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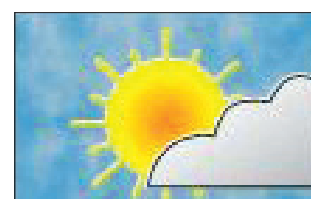
Herald readers provide their views on several topics in Letters to the Editor.
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BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY

JANUARY 3, 2010



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WTO among agencies receiving grant funds

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

West Texas will be getting a shot in the arm in 2010, as the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) announced this week more than a half-million dollars in funding designed to transition low income Texans out of poverty and toward self-sufficiency.

The funding, which totals \$30.1 million for 48 eligible nonprofit and local government agencies across the state, will help low income residents by

helping to reduce future dependency on government programs, according to TDHCA officials.

West Texas Opportunities Inc. — which serves Howard, Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock, Martin, Midland, Nolan, Scurry and Upton counties — will receive \$608,438 in funding, according to TDHCA Executive Director Michael Gerber.

“Helping Texans achieve self-sufficiency is the first priority of the CSBG Program and a critical component of the Department’s charge,” said Gerber. “Transitioning individuals

from poverty toward self-sufficiency brings greater stability to low income Texans and the neighborhoods in which they live.

“Some agencies measure success by the number of individuals it assists. Through the CSBG (Community Services Block Grant) Program, TDHCA is able to measure success by the number of individuals who no longer need that assistance.”

TDHCA made the awards through its CSBG Program, which funds local agencies providing direct essential services to very low income individuals as well as helping meet the admin-

istrative expenses of these local organizations.

According to TDHCA officials, the CSBG Program assists households earning no more than 125 percent of the federal poverty guideline, which equals an annual income of \$26,500 for a family of four.

State officials said funding for the program comes from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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



Dillon Quinn prepares burritos as part of the East Fourth Street Baptist Church youth group’s fund raiser in front of Wal-Mart Supercenter Saturday morning. The youth are raising money to attend church camp later this year.

AARP set to begin Tax-Aide Program

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

The new year means a lot of different things to a lot of people, but for Gloria Hopkins and her band of certified volunteers the start of 2010 means tax time, as the annual AARP Tax-Aide program gets ready to get under way.

Hopkins, who has served as the program’s coordinator for many years now, said the program will transition between 2009 and 2010 rather seamlessly.

“All of our volunteers from last year are returning, so we’re looking good headed into the new year,” said Hopkins. “I couldn’t be more pleased. We’ll start the certification classes Jan. 19, and Feb. 1, we’ll start filing our first returns.”

Hopkins said the program aims to help low-to-moderate income taxpayers that might not otherwise be able to file a tax return.

“The AARP program provides free federal tax preparation assistance to people who cannot afford professional tax help, such as seniors, people with disabilities, those that don’t speak English and people with low-to-moderate income,” said Hopkins. “AARP volunteers explain many special tax credits and deductions and how people may claim them on their tax returns. These

See **AARP**, Page 3A

Obama cites al-Qaida link in bomb plot

PHILIP ELLIOTT

Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — An al-Qaida affiliate in Yemen apparently ordered the Christmas Day plot against a U.S. airliner, training and arming the 23-year-old Nigerian man accused in the failed bombing, President Barack Obama said Saturday.

“This is not the first time this group has targeted us,” Obama said, reporting on some of the findings of an administration review into how intelligence agencies failed to pre-

vent Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab from boarding Detroit-bound Northwest Flight 253.

In his most direct public language to date, Obama described the path through Yemen of Abdulmutallab. He also emphasized that the United States would continue its partnerships with friendly countries — citing Yemen, in particular — to fight terrorists and extremist groups.

Obama’s homeland security team has been piecing together just how Abdulmutallab was able to get on the plane. Officials have described

flaws in the system and by those executing the strategy and have delivered a preliminary assessment.

A senior administration official had said the United States was increasingly confident there was a link between Abdulmutallab and an al-Qaida affiliate, but Obama’s statement was the strongest connection between the two.

“We know that he traveled to Yemen, a country grappling with

See **PLOT**, Page 3A

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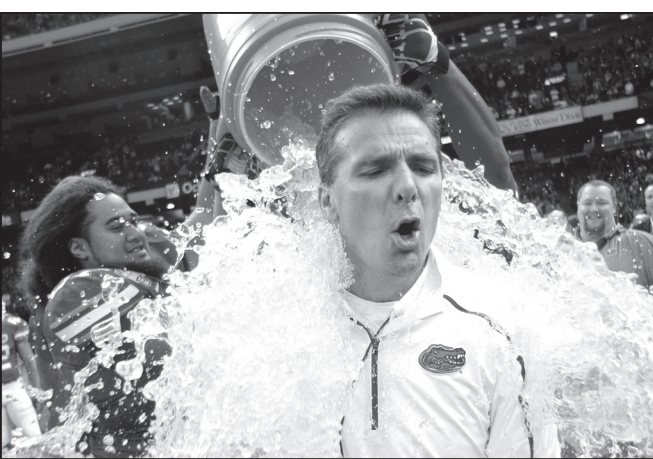
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Tebow, Gators make Sugar Bowl look easy



AP PHOTO/Dave Martin

Florida coach Urban Meyer gets a gatorade bath after the Gators' 55-24 win over Cincinnati.

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Tim Tebow and coach Urban Meyer stood together in one corner of the Louisiana Superdome, sang the school fight song and then offered a final gesture.

Tebow took off on a victory lap. Meyer saluted the Florida fans.

It was Tebow's way of saying goodbye. It may have been Meyer's, too.

Tebow rose above all the distractions caused by Meyer's uncertain future and capped a storied college career with his finest performance. It was the best in BCS history, too.

Tebow threw for a career-high 482 yards and three touchdowns, ran for 51 yards and another score, and fifth-ranked Florida overwhelmed No. 4 Cincinnati 51-24 Friday night in the Sugar

Bowl.

For Tebow and the Gators (13-1), this certainly was The Big Easy.

"It was incredible," Tebow said. "Just a great game. It was exactly how you want to go out with these seniors and these coaches in your last game and your last time together. It just really doesn't get any better than this."

Florida's most anticipated season ever ended

in New Orleans instead of Pasadena. It came against Cincinnati (12-1) instead of Texas. It was about redemption instead of perfection.

None of that mattered when the Gators took the field.

Tebow wouldn't let it

"This has been the best four years of life," the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner said.

He completed his

See **SUGAR**, Page 4B



AP Photo/ Mark J. Terrill

Ohio State Buckeyes celebrate with the Rose Bowl trophy Friday in Pasadena, Calif. Terrelle Pryor threw for a career-high 266 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Buckeyes past Oregon.

Pryor leads Buckeyes past Oregon

Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Right about the same time Terrelle Pryor put down his helmet and clutched that first rose between his teeth, Jeremiah Masoli was trudging disconsolately into the Rose Bowl locker room.

Ohio State's quarterback had just performed brilliantly on the biggest stage of his young career, while his Oregon counterpart had endured his worst outing of an otherwise charmed season.

Both Pryor and Masoli could agree: the difference was in the eighth-ranked Buckeyes' 26-17 victory

over the No. 7 Ducks in the 96th Rose Bowl on Friday.

The Buckeyes' Big Ten bruisers never allowed Masoli and his creative Ducks to take flight, while Oregon couldn't keep up with Pryor at the controls of Ohio State's surprising aerial approach.

"We have a great defense that causes turnovers, and then our offense ends up scoring," said Pryor, who passed for a career-high 266 yards and two touchdowns. "We owe a lot to those guys. We score the points, but they put us in that position."

Pryor also rushed for 72 yards and threw a 17-yard scoring pass to

DeVier Posey with 7:02 to play, putting Ohio State in prime position to end its three-game BCS skid while closing the 10-year gap since the Big Ten's last win in the Rose Bowl.

And Ohio State (11-2) did it in a most unlikely manner while running 89 offensive plays to the Ducks' 53. Pryor came out flinging it from the opening possession, completing a career-high 23 of 37 in an aggressive, inventive plan for an offense that often stayed safe and ground-bound this season, worried about Pryor's ability to live up to his enormous potential.

"We felt like we really

needed to come in flinging it around," Ohio State coach Jim Tressel said. "I thought (Pryor) made good decisions. He was engaged in the game, talking between series. (He) knew what they were doing, and why they were doing it."

From the opening days of bowl preparation, Pryor's teammates sensed a new focus in their sophomore leader, whose much-publicized recruitment had led to two solid seasons, but not the transcendence many expected from the mobile passer. With a Rose Bowl effort that evoked memories of

See **ROSE**, Page 4B

Late FG lifts Penn St. to 19-17 win vs. LSU

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Slowed by mud and trailing late in the fourth quarter, Daryll Clark was determined to get Penn State some points.

The No. 11 Nittany Lion quarterback emerged from the muck for a thrilling 19-17 win over No. 13 LSU at the Capital One Bowl.

The late-game drive led by Clark helped set up Collin Wagner's 21-yard field goal with 57 seconds left, and Penn State staved off a last-ditch effort by the Tigers to preserve the victory.

"No matter what .. whatever it takes, we have to keep these chains rolling," the senior said in recounting a talk with the offense before the drive. "All we need is a couple points."

Penn State coach Joe Paterno got his record

24th bowl win and handed Les Miles his first loss in five bowls as LSU coach. It was just the second game ever between two popular college football programs.

But the drama extended well beyond the high-profile coaches.

A driving rainstorm turned the field into a mosh pit in some places. LSU rallied from a 13-point deficit late in the second half to take a 17-16 lead on Stevan Ridley's 1-yard touchdown run with 12:49 left.

And LSU had one final chance after Wagner's game-winning kick. The junior kicker said it was the first time he had ever hit four goals in a game.

The Tigers got to midfield but right guard Lyle Hitt was whistled for a disputed personal foul penalty that pushed them back to their own

See **PENN ST**, Page 4B



AP Photo/John Raoux

Penn St. quarterback Daryll Clark throws past LSU's Drake Nevis. Clark led Penn State's fourth quarter comeback to win by a field goal.

Sports in brief

Saturday's area basketball games

- Stanton vs. Ira
- Big Spring vs. Lubbock Cooper
- Grady at Rankin
- Coahoma boys vs. Plains
- Garden City vs. Eldorado
- Coahoma girls vs. Abilene Cooper
- Big Spring girls at Grape Creek

See Monday's Herald for results.

Big Spring softball clinic to be held Jan. 16

Big Spring softball coach John Sparks will hold a winter skills softball clinic coming up.

The clinic will teach basic softball skills and will be held Jan. 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Girls in grades three through eight are welcome. The cost is \$25.

Contact John Sparks for more information or to sign up at 432-270-2711.

Howard College basketball in action on the road

The Howard College men's and women's basketball teams wrapped up a weekend of action on the road as the men played two games in Kansas City, Mo., and the women played three in Arizona.

The men got back on the court for the first time since November, and the women, after suffering their first loss of the season in overtime, played two more games on the road trip.

See Monday's Herald for results.



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Simple Swaps

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FAMILY FEATURES

Whether you're looking to shed a few pounds, lose a significant amount of weight, or just maintain a healthy weight, there are some changes that have to be made. But those changes don't have to be overwhelming. Cheryl Forberg, R.D., is the nutritionist for the TV show *The Biggest Loser*, and co-author of "The Biggest Loser Simple Swaps." Forberg says that "A lot of people are afraid that creating a healthier lifestyle will be too hard or too expensive, or that it will require too much time and effort." But swapping one unhealthy food or habit for a better one is where it can all begin.

Small Steps

"You don't have to change everything at once — it begins with small, manageable steps," says Forberg. You might swap a daily glass of fruit juice for a piece of whole fruit, she adds, or swap sandwich spreads for avocados.

"Avocados have many nutrients," says Forberg. One fifth of an avocado, about three slices (a typical serving), has only 50 calories and contributes nearly 20 vitamins, minerals and beneficial plant compounds to your diet. With their good fats that support health, avocados serve as a great substitute for foods high in saturated fat.

These mouthwatering recipes are a great way to make one simple swap — and get one step closer — to a healthier you.

For more information and recipes, visit www.theamazingavocado.com.

5 Top Swaps

Taken from the book, "The Biggest Loser Simple Swaps," these 5 swaps are easy changes that will help you start living a healthier lifestyle.

- 1. Swap white pasta for spaghetti squash:** A cup of cooked spaghetti squash has 40 calories and 2 grams of fiber.
- 2. Swap sandwich spread for avocado:** A few thin slices of avocado add rich flavor and creamy texture along with good fats and fewer calories.
- 3. Swap traditional fat-free yogurt for fat-free Greek-style yogurt:** It has the same number of calories as regular yogurt, but has twice the protein and half the carbs.
- 4. Swap pizza crust for portobello mushrooms:** With a hearty texture and rich flavor, the average portobello (3 ounces) has only 27 calories.
- 5. Swap traditional dressings for flavorful oils:** Premade dressings have trans fats. Get more flavor and nutrition with a splash of sesame oil, extra virgin olive oil or walnut oil.



Sliced Avocado and Oranges with Tahini Yogurt Sauce pictured here with microgreens and arugula

Sliced Avocado and Oranges with Tahini Yogurt Sauce

Makes 4 servings

- 1 medium (8 ounces) Avocado from Mexico, peeled and sliced
- 2 medium (7 ounces) seedless navel oranges, peeled and segmented
- 4 tablespoons Tahini Yogurt Sauce
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley or fresh cilantro for garnish
- 1 teaspoon lightly toasted sesame seeds, for garnish

Arrange avocado slices alternately with orange segments on four salad plates. Drizzle 1 tablespoon Tahini Yogurt Sauce over each salad. Garnish with parsley or cilantro and sesame seeds and serve immediately.

Tahini Yogurt Sauce

Makes 1 cup

- 3/4 cup fat-free plain yogurt (preferably Greek-style)
- 1/4 cup tahini (sesame paste)
- 1/4 cup Dijon mustard
- 2 tablespoons water
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin

Combine all ingredients in food processor or blender. Process or blend until smooth. Sauce should be the consistency of thick cream.

Note: If the sauce is too thick to drizzle, you may need to add a teaspoon or two of water. For a heartier appetite, top with a few grilled prawns.

Credit: Cheryl Forberg, R.D. "Positively Ageless" (Rodale, 2008)

Avocado and Apple Chicken Salad

Avocado and Apple Chicken Salad

Yield: 8 servings (about 6 cups)

- 2 cups cooked skinless chicken or turkey cut in 1-inch pieces (about 12 ounces)
- 1 cup diced sweet red apple
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced celery
- 1/4 cup lightly toasted pecans, coarsely chopped
- 1/2 cup roughly chopped flat leaf (Italian) parsley
- 1/4 cup chopped red onion
- 1-1/2 tablespoons chopped mint (about 10 leaves)
- 1-1/2 tablespoons chopped jalapeño pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1 fully ripened Avocado from Mexico, halved, pitted, peeled and diced
- 4 cups mixed baby salad greens

In large bowl, combine chicken, apple, celery, pecans, parsley, onion, mint, jalapeño, salt, lemon juice and olive oil; toss gently. Add avocado; toss gently until all ingredients are combined, leaving some diced avocado visible while mashing some. Serve over mixed greens garnished with more avocado, parsley and grapes, if desired.

Credit: www.theamazingavocado.com



Spaghetti Squash with Avocado Pesto

Spaghetti Squash with Avocado Pesto

Makes 6 servings

- 1 medium spaghetti squash (1 1/2 to 2 pounds) washed, halved lengthwise and seeded
- 1/2 ripe Avocado from Mexico (4 ounces), pitted and diced
- 1/4 cup fresh basil leaves or Italian parsley
- 1 tablespoon chopped chives
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/3 cup hot water
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil or parsley (optional)

Preheat oven to 375°F. Lightly coat a baking sheet with olive oil cooking spray.

Pierce outside of each half of squash a few times with a fork. Place squash cut side down on baking sheet and bake for about 45 minutes, or until very tender when tested with a fork. Cool slightly.

Meanwhile, place avocado, basil or parsley, chives, Parmesan, garlic, salt, black pepper and hot water in blender and process until smooth, turning blender off and on occasionally and adding a tablespoon or two of additional hot water if needed. There will be between 1/2 and 3/4 cup of pesto.

When squash has cooled, use fork to rake the spaghetti-like threads of squash into a serving bowl. Discard skin. Drizzle pesto over squash and garnish with fresh basil or parsley if desired.

Credit: Cheryl Forberg, R.D. "The Biggest Loser: Simple Swaps" (Rodale, 2009)

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Obituaries

Jean Lancaster



Jean Lancaster, 86, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 31, 2009, at her residence. The family will receive friends from 1:30 p.m. until 3 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Memorial services will be later this week at Stewart Family Funeral Home in Tyler. Burial will be at Arp.

Jean was born May 29, 1923, at Bay Springs, Miss., to Minnie

Louvina Haire Herrington and William Lemuel Herrington. Jean was the oldest of seven siblings born during the Depression. When her mother's sister died, leaving behind four young children, her mother added them to her brood. They all played in the East Texas pines and ate cornbread or cold sweet potatoes after school.

Jean's father was a farmer and occasional oil field worker. Jean's grandfather operated one of Texas' first public swimming pools. Located in Arp, it was spring fed and outfitted with a spinning top, carts on rails and a zipline into the water.

Jean began school at the age of 4, a student in her aunt's first grade class. The family moved to Texas when Jean was six, where she graduated in a class of 16 from Arp High School in 1941.

Intending to become a reporter, Jean went to Austin to register as a student at University of Texas. However, her mother fell ill and Jean returned home to care for the family. She never returned to Austin but was later sent to nursing school by generous neighbors.

Jean graduated from Physicians and Surgeons Hospital Nursing School in San Antonio in 1944.

Jean joined the Army as a lieutenant after graduating from nursing school. She worked on a military psychiatric ward in Texas and at Texas and Florida hospitals after she left the Army.

She married her soul mate, Jim Lancaster, in 1947 and continued her nursing career until 1962, when she began to work with Jim at the cable television office in Big Spring, retiring in 1984. Jim preceded her in death Dec. 20, 2002.

Jean pursued a lifelong love of reading for pleasure and learning, studying among other topics Spanish, sign language, nutrition and nature. She was an avid gardener of fruit trees, vegetables and native plants. Little made her so happy as the appearance of plant shoots from the springtime soil. Her preserves and fruit butters won first-place ribbons at the county fair. Jean was a beautiful, intelligent, strong-willed redhead, much loved by her family and friends.

Jean was a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church since 1962; having served on the Vestry at St. Mary's and also worked a number of years at the church's Bargain Box. She also served a number of years on the board at Canterbury.

Jean is survived by two children, Stephen Lancaster of Big Spring and Pamela Lancaster of Austin; three grandchildren, Todd Lancaster of Granbury, Lucas Marsh of Little Rock, Ark., and Madeleine Marsh of Boulder, Colo.; two great-grandchildren; five nieces and seven nephews; three sisters, Louise Ornelas, Ann Kimre, and Ellen Thurman, all of Tyler; and two brothers, Al Herrington and Billy Herrington, both of Tyler.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her brother, Charlie Herrington, and her daughter-in-law, Polly Lancaster.

The family extends their sincere gratitude to Evelyn Bennett, Beatrice Franco and Cindy Mendez for the skilled and loving care provided to both Jean and Jim Lancaster during the last 10 years.

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

Paid obituary

Support Groups

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY

• Grief share, sponsored by Home Hospice and the First Presbyterian Church, Seventh and Runnels (north end door), meets at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599.

• The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St.

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Robert 'Bob' Worthy

Robert Gayle "Bob" Worthy, 82, passed away peacefully at Parkview Nursing and Rehab Center in Big Spring Oct. 12, 2009.

He was born Dec. 19, 1926, in Donie to Roy and Violet Needham Worthy.

Bob graduated from Donie High School and then attended Baylor University. He played basketball at Baylor in 1944-1945. But before graduation, he joined the Merchant Marines during the last months of WWII and crossed the Atlantic Ocean many times ferrying supplies to our forces in Europe. On return trips his ship sometimes carried captured Germans to camps in the United States.

After discharge, he joined his father, Roy Worthy in the lumber and drilling mud business out of Donie and Buffalo. Later, he joined friends in Australia and formed and operated an oil company. After this, he lived in Rockport and Houston in marketing and selling homes he had bought and improved on. Nearly three years ago, he moved to Big Spring to be near his brother, Jerry, and his nephew, Roy Bishop Worthy.

Others in Big Spring include Roy's wife, Michelle, and their son Jeb Worthy, age 6.

His niece, Ann Worthy-Stephenson and her husband, Tim, live near Christchurch, New Zealand. After Ann and Tim arrive from there, Bob's memorial services will be held at St. Mary's Episcopal Church and Columbarium at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2010.

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

Ruby Pike



Ruby Pike, 74, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 31, 2009, at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4, 2010, at Myers & Smith Chapel with Chaplain Cherise Felty officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith

Funeral Home.

She was born Feb. 11, 1935, in Glasscock County to Fannie and James Overton. She married Floyd L. Pike June 12, 1953, in Glasscock County. He preceded her in death March 28, 1998.

She graduated from UTPB and taught school at Bauer and Marcy Elementary Schools. She was a lifetime resident of Howard and Glasscock counties and was a Baptist.

She is survived by two sons, James Pike of Lubbock and Tim Pike and his wife, Sherri, of West Columbia; one grandson, Tayler Shands of West Columbia; one sister, Cora Conn of Big Spring; one brother, Glen Overton and his wife, Frances, of Big Spring; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Maurice and Raymond Overton.

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

Take Note

• Don't forget the Howard County Humane Society Christmas dog and cat food drive. Drop dry or canned dog or cat food off at the Herald from 8 a.m. to noon Wednesday to participate.

• Birdwell Lane Baptist Church is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the church. The cook books can be purchased by calling Pat Steen at (432) 263-3035.

• T&P Federal Credit Union has set up an account for Arthur Hernandez Jr. for medical expenses. Arthur has had numerous medical problems the past couple of years. He has had several surgeries on his stomach, the last one a few weeks ago. After the surgery he developed a staph infection. He is still in the hospital.

The out-of-pocket expenses, the travel and expenses for his wife and many other numerous expenses are mounting up. Please help Arthur and his wife Melinda in this difficult time and make a much-needed donation.

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Hilbert William Treharn



Hilbert William Treharn, 77, of Big Spring, formerly of Midland, died Dec. 21, 2009, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. Memorial services will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2010, at Gateway Baptist Church with Jim Miles officiating.

He was born May 25, 1932, in Youngstown, Ohio, to Caroline and John Treharn. He served in the United States Army from June 1, 1949, to Sept. 5, 1952. He was a steel plant operator. He lived most of his life in Ohio and California, coming to Big Spring two years ago.

He is survived by one son, Hilbert Ray Treharn of Kearneyville, W.Va.; two daughters, Carrie Smith and her husband, Hank, of Elk Grove, Calif., and Mildred Florenciano and her husband, Angelo, of Scranton, Ark.; one step-daughter, Terri Heckler and her husband, Danny, of Big Spring; three brothers; nine grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister.

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

Hermenejildo Romero

Hermenejildo "Herman" Romero, 96, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 31, 2009. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Eliazar 'Charlie' Rodriguez

Eliazar "Charlie" Rodriguez, 77, of Big Spring died Friday, Jan. 1, 2010, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- FRANK JACKSON, 51, 1314 State Park Dr., was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- JOSE PEREZ, 34, 807 Anna, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- WILLIAM AGUILAR, 20, 508 Abrams, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- ERNEST CLARK, 69, no address given, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication and criminal trespass.
- RUDY HERNANDEZ, 23, 1203 Wood, was arrested on charges of evading arrest/detention using a vehicle, driving while intoxicated and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON was reported in the 600 block of Caylor.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 600 block of Caylor.
- ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY was reported in the 700 block of Creighton.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the 900 block of Willia.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING was reported in the 1600 block of Cardinal.
- DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED WITH A CHILD PASSENGER was reported in the 1400 block of Stanford.
- THEFT OF SERVICE was reported in the 1700 block of Third.

Lottery

The winning numbers from Friday's Mega Millions drawing were: 6-8-27-40-41; Mega Ball was 21.

The winning numbers from Friday's Cash 5 drawing were: 7-8-28-31-37.

The winning numbers from Friday evening's Daily 4 drawing were: 6-7-1-5.

The winning numbers from Friday evening's Pick 3 drawing were: 8-3-2.

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Leach strikes back at James, Texas Tech after firing

Associated Press

LUBBOCK — Fired Texas Tech coach Mike Leach said the father of the player he was accused of mistreating after a concussion meddled more than any parent he's ever come across.

Leach also denied he mistreated Adam James when he spoke Friday to The Associated Press about his firing.

Dismissed Wednesday, two days after being suspended by Texas Tech, Leach said it was indisputable that James' father, ESPN analyst and former NFL player Craig James, lobbied frequently to get his son more playing time. Leach said Craig

James meddled "more than any parent I've dealt with my entire career."

"I can understand a father being a fan of his son, rooting for his son, being supportive of his son. But at some point coaches have to be allowed to coach. At some point the wisdom of all the people watching the film, going to all the practices has to be respected."

Leach added: "Just because you have influence, power and a microphone in front of you doesn't mean that your son should have any more right to play than the other guys."

The school suspended Leach while it was investigating Adam

James' allegations that the coach twice had him confined to a small, dark place after being diagnosed with a concussion.

Leach said James, a sophomore receiver, was "never" locked anywhere, by him or by team trainers.

When asked about claims that he meddled Craig James called them "absurd," ESPN spokesman Josh Krulewitz said.

James then released a statement.

"Coach Leach has made damaging and untrue comments, about my actions, about my son, and about a business relationship — which does not exist — between me and the leadership of

the University," James said.

"He's simply trying to shift attention from his own actions and from the findings of a University investigation which we believe was fair and thorough. As we have said over and over, our concern was about the safety and well being of our son and of all the other fine young men on the team. Any parent who found their son in this situation would step forward."

Leach curtly dismissed James' statement.

"I don't care what he thinks," Leach said. "I know what the truth is, have from the beginning, and it doesn't matter what he thinks."

Leach said he suspects the \$800,000 bonus he was to have received Thursday was the reason he was fired.

"It's either power or control, or they didn't want to pay," he said.

Leach said there are "too many unholy alliances" at Tech, including the relationship between James and a few administrators. Those groups could have begun aiming to remove him before negotiations on a contract extension began late last year.

Leach pointed to e-mail messages obtained by The AP as proof that the university did not want him around. In one, a booster recommended to Tech administrators, "You should sign a

contract that would not cost us too much to fire him."

A representative of Leach's provided statements to the AP that appear to counter some of Adam James' allegations. The team doctor who examined him said "no additional risks or harm were imposed on Adam by what he was asked to do," while two others — the team's trainer and the director of sports medicine at the school — said neither space the player was put in was locked.

The coaching staff never singled Adam James out to reduce his playing time, Leach said.

"It's not even logical," he said.

TCU, Boise State have become coaching destinations

Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Boise State and TCU used to be stepping stones for coaches.

They came, they won and they left for bigger, richer programs.

Those days may be over. As they prepare to meet in the Fiesta Bowl, Boise State and TCU have become destinations.

That much was clear on Friday, when the Broncos announced they had reached an agreement on a five-year contract with Chris Petersen — a deal that came a few weeks after TCU's Gary

Patterson agreed to a contract that will keep him in Fort Worth through 2016.

"For me, we've built so much at our place in 12 years, I wouldn't be one of those wanting to turn it over to just anybody," Patterson said at Fiesta Bowl media day on Friday. "I've never said never, and I think Chris has been the same way. But in the same right, we like what we have."

Credit the BCS for helping change perception of both programs — and their coaching positions.

College football's controversial postsea-

son scheme has been portrayed as unfair to those outside the six conferences with automatic bids and Notre Dame, and some have contended that the BCS has wrongly denied the sixth-ranked Broncos (13-0) and the third-rated Horned Frogs (12-0) a shot at the national title.

But the BCS has also helped turn Boise State and TCU into places that can attract, and keep, top-flight coaches.

Aside from money, the BCS has given both programs national exposure and access to recruits who once might have spurned

them.

"I think one thing all coaches appreciate is really having a good chance to win," said Petersen, who is 48-4 at Boise State and has guided the Broncos into their second Fiesta Bowl in his four years at the helm.

In addition, both programs are often on national television, and both have benefitted from the 85-scholarship limit, which makes it harder for the sport's traditional powers to hoard talent.

"We do have some of those variables that, five or 10 years ago, we weren't able to talk

about," Boise State athletic director Gene Bleymaier said.

That's a dramatic change from the days when both schools served as launching pads for coaches — some of whom found that life wasn't quite as good elsewhere.

Patterson followed Dennis Franchione, who spent three seasons in TCU, leaving for Alabama after the 2000 season. After two seasons with the Crimson Tide, Franchione bolted for Texas A&M, where he lasted five seasons. He's been out of coaching the last two seasons.

The three coaches who preceded Petersen at Boise State — Houston Nutt, Dirk Koetter and Dan Hawkins — all left for higher-profile jobs.

Nutt went to Arkansas after going 5-6 at Boise State in 1997. He's since moved on to Mississippi.

Koetter spent three seasons as the Broncos' coach before leaving for Arizona State, where he was fired. He's the offensive coordinator for the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Hawkins coached Boise State for five seasons, then left for Colorado, where he's struggled.

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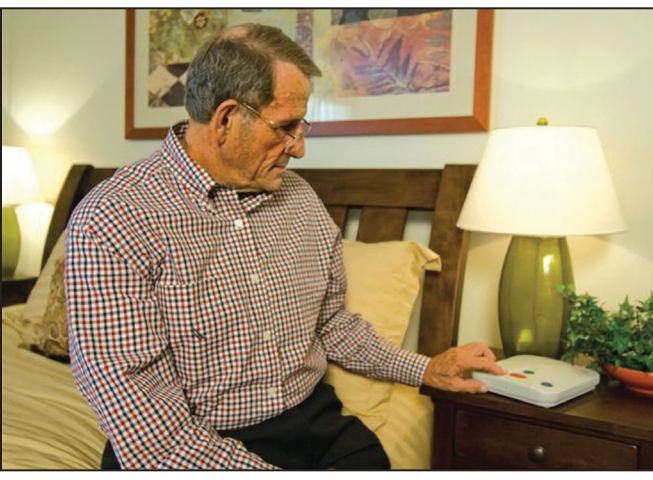
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At-home technology can monitor seniors for safety



AP photo

This photo released by Home For Life Solutions shows the Caresse+, a in personal emergency

MELISSA KOSSLER DUTTON

For The Associated Press

At 88, Grif Crawford knows he's at risk of a fall or other sudden health problem. So he wears a pendant around his neck that can summon help if something goes wrong.

"It's kind of like life insurance," said Crawford, of Lee Summit, Mo. "I feel very comforted with this."

The device has come a long way since the days when it merely allowed the wearer to alert someone that he or she had fallen and couldn't get up. Crawford's equipment also can be programmed to

answer his phone, remind him to take his medicine or alert him to a fire, among other things.

It's one of several new products designed to help seniors stay in their homes rather than move to a nursing home or assisted living facility.

At-home technology now can monitor senior citizens' movements, vital statistics, and sleep and bathroom patterns. There are products that remind seniors to take their medicine.

Such devices allow older people to remain in their homes with more oversight from loved ones or medical specialists.

The products can monitor how See **MONITOR**, Page 3C

well seniors are managing the chores of daily living, and offer "peace of mind" to caregivers or family, said Majd Alwan, director of the Center of Aging Services Technology, in Washington. The products are most successful when they are tied to an agency that can dispatch meals, medical help or other senior services, he said.

Currently, the monitoring systems, which cost about \$150 to \$200 a month, are more often prescribed to seniors for a limited time after a hospitalization or health issue, Alwan said. Some

Something to ponder this Happy New Year

Once again it is a new year, a time to re-focus, gather our thoughts, and make plans for the coming months and seasons.

So now let us welcome in the New Year, a new year full of life and things that have never been.

January is the month of new beginnings, the time of aspirations and preparations for blessed days ahead.

Winter comes and spins a wondrous spell of cold crisp air that sends chills up our spines. All of nature is

at peace and we snuggle to stay warm and catch a few more winks before rising from our warm beds, which is just about the hardest thing to do on a cold winter morning.

Although the current economic climate doesn't make it easy, there is always something to be thankful for.

During Harry Truman's administration, he said, "It's a recession when your neighbor loses his job, but it's a depression when you lose your own."

As downturns in our economy disturb more and more households, we begin to question the financial yardstick by which we measure our own personal net worth.

Even the things that

make us happy take on a different tone. By merely re-arranging our priorities, we often find simpler pleasures that bring contentment.

If we truly desire to make the most of our circumstances, it is essential that we live our lives with proper priorities.

When things are in order, we can go directly to Jesus Christ for help because He is our source. He wants us to trust Him and talk to Him about our needs and problems

The good news is, He is always available.

Stressing over finances only mocks us and steals our joy of living. Worry follows us around all day like a dark shadow. At bedtime it robs us of needed sleep and plays

games with our minds.

In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus admonishes us not to fret over what we will eat, drink, or wear for our heavenly Father knows that we have need of these things. When we worry over them, we cease to live and begin to merely exist. King David testifies to this same end when he said, "I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread," Psalm 37:25.

One of the best things we can do is treat ourselves with kindness and respect. We must not beat ourselves up over a lack of finances because abundance is our spiritual birthright.

As believers, we are a part of the Abrahamic

Covenant, which includes financial prosperity. It appears to me that the simpler we make our lives, the more abundant they become with no scarcity in our souls.

Things never remain the same, but are ever changing.

We each have the power to modify our lifestyles and move on to better things.

That is why Jesus Christ must be the foundation of our faith and hope in trying times. So may we see

the many blessing we have to be thankful for with our spiritual eyes.

Having shelter, food on the table, family and good friends who care about us is wealth, so pause for a moment and give God a big "thank You."

May our hearts awaken to His goodness and love.

So Happy New Year to one and all, and may this be a most blessed year for each of you!

Send comments to jjstocks1@suddenlink.net



JERRIE STOCKS



BONNIE WHEAT

Having plans for a new year

It has been a decade since the great Y2K scare. To our amazement, most of our computers died of age-related problems instead of the dreaded turn-of-the-century syndrome that was expected to annihilate modern technology with the flip of a calendar. Our electronic gadgets became obsolete before we learned how to use them, but they didn't crash at midnight Dec. 31, 2000.

For the most part, the bottled water that was stockpiled in closets, basements and garages was never used, and all the food that was hoarded away for fear of Y2K starvation was soon forgotten.

Even those who stashed emergency money under their mattresses soon discovered that the banks were still open for business in the new century.

As we enter a new decade, life is still uncertain. Our nation faces unemployment and economic decline. Our news headlines are filled with security breaches and terrorist attacks. Political correctness is replac-

ing common sense and mainstream America is being undulated with treacherous undercurrents.

The mores that our nation once embraced are being challenged every day.

At such an unsettled time, how can we welcome a new year?

The Bible tells us of another group of people who survived an even greater upheaval than the one we face today.

In the days of the prophet Jeremiah, many of God's people had been taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar.

In their captivity, God made a promise to His

people: "For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you, and you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29: 11-13 NASB).

As we enter a new decade and a new year, our hope is not in financial security, government policy, or military strength. Our hope is in knowing that God has plans for His people -- plans for welfare and not calamity, plans to give us a hope and a future.

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

Births

Antonio L. Flores IV, a boy, was born at 10:43 a.m. Dec. 25, 2009, weighing 5 pounds, 12 ounces and 18-1/2 inches long. He is the son of Antonio Joe Flores Jr. and Anastasia Leonicia Lozano of Big Spring.

Grandparents are Joe Lozano Jr. and Irma G. Lozano, and Antonio P. Flores Sr. and Rosalinda Lopez.

He was welcomed into the home by siblings John Andrew Solis, An-



gelina Natalie Solis and Malerie Leah Perez.

Menus

Big Spring Senior Center

Monday: Steak fingers, mashed potatoes, peas and onions, apricot halves, rolls and milk.

Tuesday: Beef stew with vegetables, tossed salad

and dressing, cornbread, brownie and milk or V8 juice.

Wednesday: Crispy baked chicken, rice garden blend, mixed green salad, bread pudding with vanilla sauce and milk.

Thursday: Cheeseburger on a bun, lettuce/tomato/onion/pickles, french fries, baked beans and milk.

Friday: Crab cakes, blackeyed peas, yellow squash, rolls, apple crisp and milk.



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| Sun 1/3 | Mon 1/4 | Tue 1/5 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | |
| 50/26 Mainly sunny. High near 50F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph. | 51/27 Sunny. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 20s. | 56/30 Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s. |
| Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:54 PM | Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:55 PM | Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:55 PM |

Texas At A Glance

| Area Cities | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|-------------|----|----|----------|------------|----|----|----------|
| Abilene | 48 | 28 | pt sunny | Kingsville | 61 | 44 | rain |
| Amarillo | 46 | 26 | pt sunny | Livingston | 49 | 32 | pt sunny |
| Austin | 51 | 35 | cloudy | Longview | 47 | 33 | pt sunny |
| Beaumont | 52 | 35 | pt sunny | Lubbock | 47 | 25 | pt sunny |

TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS:

DFW Airport checkpoint 'unsecured'

FORT WORTH (AP) — The Transportation Security Administration is investigating why a security checkpoint at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport was unattended for about 90 minutes earlier this month.

The agency said the checkpoint was found to be "unsecured" as the terminal was closing for the night Dec. 16.

Disciplinary action has been recommended for three TSA agents.

News of the security breach comes as the government agency comes under intense scrutiny after the attempted terrorist attack on a Northwest Airlines flight on Christmas Day.

Teacher accused of zip tying student

SAN JUAN, Texas (AP) — A South Texas middle school teacher has been charged with unlawful restraint of a

minor after being accused of using zip ties on an 11-year-old's hands.

A police affidavit says the boy's mother told staff at Austin Middle School in San Juan that 25-year-old Jose Manuel Martinez tied her son's hands while he sat in a chair during in-school suspension Dec. 11.

Martinez, charged Thursday, did not immediately return a message from The Associated Press on New Year's Day, nor did the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo school district.

The Monitor in McAllen reports that a woman told police the student used vulgar language, threatening to run out of class. She also said the boy hit his hands against walls. She told police he was tied for about five minutes, the third time he'd been so restrained.

Richardson sees spike in open records requests

RICHARDSON (AP) — Open records requests have increased so much in the Dallas suburb of

Richardson that the city secretary's staff must hire a third employee.

City Secretary Pamela Schmidt told The Dallas Morning News that she and her assistant spend much of their time fulfilling the requests, which have risen from 257 in 2008 to more than 300 in 2009.

"We need staff," she said. "We need to get this done."

Schmidt, president of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, says there is no pattern of increasing numbers of requests across the state or region, but some cities are experiencing similar increases.

She attributes the spike in part to the public being more aware that they can get information from the government. Also, it's easier now to file requests via the Internet.

Richardson resident Nathan Morgan said filing an open records request is the only way to get questions answered completely.

Morgan said some of the 38 requests he has filed are follow-ups because an initial query did not produce "the right document to get

the right information."

Schmidt also said more businesses are asking for records.

While Richardson is adding staff to deal with the increase, other cities have used technology to manage records.

Over the past decade, requests in the Dallas suburb of Coppell have dropped from about 3,500 in 1999 to about 600 in 2009. City Secretary Libby Ball said five people accounted for 95 percent of the requests in 1999. She attributes the drop to the use of a document management software called Laserfiche and seeing some of the people who made the most requests stop asking for records.

"According to Laserfiche, we were one of the first to go across the board, putting everything up," Ball said.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Jean Lancaster, 86, died Thursday. The family will receive friends from 1:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Memorial Services will be later in the week at Stewart Family Funeral Home in Tyler, Texas. Burial will be at Arp, Texas.

Ruby Pike, 74, died Thursday. Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Hilbert William Treharn, 77, died December 21, 2009. Memorial services will be at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at Gateway Baptist Church.

Hermenegildo "Herman" Romero, 96, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Eliazar "Charlie" Rodriguez, 77, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Results from 2009 Howard County Pecan Show announced

Following are results from the 2009 Howard County Pecan Show:

Commercial Division

Cheyenne

First - Geraldine Hughes; second - Juan Palacios

Desirables

First - Juan Palacios (Division Champion, advances to regional show, Grand Champion)

Pawnee

First - Juan Palacios

(advancing to regional show)

Western

First - Nathan Hughes; second - Juan Palacios

Wichita

First - Nathan Hughes (advancing to regional

show); second - Juan Palacios

Classic Division

Barton

First - Juan Palacios (Division Champion, advancing to regional show)

Stuart

First - Juan Palacios; second - Jesse Saenz

Native Division

First - Geraldine Hughes (Division Champion).

PLOT

Continued from Page 1A

crushing poverty and deadly insurgencies. It appears that he joined an affiliate of al-Qaida, and that this group — al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula — trained him, equipped him with those explosives and directed him to attack that plane headed for America," the president said in his weekly radio and Internet address. It was released by the White House during Obama's vacation in Hawaii.

Officials have said Abdulmutallab's father warned the U.S.

Embassy in Nigeria that his son had drifted into extremism in the al-Qaida hotbed of Yemen. Abdulmutallab's threat was only partially digested by the U.S. security apparatus and not linked with a visa history showing the young man could fly to the United States.

Obama has ordered a thorough look at the shortcomings that permitted the plot, which failed not because of U.S. actions but because the would-be attacker was unable to ignite an explosive device. He has summoned homeland security officials to meet with him in the White House Situation Room on Tuesday.

Intelligence officials

prepared for what was shaping up to be uncomfortable hearings before Congress about miscommunication among anti-terror agencies and sweeping changes expected under Obama's watch.

Obama noted that in recent years, the al-Qaida affiliate in Yemen has bombed government facilities there as well as Western hotels, restaurants and embassies. An attack on the U.S. Embassy in 2008 killed one American.

"So, as president, I've made it a priority to strengthen our partnership with the Yemeni government — training and equipping their security forces, sharing intelligence and work-

ing with them to strike al-Qaida terrorists," he said.

The United States provided Yemen \$67 million in training and support under the Pentagon's counterterrorism program last year. Only Pakistan got more, with some \$112 million.

Obama said the money had been well spent: "Training camps have been struck, leaders eliminated, plots disrupted. And all those involved in the attempted act of terrorism on Christmas must know — you too will be held to account."

The U.S. general who oversees the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan told reporters in

Baghdad on Friday that U.S. counterterrorism aid to Yemen would more than double in the coming year. Gen. David Petraeus said Yemen was struggling to overcome many challenges, including declining oil revenues and an insurgency making full use of the country's rugged terrain.

"Al-Qaida are always on the lookout for places where they might be able to put down roots," he said.

Security officials in Yemen said Saturday the government deployed several hundred extra troops to two mountainous eastern provinces that are al-Qaida's main strongholds in the country.

AARP

Continued from Page 1A

volunteers help people complete their returns, refund down to any refunds that may be due them."

Hopkins said area residents planning to use the service should be sure to gather up their financial information before heading to the Senior Center.

"People need to be sure to bring all of the pertinent information with them, including a tax booklet if one was received through the mail, W-2 forms and 1099 forms," said Hopkins. "They also need to bring any forms that show their 2008 earnings and their 2007 tax returns. We also need a Social Security card for every person named on the return and a photo ID for the person filing."

Hopkins said there are some major changes to

the tax law this year that could really benefit Crossroads residents.

"Before last year, property taxes would have been an itemized deduction. However, starting last year and continuing this year, they are part of the taxpayer's standard deductions," said Hopkins. "So homeowners need to be sure to bring proof they paid their 2008 property taxes with them. The deduction can be as much as \$500 for a single person and \$1,000 for married couples."

Hopkins said there are also deductions for taxes paid on new homes and

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vehicle, so filers should be sure to bring proof of those purchases, as well.

Participants in the program will be able to e-file their tax returns at no charge, according to Hopkins.

The program will continue each Monday from

the start date until April 11 at the Senior Center — located at 1901 Simler Dr. in the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark — from 8 a.m. until noon. For more information, contact Hopkins at 267-6733.

Contact Staff Writer

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Cowboys, Eagles meet with home playoffs at stake

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Jerry Jones flew home from last year's finale in Philadelphia vowing to change the Dallas Cowboys.

Although he considered that club as talented as any of his Super Bowl championship teams, they sure didn't play like it. Torn apart by petty jealousies and personal glory, they not only blew a chance to cruise into the playoffs, they wound up missing out entirely after getting stomped 44-6 by the Eagles.

So Jones dumped Terrell Owens, Adam "Pacman" Jones, Tank Johnson and Greg Ellis. He fired the defensive coordinator and the special teams coach. He made head coach Wade Phillips take over the defense and plugged

holes on the roster with relatively unheralded, team-oriented guys.

Now look at them. The Cowboys close the season Sunday in another high-stakes finale against the Eagles. Although both teams have clinched a playoff berth, the winner will be crowned champions of the NFC East and earn the reward of a home playoff game.

If Philadelphia wins, it will earn the No. 2 seed in the NFC and a first-round bye. Dallas could get that, too, but it would require losses by Minnesota and Arizona. If the Cowboys win, these teams could meet again next week.

Two weeks ago, Dallas was coming off consecutive losses and could have easily folded again, especially going to New Orleans to play the undefeated Saints. But

instead of guys pointing fingers, they came together and knocked off the Saints, then went to Washington and shut out the Redskins. The surge has set themselves up for this potentially big finish and probably saved Phillips' job.

"I feel like we're more of a team this year," cornerback Mike Jenkins said. "Last year, we had an incident where our team fell apart a little bit. As you can tell right now, all of us are staying together and we're playing as a team."

So are the Eagles. Philadelphia was 5-4 in mid-November and coming off consecutive defeats, starting with a home loss to Dallas that put the Cowboys in first place. The Eagles haven't lost since, winning six straight to put themselves in position to become the betting-

line favorites to represent the NFC in the Super Bowl.

"The attitude is different, the approach is different, the enthusiasm is a lot different and the confidence is different," quarterback Donovan McNabb said. "We have to continue that."

McNabb's offense is averaging 31.2 points during the winning streak, pushing Philadelphia to the most points in franchise history with a game left. However, the Eagles scored only 16 points the last time they played the Cowboys, their second-lowest total of the season. And Dallas is on a three-game roll of limiting teams to their lowest point totals of the season; that includes San Diego and New Orleans, the only clubs that average more points per game than Philadelphia.

The Cowboys slowed the Eagles in November by keeping DeSean Jackson without any of his trademark big plays. It remains to be seen whether they can do it again.

"We'll do a little better job there," Philadelphia coach Andy Reid said. Another challenge for the Eagles is replacing center Jamaal Jackson, who tore a knee ligament this past Sunday. Nick Cole is taking his place.

Philadelphia's defense will be trying to slow a Dallas offense closing in on its most prolific season. Tony Romo is 40 yards from breaking the club's single-season passing record and the offense is 53 yards from its best total.

Should the Cowboys win again, they would have their first winning record after

Thanksgiving since 1996, which also happens to be the last time they won a playoff game. Of course, carrying a three-game winning streak into the playoffs and having a home playoff game would help their chances of ending that drought, too.

Considering they could lure close to 100,000 for that extra home game, a victory Sunday could be worth untold millions for owner Jerry Jones, giving him even more reasons to pick up Phillips' option for next season.

"When I look at all of this," Jones said, "I wouldn't trade the alternative, which is to have felt better sooner. I wouldn't have traded that alternative to be where we are right now with the good things that I see this team becoming."

LB Brooking ignites Cowboys with pregame huddle

Associated Press

IRVING, Texas (AP) — A few minutes before kickoff against the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday, the Dallas Cowboys will form a big circle around linebacker Keith Brooking, giving him their full attention.

In his 12th NFL season, Brooking could offer all sorts of insight, maybe a final few words of wisdom to keep everyone focused on what's at stake.

But that's not his thing.

Brooking will start ranting and raving like a revivalist preacher trying to save souls and convert nonbelievers. He'll holler things that demand words of affirmation to be hollered back. There will probably be some jumping up and down and maybe some body slamming, all in the name of motivation.

Could this pregame pep session be a secret reason why the Cowboys

have a chance to win the division?

"Who knows?" Brooking acknowledged. "When toe meets leather, are you remembering that? Probably not. But at the end of the day it is an emotional game, and if that little bit of spark may help us a little bit, I'm all for it."

Here's how it went last Sunday, before the Cowboys played the Redskins in Washington, courtesy of NBC cameras and YouTube:

"This is all we need!" Brooking screams twice, his helmet off, head bobbing and eyes bulging as he shuffles around the middle of the circle, teammates responding to each line with cries of "Yeah!"

"We're gonna keep hitting 'em!" he screams twice, followed by more cries of "Yeah!"

"They might get back up. Then we're gonna hit 'em again!" he continues, now moving in faster circles. "And

when they're barely hanging on ..."

"What're we gonna do?" screams running back Tashard Choice, setting up Brooking for his frenzied finish.

"We're gonna hit 'em in the mouth! We're gonna bloody their nose! We're gonna knock 'em to the ground!" Brooking says, drawing cheers and laughs as players close it by bashing into each other.

This ritual has been going on for weeks, although somewhat under the radar. Special teams coach Joe DeCamillis didn't even know about it, finding out only because he was watching the Redskins game from a hospital room when NBC showed the clip during the second quarter Sunday night.

"That was an interesting deal, that's for sure," DeCamillis said. "He got them jacked up, and that's what it's all about."

DeCamillis wasn't sur-

prised, though, because he coached Brooking for many years in Atlanta before being reunited this season. He knows that Brooking is the rare guy who at 34 plays with the excitement of someone half his age.

The Falcons, however, thought Brooking was too old to keep playing linebacker in a young man's game, so they let him go after last season. Cowboys coach Wade Phillips disagreed and signed him to play on first and second downs, figuring his attitude would be nice to have, too.

Brooking started out relatively low-key until he started making plays all over the field — pressuring quarterbacks, breaking up passes, chasing down younger running backs from behind. Then out came his wild side, much to the delight of teammates and fans.

Around midseason, the club began using him to ratchet up the

noise at home games. The final thing shown on the massive video boards before kickoff is a close-up of Brooking staring out and saying, "It's 80,000 of us against 11 of them," then cutting to a shot of the visitors, drawing boos and helping whip the crowd into a frenzy.

About the same time, Choice — another vocal, emotional leader — began encouraging Brooking to lead the club in a pregame "breakdown," a pump-it-up session used by many teams. It went over so well they do it every week.

"I'm just like, 'OK, Brook. It's time,'" Choice said.

Teammates say it works so well because of how genuine it is coming from Brooking.

"You can definitely see the passion pouring right out of him," receiver Miles Austin said.

"If it was just something he had to do, a

lot of us would take it as a joke because we are grown men," added receiver Sam Hurd. "But when you look into his eyes, you can tell it's something he really feels and you want to get on the same level he is."

Hurd, Choice and even Austin are relatively young guys, the kind more prone to buying into college-like enthusiasm.

But receiver Roy Williams, in his sixth year, gets a kick out of it, too.

"I was one of those guys that was in the back when he gets going," Williams said. "Now I'm one of those guys in the middle when he gets going."

The only person complaining about it all might be Holly Brooking, Keith's wife.

After seeing the clip on TV Sunday night, "she's like, 'I don't know if I know that guy,'" Brooking said, laughing.

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In love and war: marriage on front lines

LINDSAY WISE

Houston Chronicle

BAGHDAD — You won't find Iraq listed as a Top 10 honeymoon destination in the glossy pages of any bridal magazine, but there's nowhere else newlyweds Miguel and Amanda Perez would rather be right now.

"I like to think about it like it's the military sending us on a vacation," joked Miguel, a 24-year-old sergeant from Houston. "Sand and palm trees everywhere — a nine-month honeymoon."

The Perezes are one of six married couples who deployed to Iraq with the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, a Texas Army National Guard unit headquartered in Houston. About 3,000 soldiers from the brigade are stationed across the country, assigned to missions such as Green Zone security, detainee operations, force protection and convoys.

Both Perezes served in Iraq before. Miguel deployed from 2006-07. Amanda deployed from 2008-09.

"We know what the military expects of us, and we know that the military has to come first," said Amanda, a 23-year-old specialist from Beaumont.

With an increasing number of women serving on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan — about 10 percent of the 72nd's soldiers are female — married life has become a reality of military deployments.

Amanda and Miguel



Sgt. Miguel Perez, 24, waits for his wife Spc. Amanda Reyes, 23, to come home to their Containerized Housing Unit (CHU), 130-square-foot room at Camp Prosperity in Baghdad. The CHU is their first home as a married couple. The Perezes are one of six married couples who deployed to Iraq with the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, a Texas Army National Guard unit headquartered in Houston. They met in the Guard and married at a courthouse on Oct. 2, during a break in training.

AP Photo/Houston Chronicle/Mayra Beltran

met in the Guard and married at a courthouse on Oct. 2, during a break in training. Since then, they've lived in group tents or barracks separated by gender, only seeing each other for a few hours each day.

Their first home together is a 130-square-foot room in a containerized housing unit, or CHU, at Camp Prosperity in Baghdad's Green Zone.

"Free of rent," Amanda pointed out.

The Perezes pushed the standard-issue twin beds together and hung a Texas flag in the doorway for some extra privacy. Miguel bought Amanda a full-length mirror so she wouldn't have to do her makeup sitting on the floor. He plans to use the wood shop at Camp Prosperity to build a table for their new flat-screen TV.

The Perezes have to walk outside to use shared latrines and showers. They eat at the chow hall and send their uniforms to a contractor-run laundry service — amenities that cut down on the potential for fights over whose turn it is to wash the dishes or fold the clothes. But there are plenty of other stresses.

As soon as they started dating, Amanda and

Miguel had to ask the military's blessing. They went through counseling with the brigade's chaplain and got briefings from the chain of command.

"They said we had to keep it professional when it came to work and if there's any problems they're going to separate us," Amanda said.

"We can't show affection in front of every-

body because we're in uniform, so we really have to watch what we say to each other, and we can't touch each other," Miguel said.

The rule against public affection — no holding hands.

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MONITOR

Continued from Page 2C

also are being used in assisted living facilities where operators like the additional protections they offer.

But many people would like to see the technology become more mainstream, added Elinor Ginzler, senior vice president for livable communities for AARP, which recently surveyed seniors about their interest in the products. Seniors are willing to use the technology if it's affordable, she said.

"We're at the beginning of the wave," she said. "Money is an issue."

Alwan foresees technology allowing seniors to avoid "unnecessary early institutionalization" because it will relieve the anxiety of loved ones. The ability to closely monitor a person's lifestyle also can help family members know when the older person is unable to remain home, said Katie Boyer, director of marketing for Home for Life

Solutions, in Lee Summit.

Besides monitoring falls and day-to-day activities, her company sells equipment that will turn off a stove if the user forgets. A built-in motion detector turns the appliance off if the user leaves the room and does not return in a specific timeframe.

As for managing medicine, systems exist that will dispense it at appropriate times and remind patients to take it. If the patient fails to take the medicine, the pills can move into a locked chamber to avoid an overdose.

Many older people like having technology provide this extra layer of security because it doesn't require them to give up privacy, said Agnes Berzsenyi, general manager of home health for GE Healthcare in Milwaukee.

GE has two products aimed at seniors: Health Guide allows users to check their blood pressure, sugar levels or heart rate daily. The information is sent to a medical provider who

tracks it. If problems arise, the patient can have a teleconference with a nurse or schedule an appointment with their doctor.

The company also offers QuietCare, which uses sensors that learn a customer's daily activities and behaviors, and then watch for changes, Berzsenyi explained. The sensors will alert help if a person falls, goes to the bathroom at night and doesn't return to bed, or fails to get out of bed in the morning. Sensors also can be placed near the medicine cabinet or refrigerator, so monitors can track whether the person is taking their medicine and eating.

"It makes them feel like someone's taking

care of them but no one is watching them," Berzsenyi said.

John Cobb, CEO of Senior Lifestyle Corp., started to install QuietCare in some of his company's 70 senior living facilities this summer because he thought it would make residents safer. With Quietcare, his staff can keep track of residents' whereabouts at night, he said.

"This is not a nursing home," Cobb said from his company's Chicago headquarters. "We're not watching people at night."

Within 30 days, the system alerted staff members to five residents who had problems overnight, he said.

"That was a very telling moment," he said.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the years!
See you in 2010!

Helen Hernandez & Staff

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Reunion

An impromptu reunion of several grandchildren of Epfy and Rachel Hale, who lived in Big Spring for many years, took place Dec. 17.

Attending were Jean Wood Fortenberry of Indianapolis, Ind.; Juanita Witt Stiger of Midland; Eunice (Jerry) Filler of Big Spring; and Mike Fields of Breckenridge.

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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

OUR VIEW

Let's be sure we drive safely around schools

Now that the holiday season is over, we can begin to get back into some familiar routines. For many of us, that includes some type of arrangement for getting our children to school in the morning and back home again in the afternoon.

For those of us who work, it can be a harried time. We're balancing their schedule with ours, trying to get to work, then maybe take a quick afternoon break so we can rush to the school and pick up the children and deliver them to a relative's house, daycare or home.

We've all been outside school buildings when the final bells ring. They are a beehive of activity, with children scampering everywhere, and cars lined up waiting. Obviously, the potential for an accident is increased. Fortunately, however, there have been few of those over the years.

That's because most of us observe the speed limits in school zones and are aware of the potential danger.

Here are some important points to remember:

- Slow down. Always obey the speed limit when traveling through neighborhoods and school zones.
- Be attentive. Watch for children gathering near bus stops and walking in the street, especially where there are no sidewalks.
- Remain alert. Hurried children may dart into the street without looking for traffic.

None of us is so busy, nor is there any emergency so important that we can afford to put our young people at risk by driving in an unsafe manner.

It's a new year and a new decade. Let's all do our best to make sure our children see many more to come.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we get away from stress, Lord, and come to You in prayer.

Amen

Be a trailblazer in the new year

Are you ready to blaze a new road on your life journey? I love the New Year! Each New Year feels like an opportunity for renewal, regeneration, restoration and renovation. And believe me, I always have plenty of resolutions to be implemented.

This year is no different! I have weight that I long to lose, career goals that I intend to pursue, relationships that I hope to improve, places I want to see, rooms in my house that I plan to reorganize and debts that simply must get paid off.

And since crossing one of those "age" hurdles in my life, I've been obsessed with the idea of doing and experiencing things I've never done before.

This makes me think of the introductory statement William Shatner used to make before each Star Trek episode. Remember it? He talked about exploring strange new worlds and seeking out new life forms and new civilizations — "to boldly go where no man has gone before."

It's words like "explore" and "new" that capture my imagination. I can certainly see that bold action is often required of a trailblazer, pioneer and ground-breaker.

After my husband and I walked a few trails in states like Colorado and Oregon, I couldn't help but be grateful for the efforts and accomplishments made by explorers like Lewis and Clark. Over 200 years ago they set out on an amazing expedition where they faced unknown people, harsh conditions and territory they had never traveled before.

Walking through dense forests, even on a well-established trail, made me consider the courage and vision that must have been needed by the first trailblazers in order to imagine what was possible even when their view was blocked at first.

Who could imagine that on the other side of some steep mountains could be a vast ocean? Or who could imagine that in the midst of the forest would be a beautiful waterfall?

When we set out on a new trail in our life, we usually have no idea what we will find along our path — much less what we will discover at the end of our journey.

Many times we probably have an idea about what we hope to find or experience along the way. But most likely, we can't even begin to imagine the many surprises that we'll undoubtedly encounter.

We can run into problems if we try to outline our expectations too much. When we don't see what we think we're going to see at the moment we thought we would, disappointment and discouragement can cause us to

miss something unexpected and equally as wonderful as what we had hoped for.

So the lesson here, my friends, is to expect the unexpected and love the experience when you're blessed with it.

Lee Ann Womack begins her song "I hope you dance" with "I hope you never lose your sense of wonder."

Hearts filled with wonder hunger to be surprised and eagerly anticipate the wonderment of all they will see and experience.

Remember the wonder of your first kiss, your first day of college or your first airplane ride?

One of my New Year's resolutions this year is to find new wonder in the things I do each day.

Wonder makes our lives more meaningful and enjoyable.

I can see now how not having wonder leads to boredom and cynicism. It could be that part of my desire for something new and exciting is a wake-up call to rediscover my sense of wonder in what is already in my life.

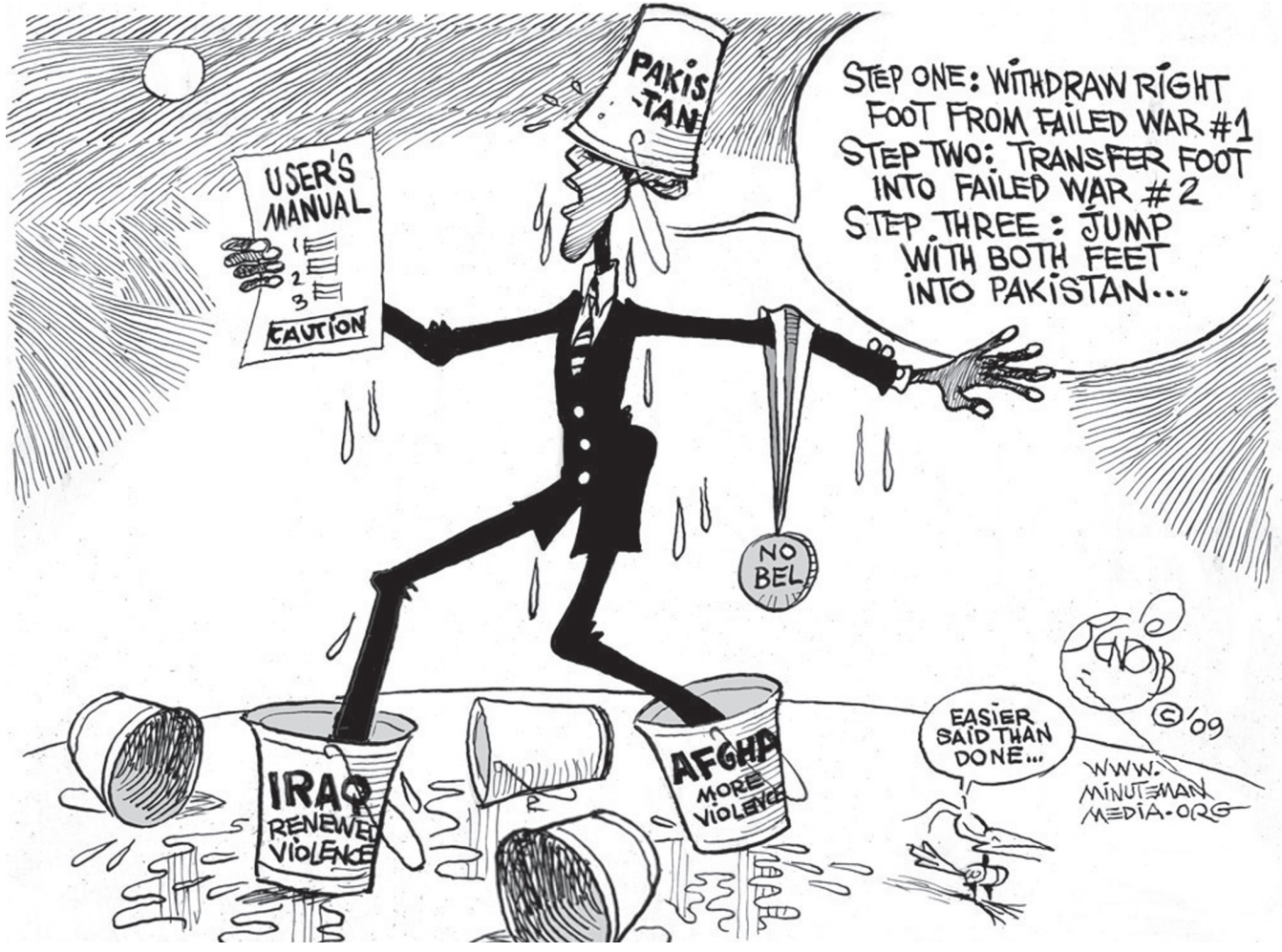
So let's rekindle our sense of wonder if we need to and make each day of our New Year more wonder-full.

I suspect this will make blazing new trails as well as walking old ones much more fun!

Annette Bridges is a freelance writer who lives in North Texas. Her columns are published weekly by numerous websites and newspapers. E-mail her at annettebridges@gmail.com



ANNETTE BRIDGES



YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

My husband and I were among the hundreds of folks who were stranded on I-20 Christmas Eve. We were about a half-mile west of Putnam when we got word that the Interstate was closed and not expected to open again until 3 p.m. Christmas Day. You can imagine how disappointed we were and how we wished we'd have left the Interstate when we'd had the chance.

Though our circumstances were grim, our spirits were lifted when members of TxDOT and the DPS came through the line of vehicles checking on each one to make sure that all had the provisions needed and enough fuel to keep warm through the night. There was even someone with fuel for those who needed it. Our "neighbors" checked on us and we checked on them; the truckers shared what they were hearing on their radios.

At 6 a.m., when my husband and I had given up trying to sleep, we saw headlights coming down the median toward us. The lights belonged to an ATV, driven by a young man offering coffee. I was so overwhelmed by his kindness, it was all I could do to squeak out a thank you. He just smiled and said, "Merry Christmas," and went on down the way to the next car in line.

Around 10 a.m. word came that traffic was moving ahead of us in the right lane only, drivers holding the right lane slots yielded to those in the left until all were

merged in. There was no squabbling, no horns honking, just people taking care of people. Then we were all on our way again.

When I think back on what I now refer to as our Great Christmas Adventure of 2009, I will fondly remember how loving thy neighbor was so beautifully demonstrated by the public servants, a very kind young man and our fellow sojourners in the small community of Putnam.

Thank you doesn't come close to expressing how much we appreciate your generosity.

DON AND MINDY WHITTENBURG
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

First, we give all the glory and thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ, who protected us through the accident we were involved in about 10 miles west of Big Spring on Interstate 20 on Dec. 7.

We want to express our sincere gratitude for the support and kindness we received from the wonderful people at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. We want to let you all know that you made us feel very comfortable. We saw the hands of our Lord all the time that day — from the owner of the cafeteria and staff workers to the medical personnel, and especially the X-ray technician.

We also want to appreciate the sheriff's deputy and ambulance service paramedics for all the things they did.

Now we know there are very

nice people with a big heart in Big Spring. May the Lord bless you always and thank you.

ARNOLD AND ROSA M. CARBAJAL
FORT WORTH

TO THE EDITOR:

As a Christian, husband, father, son, son-in-law, brother, nephew, uncle, boss and friend, I pray I don't forget anyone this year.

Yes it is true, all of us wear many hats and are consumed by this time of the year by rushing around and trying to get in touch with all of the people that mean something to us. I would like everyone to think about that when that certain some-one doesn't call or send a card.

It doesn't mean that they forgot about you, they also wear many hats.

I have several friends that come in from out of town and for a while it bothered me that they would not make time to spend with me. Finally, I grew up and understood that they did not intentionally ignore me, they were spending time with their families.

This time of year is a time for giving, not taking. It is the time of year to celebrate the birth of Jesus. If you are consumed with personal issues, then you have missed the whole reason for Christmas.

I would like to remind everyone to be aware of their actions,

See LETTERS, Page 5A

ROSE

Continued from 1B

Vince Young's breakout performance in the same stadium four years ago, Pryor shook off his early mistakes and led the Buckeyes confidently through a tense fourth quarter.

Turns out nothing was wrong with the Buckeyes' quarterback that winning the Rose Bowl couldn't cure.

"I think he wanted to have a game that puts him out there in the national ranks, puts him on the map," said receiver

er Dane Sanzenbacher, who had nine catches for 64 yards. "You could see it with Terrelle in the huddle. He kept his poise and kept us moving. It's something we see in practice all the time, but everybody else can see it now, too."

After arriving in Los Angeles, Pryor disclosed he'd been playing with a partially torn knee ligament, and he came up limping early in the game. But Pryor said the knee didn't bother him, and nothing in his game betrayed any impediment.

With Ohio State nurs-

ing a two-point lead in the fourth quarter, he took charge during a 13-play, 81-yard drive eating up more than six minutes — part of the Buckeyes' Rose Bowl-record 41:37 time-of-possession advantage.

Pryor converted a third-and-13 play near midfield with about nine minutes to play on a 26-yard catch by tight end Jake Ballard, who leaped high to snatch it. After another third-down conversion, Posey made an impressive TD catch, turning both directions and snagging Pryor's pass away

from his body before tumbling over the goal line.

"I guess everybody knows he can throw now," Ballard said with a grin.

Posey had eight catches for 101 yards, and Brandon Saine caught an early TD pass for the Buckeyes, making their first Rose Bowl appearance since 1997.

Ohio State's defense did some of its best work in an altogether dominant year, limiting the Ducks' no-huddle offense to its worst passing game of the season. Masoli threw for just 81

yards and LaMichael James rushed for 70, but a series of big plays and kick returns by Kenjon Barner kept Oregon (10-3) close until Pryor sealed it.

"Definitely the whole night we were just a little bit off," said Masoli, who was 9 for 20. "We didn't really open up the playbook regarding the air attack. I don't know why. I wasn't calling the plays."

Oregon made a remarkable comeback from its season-opening loss to Boise State to win its first Pac-10 title since 2001, but the

Ducks haven't won the Rose Bowl since the game's third edition in 1917, back when the Granddaddy of Them All was a toddler.

In its first Rose Bowl since 1995, Oregon ran for 179 yards, the second-most allowed by Ohio State this season, but fell far short of its lofty point totals from its recent games. Masoli's 1-yard TD run put Oregon up 17-16 early in the third quarter, but the Ducks' powerful offense never scored again, repeatedly corralling Masoli and his tailbacks.

SUGAR

Continued from 1B

12 passes, led the Gators to scores on their first five possessions and finished with 533 total yards — more than anyone in Bowl Championship Series history. He topped former Texas star Vince Young's record of 467 yards set against Southern California in the 2005 Rose Bowl.

"They couldn't stop Superman," Gators guard Carl Johnson. "They needed some kryptonite."

The Bearcats lost their bid for a perfect season and surely will spend the next year listening to questions about whether they belong in the big games against the biggest boys.

Florida, meanwhile,

became the first school in the Football Bowl Subdivision to win 13 games in consecutive seasons.

Tebow and his teammates had hoped to repeat as national champions, but a 32-13 loss to Alabama in the Southeastern Conference title game knocked them out of the title picture.

"We tried to show coach where we should have been," Johnson said. "We had to make a statement game, not only for us, but for coach Meyer. We had a bad game at a crucial moment, but we're still Florida, we're still here and we ain't going nowhere."

The Gators spent the last four weeks regrouping from the disheartening loss.

Things got worse when Meyer announced

his resignation last Saturday, three weeks after being rushed to the hospital because of chest pain. Meyer changed his mind the following day, and instead said he would take an indefinite leave of absence.

No one knows how long he will be away or whether he will return at all.

"I plan on being the coach of the Gators," Meyer said. "I know I'm anxious to get home. We'll address the future at the appropriate time."

His wife, Shelley, said she had no idea what will happen.

"We just need to take a step back and think and relax and we'll see what happens from here," she said. "But this couldn't have ended better right now, right here. This couldn't have been a bet-

ter day ever."

Meyer didn't look like his fiery self against his alma mater. Then again, Tebow & Co. made this a stress-free game for every Gator.

Cincinnati stacked the line of scrimmage, essentially forcing Tebow to beat them through the air. That worked for the Crimson Tide. It backfired for the Bearcats.

The bulky left-hander had all kinds of time to pass and picked apart Cincinnati's sketchy defense. He nearly had a career game in the first half alone. He completed 20 of 23 passes for 320 yards and three touchdowns, 18 yards shy of his previous career high.

He found Aaron Hernandez for a 7-yard score to cap Florida's first possession, hooked up with Deonte Thompson

on a perfectly thrown ball to the corner of the end zone in the second quarter and then dropped a deep ball into roommate Riley Cooper's hands for an 80-yarder. That was longest completion of Tebow's career.

The Gators pushed the

lead to 30-3 early in the third quarter and cruised the rest of the way.

"I didn't see this coming," said Tebow, who stayed in the game until there was about 3 minutes to play. "But I knew we had a great game plan."

PENN ST.

Continued from 1B

40. Quarterback Jordan Jefferson hit Rueben Randle for a 25-yard gain on the game's last play to the Penn State 35 but Randle fumbled as time expired.

LSU was still fuming after the game.

"So the opportunity to go down there and have a chance at a field goal late in the game certainly would have been what we planned," Miles said. "It didn't work out that way."

This game will be remembered as much for the messy beginning as the dramatic finish.

Bad footing and dropped passes were normal in the first half, and Clark fumbled the snap exchange twice — though both were recovered by Penn State.

Nevertheless, Clark had a good time in the mud.

"It was a lot of fun," he said. "We couldn't use that as an excuse, because they had to play on it, too."

The Tigers weren't as happy afterward.

"That was by far the worst field conditions I've ever seen in my life. For them to say this is the best bowl outside the BCS, I would expect to play on the best field outside the BCS," said LSU receiver Brandon LaFell.

Clark, nagged by questions of whether he can win a big game, ended his college career on a high note. Similarly, critics noted Penn State hadn't beaten a ranked team all season despite its gaudy record.

JoePa has something to smile about in wrapping up his 44th season on the sideline.

"That thing about not beating a ranked team, I mean, between you and me, that's a lot of hooley

(sic), OK, to be honest with you," Paterno said at a post-game news conference. "I think you guys have to write about something, so you pick out something."

Clark finished 18-of-35 for 216 yards and 37-yard touchdown pass to Derek Moyer in the first quarter. Clark also nearly came close to throwing a couple interceptions Friday — if LSU had held on to wet balls.

The Nittany Lions emerged at halftime with a 13-3 lead, but LSU gained traction after rain subsided in the second half.

LaFell's 24-yard touchdown pass from Jefferson with 13 seconds left in the third quarter drew the Tigers within 16-10 to awaken the slumbering LSU crowd.

Jefferson was 13-of-24 for 202 yards with the TD and one interception, while LaFell finished with five catches for 87 yards.

Penn State stalled on its next drive, and Trindon Holliday — the reigning NCAA 100-meter dash champion — returned a punt 37 yards to the LSU 49 to help set up Ridley's TD run.

The teams exchanged stalled drives before Penn State took over for its game-winning drive with 6:54 left. Clark hit a Graham Zug one third-and-4 from the LSU 42 for a key conversion to keep the chains moving.

The field took another pounding after poor conditions hampered the Champs Sports Bowl earlier in the week on the same turf. Eight state high school championship games were also played at the stadium in recent weeks. The grounds crew worked frantically all week in an attempt to get the field in shape for Friday's game.

Rain started falling about a couple hours before game time, and

the field took a pounding during pregame warmups. Routines by the marching bands didn't help either.

"When you would try to make a play, you'd be slipping and stumbling all over the place," said Penn State tailback Evan Royster. "I didn't think the field was going to have puddles like that on it."

Conditions were so bad for both offenses early on that the teams combined for 15 punts — shattering the bowl record of 10 set Miami, Ohio and Florida in 1973.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Just Plain Horse Sense

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ K J 9 8 6
♥ 9 3
♦ A K 6
♣ 10 6 2
WEST
♠ 10 7 3 2
♥ 10 8 7
♦ 9 8
♣ J 9 7 3
EAST
♠ A Q 4
♥ 6 5
♦ J 10 4 2
♣ A K Q 8
SOUTH
♠ 5
♥ A K Q J 4 2
♦ Q 7 5 3
♣ 5 4

The bidding:
North East South West
1♠ 1NT Dble 2♣
Pass Pass 3♥ Pass
4♥

Opening lead — nine of diamonds.
Bridge is an easy game — if you always make the right bid and the right play at the right time. Thankfully, the right bids and plays are usually easy to find, though some of them might be a bit harder to find than others.

Take this deal played by Emma Jean Hawes of Fort Worth, Texas, in a national pairs championship many years ago. She got to four hearts as shown, and all she did was do the right thing every time it was her turn. But what she did must have been

very, very good, because all the others who played the hand either failed to reach four hearts or failed to make it.

West led a diamond, and Mrs. Hawes made her first good play when she won the trick in her hand instead of in dummy. She had already determined the proper line of play, which necessitated taking the first trick with the diamond queen. Next she drew three rounds of trumps, led a spade and finessed the nine! Why the nine? We'll come back to that in a moment.

East took the nine with the queen and played the A-K-Q of clubs. Mrs. Hawes ruffed, led a diamond to the king and returned the king of spades. East covered with the ace, establishing dummy's jack, after which Mrs. Hawes crossed to dummy's diamond ace and discarded a diamond on dummy's jack of spades to make her contract.

The unusually deep spade finesse at trick two was prompted by East's one-notrump overcall, which indicated 16 to 18 points and thus marked East with the A-Q of spades. Playing the jack or king from dummy was therefore pointless, while playing the nine could be very productive if West had the ten.

The reasoning was certainly not complicated; all that was needed was a cool head at the helm.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.

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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.

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

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The Bill Miller Show - Friday Night at 8:00pm

Pilgrim's Pride pays \$4.5M to end immigrant probe

ANABELLE GARAY
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — Federal investigators will not prosecute Pilgrim's Pride Corp. for employing illegal immigrants and have dropped an investigation into the chicken producer and its workers, the

U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of Texas said Wednesday.

The Pittsburg, Texas-based company in turn agreed to pay \$4.5 million to a law enforcement fund at the Department of the Treasury and improve how it screens pro-

spective employees to ensure they are allowed to work in the United States, the office said in a statement.

An investigation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement led to the arrest in December 2007 of 25 people involved in a scheme to secure

jobs for illegal immigrants at Pilgrim's Pride plants in East Texas. Some of those arrested were human resources employees at the company.

They were prosecuted for immigration violations or crimes stemming from document and identity fraud, said

Arnold Spencer, the federal prosecutor who oversaw the case.

The arrests were followed in April 2008 with raids of Pilgrim's Pride plants in Texas, Florida, West Virginia,

See **PROBE**, Page 5C



AP photo/Charles Trainer Jr./Miami Herald

In this July 27, 2009, photo, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., attorney Scott Rothstein is shown in his office. In 2009, the recession prompted the unraveling of more than three times as many of the investment schemes compared with 2008, with "Ponzi" becoming a household name again thanks to the collapse of Bernard Madoff's \$50 billion scheme. The 2009 scams ranged in size from a few hundred thousand dollars to the \$7 billion, as well as the \$1.2 billion scheme authorities say was operated by the now disbarred Rothstein who has pleaded not guilty.

Ponzi collapses nearly quadrupled during 2009

CURT ANDERSON
AP Legal Affairs Writer

MIAMI — It was a rough year for Ponzi schemes. In 2009, the recession unraveled nearly four times as many of the investment schemes as fell apart in 2008, with "Ponzi" becoming a buzzword again thanks to the collapse of Bernard Madoff's \$50 billion plot.

Tens of thousands of investors, some of them losing their life's savings, watched more than \$16.5 billion disappear like smoke in 2009, according to an Associated Press analysis of scams in all 50 states.

While the dollar figure was lower than in 2008, that's only because Madoff — who pleaded guilty earlier this year and is serving a 150-year prison sentence — was arrested in December 2008 and didn't count toward this year's total.

In all, more than 150 Ponzi schemes collapsed in 2009, compared to about 40 in 2008, according to the AP's examination of criminal cases at all U.S. attorneys' offices and the FBI, as well as criminal and civil actions taken by state prosecutors and regulators at both the federal and state levels.

The 2009 scams ranged in size from a few hundred thousand dollars to the \$7 billion bogus international banking empire authorities say jailed financier Allen Stanford orchestrated, as well as the \$1.2 billion scheme they say was operated by disbarred Florida lawyer Scott Rothstein. Both have pleaded not guilty.

While enforcement efforts have ramped up — in large part because of the discovery of Madoff's fraud, estimated at \$21 billion to \$50 billion — the main reason so many Ponzi schemes have come to light is clear.

"The financial meltdown has resulted in the exposure of numerous fraudulent schemes that otherwise might have gone undetected for a longer period of

time," said Lanny Breuer, assistant attorney general for the U.S. Justice Department.

A Ponzi scheme depends on a constant infusion of new investors to pay older ones and furnish the cash for the scammers' lavish lifestyles. This year, when the pool of people willing to become new investors shrank and existing investors clamored to withdraw money, scams collapsed across the country.

"Some portion of the investors in the Ponzi scheme always get the short end of the stick and do not get paid," said Elizabeth Nowicki, a former Securities and Exchange Commission attorney who now teaches law at Boston University.

Even those who say they did their homework before investing ended up losing everything.

A retired Air Force sergeant, Tom Annis searched the Internet for red flags like complaints or lawsuits involving Minneapolis-based host Patrick Kiley after hearing about his investment on a weekly Christian radio show called "Follow The Money."

Finding none, the 63-year-old from Jacksonville, Fla., invested his \$270,000 nest egg — money that has since evaporated after federal regulators shut down what they've called an elaborate, \$190 million Ponzi scheme.

"I tried to do my level of due diligence," Annis said. "How could I be duped like this after years of investing?"

Ponzi schemes, named for infamous swindler Charles Ponzi, are extremely simple: Investors attracted by promises of high profits are paid with money from an ever-increasing pool of new investors, with the scammer skimming off the top. Sometimes the investments are at least partially legitimate but more often are completely fictional. There's no reserve fund for lean times, or for when droves of investors start demanding their money.

Ponzi himself was an Italian immigrant who concocted a scheme

in 1919 involving bogus investments in postal currency. He cheated thousands of people out of \$10 million, eventually going to jail for wire fraud before being deported back to Italy in 1934.

Eighty years after his scheme, federal statistics paint the picture of a Ponzi nation:

- The FBI opened more than 2,100 securities fraud investigations in 2009, up from 1,750 in 2008. The FBI also had 651 agents working in 2009 on high-yield investment fraud cases, which include Ponzis, compared with 429 last year.

- The SEC this year issued 82 percent more restraining orders against Ponzi schemes and other securities fraud cases this year than in 2008, and it opened about 6 percent more investigations. Ponzi scheme investigations now make up 21 percent of the SEC's enforcement workload, compared with 17 percent in 2008 and 9 percent in 2005.

- The Commodity Futures Trading Commission filed 31 civil actions in Ponzi cases this year, more than twice the 2008 amount.

Many of the 2009 cases have yet to head to trial. In its tally, the AP counted schemes in which prosecutions were initiated or in which regulators filed civil cases in 2008 and 2009.

The Justice Department does not have totals of how many people were convicted in Ponzi schemes for either year, or for previous years.

Experts believe the recession was the main reason for the collapse of so many Ponzi schemes, though the Madoff case brought greater regulatory scrutiny and heightened public awareness. More people are inclined to raise questions when things don't look right.

"We do get a lot more questions from investors now," said Denise Voigt Crawford, Texas Securities Commissioner. "They are really worried about Ponzi schemes. That's a good thing."

Energy Watch



Bhupen Agrawal is branch manager and a managing director — investments for the Wachovia Securities Midland office.

Bill Franks, AAMS, is a senior registered client associate and the senior associate to the branch manager.



Each generation believes that the times it lived through were the most difficult ever experienced and that makes sense. If the current generation only had to deal with past problems, the solutions would be known and appear easy.

Well, welcome to the new decade, buckle up because it sure seems like tough going.

In our years as professional students of the stock market, we have never experienced so many extreme opinions on both sides of all arguments.

This generation has black and white opinions about almost everything, and the divisiveness in Washington and our nation is both extreme and destructive. The need to "win" in Washington has replaced compromising and trying to do what is best for the people, rather than what it takes to get re-elected.

Well, our history says the American people will eventually get control again of our great nation.

For now, let's look at some of the areas of severe conflict.

The health care plan: Polls say the American people don't like it and the politicians are all on one side or the other depending on their political party.

Cap and trade has some strong political support but little support from the people. The popularity of Congress and President Obama is way down, and the Tea Parties are both strongly supported and vilified.

Basically, we have never witnessed our people so nervous and upset about the state of our country and we are not even mentioning the international scene. Well, at least we have one thing that we can analyze using facts to establish a clear opinion — the economy.

Whoops, not so fast!

This past week, two highly regarded economic advisors to President Obama had opposite opinions about the economy. One said the recession is over, the other said "no way." So who is right? We believe the optimist, but recognize that all is not clear. Many things are seldom black or white.

We know that after deep recessions, the economy often has a "slingshot effect" and comes soaring back. Also, the leading economic indicators have now risen eight months in a row for the largest eight-month advance in more than a quarter century.

We also realize that the labor market remains very soft, and a 10 percent unemployment rate does not make many folks "feel" like the recession is over. Shake it all up, and we are cautiously optimistic about the economy but pretty enthusiastic about the outlook for corporate earnings in 2010.

However, with all the screaming and unpleasantness going on in our nation, what are mere mortal strategists to do?

Our solution: Respect the action of the stock market. The past six weeks of churning action in the market has been a gentle way to work off excesses. The message of the market says that stocks are going higher and if our supposed political leaders begin to talk to each other rather than warring, 2010 could be a very good year. But for now, the seatbelt light is still on.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Portions of this article were produced on Dec. 22, 2009, by Al Goldman, Wells Fargo Advisors' chief market strategist. Wells Fargo Advisors did not assist in the preparation of this article and its accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed. The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of Wells Fargo or its affiliates. The material has been prepared or is distributed solely for informational purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy any security or instrumental to participate in any trading strategy. Additional information is available upon request at 432-684-7335. Wells Fargo Advisors LLC, member SIPC, is a registered broker dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

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LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

because someone is looking up at you and the One is looking down at you. You will set the example for the one looking up and will earn the right from the one looking down.

I know I am not perfect, a long way from it, but there is always hope.

May God bless each and everyone of you with a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

I had a thought today about the past ... about when I was small and then grew up fast. I thought about those I had gained and the ones I had lost. I thought about my future and what it had cost. I thought about laughter, love and dying.

I thought about Jesus and then began crying.

Did I earn everything that I have been blessed? And where will I go when I am laid to rest?

I thought about my daughter and my wonderful wife, and how thankful I am for them in my life.

I closed my eyes and began to pray.

He came into my heart and there he will stay.

As I raised my head, a tear fell to the floor. I knew the answers to what I had worried about before.

JAY FRYAR
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

What is up with our water bills? Seems each month it keeps going up for no reason. I used the same amount as last month, but this month it went up \$10. I don't understand how that can happen.

It seems each month it keeps going up. I looked at my past bills and compared. It just jumps up. I don't mean to cause a fuss, but I hope everyone is watching their bills.

I asked the city what my rate was and they wouldn't tell me. Are they coming up with charges with water and sewer that we don't know about? Something is fishy.

I also want to say that my family went out to see the lights at the park. When we got in, we wanted to enjoy them. It seems that we couldn't, due to tailgaters with bright lights. We had to rush through it. One person honked at us for no reason.

I know the holidays are a stressful time. Why take it out on someone that was enjoying what the city did? It was very beautiful. The volunteers did a great job.

Hopefully next year people won't rush but enjoy what their neighbors did for them.

ANGELA POPE
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

As Bob Dylan once sang, "The times, they are a changin'."

We can't afford to neglect the necessary requirements of our present day situation. We have to become more energy independent and maximize the need for fuel efficiency. We can't continue the ad hoc habits of the past. Doesn't it make logical sense to create energy taxes for

growth in green power and cut down on greenhouse emissions?

Higher taxes on gas for autos will persuade us to purchase battery powered cars. Wind power will generate electric power to minimize the use of coal and carbon dioxide gasses.

If higher taxes indirectly lower my utility bills, it will equal out to what I am paying now — taxes and utility bills combined.

The positive side is cleaner air and less dependence on other countries' oil.

Times are changing. In my days of growing up, divorce was an ugly word that was frowned upon. Today, I have instructed my granddaughter to carefully select a husband that she can envision her future children spending the weekends with once a month.

I am below the poverty level. Because I will not receive a cost of living increase in my Social Security payments next year, I have decided to give myself a raise in pay. I have cancelled my Medicare payments, supplemental insurance, telephone, TV and the weekly allowance that I give my wife. My burial plot is paid for and I will probably die in the VA Hospital from overdosing on Viagra trying to rekindle my youth.

CHARLES ARCHER
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you and the Big Spring Herald for helping the Humane Society with the food drive for the animals.

We received 4,382 pounds of dog food and 779 pounds of cat food.

Thanks to everyone in Big Spring who has love and compassion for animals. We appreciate everything you did to help the "furry ones."

JO STONE
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to thank all the parents from Lakeview Headstart for all your help in making our Christmas Parade float.

This was the first float made for Lakeview in the past seven years

Thank you for all the hard work putting it together and then making sure all the children were comfortable for the parade. I just wish we could get more participation from the Lakeview parents.

So Trisha, Yolanda, Marissa, Sandy, Christina, Alicie, Jannette, Monique, Becky and Melissa, thank you for all your hard work.

DONDEE VELA
PRESIDENT
LAKEVIEW
PARENT COMMITTEE
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Among the things that we tend to take for granted in the city is that when we flush we will never see the effluent again and most of the time that is the result.

Occasionally, however, for whatever reason, it doesn't go down well and the resulting back-up can be distasteful to say the least. When that occurs we call the city utilities department and wait for them to come to

the rescue.

It is not a pleasant job but as is so often said, someone has to do it. We are fortunate in this city to have Rick Boiles and his people to take care of such things.

Despite terrible weather and perhaps even terribly irate customers, they come to the rescue again and again with no fanfare, little acknowledgment and even less reward. With the weather like it has been, they are overworked and stretched to the limit, but they are to be applauded for their efforts and their successes.

DARREL AND
NELDA REAGAN
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

William Collins' editorial "Put military spending in perspective" certainly illustrated a line in Father Dennis O'Brien's poem — "It is

the soldier, not the reporter that pays for freedom of the press."

He is upset that veterans are getting the benefits they deserve for exposure to Agent Orange but "luckily many have already died and that holds down the cost." He goes on to state the same for veterans exposed to depleted uranium in Iraq.

I have good friends — brothers and sisters in arms — that have died from cancer due to their exposure to Agent Orange.

Lucky? Not hardly. They paid the price so that he could live in this great nation and write this tripe. Veterans serve proudly and with distinction and are not only deserving, but worthy of any benefits they may receive due to wounds, illnesses, etc. that occur as a result of their military service.

If he was really con-

cerned about military spending, he would write a column about the \$4 billion in pork Congress inserted into the recently passed defense budget — pork that Mr. Obama promised he would veto.

DON BOLING
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

The problem with health care in America is this: American doctors are practicing astronomical, unjustified, uncontrollable greed.

The answer to our health care problem in America is this: America's doctor's repent of your godless greed. The problem is American doctor's care less about repenting of their

greed.

The solution is government controlled price fixing, to stop American doctors from practicing their greed.

If we do not control greed, doctors who have bankrupted us as individuals in the past, will now be allowed to bankrupt us as a society in the coming future. These price fixing measures must come next; they simply must.

The greed of the entire American medical society must be controlled!

Healthcare for all?

Great!

But not at astronomical, unjustified, uncontrollable prices to the taxpayers.

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Public Records

County Court Decisions:

Judgment and Sentence: Orlando Sanchez, assault causing bodily injury, \$2,000 fine, \$328 court costs, 120 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Orlando Sanchez Jr., theft of property - more than \$50 less than \$500, \$1,500 fine, \$328 court costs, 90 days in jail.

Marriage Licenses:

John Andrew Lang, 40, and Lisa Davila, 34, both of Big Spring.
Anthony G. Mendoza, 29, and Leticia M. Martinez, 28, both of Big Spring.
Kent Wade Klaustermeier, 35, and Deanna Denise Acuff, 25, both of Minnesota.
Keven Raymond Lee Jr., 20, and Kristin Nicole Boring, both of Big Spring.
Martin Doportto Delos Santos, 23, and Jessica Alvarez, both of Big Spring.
Rudy Aguilar Garcia, 24, and Maria Crystal Ortiz, 23, both of Big Spring.

Warranty Deeds:

Grantor: Debra Lynn Dodson
Grantee: Rodney Erwin
Property: Lot 1, Block 24, McDowell Heights
Date: Dec. 8, 2009

Grantor: Dan Newsom and Joeta Beck
Grantee: Preston Huitt
Property: A 6.6-acre tract out of Section 24, Block 34, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 9, 2009

Grantor: Frances Miramontes Jones
Grantee: Salome Gonzales
Property: Lot 7, Block 2, Williams Addition
Date: Dec. 10, 2009

Grantor: Wayne G. Armstrong and Joy Armstrong
Grantee: Ladd C. Hoffman and Rhonda Hoffman
Property: A tract out of Section 8, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 11, 2009

Grantor: Arturo V. Muniz and Kari Muniz
Grantee: Gary Donelson
Property: Lot 24, Block 3, College Park Estates
Date: Dec. 11, 2009

Grantor: Jean Broughton, John Wilson, John T. Ferguson and Lonnie

Newton
Grantor: HC Cobramar Farms Inc.
Property: A tract out of Section 43, Block 34, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 14, 2009

Grantor: Jean Broughton, John Wilson, John T. Ferguson and Lonnie Newton
Grantee: Ingram Farms Inc.
Property: A tract out of Section 35, Block 35, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 14, 2009

Grantor: Jean Broughton, John Wilson, John T. Ferguson and Lonnie Newton
Grantee: Craig Ingram and Lisa Ingram
Property: Section 30, Block 34, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 14, 2009

Grantor: Shelley Norman
Grantee: James C. Norman
Property: Lot 17, Block 5, Worth Peeler Addition
Date: Dec. 15, 2009

Grantor: Julie Harris, Gary Steven Harris and Buddy Owens
Grantee: Michael Hall and Barbara

Hall
Property: Lot 10, Block 13, North Parkhill Addition
Date: Dec. 15, 2009

Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien:
Grantor: Bradley W. Roberts and Joey Roberts
Grantee: Steven Walker
Property: Lot 6, Block 4, Western Hills Addition
Date: Dec. 7, 2009

Grantor: Kandy A. Alaman and David Alaman
Grantee: Bradley Roberts and Joey Roberts
Property: A .66 -acre tract out of Section 4, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 7, 2009

Grantor: Foxwest Properties LTD
Grantee: Melissa Hardy and Connall Hardy
Property: A tract out of Section 45, (Block undefined) T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 8, 2009

Grantor: Cathey Jane Campbell
Grantee: Roberto Martinez

Property: Lot 11, Block 13, North Parkhill Addition
Date: Dec. 9, 2009

Grantor: Marion Moncada and Jerrie Gee
Grantee: Ray Aleman and Martha Aleman
Property: Lot 16, Block 13, College Park Estates
Date: Dec. 11, 2009

Grantor: Dorrace June Smith
Grantee: Rudy Jesus Gonzalez
Property: Lots 7-11, Block 1, Belmont Addition
Date: Dec. 11, 2009

Grantor: Sam Hull and Chrystal Hull
Grantee: Carl E. Johansen
Property: A tract out of Section 7, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 15, 2009

Grantor: Michael Hall and Barbara Hall
Grantee: Buddy Owens
Property: Lot 10, Block 14, North Parkhill Addition
Date: Dec. 15, 2009

GM continues with Saab shutdown as talks continue

DAN STRUMPF

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — General Motors Co. is pressing ahead with plans to shut down Saab, though it will continue to hear bids for the Swedish car brand, a company spokesman said.

Tom Wilkinson said Wednesday the automaker is not commenting on reports that a deadline for proposals for Saab has been extended

to Jan. 7. GM had previously said it was giving bidders until Thursday to come forward with an offer for Saab until it decided earlier this month that it would wind down the brand.

"During the wind down process we've heard from a number of people with proposals for Saab, and we're going to evaluate the proposals as we start the wind down," Wilkinson said.

Saab spokeswoman Gunilla

Gustavs said GM's decision to wind down Saab still stands, though it will still entertain bids. Dec. 31 is "no longer a magical date" where a GM decision should be expected, Gustavs said.

GM has been in talks to sell Saab over the last month with Dutch exotic car maker Spyker Cars. It has also heard from other suitors after an attempt to sell the brand to a consortium led by Swedish sports car manufacturer by

Koenigsegg Automotive AB fell apart in November.

A Spyker spokesman said that the Dutch carmaker remained in talks with GM over Saab as of Wednesday but no deal had yet been reached.

On Dec. 18, GM announced its intention to close down the storied Swedish brand. Saab employs about 3,400 people worldwide, most of whom work at its main plant in Trollhattan, Sweden. The brand also has some 1,100

dealers.

GM is eliminating Saab along with Pontiac, Hummer and Saturn as part of a restructuring plan that will leave it with four core brands: Chevrolet, Cadillac, GMC and Buick.

Spyker is a niche company that manufactures a small number of exotic sports cars that fetch \$200,000 or more. Last year, the company produced just 43 vehicles and lost €4.8 million (\$35.7 million).



AP file photo

A steel worker labors at a small-scale steel plant in Shenyang in northeast China's Liaoning province. The Commerce Department says it may impose anti-dumping duties on imports of Chinese steel grating, saying it has been sold in the U.S. for up to 145 percent below its normal value.

China criticizes U.S. anti-dumping duties

BEIJING (AP) — China on Thursday criticized a U.S. decision to slap antidumping duties on Chinese-made steel pipes, demanding that Washington reverse the move and saying its goods are no threat to American producers.

The U.S. International Trade Commission decision will affect Chinese exports worth about \$2.8 billion and is the biggest steel trade dispute in U.S. history.

"The Chinese side expresses strong dissatisfaction and resolute opposition to this ruling," the Commerce Ministry said in a statement. It called on Washington to "correct its mistake" and avoid trade protectionism.

The ITC voted Wednesday to impose duties of 10.36 percent to 15.78 percent on the pipes, used mostly in the oil and gas industries. That is intended to offset government subsidies it said China provides its steelmakers.

Beijing and Washington are embroiled in a string of disputes over access to each other's market for tires, pipes, movies and other goods. They have accused each other of improperly trying to support their producers despite a pledge

by global leaders to avoid protectionism in response to the economic crisis.

The Chinese statement said that if the U.S. panel failed to take the crisis into account as the source of American companies' problems, "then it is a mistake to say Chinese oil pipes are harming American producers."

"Chinese exports of oil pipe to the United States cannot be causing injury or threats for American producers" because the energy industry is

growing and demand for pipe is rising, the statement said.

"The Chinese side urges the American side to face squarely the objective facts, take effective measures to correct its mistake, put forth a fair, just, reasonable ruling and keep its promise to oppose trade protectionism," it said.

The ITC will decide in the spring whether to impose additional tariffs of up to 96 percent to penalize Chinese steelmakers for dumping.

PROBE

Continued from Page 4C

Arkansas and Tennessee. The company cooperated and ICE agents arrested 338 illegal workers. Of those, 38 were convicted of misuse of a Social Security number and others faced deportation or other immigration proceedings.

All immigration-related investigations into the company and its current and former employees have been closed, the U.S. Attorney's Office said Wednesday.

"This case demonstrates that the government and business,

working together, can go a long way to resolving the issue of employment of illegal aliens," U.S. Attorney John M. Bales said in the statement.

Pilgrim's Pride pointed out that no civil or criminal charges were ever filed against the company.

"The settlement does not constitute any admission of civil or criminal misconduct on the part of Pilgrim's Pride or any of its directors, officers, management or other employees," the company said in its statement.

Federal authorities have increasingly used non-prosecution agreements over the last five years to encourage companies to comply with immigration laws, Spencer said.

"There were points in time in which companies took the position that if the applicant had a valid social security (number) that matched a name, then that was sufficient information. It didn't matter that they knew other people were using the exact same number in another state or ... that this person had worked for the company under a different name," he said.

Pilgrim's Pride announced Monday it was emerging from bankruptcy protection. Under a reorganization plan, Pilgrim's Pride will sell a 64 percent stake in the company, worth \$800 million, to Brazilian beef giant JBS — the world's biggest meat producer.



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- ★ Continue to invest in our 17 distribution centers that employ more than 5,000 Partners.
- ★ Continue to give back to the communities we serve by donating five percent of our pre-tax earnings to non-profit organizations.
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THE COLORADO River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following position in the Big Spring area.

Meter Technician - Responsible for calibrating and maintaining District's billing meters. Assists in repairing, and maintaining communication equipment including mobile radios and microwave communication equipment, supporting the District's SCADA system. Entry level position, basic understanding of electronic/electricity needed. CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave.

Applications are required and available at the District's office, 400 E. 24TH Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, by calling (432) 267-6341 or crmwd.org.

BIG SPRING State Hospital is hiring an Administrative Assistant II in the Quality Management Department. Experience in administrative support and in data collection required. Submit applications to https://accesshr.hhsc.state.tx.us

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PRIMARY UTILITY Services is accepting applications for the following positions: Experienced Lineman- Experienced Apprentice. Must pass physical and drug exam. Call (325)575-1782 or apply online www.primaryutilityservices.com

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Legals

Forsan Independent School District will be accepting proposals for the purchase and installation of bleachers for the football stadium located at the Forsan campus. Sealed proposals will be accepted until 3:00p.m. on January 12, 2010. Proposals must be clearly marked on the envelope: **SEALED PROPOSAL- BLEACHERS**. Please mail or deliver your proposal to: Forsan ISD
Attn: Business Office
PO Drawer A
Forsan, TX 79733
Forsan ISD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. Requests for specifications and any additional information shall be made no later than January 8, 2010 at 3:00p.m. by contacting Dianna Walker, Business Manager at (432)457-2223, ext. 3.
#6365 December 20, 2009 and January 3, 2010

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS
Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.
CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/ BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)
Dist/Div: Abilene
Contract 6108-91-001 for THERMOPLASTIC PAVEMENT MARKINGS in MITCHELL County, etc will be opened on February 09, 2010 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of \$1,158,759.18.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractors list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 31746

State Office
Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540
Dist/Div Office(s)
Abilene District
District Engineer
4250 N. Clack
Abilene, Texas 79604-0150
Phone: 325-676-6800

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.
#6375 January 3 & 10, 2010

LEGAL NOTICE
APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION FOR OFF-PREMISE LICENSE/ PERMIT (LIQUOR STORE) WITH 10AM-9PM MON.-SAT. BY ELAINE MOORE DBA SAM'S PACKAGE STORE TO BE LOCATED AT 2409 GREGG ST., BIG SPRING, HOWARD, TX.
#6394 January 1 & 3, 2010

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administrator for the Estate of Linda Ann Schraeder, Deceased, were issued on December 17, 2009, in Cause No. 382, pending in the County Court of Glasscock County, Texas, to: William A. Schraeder.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: William A. Schraeder
2301 Bellechase
Midland, Texas 79705
DATED the 17th day of December, 2009.
GLYNNA MOUTON
Attorney for
William A. Schraeder
State Bar No.: 14606500
200 West Third Street
Big Spring, TX 79720
Telephone: (432)263-7676
Facsimile: (432)263-8686
#6395 January 3, 2010

Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Leo moon is a diva who only feels complete when all eyes are on her. She strikes a chord with the part of us that needs attention. There will be plenty of name-dropping, boasting and showing off. It's not in the best of taste, but cut yourself and others some slack. We all like to be acknowledged at times -- it's a basic human need.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Do some detective work so that you can better understand those you love. Figure out what the other person is going through. Only then will you be struck with insight into how you can help.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). In your midst, there's that person intent on discussing the worst-case scenario. He or she is a valuable ally of yours today. You'll find humor in the exaggeration of circumstances, and your laughter is healing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Drink from a silly straw. Wear ridiculous glasses. Go out of your way to add elements of absurdity to your day. Your quality of life will be increased to an

immeasurable degree.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A strength, exaggerated, becomes a weakness. But does a weakness, exaggerated, become a strength? Highlight one of your limitations and you'll find that you're better off for having such a so-called flaw.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You know how to make an entrance. People pay attention when you walk into the room today. Make your exit with equal grace. Leave before they want you to and they'll want more.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Whenever possible, show up in person. You have more than your fair share of charisma today. Noting your winning presence, others will want to help you succeed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have a talent for making relationships work. You're full of solutions, but it's important to know which problem is the most pressing. Pump the other person for information. What are the wants and needs involved?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There is a fine line between sharing and over-sharing. Give others the sense of who you are -- where you're coming from and where you're going. But do it briefly. Refrain from going on too long.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Relating to others has very little to do with what or who you know. Most people are thinking about themselves and what you can do for them. If you make them feel good about themselves, they'll like you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're in danger of becoming too thrifty. Show some disregard for the rules of frugal finance. Buy something that makes you happy. As you spend, you'll widen the channel for greater earning.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It would benefit you to get involved in a group effort. There is much you could contribute, and you have much to gain. You'll ask excellent questions and learn all you need to know to fit in nicely.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You will be certain of your course. But that alone will not be enough to make it go the way you want it to go. Whatever happens, don't complain or explain. Apply your energy to building on the moment.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 3). You lighten up this month. Your levity is partly due to the addition of a few new faces to your group of friends. You'll find those who satisfy your

curiosity, stimulate your intellect and relate to you easily and naturally. March and June are excellent for your financial picture. You'll make responsible decisions. Cancer and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 1, 44, 33 and 15.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: It turns out that common sense is not common, after all. What to one person is the obvious next step appears to another to be a leap into the dark. The seemingly weird choice may very well be the best one. It's not about who is more intelligent; it's that there are so many different kinds of intelligence that the range of options is broader than ever. If things seem up in the air, that's because they are. Uncertainty prevails, leaving room for things like imagination and invention to drop in and have their way. And that's what makes this an exciting and fascinating time to be alive. Jupiter and Neptune have been thick as thieves lately, in a conjunction that peaked several times in 2009. The spell breaks this week. During the conjunction of these two planets in Aquarius, technological and philanthropic developments were

made. Now it's time to apply the ideas, take the plans and build them into something tangible -- to produce physical results. Granted, many high-minded plans take years to unfold. But the important thing is that we get started. The sun and Mercury are conjunct in Capricorn, adding some much-needed pragmatism to the atmosphere.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: "Mad Men's" Betty Draper is played by the lovely January Jones. And though this lovely Capricorn actress was born in the month of January, she is actually named for a character in a novel. With her natal Mars and Saturn in Leo, Jones finds her greatest challenges and lessons in the world of entertainment. She also has a natural instinct for what will interest and delight an audience.

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

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Annie's Mailbox • "Steven," worries me

Dear Annie: My 14-year-old son, "Steven," worries me to no end. He has no drive or ambition. He tells me he wants to attend college and become a computer programmer, yet he won't put forth the effort to complete his ninth-grade assignments. And when he does finish them, he often neglects to turn them in. Steven's teachers believe he has the ability to earn A's, but he is a C student, with a few D's and F's.

Steven has no follow through, even on simple tasks. He can spend hours creating online gaming avatars, but can't remember to feed the dog. He doesn't take out the trash or pick up his socks without being asked repeatedly. I have to remind him every single day to brush his teeth and wear deodorant.

Steven is not involved in extracurricular activities, nor does he have any interest in starting. His idea of a fun day is eating and playing computer games. He has several close friends, all of whom are just like him.

Being a college-educated single mom, I realize the power of perseverance and hard work, and it seriously concerns me that my son is not preparing for what life may hand him. I fear he will grow up to be an unsavory character, a man who thinks everything should come to him without effort. What can I do to lead him toward a more promising path? - Frustrated Mom in Michigan City, Ind.

Dear Frustrated:

Not everything is cause for concern. At 14, some of this behavior (forgetting to pick up his socks, preferring video games to extracurricular activities) is not unusual. Neglecting to turn in completed homework could indicate an attention-deficit problem, and you might want to have him evaluated.

The fact that your son has several friends is a good sign, and try to keep in mind that your involvement in his education can make a huge difference in his academic values. Encourage his involvement in areas where he has interest or talent -- perhaps his school has a computer club or one of your friends works in game design -- and don't give up on him.

Dear Annie: We've had a group of friends for over 20 years. One male friend recently married a woman who is making us miserable with her constant criticism and pessimistic view on many topics.

She recently opened her big mouth once again and really hurt the person to whom she was talking. We have suggested she keep such comments to herself, but she pays no attention. We enjoy our old friend's company, but not his wife's.

Answer to previous puzzle

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What should we do? -- Ready To Divorce Her

Dear Ready: Talk to your friend and explain the problem. Don't denigrate his new wife, but make it clear that the rest of the group is having a problem adjusting to her. She may be trying to assert her position by running roughshod over her husband's old friends, and if so, he needs to ask her to stop. Otherwise, your choices are to put up with her, see him when she's not around or stop seeing both of them.

Dear Annie: I was interested in the letter from "Deeply Depressed Texas Mom" because it happened to me. My son's girlfriend was sweet and loving.

When they got engaged, she said, "Let's plan the wedding together." Then her mother came into the picture, and I was systematically excluded.

Somehow the florist was one corsage short, so I didn't get one. They told me the bride's room was only for the bridal party, and I was not allowed in. When they cut the cake, I was told my presence was not required. I had to request that the band (that I paid for) play a mother-son dance since it was not on their playlist, although the father-daughter dance went on for 10 minutes.

This has continued into the marriage. Her family ranks, and I do

not. I miss the son I once had, but I am not so sure about the man I see now. -- Been There, Too, in California

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. 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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Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Anna Stiga
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

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|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 49 Bottom-row key | 7 Thimbleful |
| 1 Chooser's challenge | 50 Sled-dog wear | 8 Hardest human tissue |
| 11 Identifies | 51 Keen perception | 9 Swiss-born revolutionary |
| 15 Imitative | 52 Absence of ease | 10 Berry beginning |
| 16 Unusually fine | 54 Eye | 11 Bing Crosby Oscar role |
| 17 Old name for the giraffe | 55 Bogy | 12 Clayey |
| 18 "Come Back to" (Hibernian ballad) | 56 "Thy love alter . . .": Shak. | 13 Not as clean |
| 19 Western lake bed | 57 Fixed | 14 Like some overloads |
| 20 NASA name of the '90s | | 23 Gang members |
| 21 Bill sources | DOWN | 24 Herald, with "in" |
| 22 Radiates | 1 Go far | 26 Daisy Duck niece |
| 23 Richard Burton role of '67 | 2 Clean | 29 Go to often |
| 25 It stands for 1 | 3 Salad ingredient | 30 Ersatz duck calls |
| 26 What 7 may stand for | 4 Fairly | 31 Reconcile |
| 27 Unmitigated | 5 Works up | |
| 28 Crusade in Europe monogram | 6 Nightmare Before Christmas aide | |
| 29 Destructive person | | |
| 30 Popular bar since the '20s | | |
| 32 Fell | | |
| 33 It has a head and hops | | |
| 34 Doctor's office display | | |
| 37 Regatta trophy | | |
| 38 Golden: Fr. | | |
| 41 Syndication unit | | |
| 42 Hair | | |
| 43 It may be full of baloney | | |
| 44 Neon sign seen in Looney Tunes | | |
| 47 Sneezin' reason | | |
| 48 Blackout, for instance | | |

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