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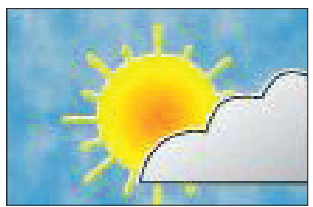
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HIGH BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY

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Chamber honors Knocke, Mouton



Pair receive Woman, Man of Year awards at annual banquet

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce shined its spotlight squarely on Drew Mouton and Jeanie Knocke Thursday evening.

Mouton and Knocke were named the chamber's Man and Woman of the Year for 2009 during the organization's annual banquet in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Knocke, a Big Spring native and long-time employee at Wells Fargo Bank, was saluted as a "real angel" by Jan Hansen, who presented the award.

"Our Woman of the Year is a real angel, devoting herself to serving the needs of others," Hansen said. "She respects, values and motivates everyone she comes in contact with. While she cannot keep up with her own phone or documents and has

been known to miss her own plane home, she never forgets anyone in need and is always there when they need her."

Hansen went on to list many of Knocke's contributions to the community, including working with the local Relay For Life for the past nine years, volunteering at Big Spring State Hospital, Isaiah 58, Humane Society and the Salvation Army.

"(She) is not the type of person who gravitates to leadership roles, but she is the type of person who gets things done for those who are most in need in our community," Hansen said. "If she was not working tirelessly in our community, it would certainly be diminished."

A thunderstruck Knocke was nearly caught speechless by the award.

"I really can't believe this," she said. "Thank you all so



much." Mouton, a long-time local attorney, was described as a "Renaissance man" by presenter Terry Hansen.

"Few individuals have been as involved and made as many contributions as our Man of the Year," Hansen said. "The list of organizations that have benefited from his involvement is lengthy, including

United Way, the YMCA, the Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement and Boy Scouts of America."

In addition, Mouton has been active with Big Spring Main Street, the area Community Foundation, Howard County Industrial Development Corporations, the local Civil Service Commission, the Greater Big Spring Ro-

HERALD photos/Steve Reagan
Clockwise from top left: Jeanie Knocke, right, receives the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Woman of the Year Award from Jan Hansen during the chamber's annual banquet at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Thursday evening; Terry Hansen, left, presents the 2009 Man of the Year award to Drew Mouton; and David Justice, the new president of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, discusses the chamber's accomplishments and goals after formally assuming his duties.

tary Club, Shattered Dreams and the Trial Lawyers Care Program, Hansen noted.

"Although he is not a native of Big Spring, his love and dedication to this community are unparalleled," Hansen said.

Accepting the award, Mouton challenged the audience

See **CHAMBER**, Page 3A

INDEX

Comics 6B
Classified 3-5B
Religion 5-8A
Obituaries 2A
Opinion 4A
Sports 1-2B

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South getting rare snow

MELISSA NELSON
Associated Press Writer

PENSACOLA, Fla. — It took back-to-back blizzards to paralyze the nation's capital, but in the Deep South it only takes a couple inches of snow.

Flakes were falling — or threatened — Friday from Texas to the Florida Panhandle and then up along the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina, bringing a rare white landscape

to spots that haven't seen snow in a decade or longer. The storm was crawling east out of Texas, where it left the Dallas area with more than a foot of snow, nearly 200 traffic accidents, thousands without power and hundreds of canceled flights.

Far less snow was falling in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. But it was still have a crippling effect. Snow, ice and sleet closed parts of Interstate 49 in central Louisi-

ana. Just the anticipation of an inch of snow was enough to close schools in the Florida Panhandle, while classes also were canceled in parts of Alabama.

In Pensacola, only heavy rain was falling early Friday as the area braced for possible snow.

Even a Starbucks in nearby Gulf

See **SOUTH**, Page 3A

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Largest, Finest Furniture Store

Mattress Model Year Closeout

Must Make Room For New Models

New Discounts Taken

Locally Owned And Operated

Lady Steers ready for Lake View rematch



HERALD PHOTO/Tony Claxton

Cerbi Ritchey and the Lady Steers are looking for their second straight postseason berth tonight in Trent.

Herald Staff Report

TRENT — The Big Spring Lady Steers are ready to take on Lake View again after a thrilling double-overtime victory over the Maidens on Tuesday.

The two will meet at 6:30 p.m. tonight in Trent for a date with Canyon High School in the bi-district round of the state playoffs.

The win forced the rematch for the last spot in District 4-4A between the Lady Steers (8-16, 1-7) and the Maidens (6-21, 1-7).

Lake View beat Big Spring at its home gym Jan. 15, but the Lady Steers

went to San Angelo on Tuesday and pulled out their first district win of the season.

“We have to know that we can go out there and win,” senior Linzee Yarbar said Tuesday. “We’ll just play our best against them and we can go to the playoffs.”

The Lady Steers will try to play this game with more minutes for post Cerbi Ritchey, who fouled out in the fourth quarter. Ritchey scored 10 points in the first half of the game but had to sit for much of the second half in foul trouble.

The Lady Steers will also try to avoid a third-quarter meltdown,

which has been their problem all season. Against Lake View on Tuesday, they were outscored 16-3 in the third quarter but rallied in the fourth to send the game into overtime.

The Big Spring boys’ playoff at 7:30 p.m. tonight still looking for an undefeated district season. The Steers clinched the district title Tuesday with a win over Lake View but said an unblemished district record was their season goal.

“(Finishing undefeated) would kind of validate what we’ve been doing,” Morris said Tuesday. “It’s going to take a lot of mental toughness from these kids to find a way to win.”

Howard coasts to win over NMMI

Herald Staff Report

ROSWELL, N.M. — Bring on Midland.

The Howard Hawks easily dispatched New Mexico Military Institute 67-50 Thursday on the road and can now turn their focus to the most important game left on their schedule — Monday’s titanic matchup with the No. 1, undefeated Midland Chaps.

But the Hawks may be playing without one of their best players as Carlos Emory left Thursday’s game early with a hip injury and Moses Sundufu did not play the second half. Their statuses are uncertain for Monday.

Jae Crowder and Josh Watkins each scored 17 points as Howard never trailed NMMI in the game. Dante Mentor was 4-of-8 from behind the arc for 15 points off the bench.

The Hawks’ defense held the Broncos to 24 percent shooting in the first half and 32 percent overall. NMMI outrebounded the Hawks 35-29 for the game, but Howard took advantage of 16 Bronco turnovers and a poor shooting performance.

Stephen McCray was the only NMMI player in double figures with 10 as the Broncos shot 1-for-12 from the 3-point line.

Howard (23-2, 9-1) notched its sixth straight win. But a seventh would be even sweeter.

Howard will host Midland at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum for a share of the WJCAC con-



HERALD FILE PHOTO/Tony Claxton

The Hawks’ Jae Crowder goes to the basket against Midland in a game at the Chaparral Center in January. Crowder and Josh Watkins each scored 17 points Thursday night to beat NMMI on the road.

ference title Monday. Midland has remained undefeated through conference play despite close scares from New Mexico JC and South Plains, which fell to the Chaps 63-61 in Levelland Monday. Midland beat New Mexico JC 73-61 at home Thursday.

The Hawks had a chance to upset Midland on Jan. 21 in Midland, but missed free throws and turnovers in the last minute cost the Hawks a 74-64 victory. Howard was outrebounded 41-26 in that game.

“They’re so big and athletic,” Howard coach Mark Adams said after the Midland game. “Most of the time when you bring down an offensive rebound you’re going to get fouled going back up or you’re going to get a layup, and that just hurt us over and over again.”

Admission is free to Monday’s game to all patrons wearing red or black. A spaghetti dinner hosted by Great Western Dining will be catered in the foyer before the women’s

game at 5 p.m. Cost is \$5 per plate.

The Coahoma area Players in Progress will perform a basketball skills routine at halftime during both games.

Howard (67)
Austin 0-6 3-4 3, Watkins 6-11 5-6 17, Crowder 6-17 2-3 17, Bright 0-1 6-6 6, Mentor 4-8 3-4 15, O’Garro 2-4 1-1 5, McGee 2-5 0-0 4;
NMMI (50)
McCray (40)
Martin 2-7 2-2 6, DeJourdan 3-9 2-3 8, Gilliland 2-14 3-3 7, Evans 1-3 1-1 3, Smith-Obasayui 3-3 1-4 8, Smith 3-5 2-3 8;
Halftime 30-17 HC; Rebounds 35-29 NMMI (Bright 8, DeJourdan, Martin 8); Assists HC 12 (Watkins 6), NMMI 10; Turnovers NMMI 16, HC 10;

Snowboarding’s ‘Old Man’ gets last shot

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Canadian snowboarder Jasey-Jay Anderson has given his adult life to his sport. The question, as he embarks on his fourth Olympics, is whether it’s been worth it.

Anderson, known by the nickname “Old Man,” is conflicted.

“Being on a team like this is like living with your parents. At 34 you just don’t do that,” he said. “It’s still a nice environment when times are good, but you know as well as I do that living with your parents has its disadvantages.”

But first, Canada calls. Anderson is the 2009 world champion in the parallel giant slalom and is ranked second in the world standings. Although he tried to retire four times before, the lure of an Olympics on his home soil and the

promise of new equipment lured him back.

Canada has a program called “Top Selected” which has developed new bindings for the Alpine team that the athletes believe will give them an edge. Anderson, stung by equipment malfunctions many times, helped develop the mechanical plates that bind the athlete’s boots to the board.

The bindings are said to give riders cleaner curves. They’ve paid off for Anderson, who has won two of three World Cup events this season, in Telluride, Colo., in December and last month in Kreischberg, Austria.

“It allows a boarder’s feet to stay on a level plane, rather than working independently,” he said.

Vancouver caps a long and decorated career for

See **OLYMPICS**, 2B

PRINCIPAL LEAP

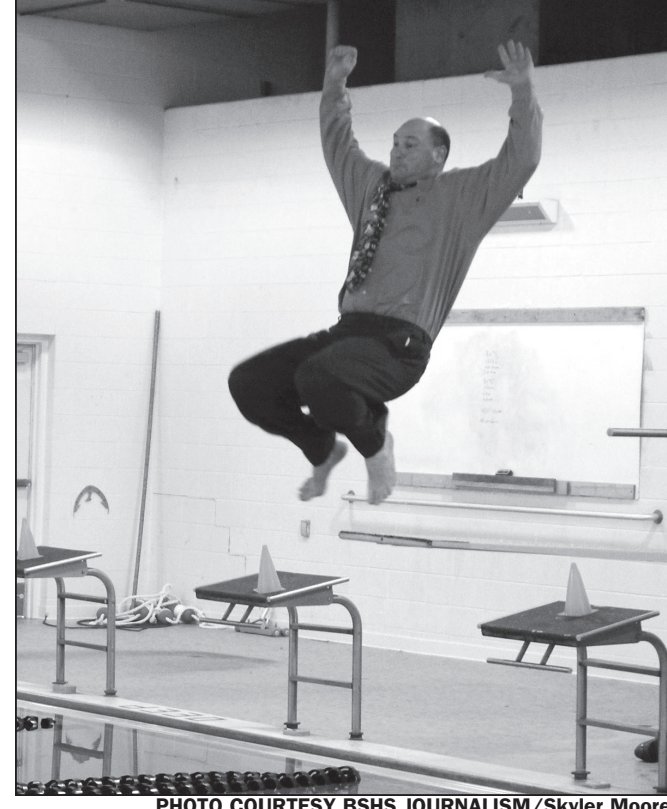


PHOTO COURTESY BSHS JOURNALISM/Skyler Moore

BSHS Principal Mike Ritchey took a dive off the board at the YMCA swimming pool Thursday afternoon after a pep talk to the BSHS swim team as it prepares for the regional swim meet in Andrews this weekend. The team did not know about Ritchey’s stunt beforehand.

UConn’s Calhoun rejoins struggling Huskies

Associated Press

UConn coach Jim Calhoun appears on the mend. The Hall of Famer has to hope his return can salvage an NCAA tournament bid

for the ailing Huskies. Calhoun returned to his coaching duties Thursday after a medical leave of more than three weeks forced him to miss seven games. He has no restrictions

on what he can do and will be on the bench for Saturday’s game against Cincinnati.

“I both felt that the time away was important for my personal and professional well-being

and that I am ready to move ahead from this point at full speed,” Calhoun said.

Calhoun returns to a team that needs a siz-

See **CALHOUN**, 2B

Sports in brief

Forsan girls bi-district game scheduled

The Forsan Lady Buffs will begin their playoff run Monday against the Van Horn Lady Eagles in Fort Stockton.

The Lady Buffs lost a coin flip for the second seed in District 7-A, Division I after sharing the district title with Stanton. Stanton earned a bye with the first seed.

Van Horn is 12-14 on the season and was the third seed in District 8-A, Division I

Big Spring softball tourney needs community support

Lady Steer softball parents and the city of Big Spring Parks and Recreation Department are hosting a 22-team high school softball tournament March 4-6.

The tournament needs community support to be a success. Banners will be displayed at the tournament for business owners who wish to support the tournament.

Call John Sparks for information at 270-2711.

Youth baseball league signups to start

The Big Spring Youth Baseball League has scheduled signups for the upcoming summer season for Saturdays in February beginning this Saturday.

Children 5-15 can sign up for the league at Big Spring Mall. Registration fee is \$65 and \$60 for additional siblings. Birth certificate required. Weekday signups are at Gartman Refrigeration, 3206 E. FM 700, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All ages 8-12 must attend one of three tryout sessions scheduled March 8-10.

CALHOUN
Continued from 1B

zling, upset-heavy winning streak to sniff the NCAA tournament. The Huskies (14-10, 4-7 Big East) have sunk to the bottom half of the conference standings a year after a No. 1 seed and a Final Four berth. UConn's top moment came Jan. 23 when associate head coach George Blaney led the Huskies to an upset of then-No. 1 Texas. But the Huskies threw away their momentum like one of their 352 turnovers this season when they lost the next game

at Providence — and that started the second of their three-game losing streaks this season. UConn ended the skid by eking out a seven-point win Saturday against lowly DePaul (1 win in the Big East) and lost at No. 2 Syracuse 72-67 on Wednesday night. "We still think we're pretty good," Blaney said. "We still think we can be a factor in every game we play in." UConn has gone 3-4 in Calhoun's absence. School officials have not said what was ailing Calhoun, but said it had nothing to do with his three bouts with cancer and was not related to

his heart. The losing wasn't the only thing that took some getting used to in Storrs, a bucolic college town, located amid the dairy farms of northeastern Connecticut. UConn games without Calhoun, as New England as a bowl of clam chowder, have been way too quiet. Gone has been the stomping, the cussing, the barking at officials. Longtime followers of the program described the 67-year-old Calhoun as more down than angry after recent losses. He never knew what kind of performance he'd get out of the erratic Huskies and almost seemed resigned to that fate. Asked recently what UConn basketball is like without Calhoun, forward Stanley Robinson cracked, "(Blaney) doesn't scream." Added freshman center Alex Oriakhi: "The yelling. That's the biggest difference."

Blaney, a former head coach at four schools including Holy Cross, is more laid back. He has calmly watched games with his arms folded — never any hint he was about to blow a gasket over a blown call. The Syracuse game was the 14th time since

2003 he has coached in Calhoun's place, including the NCAA opener last season. "I think initially it was easy because they know me and I've been around a while, especially with the older guys," Blaney said. "But I think as the time goes on, it's a little more difficult for them because they're used to his style and the way he runs practices. I would say it might be a little confusing to them at this stage." The two gym rats forged a relationship when Blaney coached at Stonehill and Calhoun was in the high school ranks. They crossed paths again when Blaney moved on to Holy Cross and Calhoun went to Northeastern. Calhoun is making \$1.6 million the final year of a six-year deal and was on the brink of signing a multi-year extension in December, though the contract was never completed. "This has no bearing on the contract whatsoever," athletic director Jeffrey Hathaway said. The deal is still there for Calhoun — if he wants it. Calhoun, the gruff Irishman, spoke last season about retiring if the Huskies won the national champion-

ship. Now he's in his 38th year as a college head coach. Calhoun has been treated for cancer three times during his UConn career, including last summer when he successfully battled skin cancer. In June, he had to be hospitalized after breaking several ribs during a charity bike ride. "It's going to take a lot to keep coach Calhoun out. A lot," Oriakhi said. "If you break ribs and keep going on your bike, this is nothing for him." There's also an ongoing NCAA investigation into a report by Yahoo! Sports that former team manager Josh Nochimson helped guide basketball recruit Nate Miles to Connecticut, giving him lodging, transportation, meals and representation. Calhoun has acknowledged that he or his staff may have made mistakes in recruiting Miles. Hathaway said the NCAA and school are in the middle of the review and had no other comment. Calhoun has not talked to the press since the start of his sabbatical and repeated attempts to reach him by The Associated Press have been unsuccessful. He'll

address the media at the end of Friday's practice. If Calhoun does retire at the end of the season, this is no immediate successor in place. Blaney is 70 and, while he's filled in when needed, is certainly not a long-term solution. "Whoever takes over, that's going to be the hot seat," former UConn star and Celtics guard Ray Allen said. It's hard to imagine anyone having more impact on the team than Calhoun. UConn had played in the NCAA tournament just twice in 20 years before Calhoun led them to nine trips in the 1990s. The Huskies need some turning around again, starting with signature victories to leap back into NCAA consideration. Their grueling schedule features games this month at No. 4 Villanova and No. 5 West Virginia. UConn is 1-5 vs. the Top 25 and the win against Texas looks less impressive as the Longhorns have sputtered. UConn might have to win out and reach the Big East tournament final to be considered for an at-large NCAA bid. That's quite a heavy mission for this team — with or without its legendary coach.

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.

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

OLYMPICS

Continued from 1B

Anderson. He has a list of world championships: 2001 giant slalom in Italy, 2005 parallel slalom and parallel giant slalom in Whistler and 2009 parallel giant slalom in South Korea. He's had overall World Cup snowboarding titles from 2001-04. Where he hasn't fared well is the Olympics. In 1998 he was 16th in the giant slalom in Nagano. In Salt Lake City he came in last in the parallel giant slalom.

In Turin he was 20th in the parallel giant slalom and fifth in snowboard cross. The Vancouver Games will likely be his last competitive event. It's for sure his last Olympics. "I'm still sitting 50-50 on whether I'm going to finish off the season. I mean, this is what I've prepared for my whole life and it's in front of a home crowd," he said. "There's no better way to sum up a career than with this event." In recent years he led a double life, shifting

between being a husband and a father and being an athlete. He has his wife and two daughters — and a blueberry farm — waiting for him in retirement. "To be a loving father you have to be patient and you have to listen, and as an athlete you have to do what's best for you and it's a very selfish world," he said. "You always have to demand, ask, beg. It's hard to do that, especially at 34." The one thing about such a long career — besides the semi-embar-

rassing nickname — is the habits and superstitions that develop along the way. Anderson has purple socks. Teammate Michael Lambert said Anderson is so protective of his purple socks, he once falsely accused someone of stealing them. "Yeah, Jasey cherishes those socks," Lambert laughed. Anderson knows better than to mess with ritual. The socks have been with him since Nagano and they'll be with him again on Feb. 27, when he takes on Whistler.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Bidding Quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable, and the bidding has gone:
North East South West
 1♥ 2♣ ?
What would you bid with each of the following four hands?
 1. ♠AKJ9♥J8♦KJ873♣J5
 2. ♠KQJ9852♥7♦A964♣10
 3. ♠8763♥62♦AK7♣K1084
 4. ♠QJ974♥943♦AJ8♣76

1. Two diamonds. Once partner opens the bidding, this is a game-going hand, but the correct final contract is not yet clear. The best you can do at this point is to start describing your hand as accurately as possible, planning to let partner eventually choose the proper contract.

You therefore bid two diamonds, intending to bid your spades next. Partner will then know that your spades are only four cards in length and that your diamonds are probably longer, since you bid them first. Having thus laid the proper groundwork, it should not be difficult for you and partner to decide whether the best game contract lies in spades, hearts, diamonds or notrump.

2. Four spades. You can't very well stop under game, and you obviously don't want to play at any con-

tract except spades. The direct leap to game indicates seven or eight playing tricks if spades are trumps even if partner has no support for the suit.

3. Double. With four probable defensive tricks added to the three your partner is likely to have for his opening bid, it seems best at this point to double for penalties, expecting to exact at least a two-trick set. There is no good reason to assume your side has a game, since partner can easily have only a minimum opening bid.

To bid two notrump at this juncture would allow the opponents to get off the hook in a situation where your side might not be able to make more than a partscore.

4. Two hearts. Your trump support is not robust, but there is no better bid than two hearts. You can't really pass with eight high-card points, holding a mild trump fit and a doubleton club besides. Nor can you afford to say two spades, a forcing bid that might drive you to a higher level than your side's combined values justify.

Two hearts says that you have six to 10 points, including distributional values, and it has the merit of allowing you to stop at a low level if partner has a minimum opening bid.

Tomorrow: The pressure principle.

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No. 11 Gonzaga beats rival St. Mary's 80-61

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Matt Bouldin said Gonzaga wanted to make a statement during its showdown with Saint Mary's. Well, the No. 16 Zags are still in first place in the West Coast Conference after a surprisingly easy 80-61 win Thursday night that put them in the driver's seat for a 10th consecutive regular-season title. "They've only got four losses, and two of them are to us," Bouldin said. "This was a really big deal to come out and get this W." Elias Harris scored 19 points and Bouldin had 18 as the Bulldogs (20-4, 8-1 WCC) shut down the

Gaels in the second half to reach 20 wins for the 13th consecutive season. After leading by three at halftime, the Zags held Saint Mary's to 29 percent shooting in the second half and outscored them 41-25 to beat perhaps their closest league foes for the sixth consecutive time. "Those guys are always the challenger," said Robert Sacre, who added 13 points and six rebounds while helping hold Saint Mary's star Omar Samhan to seven points in the decisive second half. "We got fired up." Samhan led all scorers with 21 points and 11 rebounds as Saint

Mary's (21-4, 8-2) saw a six-game winning streak snapped. "You can't turn the ball over against these guys and expect to win," Saint Mary's coach Randy Bennett said of his team's 17 turnovers that led to 22 Gonzaga points. The Zags had only 11 turnovers, and only two in the second half. The game was close for the first 23 minutes, with seven lead changes and eight ties, the last on Samhan's basket that knotted the score at 43 with just over 16 minutes left. After that, it was all Gonzaga. Demetri Goodson scored to start

a 16-3 run over the next three minutes that put Gonzaga ahead 59-46. Consecutive baskets by Harris gave Gonzaga a 70-54 lead with nine minutes left and the Gaels were done. "We played harder on defense," Bouldin said of the decisive run. Gonzaga held the Gaels to 37 percent shooting in the game. Matthew Dellavedova scored 11 points, the only other player in double figures for a team that averages 81 points per game. Mickey McConnell, who averages nearly 14 points, did not score. The Gaels had only seven field goals in the second half.

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► News in brief

Bill Clinton returns home after heart procedure

CHAPPAQUA, New York (AP) — Former President Bill Clinton was recovering at his suburban home Friday after leaving a Manhattan hospital where he underwent a heart procedure.

Three black SUVs with tinted windows arrived around 7:45 a.m. (1245 GMT) Friday and pulled through the high gates at the house. The hamlet of Chappaqua is about 35 miles (55 kilometers) north of New York City.

Clinton adviser Douglas Band said in a statement that Clinton left New York Presbyterian Hospital “in excellent health.”

“He looks forward in the days ahead to getting back to the work of his Foundation, and to Haiti relief and recovery efforts,” it said.

Terry McAuliffe, the former Democratic National Committee chairman and a close friend of the Clintons, told CBS television that he expects Clinton will get back to work quickly.

“If I know President Clinton, he’ll be on the phone ... calling people asking for more help for Haiti and where he can get pickup trucks so they can deliver food or generators. If I know Bill Clinton, he’ll be raring to go in about 35 minutes,” McAuliffe said.

Clinton, 63, could be back at work as soon as Monday, cardiologist Allan Schwartz said previously.

Clinton had quadruple bypass surgery at the same hospital more than five years ago.

Toyota to expand disclosure as pressure mounts for company chief to testify in Washington

TOKYO (AP) — Toyota said Friday it’s planning a new level of disclosure about car problems beyond what the automaker is legally required to reveal as it seeks to rebuild consumer trust.

The move comes amid intensifying pressure for the automaker’s president Akio Toyoda to testify before the U.S. Congress about safety lapses at hearings scheduled later this month. Presently, the highest-ranking company executive slated to attend the hearing is Toyota’s North American head, Yoshimi Inaba.

Experts say it’s vital that Toyoda appear at the Washington hearings to reverse the perception that the company has been slow to recognize and tackle the safety problems that have led it to recall 8.5 million vehicles.

“The final authority needs to be there and explain the situation and say what the company is doing to resolve the problems,” said Yoshinobu Yamamoto, professor of international relations at Aoyama University.

If the hearing in Washington goes poorly — if Toyota executives come across as aloof or U.S. poli-

ticians come down in a way perceived in Japan as excessively harsh — it could even hurt diplomatic ties between the two nations. Relations are already strained over a dispute about plans to relocate a U.S. Marine base on Okinawa.

Iran’s supreme leader praises mass turnout at state-backed rally on revolution day, warns West

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran’s supreme leader praised the mass turnout at the government-backed rally marking the 1979 Islamic Revolution and warned the West to stop putting obstacles in his country’s path, state Press TV reported Friday.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei thanked the “tens of millions” across the country who celebrated Thursday’s anniversary, saying the turnout at rallies reflected the nation’s strength.

During Thursday’s anniversary celebration, security forces clamped down hard on scattered anti-government demonstrations in the Iranian capital.

Police clashed with opposition activists, firing tear gas to disperse them and paintballs to mark them for arrest. Groups of hard-liners also attacked senior opposition figures — including the wife of the head of the reform movement.

The massive government rally in central Tehran dwarfed the opposition gatherings, which were far smaller than other outpourings of dissent in recent months. Still, Thursday’s events showed authorities must rely on full-scale pressures to keep a lid on demonstrations.

Democrats wary of Obama’s health care summit but event could clarify fate of overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP) — First he called congressional Democrats’ yearlong march toward health care overhaul an ugly process. Now President Barack Obama wants to talk directly with Republicans, the very people his Capitol Hill allies call obstinate and uncooperative.

It’s no wonder Democratic lawmakers are less than enthusiastic about Obama’s overture to the GOP.

The president has blamed special deals cut on Capitol Hill for the public’s skepticism about health care legislation, distancing himself from what he’s called “this Congress,” even though his White House was closely involved in the process. For their part, some congressional Democrats clamored for stronger leadership from Obama after an upset loss in a special election last month denied Democrats their filibuster-proof Senate majority, plunging the health overhaul into disarray.

But with the legislation languishing, the bipartisan health care summit Obama has set for later this month almost has to break the logjam, even if neither Democrats nor Republicans are particularly excited about it. Either the two parties come together against all odds or the event demonstrates that no bipartisan outcome is possible, spurring Democrats to act alone. Or, the summit is a bust and the entire health care overhaul falls apart.

“I think this is sort of his last-ditch effort” at a bipartisan deal, said Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee.

U.S. missionaries may spend weekend in Haiti jail

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Ten U.S. missionaries arrested trying to leave earthquake-crippled Haiti with a busload of children may be spending the weekend in jail despite a judge recommending their provisional release.

The prosecutor who got the case Thursday afternoon told The Associated Press he would respond to the judge by next week. All public offices are closed Friday, the quake’s one-month anniversary that is a national day of mourning.

The recommendation by Judge Bernard Saint-Vil was the best news the Americans have had in the two weeks they’ve been held in a stuffy, grimy jail since being arrested.

Saint-Vil has the final word on whether to free them, but Prosecutor-General Josephe Mannes Louis first has a chance to raise objections. The judge told the AP on Thursday that he was accepting a request from defense attorneys to let the Americans go free while the investigation continues.

It is unclear when the missionaries, most from an Idaho Baptist church group, might be released. It is also not clear whether they would be allowed to leave the country if the judge grants a provisional release.

Patrick Kennedy ‘taking a new direction,’ won’t seek 9th term

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Patrick Kennedy’s decision not to seek re-election will leave Washington without a Kennedy in political office for the first time in more than 60 years.

The Rhode Island Democrat’s term ends early next year but he says in a television message viewed by The Associated Press on Thursday that his life is “taking a new direction” and he will not seek a ninth term.

The 42-year-old son of the late Sen. Edward Kennedy does not give a reason for the decision but says it has been a difficult few years for many people and he mentions the death in August of his father.

CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1A

to nurture the community’s young people and prepare them for future leadership duties.

“I want to challenge the young people in Big Spring to stay involved,” he said. “Because in the years to come, you’ll be the

ones up here accepting these awards and we’ll be the ones in the audience applauding.”

Also during Thursday’s banquet, the gavel was ceremoniously passed from outgoing Chamber President Steve Herrin to new President David Justice.

Justice told the audience that the chamber has accomplished much in the past year,

but has much to do in the next 12 months. Among the goals he set are increased chamber involvement in the Business Before Hours and Business After Hours events, Business Power Lunch program, chamber-sponsored seminars, Leadership Big Spring and recruiting more members to the organization’s Ambassador program.

“We currently have 380 mem-

bers in the chamber, but there are many more businesses who could be members,” Justice said. “I would like to set a goal of 400 members before the end of this year.”

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

SOUTH

Continued from Page 1A

Breeze, Fla., delayed opening. Jim Pavelic, a retiree from Chicago who relocated to Florida, made his way to the door of the store around 6:20 a.m. and read the sign noting the store would open late “due to the unprecedented weather patterns.”

Pavelic couldn’t believe it.

“You cannot even get a cup of coffee and it’s raining,” he said, laughing. “At least I don’t need a snow shovel.”

Several oceanside communities in South Carolina including Charleston — which hasn’t seen recorded snowfall since January 2000 — could see between 2 and 4 inches of snow, said

Jonathan Lamb, a National Weather Service meteorologist based in Charleston.

And as much as 3 inches could hit Savannah, Ga., where snow was last traced in February 1996 — “and that was only 0.2 inches,” Lamb said. It’s been two decades since Georgia’s oldest city had any notable accumulation, with 3.6 inches falling in December 1989. Normally, temperatures in February don’t dip below 41 degrees.

“There’s no doubt this is a significant event for us,” Lamb said.

Highway patrol troopers in Texas, Alabama and several other states warned of treacherous morning commutes. Dallas police responded to 41 major traffic accidents and 132 minor ones Thursday, though

no serious injuries were reported. The roof of a tire warehouse in west Dallas collapsed under the heavy snow overnight, leaving a gaping hole in the roof but causing no injuries.

American Airlines canceled about 240 flights Friday, mainly at its hub at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, airline spokesman Steve Schlachter said.

The snowfall made this the snowiest winter in the Dallas-Fort Worth area in 32 seasons.

In Atlanta, Delta Air Lines canceled 400 flights for Friday in anticipation of as much as 2 inches of snow ex-

pected in the region. AirTran also thinned its schedule, announcing Thursday plans to cut 32 of its flights on Friday because of the threat of snow. That included flights in and out of Atlanta.

The snow hitting the Deep South comes just a week after the first of back-to-back blizzards hit Washington, D.C. — which ended up with about 28 inches of snow — and along the Eastern Seaboard. Residents are still digging out from those storms, which forced the federal government to shut down for about a week.

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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

Bill McClellan
News Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

We salute:

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

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

This week we salute:

- Coahoma Junior High Choir members Richie Ewing, Coley Rinard, Beth Warnick, Shayla Martin, Alex Gibbs and Caleb Daniel, all of whom received first division or superior ratings at Region 6 Solo & Ensemble Contest held Jan 30. in Midland.

- Danielle Freeman, Andrew Lewis, Jessica Rubio and Shermila Kher, members of the Big Spring High School Speech and Debate team, who took part in the District 4-4a Cross-Examination Meet on Tuesday. Freeman and Lewis took first place and qualified for the UIL State Tournament in March, while Rubio and Shermila placed third.

- Kim Nichols, Coahoma High School's head basketball coach and athletic director, who was honored by the Coahoma Masonic Lodge with its annual Community Building Award.

- Lane Bond of Big Spring, who was honored with a special reception Tuesday, kicking off an exhibit of his photography currently on display in the Gallery Hallway of Howard College's Hall Center for the Arts. The display is available until Saturday.

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

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor 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

With You, Lord, we can take our personal life and career to a whole new level.

Amen

How about 'Let's get 'er done'

I love Mel Gibson movies. Braveheart, The Patriot and We Were Soldiers are three on my top 20 list of all time favorites. I know I'm a boy and run from chick flicks like O.J. with a white Bronco but a properly spun tale of a victorious warrior makes my baby leap.

There is this scene in the amazing movie "We Were Soldiers" where Sam Elliot steps out of Tombstone and into the Vietnamese jungle long enough to yell "Gentlemen, prepare to defend yourselves!" Everybody starts fixing their bayonets because out there in the fog they can hear the approaching enemy in full advance, ready to slaughter.

The few seconds before the enemy comes into view seems like an eternity as the young Americans prepare to take action against an unseen and hostile enemy force. It's my favorite scene and sometimes I need to hear the gravelly voice of Sam Elliot scream at me to take the moment I am in very seriously and prepare to take extreme action.

A CALL TO ARMS

As Christians we are not just the bride of Christ but in fact we are a warrior bride. We are wor-

shipping warriors and warrior poets like that guy in the Bible who removed that nasty 10-gallon head from the neck of a very unclean philistine giant with serious hygiene issues.

We are ambassadors instructed to engage the arenas of this world without taking citizenship with the foreign land we are visiting. Yes we are disciples but discipleship is not a free expedition. You and I are going to have to accomplish something. We need to really make a difference while we are still able to do something.

As a guy that serves as senior leader in several ministries here at home and on a few other continents, I have noticed something about most of the arm chair quarterbacks who constantly criticize how people like me are moving forward — they don't. Armchair quarterbacks live couch potato lifestyles and sit on their blessed assurance.

But that is not you. This is a year for you to accomplish great vision but you get when so many others simply forget. Accomplishing vision is all about fulfilling God's heart.

PREPARE YOUR MIND FOR ACTION
American Christians are full of great revelation and insight of the scriptures and sadly tend to be content with a head full of thoughts. Revelation by itself has little value but, in fact, should lead to an amazing expe-

rience. With revelation comes responsibility to live out what you got a glimpse of.

About 1,500 years before Jesus, God would trust a guy named Moses with a critical part of an amazing plan.

To me, the thing that made Moses special is not just that he was willing to go back to Egypt and come home with a million former slaves but something much, much more amazing. Moses went to the mountain and had an amazing encounter with God, but unlike most, actually took action and carried out the plan to build the tabernacle ... even after he was surrounded by knuckleheads.

Leaders accomplish vision. Jesus was always about carrying out Vision. In fact, the last words He spoke while on the cross were "It is finished!"

So let's be Christ-like this year and actually accomplish what is in our hearts to do. God is just asking you to take charge of things, He is asking you to take action and responsibility.

Luke 12:50

But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!

The Rev. Troy Brewer pastors Open Door Ministries near Joshua and contacted through his websites troybrewer.com, Freshfromthebrewer.com and Opendoorministries.org



Trouble at the top seems rampant

Did you hear about the identical greeting cards that crossed in the mail? Toyota executives and NBC television brass sent them to each other. They were, uh, "get well cards," bearing this message: "Stop if you can, or at least slow down."

Both brain trusts wish they could. The TV bosses can't rein in night talk show prima donnas and the auto people are having trouble reinventing certain Toyota models. This world-wide headache is now in recall mode — nine million vehicles and counting. (This approximates the number of all U.S. new auto sales in 2009.)

In Toyota showrooms, certain models are in sales lockdown until accelerator corrections are made.

Prospective automobile buyers are skeptical. Forget kicking tires; they're contorted in the floorboard, checking out the "foot feed."

Repairs will be made "around the clock" when the "cure" is determined. And ad people will likewise burn oil at midnight, purging "pedal to the metal" lyrics.

I can't "feel the pain" of the NBC wheels. They have a "pie in the face" posture, taking the broadsides of employees' nightly rants that brand the bosses as buffoons.

The execs are like punching bags, moving only enough to get their noses into position for the

next blow from the verbal fist of Conan O'Brien, who, on a good night, is about as funny as an ironing board.

Despite his nightly placement of dunce caps on the bosses, Conan and his crew are walking away with a \$45 million "settlement." I thought such could happen only in government or pro sports.

Speaking of sports, we might "puddle up" with oceans of tears for another corporate giant, Nike.

Unlike Toyota and NBC, whose respective traumas are singular, Nike must dig out from the fallout of a "double whammy."

The "long and the short of it:" The road back will be long and uphill, with nothing short about it.

Nike moguls face endless groans. So far, they're sticking with besmirched golfer Tiger Woods, an admitted philanderer generally shunned and shamed by the masses. The Nike honchos are squirming, not knowing what to do with him.

Now, they must push the issue to the side, because they've got another front-burner fire raging.

There's a new study about runners' feet. It promotes the merits of running barefoot. It was conducted by a Harvard professor, no less. "We started running millions of years ago," Dr. Daniel Lieberman said, noting that during most of history, runners have run barefoot, "landing" toward the middle or front of the foot. For the past few decades, however, cushioned shoes have been designed to absorb heel impact.

This, sports fans, is a bombshell. Nike has spent billions of dollars convincing runners that

periodic "improvements" justify steady price escalation for state-of-the-art running shoes.

Throw in the big bucks paid to celebrities like Woods for product endorsement, and the picture clears as to why "fancy-schmancy" running shoes are priced in three figures.

If Nike investors move to Dr. Scholl's footpads, it's a good bet that runners are switching to shoeless.

I know. Maybe I'm jumping the gun. But remember, I am my 97-year-old Uncle Mort's nephew. Maybe I've inherited his tendency to view life through squinted eyes.

He showed up the other day devoid of shoes, obviously aware of the shoe study. I made the mistake of asking what brought him to town.

"Had to see the dermatologist," he grinned. "The doc said I had more skin tags than skin, and he removed enough of 'em for store-wide price markdowns at Wal-Mart."

Groan. Continuing his ramble, he asked if I'd heard that Glen Bell, 86-year-old founder of Taco Bell, had died. Stats followed about this fast-food pioneer — 60-plus years in the business, 5,600 franchisees serving 37 million Americans weekly and a founder of Der Wienerschnitzel, the big hot dog chain. "If I'd had to learn to spell 'Wienerschnitzel,' I'd have started thinking outside the bun, too," Mort joked.

Dr. Don Newbury is a speaker and author living in the Dallas-Fort Worth. Send inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com.



TROY
BREWER



DR.
DON
NEWBURY

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Though Venus has taken leave of the party in Aquarius, the heavens still remain soaked in Aquarian energy. The sun, moon, Mercury and Neptune are all dancing through the altruistic realm of the water bearer, and people are looking out for each other.

BABIES born today will be inventive, forward-thinking and highly creative.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're the one who can take initiative and get a show on the road. And you'll do it, too. You start with no support and wind up with a whole gang of people ready to help you in any way you need.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You used to think that dollars were hard to come by, but you're starting to see that it's not true for everyone. Work on changing your belief system around money. Repeat to yourself: "I always have more than

enough."

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If it's not on the schedule or on your list of things to do, it's not likely to happen. So write things down — not only the mundane things but the dreamy ones, too. The magic of pen and paper will amaze you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your vehicle is in perfect working order — the chassis is solid, the chrome trim impeccable and shiny, and that last coat of wax was a coat of dreamy dazzle. Someone needs to take you out and show you off.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have a set of tools for dealing with adversity. There probably won't be any obvious conflict today, except your own resistance to work or a sense of boredom. Use your tools anyway and you'll keep them sharp.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You want people to like you, but perhaps not everyone, and perhaps not this much. Guard against unwanted attention. Know where you're going and what you're doing at all times, and stay on pur-

pose.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Usually, when you're not sure, you decide to think the best. But don't go against your instincts for the sake of being positive. Sometimes there's a good reason for why you don't feel good about a situation. Honor your gut.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Satisfying yourself may seem like a bigger challenge than it usually is. That's because your taste is changing. What used to interest you has less appeal. You will soon connect with a new passion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's an assignment you have been given or a deadline you have made for yourself that looms in the distant future. Do not wait until your time is short. Get busy now. This will greatly reduce your stress.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You like some of the changes around you, but there have also been developments that aren't working for you at all. Instead of pinning away for the past, get busy finding

solutions that will brighten your future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be a natural crowd pleaser. What you do is so enjoyable to everyone around you that you'll please people you don't even like. And hopefully that fact won't ruin your wonderful mood.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are so lucky to have the gift of fanciful thinking. You'll be in another one of your daydreaming moods, and yet you'll also get just the right amount of reality to keep you productive.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 12). Follow your whims this year, as they will lead you to magical meetings and great insights. Also, in March, one such tangent will be lucrative. April brings the end of a struggle and the beginning of an adventure. May is the chance to reconnect with old ties and heal family bonds. Invest in yourself in September. Sagittarius and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 14, 39, 1 and 17.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES:

Your attention to detail makes you a thoughtful and romantic sweetheart. **TAURUS:** Though you like learning from different types of people, you feel the best around someone who is very much like you. **GEMINI:** Your courteous, professional demeanor makes you attractive to one who appreciates class. **CANCER:** You'll be smart about who you let into your world, and you'll sense when the timing is not right, too. **LEO:** You do things without being asked, and this means a lot to a loved one. **VIRGO:** Be open to meeting new people and a friend will make a fascinating introduction for you. **LIBRA:** You like to keep things fresh. You'll take initiative to show someone you care, especially if the relationship is well established. **SCORPIO:** You'll like how you feel about yourself when you're around a Capricorn. **SAGITTARIUS:** You'll work hard to look and feel your very best. **CAPRICORN:** Romance is catching. A friend in love will influence you. **AQUARIUS:** You are likely to underestimate

your own attractiveness. Someone is very "into" you. **PISCES:** You'll get what you want easily because you don't demand it. People feel generous and unpresured around you.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Aquarius and Pisces share a common ideology. They both sense that life has more dimensions than we can humanly understand. They both think about their existence and what it means. And they both prefer to remain open to magical possibilities. One such possibility is that these two could fall very deeply in love this weekend as they share their thoughts about the nature of the universe.

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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HOLIDAY
MATHIS

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I am a happily married woman. I am also close to "Tom," whom I have known for 15 years. My husband is friendly with Tom, as well.

The problem is Tom's girlfriend. There has never been anything sexual about my relationship with Tom.

He is four years younger, and I think of him as a little brother. I have done everything I can think of to welcome his girlfriend.

I've called her. I've e-mailed so she can get to know me better. I've invited her for dinner. I've offered to invite

Tom over only when my husband is home. None of it seems to matter. She still thinks he's cheating on her with me.

Tom has been there during the toughest times of my life.

He doesn't drive due to a physical disability, so I'm lucky to see him a few times a month.

His girlfriend sees him almost every night, but even when she's with him at my house, she gets jealous and picks a fight.

Tom does not condone her behavior, but I'm beginning to feel angry that she is accusing me of things I would never do — like cheat on my husband.

Tom is like family to me. How can I make this woman understand that we are friends and nothing more?

I'd love to hang out and have fun with both of them, but she is unwilling. Any suggestions? — *At Wits' End*

Dear AWE: Tom's girlfriend is very insecure.

She is unreasonably jealous because she cannot control the relationship Tom has with you except by eliminating it altogether.

That is her ultimate goal and the reason why your friendly overtures are not working.

If Tom cannot reassure her sufficiently, he will continue to distance himself until he breaks it off with her — or you.

Sorry.

Dear Annie: I have a large extended family, with many aunts, uncles and cousins.

We try to get together once or twice a year. My aunts and uncles usually attend these gatherings, but few of the cousins show up.

I have first cousins I haven't seen in years, and we all live within 30 miles of each other.

The children of these cousins are now graduating from high school, getting married and having babies.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

My mailbox is overflowing with wedding and shower invitations and graduation announcements.

I send gifts to those cousins whose families I am in contact with, but I resent receiving all these announcements from cousins I never see and who make no attempt to have a relationship with me.

When I receive these invitations, I ignore them.

I know other family members agree with me but still feel obligated to send gifts.

How do people have the nerve to send invitations to people they never see?

Do I tell them how I feel or just continue to ignore their mail? — *Related in Name Only*

Dear Related: If you have no connection to these cousins, never see them and don't particularly care about them, there is no reason to attend their functions or send gifts — unless, of course, it is to recip-

rocate for gifts they have sent to you.

Dear Annie: You printed a letter from "Guilford, Conn.," who discovered she had been taking her thyroid medication incorrectly, which was why she wasn't feeling any better.

She was supposed to take it 30 minutes before breakfast.

Her doctor had not given her this information.

I am an RN and have been taking thyroid replacement since 1962. In addition to the timing of the pill, you are supposed to take it with a full glass of water.

You also should not take vitamin-mineral supplements within four hours of taking the thyroid medication.

"Guilford" is right. If you take the drug properly, it can make you function at a much higher level.

Thank you for your column. You do a world of good. — *J.G.*

Dear J.G.: We appreciate the kind words and your expert suggestions. Anyone on medication should double-check with the pharmacist to find out precisely how to take it.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, long-time editors of the *Ann Landers* column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: *Annie's Mailbox*, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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JERRIE STOCKS

If you keep your eyes open expectantly every day for great and wonderful things to happen, great and wonderful things will tend to happen to you. It's true! Ordinary people experience miracles every day. If you always think the best, look for the best, and expect the best, you will see miracles in your life. A positive outlook overrides the negative. If your consciousness is invaded with negative thoughts, turn them around and think constructively. What you habitually

think about will eventually happen. The naturalist, John Burroughs, once said, "My own shall come to me. What we send out mentally and spiritually will return to us." We become who we are in our thoughts. A friend recently asked me if I believed in miracles. "Indeed I do, and very much so," I replied. "Later she asked, "How do you receive a miracle?" I told her, "It has to do with the way you program your mind." When you think about miracles every day, miracles follow.

The dictionary defines miracles as "remarkable or marvelous events." Miracles do not always happen immediately, though some do. Psalm 62 says, "Wait thou upon the Lord: for my expectation is from Him." God is a miracle-worker. When we force our faith into action and expect great things, we receive great things. Habakkuk 2:2 says, "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time: but at the end it will speak,

and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, and it will not tarry." Great people of the world have a faith so positively strong, it rises above doubt. If you train yourself to have in-depth faith, it will release an astonishing power that produces miracles. There are people in this world known as "believers." They take hold of life with profound authority. They are winners, not quitters, and they stay the course until it is done.

In 1999, I spent a year in Kentucky with my husband as he finished a work assignment just prior to retirement. We had a small apartment on Paradise Lake. After he left for the office each morning, I enjoyed walking around the lake. One morning I decided to take a different route and that's when I met Sassy. Sassy was sitting on the shore with her fishing line, reading a book. As I approached her, she offered me a folding chair and a cup of coffee from her thermos. We hit it off immediately. She

was a retired college professor in her early 60's; a black lady, beautiful inside and out, with a class about her that captured my attention. She wore her thick white hair pulled back with a black velvet bow. Her large gold hoop earrings and white rimmed designer glasses told me that she was a refined, elegant lady. One day she invited me to her home for lunch. I was thrilled as we climbed into her old pickup for the two-mile ride to her immaculate home.

I knew from the onset that Sassy was indeed a special person. Nothing about her was ordinary. I imagined it to be her impeccable manners, her excellent grammar, and her vast knowledge of the places she had traveled in the world. She had met the Pope, visited with Mother Theresa, and had taken tea with the Queen of England. She had also attended the largest church in the world in Seoul, Korea, and the list went on. But the things that really got my attention were her strong faith in God, her positive attitude about everything, and the many miracles

she had seen and continued to see in her life. No one ever told Sassy that something could not be done because she knew it could. She never gave up on a project until it was complete. One day Sassy told me, "Never stop learning. What you learn here on earth goes into heaven with you when you die, where its wisdom is defined and refined by the Master Himself." Chills ran up my back as she talked about the beauty of learning.

My husband's work year ended far too soon for me. I knew I would miss Sassy. The brilliance in her face and voice caused me to wonder at times if she might have been an angel. Her last departing words to me were, "Never stop believing in miracles." You can experience miracles in your life. The only ingredients necessary are expectancy and a believing faith. Mark 11:24 says, "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." God bless.

CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 5A

Signal Mountain Emmaus Community

Signal Mountain Emmaus Community meets at Spring Creek Fellowship, 501 Birdwell Lane on the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. Babe Chick meeting is at 6:30. Next meeting is March 11. At this month's meeting we will honor the 2001 Walks; Women's Walk 23 LD Kim McAnally, Men's Walk 24 LD Rory Worthan, Women's Walk 25 LD Angie Brown, Women's Walk 26 LD Terry McDaniel. Plan to attend. Bring a dish and join us at 6 p.m. for a potluck fellowship. For more information, see our Web site: www.signal-emmaus.org

St. Paul Lutheran

We are located at 810 Scurry and begin Sunday worship at 9 a.m. with Sunday school for all following at 10:15. Our office hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday. We can be reached by calling 267-7163. Our worship service is led by Pastor

Wayne K. Frost. Bible study opportunities are available to anyone wishing to come. You do not need to be a member of St. Paul in order to attend the classes. Wednesday at noon, Pastor Frost is teaching a ladies class, "Seeking the Face of God," in the parish hall. Friday at 6 a.m., the topic is "Seduction of Extremes," and is held at Greg's Grill in the Big Spring Mall. And Sunday at 6 p.m., "Experiencing God" is being studied at 2712 Ann. For ore information concerning any of these Bible study classes, please call the church office.


Let us know your concerns and prayer requests by calling the office or e-mailing stpaulc@sbcglobal.net We are reminded to include in our daily prayers our military men and women, especially those involved in combat situations.

First Presbyterian, Big Spring

The Lectionary Bible study met on Wednesday at 5:17 p.m. Choir practice was at 6 p.m. The Working Women Bible Study was at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9 in the church parlor.

The service committee will meet at the church on Thursday, Feb. 11, at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting of Tres Rios Presbytery will be at First Presbyterian, Midland on Friday, Feb. 19. That evening and Saturday, Feb. 20, there will be a conference on living the gospel "Living Letters for a New World" at the same location. The keynote speaker is Dr. Darrell Guder, with workshop and worship leaders from around the presbytery. Christine Boling will provide refreshments for "Take Ten" Sunday

morning. Mark Morgan is liturgist. For the children in the nursery, ages up to 5 years, there will be a Valentine Party from 11 to 12 a.m. We'd like for them to wear red. The lectionary for the Transfiguration of the Lord is Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; II Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36(37-43). The chancel choir will present "At the Name of Jesus" by R. Vaughn Williams. "Fanfare" by Joseph M. Martin is the offertory anthem. See CHURCH NEWS, Page 8A



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April Renée
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&

Gary L. Tunsky
Cellular Disease Specialist

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Skiier Vonn tests shin, likes result

WHISTLER, British Columbia (AP) — Aided by painkillers and numbing cream, Lindsey Vonn tested her badly bruised right shin by skiing for the first time since getting injured last week — and she came away encouraged about her Olympic prospects.

The opening women's Olympic downhill training session was called off after only two racers because of thick fog and low visibility, but Vonn did get in a free run on the mountain — although not on the official course.

Her husband, Thomas, called the cancellation "fantastic."

He said his wife still aims to race in all five events at these Olympics, which certainly would be a relief to the U.S. Ski Team, U.S. Olympic Committee.

Zenyatta, Rachel Alexandra to race for \$5 mil.

NEW YORK (AP) — The owner of Oaklawn Park in Arkansas says the race is on between Rachel Alexandra and

Zenyatta.

Charles Cella says the owners of both champions agreed to run their horses in the Apple Blossom Invitational Handicap on a new date of April 9, for a \$5 million purse.

The stunning announcement comes a day after the Rachel Alexandra owner Jess Jackson said his filly would not run in the race because the original date of April 3 was too early.

Cella decided to move the race back six days to give the 4-year-old filly more time to be in top form. Zenyatta's owner Jerry Moss has said his unbeaten mare will run next month in California and then in the Apple Blossom.

The first ladies of racing have not met on the racetrack.

Bryant, Iverson won't play in All-Star game

DALLAS (AP) — Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers and Allen Iverson of the Philadelphia 76ers won't play in the All-Star game this weekend.

Both former NBA MVPs were voted into

the starting lineups by fans.

The NBA announced that Bryant will be replaced by Dallas point guard Jason Kidd on the Western Conference roster. Iverson's spot in the Eastern Conference will be filled by New York forward David Lee.

Bryant missed his third straight game for the Lakers Wednesday night with a sore left ankle.

Iverson missed his fifth straight game for the 76ers Wednesday night to be with his sick daughter.

Racers set for Daytona

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Jimmie Johnson nipped Kevin Harvick by .005 seconds in the first qualifying race, then Kasey Kahne edged Tony Stewart by .014 seconds in the second to set the stage for what should be an exciting season-opening Daytona 500.

Michael Waltrip, a two-time Daytona 500 winner, had planned to make his final start at Daytona in Sunday's race. Only he wrecked out of the first race, and was at the mercy of the

rotation that opened to rave reviews and scenery to match.

Phil Mickelson also played Monterey Peninsula, shooting a 68.

India's Avantha Masters kicks off

GURGAON, India (AP) — Germany's Marcel Siem shot an 8-under 64 to take a one-stroke lead over Taiwan's Chan Yih-shin in the Avantha Masters.

Northern Ireland's opened with a 71, and Indian star Jeev Milkha Singh had a 72 on the Arnold Palmer-designed DLF Golf and Country Club course. The tournament is sanctioned by the European and Asian tours and the Professional Golf Tour of India.**Johnson leads at Pebble Beach**

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Dustin Johnson wanted to make sure he got off to a good start as the defending champion of the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. He succeeded because of a phenomenal finish.

Johnson overpowered the par 5s on a pristine day at Pebble Beach and closed with five consecutive birdies to tie the tournament record with a 30 on the back nine. He finished with an 8-under 64 and was atop the leaderboard.

Charley Hoffman had a 6-under 64 on the Shore Course at Monterey Peninsula, the newcomer to a three-course

Glavine back with Braves as special assistant

ATLANTA (AP) — Tom Glavine has rejoined the Atlanta Braves as special assistant to team president John Schuerholz.

The 43-year-old former pitcher will work with Schuerholz on baseball and business

projects and will occasionally assist general manager Frank Wren and manager Bobby Cox. Glavine also will be on the Braves radio pregame show at times and be a guest analyst on game broadcasts.

Roddick first pick in Team Tennis draft

NEW YORK (AP) — Andy Roddick is the top pick by the Philadelphia Freedoms in the World Team Tennis marquee draft.

In the draft announcement, the Albany-based New York Buzz chose Martina Hingis with the second pick and the St. Louis Aces took Lindsay Davenport with the third selection.

Kim Clijsters was acquired by the New York Sportimes from St. Louis, and will team up with John McEnroe for the summer league, which runs July 5-25.

Venus Williams will join her sister Serena on the Washington Kastles.

Maria Sharapova (Newport Beach, Calif.), Anna Kournikova (St. Louis) and James Blake (Boston) also will play in the coed professional league, co-founded by Billie Jean King.

NCAA rule changes aim to ease concussions, taunts

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The NCAA wants to get tough on taunting and make it more difficult for football players with concussions to try to tough it out.

Both proposals were announced Thursday by the Football Rules Committee and must now be approved by the Playing Rules

Oversight Panel.

If passed, players who draw flags for taunting gestures on their way to a touchdown would have the penalty assessed from the spot of the foul, taking away the score. Penalties that occur in the end zone would continue to be assessed on the extra-point attempt,

2-point conversion try or ensuing kickoff.

The change would take effect in 2011 and on the NCAA's web site, a release said the proposal received near-unanimous support.

"Taunting and prolonged individual acts have no place in our game, and our officials have generally han-

dled these rules well," said former Oregon coach Mike Bellotti, the committee chair. "This is just another step in maintaining our game's image and reflecting the ideals of the NCAA overall."

The taunting rules seem to become a topic of debate among college football players, coaches and fans every season. Last season's big controversy stemmed from Georgia receiver A.J. Green receiving a 15-year personal foul penalty after he caught a go-ahead touchdown pass late in a game against LSU. The yardage from the penalty was assessed on the ensuing kick-

off and helped LSU get into position to drive for the winning score.

The Southeastern Conference would later say there was no video evidence to support the flag on Green.

Concussion prevention and treatment has also been a hot topic in recent years.

With that in mind, committee members also supported more stringent standards to keep players healthy.

If approved, injured players — including those with concussion symptoms — would have to be cleared by a doctor before returning to competition.

The action comes a month after the playing

rules panel instructed the rules committee to review policies about stopping play for injuries and consider new rules to help prevent head injuries.

In previous seasons, there have been rule changes created to reduce "dangerous contact" during games.

Other topics discussed at the meeting include:

— Television monitors will be allowed in the press box coaches' booths beginning in 2011. The home team has responsibility for insuring that coaches' booths for both teams have identical television capability.

— Requiring players who wear "eye black" to use solid black with no words, logos, numbers or other symbols. That will be effective next season.

— Ending the requirement that players' pants always cover the knees.

— Eliminating the intentional "wedge" on kickoffs and punts, a rule the NFL adopted last season.

— Recommending conferences that do not have a pregame warm-up policy use a 10-yard, no-player zone between the 45-yard lines beginning 60 minutes before kickoff.

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State briefs

Texas adding nursing home inspectors

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas will hire 35 new investigators to speed up the state's response to complaints about care and incidents in nursing homes. The Department of Aging and Disability Services on Friday announced the additional staffing. The agency says it responds to 99 percent of the most serious complaints within 24 hours. About a third of lower-level complaints don't get a response within 14 days as required.

The agency says it will complete about 1,550 nursing home investigations during a two-week state-wide blitz this month. The new investigators will be hired in March.

The agency regulates 1,196 Texas nursing homes and investigated 16,200 complaints and incidents in fiscal year 2009.

Rarely seen Texas otter may be making a comeback

DALLAS (AP) — River otters are popping up in Texas waterways where they haven't been seen in decades, giving wildlife officials hope that the rarely seen critter is making a comeback.

The wider range was announced this week by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The animals were believed to have been restricted to the Piney Woods of east Texas because of habitat loss and trapping for its thick brown fur, in high

demand as recently as the 1970s.

But this year people have spotted river otters outside Austin and as far away as Wichita Falls, near the Oklahoma border.

The river otter, a famously playful animal and member of the weasel family, is a slim carnivore with webbed feet and is typically about 2 feet long. The otter is not endangered, but Texas considers it a "species of concern."

Sheriff: El Paso commissioner did nothing wrong

EL PASO (AP) — Allegations that an El Paso County commissioner traded votes for favors are "unfounded."

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office announced Friday it found no evidence that Commissioner Veronica Escobar did anything wrong.

El Paso County Judge Anthony Cobos had publicly accused Escobar of conspiring to trade votes for favors, including one that allegedly was intended to help her campaign treasurer land a job with the county attorney's office.

Escobar has denied any wrongdoing.

Record snow, tens of thousands lose power in Texas

DALLAS (AP) — More than a foot of snow in the Dallas area led to thousands of electrical out-

ages and gave about 500,000 children a day off from school.

Oncor reported about 180,000 homes and businesses without power at midmorning Friday. Spokeswoman Jeamy (JAY'-mee) Molina says about 2,500 Oncor personnel worked to restore electricity, with the biggest issue being trees falling into power lines.

About 240 flights were canceled Friday by American Airlines, mainly at its hub at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

Dozens of school districts in north Texas were closed, including Dallas, with more than 160,000 students, plus Fort Worth, Denton and Arlington.

The National Weather Service, as of Friday morning, said a record 12.5 inches of snow fell within 24 hours in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The previous single-day record was 12.1 inches of snow in 1962.

1 dead after tugboat sinks in Houston Ship Channel

HOUSTON (AP) — The body of a crewman has been recovered after a 56-foot tugboat sank in the Houston Ship Channel and spilled hundreds of gallons of diesel fuel.

Coast Guard spokesman Petty Officer Prentice Danner says a stretch of channel near the Sims Bayou turning basin remained closed Friday during operations to recover the tug.

Danner says the J.R. Nichols sank Wednesday night with five men on board. Four were rescued from the water and treated for hypothermia.

The body of the fifth crewmember was recovered Thursday. His name was not immediately released.

Danner says the investigation continues into what caused the sinking of the tug operated by Kinder Morgan.

Danner says as much as 1,000 gallons spilled, but the Coast Guard will not know the total until crews are "able to get the boat righted." Barriers contained the spill.

Houston trustees OK plan to fire failing teachers

HOUSTON (AP) — Some teachers booed as Houston Independent School District trustees discussed and approved a plan to allow the firing of educators whose students consistently fail to improve on standardized tests.

The HISD board voted Thursday night to turn next year to a value-added system of measuring student progress. More than 700 teachers were part of the overflow crowd at the meeting.

The Houston Federation of Teachers and the Congress of Houston Teachers oppose the review plan for the largest public school system in Texas, which has more than 200,000 students and 295 schools.

Superintendent Terry Grier says training and mentoring will be available to teachers in danger of losing their jobs.

More than 400 teachers, or about 3 percent of the HISD teaching staff, could be at risk under the system using a statistical method to judge their effectiveness.



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