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## Appeals court upholds Perez sentence

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By THOMAS JENKINS

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A Big Spring woman convicted of burglary in 118th District Court in 2009 had her nine-year sentence affirmed by the Eleventh District of Texas Court of Appeals last week.

Sabrina Gutierrez Perez, 45, was sentenced to nine years in a Texas Department of Criminal Justice facility and fined \$1,000 in March 2009 by a jury for her part in the October

2008 burglary of the Northcrest Apartments office.

The memorandum opinions were issued by Justice Rick Strange from a panel including Chief Justice Jim Wright and Justice Terry McCall, upholding the conviction.

Perez was accused of assisting Enrique Alvarez, 47, when they broke into the Northcrest office in the early morning hours of Oct. 23. Computer equipment and related items were

taken in the incident. Alvarez had previously pleaded guilty to his part in the burglary, District Attorney Hardy L. Wilkerson said, and received a sentence of one year in a state jail facility.

Burglary of a building is usually punishable by a term of between six months and two years in state jail, but Perez's conviction was enhanced by two prior felony convictions burglary and possession of a controlled substance.

Under the enhancement guidelines, Perez could have received as little as two years or as many as 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

She must serve at least a quarter of her sentence — more than two years — before being eligible for parole.

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

## Moore retiring ... sort of

## Lots of fishing time isn't really in cards though

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

After almost 21 years on the bench, 118<sup>th</sup> District Judge Robert H. Moore III is calling it a career.

A retirement reception for Moore was held Friday in the district courtroom where he presided since being appointed to the bench by then-Texas Gov. William Clements on March 1, 1990.

Moore began his legal career after graduating from the University of Texas law school in 1969. He served as 118th District Attorney from 1973 until 1976, then returned to private practice until receiving the call from Gov. Clements to fill the unexpired term of then-District Judge Jim Gregg.

"And I've been here ever since,"

Watching predecessors Gregg and

Ralph Caton in action got Moore interested in serving as a judge. "I saw that this was something I'd like to try," he said, "I've worked with

a lot of good people over the years. We've got a great group of judges out here in West Texas, and I've enjoyed working with them."

Asked what he would remember most from his term in office, Moore noted the 2001 renovation of the old county library, which was upgraded to house the district courtroom, as well as offices for the district judge, attorney and clerk.

"That's one of the highlights," he said. "I certainly didn't do it single-



118th District Court Judge Robert H. Moore III greets a well-wisher during a reception in his honor in the district courtroom Friday afternoon. Moore will step down Dec. 31 after almost 21 years on the bench.

handedly, but to have had a hand in that was a neat experience."

Moore said the time was right for him to step down.

"I've been doing this for 20 years," he said. "It's not that things have gotten to where I dislike it, but there's other things I want to do."

But if you think Moore will spend his retirement baiting fish hooks or catching up on his reading, well, that's not exactly the plan.

For starters, Moore, who has attained "senior judge" status among his colleagues, will be asked to sit in on cases throughout the state from

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time to time. And he will start a second career of sorts locally.

"I'm going to open an office (next to the district court building), where I'll be doing mediation," Moore said. "And I'll travel a little bit. I've got a

See MOORE, Page 3

## In tough economy, Santas are also taking it on chin

TAMARA LUSH

**Associated Press** 

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. -Craig McTavish — a.k.a. Santa — has the beard. He has the belly. He even has a few tricks up his sleeve, like pulling up to parties on his Harley-Davidson in full Kris Kringle garb. But there's one thing he

doesn't have: work. For freelance Santas, this holi-

day season has been more "no, no, no," than "ho, ho, ho." Bookings have declined as paying \$125 an hour for Santa to visit a holiday party has become an unaffordable luxury. It's the second year of declining parties and events, Santas say.

"This year has been a bust as far as making any money," said

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**Obituaries** Opinion

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