

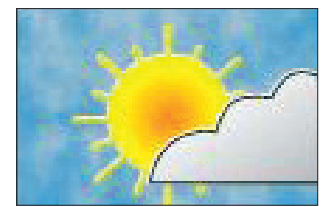
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**Howard County
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See Page 6A

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HIGH SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY
 DECEMBER 2, 2009



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HERALD file photo

The area adjacent to Dorothy Garrett Coliseum will be ablaze in brightly decorated Christmas displays when Howard College hosts its annual Luminaria display Friday evening. Santa Claus will be on hand in the coliseum's lobby at 6 p.m., organizers said.

Luminaria display set Friday on Howard College campus

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

Howard College's Christmas gift to the community will be a bit pared down but no less sincere this year, organizers said.

The college's annual Christmas Luminaria ceremony, which will feature a visit from Santa Claus, will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, but construction projects on the campus have forced organizers to scale back the event from past years.

Construction will force Santa indoors to Garrett Coliseum this year, said Cindy Smith, communications director for the college. Children can

visit with St. Nick in the coliseum foyer starting at 6 p.m. In addition, decorations will be on display adjacent to the coliseum, Smith noted.

Parents are encouraged to bring cameras to take photos of their children with either Santa or by the decorations, Smith said.

Hundreds of luminarias will be illuminated later that evening, Smith said.

Also that evening, Phi Theta Kappa will hold a canned food drive, she noted.

"Everybody is encouraged to bring whatever they can spare and donate to the canned food drive," Smith said. "Everything raised will stay in

the local area."

Smith also encourages the public to attend the Howard College women's basketball game with Dyess Air Force Base, set to tip off at 5:30 p.m. The college dance troupe will perform at halftime.

Despite the scaled-back nature of the event, everyone is still welcome.

"This is a long-standing tradition at the college," she said. "This is our Christmas gift to the community."

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

Candidates begin filing Thursday

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

Area political hopefuls can begin filing their candidacy with party chairmen and the Howard County Elections Office Thursday, as preparations for the March primaries begin.

"Candidates will file their campaign finance reports with my office throughout the campaign," said County Elections Administrator Sandra Bloom. "However, they will officially file their candidacy with the party chairman. Until they have done that, they are not actually in the race."



Barr Moore

Among the seats up for grabs in March is county judge, currently held by Mark Barr. Barr said this week he does plan to run for re-election.

"I enjoy the job, and after the first term I feel like now I'm really beginning to get a hold of it," said Barr. "So I will definitely be seeking a second term."

District Court Judge Robert H. Moore III, who has held the seat of 118th District Court Judge for more than 20 years, announced in November he will not be seeking re-election this year. Big Spring attorney Tim Yeats has already announced he plans to run for the seat.

"I look forward to the primary election, as well as the opportunity to serve the residents of the 118th Judicial District as district judge," Yeats said when he announced his intent to run. He will

See **FILING**, Page 3A

Another winter: City battling torrent of water line breaks

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

Officials say the recent fluctuations in the weather may be to blame for the increase in main water line breaks, as city crews continue to play catchup on more than a half-dozen jobs in the last week.

According to City Water Distribution and Collection Superintendent Rick Boiles, he and his crews have repaired seven main water line breaks since the middle of last week.

"It's really hard to say at this point why we're having so many breaks right now," said Boiles. "It's safe to say, however, that this is certainly more than the norm."



Boiles

Assistant City Manager Todd Darden said local residents can protect their property — and more to the point, their water lines — by taking precautions as temperatures continue to drop in the Crossroads area.

"That means leaving your hot and cold water dripping just enough to keep the pipes from freezing, as well as insulating any exterior pipes or fixtures," said Darden.

"We also suggest people take old newspaper or towels and stuff them in their meter boxes to help keep them from freezing. The boxes are underground, but they still sit in a void, so they are susceptible to the freezing temperatures and could burst."

Darden said area residents should also remember to insulate any sewer lines which are above ground or not buried at a safe depth, which would

be 12 inches to 18 inches.

"If people don't take precautions, I expect we'll be handling quite a few emergency water cut-offs," he said.

Darden said freezing temperatures can also cause numerous breaks in the city's main water lines — deemed "Code Blue" by city officials — something he's hoping to avoid during the current cold snap.

"As long as the temperature warms up gradually, we should be OK," said Darden. "However, if the warmer weather comes back quicker than we're expecting, we could certainly see a lot more main breaks in the city."

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

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Greenwood drops Lady Steers in second half

By **JOE ZIGTEMA**
Sports Editor

The Lady Steers made a strong bid for a win in their first home game of the season Tuesday night as the Greenwood Lady Rangers used a big second half to drop Big Spring 49-39.

Leading 17-11 at halftime, the Lady Steers were shutting down a big Greenwood team defensively and on the glass. That changed in the second half, when the Lady Rangers were able to get second looks at the basket and their offense on track. They outscored Big Spring 38-22 in the second half.

Nonetheless, Big Spring head coach Mike Warren said he was pleased with the way the team played.

"It was one of the best games we've played all year," he said. "I thought we played well. They kind of woke up the second half, and we just needed to respond."

Kendall Ivie and Peyton Pyle each scored 15 points to pace Greenwood, which improves to 5-2 on the season. Linzee Yarbar scored 10 points for the Lady Steers, and Cerbi Ritchey grabbed seven of the team's 12 rebounds.

"They are good," Warren said. "I knew they would come on eventually,

and we turned the ball over there two or three times in a row, and we just can't do that."

Bridgette Tuitt was back on the floor for the Lady Steers after missing the first part of the season due to injury. Warren said her presence was a boost for the team.

"You can tell she makes a big difference for us with her hustle and her athleticism," he said.

The girls team dropped to 1-4 on the season. Big Spring will be in action again Thursday at the Andrews tournament against Abernathy. Tipoff is 3 p.m. in Andrews.



HERALD File Photo/Tony Claxton
Lauren Porras scores inside against Greenwood at Steer Gym Tuesday.



HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton
Tristian Clay puts up a shot Tuesday at Steer Gym against San Angelo Central while Devonte Llyoyd looks on. The Steers lost 59-55.

Steer comeback falls short

By **JOE ZIGTEMA**
Sports Editor

At the end of the first quarter Tuesday night, it was obvious the Steer basketball team was rubbing off rust from football season.

The slow start, a 17-4 first frame, doomed Big Spring in a 59-55 loss to San Angelo as the Steers were unable to complete a comeback win with a full bench.

"They hadn't played together very much, so it looked like it was the first day of basketball," head coach Marcus Morris said.

After showing a Jerrell Williams three-pointer and a free throw as its only points in the first eight minutes, the Steers started to click as they roared back in the second quarter to make it 32-27 at halftime.

"The rout could have been on (after the first quarter), but we started making plays, getting to the basket, shots started falling a little bit," Morris said. "But then, whenever we got in trouble, we resorted back to too much standing, maybe too much dribbling, and basketball is a team game and it takes everybody."

The game was hard-fought the rest of the way, and the Steers took a one-point lead midway through the fourth quarter. But the offense sputtered down the stretch, going without a basket over the last 1:30.

"We wanted to win, we had our chances to win, but realistically it wasn't going to look pretty all the time," Morris said. "We had some dropped passes that we won't do later in the season, and there was lots of standing on offense, and we won't do that all season."

Central guard Reggie Sutton scored a game-high 23 points to lead the Bobcats. Jerrell Williams' 12 points led the way for the Steers. Tyler Tannehill and Jacob Falcon both scored nine, Tristian Clay added seven and Tevian Parnell had six in the loss, in which several Steers were moving in and out of the game.

"I was messing with lineups, trying to figure out who plays where, and that's a lot for one game," Morris said. "That's a lot for five games. That's a lot for 10 practices."

"Sometimes when you share as many athletes as we do, having as many kids that like to play, which is great, you're just behind the eight-ball."

The Steers have a quick turnaround as they will open the Andrews Tournament with Lamesa on Thursday. Game time is 10:30 a.m.

"We knew what it was going to be, and we'll make the adjustments and everything will be alright," Morris said of breaking in his new players. "We have experience at this because most of these guys did it last year."

Coahoma defeats Seagraves in Tuesday home doubleheader

Herald Staff Report

COAHOMA — The Coahoma Bulldogs used a 15-4 first-quarter run to jump on Seagraves Tuesday night on their way to a 58-40 win.

Martin Leija scored seven of his 10 points in the first quarter to fuel the Bulldogs' early charge.

"We got on them quickly," head coach Kim Nichols said. "(Leija) came out shooting the ball real well, and that kind of got us going."

Coahoma extended its lead in the second quarter to 32-15 and cruised the rest of the way to the win over a depleted Seagraves squad.

"They were missing several kids to football injuries, and Seagraves will be a lot better when they get those kids back," Nichols said.

The Bulldogs were also hustlers on the boards, despite a lack of size, Nichols said. Senior Lane Douglass

grabbed nine rebounds and Hunter Williams notched seven to go along with his 10 points.

Coahoma improved to 3-1 on the season going into the Coahoma Invitational.

"Everybody played well, everybody contributed, and we hope to use that as a springboard to our tournament this weekend," Nichols said.

COAHOMA 85, Seagraves 35

COAHOMA — The Bulldogs, like the Bulldogs, used a fast start to jump all over Seagraves in an 85-35 win Tuesday night at home.

Coahoma had 48 points at the half, using a fast-paced offense to light up the scoreboard.

"We were executing our press pretty well and came out hitting our shots and got rolling," head

See **COAHOMA**, Page 2B

Forsan takes sweep of Sterling City at home

By **JOE ZIGTEMA**
Sports Editor

FORSAN — If not for a strong fourth quarter, things could have been a lot worse for the Sterling City Eagles on Tuesday night.

The Lady Buffaloes steamrolled the Lady Eagles through three quarters, building an 18-point lead, and held on in the fourth for a 56-45 win.

The Lady Buffaloes shot 27 free throws in the contest, getting to

the line early and often. But they made just 13 of those.

"We've got some guards that can put it on the floor," head coach Robert Hillger said. "We're getting to the line, but we've got to make more free throws."

The Lady Buffs defense stifled Sterling City through three quarters, at which point the Lady Eagles had just 28 points, but a 17-point effort in the final frame closed the

winning margin significantly.

"That's a defensive letdown in my mind in the fourth quarter," Hillger said. "But we really did some good things defensively, I thought, through three quarters."

Guard Kelsey Jones led the team with 14 points. Forsan improved to 6-0 on the season despite still missing its leading rebounder and scorer

See **BUFFS**, Page 2B



HERALD Photo/Joe Zigtema
Forsan's Kelsey Jones puts up a shot against Sterling City on Tuesday in Forsan. The girls won 56-45.

Sports in brief

Big Spring junior class to host dodge ball tournament

The Big Spring junior class is hosting a dodge ball tournament Dec. 12 for Goliad, junior high and high school students.

Each team is guaranteed at least three games. Teams must consist of four girls and four boys. Cost is \$5.

Registration starts at 8 a.m. Dec. 12. Games will begin at 9 a.m.

For more information, contact Sonya Hall at Big Spring High School.

Howard College Hawk Buddies Program scheduled this weekend

The Howard College Hawks women's basketball team is hosting a clinic Saturday for girls kindergarten through eighth grade.

Cost is \$20 for the event. This includes a T-shirt, free admission for all family members to Howard College home games, a pizza party and Buddies Night with the Hawks, including autographs and pictures.

All proceeds benefit the Hawks basketball program. Call Earl Diddle at 264-5043 for more information.

Big Spring U-14 soccer team wins San Angelo tournament

The Cyclones, Big Spring's U-14 soccer team, won the San Angelo Classic Nov. 22.

The team went 3-1 during the tournament to capture the gold, defeating the San Angelo Quakes, Sharks and Inferno.

The Cyclones defeated the Inferno 4-0 in the championship game Nov. 22.

Goalie Garrett Kilgora allowed one goal in the tournament. Diego Rodriguez scored five goals in the tournament, as well.

Obituaries

Maryella 'Granny' Strain

Maryella "Granny" Strain, 84, of Big Spring died Monday, Nov. 30, 2009, at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009, at the First Baptist Church in Big Spring with Clint Collins, pastor of Life Church, officiating. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at the Handley Cemetery in Mitchell County.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

She was born Aug. 5, 1925, in Garber, Okla., and married Lon A. Strain Jr. on March 18, 1949, in Snyder. He preceded her in death April 6, 1987.

Mary received her BA degree and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Hardin Simmons University. She was a homemaker and a member of Life Church.

Survivors include five sons, Robert Strain of Charles Town, W. Va., John Strain of Amarillo, Jim Strain, Tim Strain and wife, Robin, and Steve Strain, all of Big Spring; one daughter, Esther Whitmore and husband, Scott, of Big Spring; one sister, Betty Jarratt of Big Spring; two brothers, Charles Rathmell and wife, Verna, of Potosi, and James Rathmell and wife, Betty, of Bossier City, La.; 11 grandchildren; six great grandchildren; a brother-in-law, Jack Strain of Colorado City; a sister-in-law, Barbara Strain of Colorado City; and three special friends, Lisa Chapman of Phoenix, Ariz., Venus O'Hara of Midland and Terina Whalin-Meyers of Lubbock.

The family suggests memorials be made to Relay for Life, c/o Sandy Griffin, 1217 E. 17th, Big Spring 79720; or the American Cancer Society, c/o Carolyn Brooks, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring 79721-2121.

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

Paid obituary

Joe Rivera

Joe Rivera, 55, of Big Spring died Monday, Nov. 30, 2009, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Vigil services will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Deacon Johnny Arguello officiating.

He was born Oct. 23, 1954, in Denver, Colo. He was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. He was a corrections officer at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Colorado City. He lived in Big Spring for more than 20 years, moving from Denver, and was a Catholic.

He is survived by his wife, Dominga "Sandy" Rivera of Big Spring; one son, Dakota Rivera of Big Spring; five sisters, Esther Gonzales, Felice Rivera, and Maxine Sanchez, all of Denver, Colo., Bertha Quintana of Longmont, Colo., and Mary Garcia of El Paso; one brother, Frank Beccera of El Paso; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

Charlene Price Tucker

Charlene Price Tucker, 81, died Nov. 25, 2009, at Ohio State University Medical Center. A memorial service was held Dec. 1, 2009, at Jerry Spears Funeral Home in Columbus, Ohio. Burial will be in Big Spring at a later date.

Charlene was a graduate of Big Spring High School and Hardin-Simmons University. She retired from Westinghouse in Ohio.

She is survived by a sister, Emma (David) Thwing of New Albany, Ind.; six nieces and one nephew; numerous great-nieces and nephews; and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Frankie Tucker; brothers, E.C. (Bud) and Sterling; and sisters, Helen, Frances and Mary Evelyn.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, Kan. 66675-8517.

Edna 'Doyle' Davidson Baugh

Edna "Doyle" Davidson Baugh, who was better known to her many friends as "Granny," died Monday, Nov. 30, 2009, in Baytown after a brief illness. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Doyle's life was a life well lived, as testified by the wide expanse of loving family and friends who mourn her loss.

Doyle was born March 15, 1918, to Otis and Edna Davidson in Big Spring. The family moved to the Courtney area and she graduated from Courtney High School. She married the love of her life, Eugene Baugh, March 21, 1936. They had

two children, a daughter, Martha, and a son, Jerry, at which time the family moved from the farm into town at Stanton.

She worked in the school cafeteria early on to be near the children. She also worked at the Stanton Drug Store off and on through the years, as well as earning a cosmetology license, at which time she went to work at Lila's Beauty Parlor and Dress Shop in Stanton. After retiring, she volunteered when needed at the First Baptist Church of Stanton — where she was a long time member — working in the nursery, where she became Granny to all, as well as keeping children in her home and became their other "Granny" as well.

She lived in Stanton until the point she could no longer drive and went to live in Midland with her son and his family for a period of time, and then spent her last years in Baytown with her daughter.

Doyle was preceded in death by her mother and father; her loving husband, Eugene; son, Jerry Baugh; and grandsons, Douglas Lambert and Randy Rhodes.

She is survived by her daughter, Martha Horelica of Baytown; daughter-in-law, Joyce Baugh of Midland; grandchildren, Debbie St.Clair and husband, Mark, Becky Dickenson, Steven Baugh and wife, Misti, and Chris Baugh and wife, Mandy.

She is also survived by great-grandchildren, Cassy Dickenson Peacock and husband, Preston, Amber Dickenson Stoker and husband, Slade, Stephen St. Clair, Alan Baugh, Alexis, Tyler and Dawson Baugh; as well as great-great grandchildren, Ethan, Preslea and Ayden Peacock, and Addison and Aryn Stoker. The family was lucky to have recorded several four and five-generation memories in testament to a life full of love of family.

Visitation will occur at the Gilbreath Funeral Home in Stanton Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. A funeral service will be held at the First Baptist Church of Stanton at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 4, 2009, with Pastor David Harp officiating and interment to follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Paid obituary

Mario Cevallos

Mario Cevallos, 86, of Midland died Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009, at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Midland with the Rev. Gilbert Rodriguez officiating. Interment will follow at 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009, at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel in Big Spring.

Mario was born Jan. 19, 1923, in Gonzales to Genevra and Juan Cevallos. He married Guadalupe Sanchez on May 19, 1943, in Jourdan.

Survivors include his wife, Guadalupe Sanchez of Midland; daughter, Lupe Miller of Midland; daughter, Amelia Hurren of Big Spring; daughter, Anna Dubow of Largo, Fla.; daughter, Josie Pyburn of Midland; son, Mario Cevallos Jr. of Coahoma; nine grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

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

Hugh H. Hurt Jr.

Hugh H. Hurt Jr., 81, formerly of Big Spring, died Monday, Nov. 30, 2009 in California. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

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COAHOMA

Continued from 1B

running into the passing lanes and got a bunch of easy buckets to start off with.”

Kylie Gee led the Bulldogettes with 26 points, one of four players in double figures. K’Leigh Fowler scored 16, Lynzi Ferrell had 15 and Kenzie Stone scored 10 in the game as well.

The Coahoma zone defense allowed seven first-half points.

“We were closing out hard on defense, we were blocking out well so we got some quick outlets and our point guards were doing a good job of looking up the court,” Faught said.

Coahoma is 3-3 on the season heading into the

Coahoma Invitational this weekend. The Bulldogettes will play Sands on Thursday and Sweetwater on Friday.

“It was fun,” Faught said. “They’re starting to figure out now that up-tempo pace is what we need to be doing, and we’re just finding the quick outlet on the defensive end and letting our defense turn into our offense.”

Coahoma 85, Seagraves 35
Seagraves 4 3 14 14 -- 35
Coahoma 30 18 26 11 -- 85
Coahoma- Kylie Gee 26,
K’Leigh Fowler 16, Lynzi
Ferrell 15, Kenzie Stone 10,
Jennifer Castilaw 6, Ashley
Burke 5, Joanna Gonzales 5

Coahoma 58, Seagraves 40
Seagraves 4 11 11 14 -- 40
Coahoma 15 17 13 13 -- 58
Leija 10, Williams 10,
Hahn 9, Garcia 7, Ringener
5, Paniagua 2, Bridge 2,
Crabtree 2, Sawyers 2

Patterson gets contract extension

FORT WORTH (AP) —TCU coach Gary Patterson agreed Wednesday to a new contract that will keep him with the Horned Frogs through the 2016 season.

Patterson, who had been mentioned as a possible candidate to fill the Notre Dame vacancy, has led fourth-ranked TCU to five 11-win seasons the past seven years. TCU just completed its first undefeated regular season since 1938, when it won its only AP national championship.

TCU (12-0, 8-0 Mountain West) is waiting to find out Sunday which of the big-money Bowl Championship Series games it will play

in. The Frogs are fourth in the BCS standings, the highest ever this late in the season for a team from a conference without an automatic bid.

Patterson has an 85-27 record in his ninth season at TCU. His contract had been through 2014, and the revised deal includes pay raises for him and his assistant coaches.

Patterson, 49, came to TCU as a defensive coordinator with coach Dennis Franchione after the 1997 season, when the Frogs were coming off a 1-10 season.

“We had a vision, as you can see on that pyramid,” Patterson said, referring to the

pyramid of goals in the team’s meeting room. “That pyramid has not changed since we started, of reaching a BCS bowl, going to a national championship and doing a lot of things. And a lot of people laughed and a lot of people shook their heads and they were just saying, well, that’s nice.”

TCU wrapped up its undefeated regular season and outright Mountain West Conference title with a 51-10 victory over New Mexico on Saturday. It was the Frogs’ seventh consecutive victory by at least 27 points, a stretch that included BYU and Utah, last year’s BCS buster.

BOX SCORES

Sterling City 45, Forsan 56
Ster. City 12 11 5 17 -- 45
Forsan 18 15 13 10 -- 56

Forsan- Kelsey Jones 14, Ambra Hill 13, Morgan Forshee 12, Miranda Park 7, Brittney Romer 5, Casey Stanley 3, Shelby Jones 2

Greenwood 49, Big Spring 39
Greenwood 5 6 18 20 -- 49
Big Spring 11 6 9 13 -- 39

Big Spring- Yarbar 10, Ross, 5, Seaton 5, Tuitt 5, Ritchey 3, Anderson 3

San Angelo Central 59, Big Spring 55
SA Central 17 15 12 15 -- 59
Big Spring 4 23 13 15 -- 55

Big Spring- Williams 12, Clay 7, Falcon 9, T. Parnell 6, Plakhotny 2, Menefield 4, Tannehill 9, X. Parnell 4

Garden City 46, Reagan Co. 40
Reagan Co. 3 16 5 16 -- 40
Garden City 22 6 10 8 -- 46

Garden City- Morgan Schwartz 18, Paige Niehues 14, Lauren Schwartz 4, Kate Halfmann 5, Amber Halfmann 3, Rachel Hirt 2

Reagan Co.- Bradley 11, Pullig 8, Garner 7, Goodlee 6, Guerrero 6, Schneeman 2

BUFFS

Continued from 1B

from last season, and has had to rely on a dribble-drive offense.

“I think they’ve played up to expectations,” Hillger said. “I knew we would be aggressive, I knew our guard play had to carry us and they really have. I’m very pleased.”

The Lady Buffs will be in action again Thursday in the Garden City tournament.

Forsan Boys 47, Sterling City 40

FORSAN — Evan Burton was on for the Buffaloes Tuesday night against Sterling City.

The senior dropped 30 points on the Eagles as Forsan rolled to a 47-40 win at home.

“They started playing us in a man, so we went four in and one out and he just took it in,” head coach Brad Batla said. “He’s going to be our go-to guy.”

The Buffs held a 13-point lead going into the final frame, where they were outscored 11-5 to close the margin.

“In the fourth quarter, we let down a little bit,” Batla said,

“and we showed our youth. We had some bad turnovers in some bad spots. But overall I was pleased with how we got after them and forced turnovers on their part.”

The defense held the Eagles to no more than 12 points in a quarter and only 14 points in the paint. Zach Fosters, Sterling City’s leading scorer, had 14 points.

Burton also led the team

with six rebounds. Patrick Robles grabbed four boards and forced two steals.

“In the first half they were getting some second chance opportunities, but in the second half we started rebounding a little better and contesting every shot,” Batla said. “We are getting better and better every day so that’s a good thing.”

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News in brief

Obama turns to Congress, allies to support troop expansion in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats are complaining about President Barack Obama's escalation of the war in Afghanistan and Republicans are unhappy with his promise to withdraw troops in 18 months, but Congress appears willing to approve the build-up's \$30 billion price tag.

Lawmakers planned to use two days of high-profile hearings on the war, beginning Wednesday, to express their misgivings about the plan, which calls for a quick infusion of troops through July 2011, when the U.S. will begin to withdraw its forces.

Obama's escalation strategy won quick backing from NATO allies. But Afghan leaders, while praising the speech, had questions about the 18-month timetable for withdrawal.

Obama pledged Tuesday night to an audience of Army cadets at the U.S. Military Academy that the shift from surge to exit strategy would depend on the military situation in Afghanistan.

"We will execute this transition responsibly, taking into account conditions on the ground," Obama said, declaring

that the nation's security was at stake and that the additional troops were needed to "bring this war to a successful conclusion."

Iran releases 5 British sailors

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran released on Wednesday five British sailors detained last week when their 60-foot racing yacht drifted accidentally into Iran's Persian Gulf waters and was seized. Britain welcomed the end of the men's ordeal.

The elite Revolutionary Guard, whose navy had stopped the vessel, interrogated the yachtsmen and found that their "illegal entry" into Iranian waters had been a mistake, the official IRNA news agency said.

The release is an overture to London, which has been trying to keep the incident from getting tangled up in politics — not only in the rancor between Tehran and the West over Iran's nuclear issue but also the country's own internal postelection turmoil, which has pumped up the leadership's fears of foreign plots.

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband said he received confirmation of the release and that the five Britons were being towed to international waters.

"I welcome the fact

this has been dealt with in a straightforward, professional way by the Iranian authorities," Miliband said. "Obviously this has been a real ordeal for the young men and their families and I'm really delighted that it's over for them and that we can call the matter closed."

Gate-crashers admit they went to White House dinner without invitation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Copies of e-mails between the White House party crashers and a Pentagon official undermine their claims that they were invited to President Barack Obama's first state dinner.

Tareq and Michael Salahi pressed the friendly Pentagon aide for four days to score tickets to the big event. By their own admission in the e-mails, they showed up at the White House gates at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 24 without an invitation — "to just check in, in case it got approved since we didn't know, and our name was indeed on the

list!"

But the Secret Service has said they weren't on that list and that it erred by letting them in anyway.

In an e-mail sent just hours after last week's dinner to Pentagon official Michele Jones, the Salahis claimed a dead cell phone battery prevented them from hearing Jones' voice mail earlier that day advising them they did not make the guest list.

A collection of e-mails between the Salahis and Jones was obtained Tuesday night by The Associated Press from a source who got them in a manner that confirmed their authenticity.

GM CEO resigns as board demands swifter turnaround

DETROIT (AP) — The leader of the new General Motors was done in by an old problem at the nation's largest car maker: Change wasn't happening fast enough.

GM's board and CEO Fritz Henderson parted ways Tuesday, the board upset that the automaker's turnaround wasn't moving more

swiftly and Henderson frustrated with second-guessing, two people close to the former CEO said.

Board Chairman Ed Whitacre Jr., the former head of AT&T Inc., will take over as CEO while a global search is conducted.

It was unclear whether Henderson or the board moved first in the surprise resignation, which came just hours before Henderson was to be the high-profile keynote speaker at the Los Angeles Auto Show. At a hastily called news conference at General Motors Co.'s downtown Detroit headquarters, Whitacre would not answer questions, but said the board and Henderson agreed that he should step down.

Shooting death of man wanted in slaying of 4 cops ends manhunt

SEATTLE (AP) — An ex-con accused of gunning down four police officers patched the

gunshot wound to his belly with gauze and duct tape and managed to elude a massive manhunt until a lone officer stopped to check out a suspicious vehicle in the middle of the night.

Moments later, Maurice Clemmons was dead.

Clemmons' death early Tuesday brought to an end two days of fear across the Seattle-Tacoma area and one of the biggest manhunts the region has ever seen. Officer Benjamin Kelly had spotted a stolen car, its hood up and engine running, on a south Seattle street and pulled over to check it out. As the patrolman sat in his cruiser, a burly man with a large mole on his cheek came up from behind, Assistant Seattle Police Chief Jim Pugel

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Joe Rivera, 55, died Monday. Vigil Services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

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John A. Moseley Managing Editor... Ext. 230
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Representative seat, currently held by Joe Heflin (D-Crosbyton).

To file candidacy with the Republican party, contact Chairman Craig Bailey at 267-2464. To file with the Democratic party, contact Chairman Roland Gore at 264-7805.

Bloom said the deadline for local candidates to file is Jan. 24 at 5 p.m.

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

FILING

Continued from Page 1A

be running on the Republican ticket.

Also on the March ticket will be the Precinct 2 seat on the County Commissioners Court, currently held by Jerry Kilgore, and the Precinct 4 seat, held by Gary Simer.

Kilgore indicated he plans to run for re-election on the Republican ticket, while Simer will seek re-election on the Democratic ticket.

County Treasurer Teresa Thomas said she will be running for re-election for her current office, as will County Clerk Donna Wright and District Clerk Colleen Barton.

Also up for election in local races will be the U.S. Representative 19th District seat, currently held by Randy Neugebauer (R-Lubbock), and the District 85 Texas

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EXP. 12/31/09

Police blotter

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

Note: The BSPD reported no arrests during the corresponding time period.

- THEFT was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported: in the 2600 block of Cactus. in the 3200 block of Cornell. in the 700 block of 13th Street. in the 3200 block of Duke.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1100 block of 13th Street.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 78 inmates at the time of this report.

- GUADALUPE HERNANDEZ HINOJOS, 36, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for assault causing bodily injury.
- ARTHUR EARL JACKSON, 42, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.
- ALEXANDER QUINTANA, 29, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for theft.

Fire/EMS

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


- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of Stadium. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Anna. One person was transported to SMMC.

Lottery

The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Cash 5" game were: 07-22-27-30-32.

The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Daily 4 Night" game were: 6-6-4-0.

The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Pick 3 Night" game were: 2-5-7.



Juan Montelongo

Congratulations Juan on receiving Employee of the Month! Juan has been with us since July '09 and does a wonderful job in Dietary as well as in other Departments if needed.


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208937

CONTACT PERSON: 432-264-5061

DATE: 12/0309

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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Suits do nothing to help our kids

Are you sitting down? Seriously, get this: Some Texas school districts have gone to court attempting to strike down a new state law that requires that a student's grades actually mean what they say.

(You said you were sitting down.)

Hard to imagine, right? Yes, sadly, but true.

Six districts near Houston — Aldine, Fort Bend, Klein, Alief, Anahuac and Clear Creek — have filed a lawsuit that challenges a measure the Texas Legislature passed this spring that requires truth-in-grading. Lawmakers got into high gear after reading reports about school districts assigning students minimum grades, even if they were doing closer to zero work. Minimum-grade policies usually assign a grade of 50 to a student for a grading period, even if that student has earned something less than that.

Sen. Jane Nelson, a Republican from Flower Mound, led the charge against such wrongheaded policies, resulting in unanimous votes by both chambers of the Legislature to prohibit them. Legislators were very clear in wanting to curb the practice of giving students grades they didn't earn.

To be fair, some districts argue that minimum-grade policies are really best for kids. Here's how the plaintiffs explained it in their suit:

"Minimum grading policies ... ensure that a student still may gain credit for a course as a whole and in turn continue progressing toward graduation, even after receiving a failing grade in, say, the first grading period, provided they can attain requisite grades in subsequent grading periods for the course. As such, minimum grading policies for report cards are a key tool for keeping students in school."

In other words, if a child tanks in the first grading period with an extremely low score in math, that student still could work back to a passing score by knocking it out of the park in subsequent grading periods. We understand wanting to keep from discouraging kids, but we also recognize that it does children and their families no good to assign grades they don't deserve.

A teacher commenting on our Education Front blog (dallasnews.com/education) expressed this clearly:

"A kid who gets a 25 during one six-week period could pass — might pass if the kid pulls their act together and starts working. If they don't, well — so we lie to the parent and represent their effort as "half-done" with a 50, when, in fact, they have not done that, even? Have you seen the faces of parents who come up to a teacher to complain about a 50, then watch the horror and dismay when they found out it was really a 37? Then they wonder if they can believe any grade!"

To us, that's really the issue. Either grades mean what they say, or they don't.

We have to hope that North Texas school districts see it that way. If any of them sign on with these plaintiffs, they will do their students far more harm than good.

—THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Palin: Going rogue, getting even

"Going Rogue: An American Life" acquaints the reader with author Sarah Palin's life and work before she was plucked from her Little House on the Tundra to serve as John McCain's running mate and turned into a national caricature.

Here you see the Alaska governor with the 90 percent approval rating, who took on not only what became known as the GOP's "Corrupt Bastards Club" but also Big Oil companies that were "just sitting on" their North Slope leases when they should have been drilling.

The 2008 campaign coverage portrayed Palin as a rigid culture warrior. Breaking with the stereotype, "Going Rogue" tells the story of a social conservative who in 2006 vetoed a bill to ban the extension of benefits to the same-sex partners of state employees because she thought it was unconstitutional. Despite her aversion to tax increases, the pragmatic Palin also championed a sales tax to fund Wasilla law enforcement.

Palin never addresses the frequent criticism thrown her way by journalists who wondered if Palin possessed any intellectual curiosity — in light of her failure to get a passport until 2007. If she failed to roam the Tuscan hills in her junior year abroad, at least thanks to her teacher father, Sarah Heath grew up majoring in the exotic natural world around her. She knew all about the state bird (ptarmigans), the difference between glacial crevices and crevasses, as well as what differentiates the grizzly from the brown bear. Dang.

To establish her literary credentials, Palin offers quotes from Blaise Pascal and Pearl S. Buck. She was the reader of the Heath family. Growing up, she recalls reading "The Pearl," "Animal Farm" and "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" — which probably had folks at the New

York Review of Books howling. And that's OK because Palin never aspires to be seen as an intellectual — not when she perkily observes, "Everything I ever needed to know, I learned on the basketball court."

Of course, no Sarah Palin story would be complete without a media pile-on — and the virulently anti-Palin have been happy to oblige.

New York Times columnist Frank Rich whacked Palin for her "wide-eyed infatuation with show-business celebrities" because Palin mentioned talking to Bono and Warren Beatty on the phone. That's a choice hit, considering how star-slobbering and celebrity-waving Democrats tend to be.

Rich also went after the Alaska governor for drafting a letter from God to her family about Trig, the Down syndrome baby whom she was about to deliver. Now, I understand that in some exalted circles, it is fashionable to make fun of people's faith, even when a working mother of four is bargaining with her God as she faces the daunting prospect of bringing into the world a special needs child. So: Ha, ha, ha. Thanks for the lesson in liberal compassion.

Newsweek didn't boost its credibility with its cover of Sarah Palin in running shorts next to the headline: "How do you solve a problem like Sarah?"

The Associated Press assigned 11 reporters to "fact-check" the book. I use quotes because the article ignores big issues in the book while it selectively culls minutiae. For example, Palin writes that a Supreme Court Exxon Valdez decision went "in favor of the people." The AP story somehow ignores Palin's history in pushing for monetary damages for the victims, but instead quotes Palin having once said she was "disappointed" at the court's reduction in damages. The piece fails to give Palin credit for taking a position that put the pro-drilling Palin at odds with Big Oil — in its trivial pursuit to bare a niggling inconsistency. AP used a lot of people to tell readers nothing.

Much ink has been devoted to Palin's salvos against McCain

campaign gurus Steve Schmidt and Nicolle Wallace, whom Palin blames for over-handling her and underselling McCain. Schmidt told "Politico" that Palin's book is "all fiction."

Palin wants readers to believe that she would have been a better running mate if only McCain handlers had heeded a grassroots "Free Sarah" campaign. The problem is: Palin's failure to own up to her knowledge gaps on foreign policy — she couldn't even answer a simple question about bad Supreme Court decisions — suggest that if freed to just be herself, Palin may well have fallen flatter faster.

The book begins with an Arctic-centric map that shows "The View from the Top of the World." It's a nice touch that shows how insignificant and distant Washington looks from Wasilla.

While I appreciate Palin sharing the perspective, it would be nice if she had taken on many of the perceptions some voters have developed of her. There's no question that many in the media treated Palin — and her family — poorly. That said, Palin herself blew the Katie Couric interview, and not just because she appeared impatient. Palin herself quit her job as Alaska governor, despite her obligation to state voters. Palin herself seems happy to parade herself as the far right's favorite victim, when a serious politician would be out trying to woo skeptics.

Sarah Palin has her shtick down. She's folksy and quotable. She has delivered a book that will thrill a base that loves to shout, "They done her wrong." Her true believers will see even measured criticism as another assault on their gal. At the end of the book tour, she returns to her now-familiar role of victim, a victim on the top of her world.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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• **JOHN CORNYN**
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• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative
19th Cong. District
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Checkouts and markups

It's that time of the year again. Time to feel like a fool. I started early this year, at Bed Bath and Beyond. Mind you, I love the store — two shiny new floors of beautiful things that you don't have to try on. I'm a goner for candles and diffusers, not to mention cordless vacuum cleaners. And they even have beauty products and potato chips in the checkout line. It should be bliss.

It is, until I see everyone else heading for the register fidgeting their stacks of full-size coupons, each one good for 20 percent off.

I get coupons, too. They come in the mail once in a while, and I put them in a pile, and then they disappear. I have tried keeping them in my car, but they don't stay there, either. One way or another, they are rarely with me when I take the turn on Beyond Way (I'm telling you, it's a great store). And even if they were, how many would I have?

Before I moved this last time, I saved every one of the coupons I saw for weeks, and maybe I had six. Believe me, six is nothing compared to everyone else in line. The most I ever saw was a

woman who had them organized by denomination — some for 20 percent off, some for \$10 dollars off, etc. For each item, she'd do the math and hand the cashier a coupon. She had a lot of items.

I asked her how she did it. My mother-in-law, she responded, and everyone nodded. They deliver piles of those coupons to apartment buildings around town that other women's mothers and mothers-in-law live in. I don't have either, a mother or a mother-in-law. I hear my mother's voice telling me that if only I'd done something different, she'd still be alive and living in a condo where women collect coupons for their daughters and daughters-in-law.

It's a slow process, with all the coupons. And it's hard not to think, as you stand there watching the person in front of you pay less for each item, that you are paying way too much. If they can afford to charge 20 percent less for every item in the store, they must be marking everything up by more than enough to cover those margins. And then you wonder: What kind of an idiot would pay full price for everything? Gotta be a complete fool.

That's my mother talking, and of course, she's talking about me.

Even when I have my "courtesy card" with me or can

remember which phone number it's attached to, if I don't get the discount on the spot — and often that's not how it works — I'm likely to "lose" it, which is to say I'll misplace the money-off coupon on the register tape or the "reward" that comes by mail. And then it expires. And neither of my children will go with me if I am going to demand that they honor my expired coupon. So there I am, the sucker again.

I remember when one of the car dealers announced that they would simply tell people the price of a car. That's what I want when I go shopping. I don't want to have to bring a guy or a calculator. I don't want to have to work. Some people love to negotiate. I fight for a living. I think I'm very good at it. It's not what I do for pleasure. For pleasure, I like to shop, not calculate and negotiate.

It's bad enough when you travel and realize the people sitting next to you paid half of what you paid for the ticket. OK, they decided earlier. Fair enough. But why should I need a mother-in-law to buy great candles?

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News in brief

TABC announces new alcohol poisoning amnesty for minors

AUSTIN (AP) — An amnesty program by Texas alcohol regulators is meant to stop youth poisoning deaths.

The announcement Wednesday by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission came on the first anniversary of the California death of an 18-year-old college student from Austin.

Carson Starkey was a freshman at California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, who died after attending a Sigma Alpha Epsilon party. Police have said Starkey had to drink a bag full of alcoholic beverages as part of the pledging process. The fraternity was later suspended.

TABC agents "will not cite minors for the illegal possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages if an individual seeks assistance because of a medical emergency or because a person has been a victim of sexual assault or other violent crime."

Tow truck driver rescued from Houston bayou

HOUSTON (AP) — A tow truck driver in Houston was rescued standing on his nearly submerged rig in a bayou after the truck slid into the water during a rainstorm.

TV station video of the rescue Tuesday night showed emergency personnel initially reached the man by throwing him a line attached to a life preserver.

Rescuers could be heard yelling to the man "don't look down."

An inflatable boat was used to paddle out to the driver, who was treated for exposure during conditions on a blustery night. The National Weather Service said temperatures were in the 40s during the time of the rescue around 9 p.m. Tuesday.

Convicted sex offender Comeaux still loose

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A convicted sex offender who escaped from Texas prison guards during a transfer is drawing the attention of legislative leaders.

Texas prison system spokeswoman Michelle Lyons told The Associated Press that Arcade Joseph Comeaux (KOH'-moh) Jr. was still on the run Wednesday.

State Sen. John Whitmire of Houston, who chairs the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, on Tuesday called for more answers on how the 49-year-old inmate was able to flee.

Comeaux was in a wheelchair Monday when he pulled a gun on two guards as he was being transferred from a prison in Huntsville to a unit in Beaumont. Both guards were released unharmed after being forced to drive to the Baytown area, where Comeaux took off on foot.

Comeaux was serving life in prison for aggravated sexual assault out of Brazos County.

Scholarship at Texas Tech to remember Cole

LUBBOCK (AP) — A former Texas Tech student wrongly convicted of rape then cleared by DNA evidence will be remembered with a \$100,000 scholarship.

Wednesday was the 10th anniversary since Timothy Brian Cole of Fort Worth died in prison serving time for the 1985 attack in Lubbock for which he maintained his innocence.

A judge in February exonerated Cole after DNA testing excluded him from the crime. Another man confessed to the attack.

The law school endowment will include funds from attorneys Jeff Blackburn of the Innocence Project of Texas, and Kevin Glasheen, who has represented some wrongly convicted Texans.

Glasheen told the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal that Cole's case was "tragic" and an inspiration to those who worked on issues on compensation for the wrongfully convicted.

Cole died of complications from asthma.

Pipeline break leads to Amarillo sewage spill

AMARILLO (AP) — Results on lab tests are pending after a pipeline rupture in southeast Amarillo dumped an estimated 500,000 gallons of sewage into some ditches.

City officials say the cause of the rupture is sought.

Former Army nurse gets prison in hepatitis case

EL PASO (AP) — A former Army nurse who admitted infecting patients at a military hospital with hepatitis C while stealing powerful painkillers during surgery was sentenced to more than three years in federal prison.

Jon Dale Jones, a 47-year-old retired Army major, admitted in April that he repeatedly stole the intravenous painkiller fentanyl — often used in anesthesia — from surgery patients while working as a civilian nurse anesthetist.

Water and sewer superintendent Floyd Hartman says the break was discovered Monday. No residences were affected.

A statement from the city says wastewater collection department crews completed a repair on the main by midnight Monday, with cleanup on Tuesday.

Seized drugs in Texas include Obama pill

PALMVIEW (AP) — A traffic stop in south Texas yielded illegal drugs including pills in the shape of President Barack Obama.

Police in Palmview detained the driver after finding black tar heroin, cocaine, marijuana and several Ecstasy pills. Police say the Ecstasy was in brightly colored pills made to look like cartoon characters Homer Simpson, the Smurfs and even Obama.

Police spokesman Lenny Sanchez says the drugs look like a "vitamin for kids."

The 22-year-old driver in Monday's traffic stop is expected to face felony drug possession counts.

Settlement in Texas disabled parking lawsuit

AUSTIN (AP) — A proposed \$24 million settlement would end a 1997 lawsuit challenging a \$5 fee that Texas charged for disabled parking placards.

The Austin American-Statesman reported Wednesday that the settlement to the class action lawsuit, filed against the Department of Transportation, faces final approval from a federal judge.

The lawsuit was part of similar cases nationwide claiming charging drivers with disabilities for the right to access violates the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The settlement says Texas would fund a pool to cover refunds to drivers with disabilities who bought the blue parking placards since 1997. A judge in 2008 ordered the state to stop collecting the fee.

Texas grand jury indicts former day care owner

DENTON (AP) — A Texas grand jury has indicted a 49-year-old woman with filing a false report to police after a baby was found unconscious at her day care center and later died.

Debra Turney, of Denton, is accused of giving the wrong information to police involving four-month-old Sophia Worsham. The baby died after being found unconscious at Turney's home-based day care center in January.

Denton County criminal court records say Turney was indicted on a Nov. 5 misdemeanor charge that accused her of giving police the wrong number of children that were in her day care, 2 Kool 4 School Kids Club, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported Tuesday.

Turney's attorney, Earl Dobson, says his client has since given up her day care license.

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sudoku

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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Precision Defense

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 3
♥ A 9 8 7 2
♦ K 4 3
♣ A 9 8 6

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

EAST
♠ 5 4
♥ K Q J 10 6 5
♦ 10 8 7 6
♣ 5

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 8 2
♥ 3
♦ Q 5
♣ K Q J 10 7 2

The bidding:

West North East South

1♣ Dble 3♥ 5♣

Opening lead — four of clubs.

Some of the simplest plays in bridge turn out to be spectacularly successful. For a prime example, consider this deal from a national championship some years ago. West was Julius Rosenblum, one of the founders and for many years president of the World Bridge Federation.

South reached five clubs on the

bidding shown. As happens so often, the outcome hinged entirely on the opening lead. After considerable thought, Rosenblum chose to lead a trump. As a result, the contract had to go down regardless of how declarer proceeded. When Rosenblum shortly thereafter got on lead with a spade, he led another trump, and South could not score more than 10 tricks.

Now let's suppose that Rosenblum had led one of his top spades initially, which most players holding the West hand probably would have done. In that case, South could not have been prevented from ruffing three spades in dummy, and he would have made the contract. Alternatively, had West led his singleton heart, declarer also would have made the contract.

Actually, Rosenblum's trump lead was very logical. He reasoned that on the bidding, both North and East were relatively short in spades. This in turn meant that South had spade length and would most likely try to ruff his spades in dummy. So, to reduce dummy's potential ruffing power, Rosenblum decided to lead a trump, and from that point on, declarer was fighting a losing battle.

Tomorrow: Silence is not always golden.

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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald

AmericanProfile

What's Your Name?
Unique names raise eyebrows & spur conversation

Blessing or curse?

Parents give their children unique names for all sorts of reasons. We asked readers to tell us the stories behind their name. What we found is that a person's name can sometimes be a blessing or a curse. Plus, remembering Pearl Harbor and turkey casserole.

AmericanProfile

Pecan, food show set

Going nuts? The County Extension Office is holding its annual Pecan Show and Food Contest next week in the county courthouse.

PECAN DIVISION

The Howard County Pecan Show will be held Dec. 8-9 in the Howard County Courthouse. The deadline for entries is noon Tuesday, Dec. 8. All entries must be brought to the County Extension Office in the basement of the courthouse. Judging will be completed Wednesday and the pecans will be on display on the first floor of the courthouse Thursday.

No entry fee is required.

Rules

1. Exhibitors are limited to one entry of each named variety they grow.
2. The grower may enter as many seedlings, known hybrids or natives as he or she wishes.
3. Pecans must be entered in the same county they are grown in.
4. The exhibitor must be the grower.
5. An entry consists of

a minimum of 40 pecans, 42 are preferred.

6. Entries containing more than one variety are disqualified.

7. Nuts which are cut, sanded, polished or otherwise altered will be disqualified.

8. Pecans exhibited must be from the 2009 crop.

9. Pecans must be entered in a zippered plastic bag with variety and growers' name on it.

10. All pecan entries become the property of the Howard County Pecan Show.

FOOD DIVISION

Categories:

- 1) Cakes
- 2) Cookies
- 3) Pies
- 4) Candy
- 5) Bread
- 6) Miscellaneous

Age Divisions:

Adult — 19 years of age and older

Youth — 18 years of age and younger

Entries will be accepted in the Howard County Extension Office from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8 and from 8 a.m.-

9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9. Entries requiring refrigeration will not be accepted.

No entry fee is required.

1. Entries should be in a disposable container with the exhibitor's name on the bottom and should be covered.

2. Each entry should be accompanied by a complete copy of the recipe with the exhibitor's name on the recipe.

3. All entries should consist of a full recipe. (Partial recipes will not be accepted.)

4. All food entries become the property of the Howard County Pecan Food Show.

Educational programs of Texas AgriLife Extension are open to all people without regard to race, sex, color, religion, disability, age or national origin.

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid or accommodation in order to participate in Extension programs are encouraged to contact the Texas AgriLife Extension, Howard County at 432/234-2236 for assistance.

Artists needed

Middle school and high school artists who live in The Texas Plains Trail Region, a 52-county area of Texas that includes Howard, are invited to submit a drawing that may eventually be used as a postage cancel.

Students are encouraged to make a quick, simple sketch of an image that comes to mind when they think about where they live.

You can learn more about the Texas Plains Trail Region, and the other nine "Trails," as defined by the Texas Historical Commission to promote "heritage tourism" in our state, at www.thc.state.texas.us. For now however, sub-

mission of the sketches is most important.

Here are the rules and guidelines:

1. Think of a simple image that best says to you, "Life on the Texas Plains."

2. Take a clean, 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of white paper and draw that image, using only a black Sharpie or similar, black ink pen/marker. No color — just black line art. Do not sign your art.

3. Place your draw-

ing (a good copy is fine — keep your original art — the copy will not be returned) between two pieces of sturdy cardboard, in an envelope large enough to hold all without folding the artwork. Only one entry per artist will be judged.

4: Include in the envelope, a separate sheet of paper with the following information:

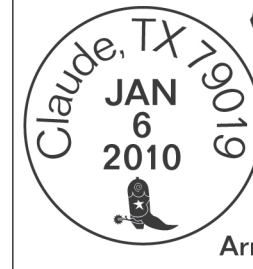
Your Full Name:
Age and Grade:
Name of School:
Mailing Address
(School or Home):

Title of Drawing and Explanation (if desired) — no more than one sentence:

5: Seal and mail or deliver the envelope to:
Vernah Ramsower
c/o Plainview Daily Herald
P.O. Box 1240
Plainview, Texas
79073-1240

6: Your entry must be received no later than Dec. 11.

That's all there is to it. One talented artist will have their work submitted to the United States Postal Service for consideration for possible use as a "cachet" design on envelopes to be cancelled at all 52 Texas Plains Trail Region county seat post offices — one each week, for the entire year, 2010.



Armstrong County

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Comic strip 'DENNIS THE MENACE' by Hank Ketchum. Panel 1: A man in a suit says, 'HERE'S YOUR REMOTE, MR. WILSON. IT DIDN'T WORK ON OUR TV.' Panel 2: A woman says, 'IF GRANDMA IS GOIN' SHOPPING TOO, I'LL COME WITH YOU, BUT IF SHE'S NOT, I THINK I'LL STAY HOME.'

Comic strip 'THE FAMILY CIRCUS' by Jeff and Jan Kream. Panel 1: A man says, 'THE MANAGEMENT HAD TO REMOVE THE "ALL YOU CAN EAT POT ROAST" ITEM FROM OUR MENU.' Panel 2: A man says, 'WHY IS THAT?' Panel 3: A man says, 'HAGAR WAS HERE.'

Comic strip 'HAGAR' by King Features Syndicate. Panel 1: A man says, 'MAY I HAVE A SPOON FOR MY SOUP?' Panel 2: A man says, 'IT'S PROBABLY IN THE DISHWASHER.' Panel 3: A man says, 'SO LET ME HAVE ANOTHER SPOON!' Panel 4: A man says, 'CAN'T... I SOLD MOST OF MY SILVERWARE.' Panel 5: A man says, 'HEY LISTEN, THESE ARE TOUGH TIMES! I NEED TO CUT CORNERS ANY WAY I CAN!'

Comic strip 'BC' by John Hart Studios. Panel 1: A man says, 'I'LL TAKE A MEDIUM DRINK.' Panel 2: A man says, 'THAT'LL BE FIVE BUCKS.' Panel 3: A man says, 'YOUR PRICES ARE OUTRAGEOUS!' Panel 4: A man says, 'YOU'RE TELLING ME, BUB.' Panel 5: A man says, 'THESE HALF-PRICE COUPONS ARE KILLING ME!'

Comic strip 'BLONDIE' by King Features Syndicate. Panel 1: A man says, 'MAY I HAVE A SPOON FOR MY SOUP?' Panel 2: A man says, 'IT'S PROBABLY IN THE DISHWASHER.' Panel 3: A man says, 'SO LET ME HAVE ANOTHER SPOON!' Panel 4: A man says, 'CAN'T... I SOLD MOST OF MY SILVERWARE.' Panel 5: A man says, 'HEY LISTEN, THESE ARE TOUGH TIMES! I NEED TO CUT CORNERS ANY WAY I CAN!'

Comic strip 'WIZARD OF ID' by John Hart Studios. Panel 1: A man says, 'AFTER 50 YEARS OF SKIMPING AND SAVING, WE FINALLY GOT AN INDOOR JOHN.' Panel 2: A man says, 'PARKER...'

Section 'This Date In History' with a list of historical events and a crossword puzzle. The crossword puzzle is titled 'Newsday Crossword' and 'THIS ONE'S FOR YOU' by Fred Piscop. The crossword grid is 13x70.

Comic strip 'AGNES' by John Hart Studios. Panel 1: A man says, 'I AM TAKING UP GOLF TOMORROW.' Panel 2: A man says, 'IT'S WINTER.' Panel 3: A man says, 'THAT'S WHY I'M PREPARING THIS LIST OF A HUNDRED WAYS TO ADAPT GOLF TO WINTER.' Panel 4: A man says, 'I CAN ONLY THINK OF ONE... PAINTING THE BALL A BRIGHT COLOR SO IT CAN BE FOUND IN SNOW.' Panel 5: A man says, 'YOU ARE A GENIUS... MAKE THAT A HUNDRED AND ONE.'

Comic strip 'HI AND LOIS' by King Features Syndicate. Panel 1: A man says, 'WOULD YOU LIKE BREAKFAST, TRIXIE?' Panel 2: A man says, 'YEAH, HOW ABOUT A GUMMI-BEAR OMELET, OR A WAFFLE WITH STRAWBERRIES AND WHIPPED CREAM?' Panel 3: A man says, 'COULD I AT LEAST HAVE A SPRINKLE OF SUGAR ON MY MEAL?'

Comic strip 'THE OTHER COAST' by King Features Syndicate. Panel 1: A man says, 'I'M ADDICTED TO BIRD FEEDERS.'

Comic strip 'SNUFFY SMITH' by King Features Syndicate. Panel 1: A man says, 'DINAH, IT'S YORE TURN TO APOLOGIZE TO ELVINEY!!' Panel 2: A man says, 'I'M SORRY I CALLED YOU A MEAN-EYED, SCRAWNY OL' CAT!! THAT WUZ DISRESPECTFUL!!' Panel 3: A man says, 'TO CATS!!'

Comic strip 'BEETLE BAILEY' by King Features Syndicate. Panel 1: A man says, 'I THINK COLORING MY HAIR WILL MAKE ME LOOK YOUNGER.' Panel 2: A man says, 'DYEING YOUR BALD SPOT BLOND WON'T LOOK YOUNGER.' Panel 3: A man says, 'WASSUP?'

Section 'Newsday Crossword' with a crossword puzzle grid and a list of clues. The crossword puzzle is 13x70. Clues include: 1 Favoritism, 5 Choice word, 10 Stork relative, 14 Long ago, 15 Gladiator's venue, 16 Slim margin, 17 Hidden obstacle, 18 Does' mates, 19 Prescription amount, 20 Ultimatum to a boaster, 23 Origami need, 25 Mascara targets, 26 Iron source, 27 5 Down instrument, 30 Fly trapper, 31 Eye slyly, 33 At any time, 35 Prefix for mural, 40 Arts connoisseurs, 43 Is in charge of, 44 City near Lake Tahoe, 45 Borscht veggie, 46 FDR successor, 48 Red State grp., 50 Urban way: Abbr., 51 Letterman list, 55 Take in or let out, 57 Motto on money, 62 72 Across spheroids, 63 City with two banks, 64 Grid officials, 67 Actor Estrada, 68 Fill with glee, 69 Toddler's perch, 70 Beanery sign, 71 Edited out, 72 Ladled meal, 12 Matter of debate, 13 Barely flows, 21 Capote nickname, 22 Gum chewing, to some, 23 Bow-wow, 24 Debate, 28 Prefix for plop, 29 Tennis great Chris, 30 Twisted to dry, 32 Takeoff stat: Abbr., 34 12/24 or 12/31, 36 Well-used pencil, 37 Literary handling, 38 Chaucer pilgrim, 39 Autumn flower, 41 Aisle worker, 42 Card game, 47 Took potshots, 49 Skillet, 51 Conical abode, 52 Drama with divas, 53 Make cornrows, 54 Walrus features, 56 Waits in the shadows, 58 Hayloft bundle, 59 Russia's Mountains, 60 Internet destination, 61 Like hand-me-downs, 65 Agent's cut, 66 Do patchwork.