat for fish and aquatic insects.

Next year, consider purchasing a tree that still has its roots. When Christmas is over, find a place to plant the tree.



Ezechiel, Gabby, and Mickey Galan were out on Monday constructing this large snowman in the 500 block of Johnson Street. The sun came out by mid-Monday morning, helping turn much of the snow and ice on the streets into running water. Snow is expected to stick around at least for another day as the temperature barely reached above freezing Monday and dropped down below the mark by nightfall. Heavy snow blanketed most of West Texas and New Mexico on Sunday.

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To reach us:
 Please call 263-7331.
 Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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'Bigger than ever' stock show nears 2016 debut

BY **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

The 2016 Howard County Junior Livestock Show will be back in January and larger than ever.

According to Michelle Hamlin, Howard County Junior Livestock Association (HCJLA) secretary, 115 exhibitors signed up by the December deadline with 274 entries. Figures show an increase of eight exhibitors over the 2015 numbers and 15 more entries than last year.

Officially, the entries are: barrows, 108; goats, 56; heifers, 3; lambs, 32; rabbits, 64; and steers, 11, Hamlin said.

The 2016 Howard County Junior Livestock Show will be held the week of Jan 13-16

The 2016 Howard County Junior Livestock Show will be held the week of Jan 13-16 at the GC Broughton Ag Complex located on the Howard College campus, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

at the GC Broughton Ag Complex located on the Howard College campus, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Topping off this year's show, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and the HCJLA have come together to host the first combined Ag Appreciation Day Luncheon/Buyers Barbecue.

Traditionally held in October, the community wide Ag Appreciation Day and Lun-

cheon honors all in the area who work in the agriculture field, those who clothe and feed our society. The Ag Producer and Ag Business of the Year are announced during the luncheon.

After days of competition and showmanship, the Howard County Junior Livestock Show holds a barbecue luncheon for its supporters and buyers before the awards announcement and stock sale.

According to Debbye ValVerde, a third party suggested combining the two to bolster support for both events. The process has been smooth, both ValVerde and Hamlin said.

"We want this younger generation to see what the older generation does to support our community and maybe we can inspire some of the kids to step into the agriculture industry," ValVerde added.

The Junior Live Stock Buyer/Ag Appreciation barbecue luncheon will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016 at the GC Broughton Ag Complex and is free to all who

See **STOCK**, Page 3A

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Matthews' late 3-pointers help Mavericks top Bucks 103-93

DALLAS (AP) — The Mavericks took care of the ball and Wesley Matthews made the big shots.

Matthews scored 22 points, including two clutch 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, and Dallas held off the Milwaukee Bucks 103-93 Monday night.

Matthews snapped an 89-all tie with a 3 from the right wing with 4:25 to play, then followed Giannis Antetokounmpo's runner at the other end with another 3-pointer with 3:50 remaining.

Dallas got a season-low seven points on 3-of-15 shooting from Dirk Nowitzki. The Mavericks were outrebounded

by 18 and even their normally strong free throw shooting was off. And though Dallas never trailed and led by as many as 13 in the second half, Milwaukee rallied to tie the score in the fourth quarter.

But the Mavericks turned the ball over only four times, tying a franchise low, and outscored the Bucks 26-0 on points after turnovers.

"They made a run," Matthews said. "They're playing with energy, too. They're the one team to beat Golden State. Their record is what it is, but they still play hard."

After Matthews' second 3, the Bucks didn't score again until Ante-

tokounmpo's layup with 1:11 to play made it 97-93. Devin Harris sealed the game with a layup with 11 seconds left following a loose-ball scramble that included the Bucks' O.J. Mayo crashing over the scorer's table.

Zaza Pachulia had 17 points and eight rebounds for Dallas against his former team.

Jerryd Bayless returned to the Bucks' lineup after missing 11 games with a left ankle sprain and led Milwaukee with 19 points and seven assists.

"Usually, your rhythm is not going to be what it was before you got injured; there's a process

of getting back in the flow," Bucks interim coach Joe Prunty said.

"I thought he did a very nice job of not only getting himself going but getting the team going."

Milwaukee went on a 9-0 run early in the fourth quarter, including two buckets by Bayless, to slice the Mavericks' lead to 83-81. Bayless had eight points in the quarter.

Khris Middleton's turnaround jumper tied it at 89 with 4:49 to play.

"We fought back," Bayless said. "We didn't quit. The whole team didn't quit. We kept on fighting. We just have to

See **MAVS**, Page 4B

Texas weather messes with Lady Steers

By **TAYLOR ELLIS**

Sports Editor

WEATHERFORD — The winter weather has effected the Lady Steers twice this week.

Both of their scheduled games in Weatherford Monday were canceled. The girls are now heading to Lubbock for the Caprock Tournament thanks to several team cancellations.

"We are going to fill in for the next few days in Lubbock," head coach Stacy Smalley said.

They will now be playing their first game at

5:00 p.m. today against Lubbock Monterey at the Caprock Tournament.

The Lady Steers had planned to stay overnight in Weatherford for three days.

The boys varsity squad also begins tournament play today in the Sandhills tournament in Monahans. They play Midland Christian at 4:00 p.m. in the pep rally gym.

Contact sports editor Taylor Ellis at sports@bigspringherald.com or 432.263.7331, ext 237

Ware recovers fumble to seal Broncos' 20-17 win over Bengals

DENVER (AP) — One errant shotgun snap sent the fortunes of the Denver Broncos and Cincinnati Bengals in different directions.

AJ McCarron took his eyes off his center for a split-second to look at the coverage and both the snap and Cincinnati's surest path to a first-round bye slipped away — along with a chance to earn the AFC's top seed next week.

DeMarcus Ware secured both the fumble and Denver's ticket to the playoffs, clamping down on the loose football 6 minutes into overtime and sealing Denver's 20-17 win Monday night.

"It was my fault. I told the team that," McCarron said. "I looked up to see the coverage and the snap caught me by surprise."

This was just the big play Ware's been looking for ever since missing a month with a bad back.

"Felt great to finish the game that way," Ware said. "We thought we were going to finish it with the field goal but at the end of the game, it's all about that win."

Ware's recovery followed a 37-yard field goal by Brandon McManus, whose shanked 45-yarder at the end of regulation made necessary the extra drama.

"I'm 24 years old and I don't think I've ever kicked the ball like that in my life: grade school, elementary school or anything like that," McManus said. "I just wrapped my toe around it and I knew I had to bounce back."

He did, and Ware's follow-up capped Denver's second

comeback from a 14-0 deficit at home this season. The Broncos (11-4) also beat New England in overtime last month after spotting the Patriots a two-touchdown lead in the first half.

Denver's comeback denied the Bengals (11-4) their first road win on a Monday night in a quarter century.

The Broncos now can secure the AFC's top seed next week with a win over San Diego and a Patriots' loss at Miami.

"First off, getting into the playoffs in the National Football League is a hell of an accomplishment. It's hard to do," Broncos coach Gary Kubiak said. "Once you get there, it's about how you play, not really where you play, but ... we've got a great opportunity this weekend."

"It's going to be a very quick turnaround after a five-quarter football game. It's going to be very tough on us physically. I've got to get them ready to go, but they understand that. They didn't want a lot of atta-boy's tonight. They're ready to go to work next week. I could feel that already."

Other takeaways from the final Monday night game of the season:

BANGED-UP BACKUPS: The battle of backup quarterback took its toll on Brock Osweiler and McCarron. Osweiler, making his sixth straight start in place of Peyton Manning (foot), came in with a sore left shoulder and left with a sore left elbow. McCarron, making his second consecutive start in place of Andy Dalton (thumb), injured his left wrist on the final

scramble and hit wrapped afterward.

"I was diving for the football and it just happened," McCarron said, adding he wasn't sure how bad it was hurt. "I don't know. I'll get it checked out tomorrow and we'll see."

Osweiler hurt his elbow on one of Carlos Dunlap's three sacks.

"Coming into the game, I was a little bit banged up. Coming out of the game I'm a little bit banged up. But that's football," said Osweiler, who will get the start against the Chargers next week, too.

BOGGED DOWN: After piling up 205 yards on their first three drives — including 170 on their first two possessions — the Bengals managed just 89 yards the rest of the way.

See **BRONCOS**, Page 4B

2016 Lady Hawk Buddies Basketball Program

On January 16, 2016 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, Howard College Lady Hawks head coach Earl Diddle, associate head coach Tara Lisle, and the Lady Hawks will be running a basketball clinic for boys and girls in kindergarten through 8th grade. Registration runs from 8:30 a.m.- 9:00 a.m. followed immediately by the clinic until 11:30 a.m. After the clinic there will be a pizza party until 12:00 p.m. The \$20.00 entry fee includes a Hawk basketball, free admission for all family members to Hawk home games, entry to the clinic with lectures on goals and basketball fundamentals, a pizza party with the Lady Hawks, and admission to Buddies night. Buddies night will be Thursday, February 11th against Frank Phillips College. During halftime, the Buddies will be recognized in front of the crowd and following the game, the Lady Hawks will sign autographs and take pictures court side.

For more info, call Tara Lisle at 264-5155 or Earl Diddle at 264-5043.

Scoreboard

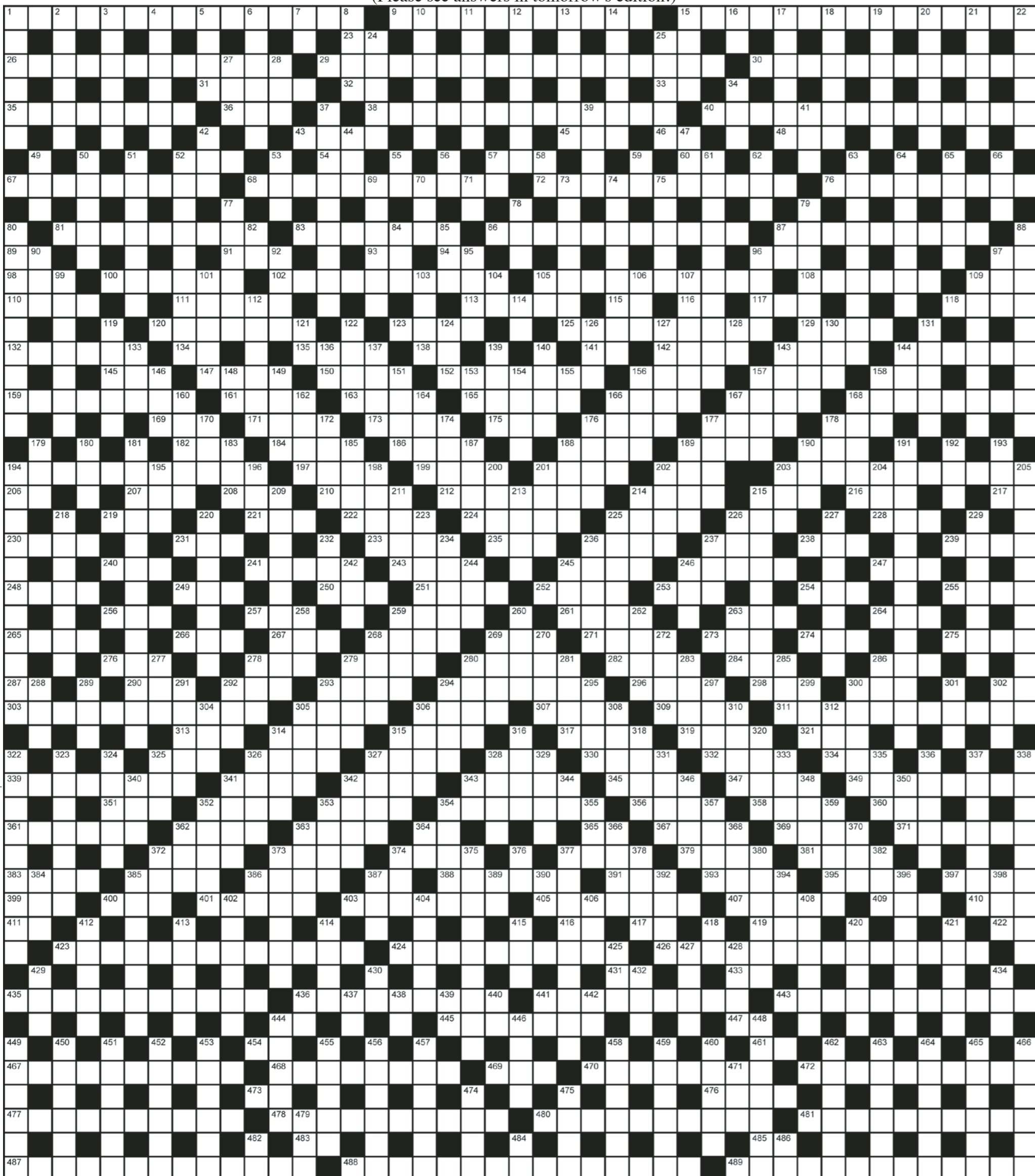
<p>NBA Saturday's Games Washington 111, Brooklyn 96 Toronto 111, Milwaukee 90 New Orleans 110, Houston 108 Miami 108, Orlando 101 Charlotte 98, Memphis 92 Boston 99, Detroit 93 Atlanta 117, New York 98 Indiana 102, Minnesota 88 San Antonio 101, Denver 86 Dallas 118, Chicago 111 L.A. Clippers 109, Utah 104 Philadelphia 111, Phoenix 104 Portland 105, Cleveland 76</p> <p>Sunday's Games Memphis 112, L.A. Lakers 96 Oklahoma City 122, Denver 112 Boston 100, New York 91 Portland 98, Sacramento 94</p> <p>Monday's Games Indiana 93, Atlanta 87 Orlando 104, New Orleans 89 L.A. Clippers 108, Washington 91 Charlotte 108, L.A. Lakers 98 Brooklyn 111, Miami 105 Chicago 104, Toronto 97 San Antonio 101, Minnesota 95 Dallas 103, Milwaukee 93 Utah 95, Philadelphia 91 Cleveland 101, Phoenix 97 Golden State 122, Sacramento 103</p> <p>Tuesday's Games Detroit at New York, 7:30 p.m. Miami at Memphis, 8 p.m.</p>	<p>Atlanta at Houston, 8 p.m. Milwaukee at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m. Cleveland at Denver, 9 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday's Games Brooklyn at Orlando, 7 p.m. L.A. Clippers at Charlotte, 7 p.m. Washington at Toronto, 7:30 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Boston, 7:30 p.m. Indiana at Chicago, 8 p.m. Utah at Minnesota, 8 p.m. Phoenix at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m. Golden State at Dallas, 8:30 p.m. Philadelphia at Sacramento, 10 p.m. Denver at Portland, 10 p.m.</p> <p>NHL Monday's Games Saturday's Games St. Louis 3, Dallas 2, SO Buffalo 6, Boston 3 Tampa Bay 5, Columbus 2 Washington 3, Montreal 1 Carolina 3, New Jersey 1 Detroit 3, Nashville 2 Pittsburgh 3, Minnesota 1 Los Angeles 4, Arizona 3, OT Vancouver 2, Edmonton 1, OT</p> <p>Sunday's Games Ottawa 3, Boston 1 Florida 3, Columbus 2 Toronto 3, N.Y. Islanders 1 Dallas 3, St. Louis 0 Carolina 2, Chicago 1 Winnipeg 1, Pittsburgh 0 Arizona 2, Colorado 1, OT Anaheim 4, Philadelphia 2 Calgary 5, Edmonton 3</p> <p>Monday's Games</p>	<p>Montreal 4, Tampa Bay 3, SO Washington 2, Buffalo 0 Nashville 5, N.Y. Rangers 3 Minnesota 3, Detroit 1 Los Angeles 5, Vancouver 0 Colorado 6, San Jose 3</p> <p>Tuesday's Games Ottawa at Boston, 7 p.m. N.Y. Islanders at Toronto, 7 p.m. Carolina at New Jersey, 7 p.m. Dallas at Columbus, 7 p.m. Montreal at Florida, 7:30 p.m. Nashville at St. Louis, 8 p.m. Detroit at Winnipeg, 8 p.m. Anaheim at Calgary, 9 p.m. Los Angeles at Edmonton, 9 p.m. Chicago at Arizona, 9 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday's Games Toronto at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m. Buffalo at Washington, 7 p.m. New Jersey at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay, 8 p.m. Philadelphia at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.</p> <p>TRANSACTIONS BASEBALL American League OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Agreed to terms with RHP Henderson Alvarez on a one-year contract. Designated RHP Arnold Leon for assignment. National League CINCINNATI REDS — Traded LHP Aroldis Chapman to the N.Y. Yankees for RHPs</p>	<p>Caleb Cotham and Rookie Davis and INFs Eric Jagielo and Tony Renda. Can-Am League NEW JERSEY JACKALS — Signed INF Ryan Lashley. Frontier League LAKE ERIE CRUSHERS — Signed RHP Steve Hagen to a contract extension. NORMAL CORNBELTERS — Traded SS Patrick McKenna to Lincoln (AA) for OF Jesus Solorzano. RIVER CITY RASCALS — Signed INF Andrew Dundon and RHP Tomas Michelson. SCHAUMBURG BOOMERS — Signed INF Robby Spencer to a contract extension.</p> <p>BASKETBALL National Basketball Association NBA — Suspended Memphis F Matt Barnes two games for engaging in a physical altercation with and threatening New York coach Derek Fisher on Oct. 3, in Redondo Beach, Calif. HOUSTON ROCKETS — Recalled F Montrezl Harrell and G-F K.J. McDaniels from Rio Grande Valley (NBADL). MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES — Reassigned F Jarell Martin to Iowa (NBADL). PHOENIX SUNS — Fired assistant coaches Jerry Sichting and Mike Longabardi. Promoted Nate Bjorkgen to defensive coordinator and Earl Watson to bench coach.</p> <p>FOOTBALL National Football League NFL — Suspended Oakland FB Marcel Reece four games</p>	<p>for violating the league's policy on performance-enhancing substances. CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed LB Cam Johnson from the practice squad. Waived RB Daryl Richardson. Released DB De'Ante Saunders from the practice squad. INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Placed G Hugh Thornton and QB Charlie Whitehurst on injured reserve. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Released RB Joey Iosefa. PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Placed FB Roosevelt Nix on injured reserve. Signed LB L.J. Fort from the practice squad. SAN DIEGO CHARGERS — Placed Ss Eric Weddle and Darrell Stuckey, TE Ladarious Green and NT Sean Lissimore on injured reserve. Signed TE Sean McGrath and S Matt Daniels from the practice squad. Re-signed Gs Craig Watts and Michael Huey to the practice squad. Offended TE Asante Cleveland off waivers from New England. Arena Football League ORLANDO PREDATORS — Agreed to terms with DL Richard Clebert. HOCKEY National Hockey League ANAHEIM DUCKS — Recalled F Shea Theodore from San Diego (AHL). CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Recalled D Erik Gustafsson from the Rockford (AHL). Placed F Marcus Kruger on injured reserve. DETROIT RED WINGS —</p>	<p>Recalled LW Eric Tangradi from Grand Rapids (AHL). MONTREAL CANADIENS — Traded F Zack Kassian to Edmonton for G Ben Scrivens. Recalled G Eetu Laurikainen from HPK (Finland) and assigned him to Bakersfield (AHL). NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Reassigned F Colton Sissons to Milwaukee (AHL). Activated F Mike Fisher from injured reserve. TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Reassigned Fs Mike Angelidis and Mike Blunden to Syracuse (AHL). American Hockey League GRAND RAPIDS GRIFFINS — Reassigned G Jake Paterston to Toledo (ECHL). Signed G Jeff Lerg to a professional tryout agreement. LACROSSE National Lacrosse League BUFFALO BANDITS — Acquired D Mitch de Snood from Calgary for T Brandon Goodwin. COLLEGE FAYETTEVILLE STATE — Named Richard Hayes Jr. football coach. INDIANA — Announced RB Jordan Howard will enter the NFL draft. MIAMI — Announced DB Artie Burns will enter the NFL draft. PURDUE — Named Tim Lester quarterbacks coach. RUTGERS — Named Aaron Henry assistant defensive backs coach. UCLA — Announced DT Kenny Clark will enter the NFL draft.</p>
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ANNUAL MAMMOTH CROSSWORD

In 2015, we said hello to Caitlyn Jenner and a new royal princess, while bidding farewell to Mr. Spock and Yogi Berra. We saw Bill Gates turn 60 and the Pillsbury Doughboy hit 50, while noting that 40 never looked better, as David Beckham, Bradley Cooper and Angelina Jolie hit this milestone birthday. YouTube turned 10; the Web hit 25; and Ragedy Ann reached the magical age of 100. Oh, yeah – and Justin Bieber finally became old enough to legally drink. Countless other milestones and events of note occurred in 2015. Water was found on Mars. Deflategate grabbed headlines. Diplomatic relations re-started between the U.S. and Cuba. And, it was the 50th anniversary of Sonny and Cher releasing I Got You Babe.

These events are the inspiration behind just some of the clues that appear in the annual Mammoth Crossword Puzzle. Enjoy!

(Please see answers in tomorrow's edition!)



- ACROSS
1 Movie of Von Trapp family turned 50 (3,5,2,5)
9 Football controversy of the year (11)
15 First Triple Crown winner since 1978 (8,7)
23 A short laugh (2)
25 Symbol for chemical element chlorine (2)
26 Paris-based mag attacked (7,5)
30 Late-night sketch show turned 40 (8,5,4)
31 Mr. Spock actor passed away (7,5)
32 Wanderer (5)
33 Canada's largest city; abbr. (2)
34 The Peach State; abbr. (2)
35 Current version of this board game is 80 (8)
36 Baseball equipment (3)
38 Released from S. African jail 25 yrs ago (6,7)
40 Game show turned 40 (5,2,7)
43 Co. predicting 3D-printer sneakers (4)
45 A supreme being (3)
46 Remote control; abbr. (2)
48 Member of an upper house; abbr. (3)
52 Cry loudly (3)
54 Conglomerate that sold finance arm (2)
57 New chamber suspected in this king's tomb (3)
60 A highly volcanic moon of Jupiter (2)
67 Kate and William's new princess (9)
68 Spacecraft that reached Pluto (3,8)
72 This crisis intensified in Europe (11)
76 Superbowl's halftime act (4,5)
81 Legendary baseball catcher passed at 90 (4,5)
83 One of his paintings sold for \$179 million (7)
86 Highest earning basketballer (6,5)
87 UN adopts resolution 2199 to combat this (9)
89 A computer's 'address' (2)
91 A volunteer org. for young people; abbr. (3)
93 A tiny metric unit of volume (2)
94 Counterintelligence; abbr. (2)
96 Raggedy ___ turned 100 (3)
97 An Adobe visual software package; abbr. (2)
98 High, deep ball in tennis (3)
100 Justin ___ hit the U.S. legal drinking age (6)
102 Amusement park opened 60 yrs ago (10)
105 Chicago team won its 6th Stanley Cup (10)
108 Country whose maple leaf flag turned 50 (6)
109 Infomercials, for example (3)
110 Cameron ___ married Benji Madden (4)
111 Delight (5)
113 Miranda's ex (5)
115 Julio's son, who turned 39 (initials) (2)
116 New chamber suspected in this king's tomb (3)
117 A highly volcanic moon of Jupiter (2)
118 Kate and William's new princess (9)
120 Ridiculously (7)
123 Sew up (4)
125 Sets of medical symptoms (9)
129 Encounter (4)
132 Give the cold shoulder (6)
134 A prefix meaning two (2)
135 U.K. character, Mr. ___, debuted 25 yrs ago (4)
138 Small American state (2)
141 A preposition, referring to location (2)
142 Persia, today (4)
143 Hairless (4)
144 Nicaraguan prez turned 70 (6)
145 Chowd down (3)
147 Organ for breathing (4)
149 Colors or shades (4)
150 Soccer star turned 40 (7)
156 ___ Campbell got Oscar nom. for best song (4)
157 Lie in wait (4)
160 ___-la-la (3)
158 Wages (8)
159 A preposition, indicating a position (2)
161 Water found on this planet (4)
163 Animal den (4)
165 Belonging to them (5)
166 Perform or complete an action (2)
167 Potassium hydroxide (3)
168 Relative of a gator (4)
169 A woman's leg (3)
171 Origin of an idea (4)
173 Follow closely (4)
175 Earned run average; abbr. (3)
176 Sheep cries (4)
177 Low-___ diet (4)
178 Before, in poetry (3)
182 Floral necklace (3)
184 Trot or canter (4)
186 Atmosphere (4)
188 Pepper's partner (4)
189 Dog's sound (4)
190 He released summer hit Cheerleader (3)
192 Presentation, esp. on stage (11)
197 Drop from the eye (4)
199 Legal wrong (4)
201 Designed for flight (4)
202 Sister-in-law; abbr. (3)
203 Doled out (11)
204 A preposition, indicating a position (2)
207 Assist (3)
208 N.Y.C. clock setting (3)
210 Hammer or screwdriver (4)
212 Public processions (7)
214 Lass (4)
215 Dried legume, in Indian cooking (3)
216 Electric fish (3)
196 Negative response (2)
197 Gov't agency with another anti-tobacco campaign (3)
198 Name of deadly Mar. cyclone (3)
199 Stated (4)
200 City that hosted Expo 2015 (5)
201 Wedding ring (4)
202 Auction action (3)
203 A layer or thickness of a material (3)
204 Sweeping story (4)
205 Container for ashes (3)
206 Radio host Rick ___ turned 65 (4)
207 Silent, or tight-lipped (3)
208 A piece of music (4)
209 Automobile (3)
210 ___ Schumer, comedy's new 'it' girl (3)
211 U.S. re-established diplomacy here (4)
212 Johnny Depp did this for a second time (3)
213 U.S. beat this country in women's World Cup (5)
214 Without a date (4)
215 Piece of cloth, symbolizing a country (4)
216 Uninterested (5)
217 Hibernation site (3)
218 Ill-mannered (4)
219 Diner sandwich (3)
220 Movie released about this service dog (3)
221 There are 1.6 million of these in Google Play (4)
222 Deck (4)
223 Soundrel (3)
224 Wild blue yonder (3)
225 A minor planet was named after ___ Pitt (4)
226 High card (3)
227 Pig pen (3)
228 Part of the mouth (4)
229 Twins, queens and kings (4)
230 A parent-teacher group (3)
231 Metal singer ___ Zombie turned 50 (3)
232 Indian bread (4)
233 B&B (3)
234 Promise to pay (3)
235 Depend on (4)
236 Low card (3)
237 Hit (4)
238 A large ornamental fish (3)
239 Pen filler (3)
240 Grizzly (4)
241 A light run (3)
242 African antelope (3)
243 Millinery (4)
244 Fleeced (5)
245 Soil (4)
246 Birthday (3)
247 Rule out (3)
248 Part of the psyche, said Freud (2)
249 Average (3)
250 City cleaning its Olympic waters (3)
251 ___ Bunny first appeared 75 yrs ago (4)
252 Announced her bid for prez (7)
253 Bull's-eye hitter (4)
254 A U.S. intelligence group (3)
255 Carried out (3)
256 Replaced answering machine; abbr. (2)
257 Independent (4-7)
258 Citrus fruit (4)
259 French reality show singing star (4)
260 A circular band of metal (4)
261 Apple or cherry baked items (4)
262 Education award (11)
263 Genetic fingerprint (3)
264 Floats with the waves (4)
265 Celeb chef Bobby ___ divorced (4)
266 Helgenberger joined Dome show (4)
267 Trudge (4)
268 Chinese principle (3)
269 Soaked (3)
270 Shark movie released 40 yrs ago (4)
271 She & Timberlake had a son (4)
272 To relax in a mindless way (3)
273 Alek Skarlatos became one (4)
274 Grease (4)
275 Not amateur (3)
276 Installments of a TV series (8)
277 Dogs and cats (4)
278 Vista (4)
279 UN said it was inf'l year of these (5)
280 Expected golf scores (4)
281 Popular Easter Egg dye co. (4)
282 Postulated series of events (8)
283 Anger (3)
284 Luxurious (4)
285 Fifty percent (4)
286 Old-fashioned women's head coverings (7)
287 Broad valley (4)
288 ___ Peaks debuted 25 yrs ago (4)
289 To sunbathe (3)
290 Almost (6)
291 The rise and fall of a voice (4)
292 Quiet street (4)
293 Opposite of NW (2)
294 He, in French (2)
295 ___ of the Flies turned 51 (4)
296 Essential (4)
297 Circuits (6)
298 Beatles hit released 50 yrs ago (4)
299 ___ Winslet turned 40 (4)
300 Canvas cover (4)
301 Goad (4)
302 French cheese (4)
303 Execute perfectly (4)
304 Death notice (4)
305 She won Grammy for Tony Bennett duet (4)
306 Actor ___ Perry turned 49 (4)
307 Addiction support group turned 80 (2)
308 At the end of a pencil (6)
309 Spoon-bender Geller (3)
310 Fizzy drink (4)
311 Relax (4)
312 His engagement to Charlize Theron ended (4)
313 Network with second highest no. of viewers (3)
314 Jewel (3)
315 Unit in Indian numbering system (5)
316 This Friends star got hitched (7)
317 Video sharing site turned 10 (7)
318 Gets up (5)
319 Rapper Dr. ___ turned 50 (3)
320 Captain's journal (3)
321 European Commission; abbr. (2)
322 Home to Nashville; abbr. (2)
323 Action figure ___ Joe turned 51 (2)
324 Food container (3)
325 Seattle's home; abbr. (2)
326 Her name used to be Bruce (7,6)
327 This Doctor Zhivago star died (4,6)
328 This soap opera debuted 50 yrs ago (4,2,3,5)
329 To share a Tweet (2)
330 Where surgeons work (4)
331 This martial arts expert act turned 75 (5,6)
332 Microsoft founder turned 60 (4,5)
333 Precursor of this fast food giant opened 75 yrs ago (9)
334 Sonny & Cher released this hit 50 yrs ago (1,3,3,4)
335 Free the Children's youth event: ___ Day (2)
336 A person proficient in a sport (7)
337 A support group for compulsive eaters (2)
338 Casual form of hello (2)
339 This world peace-promoting org. turned 70 (2)
340 Drug given before surgery (10)
341 Pillsbury's mascot turned 50 (8)
342 Rocker ___ Stewart turned 70 (3)
343 Desperate (8)
344 Having light-colored locks (4-6)
345 Lithuania's country code (2)
346 Ballet attire (4)
347 Board game about drawing turned 30 (10)
348 New pre-human species discovered (4,6)
349 He beat Pacquiao (10)
350 Beatles drummer turned 75 (5,5)
351 Symbol for dysprosium (2)
352 The Hawkeye State; abbr. (2)
353 He created first web server 25 yrs ago (3,7,3)
354 This American Idol had a son (6,9)
355 This Hollywood Wives author passed (6,7)
356 Be in pain (4)
357 Actor ___ LaBeouf was arrested again (4)
358 A tulip sprouts from this (4)
359 Metal in rocks (3)
360 Body part Van Gogh sliced off (3)
361 Purple flowering shrub (5)
362 Despire (4)
363 An expression that is a pause in speech (2)
364 Diver ___ Louganis turned 55 (4)
365 Thailand, once (4)
366 French word for 'and' (2)
367 AK ghost town, destroyed by '64 tsunami (4)
368 Little Rock's home; abbr. (2)
369 Bearded animal (4)
370 Shenanigan (4)
371 Definite article (3)
372 A light lunch choice (5)
373 Airplane assignment (4)
374 Run amok (4)
375 Angel's disk of light (4)
376 Lunch meat (3)
377 Malay dress: baju ___ (6)
378 Hackneyed (5)
379 A martial art: ___ chi (3)
380 Conformity to established standards of behavior (9)
381 Common ship prefix (2)
382 Prolongs (9)
383 A medicine (4)
384 Dash lengths (3)
385 Barbic's bear turned 54 (3)
386 Opposite of on (3)
387 American Sniper star turned 40 (7,6)
388 Rocks, to a bartender (3)
389 New Mexico art community (4)
390 A small drink of a spirit (4)
391 Past participle of see (4)
392 Wren or hen (4)
393 Price dropped of this black gold (3)
394 Legendary female jazz singer born 100 yrs ago (6,7)
395 Men's formal wear (3)
396 Japanese money (3)
397 Holy leader visited U.S. & Cuba (4,7)
398 Mamma ___ closed on Broadway (3)
399 Psychic power (3)
400 Highway (4)
401 Quick haircut (4)
402 ___ Levine did his 9th season of The Voice (4)
403 Make music via voice (4)
404 Father (3)
405 Number of times a weight is lifted (3)
406 Apprentice star running for prez (6,5)
407 Quentin ___ released 8th film (9)
408 Empty promises (4)
409 Former graduate (4)
410 Jets or Sharks, for example (4)
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412 Oscar's best picture (7)
413 Country legalized same sex marriage in ntl vote (7)
414 Particulars (7)
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454 Crafty (3)
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459 Nile Kinnick's hometown (4)
460 It's no big deal; abbr. (4)
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462 Much ___ About Nothing (3)
463 Flags with slogans (7)
464 Computer-delivered messages (1-4)
465 Lecherous look (4)
466 Comic Hughley goes by these initials (2)
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468 ___ Rock released his 10th album (3)
469 Beloved and admired (6)
470 Element no. 33 (7)
471 Cassia trees; natural laxatives (6)
472 Stomach muscle (2)
473 Physically weak (5)
474 Element with atomic no. 70; abbr. (2)
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622 Knight's title (3)
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1033 Belonging to me (2)
1034 Moves briskly (5)
1035 A bowler hat (5)
1036 To and ___ (3)
1037 Competent (4)
1038 Former graduate (4)
1039 Jets or Sharks, for example (4)
1040 One ___ the year's biggest selling group (9)
1041 Oscar's best picture (7)
1042 Country legalized same sex marriage in ntl vote (7)
1043 Particulars (7)
1044 Got on a train (7)
1045 Tavern (3)
1046 Banned on cross-country flights 25 yrs ago (7)
1047 A group of 4 musicians (7)
1048 Grammy's best new artist ___ Smith (3)
1049 Excessively sentimental (5)
1050 Siesta (5)
1051 Atlantic fish (3)
1052 Short snooze (3)
1053 Bachelor's new villain: ___ Bailey (3)
1054 A proposed space time capsule (3)
1055 Spy agency faced lawsuit (3)
1056 Yellowfin tuna (3)
1057 A deliberate fire (5)
1058 Home to La Paz (7)
1059 A Caribbean percussion group (5,4)
1060 ___ Affleck divorced Jen Garner (3)
1061 Intelligence exhibited by machines; abbr. (2)
1062 Company; abbr. (2)
1063 Poet ___ Eliot died 50 yrs ago (2)
1064 Seventh note of scale (2)
1065 For example; abbr. (2)
1066 A mistress (5,5)
1067 Emmy's lead actor ___ Hamm (3)
1068 Justified (9)
1069 The results of cross-breeding plants or cars (7)
1070 Actor ___ Tyler Ferguson turned 40 (5)
1071 A good buddy (3)
1072 Drifted (6)
1073 Zero gravity

Obituaries

Carlos Vega



Carlos Vega, 53, of Big Spring, died Friday, Dec. 25, 2015, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2015, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at the Mt. Olive Memorial Park, Big Spring.

A prayer vigil will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Carlos was born March 12, 1962 in Big Spring, He loved Rock music and worked for Pizza Inn.

He is survived by one daughter, Guadalupe Davis of Tupelo, Miss.; his mother, Irene Vega of Big Spring; five brothers, Mike Vega, Jesse Vega, Tony Vega, Ruben Vega and Frank Vega and wife, Kassi, all of Big Spring; and three sisters, Mary Lou Burns of Waco, Arlene Rodriguez and husband, Rocky, of Lubbock, and Estella Dominguez, and husband, David, of Big Spring.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Francisco Vega; one grandmother, Concha Vega and an uncle, Manuel Vega.

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

Paid obituary

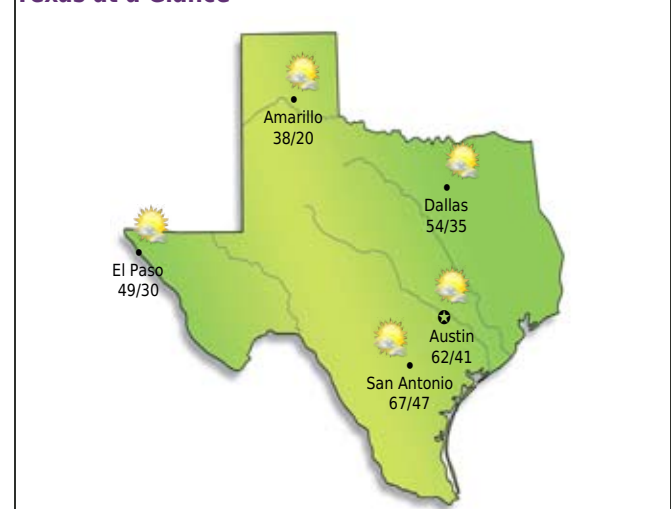
Marylou Lankford

Marylou Lankford, 74, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 24, 2015, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 12/30	Thu 12/31	Fri 1/1	Sat 1/2	Sun 1/3
47/28 Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 47F. Winds W at 5 to 10 mph.	41/29 Mostly cloudy. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the upper 20s.	38/28 Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s and lows in the upper 20s.	42/29 Mostly cloudy. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the upper 20s.	50/28 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 20s.
Sunrise: 7:46 AM Sunset: 5:50 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 5:51 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 5:52 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 5:52 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 5:53 PM

Texas at a Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Ablene	46	28	Sunny	Kingsville	64	52	Cloudy
Amarillo	34	18	P Cloudy	Livingston	57	43	Cloudy
Austin	55	40	P Cloudy	Longview	50	37	Cloudy
Beaumont	59	49	P Cloudy	Lubbock	36	23	Sunny
Brownsville	71	64	Cloudy	Lufkin	56	41	Cloudy
Brownwood	51	30	M Cloudy	Midland	45	26	P Cloudy
Corpus Christi	65	52	Cloudy	Raymondville	70	59	Cloudy
Corsicana	49	37	P Cloudy	Rosenberg	59	50	M Sunny
Dallas	49	34	P Cloudy	San Antonio	59	46	P Cloudy
Del Rio	60	38	P Cloudy	San Marcos	56	41	P Cloudy
El Paso	47	29	M Cloudy	Sulphur Springs	48	36	Cloudy
Fort Stockton	53	33	Sunny	Sweetwater	43	29	M Sunny
Gainesville	46	30	P Cloudy	Tyler	48	37	Cloudy
Greenville	48	34	M Cloudy	Weatherford	47	32	P Cloudy
Houston	59	50	M Cloudy	Wichita Falls	46	29	M Sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	68	56	P Cloudy	Miami	83	75	M Sunny
Boston	41	32	Frz Rain	Minneapolis	26	17	Snow Showers
Chicago	37	29	Cloudy	New York	52	44	Rain
Dallas	49	34	P Cloudy	Phoenix	56	35	Cloudy
Denver	25	5	P Cloudy	San Francisco	54	43	Clear
Houston	43	27	Cloudy	Seattle	41	30	Cloudy
Los Angeles	61	40	Clear	Saint Louis	37	28	Cloudy

Moon Phases

First Dec 18	Full Dec 25	Last Jan 2	New Jan 10

UV Index

Wed 12/30	Thu 12/31	Fri 1/1	Sat 1/2	Sun 1/3
3	1	1	1	3
Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Moderate

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

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **JOHN MICHAEL WILKINSON**, 30, of 2304 E. FM 700 was arrested on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance, more than 3 grams but less than 28 grams.

• **SUZANNA MONTEZ HILARIO**, 29, of 1401 N. Highway 87 Apt. 1201 was arrested on a

charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

• **CHARLIE JAKE TURNER JR.**, 36, of 1409 Bluebird St. was arrested on a charge of forgery-money/securities and possession of marijuana, less than or equal to 2 ounces.

• **JEAN JAVIER MATA**, 22, of 1601 Stadium Avenue was arrested on a charge of theft of service, more than or equal to

\$500 but less than \$1,500.

• **JESUS LICON VALDEZ JR.**, 30, of 4201 W. Highway 80 7 was arrested on a charge of diving while license suspended/invalid with previous conviction.

• **DAMIAN RAY VILLARREAL**, 21, of 2004 39th St., Lubbock was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces.

Support Groups

8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

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

• Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Spring Town Plaza (inside the mall, next to Attitudes Hair Salon, down by Bealls). Open meeting at 7 p.m.

• A Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

FRIDAY

• Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Spring Town Plaza (inside the mall, next to Attitudes Hair Salon, down by Bealls). Open meeting at 7 p.m.

• 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.

Take Note

Volunteer Opportunities

• Home Hospice is in need of volunteers of all ages. The organization is requesting volunteers to sit with patients, make items for patients and help with office work. Volunteers set their own hours. For more information, contact Sherry Hodnett at 264-7911 or 432-213-0150.

• Mobile meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Kim Plew at 263-4016 or 213-7960.

• Crossroads Hospice needs volunteers for patient care. Contact Eva at 263-5300.

• Victim Services is a non-profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to, assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours of day, 365 days a year to provide crisis intervention or accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies as needed. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an interview process and a background check, we need you. For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

• Food 2 Kids Big Spring needs you! It is time to start sacking food for Big Spring elementary students who do not receive adequate food over the weekends. Members of the community can be a part by volunteering to sack the food. It just takes a couple hours of your time and the work is very rewarding. To volunteer, just show up at the time and dates listed. For more information, call, 432-935-3998.

Sacking dates are as follows (please

note the group starts at 5:30 p.m.) Jan. 4 - 5.

Our sacking location has moved to the Lakeview High School gym located at 1107 NW 7th. To get there take Gregg Street north and turn left on Delaney which is the block just past the Salvation Army Store. Delaney turns into 7th Street, you will go over the railroad tracks and the school is on the left.

Currently we are distributing food at Goliad, Marcy and Moss Elementary Schools. If you want additional information about getting your child on this program please contact your child's school.

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 432-263-9669.

Meetings

• The Big Spring Art Association meets every third Tuesday, September through May at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library. Everyone is welcome to attend. Memberships are available. The annual dues are \$20.

• Howard College will be hosting several "update meetings" throughout Howard County for interested

citizens to gather more facts and information about Howard College as they prepare for the tax rate rollback election to be held in January 2016. Those dates are: Tuesday, Jan. 5, 12:30 p.m. Hall Center for the Arts Auditorium, Howard College Campus, 1001 Birdwell Lane, (sign language interpretation provided); and Tuesday, Jan. 5, 6:30 p.m. Hall Center for the Arts Auditorium, Howard College Campus, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• The Big Spring Symphony Board of Directors meets every first Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the symphony office, 808 Scurry Street.

• The Kiwanis Club of Big Spring meets at noon every Thursday in the Cactus Room at Howard College. Visitors are welcome.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings. It's a great way to work off community service and get help, too. Be there at 9-11 a.m. and get two for one, plus a rehab meeting.

• Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Jimmy Ruth at 271-2176.

• Staked Plains Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner is at 6 p.m.) at 219

½ Main St. All Masons are welcome.

Silver Wings Ball

• The largest fundraiser for the Hangar 25 Air Museum, the Silver Wings Ball will be held at the Hotel Settles, Jan. 23, 2016. Cocktail hour will begin at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased from any board member. To find out more information or to become a sponsor for the event, contact Hangar 25 Air Museum at 432-264-1999.

How to help

• An account has been set up at Western Bank (account number 1017623) for Blantyn Gusman and Zachary Duncan, who were seriously injured in an accident.

• For information on Garrett Parrish's condition, or to post messages of support, visit his Facebook page (#GPSTRONG). Parrish was seriously injured in a sledding accident.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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News in brief

Calm urged after Ohio grand jury doesn't indict officers

CLEVELAND (AP) — Officials are urging calm as they brace for expected protests after a grand jury voted not to indict a white Cleveland police officer for fatally shooting a 12-year-old black boy who was carrying what turned out to be a pellet gun.

Small groups of protesters gathered Monday outside the Cuyahoga County Justice Center and at the recreation center where Tamir Rice was shot by then-rookie patrolman Timothy Loehmann in November 2014. The size of those protests likely was reduced by a cold and steady rain that fell throughout the day.

County Prosecutor Tim McGinty announced that Loehmann and his field training officer wouldn't be indicted because of "indisputable" evidence that Tamir was reaching for what officers thought was a real gun tucked in his waistband, and urged those who disagreed with the grand jury to protest peacefully.

"It is time for the community and all of us to start to heal," McGinty said.

Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson made a similar plea, as did Tamir's family. Attorneys for the family condemned the grand jury's decision but called on people to express themselves "peacefully and democratically." Deputies set up metal barricades outside the Justice Center after McGinty's news conference on Monday afternoon.

Neighbor tried to help save baby after deadly Texas twister

BLUE RIDGE, Texas (AP) — The winds had finally calmed when Debralee King and her husband ventured out to check on their horses and see what damage the tornado had caused. Then she heard a scream.

King saw her neighbor, Jose Daniel Santillano — shirtless and shoeless — running toward her with his newborn daughter in his arms. The child was gravely injured. Her tiny hand was cold.

"He wanted me to take her to the hospital," King said. "He was frantic. His wife was still trapped."

With that, King was thrust into the unsuccessful

effort to save the likely youngest victim of a powerful line of weekend storms that spawned multiple tornadoes, destroyed several hundred homes and displaced residents throughout Dallas' suburbs.

At least 11 people died and dozens were injured in the tornadoes that swept through the area on Saturday, pushed by a powerful storm system that continued to hit the nation's midsection on Monday with heavy snow, ice, rain, flooding and blustery winds. More than 2,800 flights nationwide were canceled Monday — more than half of them at Chicago's two main airports — but that had dropped to 600 by Tuesday morning.

Iraqi PM tours Ramadi to hail city's liberation from IS

BAGHDAD (AP) — A triumphant Iraqi prime minister on Tuesday toured the western city of Ramadi, just a day after government troops routed Islamic State militants from the area and recaptured a key government complex.

Iraqi state TV reported that Haider al-Abadi was in Ramadi but offered no further details. But an Iraqi military commander, Brig. Gen. Ahmed al-Belawi told The Associated Press that the prime minister kicked off the visit by meeting security and provincial officials for the latest updates.

Across the city meanwhile, military engineering teams were clearing bombs from the streets and nearby buildings, al-Belawi said, even as sporadic clashes were underway in outlying parts of the city.

Ramadi, the Anbar provincial capital, fell to IS in May, marking a major setback for Iraqi forces and the U.S.-led campaign. The Baghdad government was quick to announce a counter-offensive to retake the city but attempts repeatedly stalled.

Then in November, al-Abadi's forces announced a major push to recapture Ramadi, warning residents to leave and advancing quickly across the Euphrates River.

Rubio in Iowa as questions grow about early-state efforts

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — With a nationally fo-

cused campaign that leans on strong debate performances and television advertising, Marco Rubio isn't going all out in any one of the early voting states.

That's raised eyebrows among Republicans in states such as Iowa, where people are used to being lavished with attention in a presidential campaign.

As 2015 wanes, the Florida senator is back in Iowa on Tuesday for a multi-day swing, hoping to shore up support and finish in the top tier of candidates in the Feb. 1 caucuses.

But he is continuing to spread his time and money across the early states, showing no indication he will choose just one to make his mark.

That's unlike Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who has set his sights on Iowa, and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who is pushing hard in New Hampshire.

Israel's top court sends ex-PM Olmert to 18 months in prison

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's Supreme Court on Tuesday reduced former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's prison sentence for a sweeping bribery scandal from six years to 18 months, handing him a moral victory even as he prepares to become the first former Israeli head of government to be imprisoned.

In its ruling, the court overturned the main bribery charge against Olmert but upheld a lesser charge. The 70-year-old ex-premier was ordered to begin serving his sentence on Feb. 15.

Olmert was convicted in March 2014 and sentenced to six years in a wide-ranging case that accused him of accepting bribes to promote a controversial real-estate project in Jerusalem. The charges pertained to a period when he was mayor of Jerusalem and the country's trade minister, years before he became prime minister in 2006.

Olmert has denied any wrongdoing and was allowed to stay out of prison until the verdict on his appeal was delivered.

After Tuesday's decision, Olmert said he was "satisfied" about his partial exoneration. Clearly relieved, Olmert said it was still a "hard day" but that he accepted the Supreme Court's ruling.

TEEN

Continued from Page 1A

Authorities began searching for the pair after Ethan Couch failed to keep a mandatory appointment with his probation officer on Dec. 10, leading authorities to issue the juvenile equivalent of an arrest warrant for him.

Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson has said he believes the two fled in late November after a video surfaced that appears to show Couch at a party where people were drinking. If found to be drinking, Couch's probation could be revoked and he could be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison.

A spokesman for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department has declined to say whether Tonya Couch is facing any charges.

There was no immediate comment Monday night from the U.S. Marshals Service, which had issued a wanted poster promising a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to Ethan

Couch's whereabouts and capture.

In June 2013 at age 16, Ethan Couch was driving drunk and speeding on a dark two-lane road south of Fort Worth when he crashed into a disabled SUV off to the side, killing four people and injuring several others, including passengers in Couch's pickup truck.

Couch pleaded guilty to four counts of intoxication manslaughter and two counts of intoxication assault causing serious bodily injury.

Because of his age, he wasn't certified as an adult for trial and a judge sentenced him in juvenile court to 10 years' probation and a stint in a rehabilitation center.

Anderson was among those critical of the judge's decision not to incarcerate Couch. The sheriff said that the teen has never expressed remorse for his actions and that his case sparked more outrage than any other Anderson has encountered in his law enforcement career.

STOCK

Continued from Page 1A

attend. The HCJLA county show awards ceremony will begin at 1 p.m.

Following the awards show, the Premium

Auction will begin.

For more information, e-mail hcjla01@gmail.com.

The Howard County Junior Livestock Show schedule of events:

- Wednesday, Jan. 13, 3 p.m. — Lamb and Goat

Show.

• Thursday, Jan. 14, 6 p.m. — Rabbit Show.

• Friday, Jan. 15, 9 a.m. — Heifer & Steer Show; 1 p.m. — Barrow Show.

• Saturday, Jan. 16, 11 a.m. — Buyers/Ag Appreciation barbecue; 1

p.m. — Ap Appreciation & Junior Livestock Show Awards followed immediately after by the Junior Livestock sale.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mailing citydesk@big-springherald.com

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Jokes Jokes Jokes

Q: What kind of cookies do monkeys like?

A: Chocolate chimp.

Q: How do turtles communicate?

A: By shellphone.

What Rhymes with...

RARE



List 10 words that rhyme with "rare."

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Some answers: bare, bear, care, dare, fair, fare, hair, hare, mare

Fact or Fiction?

ENDANGERED CHALLENGE



Some animals are endangered, that is, there are so few left that they could easily become extinct. Here are some questions about endangered animals. How many can you answer correctly?

- 1) The only animals that are endangered are located in the United States. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 2) The destruction of habitat is one of the main reasons animals become endangered. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 3) Hunting can also cause animals to become endangered. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 4) Calling an animal "endangered" can protect it but also harm it. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 5) Some countries have made laws to protect endangered animals. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 6) Some laws prevent the hunting of endangered animals. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 7) Some endangered animals are so near extinction that the only ones that remain are in captivity. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 8) Once an animal becomes endangered, it will always be in danger of becoming extinct. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 9) Once an animal becomes extinct, it is gone forever. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 10) The extinction of one animal group can lead to the extinction of another. *Fact or Fiction?*

Answers: 1) Fiction, there are endangered animals all over the world. 2) Fact. 3) Fact. 4) Fact. 5) Fact. 6) Fact. 7) Fact. 8) Fiction, some endangered animals have grown in number with the help of special programs and are no longer considered extinct. 9) Fact. 10) Fact.

Endangered!

Ever heard of an addax? How about a bonobo or a vaquita? All are endangered animals that must be protected to ensure their existence.

The addax is a type of antelope that lives in the Sahara Desert in northern Africa. It has a grayish-brown coat in the winter, which turns sandy blonde or almost white in the summer. The bonobo is a type of chimpanzee that lives in the Congo Basin in central Africa. It has long legs, a dark face, pink lips and long, parted hair on its head. The vaquita is a type of porpoise that lives in the Gulf of California. It is stocky with dark rings around its eyes, patches on its lips, a dark gray back and a white belly.

The destruction of habitat, along with hunting and other things, have made these animals endangered. People are working to change this, however. The addax has been reintroduced in Morocco and Tunisia, and many are being raised in captivity. There are 29,000 to 50,000 bonobos left, and organizations are working hard to protect them and their habitat. There are only 100 to 300 vaquitas left, making them one of the most endangered species in the world. Laws now prevent the use of nets that have accidentally trapped and killed vaquitas, and other steps are being taken to protect them.



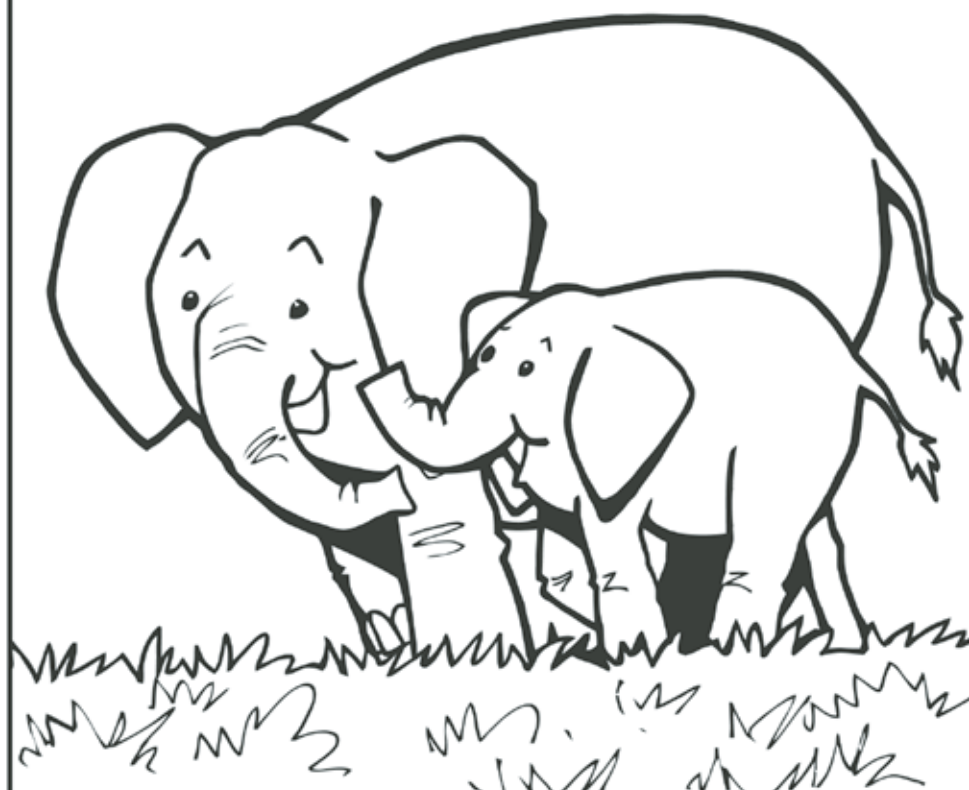
Name That Animal

There are endangered animals all over the world. Fill in the blanks to name some of them.

1. GI _ NT PA _ _ A
2. RE _ WO _ F
3. GR _ _ N SEA TURT _ E
4. CH _ NES _ A _ _ IGATOR
5. BL _ E WH _ LE
6. WIL _ WA _ ER BU _ _ ALO
7. A _ IAN E _ EP _ ANT

Answers: 1) Giant Panda, 2) Red Wolf, 3) Green Sea Turtle, 4) Chinese Alligator, 5) Blue Whale, 6) Wild Water Buffalo, 7) Asian Elephant

COLORING PICTURE



Curry's triple-double leads Warriors past Kings 122-103

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Stephen Curry's eyes lit up when he saw little brother Seth guarding him for the first time in their NBA career, and the reigning MVP promptly missed a long 3-pointer.

"It was a very cool moment," the Golden State star said. "I missed and he let me know about it. After that I was able to see a couple go in."

That's an understatement. Curry scored his first 17 points in the final 3:16 of the first half and went on to record his sixth career triple-double as the Warriors won for the 29th time in 30 games this season, 122-103 over the Sacramento Kings on Monday night.

"He's done that so many

times throughout the year, I don't think that's me, per se," Seth Curry said. "He's going to turn it up. He's done that probably once a game, had a run like that. We tried to stop him from getting going, but it's tough. The game was going so fast at that time, that's when he's at his best."

Curry had 23 points, a career-high 14 rebounds and 10 assists, Klay Thompson scored 29 and Draymond Green had 25 points for the Warriors, who have won 33 straight regular-season home games.

Omri Casspi scored a career-high 36 points, tying Mike Bibby's team record with nine 3-pointers for Sacramento.

But star center DeMarcus Cousins got ejected in the third quarter and the Kings lost their 11th straight against their Northern California rivals.

"I'm not sure I liked how we responded," coach George Karl said. "We had a tough, bad refereed game. But we can't emotionally lose it."

The Kings were excited to have a healthy Cousins for the first time in three meetings with the Warriors this season. But the All-Star big man played less than 13 minutes before getting ejected. After sitting out most of the first half in foul trouble, Cousins was upset after getting called for his fifth foul in the third quarter.

Monty McCutchen then called Cousins for a technical, setting him off on a tirade that led to another technical called by Mitchell Ervin and an ejection. Cousins had to be restrained by teammates before being escorted off the court.

Stephen Curry made three of the four free throws to start a 15-0 run that turned a two-point deficit into a 79-66 lead for the Warriors. His 3-pointer just before the third quarter ended put Golden State up 90-75.

After trailing early, the Kings went on a 28-7 spurt to build a 41-30 lead on one of Casspi's seven first-half 3s. But Casspi's sharp shooting seemed to wake up Stephen

Curry, who missed his first six shots and was scoreless for the first 20:44 of the game.

He ended that drought with a 3-pointer that started a stretch of him scoring 17 straight Golden State points in the final 3:16 of the half. Stephen Curry hit five 3s and a layup during that span to the delight of the home crowd.

"I just found a spark and shots started to fall," he said. "All the ones before felt pretty good, most of them were just in and out. I never lost confidence. Thankfully a couple went in."

Casspi hit four 3s in that same stretch to help Sacramento take a 61-58 lead at the break.

BRONCOS

Continued from Page 1B

"This one definitely hurts, when you feel like you have a lot of momentum and doing some good things out there and kind of spit out the bit in the second half," running back Jeremy Hill said. "There's

a lot of things we wish we could've had back. But we'll leave that out there on the field."

DEFENSE WINS CHAMPIONSHIPS: Both the Bengals and Broncos have that one ingredient teams covet in the playoffs: a stout defense.

The Broncos yield the fewest yards in the

league — they're ranked No. 1 against both the run and the pass — and the Bengals allow the fewest points (263).

This game marked only the third time two teams have met in December with those stats.

ROAD WOES: Cincinnati fell to 3-17 on the road on Monday nights.

Their last such win came at Cleveland during the 1990 season, which was also the last time the Bengals won a playoff game.

They've never won a playoff game on the road in 13 tries.

Their loss in Denver also prevented them from going 7-1 on the road, which would have

been the team's best mark in its 48-year history.

REF'S SROUGHNIGHT: This wasn't nearly as bad as Ed Hochuli's blown call on Jay Cutler's last-minute fumble against San Diego in 2008. But the buff referee had a tough night in Denver. He began by identifying the Broncos

as the Bengals when Denver won the opening coin toss. He left his microphone on in the closing minutes of regulation like in a State Farm commercial and twice had to pick up flags thrown even though the Bengals had declared an extra lineman as an eligible receiver and it had been announced.

MAVS

Continued from Page 1B

do that for 48 minutes."

The Mavericks helped keep the Bucks in the game with uncharacteristically poor foul shooting. Dallas entered averaging 79 percent, fourth in the NBA, but made just nine of its first 16 from the line and went 17 of 26 (65 percent) for the game.

Pachulia, traded by the Bucks to Dallas in July after the Maver-

icks were rebuffed by free-agent center DeAndre Jordan, scored 13 points in the first half as Dallas built a 60-51 lead at the break.

INSIDE INFORMATION

Milwaukee entered the night third in the NBA with an average of 19.3 points off opponents' turnovers, but the Mavericks protected the ball well thanks in part to the inside knowledge gained from Pachulia's two seasons with the Bucks.

"They have length,

but once you move the ball from side to side, that's where they can struggle," Pachulia said. "Whenever we moved the ball, we got quality shots."

GET WELL SOON
Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said he has traded texts with Bucks counterpart Jason Kidd since Kidd had right hip replacement surgery last Monday.

"That's a hard-charging guy," Carlisle said. "Those of us that got to know him closely know how much he put into

each game — the mental preparation and the physical wherewithal."

Carlisle coached Kidd on the Mavericks' NBA championship team in 2011 and called him "one of the great competitors in sports history."

TIP-INS
Bucks: Middleton was ejected with 6.2 seconds to play after getting called for two technical fouls. ... Milwaukee F John Henson was in uniform but did not play after injuring his right elbow Saturday against Toronto.

Mavericks: G Deron Williams missed his third consecutive game with a strained left hamstring. ... Members of Cotton Bowl participants Alabama and

Michigan State attended the game.

UP NEXT
Bucks: At Oklahoma City on Tuesday.

Mavericks: Host Golden State on Wednesday.

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Life, Love & Chaos: New year, new you

As 2015 comes to a close and everyone anticipates the coming year, it is important to look over the past year and remember the changes, growth, and progress that one has made.

Every year has its ups and downs. There are high moments when you find good friends, maybe something good happens at work or milestones with the little ones. There are also low moments, maybe the loss of a job, a divorce, or you found out that some of those friends weren't friends after all.

The coming of the new year can be a chance for a person to start over fresh, to set new goals for the future.

It is important to make those goals realistic and attainable. Do not set yourself up for failure by making outlandish new year resolutions.

One of the most common goals is to lose weight. But don't concentrate on

losing the weight, set your goal to eat healthier. Give up some of the soda or junk foods you eat everyday. Don't say that you are going to hit the gym hard everyday, but say that you are going to start walking a few blocks a night after supper to get the heart pumping and the blood flowing.

If you are having relationship problems, set a goal to set a certain amount of time a day aside to talk to your significant other or do something small (but meaningful) for them at least once a week.

If you do not have a strong relationship with your child, set some time aside for them once a day when they get to do the talking and tell you about themselves.

The only way to bring about change is to teach yourself to do small things that will become habit that will lead to doing a little more each day.

After you get to where you can walk that 4 blocks in a fraction of the time from when you first started, walk a little further each week.

After you replace that soda once a day with water and are used to that and comfortable, switch those fries for a salad.

After you get to know your kids a

little better and you know some of the things they like, study their likes so that you can join in the conversation with them once in a while or so that you can understand their jokes involving those things.

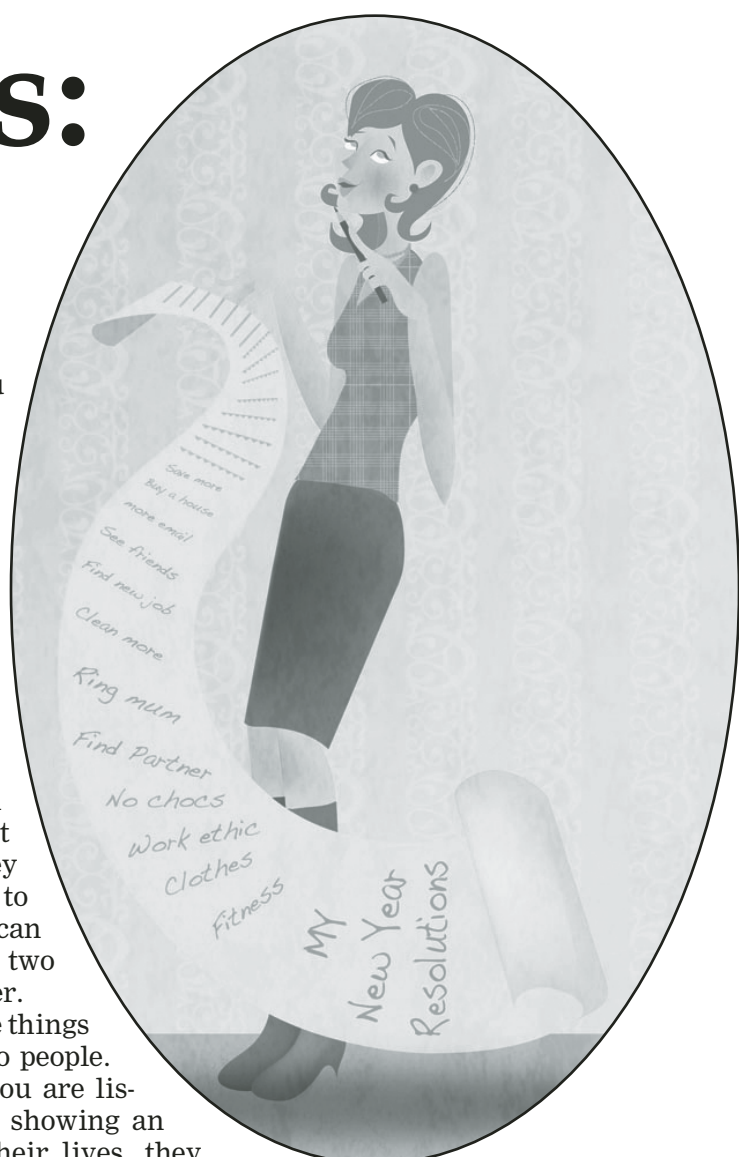
Once you start to pay more attention to your significant other and listen, they will start to listen to you again and you can remember why you two work so well together.

It really is the little things in life that matter to people. If they know that you are listening to them and showing an active interest in their lives, they will be more willing to share with you and the closer you can become.

You don't have to wait for it to be a new year, you can always make tomorrow a fresh new day, with no mistakes in it.



JULIE BASS



Julie Bass is a staff writer for the Big Spring Herald who writes a weekly column about her take on marriage, parenting and life.

A leafy superfood worth learning about



For people who manage their health through nutrition or use food as a medicinal replacement, few products offer the power of "superfoods."

Kale is one leafy green commonly recognized as a superfood, but watercress is a tastier superfood option worth considering.

Watercress has more flavor, is more versatile and is healthier than its leafy cousins. It's also easier to digest with a more pleasing texture. In fact, according to an independent research study published last spring by the Centers for Disease Control, it is the most nutrient-dense food available today.

For a high concentration of phytonutrients, antioxidants and vitamins, look to options such as those available through hydroponic greenhouse grower Hollandia Produce, which raises two cress varieties: Live Gourmet Living Upland Cress and Grower Pete's Living Organic Watercress. Both varieties also deliver up to twice the vitamin C of an orange; more calcium than milk; and high levels of magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, iron, beta-carotene and vitamins A, B1, B6, K and E.

Watercress also has multiple uses as a medicinal herb. Some of these more popular applications include preventing eczema, as well as supporting digestive, urinary tract, eye and respiratory health.

Visit hollandiaproduce.com to find more recipes and learn more about this flavorful superfood.

"Cressto" Pesto Sauce

3 cups Live Gourmet Living Upland Cress or Grower Pete's Living Watercress, root ball and bottom 1/3 stems removed, rinsed and patted dry

2 cloves garlic, chopped
1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil

1/2 cup grape seed oil
1 teaspoon lemon zest
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt

In blender or food processor, combine cress and garlic and pulse until coarsely chopped.

Add remaining ingredients and process until blended.

Drizzle over pasta, risotto, fish, meat or eggs, or use as a spread.

Silky Egg Cress Salad

1 package Live Gourmet Living Upland Cress or Grower Pete's Living Watercress, root ball and stems removed, leaves rinsed and patted dry

2 medium eggs
3 purple potato chips (purple potatoes sliced thin, seasoned and sauteed until crisp)

3 slices fresh avocado
3 slices ripe pear
3 slices persimmon

2 pieces toasted brioche bread
2 tablespoons Orange Vinaigrette

Orange Vinaigrette

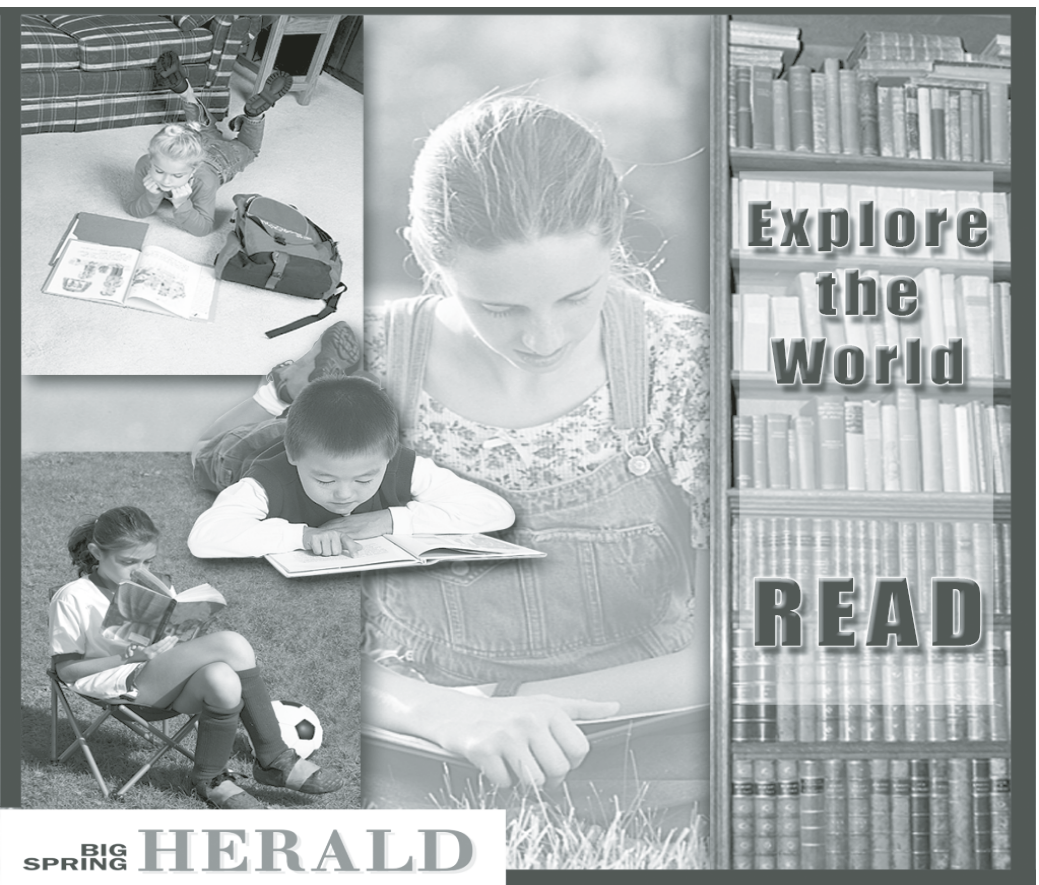
2 tablespoons frozen orange juice concentrate

2 tablespoons grape seed oil
2 teaspoons rice wine vinegar
1 teaspoon honey
pinch cracked black pepper

In small bowl, whisk together vinaigrette ingredients and set aside.

Prepare and artfully arrange cress and all ingredients, except eggs, on serving plate and set aside.

Soft boil eggs 5 minutes in 1 quart of water. Remove from heat and cool 30 seconds under cold running water. Gently remove shells. While still warm, slice eggs in half and place atop the plated salad. Lightly drizzle with Orange Vinaigrette.



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

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Maintaining Trump Control

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K J 7
♥ 9 7 4 2
♦ A 9 8 6 3
♣ 6

EAST
♠ Q 6 4 3 2
♥ 10 6
♦ K 7 5 2
♣ 10 3

SOUTH
♠ A 9
♥ K Q J 8
♦ 4
♣ A K J 8 5 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♦ Pass
6 ♥

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

Trump control is a key factor in many deals, but it is not exclusively the province of the declarer. Today's hand shows how the defense can exercise control over the trump suit, and in so doing, stop a slam.

Declarer won the opening dia-

mond lead with the ace and played a low trump to the king. The outcome of the hand now hinged on whether or not West took the king with the ace.

First, let's see what would have happened had West taken the trick. Presumably, he would have returned a diamond, ruffed by South.

Declarer would then have cashed the ace of clubs, ruffed a club, led a trump to the queen and ruffed another club. This would have established his remaining clubs as tricks, and all he would then have to do is play a spade to the ace, draw West's last trump and claim the balance.

But when the hand was played, West realized that if he took the first trump, he could very well be aiding South's cause. Accordingly, he allowed the king to hold the trick.

As a result, South could no longer make the slam. If he tried to ruff two clubs in dummy, East would overruff the second one with the ten. And if instead South elected to play a second round of trumps before tackling the clubs, West would defeat the contract by taking the ace and returning his remaining trump. In that case, the queen of clubs would become the setting trick.

Tomorrow: Club play saves the day.

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HERALD

Tomorrow's Horoscope



Mercury and Mars Square Off

HOLIDAY
MATHIS

Any-one can become a person of extraordinary character. It doesn't require good looks or remarkable talent. In the end, extraordinary character is what earns lasting respect from others and ourselves. Mercury square Mars urges us to stop focusing on what makes us special and unique and start focusing on doing the right thing.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Having trouble letting go of old baggage? Don't force it. One of the best ways to rid yourself of the heaviness is to seek new, lighter luggage. Get out there and make a replacement memory for the one you'd rather forget.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Tired people and hungry people are often grumpy people. Whatever you can

do to make sure the basics are covered for you and yours will go a long way toward keeping the vibes positive at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Sooner or later, we all have to part with our money. You may as well have fun with this. So what if you're overly generous, silly or comfort-focused today? Get what you really, really want.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When the work (or the entire relationship) seems draining, maybe it's just because you haven't found what's in it for you yet. Figure it out. If you can't find a payoff, consider making a change.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). In your brain, you're going head-to-head with someone and you're really in no mood to back down. Hey -- you're a human being with an ego to match. To some extent, that's healthy!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Considering all the time and energy you've expended working on a certain knotty prob-

lem, it should come as no surprise when you get a sudden craving for freedom and distraction.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). This is an excellent moment to discuss the delicate issue at hand, though you should keep in mind that such discussions are best kept brief and possibly indirect. A pointed implication may get the message across.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your rating with one particular person doesn't matter as much as you think it does. There is a whole host of people out there who like you, not to mention the ones who love you dearly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Avoid making sweeping generalizations about yourself. You're made up of many parts. Focus on one aspect at a time. Highlight the thing you like, and work on the thing you don't.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll have a deep conversation that doesn't include any profound words or

particularly interesting thoughts. In fact, the whole thing, if written down, would be categorized as small talk. But it's not. Not at all.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Don't put your self-care off for later, otherwise "later" will never come. Also, taking care of yourself should include more than the basics. Giving yourself mental stimulation and fun is part of it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When you hit a dip in your mood, remember: Appreciating others is the quick route to self-esteem. You will always feel good about your kind and fair treatment of the people you meet on your path.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 29). You'll make your mark this year and it will be a creative expression of who you are in a most practical form. Many will use and love what you produce. Clarity of vision is your gift in the early year. April and May bring romantic adventure. You'll fight

for the oppressed and win in June. Aquarius and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 28, 3, 38 and 40.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a 21-year-old Gemini who got engaged earlier this summer to my 23-year-old boyfriend of 5 years. Almost as soon as we got engaged, I started noticing that I had some interesting feelings for someone I work with. I didn't act on the feelings except for maybe flirting a little too much with the person, who is a Leo, and he's made it clear to me that he likes me, too. And he's available. Is this just a case of getting cold feet, or should I take my feelings seriously? What if I blow it with my fiancé for some stupid fling and end up alone for the rest of my life?"

The fact that this flirtatious Leo came along soon after you got engaged is no coincidence -- it's a sign. Being afraid that you'll miss "the one" and be alone for the rest of

your life is not a reason to get married. If your fiancé and you were meant to be, then surely you can come together again later when you're emotionally ready to make a serious commitment. Until then, get to know yourself better. It turns out that people who know and love themselves don't worry so much about winding up alone.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Danny McBride has several projects in the works, including the role of Bomb in "The Angry Birds Movie." The "Eastbound and Down" star was discovered by Will Ferrell when the comedy king saw McBride in the shoe-string budget comedy, "The Foot Fist Way." Sun and Mercury in Capricorn indicate McBride is much more strategic and down to earth than Kenny Powers!

To write to Holiday Mathis, visit www.creators.com and click "Write the Author."
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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I am one of five sisters. We are all adults with children of our own. One lives in New Jersey and the others live in Florida, three of us in the same city. My sister, "Claire," lives two hours away. Three years ago, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. With good doctors and care, she has successfully come through five surgeries and battled the rounds of chemo. So far, she remains cancer-free.

Four of us did whatever we could to help Claire during this time. Two of my sisters worked remotely so they could help with her medical appointments. Even my sister in New Jersey offered to stay with Claire. Only one sister, "Pam," never helped, and in fact, never even acknowledged the cancer or wished Claire a speedy recovery. The problem

now is that four of us are empty nesters and we vacation together once or twice a year. We have been doing this for more than a decade. But family isn't only for the good times. If a person cannot care about her sister when she is ill, then I don't think she should be included when we go on vacations. We always stay in timeshares, which I own. I don't invite Pam on these vacations, but another sister does. I can't uninvite her without creating a rift.

Annie, I don't want to vacation with Pam, but feel the choice is out of my control. I would appreciate advice from a disinterested party. -- Sibling Dilemma

Dear Sibling: Are you sure you want to do this? The consequences could turn out to be more distressing than worthwhile. An estrangement hurts you, too, and, as you said, will create a rift

between all of the siblings. We know Pam deserves your condemnation for acting so uncaring toward her own sister, but have you asked her about it? Did you say, "Pam, I am so disappointed and angry that you cared so little about Claire that you couldn't even wish her well"? She needs to know how upset you are and why. She may have some explanation for her callous behavior, and even though it will hardly be good enough, we hope you will hear her out and maybe even find it in your heart to forgive her. It's so much better than holding onto your anger.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Snowbird Driver," whose friends refuse to let her drive when they are going out for dinner. The one thing that was not mentioned was alcohol.

We have many friends who gather

together for cocktails before leaving for dinner at a restaurant. With a cocktail or two before, and several drinks at the restaurant, they may well be driving under the influence by the time they are on their way home.

I live in Florida and see this situation often. If the neighbors do not drink themselves, they might feel terribly uncomfortable driving with anyone who has had a few. I agree with your answer about treating them with a gift card or dinner out in order to reciprocate. However, the real reason for their reluctance to share driving responsibilities might be too many cocktails imbibed by the driver. -- Sarasota.

Dear Sarasota: You could very well be right. Thanks for mentioning the possibility.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to annies-mailbox@creators.com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. You can also find Annie on Facebook at [Facebook.com/AskAnnie](https://www.facebook.com/AskAnnie). To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
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sudoku
ANSWERS

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

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5:PM :30	News ABC	Hotel Notic.	Big Bang Cleveland	News CBS	Tele Noticiero	News CBS	Justice Called	Focus Business	CHiPs	American American	Seinfeld Seinfeld	You See Me (DVS)	Football: Russell Athletic Bowl -- North Carolina vs. Baylor.		Stars In. Stars Live	CSI: Crime Scene	Married-Sight	Moonshiners
6:PM :30	Jeopardy!	Muchacha	Mod Fam	News ET	Caso Cer-rado	News	McGee	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld		College Basketball	NHL Hockey: Dallas Stars at Columbus Blue Jackets.	Mod Fam	Married-Sight	Moonshiners	
7:PM :30	Fresh-Muppets	Antes Muerta que	New Girl Grand	NCIS (DVS)	Celia (SS)	Game Night	Upd M:25	Prohibition (DVS)	Griffith	The Flash	Big Bang	Movie: Olympus Has Fallen (DVS)			Stars Live	Mod Fam	Married-Sight	Moonshiners
8:PM :30	Beyond the Tank	Pasión y Poder	New Girl Grinder	The 38th Annual Kennedy Center Honors	Bajo el Mismo Cielo	Chicago Med	Light of the Southwest	Frontline	Hap.Days	iZombie	Big Bang	Movie: Limit-less (DVS)	College Football: AdvocaCare V100 Texas Bowl -- LSU vs. Texas Tech.	College Basketball: Connecticut at Texas.	UFC	Mod Fam	(:01) Born This Way	Men, Women, Wild
9:PM :30	Beyond the Tank	Creo/los Hombres	TMZ Broke Girl		Señora Acero (SS)	Chicago Fire			Heroes	Seinfeld	Big Bang			Rangers	Mod Fam	(:01) Mr. Robot (DVS)	Men, Women, Wild	
10:PM :30	News	Impacto	Mod Fam	News	Tele	News	With Schol-ars	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett	Cougar	Conan			SportsCenter	High School Football	Mr. Robot	What Would	Moonshiners
11:PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Two Men	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	Ministerios Vida	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	McMillan and Wife	Commun	Conan	Legends		SportCtr	NHL Hockey: Stars at Blue Jackets	(:05) Mr. Robot (DVS)	Married-Sight	Men, Women, Wild
12:AM :30	Nightline	Contacto Deportivo	How I Met Cleveland	James Corden	Señora Acero (SS)	News	Chevalme		King	Cougar		Legends		College Football		(:42) Mr. Robot (DVS)	Married-Sight	Moonshiners
1:AM :30	Paid	Alma	Law Order: CI	ET	Paid				Gallery	King	Cougar	(:01) CSI: NY	SportsCenter	College Basketball		(:02) Born This Way	Moonshiners	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"NOW THAT CHRISTMAS IS OVER, THERE'S NOTHING LEFT EXCEPT FOR OUR BIRTHDAYS."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

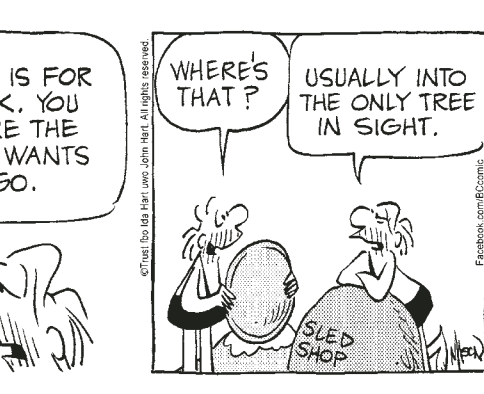
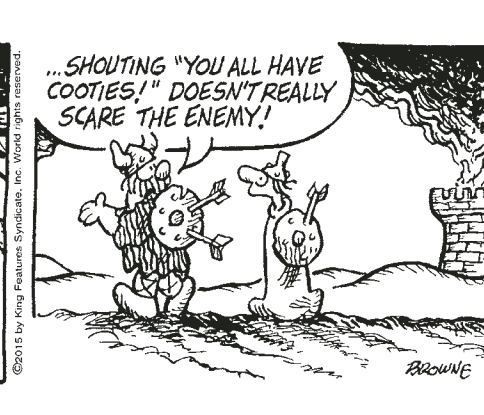
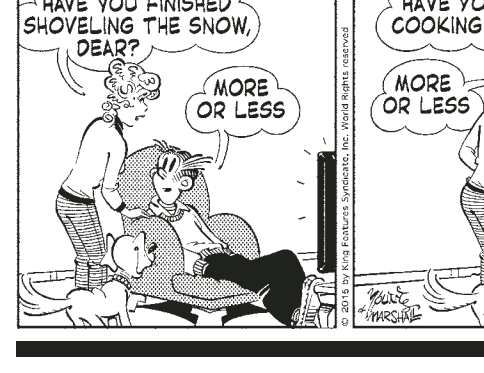


"Daddy, will you make Billy's nose stop whistlin'? It's keeping me awake."

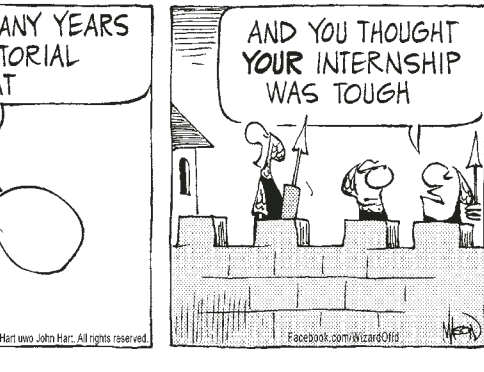
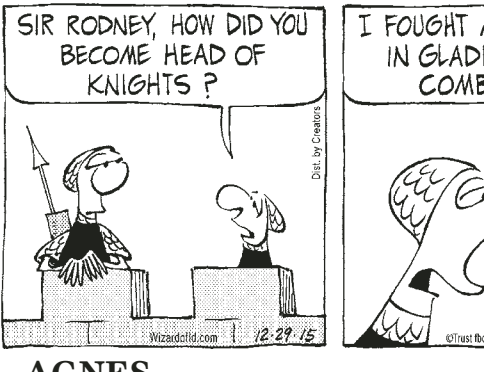
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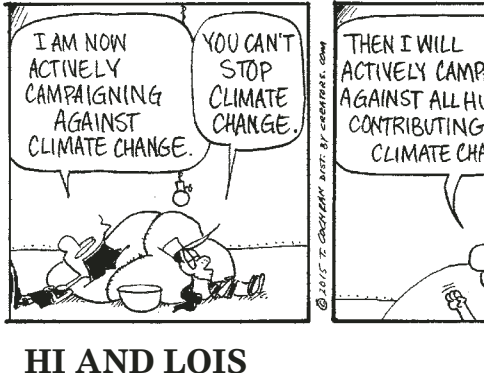
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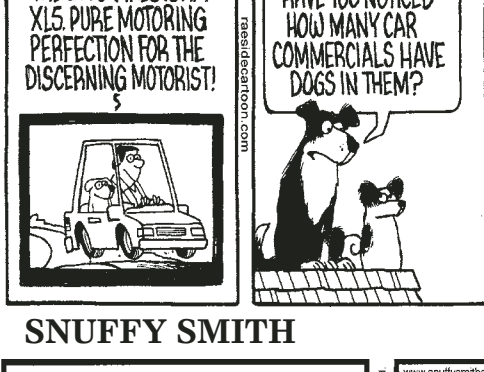
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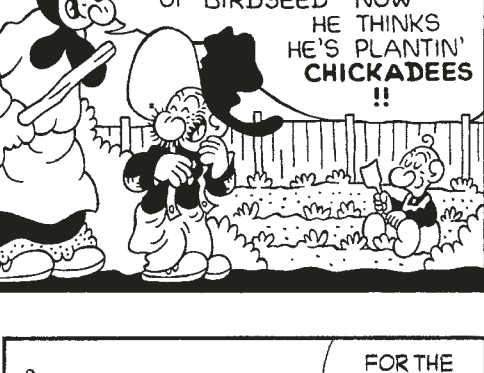
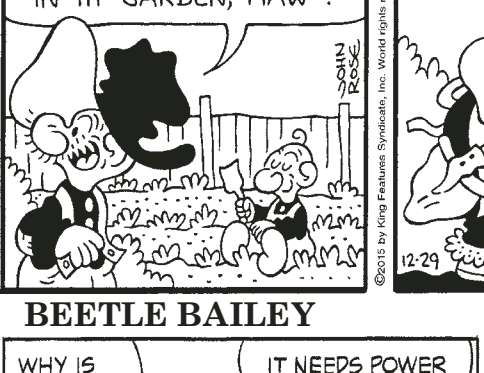
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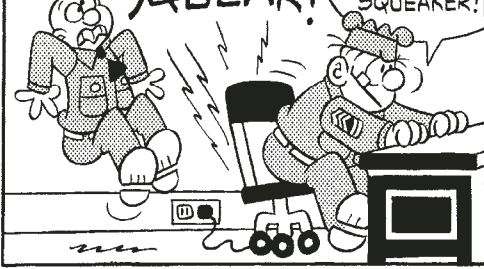
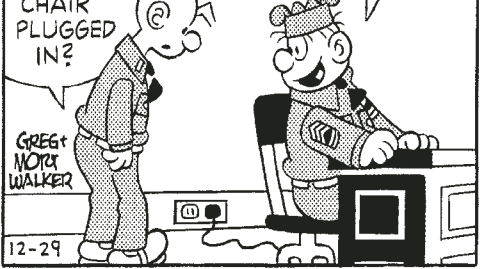
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 29, the 363rd day of 2015. There are two days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 29, 1975, a bomb exploded in the main terminal of New York's LaGuardia Airport, killing 11 people (it's never been determined who was responsible).

On this date:

In 1170, Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, was slain in Canterbury Cathedral by knights loyal to King Henry II.

In 1808, the 17th president of the United States, Andrew Johnson, was born in Raleigh, North Carolina.

In 1812, during the War of 1812, the American frigate USS Constitution engaged and severely damaged the British frigate HMS Java off Brazil.

In 1845, Texas was admitted as the 28th state.

In 1890, the Wounded Knee massacre took place in South Dakota as an estimated 300 Sioux Indians were killed by U.S. troops sent to disarm them.

In 1916, Grigory Rasputin, the so-called "Mad Monk" who'd wielded great influence with Czar Nicholas II, was killed by a group of Russian noblemen in St. Petersburg.

In 1934, Japan formally renounced the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922.

In 1940, during World War II, Germany dropped incendiary bombs on London, setting off what came to be known as "The Second Great Fire of London."

In 1957, singers Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme were married in Las Vegas.

In 1972, Eastern Air Lines Flight 401, a Lockheed L-1011 Tristar, crashed into the Florida Everglades near Miami International Airport, killing 101 of the 176 people aboard.

In 1989, dissident and playwright Vaclav Havel (VAHTS'-lahv HAH'-vel) assumed the presidency of Czechoslovakia.

In 1992, the United States and Russia announced agreement on a nuclear arms reduction treaty.

Ten years ago: International monitors said they would review Iraq's parliamentary elections in response to fraud complaints by Sunni Arab and secular Shiite groups.

Five years ago: Suicide bombers succeeded in killing Iraqi police commander Lt. Col. Shamil al-Jabouri, who was renowned in the tense northern city of Mosul for his relentless pursuit of al-Qaida.

Character actor Bill Erwin, 96, whose nearly seven-decade career included his memorable role as the grumpy old man on television's "Seinfeld," died in suburban Los Angeles.

One year ago: President Barack Obama, in an NPR interview, issued a warning to congressional Republicans set to take control of both houses of Congress, saying he had a veto pen, and would not be afraid to use it. A man with a lengthy criminal record killed six adults and two young children before taking his own life in Edmonton, Alberta.

Thought for Today:
"Sin cannot be undone, only forgiven."
Igor Stravinsky,
Russian-born composer
1882-1971

Answer to previous puzzle

WASH	PLAY	SPORT
HULA	CLANE	TEHEE
IDOS	ATTIN	RAININ
RIGHT	HISSE	COND
HOE	WEE	
TATA	RECAP	PIEA
SALON	AIR	SLAB
THINK	FOR	AMINUTE
AONE	OWN	LIMIT
BEE	FRESH	OPEN
IOU	ASS	
BOTTOM	OF	THE HOUR
EBBED	DAKE	ESPI
SOAMI	OKED	ALOE
TERSE	REDS	TIONS

12/29/15

Newsday Crossword

- SOMETHING NEW by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com
- ACROSS
- 1 Fail to hit
 - 5 Top of a wave
 - 10 Tiresome one
 - 14 ___ spumante wine
 - 15 State-run numbers game
 - 16 Affirm as true
 - 17 Hammer's target
 - 18 Really annoy
 - 19 Specify
 - 20 Mouths off
 - 22 Swiss mountains
 - 23 Second half of a musical
 - 24 Chopped down
 - 26 Precise
 - 30 Sultan's wives
 - 34 The one right here
 - 37 Pay by credit card
 - 40 Sailor's "yes"
 - 41 War and Peace or Ivanhoe
 - 44 Exist
 - 45 Peaceful state
 - 46 Remainder
 - 47 High-schoolers
 - 49 Velocity
 - 51 "How clumsy of me!"
 - 54 Word puzzle with pictures
 - 58 Out of air, as a tire
 - 61 Breeze or gust
 - 65 Well lubricated
 - 66 Three-person bands
 - 67 Pleasant
 - 68 Hourly charge
 - 69 Lends a hand
 - 70 Gawker at
- DOWN
- 1 ___ ray (type of fish)
 - 2 Sir ___ Newton
 - 3 Clown's height enhancer
 - 4 Most smooth and lustrous
 - 5 Music staff symbol
 - 6 Lion sound
 - 7 Suffix for kitchen
 - 8 Secret supply
 - 9 "___ best of my knowledge . . ."
 - 10 Yellow-skin fruit
 - 11 Roundish shape
 - 12 Frolic
 - 13 Sheep females
 - 21 Half a dozen
 - 25 "At what time?"
 - 27 Farmland measure
 - 28 Poker token
 - 29 Mexican meals
 - 31 Four-star review
 - 32 Holes in needles
 - 33 Thaw
 - 34 The one over there
 - 35 Give the job to
 - 36 "That makes sense"
 - 38 Speak hoarsely
 - 39 Great delight
 - 42 Approximately
 - 43 Advertiser's urging
 - 48 "Maybe a little later"
 - 50 Make a blunder
 - 52 Hiking trails
 - 53 Ambulance sound
 - 55 Light brown
 - 56 Mom's brother
 - 57 War horse
 - 58 Military outpost
 - 59 Untruthful one
 - 60 Voice above tenor
 - 62 Make angry
 - 63 Deal with difficulties
 - 64 Cold War adversary: Abbr.

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5 tips for better financial health

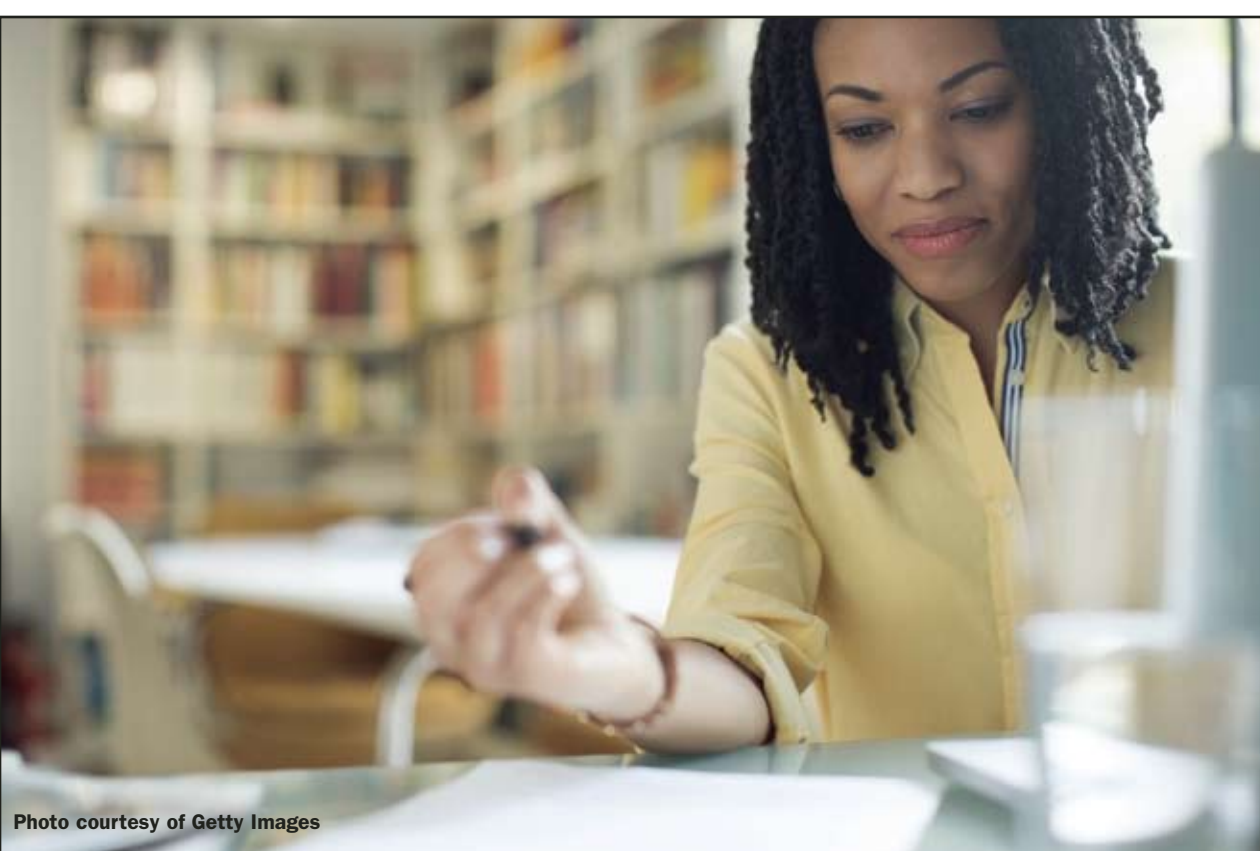


Photo courtesy of Getty Images

As the calendar turns over a new year, it's a good time to take stock of your finances. Evaluating what missteps you made with your money in the past year, determining how you can correct those errors and setting a realistic budget will put you on your way to better financial health in 2016.

A top New Year's resolution is putting money into a savings account each month, according to a recent survey of working adults by the Principal Financial Group. Leading money management priorities include paying down debt (28 percent), saving for retirement (25 percent) and building a savings account

for emergencies (15 percent).

Achieving those goals starts with setting a budget that you can reasonably follow, said Kevin Morris, vice president of retirement and income solutions at The Principal. However, the group's recent survey shows many Americans have plenty of room for improvement.

In 2015, workers reported that they blew their budget on dining out (24 percent), food/groceries (19 percent), entertainment (15 percent) and other consumer goods (15 percent), among other things. On top of that, employees' top financial blunders included not saving enough (20 percent), accumulating credit card debt (11 percent) and spending outside their means (9 percent).

"It's not surprising to see that American workers continue to blow their budget dining out," Morris said. "It's easy to spend \$30 here and \$40 there on a meal and not think twice about it. But what if they put that money toward something more long-term, like retirement? Or building up their savings? Over time, those pizza deliveries and nights on the town add up and can make a huge difference in your budget."

Getting your financial house in order doesn't have to be a burden. Follow these tips to establish a budget and begin building healthier money habits:

Account for incidentals. When listing all the people and places you owe money, it can be easy to overlook other expenses that really add up.

Things like a work wardrobe, toiletries and personal hygiene items are necessary purchases that should be reflected in your budget.

Expect the unexpected. Even the best planned budget can fall apart when unexpected expenses arise. Ensure that you're not only directing a sum of money to your savings account each month, but that you're earmarking some of that money for emergency car repairs, an unplanned visit to the veterinarian or a critical home repair.

Don't treat your budget like a bad diet. Like a crash diet, being too restrictive with your budget will leave you discouraged and exhausted. And maybe hungry. The key is to be honest with yourself about your spending. Look at your spending history — you might be surprised to see where your money goes. Be sure to set a reasonable budget each month that allows you manage your finances without falling off the wagon.

Leverage rewards. It may seem counter-intuitive to use a credit card for expenses you don't need to buy on credit. But if you use a cash back rewards credit card for your regular essential purchases and even bills, you'll have some extra income each month. Deposit those rewards in a savings plan or allocate them to help pay down debt each month. Just remember that this approach only works to your advantage if you pay the balance each month.

Research all your money management options. A solid budget is the foundation of a good money management plan, but the type of accounts you use can also influence your financial situation. A financial advisor can help you understand the benefits and limitations of various types of checking, saving and investment accounts, as well as other products to help maximize your savings and minimize debt.

Find more information to help guide your budget planning as well as the full Principal Financial Well-Being Index: American Workers study at principal.com.

Business Briefs

Amazon holiday shipping, Christmas Eve deliveries set record

AP — Amazon.com has been a prime beneficiary of holiday shoppers going online or procrastinating.

Amazon says it shipped a record number of items worldwide for the holidays, with Christmas Eve the biggest day ever for deliveries using the company's Prime Now service. The service offers free two-hour delivery to more than 20 metropolitan areas, up from just Manhattan, where the service launched last year.

The company's Amazon Prime service, a loyalty program that includes unlimited free two-day shipping, gained 3 million new members in the third week of December alone. Amazon says Prime members shopping via mobile more than doubled.

The Seattle company did not disclose the actual number of items shipped. A report it just issued outlines trends and percentage changes in shipments, rather than sales figures.

Holiday spending up 8 percent; online sales surge

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans spent more on items like furniture during the holidays this year, with online shopping in particular seeing a big spike, according to a report released Monday.

Overall spending rose 7.9 percent from a year ago, according to the MasterCard SpendingPulse report, which tracks retail sales across cards, cash and checks from Black

Friday to Christmas Eve. The uptick was driven by people sitting in the comfort of their homes or at work, with online shopping up 20 percent.

Shopping at physical stores still accounts for the majority of spending during the holidays. But the continuing shift to online shopping is forcing retailers to improve their websites, or offer perks like faster or free delivery. Earlier this month, another report by First Data also found that online sales growth was outpacing sales growth at physical stores. That report was based on payments from Oct. 31 to Dec. 14.

The SpendingPulse report does not include spending by dollar amounts. But the National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, expects sales for November and December to rise 3.7 percent to \$630.5 billion from a year ago.

For the traditional holiday shopping period from Black Friday to Christmas Eve, the MasterCard SpendingPulse report found that furniture sales rose in the double-digit percentages, indicating that people are "willing and able" to spend on big-ticket items.

Sales of women's clothing also rose double-digits, while men's apparel declined. The report noted that the warm weather this fall pushed back sales of clothing, leading to some pent-up demand during the holiday shopping period. Retailers such as Macy's had said the unseasonably warm temperatures would force it to slash prices on items like coats and boots during the holidays.

The SpendingPulse report is based on sales activity on the MasterCard payments network, along with estimates for cash and check spending based on surveys.



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2016 BEST LOSER FAT TO FITNESS Spring Challenge!



We are seeking 2 person teams ready to take part and lose weight in January, February and March competing to claim

“The Best Loser” Spring Title and A Cash Grand Prize!

If you are ready to start losing weight, sign up for
The Best Loser Spring Challenge!

We are seeking 2 person teams ready to take part in this fitness/lifestyle change, and compete for Grand Prize!

\$15 per person or \$30 per team.

• Team photos and updates will be published. Here you'll be able to follow along with the progress of each team, and see how your team measures up. These specials will be published January 31st, March 6th, April 3rd.

• We will only provide your team's **total percentage** of weight loss, not individual weight.

• At the end of the 3-month program, the winning team will be determined by the highest percentage of weight lost, and receive the “Grand Prize”.

• Contest prizes determined on number of teams.

• To join the **Best Loser Spring Challenge**, fill out the form below and return to us with your \$30 team fee, CASH ONLY, No later than **January 25, 2016**.



**Sign-Up
Deadline
Monday, January 25th**

**DEADLINE
JANUARY 25, 2016**

(TEAM PHOTO MUST BE TAKEN, ENTRY FEE MUST BE TURNED IN AND YOU MUST WEIGH IN BY THIS DATE TO QUALIFY FOR CHALLENGE)

Sign us up for the Best Loser Challenge!

Team Name (Be Creative) _____

email: _____

Team Member 1: _____ phone: _____

Team Member 2: _____ phone: _____

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