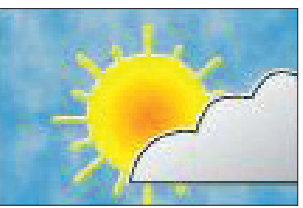


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GOP agenda may mean more in 2012 than now

LARRY MARGASAK
 Associated Press
 WASHINGTON — Even if the next two years end in congressional gridlock, Republicans hope to build a record that demonstrates to voters in 2012 that they can get it right. The GOP is promising to use the new Congress that convenes Wednesday to cut spending, roll back Presi-

dent Barack Obama's health care overhaul and prevent unelected bureaucrats from expanding the government's role in society through regulations that tell people what they must or can't do. Passing their top priorities may be easier in the House, where Republicans hold a 241-194 majority. It will be harder in the Senate where Demo-

crats still hold an edge, though smaller than the one Obama had during his first two years in the White House. But if the GOP agenda fails to change the lives of Americans, it could still prove to have a greater impact on next year's elections. House Republicans also pledge to hold tough investigations and hearings on the president's programs and

policies, ending the free pass that Democratic committee chairmen gave the Obama administration the past two years. Republicans insist they'll bring key administration officials before congressional microphones and that the public can watch the webcasts. The
 See **AGENDA**, Page 3

Missing Person \$10,000.00 Reward



Hailey Dunn

Missing from Colorado City, Texas
Last Seen Monday Dec. 27 2010 at 1804 Chestnut St.
Age: 13 years old Height 5'1 Weight: 120 pounds
Eye Color: Hazel Hair Color: Brown/Blondish Streaks



The Colorado City Police Dept. is offering a 10,000.00 reward for information leading to the whereabouts and safe return of Hailey Dunn. Please call 325-728-5294 or 325-728-3161.

Concern mounts over C-City girl's disappearance

By **JOHN A. MOSELEY**
 Managing Editor

COLORADO CITY — A week has now gone by since 13-year-old Hailey Dunn of Colorado City disappeared while walking to a friend's house, and that has her family and many residents of the community concerned.

A prayer vigil for the missing teenager was held Sunday night at Colorado City Middle School and about 750 people gathered to pray for her safe return home. Meanwhile, a reward for information leading to Hailey's return has grown from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Hailey was last seen walking from her home to a friend's house about 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27, according to Interim Colorado City Police Chief John Bivins. However, police do not believe the girl has met with foul play and therefore a statewide Amber Alert has not been issued in her disappearance.

Bivins said his department currently considers Hailey a runaway.

However, as the more days she stays missing, the concern of both law enforcement

and the entire community continues to grow. In fact, some law enforcement officials admit doubting the girl is just a runaway.

Mitchell County Sheriff Patrick Toombs told the Abilene Reporter-News that he thinks Hailey would "be considered more than just a runaway."

Toombs said his office, as well as Texas Rangers have assisted Colorado City Police Department officers in interviewing several of the missing girl's classmates.

While Toombs told the Abilene newspaper that his office is only assisting police, he admitted Hailey's disappearance is a mystery and said he wasn't aware that anything had been ruled out in the case, adding that some sort of an abduction or coercion is "still a possibility."

"Right now, we have not been able to confirm or deny how she disappeared from town," Toombs said.

The girl's family and friends, however, believe foul play is involved in Hailey's disappearance.

See **MISSING**, Page 3

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Howard County Clerk Donna Wright, right, administers the oath of office to county officials during a brief ceremony at the county courthouse Monday morning. From left are: County Treasurer Teresa Thomas, County Surveyor Michael McBrayer, Commissioner Donnie Baker, Justice of the Peace Quail Dobbs, District Clerk Colleen Barton, Justice of the Peace Kathryn Wiseman, Commissioner John Cline and County Judge Mark Barr.
 HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

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Obituaries

Beryle Simpkins



Beryle Simpkins, 83, died Thursday, Dec. 30, 2010, at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa.

She was born March 11, 1927, in Wortham to Jessie James Whitmore and Minnie Emily Musick. She graduated high school in East and went to Kilgore Junior College. She married Grover Lee Simpkins on Oct. 29, 1948.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her brother, Johnny Whitmore; and sister, Marguerite Piercy.

She is survived by her daughter, Gerry Marino and husband, Bill, of Big Spring; son, Roy Lynn Simpkins of Odessa; three grandsons; one great-grandson; brothers, Derward Whitmore and wife, SuzAnn, of Odessa and Tommy Whitmore and wife, Marlene, of Bakersfield, Calif.; and sisters, Anna Faye Phelps of Yacipa, Calif., and Dolly Griffith of Austin.

Visitation with the family will be held from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 3, 2011, at Sunset Funeral Home in Odessa. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011, at Sunset Memorial Gardens with Steve Horton officiating.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sunset Memorial Funeral Home. To sign the guest book, go to our website at www.sunsetodessa.com

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 9 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

- ANASTACIO GARAY JR., 30, of 509 E 18th St., was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- FRANK HERNANDEZ JR., 18, of 5105 Dawson, was arrested Saturday on a charge of evading arrest or detention.
- JAMES LEE OVERTON, 19, of 1408 E. Sixth St., was arrested Saturday on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- LUIS RIOS CANALES III, 26, of 905 E. 16th St., was arrested Saturday on a charge of assault – family violence.
- ISREAL ALVAREZ, 24, of 1504 Chickasaw, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- VINCENT EDWARD MCVEA, 40, of 2510 Dow, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while license invalid – no insurance.
- ROY GUERERRO CERVANTES JR., 31, of 1103 E. 12th St., was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- MARCELINO RANGEL JR., 53, of 1309 Robin, was arrested Sunday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- GILBERT ANTHONY GONZALES, 37, of 1605 Tucson, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JULIE LACHELLE LAWSON, 27, of 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 47, was arrested Sunday on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.
- LEONARD ANTHONY AGUINAGA, 22, of 106 Lockhart, was arrested Sunday on warrants for driving while license invalid (two counts), failure to appear (four counts) and expired motor vehicle inspection certificate (two counts).
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported: In the 2600 block of Wasson Road. In the 3200 block of Drexel. In the 25600 block of Larry. In the 4000 block of W. Highway 80. In the 1200 block of Nolan.
- ASSAULT was reported: In the 1000 block of N. Main Street. In the 1000 block of N. Main Street. In the 1400 block of N. Highway 87.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported: In the 2300 block of Brent. In the 3300 block of Drexel.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1600 block of Osage.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 69 inmates at the time of this report.

- JUAN OLIVAS VALENCIA, 51, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of deadly conduct and public intoxication.
- ANTHONY KEITH SNEED, 30, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on charges of driving while license invalid, failure to maintain financial responsibility, expired registration and expired inspection certificate.
- ALEXIS ARMENTROUT, 17, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
- ELEUTERIO PADRON, 61, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- STEPHANIE LYNN GONZALES, 22, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- TRACY JEROME BLACKMON, 47, was trans-

ferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of probation violation – assault causing bodily injury and theft by check.

• VERONICA LUERA RODRIGUEZ, 24, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of theft by check, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, failure to maintain financial responsibility (two counts) and violation of a promise to appear.

• GEORGE IVAN CASTILLO, 17, was arrested by the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

• JAMES LEE OVERTON, 19, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of minor consuming alcohol.

• FRANK HERNANDEZ, 18, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of evading arrest or detention.

• ANASTACIO GARAY JR., 40, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• DAVID LEE HIMEL, 20, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving under the influence by a minor.

• LUIS CANALES RIOS III, 26, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of Class C assault – family violence.

• ISRAEL ALVAREZ, 24, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• EARNEST GALINDO CASTANEDA, 42, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of failure to identify – giving false information, animal at large and violation of a promise to appear.

• VINCENT EDWARD MCVEA, 40, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• CRYSTAL LENA KAHLMAN, 47, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of contempt of child support order.

• ADAM AGUIRRE, 27, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• VANESSA RENEE VALENCIA, 32, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.

• ROY G. CERVANTES, 31, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• MARCELINO RANGEL, 53, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

• GILBERT ANTHONY GONZALES, 37, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• JESSE CONTRERAS, 25, was arrested Sunday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated, resisting arrest, search or transportation and unlawfully carrying a weapon (two counts).

• GARY W. BRITO, 18, was arrested Sunday by DPS on charges of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less and prohibited weapon – switchblade/knuckles.

• JUAN RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ, 20, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a warrant from immigration.

• JULIE LACHELLE LAWSON, 27, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.

• RICARDO RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ, 18, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a warrant from immigration.

• DOYCE RAY COYLE, 42, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of issuance of a bad check.

• LEONARD ANTHONY AGUINAGA, 22, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on warrants for driving while license invalid (two counts), violation of a promise to appear (three counts), expired motor vehicle inspection certificate (two counts) and failure to appear.

• MELISSA YOUNG, 41, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• FREDDY HINOJOSA, 33, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of assault – family violence and forgery.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1600 block of Settles. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of W. Marcy. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- GRASS FIRE was reported in the area of Country Club Road.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 1/5	Thu 1/6	Fri 1/7	Sat 1/8	Sun 1/9
68/33 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 30s.	67/34 More clouds than sun. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	68/40 Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.	65/33 More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 30s.	60/31 Sunshine. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:55 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:56 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:57 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:58 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:58 PM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Ablene	61	37	pt sunny	Kingsville	77	51	cloudy
Amarillo	55	26	pt sunny	Livingston	66	39	rain
Austin	68	40	rain	Longview	62	38	cloudy
Beaumont	69	45	t-storm	Lubbock	61	28	mst sunny
Brownsville	79	60	pt sunny	Lufkin	66	39	rain
Brownwood	65	36	cloudy	Midland	66	34	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	73	51	t-storm	Raymondville	80	58	pt sunny
Corsicana	62	38	pt sunny	Rosenberg	70	47	t-storm
Dallas	62	38	pt sunny	San Antonio	72	42	cloudy
Del Rio	73	43	cloudy	San Marcos	69	40	rain
El Paso	57	34	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	61	38	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	71	43	pt sunny	Sweetwater	64	36	cloudy
Gainesville	58	32	pt sunny	Tyler	61	37	cloudy
Greenville	59	34	pt sunny	Weatherford	61	33	pt sunny
Houston	70	46	t-storm	Wichita Falls	59	28	pt sunny

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Williams. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1400 block of N. Highway 87. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Williams. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1800 block of N. Birdwell. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Loop Road. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Chanute. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Driver Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Driver Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported near the intersection of Webb Lane and Leatherneck. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of E. Ninth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of Midway Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 8000 block of S. Service Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Fairchild. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. Service refused.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main Street. Service refused.

• GRASS FIRE was reported in the area of Driver Road.

• GRASS FIRE was reported near the intersection of N. Seventh Street and Goliad.

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TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS:

Burial Tuesday for slain Houston boy, 12
HOUSTON (AP) — A 12-year-old Houston boy whose burned body turned up in a ditch will be laid to rest in a family plot.
Burial was planned Tuesday in Pearland for Jonathan Foster.
A 44-year-old woman charged with capital murder in the Christmas Eve abduction of the child remained in custody Monday. Mona Yvette Nelson was held without bond.
A motorist on Dec. 28 spotted the boy's remains in a ditch. Nelson was arrested the following day.
Investigators have said they believe Nelson, who was a maintenance worker with welding expertise, took the boy to her home, killed him and burned his body.
A motive is sought.
Police say Nelson was friends with a woman who was a roommate of the victim's mother. The boy had been left alone when he disappeared.

River draining expanded for cleanup
SAN ANTONIO (AP) — This week's draining of the San Antonio River through the downtown business district will include more extensive cleanup of sediment.
The city's Parks and Recreation Department has scheduled the draining of the river, through San Antonio's famed River Walk, to run through Jan. 11.

The San Antonio Express-News reported Monday that excavators could remove up to up to 3,000 tons of sediment from areas not previously scoured because they have a natural river bottom, not the concrete base found elsewhere along the River Walk.
Downtown operations director Paula Stallcup says years ago a previous attempt to clean the natural river bottom ended when a tractor got stuck in the silt. She says this time city workers will put down rock to support special heavy equipment.

Dallas wants Fort Worth's streetcar funds
FORT WORTH (AP) — Fort Worth's decision to drop a proposed streetcar line could send \$25 million in federal funds to Dallas.
The Dallas Morning News and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported, for Monday editions, that Dallas could seek the money for its own streetcar system.
The Fort Worth City Council on Dec. 7 nixed a feasibility study on the planned \$88 million line. Mayor Mike Moncrief cited funding concerns. The package included a \$25 million federal grant.
Dallas last February secured a \$23 million federal grant of its own.
Michael Morris with the North Central Texas Council of Governments says the goal is to keep the funding in the area.
The Federal Transportation Administration this month will be asked, by regional planners, to consider allowing Dallas to spend the money meant for Fort Worth.

Mission in San Antonio vandalized
SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Two structures and several signs at historic Mission San Juan in San Antonio have been vandalized with black spray paint.
The National Park Service says cleanup could begin Monday.
The Rev. Jim Galvin says a ranger on Sunday pointed out the graffiti at the church complex.
Similar vandalism happened about five years ago. Nobody has been arrested..

Services set for slain Arlington officer
ARLINGTON (AP) — Services have been set for an Arlington police officer killed last week while answering a domestic disturbance call.
A candlelight vigil and wake were scheduled Monday night at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Arlington for Officer Jillian Michelle Smith. Police say a memorial service will be held Tuesday.
Smith was gunned down Dec. 28 at an Arlington

apartment complex.
Police say Smith was shot by a man accused of assaulting his ex-girlfriend. Police say the gunman also fatally shot the woman he formerly dated, then killed himself.
Police say Smith died trying to protect the woman's 11-year-old daughter, who was not injured in the gunfire.

Deputy involved in fatal Odessa car crash
ODESSA (AP) — A 43-year-old man has been killed in a West Texas accident involving a sheriff's deputy.
Ector County Sheriff's Office spokesman Sgt. Gary Duesler says 34-year-old Deputy David Escudero was driving an unmarked car with lights and siren to assist in a pursuit late Saturday night.
The Texas Department of Public Safety reports that Escudero's car crashed into a vehicle driven by Anthony Neel that failed to yield at a stop sign.
The Odessa American reports that the impact caused Neel's vehicle to roll. He was thrown from it and died at the scene.
Duesler says Neel was not involved in the pursuit.
Neel's passenger, 43-year-old Brenda Madrid, was in serious condition with head injuries. Escudero, who suffered broken ribs and a leg injury, was also hospitalized in serious condition.

1 dead, 1 jailed after hunting accident
TYLER (AP) — Authorities say a 41-year-old East Texas man is dead and another is in jail after what appears to be a hunting accident.
A Rusk County Sheriff's Office statement says Louis Nicklas Conner Jr., of Overton, died from a gunshot wound.
Conner was on a deer lease in eastern Rusk County when the incident occurred Saturday morning.
A hunter shot at what was thought to be a deer. The shooter called the sheriff's office after discovering the victim's body.

AGENDA

Continued from Page 1

friendly tone of inquiry from Democratic chairmen will be replaced by Republicans demanding answers to these questions: What's the purpose of this program? Is this the best use of the taxpayers' money?
The chief Republican investigator, Rep. Darrell Issa of California, is raring to get started, and he's not alone. Issa, the incoming chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, has been especially critical of what he calls waste in Obama's economic stimulus spending.
"The sooner the administration figures out that the enemy is the bureaucracy and the wasteful spending, not the other party, the better off we'll be," he told "Fox News Sunday."
Rep. Harold Rogers of Kentucky, incoming leader of the House Appropriations Committee, says he wants top officials from all major government agencies to appear and justify their

spending.
The next chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Republican Fred Upton of Michigan, says he'll work to stop over-zealous government regulators. A big target for him is the Environmental Protection Agency, which is writing rules to limit greenhouse gases blamed for global warming after Obama's effort to get Congress to do it stalled in the Senate last year.
Upton, like Issa, will have a large investigative staff.
"Republicans need to make sure they bring forward solutions, even though it may be difficult to get them accomplished," Rep.-elect Kristi Noem, R-S.D., said in an interview. She said the lesson from the November election is, "The American people will replace people if they're no longer in touch or listening."
Noem benefited from that view, defeating Democratic Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin. Noem has risen to the forefront of the freshman class; she was chosen to serve in the GOP

leadership.
In the Senate, there's a chance the Democrats will replace Republicans as the party of "no," assuming the House GOP passes much of its agenda. Democrats will control the Senate 51-47 with two independents, and only need 41 votes to block initiatives that arrive from the House.
Among the reasons that the Republican agenda will likely have a bigger impact on the next election than on the day-to-day lives of most Americans are:
• Much of the government spending has been politically untouchable. About 60 percent goes for entitlement programs, including Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. The nation also is paying for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and major reconstruction projects in those countries. Both parties have considered it politically foolish to mess with Medicare and Social Security. Also, Republicans don't have a clean record as budget cutters.
"Spending restraint on the Republican side is a theory yet to be proven," said Robert Bixby, executive director of the budget-watching Concord Coalition. He noted that Democratic President Bill Clinton's budget surplus turned into deficit under Republican George W. Bush.
• Obama may be more willing to compromise with Republicans than in his first two years, but he will fight repealing the health care law. Senate Democrats will almost certainly stop major revisions. If for some reason they don't, Obama will use his veto to stop them.
• Republican attempts to overturn regulations on issues such as global warming also could falter in the Senate. When the EPA announced just before Christmas that it planned to set greenhouse gas emissions standards for power plants and oil refineries, Upton said, "We will not allow the administration to regulate what they have been unable to legislate." Senate Democrats may have a different view.
Many eyes in the session will focus on Issa, who will have subpoena power and can

investigate any government program.
Issa has played good cop and bad cop. He criticized Obama's most important programs, including the economic stimulus. But less than a month after the Republicans won big in November, he had a private peace meeting with Vice President Joe Biden. Neither is shy about entering a political brawl, but initially they have pledged to work together against waste and for openness in tracking government spending.
Issa has not discouraged articles suggesting he will send the administration subpoenas by the trainload. But he also wants to give subpoena power to non-political government watchdogs — inspectors general — and let them use that authority to uncover fraud, waste and abuse. With a degree of political cover, Issa could then use those findings to conduct his own investigations.
If the peace pact between Biden and Issa holds, there are other issues where the Obama administration and con-

gressional Republicans can compromise — as they did on extending Bush-era tax cuts for all, coupled with an extension of unemployment benefits sought by the president.
The incoming House Ways and Means Committee chairman, Rep. Dave Camp of Michigan, favors overhauling tax laws. So does Obama.
"The tax code is longer than the Bible, but without the happy ending," Camp has said. "What we need is a comprehensive reform of the tax code that expands the tax base and lowers rates by being fairer, simpler and conducive to growth."
That's not too far, in theory, from Obama's desire to "simplify confusing provisions in the tax code, encouraging saving and creating a tax system that works for all Americans." The challenge will be in reaching agreement.

MISSING

Continued from Page 1

"The people who knew her and her character do not believe she'd just take off and run away," said a family friend. "It just doesn't fit. It just

wasn't like her."
Meanwhile, volunteers have taken part in a door-to-door search.
Hailey Dunn is described as 5-foot-1 and 120 pounds with hazel eyes and hair that's said to be brown with blondish streaks.
Anyone with infor-

mation concerning the girl's whereabouts or circumstances concerning her disappearance are asked to call authorities at 325-728-5294 or 325-728-3161.
Contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230, or by e-mail at editor@big-springherald.com

2011 Travel Showcases

You are invited to one or all!

<p>Concho Valley Travel Show Wednesday, January 5 2:00 PM Senior Annex Station 618 618 South Chadbourne San Angelo, Texas</p>	<p>Permian Basin Travel Show Thursday, January 6 9:00 AM Holiday Inn Express Hotel 5309 West Loop 250 North Midland, Texas</p>
<p>Big Spring Travel Show Thursday, January 6 2:00 PM Dora Roberts Com. Center Comanche Trail Park 100 Whipkey Drive Big Spring, Texas</p>	<p>Abilene Travel Show Saturday, January 8 1:00 PM Southern Hills Church of Christ 3666 Buffalo Gap Road Abilene, Texas **Fellowship Hall; use front entrances**</p>

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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.

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OTHER VIEWS

Congress not so lame-duck in late going

It was a "shellacking." One description. Harry Reid "ate our lunch." That's another. The first comment was the president's description of what the mid-term congressional elections represented for his administration. The second quote is attributed to Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., after a string of successes for the president, Senate Majority Leader Reid, D-Nev., and Democrats in the session that wasn't as lame-duck as many predicted, er, hoped.

Here's what both sentiments have in common: They are reflections on political events, on whether one side is up or down, whether one side won or lost.

But in that "lame-duck" session that just ended there is at least some hope that the two sides really can rise above such political calculus. And that has implications for the Congress ahead, which will have a GOP-controlled House and a Senate still led by Democrats but with fewer of them than before.

After the election, conventional wisdom said that the president and congressional Democrats might as well just go home for the holidays.

START? A non-starter. Bush tax cuts? No compromise possible. And, please, just don't ask about "don't ask, don't tell."

But Democrats and enough Republicans to make a difference made it all happen, including help for Sept. 11 responders. They failed on the DREAM Act, an indication that illegal immigration remains politically toxic.

And still, much was accomplished because the president was persistent, both sides had enough bend in them to accommodate compromise and some folks who aren't returning had nothing left to lose so they could vote their consciences.

Our hope is that the "conventional wisdom" is as wrong about the upcoming Congress as it was about the just concluded session.

There was still acrimony aplenty. There was still talk of holding this tax cut hostage for movement on some other tax cut. There was something in all the lame-duck legislation to rile just about anyone. Yet, this Congress got it done.

And what it got done was substantively good. Reductions in nuclear weapons nearly always will be a good thing. "Don't ask, don't tell" was a discriminatory policy that had no place in America. And, while the effects of the recession still linger, it made no sense for any American — rich, poor or middle class — to have taxes increased.

Can the parties work together in the next Congress? Yes, they can.

THE JOURNAL SENTINEL
MILWAUKEE

LETTER POLICIES

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- 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 focus, Lord, on Your love and the desire You have for our lives.

Amen

Libya, oil spell commercial war

Twenty-two years ago last week, Pan Am Flight 103 exploded over Scotland. The terrorist attack killed 270 people, including 189 Americans and 11 Scots on the ground in the small village of Lockerbie.

After a comprehensive international investigation and a lengthy trial held in the Netherlands, three Scottish judges found former Libyan intelligence agent Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi guilty of the 270 murders in 2001 and sentenced him to life in prison.

He served a mere eight years.

On Aug. 20, 2009, Scottish Justice Minister Kenny MacAskill authorized the "compassionate" release of al-Megrahi on the grounds that prostate cancer left al-Megrahi with less than three months to live.

Some 16 months later, Megrahi is still alive and "reportedly living in a luxury villa in Tripoli," according to a report released this month by Sens. Robert Menendez, D-N.J.; Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.; Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y.; and Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J.

The Menendez report and recent WikiLeaks stories spell bad news for Scottish First Minister

Alex Salmond and his ruling Scottish National Party.

For starters, the report found that "Scottish officials ignored their own prostate cancer experts, none of whom would agree to a three-month prognosis." Apparently, al-Megrahi's much-improved health is not the result of a minor miracle. There was talk of releasing al-Megrahi a year before he was diagnosed with cancer.

The Menendez report also found that the British Labour government played a role in MacAskill's decision. That's not a surprise. Labour also had pushed through a prison transfer agreement that could have led to al-Megrahi's release.

Worst of all, the 58-page report concluded, "The Libyan Government successfully freed al-Megrahi by using commercial warfare."

Commercial warfare: Both Libya and Qatar pressured the Brits and Scots to find "a way out" for al-Megrahi or lose lucrative contracts, including a \$900 million oil exploration deal being negotiated between Libya and the oil company BP.

Last year, I visited the Scottish Parliament and talked to Labor MSP Richard Baker, who was shocked that "Scotland's greatest ever mass murderer" had been awarded "special treatment."

At the time of al-Megrahi's release, Salmond compared his

justice minister to Mahatma Gandhi, saying, "Sometimes someone has to break the cycle of retribution with an act of compassion." Now Salmond rejects the Menendez report and WikiLeaks stories about Libya's "thuggish" threats, while he contends that they back up the righteousness of his actions.

Let us not forget President Obama's feckless contribution — informing Libya that al-Megrahi should not be welcomed publicly.

Judging by al-Megrahi's hero's welcome on a Tripoli tarmac, strongman Moammar Ghaddafi did not fear to ignore that request.

Susan Cohen's daughter, Theodora, died in the Pan Am bombing at age 20. In a letter to the U.S. Senate, Cohen wondered about the United Kingdom and the United States: "Would we stand up to Hitler? Would we stand up to the Soviet Union or China? I am not sure at all. If we are willing to kiss the feet of a tinpot tyrant like Ghaddafi because all we care about is money, we'll cave in to more powerful nations when the moment's right."

Then, Salmond-like, we can hail our capitulation as worthy of Gandhi.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com.
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DEBRA SAUNDERS



"If it's a medical issue, you should get a second opinion. If it's a constitutionality issue, you'll probably need fifteen."

Obama the real genius...

Was it only a month ago that the chattering class was writing off the president as being almost as thoroughly defeated as the lame duck Congress, as the failed leader who had lost his way, popularity plummeting, accomplishments vulnerable? Insiders worried about who was up next. How much worse could it get? Did he really want to be a one-term president? Any Republican could beat him, friend and foe asserted. (Well, maybe not any Republican, but almost any). And then, like the weather in New England, everything changed.

In politics, the distance between idiot and genius, especially at the highest levels, can be measured in days. In the past 30, this president has put in place a tax deal that also extends unemployment benefits - and made clear to House Democrats that they could like it or lump it. He pushed to a vote a new nuclear arms treaty with Russia, signed into law the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" and even got some judges confirmed. That's just off the top of my head.

Even without Rahm, it turns

out the president knows his way around tough negotiations and games of chicken, not only forging a compromise but landing himself squarely in the middle. "Triangulation" minus Dick Morris. He has been decisive, tough and confident. When House Democrats revolted, he stood up to them and told them what was what. The once unified Republican bloc splintered. He found the votes he needed. The issue that threatened the early days of Bill Clinton's presidency — gays in the military — was resolved with the stroke of a pen.

Who is this genius? Who is this natural-born leader? None other than last month's beaten man. The man we would wish were president if only he weren't. Hillary has probably never been more popular. (Sometimes I wonder how she ever lost the nomination what with all the folks who now claim they were for her and were right, to boot. But then, I can remember when public opinion polls during Watergate showed that McGovern must have beaten Nixon.)

It's easy to read the daily polls and see the entire public as a fickle lot constantly racing in one direction or another, radiating anger as they do. But the reality is that it's mostly the middle that's swinging, if and when they pay attention. And that middle — the group that

either likes Obama no matter what he does or doesn't like him, on the same terms — is mostly in the ideological middle, not to mention, by definition, nonpartisan.

So when the president acts in a nonpartisan way, when he forces a compromise that keeps the tax cuts for everyone and extends unemployment benefits for folks who really can't find work (even if our grandkids will pay for it) and ends the bickering and backstabbing and intolerable paralysis, those folks are more likely to swing in his direction.

And when Republicans like Susan Collins are willing to be in the picture, when the aisle doesn't bind, he gets points with people who are sick and tired of what mostly sounds, from a distance, like bickering bullies.

And even if folks don't see all of it themselves, all the chattering about the president being back on top shapes the coverage and ultimately tends to nudge them in that direction.

And so Barack Obama ends the year not vanquished but firmly at the head of the table, which isn't bad for a guy who last month was taking heat from every direction.

He's on his way up. Mark my words. He's a genius — until, that is, the weather changes.

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SUSAN ESTRICH

McGee leads Cowboys past Eagles

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — If Jerry Jones is still considering coaching candidates, this might help Jason Garrett's case.

Stephen McGee threw a 4-yard touchdown pass to Jason Witten with 55 seconds left to lead the Dallas Cowboys to a 14-13 victory over the NFC East champion Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday.

Michael Vick and nearly every starter didn't play in a game that had no effect on Philadelphia's playoff positioning. The Eagles (10-6) are locked into the No. 3 seed and will host Green Bay in a wild-card game next Sunday.

The Cowboys (6-10) were playing for jobs next year. The Eagles were playing to stay healthy for next week.

Still, Dallas struggled against a bunch of backups and seldom-used reserves — until the final drive.

McGee, making his first career start for an injured Jon Kitna, led the Cowboys on a 54-yard scoring drive and helped them end a dismal season on a positive note.

Garrett went 5-3 after replacing Wade Phillips at midseason. The Cowboys have come a long way since a horrific 1-7 start to a season that began with

them having aspirations of becoming the first team to play in a Super Bowl in its home city.

Jones said after the game he has yet to decide if he'll remove the interim head coach tag from Garrett and give him the job. The team owner added he hasn't interviewed any candidates. Jones wants to interview wide receivers coach Ray Sherman, which would satisfy the league's rule about interviewing minority candidates. Jones also would consider speaking to candidates outside the organization. He said he won't require an interview with Garrett.

The Cowboys' three losses under Garrett have been by a total of seven points.

On a rainy day at the Linc, a few thousand empty seats made it seem more like a preseason game. Fans lacked their typical enthusiasm and most of the familiar names were in street clothes or on the bench.

Kevin Kolb threw a touchdown pass and had three interceptions filling in for Vick. He was sacked six times.

Kolb began the season as the starter after the Eagles traded Donovan McNabb to Washington. But he sustained a concussion in Week 1 and Vick played so well that Kolb never reclaimed his job.

This was far different than the past two years when these teams met on the last day of the regular season with so much at stake.

In 2008, a wild-card berth was on the line. The Eagles beat Dallas 44-6 and ended up reaching the NFC championship game. Last year, the division title was the prize. The Cowboys won 24-0 and eliminated Philadelphia with a 34-14 win the following week in the playoffs.

David Akers kicked a 43-yard field goal in the opening minute of the fourth quarter to give the Eagles a 10-7 lead.

After David Buehler missed a 52-yarder wide right with 9:45 left, Akers made one from 22 to make it 13-7.

But McGee made some clutch throws in the final minutes to rally the Cowboys.

Dallas tied it at 7 in the second quarter when DeMarcus Ware returned a fumbled 17 yards for a touchback. Anthony Spencer stripped the Kolb, who was scrambling and Ware picked the ball up and ran untouched into the end zone.

Kolb made a Vick-like escape to toss a 4-yard TD pass to Chad Hall, giving the Eagles a 7-0 lead on the

See **COWBOYS**, Page 6



AP File Photo

Dallas Cowboys' owner Jerry Jones wants the search for the new head coach to be short.

No decision yet for Cowboys coach

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Cowboys owner Jerry Jones wants the search for the next coach to be short.

Jones expects to decide within days if he'll remove the interim head coach tag from Jason Garrett and give him the job or go with another candidate.

He may have tipped his hand after Sunday's 14-13 win against Philadelphia when he was asked if the new coach would have input into hiring the rest of the staff.

"That is certainly something that Jason needs to have input in," Jones said. "By the way, Jones had input in many

of the staff members we have right now."

Jones said he hasn't interviewed any candidates, though Garrett is surely the frontrunner. He went 5-3 since replacing Wade Phillips at midseason. Jones said he was very pleased with Garrett's performance over the second half of the season.

Jones says he plans to interview candidates after the season finale. He wants to interview wide receivers coach Ray Sherman, which would satisfy the league's rule about interviewing minority candidates. Jones also would consider speaking to candidates outside the organization.

Foster wins rushing title to lift Texans past Jags

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Arian Foster won the NFL rushing title and ruined Jacksonville's playoff hopes.

Foster ran for 180 yards and two touchdowns in the Texans' 34-17 victory over the Jaguars on Sunday.

Jacksonville (8-8) needed a victory and a Colts loss to Tennessee to make playoffs, but couldn't overcome the absence of its top two offensive players.

Trent Edwards started at quarterback for David Garrard, who underwent finger surgery Thursday, and Rashad Jennings rushed for 108 yards in place of Pro Bowl running back Maurice Jones-Drew, who sat out with a right knee injury that will

require surgery this week.

Indianapolis wound up winning minutes after the Jaguars' game ended.

Matt Schaub completed 18 of 22 passes for 253 yards and a touchdown. He's thrown for 9,170 yards over the past two seasons, becoming the sixth quarterback to reach 9,000 yards passing in a two-year span.

But the finale belonged to Foster, an undrafted free agent who spent most of last season on Houston's practice squad. He burst onto the scene when he ran for 231 yards in the opener against Indianapolis and had eight 100-yard games this season.

Foster finished with 1,616 yards rushing, the highest single-season

total for an undrafted player. He also had 604 yards receiving to become the sixth player in league history to reach 1,500 yards rushing and 600 yards receiving in the same year.

The Texans (6-10) won for only the second time in their last 10 games amid speculation that coach Gary Kubiak would keep his job but fire many of his defensive assistants.

Kubiak shot down a report that a decision had already been made about the future of coordinator Frank Bush.

"That's not true," Kubiak said after the game, adding that he would meet with owner Bob McNair on Monday morning.

Meanwhile, Foster took the sus-

pense out of the race for the rushing title on his first carry, a 56-yard burst on Houston's third snap. Foster came into the game trailing Kansas City's Jamaal Charles by 32 yards and leading Tennessee's Chris Johnson by 111.

Foster finished the opening drive with the first of two touchdown runs. He weaved through the defense for a 35-yard touchdown with 10:49 left in the game, his 16th TD run of the season.

Houston's season was ruined by the defense's pattern of fourth-quarter breakdowns, but the unit held up fine in the finale.

See **FOSTER**, Page 6

End of the line? Brett Favre says he plans to retire

The Associated Press

Brett Favre was the NFL's ultimate iron man for 19 years, inspiring coaches and teammates with unparalleled toughness and thrilling fans with a daredevil's verve and a showman's sense of the moment.

Yet the once-irrepressible Favre never looked older or more fragile than in year No. 20. The magic of last season, and most of his brilliant career, never seemed farther away.

It had to end some time. And Favre says that time is now.

The 41-year-old quarterback sat out Minnesota's season-ending loss to the Lions on Sunday with a concussion, and it appears that perhaps the toughest

man to ever play in the NFL had his career end not on the field trying to rally the Vikings to another victory, but on the bench as a third-string rookie floundered in Favre's place.

No one — not even Brett Favre — can play forever.

"I know it's time, and that's OK. It is," Favre said after the 20-13 defeat. "Again, I hold no regrets, and I can't think of too many players offhand that can walk away and say that. Individually and from a team standpoint, it was way more than I ever dreamed of."

See **FAVRE**, Page 6

Sports in brief

Big Spring Fall Banquet for athletics

Big Spring High School will host its athletic banquet for fall sports at 6 p.m. Saturday in the high school cafeteria. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at the door. Football players, volleyball

players and cross country runners will be recognized at the annual event. If there are any questions, call Denise Carillo at 432-816-1685.

Men's city bowling tournament

This tournament takes place Jan. 23rd and 24 at Bowl-A-Rama in Big Spring. The entry forms are to

be turned in by Jan. 17. Entry forms can be picked up at the Bowl-A-Rama. The local USBC Chapter is donating \$150 to the prize fund. For more information contact Diana Ewing at 432-816-7631, Claud Fryar at 432-517-0475, or Sheila Armstrong at 432-270-7596.

su | do | ku

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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. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH			
♠	K Q 7 5		
♥	9 8 5		
♦	A 10 8		
♣	4 3 2		
WEST			
♠	9 6		
♥	K Q J 7 4 3 2		
♦	Q		
♣	J 9 7		
EAST			
♠	J 10 8 4		
♥	—		
♦	9 7 6 5 4 3 2		
♣	10 5		
SOUTH			
♠	A 3 2		
♥	A 10 6		
♦	K J		
♣	A K Q 8 6		

The bidding:
West North East South
3♥ Pass Pass 3 NT
Pass 4 NT Pass 6 NT
Opening lead — king of hearts.

Pietro Forquet, the Italian star who in the 1960s and '70s was regarded by many of his peers as the best player in the world, tells this story on himself. He was playing rubber bridge with his wife as his partner, and he got to six notrump as shown.

West led the king of hearts, taken with the ace, and Forquet ran five club tricks, discarding two hearts from dummy. He next cashed the A-Q of spades, at which point he paused to take stock, since he had only 11 sure tricks in sight.

Forquet knew for sure that West had started with seven hearts and three clubs, and had also followed suit twice in spades. His only unknown card, therefore, had to be a diamond or a spade.

If the card was a diamond, Forquet reasoned, the odds were 7-1 that it would be a low diamond rather than the queen. Accordingly, he led dummy's eight of diamonds to the jack, confident of a favorable outcome. But alas, West's only diamond was the queen, and Forquet went down four!

"DOWN FOUR?" said his wife incredulously. "Down four," Forquet replied sadly.

Subsequent analysis revealed that the 16-time world champion had actually misplayed the hand. At the point where he led the diamond from dummy, he could have assured the slam 100 percent by playing the king from his hand!

If West showed out of diamonds, it would mean that he had started with three spades and the suit was divided 3-3. If West followed suit in diamonds, even with a low one, the slam would still be ice-cold. In that case, Forquet would play a spade to dummy's king and lead the fourth spade back, taking care to discard his jack of diamonds on the trick! That would compel East to win the spade and return a diamond into dummy's A-10 at trick 12, yielding the slam.

Tomorrow: The art of camouflage.

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TCU wins Rose Bowl

The Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — TCU will never know how it would fare against prolific Auburn quarterback Cam Newton. Thanks to the impenetrable BCS, the Horned Frogs can only speculate on whether they could match Oregon's spread offense point for point.

Yet third-ranked TCU's dramatic 21-19 win over No. 4 Wisconsin in the 97th Rose Bowl on Saturday answered just about every other question the world could pose to this modest program with enormous heart.

The Frogs (13-0) then celebrated their perfect season on the hallowed Pasadena turf in the name of all those small schools that never even imagined they could get there — every non-automatic qualifying school with dreams of validation.

"We weren't just playing for TCU," said Andy Dalton, who threw for 219 yards and a touchdown and ran for a score in his 42nd career victory. "We were playing for all the non-AQ schools out there. ... The way the system is, it didn't give us the opportunity to play in the (title) game, but we did everything we were capable of doing."

TCU's first Rose Bowl victory wasn't secure until Tank Carder batted down a 2-point conversion pass attempt with 2 minutes to play. The Frogs' star linebacker saved the game with a serendipitous play after the Badgers (11-2) made a gutsy late scoring drive to get to the brink of a tie.

Bart Johnson caught an early TD pass and recovered a late onside kick for the Mountain West champion Horned

Frogs, who followed up their second straight unbeaten regular season with their first BCS victory.

TCU lost last year's Fiesta Bowl to Boise State by a touchdown, but that's still the only loss of the past two seasons for the improbable power built deep in the heart of football-crazy Texas by coach Gary Patterson.

"It's hard for me to believe we even got an opportunity to play in the Rose Bowl, let alone say we're the Rose Bowl champs," Patterson said. "As a program for 13 years, we've been trying to climb the mountain. ... Today has been the climax of the last (13) years and what we've tried to get done."

Most of the Frogs stayed on the field after the trophy presentation to soak in another minute of the biggest

achievement for TCU football since its national championship season in 1938 — the only other unbeaten campaign for the school that has produced Davey O'Brien, "Slingin' Sammy" Baugh and LaDainian Tomlinson.

Patterson plans to watch the BCS championship game on his couch, relaxing while Oregon's Chip Kelly and Auburn's Gene Chizik sweat out the details in nine days. Patterson's ferocious Frogs already proved they can play with anybody on college football's biggest stages.

"I've been saying for a while that parity in college football is here," Patterson said. "I got texts from everybody across the nation, from Boise State and schools all over. ... Today we played for us, and for all the schools that wanted a chance."

Sooners end 5-game BCS bowl skid at Fiesta Bowl

The Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Watching film of their two previous, disastrous trips to the Fiesta Bowl back at the team hotel, Oklahoma's players didn't cringe, didn't get that here-we-go-again feeling.

The Sooners got mad and took it out on Connecticut, finally ending that BCS losing streak.

Landry Jones and Ryan Broyles had record-setting games, Oklahoma's defense scored two touchdowns while holding UConn's offense without one, and the ninth-ranked Sooners ended

their five-game BCS bowl losing streak with a 48-20 victory over Connecticut in the Fiesta Bowl on Saturday night.

"Coming out here and winning a bowl game, especially a BCS bowl with our past and losing so many of them, to win one for the program, for Coach (Bob) Stoops and all those guys, it's just a great feeling right now," Jones said. "It motivated us. We came into the same situation a couple of times and came out with some losses, and to win a game after those, it's just a great feeling."

Oklahoma (12-2) carried plenty

of BCS baggage after losing three straight title games and two Fiesta Bowls.

The Sooners avoided the setback six pack behind Jones, Broyles and a dominating defense.

Showing he's emerged from the shadow of Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford, Jones threw for a school bowl-record 429 yards — breaking his own record of 418 in last season's Sun Bowl — and three touchdowns on 34-of-49 passing.

Broyles set a team record with 170 yards receiving.

FOSTER

Continued from Page 5

Defensive tackle Amobi Okoye sacked Edwards and Josh Scobee missed a 46-yard field-goal try with 8:13 left. Cornerback Glover Quin forced a fumble and Houston recovered later in the quar-

ter. It was a bit of atonement for Quin, who gave up a last-second desperation heave for the winning touchdown in the teams' earlier meeting in Jacksonville.

Foster embraced Kubiak when he walked off the field after his final carry with 1:54 left. He hugged Schaub and most of the starting offensive linemen as the final minute ticked off the clock.

The Jaguars had a chance to clinch the division at Indianapolis two weeks ago, but ended with three straight losses. Garrard made costly mistakes in a 20-17 loss to Washington last week, and the defense looked shaky in the finale, giving up 244 yards rushing and 497 overall.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 5

first play of the second quarter. Kolb avoided pressure in the pocket, started to scramble, stopped and found Hall, who made his first career TD catch.

With that score, the Eagles set a franchise record for points in a season. They finished with 439 this year. It's the third straight season they set a new

mark.

The Eagles used only two starters on offense — wide receiver Jeremy Maclin and center Mike McGlynn — and two on defense — cornerback Dimitri Patterson and linebacker Moise Fokou.

Maclin needed 36 yards receiving to give the Eagles two players with 1,000 yards — DeSean Jackson is the other — for the first time in team history. He played briefly and had no catches.

McGlynn entered late in the first quarter when guard Max Jean-Gilles hurt his left ankle.

FAVRE

Continued from Page 5

He also retired in 2008 with the Packers and 2009 with the Jets, only to return to the field both times when the football bug bit him in the summer. He knows that there will be doubters again.

"I don't know for me if it's ever easy," Favre said. "I'm sure throughout this year, the comment has been made that, 'We'll wait and see in August or September' and that's fine. It's time. I'm OK with it."

If this indeed is the end — for real, this time — for Favre, one of the most colorful and celebrated careers in league history concluded with a sea-

son filled with interceptions, injuries and insults.

He was picked off 19 times this season and his 69.9 quarterback rating is the lowest of his career. The Vikings sunk to the bottom of the NFC North after starting the season with Super Bowl aspirations, coach Brad Childress was fired during the season and Favre was fined \$50,000 for failure to cooperate with an NFL investigation into allegations that he sent lewd photos and messages to a game-day hostess when both worked for the New York Jets in 2008.

Favre's reputation took a serious hit from the humiliating scandal, which tarnished the image of one of the league's most popular players. He declined to comment on the fine after the game.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

This is the eve of the new moon and also the eve of the solar eclipse in Capricorn, the first of six eclipses that will occur in 2011. Take an objective look at the traditions you hold dear, and also at the ones you grudgingly uphold. Change is on the horizon, and only you can decide what new form your personal customs and habits should take.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be with someone who seems to be proud of the unhappiness and anxiety that he or she endures. It's an unhealthy mindset. Observe and learn how not to be.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you had to live

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yesterday again, you would make the same choices, only you would savor them with more gusto. Realizing this, you will have the presence of mind to celebrate the choices you make today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your taste is exquisite. However, this is hard to prove unless you can express yourself in tangible ways. If you can't yet afford what you want, collect pictures from magazines and make a vision board.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The message you've been sending your friends and family will finally be heard when someone from the outside make it clear. The proverb says no one is a prophet in his own land.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You want to make sure others know where you stand. You'll express your opinion even when it doesn't appear to be a popular one. An honest difference is better than a dishonest agreement.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you've ever had a dream you didn't want to wake up from, you know that illusion can be the sweetest pleasure. Since your imagination is so active now, indulge yourself in a wonderful flight of fancy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Like the universe, at any given moment you are either growing or shrinking, a fact you are acutely aware of today. It will be interesting to note the situations and people who grow or diminish you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). At times you'll wonder whether you're the only sane person in the room. To be fair, if you buy a ticket to the circus, you shouldn't be too surprised to see the clowns. Sit back and enjoy the entertainment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Babies were born knowing that a scream is one of the most effective arguments. Before you make a case for yourself, consider whether it might be better just to say what you want in an extremely convincing tone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Context is power, especially when meeting someone for the first time. Decide what you want others to know about you, and make it possible for them to be informed of this before you meet.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Just as parents chasten the ones they love most, it seems you are being scolded by the fates. You can take this as proof positive that you are a beloved child of the universe.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The destination you've decided upon is a lofty one, indeed. Is it wise to push yourself so? If your wings can take you there, it's not too

high for you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 3). You will make alliances that benefit you in many ways. Add relaxation and leisure to your picture in the next six weeks. A stress-free mindset starts the flow of good financial fortune. March and June bring windfalls. There will be a favorable long-term proposition in February. Your talent is awarded in May. Cancer and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 25, 49, 28 and 16.

ASTROLOGICAL PHENOMENON - THE QUADRANTID METEOR SHOWER:

Five hundred years ago, a comet broke apart and we are still enjoying the affects of this in the annual meteor shower of the Quadrantids. If you happen to be in the northern hemisphere, the shower can be seen by the naked eye very high in the sky near the North Star before sunrise on a dark and cloudless morning. With so many stipulations around its visibility, it's no wonder this annual celestial event wasn't detected until about 175 years ago. Little attention has been given to the astrological implications of this omen, and the reasons are sound. But to play devil's advocate, just because it doesn't involve the zodiac constellations or our eight planets doesn't mean it's insignificant. If the flap of a butterfly's wings on another continent can have an effect, then surely the pretty lights caused by tiny meteors burning up in the earth's atmosphere can communicate something. You decide. What feeling does this event inspire in you? Note: If your timing, location or weather prevents you from seeing the shower, try listening to the brilliant pings online. Then see if you can interpret the language of the stars!

CELEBRITY PROFILES:

The legendary singer/songwriter/guitarist Stephen Stills spent a good part of his time in recent years on tour, much to the delight of thousands of Crosby, Stills and Nash fans. The hard work it takes to be on the road is actually enjoyable to Capricorns like Stills, born into the sign that loves to stay busy. Capricorns of all ages prefer to keep moving, constantly driving forward with new goals and ambitions.

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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Americans turn to technology to control impulses

LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Dan Nainan can't trust himself to work at his computer without clicking on distractions, so he uses an Internet-blocking program to shut down his Web access twice a day.

"I'm sorry, but try as I might, I could never, ever do this on my own," said the New York City comedian who's struggling to finish a book. "I wish I could, but I just don't have the discipline."

Nainan's system of two, two-hour blocks is one example of how Americans are trying to control their impulses using technology that steps in to enforce good behavior.

With the new year days away, many tools are now available to help people stay in line, including a GPS-enabled app that locks down texting once a car gets rolling and a program that cuts off credit-card spending. Another device monitors your workout and offers real-time voice feedback.

Have we entered an era in which electronics serve as mother, cop and coach because we can't manage our own desires?

Yep, said Ann Mack, a trend-watcher for JWT Intelligence, an arm of the marketing giant. She named "outsourcing self-control" and "de-teching" as two top trends for the new year.

"The thing is we're becoming more aware of these behaviors, and as a result, we're trying to seek help to circumvent some of our more base impulses," Mack said. "We're bombarded more and more with temptations on a regular basis, and it's getting increasingly difficult to deal with that."

Tools to cope with temptation are everywhere.

Some car owners are voluntarily using a technology developed for convicted drunk drivers — ignition locks attached to in-car breathalyzers.

Shelley Snyder, marketing coordinator for Intoxalock, said about 1.5 percent of the company's clients are voluntary, which includes parents imposing the setup on their young drivers.

"I know that isn't a lot, but it is growing at a slow, steady pace," she

said.

One of Intoxalock's competitors, Guardian Interlock Systems, said its figures are slightly higher: 5 to 7 percent of clients are drivers voluntarily installing the equipment, with about 2 percent intended for use by teens.

Also gaining ground are clients using the system permanently after they've completed court-ordered monitoring — about 1 percent of Guardian's clients in 2010, compared with none the year before.

"We hope not to see these people again," said David Contreras, Guardian's vice president of operations. "It's the one product I've been associated with where I don't want to sell it to you twice."

If your drunken behavior tends to cause more remorse off the road than on, there's an app for that as well.

A handful — including "Don't Dial!" and "The Bad Decision Blocker" — will cut off your access to phone numbers for up to 24 hours, the former allowing you to name a friend as gatekeeper. Another app requires the answers to math questions before allowing you to send an e-mail, the presumption being it's really hard to do math while somehow impaired.

George Distler in Orlando, Fla., developed the BlackBerry app NOTXT n' Drive after a teacher at his daughter's high school was killed when a

texting motorist — an older one — crossed a median and struck her car.

"I didn't even realize texting and driving was such a tremendous issue until I got into investigating it," he said. "I was challenged by my teenage daughters."

Distler, who had previously developed games for the iPhone, based the app on the notion that the safest way to deal with your phone while driving is to remove temptation altogether. His NOTXT runs in the background and, using GPS, automatically restricts texting via a phone's airplane mode when a car reaches 10 mph. It deactivates when it detects the car has stopped.

The app, sold in several other counties as well, hit the BlackBerry market Sept. 3 and has been downloaded about 2,000 times.

Among those downloading the app were three companies with a combined fleet of more than 1,200 trucks. Distler estimates about 48 percent of his sales are parents hoping to curtail the texting habits of young drivers.

"Nobody's really going to just put the phone down and not use it," he said. "The issue is we don't police ourselves."

Another app, Slow Down, alters the tempo of your music, depending on your driving speed, on an iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch. Using GPS, the

music slows if a preset speed limit is exceeded and stops completely if you're over the limit by more than 10 mph. You can have your tunes back when you slow down.

What about other areas, like overspending?

Enter MasterCard's inControl program, which has one company partner in the United States, Citigroup. You can set a general cap and the bank cuts you off when you've reached your spending limit, or you can preset a monthly amount for specific purchases such as restaurant meals. Like other bank cards, you can also order up spending alerts.

Overthinking, overdrinking, overspending. What's left?

Are you lonely on your runs? Adidas has extended monitoring and data collection technology for its miCoach brand to include a "coaching mode." You can choose from a variety of voices to feed information about form and speed.

Mack thinks a greater awareness of how we consume has produced a growing awareness of the limits of self-control.

"The spotlight has definitely been put on that," she said. "We're increasingly living in this era of mindfulness. Expect more technology coming out that saves us from ourselves."

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"CLASSIC" ANN LANDERS ®

Editor's Note: Hundreds of Ann Landers' loyal readers have requested that newspapers continue to publish her columns. These letters originally appeared in 1999.

Dear Ann Landers: I am at my wits' end over a situation that involves my wife, my daughter and my daughter's boyfriend.



ANN LANDERS

About 18 months ago, the boyfriend decided to start his own business.

My wife, "Lynn," volunteered to help him set up the book-keeping system and other aspects of the start-up.

Now, Lynn is working more than 40 hours a week — for free. She is more committed to the business than he is.

We have discussed this issue at length, and Lynn says she enjoys the challenge and that I should "stay out of her business." She also says the company

would fail without her, and I believe it. Meanwhile, I am working full time at a stressful, difficult job, and have to take up the slack at home, which means doing all the dishes, cooking, cleaning, laundry and so on.

I don't suspect any monkey business between my wife and our daughter's boyfriend, but this guy is very charismatic.

I can't figure out if this is some weird subconscious attempt on Lynn's part to relieve her youth vicariously through her daughter, or if she is trying to compete with her.

I have toyed with the idea of giving her a reasonable period of time to extricate herself and saying I will leave if she does not.

After 30 years of marriage and two wonderful, grown children, this seems like a drastic move, but I've had it.

I would appreciate some advice from you, Ann. — *Need Direction in California*

Dear Calif.: Let me get this straight — your daughter's boyfriend is starting a

new business, and your wife is helping him to the tune of 40 hours a week?

Meanwhile, you are cooking, doing dishes and laundry, and cleaning, in addition to working at your stressful job? You say you've had it and want to know if I have any advice? Well, yes, I do.

Tell your wife you are resigning as chief cook and dishwasher, and if she wishes to continue to knock herself out for this young man, it's OK with you, but not at the expense of her share of the home responsibilities.

If she doesn't agree to cool it with the self-inflicted second job, insist on joint counseling, and let the counselor establish the appropriate guidelines.

Dear Ann Landers: I am a 28-year-old mother of one lovely child. After a long and costly divorce, now broke but happy, I find myself in love with a wonderful man — my Prince Charming.

We both fantasize about getting married in a beautiful church wedding with ushers, bridesmaids, organ

music, etc., but as a divorced Catholic, can this be a reality? If so, what are the steps we must take to make it happen? If not, what are my options? Please help my dream come true. — *Cinderella Hopeful*

Dear Cinderella: Yes, it's possible for your dream to become a reality. Contact your local pastor, and he or she will instruct you about the steps needed to get an annulment. Happy wedding bells.

Looking for an uplifting, quick read? "A Collection of My Favorite Gems of the Day" contains handpicked jokes and witticisms from the world over. Send a self-addressed, long, business-sized envelope and a check or money order for \$5.25 (this includes postage and handling) to: Collection, c/o Ann Landers, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

ANN LANDERS (R)
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