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13-year-old still missing

Hundreds scour area north of girl's home

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

COLORADO CITY — Even as temperatures began to fall and light gave way to evening Friday, volunteers searching for clues in the Dec. 27 disappearance of 13-year-old Hailey Darlene Dunn continued combing fields and wooded areas in northern Colorado City.



Hailey Dunn

The team of volunteers — numbering well more than 100 local residents and concerned citizens from surrounding communities — was led Friday by Stephanie Boyd, who undertook the enormous task of coordinating the search.

"I want to bring Hailey home," Boyd told volunteers. "That is my main concern right now. She deserves to be with her family, she deserves to be safe, she deserves to be warm. So anything you find, whether you think it's relevant or not, let somebody know."

Hailey Darlene Dunn, an eighth grade student at Colorado Middle School, was last seen walking from her home in northern Colorado City to a friend's house about 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27, according to Interim Colorado City Police Chief John Bivins.

Boyd met with volunteers at approximately 2 p.m. in

See **DUNN**, Page 3A



HERALD photos/Steve Reagan and Thomas Jenkins

Clockwise from above, Deneice Coates and Dale Walker look over maps before beginning a search for missing Colorado City teenager Hailey Dunn Saturday morning. A pickup window urges others to help. A group of volunteers search an area north of Colorado City. And Stephanie Boyd tells a crowd in Colorado City, "Let's bring Hailey home."



Search continues close to Coahoma

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

COAHOMA — The fact is as cold as Saturday morning's temperature — Hailey Dunn could be just about anywhere. But neither that fact nor the chilly weather was going to stop a group of area residents from searching for her, anyway.

A bout 30 people gathered Saturday in this community, located about 25 miles west of the missing Colorado City teenager's home, to begin scouring Howard County for the girl.

Dunn, 13, was last seen near her home around 1 p.m. Dec. 27, wearing navy sweatpants, a short-sleeve, light-colored T-shirt, flip-flops and red hoop earrings.

Law enforcement personnel, ranging from Mitchell County deputies to FBI agents, have joined the investigation into the teenager's disappearance.

A group of Howard County residents joined the search effort Friday, scouring the area between Rattlesnake Gap at the Howard-Mitchell county line to Moss Lake. Saturday, the group concentrated its efforts further west, and vowed to keep the search going for at least the next several days.

"We just felt like this was something we should do," said Heather Maddox, one of


See **COAHOMA**, Page 3A

"This is one of those efforts where we're trying to do something to help, and at least we can say we know where she's not."

—Dale Walker

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County to look at library lights

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners will likely seek bids to improve lighting at the county library when they hold their regular meeting at 10 a.m. Monday on the third floor of the courthouse.

County Judge Mark Barr said poor lighting in some areas of the library — such as the children's area — is a cause for concern.

"Those areas (of the library) are pretty dark," he conceded. "If we're going to do something about it, we need to make sure we do it right."

The biggest potential roadblock to the project is cost. Barr said preliminary estimates have varied widely, depending on what electrical specifications officials want to follow in the projects.

"We were originally thinking it would cost us about \$4,500," Barr said. "But af-

ter talking to an electrician, I don't think that's going to cover it."

If bids prove to be higher than what commissioners deem feasible, they may have work on the project done in phases, or they may put off

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Obituaries

Susan Ann Cassidy



Susan Ann Cassidy, 53, of Amarillo died Monday, Jan. 3, 2011. Memorial services were at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 7, 2011, at Bell Ave. Baptist Church with the Rev. Danny Logan, pastor, officiating.

Susan was born on May 23, 1957, in Amarillo to Joe and Ann Cassidy. She graduated from Panhandle High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University in education. She had taught in the Texas Panhandle for many years, including nine years in Howard County. Susan was a lifetime Girl Scout and had been sworn in as president of the High Plains Republican Women. She was also a member of Bell Ave. Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Ann Cassidy.

Survivors include a daughter, Cassie Daniel of Austin; a father, Joe Cassidy of Panhandle; and two brothers, John Cassidy of McKinney and Jay Cassidy of Prosper.

The family suggests memorials be made to Bell Ave. Baptist Church, 5211 Bell St. Amarillo 79109.

Della Annie Davis Brooks

Della Annie Davis Brooks, 93, of Loop, died Friday, Jan. 7, 2011, at her daughter's home in Coahoma. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m., Monday, Jan. 10, 2011, at the Loop Baptist Church in Loop, with Brother James Shelton, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Loop Cemetery.

She was born March 6, 1917, in Borden County and married Barton Howard Brooks on Dec. 23, 1934. He preceded her in death in 1970.

Della grew up on the farm on the Colorado River with 11 brothers and sisters and moved to the farm in Loop in 1955. She was a member of the Loop Baptist Church and was a homemaker.

Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Christene and Isaac LaRue of Coahoma and Nancy and Richard Dickerson of Stonewall, Okla.; one son and daughter-in-law, Jerry and Beverly Brooks of Mesquite; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and one sister, Lura Perry of Vincent.

She was also preceded in death by 10 brothers and sisters, Rosa Cotton, Marshall Davis, Mildred Skelton, Esther Miller Peeveyhouse, Johnnie Graham, Bethel Graham, Ruth Bryant Morgan, Gilmer Davis, Pearl Ford and Melton Davis and one great-great-grandson.

The family suggests memorials be made to Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, P. O. Box 1890, Amarillo 79174 or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

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

Kathy Barg



Kathy Barg, 61, of Big Spring died Friday, Dec. 31, 2010, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Memorial services will be at 1:45 p.m. Sunday at East Side Baptist Church with the Rev. Doug Shelley and the Rev. Jeff Davison officiating.

She was born Oct. 8, 1947, in New York to Gertrude and Thomas Karl. She married Cy

Barg on Nov. 19, 1972, in Tucson, Ariz.. They moved to Big Spring in 1999 from New Mexico. She was a homemaker and a member of East Side Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband, Cy Barg of Big Spring.

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

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Friday and early Saturday:

- JOE LOPEZ BERNAL, 49, 1106 E. 15th, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated/third or more offense.
- ELIDA HERNANDEZ, 52, 1106 E. 15th, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- DANNY ZAMBRANO, 41, 1502 Sycamore, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- VIRGINIA MARTINEZ ZAMBRANO, 40, 505 S. Goliad, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- ASHLEY LEE RAMOS, 26, 505 S. Goliad, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- THEFT was reported in the 1500 block of E. Fourth, the 700 block of 11th Place and the 1500 block of Stadium.
- HIT AND RUN was reported at the intersection of Sixth and Goliad.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 2900 block of Cactus.

Take Note

MONDAY

- Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.
- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, noon-1 p.m., 615 Settles.
- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting, 8-9 p.m., fourth floor, VA Medical Center.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY

- The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

FRIDAY

- AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

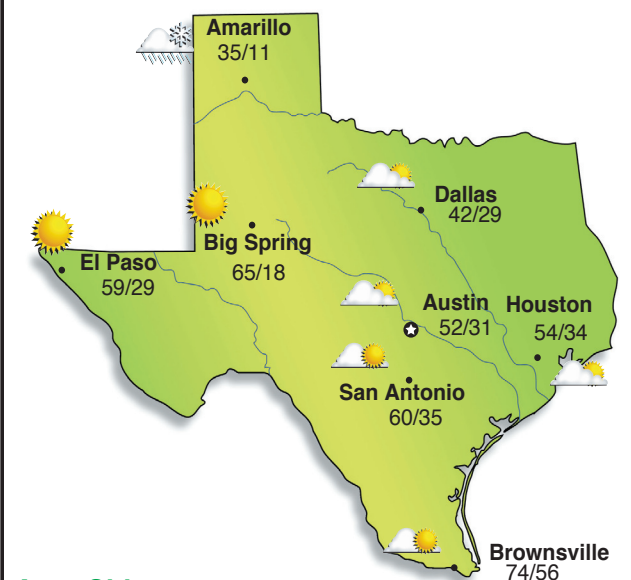
- Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Mon 1/10	Tue 1/11	Wed 1/12	Thu 1/13	Fri 1/14
65/18 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the upper teens.	45/21 Sunshine. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the low 20s.	44/22 Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the low 20s.	57/29 Sunny. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 20s.	62/38 Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:59 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 6:00 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 6:01 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 6:02 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 6:03 PM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	55	18	cloudy	Kingsville	67	46	pt sunny
Amarillo	35	11	sn shower	Livingston	51	27	cloudy
Austin	52	31	cloudy	Longview	41	25	cloudy
Beaumont	52	32	cloudy	Lubbock	52	13	pt sunny
Brownsville	74	56	pt sunny	Lufkin	50	25	cloudy
Brownwood	54	25	cloudy	Midland	63	20	sunny
Corpus Christi	61	45	pt sunny	Raymondville	73	54	pt sunny
Corsicana	42	28	pt sunny	Rosenberg	54	34	cloudy
Dallas	42	29	cloudy	San Antonio	60	35	pt sunny
Del Rio	62	36	pt sunny	San Marcos	54	31	cloudy
El Paso	59	29	sunny	Sulphur Springs	38	27	cloudy
Fort Stockton	67	26	sunny	Sweetwater	59	18	pt sunny
Gainesville	38	21	cloudy	Tyler	40	24	cloudy
Greenville	38	24	cloudy	Weatherford	41	23	pt sunny
Houston	54	34	cloudy	Wichita Falls	42	19	cloudy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	30	27	mixed	Minneapolis	23	13	sn shower
Boston	32	20	mst sunny	New York	33	23	mst sunny
Chicago	29	23	cloudy	Phoenix	57	37	pt sunny
Dallas	42	29	cloudy	San Francisco	55	43	pt sunny
Denver	15	-1	sn shower	Seattle	38	25	pt sunny
Houston	54	34	cloudy	St. Louis	33	26	cloudy
Los Angeles	61	44	pt sunny	Washington, DC	37	28	pt sunny
Miami	79	64	cloudy				

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Heather Maddox, center, talks to other Howard County residents who are joining in the search for missing Colorado City teenager Hailey Dunn.



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

The Colorado City residence of Hailey Dunn, who went missing Dec. 27. The home has been searched by city police and Texas Rangers.



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Volunteer search teams from all over West Texas gather to discuss the disappearance of 13-year-old Hailey Dunn in downtown Colorado City Friday afternoon.

DUNN

Continued from Page 1A

downtown Colorado City to plan the search, which would center around fields and wooded areas north of the Subway sandwich shop on the north service road of Interstate Highway 20 and a nearby cotton gin.

"I've been told by a very reliable source that Shawn (Adkins) does have family in Dunn, and I have a gut feeling if we search toward Dunn we will find something," Boyd said. "I'd like to search in the field behind Subway and have someone on Highway 139 and just start walking or riding north. We're looking for anything, from tire tracks to clothing."

Boyd said she felt the investigation should center around Shawn Adkins, the live-in boyfriend of the child's mother, Billie Dunn.

Boyd told searchers Adkins has family in the town of Dunn — located north of Colorado City on Highway 208, between it and Snyder — and she felt strongly if the West Texas man was behind the girl's disappearance, that's where clues to the girl's fate would be found.

Many of the volunteers expressed frustration with law enforcement officials investigating the girl's disappearance.

"They should be here, helping to organize this search," said a mother from Abilene who had traveled to Colorado City to join the search.

According to volunteers helping with the search, investigators were aware of the effort by volunteers that began Friday afternoon and went well into the



evening.

Investigators remained tight-lipped concerning the details of the case Friday afternoon, refusing to comment on recent developments. However, the lack of reliable information from law enforcement officials has done little to quell the growing storm of rumors that continue to sweep through this small West Texas town.

Billie Dunn told television personality Nancy Grace Thursday night that both she and Adkins had been administered polygraph tests by law enforcement officials. Dunn said on national television both she and Adkins had failed the polygraphs. She alluded that both she and her boyfriend had been on anxiety medication, which may have skewed the results.

However, Sparky Dean, senior trooper with the Texas Department of Public Safety, said in an interview Friday with KTXS TV News that no one has been told whether they have passed or failed a polygraph test.

There have also been conflicting reports from family members regarding who has taken a polygraph test as part of the investigation.

According to the *Abilene Reporter News*, Adkins, who lived with Billie Dunn, Hailey and Billie's 16-year-old son at the time of the girl's disappearance, reportedly said Hailey told him she

was going to stop by her father's house and was then planning to spend the night with a friend. Adkins said he didn't believe Hailey had run away.

"I feel like it's an abduction," he told the *Abilene newspaper*, adding that a number of sex offenders live in the community. "I just hope someone out there has heard something or seen her. We just want her to come home. We want this nightmare to end."

Colorado City officials say they have no intentions of letting up on the investigation until Hailey Dunn is located.

"From the start, our department and our colleagues from the other law enforcement and judicial agencies that have joined our effort have treated Hailey's case as one of a missing person. We've made no assumptions as to what occurred, intentionally focusing on rapidly collecting facts and using these facts to guide our work," said Colorado City Manager Pete Kampfer. "We're applying all the personnel and other resources necessary and appropriate to our work in finding Hailey, with no plans of letting up. This is a night and day endeavor for us all."

Anyone with information concerning the girl's whereabouts or circumstances concerning her disappearance are asked to call authorities at 325-728-5294 or 325-728-3161. A reward of \$25,000 is now being offered for information in the case.

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1A

the searchers. "There's a possibility she's out here — and we're only 25 miles away — so we just felt we should be out there looking for her."

"About 20 people were in the group looking for her (Friday), and we've had calls from peo-

ple as far west as Odessa offering to help us," Maddox added.

Another member of the group, former Howard County Sheriff Dale Walker, conceded the search was the equivalent of looking for a needle in a haystack. "Absolutely. This is a shot in

the dark," Walker said. "This is one of those efforts where we're trying to do something to help, and at least we can say we know where she's not."

Walker described the effort as an assist to law enforcement agencies, whose assets are mainly

devoted to the investigation into Dunn's disappearance.

"This is a community effort," he said. "There's no way law enforcement can cover such a large area. Their resources are committed to other areas right now."

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

A candlelight vigil will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday in Coahoma City Park.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

the project indefinitely, Barr said.

"We may do it this year, we may do it next year. It all depends on the cost," he said. "Or

we may do part of it this year and part of it the next."

In other business, commissioners will consider:

- Bids on paving materials for the road and bridge department.
- Bonding of newly elected county officials.

• Personnel and payroll matters.

- Invoices and purchase requests.
- Monthly financial report.

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

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Yogi Bear - Real D (PG) Sun.: 12:30 2:30 4:40 7:15

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Kathy Barg, 61, died Friday, December 31, 2010. Memorial services will be at 1:45 p.m. Sunday at East Side Baptist Church.

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
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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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Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

AARP getting volunteers set for tax program

It's almost income tax time. And while we're still a few months away from that April deadline, the local AARP is preparing to kick off its annual Tax-Aide program.

AARP spokesperson Gloria Hopkins said the program is designed to help people that might not otherwise be able to file a tax return by helping residents make sense of the tax laws and forms that seem to get more and more complicated with each successive year.

The program provides free federal tax preparation assistance to those who cannot afford professional tax help — senior citizens, people with disabilities, those that cannot speak English and those with low-to-moderate income.

In fact, the program is a necessity for many area residents who can't afford to have their taxes prepared professionally, and the heart and soul of the operation are volunteers.

AARP volunteers explain many special tax credits and deductions and how people may claim them on their tax returns. They help complete returns, as well, right down to any refunds that might be due the taxpayer.

"Things are moving along nicely for us," Hopkins said. "Most of our volunteers from last year are back again this year, which really makes things easier. The one volunteer spot that was vacated has been filled, as well, so we feel really good going into this year's training."

Tax laws can quickly become confusing, according to Hopkins, and with so many changes being made from year to year it's easy to miss out many government programs.

"There's just so much red tape involved, it's almost impossible for people to keep up with all of it," said Hopkins. "And if they don't have the money to hire a tax professional, they can be missing out on all kinds of deductions and programs the government offers. This program gives them a chance to sit down with someone who is trained to deal with these things."

Hopkins said the time squeeze to get the changes created by the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act Of 2010 into the IRS computers is just one example of challenges faced by tax preparers this year.

"There are a lot of changes to look at this year. The one that is going to affect more filers in the Crossroads is the loss of the non-itemized property taxes," she said. "Last year, people were able to claim their property taxes without filing an itemized return. Unfortunately, that wasn't renewed this year, so there are going to be a lot of people here that are going to lose that deduction."

"Another big change is the IRS won't be mailing out any of the tax booklets like they have in years past. That might have folks that have been doing their taxes on paper thrown off a little. However, the IRS is pushing hard to get people to use the electronic filing. The forms, however, should still be available from the same locations they have been in the past."

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

That means bringing all of the pertinent information, including a tax booklet if one was received through the mail, W-2 forms and 1099 forms. You'll also need to bring any forms that show 2010 earnings and a 2009 tax return. We also need a Social Security card for every person named on the return and a photo ID for the person filing.

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

The program will continue each Monday from the start date, Jan. 31, until April 11 at the Senior Center — located at 1901 Simler Dr. in the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark — from 8 a.m. until noon. For more information, contact Hopkins at 267-6733.

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we keep our conversations flowing with You, Lord, through our daily prayers.

Amen

GOP: Man of the Year

Time Magazine has its Man of the Year Award; I have mine. There was a bumper crop of candidates this year, a year marked by one bizarre turn of events after another.

Who would have imagined, for example, that President Barack Obama, having gotten a commitment from oil giant BP to set aside \$20 billion for damages caused by its oil spill, would be accused by a congressman of "blackmail" or that the Republican Party would call it a "\$20-billion shake-down"?

Or that the lawmaker, Rep. Joe Barton, R-Texas, could be the ranking GOP member of the House Energy and Commerce committee?

That's like letting a practicing alcoholic teach driver education.

Ultimately, I suppose, if you had to distill the year's madness into one award, you'd have to say that the Man of the Year is the Republican Party. (That's neither a man nor woman, I know. So sue me.)

The GOP this year accomplished a feat so extraordinary as to beggar the imagination. Nothing like it has been seen in living memory.

Two years ago, Republicans were sliding toward oblivion. Their presidential candidate had been trounced by a virtual unknown. They faced a filibuster-proof Democratic majority in the Senate and an equally large majority in the House. The outlook was grim.

Until they hit on the strategy of acting as though they'd won the 2008 elections. They locked arms and voted as one against pretty much everything the President wanted to do, then blamed him for not getting it done.

But what was really extraordinary was that they did it by shamelessly taking the side of the rich against the poor, while claiming that they were speaking for the common man.

And even more extraordinary yet was the fact that the American people bought what they were selling. It was one of the great feats of political jujitsu of our time or any other.

As a long-time observer of American politics, I can only tip my hat in admiration and give them the highest honor it is in my power to bestow: the untimely Man of the Year Award for 2010.

As I said, there were other deserving candidates, so I thought I'd give them some love too.

The barely coveted It Pays to be Ignorant Award goes to none other than Sarah Palin, who managed to go through an entire year without saying one intelligent or knowledgeable thing while growing exponentially in political popularity (not to mention in riches). Watching her is like seeing a high-wire artist who works not only without a net, but without a wire.

The competition for the Ignorance Award, by the way, was fierce. Right behind Sarah was

Christine ("I Am Not a Witch") O'Donnell, the Republican Senate candidate in Delaware who, during a debate on religion in public schools, said incredulously: "You're telling me that the separation of church and state is found in the First Amendment?"

Right behind her was Sharon Angle, the Senate candidate in Nevada, who thought that Dearborn, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit, was governed by Sharia law.

Other notable achievers:

- Rep. Charlie Rangel, the New York Democrat who demanded a House ethics investigation of his finances, which then proceeded to prove he was a crook.

- Tiger Woods, who, robbed by divorce of the chance to cheat on his wife, went from being the world's greatest golfer to a middle-of-the-pack hacker. There's a moral in there somewhere, but I'm afraid to look for it.

- Rush Limbaugh, who disappointed millions of Americans by promising to leave the country if health care reform passed, then not leaving when it passed.

- Rep. John Boehner, the Ohio Republican who apparently can't tell the story of his rise from saloon keeper's son to Speaker of the House without bursting into tears, when it's the rest of us who should be crying.

- Judge Henry E. Hudson, the conservative Virginia judge who ruled that health care is unconstitutional. Who knew?

It was a heck of a year. I shudder to think of what's ahead.

OtherWords columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Mich.

ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• BARACK OBAMA

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Washington, D.C.
20500

• KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

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20510
Phone: 202-224-5922

• JOHN CORNYN

U.S. Senator
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20510

Phone: 202-224-2934

• RANDY NEUGEBAUER

U.S. Representative
19th Cong. District
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STATE GOVERNMENT

• RICK PERRY

Governor
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• JIM LANDTROOP

State Representative-elect

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Phone: (806) 288-0387

• KEL SELIGER

State Senator
Texas 31st District
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MAYOR — Home: 517-4070.

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— Home: 268-9692; Work: 263-7361.

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EMMA BROWN — Home: 267-2649.

DONNIE BAKER — Home: 267-5325.

JIMMIE LONG — Home: 466-0793.

JOHN CLINE — Home: 263-7158.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

Big Spring is so fortunate to have such a wonderful Senior Center.

They serve good, nutritious meals lovingly prepared by Jean Little.

For many seniors, it's their only hot meal and the cost is donation only. The menu is set by the Area Agency on Aging and all that is required is to register with the agency.

They have popular activities like cards, puzzles, a light library, dominoes and exercise equipment. On Tuesday and Thursdays they have a well-equipped ceramics class with a very talented instructor. They also play bingo after lunch. They offer free tax service for seniors and an AARP Driver Safety Program.

The Area Agency on Aging also offers a caregivers support group. On Wednesday mornings, Virginia Bryant teaches a wonderful Bible study, "Great Truths of the Bible."

There is an excellent dance floor that's available for line dancing or ballroom dancing, if you like. They even have a live western band on Friday nights from 7:30 to 10 for a dance and admission is only \$6 per person. It takes a minimum of 50 people to pay the band.

All of this is operated by the nicest and friendliest people you will ever find anywhere: Senior Service Program Manager Nancy Jones, Coordinator Michael Haney, Assistance Worker Sandy Dean and RSVP Coordinator Becky Letz. They always have a friendly greeting and make the seniors feel very welcome.

A letter was written with complaints against the center, and I can't for the life of me figure out what in the world that person was talking about.

Our Senior Center holds Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners with requests for reservations advertised in the Herald, on radio, Channel 17 and on the Internet two weeks before each holiday meal.

Every single weekday they announce that reservations need to be made for those who will attend and any guests expected, so enough food can be prepared.

And I am pleased to know that in July the Health Department gave the center a grade of 97 percent and the inspectors stated the center had one of the cleanest kitchens in Big Spring.

All seniors should be proud to have such a center.

MARGIE MYERS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

In Sunday's edition of our Big Spring Herald, I read the huge article regarding the "how tos" of making and drinking an alcoholic drink that was made and used as far back as the Dark Ages.

The article told of the delight of people operating breweries across the country, telling how fast this delight is spreading.

The article even printed the recipe and instructions to make the drink.

Evidently most people are not going to accept or understand that alcohol addiction is more dangerous than the other drug addictions. It is the easiest to obtain and the hardest to control.

Once an addict, always an addict. Some people can and will seek help to control the urge. They are not cured. The urge is always there — hiding — waiting to bite again.

The core of America is crumbling because one of the top problems is the addiction of so many of our youth.

Our workforce is unstable. School dropout rates are on the increase. Violence is on the rampage.

I reflect mostly on our young people because they should be

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

Bose family receives \$500 from vet fund

Herald Staff Report

Recently, the Veterans Families Fund, through money donated by people from the Big Spring area, was able to present at \$500 check to the Shawn Bose family.

Mrs. Bose, 24, writes: "As a family of five we've made some sacrifices over the past year. My husband, Shawn Bose, is a staff sergeant in the United States Army who is currently deployed to Afghanistan. Being an Army wife and mother of three little girls while my husband is overseas has its ups and downs. Having to raise the girls as Mommy and Daddy for missed birthdays, holidays, or even just a regular day — and having to explain where Daddy is or when he'll be home — can be tough.

"After getting orders for Shawn's yearlong deployment in December of 2009, many thoughts raced in our minds,



such as how is this going to affect each of our kids, and how are we going to get through this.

"Since this deployment we have received outstanding support through our family and friends and now the community. This deployment isn't Shawn's first as he was deployed to Iraq in 2005. We didn't have any kids and things were a little easier then. After his re-

Courtesy photo

SSgt. Shawn Bose and wife Natalie are pictured with their three girls, Abigail, 3, Madison, 2 and Allyson, 1. Shawn is currently deployed to Afghanistan.

turn, we started a family and both enrolled in school at Howard College in 2007.

"Two and a half years and three beautiful girls later, we both graduated with our associate degrees in the spring of 2010. This past year has made us stronger in many ways, and has

given me a different perspective on life with my children. Each day we choose to keep ourselves busy to make every day pass that much faster. We patiently wait for Shawn's safe return in April 2011."

Shawn, 25, and Natalie's three girls are 3-year-old Abigail,

2-year-old Madison and 1-year-old Allyson.

"The check from the Veterans Families Fund is a thank you for the veterans and their families for their sacrifices during their service to our country," said J. Gale Kilgore, who heads up the organization. "Thank you, Big Spring

area, for donating the funds. Sometimes Uncle Sam doesn't give enough, so we try to help out when we can."

Those who would like to donate may do so at Wood Forest National Bank, Veterans Families account 5901848, 201 W. Marcy Drive, Big Spring 79721.

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

protected from the horror of addiction. They are our future. They deserve a chance.

If your family has never been touched by alcohol or drug addiction, then you are blessed.

I've noticed our stores are moving alcoholic drinks to the front of the stores. Storing the drinks at the back of the store did not stop people from buying them, but at least they didn't jump out at you as you walked in.

Hollywood, the idol of youth, blatantly exposes them to the use of drugs and alcohol.

Oh, no problem. Those involved just pop into the rehab of choice. A few weeks later they are back into the "party scene."

Our prison system is crumbling. The inmates are running drugs and whatever other illegal activities that put them in prison, and they're continuing them from prison.

How many innocent people have been killed or crippled because of this problem?

Government and charitable organizations hold social events to raise money for special causes. Most lure people to attend by serving alcoholic beverages.

Our country and the world is in havoc. The blatant disregard for authority is going to be the downfall of this country.

Since the 1960s, respect for God, country, our flag, church, parents, law enforcement, teachers and moral-

ity has dissipated.

Freedom without boundaries, rules, respect for one another, and morality is not true freedom for all.

Let us pray that our young people who are just, honorable and moral will rise together and overcome the amoral society that now exists and turn it around to be a country worth fighting for, and to continue to strive for peace.

Parents, wake up! It will be much too late sooner than you think. Become a moral, honest, just and loving parent. If not, one day you could be looking at your precious child as an addicted teen or adult. All you can do is watch in agony.

It will then be too late to help. All that will be left is the empty, horrible agony.

DEAN KRAUS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a senior citizen, but with the help of my wheelchair, I can take care of myself. However, when the chair lift on my car was damaged, it seriously curtailed my activities and I needed to get it repaired as soon as possible.

I called Southwest Tool and they told me to bring it in and they would take a look at it and see if they could fix it. So, "OK," I told myself, "that will be \$100 for 'looking at it.'"

I left it with them and called the next day. I was told they were working on it and perhaps would finish the next day. So I said to myself, "That will be another \$100."

When I went to pick it up, I had re-

worked my monthly budget so that I could manage a \$300 payment if I had to. Whatever it cost, I needed the lift.

I had been baking small loaves of pumpkin bread for Christmas treats for friends and on impulse, I took four little loaves to give to the men at Southwest Tool and wished them Merry Christmas.

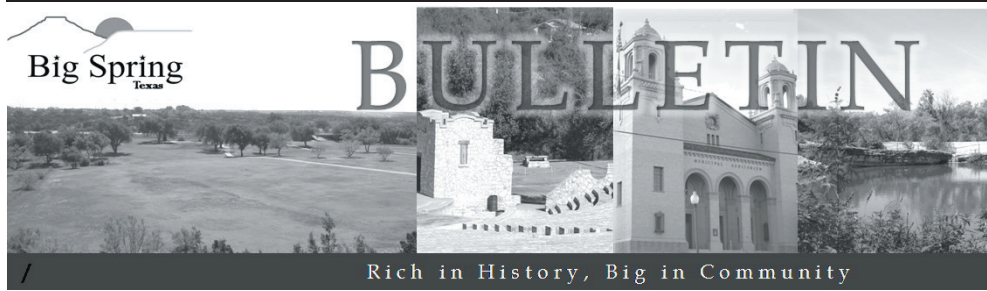
They put the lift back on and told me if there were any problems, to let them know. I waited for them to bring the bill out to me, keeping my fingers crossed that it would not be more

than \$300.

A second man came out to the car, wished me a Merry Christmas and told me to come back if I had any problems. I asked for my bill and was told that the boss said four loaves of pumpkin bread seemed about right. What a Christmas present!

I hope God will bless the business of Southwest Tool and the employees, as they have blessed me.

GENEVA HONEYCUTT
COAHOMA



HOUSE NUMBERS

Ever wonder about your house number? Often, the previous owner installed the number and the new owner never had to think about it, leaving them clueless as to why it was placed where it is or why a particular color or size was chosen. These numbers are more important than you probably realize, and a lot of thought goes into making sure they are visible.

The City of Big Spring Code of Ordinances section 17-4 states that all residences and businesses must be adequately identified by street numbers. Numbers on residences and business should be no less than three (3) inches in height and two (2) inches in width. Numbers should be placed where they are clearly visible from the street. Numbers should be metal, glass or enamel; paper or cardboard with markings of pen or pencil are not acceptable. Persons or organizations who violate this policy are guilty of a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine not less than \$25.00 and not to exceed \$500.00.

House numbers should be clear enough so that police, fire department, paramedics, etc., can quickly locate properties in an emergency. Numbers are often the only way that first-responders can identify their intended destinations. Also, think of the poor pizza delivery guy who runs late because he can't find your house or frustrated visitors who have to knock on neighbors' doors before they find yours.

House numbers should be of a color that contrasts with their background. Reflective numbers are great because they are easier to see at night. Try not to put house numbers behind trees, shrubs, or anything else that may obscure their view from the street. Make sure that the number faces the street that is listed in the house's address. It does emergency workers no good if the house number faces a different street than the one the workers are traveling on.

In short, house numbers serve a critical function for emergency personnel and should be clearly displayed. For questions or more information, contact the Big Spring Code Enforcement office at (432) 264-2504.

The next Big Spring City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

City Council Meetings are open to the public and are held at the Big Spring City Council Chambers located at 307 East 4th Street. If you need special assistance in order to participate in a City Council meeting, please contact Lesa Gamble, at 432-264-2401, in advance of the meeting to make arrangements.

City of Big Spring offices and the Big Spring Senior Center will be closed on January 17, 2011 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. There will not be any trash pickup that day. Normal services will resume on Tuesday, January 18th.



TIP LINE 263-8477

There are many services available on the City of Big Spring website:

- Pay your water bill online and view account information.
- Pay your Municipal Court citation online.
- Report a water leak.
- Report potholes, weedy lots, junk cars.
- Report missing traffic and street signs.
- Report traffic signals that are not working properly.
- View current job openings and get an application for employment.
- View a community event calendar.
- Get a directory of City departments.

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Investigators probing two local robberies

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Big Spring Police Department officers are searching for suspects who committed two early-Friday morning robberies in east Big Spring.

A taxi driver and 7-Eleven store clerk were robbed at gunpoint between 1 a.m. and 4 a.m. Thursday, according to information released by BSPD Public Information Officer Tony Everett.

The first robbery report was received at 1:19 a.m. when officers were dispatched to the area of Kenny and Tucson streets.

Upon arrival at the scene, they met with a taxi driver who said that two African-American males, who had been passengers in his taxi, pulled a handgun and demanded his money when he dropped them off in the 1500 block of Tucson, the report stated.

Everett's information states that the taxi driver complied with the demand and both suspects fled the scene on foot.

One of the suspects was wearing a gray sweatshirt and gray toboggan, while the other was wearing blue pants, black sweater and black shirt, the report stated.

The second robbery was reported at 3:54 a.m. at the 7-Eleven store at 1209 E. 11th Place.

According to police reports, the victim reported that a tall, slender African-American male wearing a gray hoodie came to the counter and was purchasing an item when he then displayed a handgun and told the clerk to give him all the money in the store's cash register.

After the clerk complied, the suspect left the store and fled on foot.

Everett said that, based on the similarities of the suspect descriptions, investigators believe the robberies are related.

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

FISD trustees to meet Monday

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

FORSAN — School district trustees here will consider improvements to district-owned housing when they hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Monday in the administration building board room.

Forsan Independent School District currently provides 14 houses on a reduced-rent basis to administrators and other extra-duty personnel such as coaches and band directors. But age is starting to catch

up to those dwellings, Superintendent Randy Johnson said.

"We have funds budgeted to replace the electrical wiring and perform general maintenance to two of those houses this fiscal year," Johnson said. "A big part of this is safety — we've got a lot of old wiring in those houses that needs to be replaced."

The procedure is anything but cheap, he added.

"We've got to pull out all of the wiring. That means we'll have a lot of holes in the walls," he said. "Then

we need to patch those holes, repaint and perform other maintenance. Plus we have to decide if we're going to help with relocation costs for the people living in those homes."

The district has budgeted slightly more than \$100,000 for the projects.

"There hasn't been any substantial work done on those homes for quite some time," Johnson said. "If all goes as planned, we'll have completed renovation of four of the 14 homes by the end of the year, so we've got a long way still to go on

these projects."

In other business Monday, trustees will consider:

- Campus reports.
- Approving an auditor for the current fiscal year.
- Johnson's annual evaluation.
- Financial and enrollment reports.
- Approval of the board's operating procedures manual.
- Budget amendments.

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

Brash congressman won't lead immigration panel

By SUZANNE GAMBOA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans eliminated a potential liability with Latino voters Friday by refusing to give the top spot on an immigration subcommittee to a congressman who once proposed stopping illegal immigrants with an electrified fence.

The expectation was that Rep. Lamar Smith of Texas, House Judiciary Committee chairman, would choose fellow Republican Rep. Steve King of Iowa to be the next chairman of the Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on immigration, citizenship and other related issues.

Instead he chose California Rep. Elton Gallegly, who is considered an immigration hawk, but who is less likely to make explosive comments that make him an easy target for critics.

Efforts by *The Associated Press* and King to talk about the development Friday were unsuccessful. A spokeswoman for Smith did not return phone and e-mail messages from the AP requesting comment.

Michael Steel, a spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner, said the choice for the subcommittee chairmanship was Smith's. He said Boehner did not make a recommendation.

By choosing Gallegly, Republicans get a subcommittee chairman whose public comments are less likely to be

(King) once suggested on the House floor that an electrified fence could be put on the border to stop illegal immigrants. "We do that with livestock all the time," he said then.

incendiary and won't hurt efforts to become more Latino-friendly, while depriving Democrats of an easy target in the run-up to the 2012 presidential elections.

Alfonso Aguilar, executive director of the Latino Partnership for Conservative Principles, said the decision is a clear message Republican leadership doesn't want to antagonize Latinos.

King was the top Republican on the same immigration subcommittee in the last Congress and was expected to be in charge when Republicans took control of the House.

He once suggested on the House floor that an electrified fence could be put on the border to stop illegal immigrants. "We do that with livestock all the time," he said then.

King also accused President Barack

Obama of favoring blacks and referred to settlement of a discrimination lawsuit filed by black farmers and Native Americans as "reparations."

But he has his supporters for his tough talk on illegal immigration. On Wednesday, he introduced a bill to deny U.S.-born children of immigrants automatic citizenship. Smith has said he only wants to advance legislation that has widespread support from Americans.

Angie Kelley, an immigration expert at the Center for American Progress, said Gallegly is quieter than King on his immigration views, "but his restrictionist roots are very clear and they run very deep."

Gallegly helped create the pilot program that led to the E-Verify system, got an amendment passed in the House to deny education to children of illegal immigrants and other tough measures. But in 1995, he sponsored a bill that would have given legal status to agricultural workers.

Roy Beck, president of Numbers USA, which lobbies for tough immigration laws, said his group has given Gallegly an "A" for his career work on immigration and is happy with his appointment to the chairmanship. But he said King will continue to be a force as vice chairman of the committee.

"If this was about trying to muzzle an outspoken member," Beck said, "it is not going to be very effective."



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Something special's happening in the Circle.

January 2011 Activities

- Jan. 10 – Games, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Jan. 11 – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
Supper Club, "Pizza Inn", 5:30 p.m.
Senior Circle Office Closed
- Jan. 12 – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
NO MOVIE TODAY!
Senior Circle Office Closed
- Jan. 13 – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
Just Peachy Café, 10:00 a.m.
Senior Circle Office Closed
- Jan. 14 – Senior Circle Office Closed
- Jan. 17 – Games 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Jan. 18 – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
Coffee @ Marcy House, 10:30 a.m.
Supper Club, "KC Steakhouse, 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 19 – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
Movie, 1:00 p.m., "Book of Eli"
- Jan. 20 – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
Just Peachy Café, 10:00 a.m.
Bunko, 5:00 p.m.
- Jan. 21 – POT LUCK & BINGO, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

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News in brief

WikiLeaks says its Twitter account details have been subpoenaed by U.S. government

LONDON (AP) — U.S. officials have issued a subpoena to demand details about WikiLeaks' Twitter account, the group announced Saturday, adding that it suspected other American Internet companies were also being ordered to hand over information about its activities.

In a statement, WikiLeaks said U.S. investigators had gone to the San Francisco-based Twitter Inc. to demand the private messages, contact information and other personal details of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange and other supporters, including the U.S. Army intelligence analyst suspected of handing classified information to the site and a high-profile Icelandic parliamentarian.

WikiLeaks blasted the court order, saying it amounted to harassment.

A copy of the court order, dated Dec. 14 and posted to Salon.com, said the information sought was "relevant to an ongoing criminal investigation" and ordered Twitter not to disclose its existence to Assange or any of the others targeted.

The order was unsealed "thanks to legal action by Twitter," WikiLeaks said.

Twitter has declined comment on the claim, saying only that its policy is to notify its users, where possible, of government requests for information.

Iraqi cleric calls U.S., Israel, Great Britain 'common enemies,' urges resistance by 'all means'

NAJAF, Iraq (AP) — An anti-American cleric whose militia was once the nemesis of U.S. troops in Iraq said Saturday that his followers were still resisting the U.S. enemy with all means. But Muqtada al-Sadr, now a formidable force in Iraqi politics and not just a militia leader, tempered his fiery words by saying the new Iraqi government should be given a chance to get American forces out of the country in a "suitable" way.

In his first speech since returning from almost four years of self-imposed exile in Iran, the 37-year-old cleric whose Shiite militias once battled U.S. troops and terrorized Iraqi Sunnis stopped short of explicitly urging violence against Americans. But he left open the possibility that some 50,000 U.S. troops in Iraq could be targeted before they are set to leave at the end of this year.

Al-Sadr has long branded the U.S. military as occupiers in Iraq, and Washington considers him a security threat. Yet after winning 40 seats in March parliamentary elections — and taking eight top leadership posts in the new government — al-Sadr's political muscle makes him a force that cannot be ignored.

Addressing an adoring and frenzied crowd of thousands, al-Sadr called the U.S., Israel and Britain "our common enemies."

Obama says 'trend is clear' on positive economic news, but lots of work left to do

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is trumpeting private-sector job growth and lower unemployment, telling the public that "the trend is clear" on the economy — and it's encouraging.

The president used his weekly radio and Internet address Saturday to discuss the latest economic news and press for bipartisan action in the newly divided Congress on measures to spur growth. He presented the December jobs report in a positive light even though it fell short of what economists had been looking for and even though the drop in unemployment came partly because some people stopped looking for work.

The private sector added 103,000 new jobs in December and the unemployment rate fell from 9.8 percent to 9.4 percent.

Republicans devoted their weekly address to spotlighting steps being taken by the new GOP House majority, including trimming House members' operating budgets and, more importantly, moving to repeal Obama's signature health care law. The GOP contends the law extending coverage to 30 million uninsured Americans is a budget-busting job-killer, although the Congressional Budget Of-

fice said this week that repealing it would cost billions because the law's numerous taxes, fees and cuts in Medicare spending would be lost.

4 killed after attack on Southern Sudan military just ahead of Sunday independence referendum

JUBA, Sudan (AP) — A rebel group attacked Southern Sudan's military and four rebels were killed, a military spokesman said Saturday, a day before the region begins voting in an independence referendum that is expected to divide Africa's largest nation in two.

Despite the attack, most officials predict the week-long vote to go peacefully.

Col. Philip Aguer said forces loyal to rebel leader Gatluak Gai attacked forces in the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army overnight Friday, possibly early Saturday, in Unity State, an oil-rich area on the north-south Sudan divide. Aguer said the counter-attack by SPLA forces killed four and wounded six of Gai's men.

Southern Sudan suffered through decades of internal strife and civil war with the north. It has worked in recent weeks to strike peace deals with dissident commanders, but Gai's rebels have not yet reconciled with the southern government.

Starting Sunday, southern Sudanese will cast simple, illustrated ballots at polling stations under thatched roof shelters in the remote and impoverished countryside and in Juba, a city of simple concrete houses and mud huts that got its first paved roads only in recent years.

If it passes, the referendum will split Africa's biggest country between the mostly Arab and Muslim north, and the mostly black and Christian or animist south. Southern Sudan would then be on track to become the world's newest country in July. Outstanding issues like sharing oil wealth, water rights and demarcating the border still have to be agreed to.

Pentagon chief heading to China; hopes to improve relations with rising Pacific military power

WASHINGTON (AP) — After a rocky year for U.S.-Chinese relations, Defense Secretary Robert Gates is heading to China in hopes of strengthening relations with the rising Pacific military power and global competitor.

The relationship between the two countries has been strained recently as China expanded its military firepower and reach, quarreled with U.S. allies over Pacific territory and broke off the few flimsy military ties it had allowed with the United States.

Gates, who departs for Asia on Saturday, will meet with Chinese President Hu Jintao a week ahead of Hu's planned state visit to Washington.

In scheduled meetings with Hu and Chinese military leaders, the Pentagon chief plans to make the case for regular face-to-face discussions between military officials from both countries. Direct discussions are already routine for presidents and diplomats.

Limited relations between the two militaries were restored late last year. On the eve of Gates' trip, an aide said, the defense secretary saw the military relationship on the mend.

Still, there are few signs that China wants the kind of broad engagement Gates has argued would help avert risky misunderstandings and miscalculations as China extends its military reach.

Report: U.S. to up military, financial, intel support for Pakistan to help win regional peace

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's administration is planning to send more help to Pakistan amid complaints from government officials there that the United States doesn't understand their security priorities or offer enough help, The Washington Post reports.

According to the plan, decided on in last month's White House Afghanistan war review, the U.S. will offer more military, intelligence and economic support to Pakistan, the newspaper reported online late Friday. The Obama administration also

plans to intensify efforts to forge a regional peace despite frustration that Pakistani officials aren't doing enough to fight terrorist groups in the country's vast tribal areas, it said.

The decision is set to be delivered by Vice President Joe Biden in a planned visit to Pakistan next week, the Post said, citing unidentified administration officials. Biden is expected to meet with military chief Gen. Ashfaq Kayani and other top government leaders.

The vice president is expected to challenge the Pakistanis to articulate a long-term strategy for the region and specify what assistance they need to move successfully against Taliban safe havens in areas border Afghanistan.

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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Extraordinary Defense

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ K J 10 9
 ♥ K J 7 3
 ♦ 6
 ♣ A Q 8 4

WEST
 ♠ 7 6 5 4 3
 ♥ 8 5
 ♦ J 9 7 2
 ♣ J 7

EAST
 ♠ A Q
 ♥ 6 2
 ♦ A Q 10 5 3
 ♣ K 10 9 2

SOUTH
 ♠ 8 2
 ♥ A Q 10 9 4
 ♦ K 8 4
 ♣ 6 5 3

The bidding:
 East South West North
 1♦ 1♥ Pass 4♥

Opening lead — two of diamonds.

This hand features a defensive play that some might deem difficult because it involves doing something that definitely runs contrary to a defender's natural instincts. Nevertheless, the play should be found by a competent defender since it offers the only chance of defeating the contract.

South arrives at four hearts as shown, and West leads the deuce of diamonds to East's ace. What should East do next?

Before plunging ahead, East should try to estimate the number of tricks declarer will eventually take. It

shouldn't take him long to conclude that in due course, South is certain to score 10 tricks if left to his own devices.

This determination is arrived at by weighing two different factors: First, declarer's high-card tricks are counted, and this comes to eight — five hearts (for the one-heart overcall), two spades and a club. Second, West led the two of diamonds, marking him with no more than four cards in that suit. This in turn means that South has to have at least three diamonds, two of which can be trumped in dummy, if necessary, to bring his trick total to 10.

East can thus see that if he just sits idly by, declarer will make his contract. The only chance is that a club trick can be developed before South discards his club losers on dummy's spades.

Therefore, at trick two East leads a low club into dummy's A-Q-8-4, hoping West has the jack. Declarer takes the jack with the queen, plays the K-A of trumps and leads a spade to the nine.

East wins and returns a second club, driving out dummy's ace. When East wins the next spade, he cashes a club to score a one-trick set.

It is true that this plan fails if South has the club jack or only two clubs, but in that case, the contract cannot be defeated.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.
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LSU rallies to Cotton Bowl win over Aggies

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON — Surrounded by his LSU players, coach Les Miles loudly and proudly sang the school fight song and savored the celebration of the Tigers' first Cotton Bowl victory in 45 years.

It might have been a farewell to the Bayou. Nobody knows for sure with Miles likely a leading candidate for the coaching vacancy at Michigan, where he played and was an assistant

coach.

When asked immediately after the game if he'd be back next season, there was an extended pause before Miles responded, "It's a wonderful place. I love it here." He said he has not been contacted by his alma mater.

Amid the uncertainty of Miles' future, Jordan Jefferson threw three touchdown passes to Terrence Toliver and ran for a score to help the 11th-ranked Tigers rally for a 41-24 victory over No. 18 Texas A&M in the

75th Cotton Bowl on Friday night.

"We trust Les Miles and we trust his word," Jefferson said. "His word is he's not going anywhere and he'll be our coach next year."

In the days leading up to the Cotton Bowl, Miles said his focus was on his Tigers and that he enjoyed where he was.

But LSU (11-2) has now completed its fourth season with at least 11 wins in Miles' six years. The Tigers had only two 11-win seasons in their his-

tory before that.

"I don't want to talk about me. This is really about LSU," Miles said. "I told (the players) I have not had any conversations with Michigan at this point. And if I did, I would communicate with them very effectively."

Texas A&M (9-4) led 10-0 in the first quarter, including a field goal after Jefferson threw an interception, but had its six-game winning streak

See **AGGIES**, Page 9A

Wylie too much for Big Spring girls

BY ADAM COLEMAN

Sports Editor

ABILENE— The Big Spring Lady Steers found out between now and the next time they get a shot at Abilene Wylie, they have just a few things to work on.

The most ailing issue is one head coach Mike Warren said is a simple one: make baskets.

"We'll play better at home," he said after a 52-38 loss to the Lady Bulldogs. "We'll shoot better at home. It's tough on the road. We gave great effort. We just have to put the ball in the hole. That's the bottom line there."

Warren said Wylie was everything he thought it would be with one senior on the team and standout guard Peyton Little, who dropped 25 points on the Lady Steers.

Cerbi Ritchey had 11 points to lead Big Spring, but Warren said she faced a lot of double teams Friday night and she might need to get used to it. Warren believes district opponents are going to consistently double team Ritchey night in and night out.

In order to deal with that, the Lady Steers just have to take advantage of the open opportunities. Mackenzie Stone and Valerie Ross benefitted the most from opponents double teaming Ritchey during non-district play. It wasn't uncommon to see those two get hot from beyond the arc as a result of the double teams.

Warren said that has to happen more often in order for the Lady Steers to combat their opponents' defensive strategy.

"I've got to get Valerie and Mackenzie going," he said. LaShaunte (Anderson) did not score. Cerbi did a good job passing. She's not selfish. She's got to learn to feel a double team. ... We just have to look to kick it out and our guards have to be ready to shoot

it."

The Lady Steers have a week off before they face a second test — at Brownwood on Jan. 14. Warren said Wylie and Brownwood are the two top teams in the district and it's a good time to get extra practice time in before that matchup.

Abilene Wylie 52, Big Spring 38
Big Spring 5 7 16 10 - 38
Abilene Wylie 12 10 17 13 - 52
Big Spring — Cerbi Ritchey 11, Bridgette Tuitt 7, Diamond Mayes 7
Wylie — Peyton Little 25, Smith 11
3-point field goals — Big Spring 2 (Mackenzie Stone 1, Valerie Ross 1)
Free throws — Big Spring 11-19, Wylie 12-19
Records: Big Spring (15-4, 0-1 in district play), Wylie (13-13, 1-0)
Next game: Big Spring vs. Brownwood at 6 p.m. Jan. 14 in Brownwood

Big Spring boys

The Big Spring Steers took care of Levelland 64-49, but it wasn't without a scare in the opening quarter.

Levelland came out on fire in the first quarter, hitting all of its first eight shots of the game. In the first period, Levelland, only missed a shot blocked by Devante Lloyd and another shot at the buzzer.

See **STEERS**, Page 9A

District 5-3A girls' basketball standings

	Conf.	Overall
Brownwood	1-0	15-7
Wylie	1-0	13-13
Big Spring	0-1	15-4
Snyder	0-1	14-7
Sweetwater	0-0	15-10



LaShaunte Anderson (14) shoots from the top of the key in the Big Spring Lady Steers' 52-38 loss at Abilene Wylie Friday night.



Coahoma's Hunter Williams had 14 points against Slaton.

Area basketball: Bulldogs drop to 0-3 in district

Coahoma boys

SLATON — The Coahoma Bulldogs dropped to 0-3 in district play after a 65-41 loss to Slaton on the road.

Hunter Williams turned in a double-double with 14 points and 12 rebounds, but it wasn't enough for the Bulldogs to get their first win in District 3-2A play.

Things don't get easier for Coahoma, either. The Bulldogs' next four games are at home against Lubbock Roosevelt, on the road for Colorado City, back at home for Denver City and on the road against Post.

Slaton 65, Coahoma 41
Slaton 18 16 17 14 - 65
Coahoma 13 4 16 8 - 41
Coahoma — Hunter Williams 14, Sheigh Cravens 10, Ryan Reid 5, Tanner Ruiz 4, Reagan Reid 4, Jacob Echavarría 4
Records: Coahoma (8-10, 0-3 in district play)
Next game: Coahoma vs. Lubbock Roosevelt at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Coahoma

Coahoma girls

SLATON — Things didn't fair well for the Coahoma Bulldogettes, who suffered a 54-45 loss at Slaton Friday night.

Minnie Goodblanket had 12 points, but a sub-par third quarter didn't help the Bulldogettes' efforts coming out of halftime.

Head coach Mitzi Bell previously said the win over

Stanton Tuesday night helped the Bulldogettes get back on track after three losses in the Mary Tatum Classic at Reagan County High School, but Coahoma took a step back with Lubbock Roosevelt — the district favorite in some coaches' eyes — on tap for Tuesday.

Slaton 54, Coahoma 45
Coahoma 7 14 6 18 - 54
Slaton 13 14 13 14 - 45
Coahoma — Minnie Goodblanket 12, Jennifer Castilaw 9, Joanna Gonzales 8
Next game: Coahoma vs. Lubbock Roosevelt at 6 p.m. Tuesday in Coahoma

Forsan boys

FORSAN — Denver City was just too much for Forsan Friday night.

No one scored in double-digits for the Buffaloes and Denver City moved to 3-0 in district play with the 57-26 win.

The Buffs, however, have made strides during district play with wins over Coahoma and Post. They'll try to knock off Stanton at home Tuesday to get back on track.

Denver City 57, Forsan 26
Forsan 4 7 4 11 - 26
Denver City 20 12 8 17 - 57

See **AREA**, Page 9A

Sports in brief

Baseball booster club meeting

The Big Spring High School baseball booster club will conduct a meeting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Athletic Training Center. If there are any questions, call Denise Carillo at 432-816-1685.

Men's city bowling tournament

This tournament takes place Jan. 23-24 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 on the men's city bowling tournament, contact Diana Ewing at 432-816-7631, Claud Fryar at 432-517-0475, or Sheila Armstrong at 432-270-7596.

2011 MAYB River City Shootout

Registration is ongoing for the 2011 MAYB River City Shootout Basketball Tournament to take place on Feb. 19 and 20. The tournament is for boys and girls, grades 3 through 8. Please e-mail wardca@yahoo.com or call (979) 417-3721 for additional information. Online registration is available at www.otcybc.com.

Jim Harbaugh hired as coach of 49ers

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — They rolled out a fresh red carpet for Jim Harbaugh at San Francisco's posh Palace Hotel, then delivered him in a limousine.

The 49ers have their highly sought-after new man and pulled out all the stops to greet him. His introductory news conference began with a music video featuring team highlights.

After a whirlwind few days of talks with the Niners, former employer Stanford and also the Miami Dolphins, Harbaugh finally made up his mind: he's going to coach in the NFL.

With his "unshakable confidence" to boot.

What a week for football's hottest commodity considering it began with the Cardinal's 40-12 Orange Bowl rout of Virginia Tech on Monday night in Miami.

Even with that win — which gave Stanford a 12-1 record — and Orange Bowl MVP quarterback Andrew Luck's choice to stay in school, Harbaugh had a good feeling about making the jump to the NFL and joining the 49ers. This is the same path his mentor and late Hall of Fame coach Bill Walsh did more than 30 years ago.

Declaring it a "perfect competitive opportunity," Harbaugh accepted a five-year deal Friday to coach the 49ers and said his goal is to win a Lombardi Trophy for "one of the legendary franchises in all of football."

The successful Stanford coach gets to remain right at home in the Bay Area, making the leap to the pro game after four years with the Cardinal. A longtime NFL quarterback, he replaces fired coach Mike Singletary. ESPN reported Harbaugh's deal

See HARBAUGH, Page 10A

AREA

Continued from Page 8A

Forsan — B. Phillips 6, D. Bagnall 6, K. Self 6, T. Burchett 6, B. Schreiner 2
Denver City — Alaron 12, Martin 12, Brown 8, David 6, Durham 6, Sainz 3, Reyna 3, Castillo 2, Milligan 2, Garrett 2, Cardona 1

Records: Forsan (8-10, 2-1)

Next game: Forsan vs. Stanton at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Forsan

Forsan girls

FORSAN — The Forsan Lady Buffs had a tough third quarter as Denver City nabbed a 38-31 win Friday.

The Lady Buffs scored one point in the third quarter, enabling Denver City to take control. Before the third quarter, the Lady Buffs were down 18-16.

Ambra Hill continues her recent hot streak with 15 points. Stanton at home is up next for the Lady Buffs.

Denver City 38, Forsan 31
Denver City 14 4 11 9 - 38
Forsan 11 5 1 14 - 31

Forsan — Ambra Hill 15, Morgan Forshee 5, Cheyenne Galloway 4, Kay'C Stanley 3, Shelby Roemer 2, Miranda Park 2

Denver City — Hawkins 20, David 15, Pate 2, Espinosa 1

Records: Forsan (11-8, 3-2)

Next game: Forsan vs. Stanton at 6 p.m. Tuesday in Forsan

Other scores:

Stanton boys

Stanton 69, Post 24

Post 2 7 4 11 - 24

Stanton 21 17 22 9 - 69

Stanton — Tyler Fulton 31, Trace Sidle 16, Blake Evans 6, Andres Chavez 4, Ethan

Mauldin 4, Nate Koonce 4, Thomas Ramos 3, Ryan Brantley 1

Records: Stanton (14-2, 2-1)

Next game: Stanton vs. Forsan at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Forsan

Stanton girls

Stanton 44, Post 41 F/OT

Post 4 18 3 11 5 - 41

Stanton 2 12 9 13 8 - 44

Stanton — Ashton Snelgrove 13, Tara Patterson 4, Selah Ramsey 11, Jennifer Beasley 5, Kendra Graham 2, Bailey Bryan 4, Jami Hale 5

Records: Stanton (11-11, 1-4)

Next game: Stanton vs. Forsan at 6 p.m. Tuesday in Forsan

Sands boys

Sands 68, Wellman-Union 43

Sands — Blake Thomasson 18, Caleb Thomasson 14, Landon Parker 11

Records: Sands (18-4, 5-0)

Sands girls

Wellman-Union 36, Sands 32

Wellman-Union 6 12 6 12 - 36

Sands 6 7 8 11 - 32

Sands — Jennifer Gomez 9, Morgan Yarbrough 7, Lani Robles 5

Records: Sands (17-4, 4-1)

Garden City girls

Garden City 58, Blackwell 16

Garden City 16 14 9 9 - 58

Blackwell 3 2 6 5 - 16

Garden City — Hannah Halfmann 13, Rachel Hirt 10, Cathy Hirt 10, Lexi Schaefer 9, Magdaly Huerta 6, Kamie Halfmann 4, Taylor Hughes 3, Ashley Halfmann 2, Shanna Halfmann 1

Records: Garden City (10-12, 4-1)

Next game: Garden City vs. Bronte at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in Garden City

STEERS

Continued from Page 8A

But Big Spring weathered the storm.

"That was good to see because we're going to play a team, no matter what level, that just comes out on fire and goes 8-for-8 on the first eight possessions of the game," Big Spring head coach Cliff Thomp-

son said. "It doesn't matter if we're playing the best team in the state, I don't think anybody can shoot that well. It's good that we were able to beat them and we responded well."

Luke Adams was solid against with 35 points and four three-pointers.

One of the most vital parts of the season is approaching, too. The Steers wrap up non-district play at Andrews Tuesday before District 5-3A play begins.

Big Spring 64, Levelland 49

Levelland 18 10 11 10 - 49

Big Spring 20 14 14 16 - 64

Big Spring — Luke Adams 35, Marc Segundo 8, Devante Lloyd 6, Tristian Clay 6

3-point field goals — Big Spring 7 (Adams 4, Lloyd 2, Segundo 1)

Records: Big Spring (15-6)

Next game: Big Spring vs. Andrews at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Andrews

Men's Caprock Bowling Report

Week 18 of the Men's Caprock League is the beginning of the second half. The second half started off with a bang. Three teams started off zero losses. Leading the pack is The Real Deal 8 points won and 0 points lost; Culligan with 8 points won and 0 points lost; United Country with 8 points won and 0 points lost; Bozz Brutha's with 6 points won and 2 points lost; Team 2 with 6 points won and 2 points lost; Claibornes with 6 points won and 2 points lost.

Bowlers of the week are: Danial Mata 201 game; Mike Reyes 208 game; Tony Sarmiento 210, 206 game; Jared Ringener 236, 206, 220 games 662 series; Charlie Garcia 223, 221, 237 games 681 series; Phillip Ringener 216, 223, 222 games 661 series; Fred Gutierrez 203 game; Adrin Zarate 203, 216, 239 games 658 series; Jerry Barnes 241 game; Sammy Torres 258, 201 games 628 series; Sam Gonzales Sr. 210, 257

See BOWLING, Page 10A

AGGIES

Continued from Page 8A

snapped.

It was the 50th game between the border-state schools, but the first since the 1995 opener. Texas A&M had won the last five games in a series that likely will not be renewed in the regular season any time soon.

Jefferson was 10 of 19 for 158 yards with scoring passes of 42, 2 and 41 yards to Toliver, who had only two TD catches in the regular season.

LSU went ahead for good when Stevan Ridley had a 17-yard TD run, jumping over a defender near the line and then sweeping right untouched into the end zone for a 21-17 lead with 4:43 left in the first half.

Ryan Tannehill, who had been 5-0 since taking over as the Aggies starting quarterback,

then threw two interceptions in a span of three throws — after 127 consecutive attempts without a pick. The second interception was by Eric Reid, who returned it 34 yards to the 2 to set up Jefferson's short TD pass to Toliver for a 28-17 halftime lead.

"I feel bad for my teammates. ... Kind of dropped the ball. It's a tough feeling," said Tannehill, who was 22 of 35 for 204 yards with three interceptions and two TDs.

su | do | ku
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ANSWERS

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



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HARBAUGH

Continued from Page 8A

is for \$25 million.

Harbaugh decided to leave Stanford even though San Francisco has missed the playoffs for eight straight seasons and Luck announced Thursday he would remain in school and play one more season.

"I can feel the enthusiasm coursing through my veins right now," said Harbaugh, who was going to team headquarters Friday night to get to work. "I accept this competitive challenge willingly."

Harbaugh has long admired Walsh and how he made the successful leap from Stanford to the 49ers. Harbaugh knew the man nicknamed "The Genius" for 18 years and once received footwork tips from the coach while playing for the Bears. "Everything that came out of his mind, his heart, his mouth, I hung on every single word."

Walsh thought up the original schemes that became known as the West Coast offense, which Harbaugh plans to run with the 49ers.

Harbaugh has a picture of Walsh he looks at each day taped to his computer screen, but says it will be a while before any comparisons can be made of the two.

While Harbaugh said he had all but made up his mind to accept the 49ers' offer following a meeting of more than six hours that went into Wednesday evening, he took a couple of days to hear out his other suitors and do his "homework" — and "do some soul searching" as new 49ers general manager Trent Baalke put it.

"I knew in my heart and my gut the right decision was with the San Francisco 49ers," he said.

After quite a run at Stanford, Harbaugh will head some 10 miles down the 101 freeway from Stanford to turn around a once-proud franchise that is desperate to become a contender again right away. The 49ers were ex-

pected to win the NFC West this season, then began 0-5 for their worst start since losing seven straight to begin a 2-14 season in 1979, Walsh's first year as coach.

The 49ers finished 6-10 this year — in the chase for a playoff berth in the NFL's worst division until the second-to-last week — and haven't had a winning season since their last trip to the playoffs in 2002.

"I met this man six or seven years ago at a college All-Star game and I fell in love with his energy," Baalke said. "This is the start of a new generation. ... What we have to do is bring back the culture of winning. He's a guy who can lead the 49ers franchise back to where it rightfully belongs."

Harbaugh likely will be grooming a new quarterback in the coming months. Alex Smith, the 2005 No. 1 overall draft pick out of Utah, becomes a free agent. So, finding a QB is high on the team's to-do list heading into what should be a busy offseason.

Once the season begins, Harbaugh will face a familiar foe — big brother John Harbaugh, coach of the Baltimore Ravens. Jim Harbaugh won't be attending his brother's playoff game in Kansas City this weekend after all.

"Let me tell you guys out in San Francisco, you got a great one," John Harbaugh said. "I'm very happy he's not in the AFC. We'll see him once every four years and Super Bowls — hopefully we could get a couple of those. ... I got a feeling you'll see two pretty similarly built football teams."

Niners team president and CEO Jed York said when Singletary was fired that money would be no object in finding the team's next coach. He promoted vice president of player personnel Baalke to GM earlier this week, then they worked together to make their push for Harbaugh, who also was in talks with the Miami Dolphins and Stanford.

The 49ers didn't put him on a deadline, telling Harbaugh, "There can't be any doubt in your mind," York said.

Tony Saidana 220; Greg Clarke 211, 247 games 650 series; Jimmie Wood 223; Jeff Keliner 214, 236 games 639 series; Junior Barber 200, 202 games; Luis Davila 201 game; Don Ewing 212, 234, 202 games 648 series; Stephen Ewing 237 game; John Dodd 255, 207, 206 games 668 series; Justin May 211 game; Tim Helmstaler 201 game; Josh Helmstaler 224 game 611 series.

Barner Oregon's secret weapon

The Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Oregon has been known to use both LaMichael James and Kenjon Barner at the same time, but whether that's the intention against Auburn, Barner was mum.

"You'll have to wait and see," he smiled.

That was about the only thing that Barner wouldn't talk about Friday, when the team met the media in advance of the BCS title game between the No. 1 Tigers and the No. 2 Ducks. He even did the Dougie dance for a reporter.

Even if Oregon doesn't use their two sophomore running backs in tandem, Barner could prove problematic for Auburn because he is as speedy as James — meaning that the Tigers won't catch a break if James takes a rest.

Barner was clearly enjoying himself in Arizona after a strange season.

He was the starter at running back for the opener against New Mexico while James, his best friend and roommate, served a one-game sus-

pension for trouble in the offseason.

Barner made the most of his opportunity, running for four touchdowns and catching another score. His performance was so strong some even suggested the Ducks could have a real dilemma if James got off to a slow start.

That wasn't the case, so Barner settled into his role as backup with dual duty on special teams.

Everything changed on Oct. 9.

Barner was flattened on a kickoff return by Washington State's Anthony Carpenter. He was motionless on the ground for a long while, his parents rushing to his side as an ambulance pulled up. James hid his expression with a towel over his head.

Barner went to a hospital in Pullman, then was treated further when he got back to Oregon. James showed him the clip of the hit on YouTube when he was still in the hospital. Barner remembered none of it.

Barner suffered a serious concussion — so bad that he had absolutely no memories of anything in the game except for taking the field. The head

See **BARNER**, Page 12A

Amare brings his Knicks to Phoenix

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — If anyone wondered, and plenty did, whether Amare Stoudemire could thrive without those slick passes from Steve Nash, nobody is wondering now.

Stoudemire brought "his" New York Knicks to Phoenix for the first time Friday night and at the morning shoot-around acknowledged that he felt his efforts weren't fully appreciated in his eight-year run with the Suns.

"There's been injuries to where my per-

severance may have gotten overlooked," he said, "just my hard work and what I bring to a franchise and to a team may have gotten overlooked. But it's a matter of staying professional and playing the game of basketball and ultimately doing whatever it takes to win a championship for your teammates."

Suns fans sure appreciate him now, after how the team has struggled since his departure. He got a standing ovation when he was introduced before

Friday night's tip-off. Then, in a triumphant return, he scored 23 points in a 121-96 rout, matching Phoenix's worst home loss in 11 seasons.

With the Suns, Stoudemire was a five-time All-Star and all-NBA first team in 2007. He made it to the Western Conference finals twice, including last season, but never beyond.

In New York, Stoudemire said, he feels like "a rock star."

"It's unbelievable

See **AMARE**, Page 12A

BOWLING

Continued from Page 9A

games 655 series; Richard Rowden 265 game 627 series; Tony Shankles 206, 226 games; James Gaither 215, 210 games; Micael Rowden 215, 267 games 661 series; Simon Saidana 225 game;

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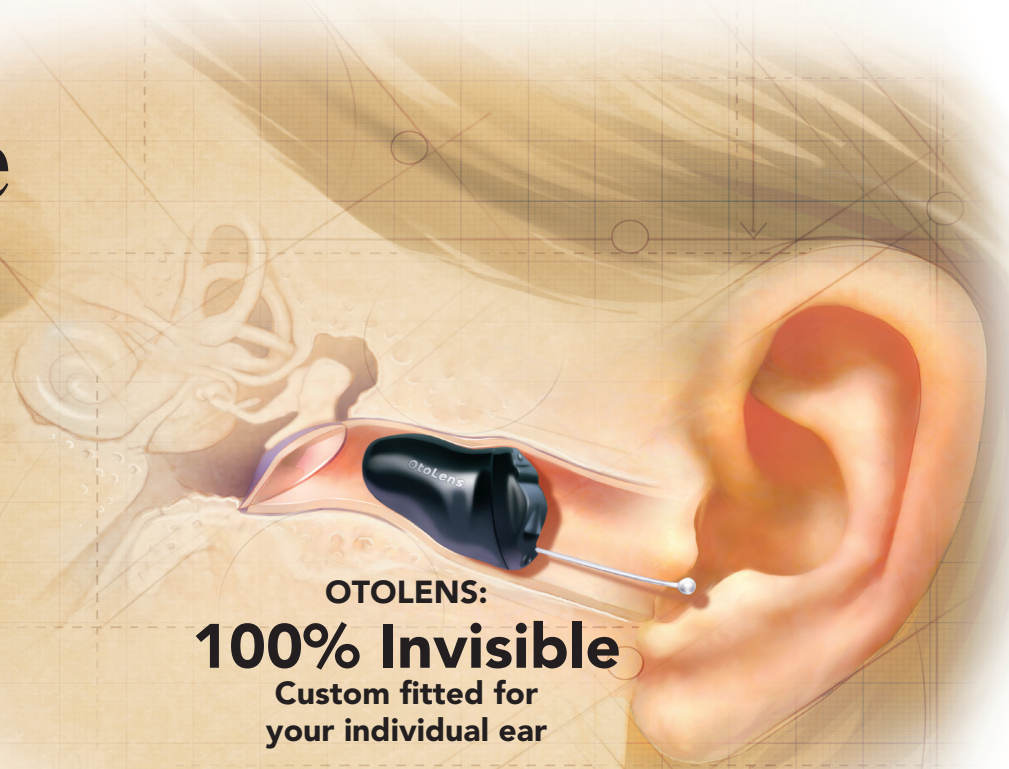


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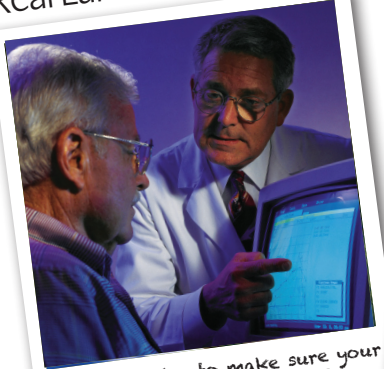
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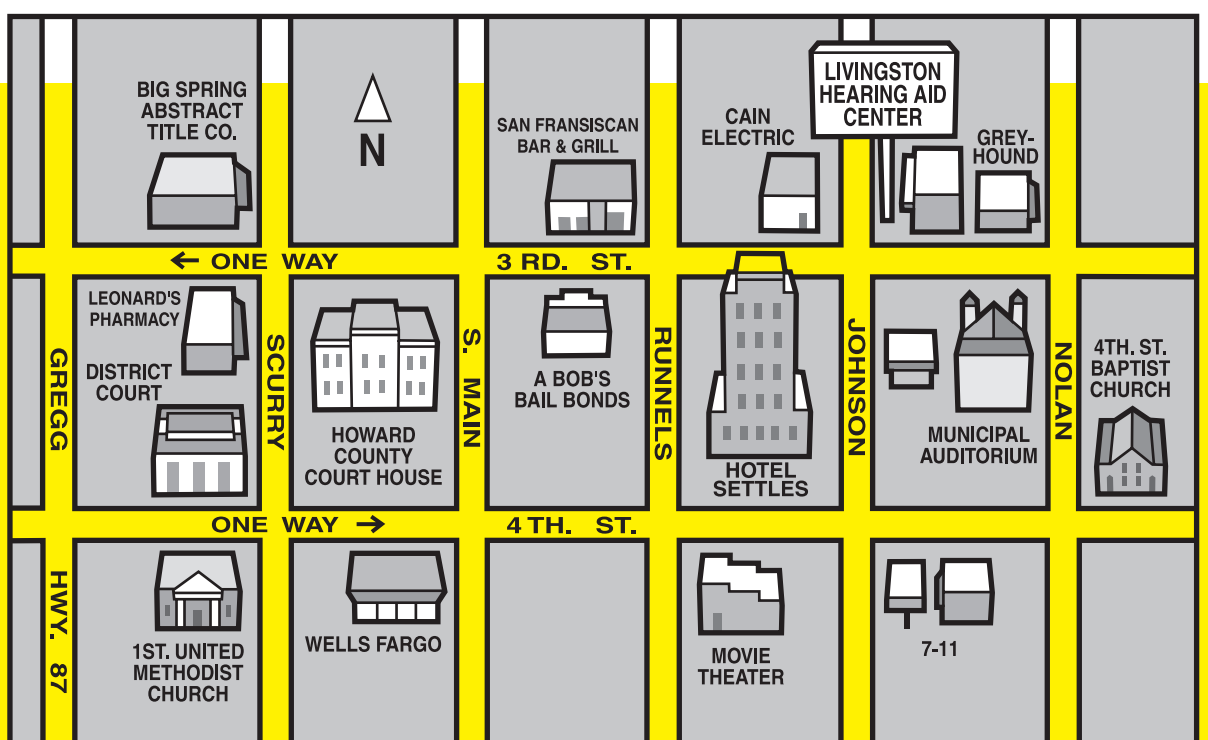
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Lindsey Vonn wins World Cup downhill

The Associated Press

ALTENMARKT-ZAUCHENSEE, Austria — Lindsey Vonn won a women's downhill Saturday, earning her fourth victory of the season and moving within four victories of Anja Paerson's record of 41 World Cup titles.

Vonn, the three-time defending overall champion, skied well off course in a sharp right turn but recovered to finish the 3-kilometer Kaelberloch course in 1 minute, 46.39 seconds.

Sweden's Paerson placed second, 0.43 behind the American, to earn her first podium finish of the season.

It's Vonn's 20th career downhill title and 37th overall.

"It's always great to win a race in Austria, it feels like a second home to me here," said Vonn, who usually spends a month training in this region during the offseason.

Austria's Anna Fenninger was 0.98 seconds back in third for her first top-3 finish in downhill, while World Cup leader Maria Riesch took fourth — another 0.07 back.

The German remained on top of the standings with 883 points, followed by Vonn with 747.

Vonn was the fastest starter but was not clean afterward.

"I almost ended up in the safety nets in the middle part," she said. "I tried to forget about that and gain speed again in the next turn. If you race aggressively, you can win much time on this course. ... my skis were really fast."

Riesch was pleased with her per-

formance after struggling with the course during the two days of training.

"It's a shame to miss the podium by just 0.07, but I am very satisfied," the German said. "I definitely did better today but made a mistake in the middle part. I lost speed and time there."

The U.S. coaches and Vonn's husband, Thomas, helped her prepare for the race during the course inspection.

"We always make a plan together, it gives me confidence going into the race," she said. "I've made a lot of mistakes this season, but I know I have to stay cool and avoid unnecessary risks."

Paerson saw the first half of her season ruined by equipment troubles, but seems to have found the right set-up for the second part.

"The right feeling on the snow has always been key to the successes in my career," she said. "If it doesn't feel well, I can't ski well."

The Swede took a break around the start of the new year to test new skis.

"From the first training here I felt that I was on the right way," she said. "I even had the idea I could win today. Being on the podium is just what I wanted."

Paerson, who started 17th, was ahead of Fenninger's best time throughout. Her hopes of winning the downhill lasted for two racers until Vonn sped down wearing bib 20.

A women's World Cup super-G is scheduled for Sunday in Altenmarkt-Zauchensee.

AMARE

Continued from Page 9A

how the fans there are so appreciative to the hard work and we've brought to the city so far," he said, "and it's still early. We're a young team, but so far the fans there are out of control."

Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni said that's a fair description.

"When we signed him and he declared 'New York's back' he backed it up," D'Antoni said, "and the brashness of it endears people. He came, he looked at the challenge of it and he accepted it."

The Suns, then under the ownership of Jerry Colangelo, chose the 19-year-old Stoudemire out of high school with the ninth selection overall in 2002.

Over the next eight seasons, Stoudemire averaged at least 20 points five times. The exceptions were his rookie year and 2005-06, when he played only three games because of microfracture knee surgery. He also missed the final eight weeks of the

2008-09 season because of a torn retina.

D'Antoni, who coached Stoudemire in Phoenix from 2003 to 2008, was asked how the big power forward had changed.

"I think he's more patient," D'Antoni said. "He sees the game better, offensively and defensively. He understands what it takes to win. Probably the biggest thing is he doesn't get frustrated at all. He just keeps telling the guys hang in there, even when we were 3-8, hang in there and let's keep playing."

Stoudemire entered Friday night's game second in the NBA in scoring at 26.4 points per game. Kevin Durant leads the league at 27.9.

Phoenix coach Alvin Gentry does not begrudge Stoudemire's desire to escape Nash's shadow.

"There's nothing wrong with that," Gentry said. "I don't see anything negative in that. He just felt being here that it was going to be Steve's team a lot, and I think he felt he would like to have a team that was his, that he was the focal point."

Still, Stoudemire

might have stayed had Suns owner Robert Sarver been willing to guarantee the final two years of a new contract. The long-suffering Knicks, desperate for a big name after failing to land LeBron James, were more than willing to give him the maximum, five-year, \$100 million deal with each year guaranteed.

"I can't be critical of that," Nash said. "That's not my money. Obviously, I wanted Amare to stay and I think, maybe foolishly, I thought he would, that somehow we would get an agreement."

While the Knicks are 20-14 and on the rise, the Suns are 14-19 and have lost 10 of 13. They are 1-6 since they sent leading scorer Jason Richardson, Hedo Turkoglu and Earl Clark to Orlando for Vince Carter, Michael Pietrus, Marcin Gortat the Magic's 2011 first-round draft pick and cash.

Even with the addition of the 6-foot-11 Gortat, the Suns are short on size and overloaded at the wing position.

"We lost an All-Star power forward and didn't replace him," Nash said.

BARNER

Continued from Page 10A

aches were excruciating.

Amazingly, he only missed two games before he came back. Now headache-free, Barner has 519 yards and six touchdowns this season. He has 965 all-purpose yards, including two touchdown receptions and one punt return for a score.

"It makes me appreciate not only football, but life," he said. "Especially from my position because it could have been worse."

"It was definitely an eye-opening experience. Coming back and playing football is something I cherish."

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Sweet Dreams



Blackout curtains, such as those made by LightCatcher, can help turn the bedroom into the sleep sanctuary children need.

Healthy Bedtime Routines

Here are some tips from Sleepforkids.org for helping children develop bedtime routines that will help them get to sleep:

Sleep Tips for Infants

- Develop regular daytime and bedtime schedules.
- Create a consistent and enjoyable bedtime routine.
- Establish a regular "sleep friendly" environment.
- Encourage baby to fall asleep independently and to become a "self-soother."

Sleep Tips for Toddlers

- Maintain a daily sleep schedule and consistent bedtime routine.
- Make the bedroom environment the same every night and throughout the night.
- Set limits that are consistent, communicated and enforced. Encourage use of a security object such as a blanket or stuffed animal.

Sleep Tips for Preschoolers

- Maintain a regular and consistent sleep schedule.
- Have a relaxing bedtime routine that ends in the room where the child sleeps.
- Child should sleep in the same sleeping environment every night, in a room that is cool, quiet and dark — and without a TV.

Sleep Tips for School-aged Children

- Teach school-aged children about healthy sleep habits.
- Continue to emphasize need for regular and consistent sleep schedule and bedtime routine.
- Make child's bedroom conducive to sleep — dark, cool and quiet.
- Keep TV and computers out of the bedroom.
- Avoid caffeine.

Setting the stage for a good night's sleep

FAMILY FEATURES

Parents of newborns can't wait for the baby to sleep through the night, but sleeping through the night can be a problem for children of any age, from birth through their teen years. Even naptime can present a challenge, with a number of daytime sounds and distractions preventing the baby from getting the uninterrupted sleep a parent hopes for.

While a child's sleep-needs vary as they grow, there are two recommendations that remain consistent, no matter the child's age. The National Sleep Foundation (NSF) recommends maintaining a regular bedtime routine and a sleep-friendly environment.

"Three of the biggest influences on sleep are noise, temperature and light," said Jonathan Sadinoff, spokesperson for LightCatcher Curtains, "so maintaining a sleep-friendly environment means controlling those elements as much as possible and keeping them consistent." In fact, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a cool, dark and quiet room as the best environment for sleeping.

Here are some things you can do to make your child's room sleep-friendly and help them get the rest they need.

Noise. Busy traffic, noisy appliances, or even the barking of neighborhood dogs can interrupt a child's sleep. Children don't need complete silence to sleep, but minimizing excess sound can help them fall asleep and stay asleep. The white noise of a fan or air conditioner can help block unwanted sound. Carpet, upholstery and blackout curtains can also absorb some of the ambient noise and make the room quieter.

Temperature. There isn't an ideal temperature for sleep — the point at which temperature conditions interrupt sleep will be different for everyone. But in most cases, the NSF says that temperatures above 75 degrees and below 54 degrees will disrupt sleep. A slightly cooler room contributes to good sleep because it mimics what happens when the body's internal temperature drops to its lowest level during the night. Monitor your child's room for temperature. Rooms with more sun exposure tend to be warmer and may need a fan.

Light. The human body is sensitive to light, even while sleeping. The Better Sleep Council (BSC) says that light, such as the rising sun, is a powerful cue to the body and can wake up the brain well before the alarm clock sounds. Keeping the room as dark as possible helps the body fall asleep naturally. The BSC recommends getting as much exposure to sunlight during the day as possible, and to block as much light as possible during sleeping hours to keep the body on track.

Both the BSC and the NSF recommend the use of light blocking curtains. Blackout curtains, such as those made by LightCatcher, can help turn the bedroom into the sleep sanctuary children need. Because traditional-width curtains can leak light from the top and sides, LightCatcher blackout curtains are cut wide, in over 50-inch widths, providing more light prevention. With exclusive Insuldark technology, these curtains also provide more sound dampening and more energy savings than traditional curtains, helping to keep the room not only dark enough, but cool and quiet enough for good sleep. LightCatcher curtains are available at buybuybaby.com.

How Much Sleep Do They Need?

While there is variability between each of us in how much sleep we need, the National Sleep Foundation (NSF) has noted that the need for sleep changes as we age. The NSF has recommended the following sleep guidelines for selected age groups:

Newborns (0–2 months)	12–18 hours	Preschoolers (3–5 years)	11–13 hours
Infants (3–11 months)	14–15 hours	School-Age Children (5–10 years)	10–11 hours
Toddlers (1–3 years)	12–14 hours	Teens (10–17)	8.5–9.25 hours

Find out more at www.sleepfoundation.org.

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Jonathan Charles Bagwell
and Taylor Danielle Archer

Archer-Bagwell

Mandy and Tom Archer of Marion, Ark., are pleased to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Taylor Danielle Archer of Marion, Ark., to Jonathan Charles Bagwell of Little Rock, Ark., the son of Sue and Chuck Bagwell of Big Spring.

The bride-to-be is currently a fourth-year medical student at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and plans to enter a pediatric practice.

The prospective groom is the grandson of Dorothy Gilbreath of Big Spring and Al Bagwell of Big Spring. He is a 2000 graduate of Big Spring High School and a 2006 graduate of Texas A&M University. He is currently employed as an account representative with Dow Chemical in Little Rock, Ark.

The couple plan an April 22, 2011, wedding ceremony at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens in Memphis, Tenn.

Faith Robertson
and Dr. Marcus Villarreal

Robertson-Villarreal

Dinah and Larry Robertson of Trophy Club are proud to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Faith Robertson of Big Spring, to Dr. Marcus Villarreal of Big Spring, the son of Theresa Riggs and Andre Villarreal of Denton.

The bride-to-be is a 1995 graduate of Northwest High School and a graduate of Texas Tech University. She is currently employed by Dwain Fox P.C.

The prospective groom is a 1995 graduate of Denton High School and graduate of Texas Tech University and Parker Chiropractic College. He is currently employed by Back in Motion. The couple plan a May, 20, 2011, wedding in Big Spring.

Dementia tours set for January 21 here

Compass Hospice and Parkplace Retirement Center will be hosting

free virtual dementia tours on Friday, Jan. 21.

The tours are designed to help caregivers and others understand how individuals are affected by dementia.

The 10-minute tours will be given from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

A noon lunch and program will be provided for those who RSVP by calling 432-213-0431.

Dementia is a loss of brain function that occurs with certain diseases. It affects memory, thinking, language, judgment and behavior.

Those who want to participate may call the above number to schedule a time to take the tour. The tours and lunch will take place at Parkplace.

Anniversary



Jay and Vivian Griffith 59th anniversary

Jay Maurice and Vivian Griffith celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011, with a party hosted by friends.

Jay met Vivian Earwood in Sanderson and they were married Jan. 1, 1942, in San Antonio. They have spent most of their married lives in Big Spring.

Over the years, Jay worked for several railroads and retired in 1982. Vivian worked for the federal service and retired in 1976.

They have one surviving son, Wayne E. Griffith of Austin. A second son, Robert Elwin Griffith, died in March of 1969, a war casualty in Vietnam. They have two grandchildren, Wesley Jay Griffith and Cali Lindsey Griffith, and one great-grandchild, Robert Griffith.

The Griffiths are members of the Birdwell Lane Church of Christ, where they have worshipped for many years and Mr. Griffith has served as an Elder for several years.

Among Jay's many hobbies is rock collecting from numerous counties in Texas, collecting model cars and other western memorabilia. He is a member of the Prospector's Club.

Jay and Vivian have both been avid readers for years and have enjoyed traveling. They have taken many trips with friends and family, especially to the Big Bend area.

The couple say their life together has been filled with a deep faith in God, love and joy for each other, their children and grandchildren, and many friends.

Who's Who

Lisa Davila Lang was inducted into the Iota Beta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Howard College on Oct. 27, 2010.

Lang, majoring in nursing, is the daughter of Willie and Margie Davila of Colorado City, and is married to Dr. John Lang of Big Spring.

Established in 1918 by two-year college presi-

dents, Phi Theta Kappa is the oldest and most prestigious honor society serving two-year colleges around the world. Students must rank in the top 20 percent of the class to be invited to membership in Phi Theta Kappa and must maintain high academic standing during their enrollment in the two-year college.



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Dear Planning,
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Buy Young

One of the most basic ways a person can lower their LTC insurance premiums is by purchasing a policy at a younger age. For example, a policy that costs a 55-year-old \$2,000 a year in premiums could cost a 65-year-old more than \$3,000. Health is another fact that can affect costs. While good health can lower your monthly payments, having a pre-existing medical condition can increase your costs, or you may not be able to get insurance at all.

Check Your Employer

Some employers offer LTC insurance as an employee benefit that is often five to 10 percent less expensive than buying a policy on your own. Or, if you or your wife is a current or retired Federal employee, you can get affordable coverage through the Federal LTC Insurance

Program (www.ltcfeds.com).

Tweak the Policy

The cost of LTC insurance depends greatly on the policy's provisions. Here are some simple ways to trim your premiums:

- Reduce the benefit period: A policy that covers you for two or three years, versus an unlimited benefit, meets the needs for most people and can cut your premiums in half.
- Lower the daily benefit: You can get a policy that pays \$100, \$150, \$200 per day or more, but the higher the benefit, the higher your premium. To figure out

how much coverage to get, check out the nursing home prices in the area you plan to be. Then figure out how much of the bill you could shoulder yourself, and choose a benefit that makes up the difference.

- Extend the waiting period: Most policies have waiting periods (30, 60, 90 days, or more) that require you to pay out-of-pocket before the policy kicks in. The longer you wait the lower your premium.
- Get cheaper inflation protection: Choosing a policy that offers inflation protection linked to the consumer price index is about 20 to 40 percent cheaper than standard policies that use a 5 percent compound inflation factor.

Get State Help

Many states today have a LTC partnership program that can help

you save. Under these programs, if you buy a LTC policy approved by your state Medicaid agency, you can protect an amount of assets from Medicaid equal to the benefits that your policy pays out. How does it work? Let's say you buy a policy that provides \$200,000 in benefits (multiply your daily benefit by your benefit period). If you use up all the benefits but still need care, you can shield \$200,000 of your assets and still have Medicaid pay your remaining nursing home bills. With this program, you can choose a shorter benefit period which will lower your premiums. Contact your state insurance department to see if your state offers a program or see www.dehpg.net/ltpartnership.

Add a Supplement

Another option to consider is Uncle Sam's soon-to-be-established LTC program known as the Community Living Assistance Services

and Supports (CLASS) Act – see [healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov). Starting in 2013, this program will allow workers to set aside money from their paychecks for five years, in order to receive a cash benefit of at least \$50 a day to help pay for LTC services when needed. While CLASS won't cover all your LTC costs, it can work as a nice supplement to a LTC policy allowing you to lower your daily benefit and reduce your premiums.

Savvy Tips: For more information, visit www.longtermcare.gov. And for assistance in finding and choosing a policy, get a LTC insurance specialist who works with a variety of companies to help. See www.aaltci.org to locate one.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit www.savvysenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

Births



Baylee Lyn Denton, a girl, was born Dec. 30, 2010, at Midland Memorial Hospital, weighing 6 pounds, 6 ounces and was 19 inches long. She is the daughter of Justin and Kendra Denton of Midland. Grandparents: Lesa and Rick Gamble of Big Spring and Pam Rinehart and Dickie Denton of Midland. She was welcomed home by older siblings Jake Denton and Paige Carille.



Jake Roberts MacKenzie, a boy, was born Dec. 10, 2010, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces and was 18-3/4 inches long. He is the son of Scott and Erin MacKenzie of Big Spring. Grandparents are Wayne and Shelane Roberts of Big Spring and Finlay and Florence MacKenzie of Gresham, Ore. He was welcomed home by older sibling Jacy Rhyhan MacKenzie.

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Cleaner tractors get cool reception from farmers

DINESH RAMDE

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Farm equipment manufacturers are rolling out cleaner tractors to meet stricter new federal air regulations, but many in the industry say the challenge will be getting farmers to put the high-priced models into fields during hard economic times.

The rules that went into effect Saturday apply to tractors, construction vehicles and other so-called nonroad equipment. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says the vehicles are major sources of particulate-matter emissions — the stuff that makes smoke black and air difficult to breathe.

Federal air standards have been tightening since the mid-1990s. The 2011 regulations are the latest step, requiring that diesel engines built starting this year produce even fewer

of the nitrous oxides that can cause acid rain.

Tractor makers, including Deere & Co. and Case IH, have unveiled a number of new models that meet the so-called Tier 4 standards. But with the greener technology adding about 10 percent to the price, many farmers say they're in no hurry to upgrade tractors that might last another 25 years or more. Others are upgrading but their old tractors are getting traded in and resold rather than retired.

Given that, the effects of the new regulations may not be felt for decades.

Paul Fortkamp, who raises poultry in Fort Recovery, Ohio, has upgraded, buying a Tier 4 tractor from Case IH in Racine, Wis., for use with his corn and soybean crops. The tractor treats the exhaust with a nitrogen-based compound that converts it to mostly water vapor and atmospheric nitrogen.

Fortkamp bought the \$120,000 tractor to replace a 30-year-old vehicle that he plans to sell. He said his buying decision was based on cost, not environmental concerns.

"I needed to upgrade," Fortkamp said, "but the price of used equipment has gotten so high that I figured I might as well buy new. It wasn't a huge difference in cost."

The new tractors can cost \$100,000 to \$300,000. Manufacturers say they have added some new features to make the price more palatable.

A Tier 4 tractor made by Deere & Co., based in Moline, Ill., alerts the owner if a thief tries to drive it out of a specified area. To meet the new federal standards, the tractor has a system that captures and cools exhaust gas and then redirects it to the engine, where it can burn at a lower temperature and produce fewer emissions.

Case IH defended the price on its new tractor in part by noting its emis-

sions system makes the engine 10 percent more fuel-efficient.

While environmental groups are usually vocal about supporting green technologies, the manufacturers seem to be the only ones pushing the new tractors.

The Sierra Club said the new machines and the rules that went into effect Saturday are just an incremental step following major air pollution legislation passed in the 1990s. And the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation said its members had more pressing issues to focus on.

Some farmers said they had no interest in the new tractors, even if they did promise to be more environmentally friendly.

Phillip Batho owns a dairy farm in Plum City in western Wisconsin, where he uses seven tractors to spread manure on fields and harvest

See **TRACTORS**, Page 5B

New law has small business more likely to offer insurance

Special to the Herald

SAUSALITO, Calif. — Small business owners say key provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will make them more likely to provide health insurance to their employees, according to a poll by Small Business Majority, a national nonprofit small business advocacy organization.

Small Business Majority's national survey of 619 small business owners with fewer than 50 employees shows how entrepreneurs view two critical components of the healthcare law — small business tax credits and insurance exchanges.

The survey found that 33 percent of employers who currently don't offer insurance said they'd be more likely to do so because of the tax credits. Another 33 percent of respondents not offering insurance said they'd be more likely to because of insurance exchanges. The results for employ-

ers already providing benefits are almost identical.

"These findings are very encouraging," said John Arensmeyer, the chief executive officer of Small Business Majority. "Once small business owners learn about the tax credits and insurance exchanges, they realize these provisions will help them provide insurance to their workers, many for the first time ever. However, many employers don't know these provisions exist, so it's imperative to continue getting the word out so they can take advantage of these benefits."

Among the survey's other findings:

- An average of 31 percent of respondents — including 40 percent of businesses with three to nine employees — who currently offer health insurance said the tax credits will make them more likely to continue providing insurance.

- Nearly one-third (31 percent)

of respondents already offering insurance said the exchange makes them more likely to continue offering it.

- Only 31 percent of small business owners are very or somewhat familiar with the exchange, and 67 percent are a little or not at all familiar with it.

- The margin is smaller when asked about the small business tax credit: 43 percent of respondents are very or somewhat familiar with it, and 56 percent are a little or not at all familiar with this provision of the law.

The small business tax credits allow businesses with fewer than 25 employees that have average annual wages under \$50,000 to get a tax credit of up to 35 percent of their health insurance costs beginning in tax year 2010.

Insurance exchanges, which go into effect in 2014, are online marketplaces where small businesses and individuals can band together to purchase insurance.

Jobs Act yields more than \$12 billion in SBA lending over three months

Special to the Herald

WASHINGTON — SBA Administrator Karen Mills has announced that as of Dec. 31 the agency had approved more than \$10.3 billion in loan guarantees which supported more than \$12 billion in lending to small businesses since President Obama signed the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 on Sept. 27.

The Jobs Act included an extension of reduced fees and higher guarantee loan enhancements in the agency's two largest loan programs.

In a statement, Mills noted that SBA moved quickly to get these critical loan dollars in the hands of small businesses and just three months later all of the \$505 million in subsidy provided in the Jobs Act to support the loan enhancements has been utilized by the agency's national network of

lending partners.

In light of that, the SBA has activated the SBA loan queue to ensure that any remaining funds that result from loan cancellations in the coming weeks are redirected to new Jobs Act loans.

"In just three months since the Small Business Jobs Act was signed into law, SBA supported more than \$12 billion in lending to small businesses and entrepreneurs across the country," Mills said. "SBA is on the front lines with small business owners and our lending partners every single day. I'm very proud that as a result of those close relationships and partnerships we were able to quickly put this significant amount of capital into the hands of our nation's largest job creation engine."

"The loan enhancements of higher guarantees and reduced fees first implemented as part of

the Recovery Act have been a vital resource for tens of thousands of small businesses at a critical time when lending markets had dried up. Beginning in February 2009, these loan enhancements engineered a significant turnaround in SBA lending, including driving record-high levels of SBA lending in recent weeks. The end result is that the agency helped put more than \$42 billion in the hands of small businesses through the Recovery Act and Jobs Act combined.

"These enhancements have been a key piece of the Obama Administration's efforts to help small businesses drive our nation's economic recovery. As we transition back to our standard guarantees and fee rates, SBA loan programs will continue to play an important role, as they

See **SBA**, Page 5B

Suddenlink, Viacom reach agreement

Special to the Herald

Suddenlink and Viacom have announced they've reached an agreement in principle on a long-term contract in which Viacom channels will continue to be carried by Suddenlink.

In addition, EPIX will be made available to Suddenlink customers in the next few months, cable officials noted.

EPIX provides consumers with the latest Hollywood movies, 15,000 films from three of the top motion picture libraries and cutting-edge original programming on television, on demand and on-

line, exclusively in HD and SD.

Specific terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Suddenlink officials said they wanted to thank customers for their patience and support during the negotiations and assure them that, as a result of the agreement, there will be no changes to the recently announced rate adjustments for Suddenlink's most-popular services.

The company, officials said, will absorb any difference and customers will have a choice about whether or not they want EPIX.

In addition to EPIX, the new agreement covers all of the Viacom networks included under the prior agreement.

Of those networks, the seven typically featured on Suddenlink's widely available expanded basic service are MTV, Nickelodeon, TV Land, Comedy Central, Spike TV, VH1 and CMT.

The others are featured on optional digital services and include Logo, Palladia HD, Nick Jr., TeenNick, NickToons, Nick2, MTV Hits, MTV2, MTV Jams, Tr3s, VH1 Classic, VH1 Soul and CMT Pure Country.

Energy Watch



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

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



Happy new year! We hope you are as excited about 2011 and the start of a new decade as we are. After the "lost" decade for stocks from 2000-2010, we certainly expect a better show in the next 10 years. And we believe there are compelling reasons to be cautiously optimistic about the prospects for investing this year.

As outlined last week, history seems to be on our side. Specifically, the third year of a presidential term is typically the strongest one for the stock market.

Furthermore, going all the way back to World War II, the third year of economic recovery (which we will be entering come March, given that the stock market hit bottom in March of 2009), has on average seen a plus-10 percent return for stocks.

Here are some other reasons we feel compelled to hope for the best in 2011, based on a "report card" from the latter part of 2010.

The U.S. economy grew faster than previously estimated in the third quarter of 2010.

Optimism concerning the recovery has risen over the past six weeks, as economic data seems to show consumers spending more freely and businesses curbing layoffs.

The 2010 holiday shopping season appeared to go pretty well for retailers, even though consumer spending in the third quarter was lower than the government had anticipated. A revival of consumer spending is expected to take root in 2011, thanks in part to the tax legislation just signed into law.

Our nation's gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 2.6 percent in the third quarter, compared with a previous estimate of 2.5 percent and actual GDP growth of only 1.7 percent in the second quarter of 2010.

Exports have been strong and businesses have been spending more than expected to restock their shelves. Hopefully, this indicates that they anticipate stronger sales ahead.

Economic forecasters have been increasing their growth projections both for the fourth quarter of 2010 and for 2011.

Indeed, eight banks and private economic-research firms surveyed by the Wall Street Journal have raised their growth estimates for the fourth quarter from 2.6 percent to 3.5 percent.

The National Association of Realtors recently reported that U.S. sales of existing homes rose 5.6 percent in November from a month earlier. Furthermore, the average price for an existing home was up for the first time since August and by 0.4 percent from a year earlier.

Still, it would be naive not to acknowledge that the housing market remains weak. There is a large glut of unsold homes, and roughly a third of existing homes sold were in financial distress (such as foreclosure status or a sale price less than the amount owed).

Hopefully, this collective economic data translates into less fear about a double-dip recession.

Therefore, until we have reason to believe otherwise, we see the 2011 investment cup as half-full.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of Wells Fargo or its affiliates. Additional information is available upon request by calling 432-684-7335.

Public Records

Justice of the Peace
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 Irene Lopez Alaniz, 774 E. Highway 80, Abilene
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 Aleman, Lisa Beth, 201 N. Beaugar, Stanton.
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 Tina Diane Whitlow, 1407.5 Settles, Big Spring
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 Mandy Shae Wilson, 210 10th St., Sterling City
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 Chad Matthew Wright, 211 E. Robinson, Big Spring
 Jerry Lee Wrightsil, 2816 Ridge Rd., Fort Worth
 Lorenzo Ferrera Yanez, 211 Channing St., Big Spring
 Dennis Anthony Zaragoza, 4534 Sinclair, Big Spring

Marriage Licenses:
 Jose Gilberto Hernandez Jr., 18, and Anjelica Breanne Doport, 18, both of Big Spring
 John Jesus Solis, 25, and Monica Ida Castillo, 25, both of Big Spring
 Josephy Lee Necaise, 22, and Kyndra Leshea Pennington, 19, both of Big Spring
 Kealy Jean Sartor, 31, and Leslie Marie Marcell, 31, both of Big Spring

District Court Filings:
 Natalie Hughes vs. David Roy Hughes, divorce
 Annette Torres vs. Freddy Hinzjosa, protective order
 Minnie Ruth Salazar vs. John William Salazar, protective order

Warranty Deeds:
 Grantor: Jennifer Marie Lewis aka Jennifer Marie Lewis Berry
 Grantee: Chuck Rosenbaum
 Property: Lot 9, block 11, Washington Place addition
 Date: Dec. 30, 2010

Grantor: Don and Linda Baker
 Grantee: Wade and Dorothy Shanks
 Property: Tract out of east part of lot 5, block 6, Washington Place addition
 Date: Dec. 30, 2010

Grantor: Big Spring Leasing LP
 Grantee: Kerr Management Inc.
 Property: Tract out of section 31, block 33, T-1-N, T&P RR survey
 Date: Dec. 27, 2010

Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien:
 Grantor: Don Baker
 Grantee: Casey Marshall
 Property: Tract out of east part of lot 5, block 6, Washington Place addition

SBA

Continued from Page 4B

have for decades, in helping entrepreneurs and small business owners start or grow their businesses and create jobs.

"The Small Business Jobs Act is the most consequential piece of legislation affecting small businesses enacted in more than a decade. While we are proud of how quickly SBA could provide \$12 billion in capital to small businesses, we remain focused on implementing other key provisions of this law that will continue to expand access to capital, help small businesses compete for federal contracting dollars, strengthen small business exports and provide other critical support."

During the quarter, SBA approved nearly 22,000 small business loans for \$10.47 billion, supporting a total of \$12.16 billion in lending. The amounts are

greater than the volume for Jobs Act loans over the same period because they exclude some loans that were not eligible for one or more Jobs Act enhancements.

SBA expands access to capital for small businesses by providing government-guarantees on loans made by commercial lenders. The Small Business Jobs Act extended higher

guarantees and reduced fees on its two most popular loan programs, enhancements first enacted in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

From Feb. 17, 2009, when the Recovery Act was signed, through Sept. 30, 2010, the SBA approved more than \$22.5 billion in loan guarantees, which supported more than \$30

billion in lending small businesses, due to the loan enhancements put in place by the Act. The enhancements were funded with approximately \$680 million in subsidy funds provided during the period.

Following the extension of the enhancements in the Jobs Act, the agency approved an additional \$10.3 billion in loan guarantees.

TRACTORS

Continued from Page 4B

crops. The new technology remains untested, he said, so he was skeptical about the government's and manufacturers' rosy claims.

That's why, when he needed a new tractor last month, he bought a used model for about

\$60,000.

"The newer ones, there's a lot more stuff to go wrong. They're a lot more complicated," he said. "I like having a clean environment as much as anyone, but the tractors we've been using don't seem to be ruining the environment."

He paused, then added, "I'm not looking forward to having a Tier 4."

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The Big Spring Herald is looking for an individual to sell The Living Magazine. If you like people, have sales experience (advertise sales a plus), are a team player, have dependable transportation, are organized, pay attention to details, are creative, and like to make money, we want to talk to you. We offer benefits, paid vacation, mileage reimbursement, base salary plus commission.
Apply in person at 710 Scurry send resume to: Big Spring Herald Advertising P.O. Box 1431 Big Spring, TX 79721 or email resume to: rick@thebigspringherald.com

CARING HEARTS Home Health will be taking applications for a Clerical Position. Extensive Computer and Home Health knowledge desired. Come by 1900 Scurry.

Help Wanted

Attention Permian Basin Residents- The PBRPC has received funding to provide vocational training for green occupations. Training is available in HVAC, Wind Technology, and Home Building Performance. Classes will begin soon and 100% of all fees are paid. Apply at <http://popnarc.macrointernational.com/permianprescreen.cfm> or call 432-262-4915 to see if you qualify. EEO Employer, auxiliary aides available.
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Must have valid Texas Drivers License, will train, Come by 1711 Snyder Hwy., Pick up application. No phone calls please.

CITY OF BIG SPRING

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Water Treatment-Plant Operator
Animal Control Warden
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Human Resources Technician
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For more information go to www.mybigspring.com, or apply in person in the Human Resources Office located at 310 Nolan.
(432)264-2346.

HOME MEDICAL Equipment Company looking for dependable honest delivery driver for Big Spring area. Please call for appointment. (432)967-3823.

Help Wanted

CROSSROADS MIX Beverage Bar----- Hiring waitresses, bartenders, bar backs and bussers. Apply in person at 3101 S.Hwy 87 between 1-3pm, Mon.-Fri.. Must be 21 and over, experience preferred but not necessary.

DISABILITY SERVICES of the Southwest is looking to hire personal care attendants for disabled male in his home, Big Spring area, to assist him with daily needs. Day, evening, and weekend shifts are available. Must be CPR certified and 18 years old; call (432)550-6900 for further information. EEO



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Help Wanted

HEALTH/NURSE AIDE needed. Greater Opportunities of the Permian Basin, Inc.- Project Head Start has an opening for a Heath/Nurse Aide. Duties include assisting the nurse with providing health services to Head Start students as well as assisting in all other areas as needed. Applications can be downloaded at: www.gopb.org or apply at GOPB's HR Department, 206 W. 5th St, Odessa TX 79760. GOPB is an equal opportunity employer.

HIGGINBOTHAM BARTLETT is now hiring for CDL driver and warehouse/rental positions. Both must have clean driving record and be able to pass drug screen and criminal background check. Warehouse/rental needs experience with small engine repair. No phone calls please. Apply in person at 1900 E. FM 700.

Live-in Caregiver for Elderly Near Ackerly Texas. Female, speak Spanish, driver's license, references, pass background and drug screening. Salary, room and board. Email cylrhem@bellsouth.net Call (904)864-1667.

NEED PART/TIME, full/time and substitute caregivers for busy Christian preschool. Must be 18 or over, have experience or education in early childhood education and be able to pass a criminal history and FBI fingerprint check. Apply in person at 118 Cedar Rd.

NEED SOMEONE with a CDL to work a few hours a week driving a school bus for a Christian preschool. Must have an excellent driving record, and be able to pass a criminal history check and FBI fingerprint check. Apply in person at 118 Cedar Rd.

PARKVIEW NURSING and Rehab now hiring charge Nurse for 10pm-6am shift. Competitive pay plus benefits. Great family working environment. Apply in person at 3200 Parkway or on-line at www.parkviewnursing.net

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Help Wanted

PARKVIEW NURSING and Rehab is now taking applications for an Admissions/Marketing Director *Must have strong organizational skills and computer knowledge *Must have strong people skills and be outgoing *Must be self-motivated *Must be able to travel and have own dependable transportation *Must have high school diploma but college degree and/or college classes is preferred *Must be flexible. Most weekends off. Great working environment and benefits. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway.

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THE COLORADO River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following positions.

Central Control Operator - Responsible for monitoring water flows, pressures, and tank levels using SCADA system. Perform administrative support including recording readings, monitoring phones, and basic data entry. Basic computer skills including Excel needed. This position involves shift work. CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave. Applications are required and are available at the District's office, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, by calling (432)267-6341, or our website www.crmwd.org

TEACHER AIDE needed. Greater Opportunities of the Permian Basin, Inc.- Project Head Start has an opening for Teacher Aide. Duties include assisting the teacher and act as an assistant teacher in guiding Head Start children. Will also serve as a bus monitor. Requires High Diploma or GED. Applications can be downloaded at: www.gopb.org or apply at GOPB's HR Department, 206 W. 5th St, Odessa TX 79760. GOPB is an equal opportunity employer.

BUY-SELL-TRADE In the Big Spring Herald Classifieds 263-7331

Help Wanted

TEACHER NEEDED. Greater Opportunities of the Permian Basin, Inc.- Project Head Start has an opening for Teacher. Duties include provide the Head Start child with experiences that are age appropriate by directing classroom activities in a healthy, clean and safe environment which promotes the development of self-esteem and independence. Requires a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education or closely related field. Applications can be downloaded at: www.gopb.org or apply at GOPB's HR Department, 206 W. 5th St, Odessa TX 79760. GOPB is an equal opportunity employer.

Instructional HOT ITEM!!

Bellydance class starting Tuesday January 4th Big Spring YMCA 7:30pm. Ladies 18-80. \$45/month. Contact Victoria 432-230-5456 (after 12/28) or victoria.white.cotton@gmail.com for information.

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OWNER WILL finance- 603 Circle, 2 bdr, 1 bath, CH/A. \$3000. Down, \$400. month. Call Elaine (432)230-8022.

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Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

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Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT

SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC., 9 GREENWAY PLAZA, SUITE 1300 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77046, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation in the West Howard (G-S) Unit Lease Well Number 03-13W. The well is located 14.9 miles north of Garden City, TX in the Howard Glasscock filed in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000 to 3200 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin TX, 78711-2967 (Telephone 512-463-6792). #6832 January 9, 2011

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT

SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC., 9 GREENWAY PLAZA, SUITE 1300 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77046, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation in the West Howard (G-S) Unit Lease Well Number 08-24W. The well is located 15.1 miles north of Garden City, TX in the Howard Glasscock filed in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000 to 3200 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin TX, 78711-2967 (Telephone 512-463-6792). #6837 January 9, 2011

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT

SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC., 9 GREENWAY PLAZA, SUITE 1300 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77046, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation in the West Howard (G-S) Unit Lease Well Number 03-18W. The well is located 14.9 miles north of Garden City, TX in the Howard Glasscock filed in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000 to 3200 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin TX, 78711-2967 (Telephone 512-463-6792). #6834 January 9, 2011

Legals

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF HOWARD By virtue of an ORDER OF SALE issued out of the District Court of Howard County, Texas, pursuant to judgment rendered in 118th Judicial District Court of Howard County, Texas, by the District Clerk of said Court, in the hereinafter numbered and styled suits and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff of said County, I did on the 30th day of December, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., levy upon and will proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder at public auction on the 1st day of February, 2011, being the first Tuesday of said month beginning at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on said day, at the North Courthouse door of said County, all the right, title, and interest of the Defendants in such suits in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said Defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Howard and the State of Texas, to-wit:

CAUSE NO. STYLE PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

T-5878 Howard County, et al vs. RIC Investment Corporation A 0.408 acre tract of land, designated as Lot No. 33, of Balch Subdivision No. 7, out of the S/2 of Sc. 32, Bk 32, T1N, T&P Ry. Co. Surveys, Howard County Texas

T-5842 Howard County, et al vs. Marcus Ortiz Lts 1 & 3-4, Bk 5, Sunset Adn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-5811 Howard County, et al vs. A.K. Webb, Lorene Webb, Richard A. Webb, Mary A. Knapp and Donald E. Webb All of Lts 4-6, Bk 2, Wright's Airport Adn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-5316 Howard County, et al vs. Emily M. Roberts Lt 3, Bk 4, Lakeview Adn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-5136 Howard County, et al vs. Salvador Aguilar and Angela Aguilar Lt 1, Bk 5, Hathcock Heights Adn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-5031 Howard County, et al vs. Heriberto Gutierrez and wife, Lorensa Lopez Gutierrez Lt 13, Bk 2, Wright's Airport Adn, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-5385 Howard County, et al vs. H.P. Kirchner, III a TRCT out of Section 39, Bk 32, T-1-N, T&P Ry. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas; SAVE & EXCEPT

Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment(s) rendered in the above styled and numbered cause(s), together with interest, penalties and costs of suit, and the proceeds of said sales to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

Witness my hand this 30th day of December, 2011. Stan Parker SHERIFF OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: Deputy PROPERTY ADDRESSES SHOWN ARE NOT GUARANTEED. PROSPECTIVE BUYERS SHOULD SATISFY THEMSELVES AS TO THE ACTUAL LOCATION OF THE PROPERTY

PROSPECTIVE BUYERS SHOULD CHECK TITLE RECORDS FOR METES AND BOUNDS DESCRIPTIONS OF PROPERTY AND TO DETERMINE STATUS OF TITLE PURCHASERS AT THIS SALE WILL RECEIVE A DEED TO THE PROPERTY 'AS IS', WITHOUT WARRANTY OF TITLE

EACH PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO ANY RIGHT OF REDEMPTION PURSUANT TO VTCA PROPERTY TAX CODE § 34.21.

#6831 January 9, 16 & 23, 2011

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT

SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC., 9 GREENWAY PLAZA, SUITE 1300 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77046, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation in the West Howard (G-S) Unit Lease Well Number 06-18W. The well is located 15.2 miles north of Garden City, TX in the Howard Glasscock filed in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000 to 3200 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin TX, 78711-2967 (Telephone 512-463-6792). #6835 January 9, 2011

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT

SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC., 9 GREENWAY PLAZA, SUITE 1300 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77046, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation in the West Howard (G-S) Unit Lease Well Number 08-27W. The well is located 10.6 miles north of Garden City, TX in the Howard Glasscock filed in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000 to 3200 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin TX, 78711-2967 (Telephone 512-463-6792). #6840 January 9, 2011

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT

SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC., 9 GREENWAY PLAZA, SUITE 1300 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77046, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation in the West Howard (G-S) Unit Lease Well Number 03-17W. The well is located 15.4 miles north of Garden City, TX in the Howard Glasscock filed in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000 to 3200 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin TX, 78711-2967 (Telephone 512-463-6792). #6833 January 9, 2011

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT

SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC., 9 GREENWAY PLAZA, SUITE 1300 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77046, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation in the West Howard (G-S) Unit Lease Well Number 08-25W. The well is located 15.1 miles north of Garden City, TX in the Howard Glasscock filed in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000 to 3200 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin TX, 78711-2967 (Telephone 512-463-6792). #6838 January 9, 2011

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT

SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC., 9 GREENWAY PLAZA, SUITE 1300 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77046, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation in the West Howard (G-S) Unit Lease Well Number 01-82W. The well is located 15.4 miles north of Garden City, TX in the Howard Glasscock filed in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000 to 3200 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin TX, 78711-2967 (Telephone 512-463-6792). #6843 January 9, 2011

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT

SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC., 9 GREENWAY PLAZA, SUITE 1300 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77046, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation in the West Howard (G-S) Unit Lease Well Number 06-19W. The well is located 15.1 miles north of Garden City, TX in the Howard Glasscock filed in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000 to 3200 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin TX, 78711-2967 (Telephone 512-463-6792). #6836 January 9, 2011

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT

SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC., 9 GREENWAY PLAZA, SUITE 1300 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77046, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation in the West Howard (G-S) Unit Lease Well Number 08-32W. The well is located 15.3 miles north of Garden City, TX in the Howard Glasscock filed in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000 to 3200 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin TX, 78711-2967 (Telephone 512-463-6792). #6841 January 9, 2011

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT

SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC., 9 GREENWAY PLAZA, SUITE 1300 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77046, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation in the West Howard (G-S) Unit Lease Well Number 08-26W. The well is located 15.1 miles north of Garden City, TX in the Howard Glasscock filed in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000 to 3200 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin TX, 78711-2967 (Telephone 512-463-6792). #6839 January 9, 2011

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT

SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC., 9 GREENWAY PLAZA, SUITE 1300 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77046, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation in the West Howard (G-S) Unit Lease Well Number 08-33W. The well is located 15.3 miles north of Garden City, TX in the Howard Glasscock filed in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000 to 3200 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin TX, 78711-2967 (Telephone 512-463-6792). #6842 January 9, 2011

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Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT Apache Corporation, 303 Veterans Airpark Lane, STE 3000, Midland, TX 79705...

The Capricorn sun tends to illuminate the bottom line. Before any action is taken, there is an intellectual and emotional assessment to determine what tangible advantage can be gained from the experience.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Merely being in the vicinity of a certain person changes your whole outlook and experience.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your essence radiates beyond what is contained in your skin. The

substance of the stars shines through your every cell, and the light reaches to the far corners of the universe.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will be in harmony with someone who knows how to bring out the best in you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Be wary of anyone who is just saying what he or she thinks you want to hear.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Ask for what you really want, and you'll get it. If you ask for what you think you should want, it's not the same thing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are your own best opponent. You offer just the challenge that will be most motivating.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

best you've ever done.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you give, it obligates the other person to reciprocate — but that's not why you do it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's no joy in getting credit for something you didn't do. You'll be praised for one thing when you really ought to be recognized for something else entirely.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Keep it real. Just because you are being yourself does not mean everyone will accept you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Having a greater number of relationships (or virtual relationships, as the case may be) might mean you are popular, but it doesn't necessarily mean you're happier.

closest relationships now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). To get closer to someone, you must depend on this person and have this person depend on you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The need to please is a kind of disease that separates you from who you really are.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 9). You'll travel this year and grow from your experience. You'll surmount the obstacle that was holding you from harmony.

long been forgotten?), the energy of Capricorn is anything but. When the sun is in Capricorn, there is a sense of purpose in the atmosphere.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Famous royal fiance and Capricorn Kate Middleton is scheduled to marry Prince William of Wales on April 29, 2011, at Westminster Abbey.

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC., 9 GREENWAY PLAZA, SUITE 1300, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77046...

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC., 9 GREENWAY PLAZA, SUITE 1300, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77046...

Legals

No. P-13,918 ESTATE OF C. L. GOOCH, DECEASED IN THE COUNTY COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS

Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Winifred Grace Patterson, Deceased, were issued on January 4, 2011...

Legals

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below...

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC., 9 GREENWAY PLAZA, SUITE 1300, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77046...

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC., 9 GREENWAY PLAZA, SUITE 1300, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77046...

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Doug Peterson Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Heavy hitter 6 "Sounds good" 10 Key in a corner 14 Sphere 15 Cross starter 16 Euclid's home 17 Range fixture 18 Big East member 19 Collector's item? 20 Compressor attachments 22 Beau coup 24 Toon first drawn in the '40s 26 Try to persuade 27 Al's sister in three films 28 Emoticon alternative 29 Sawdust-filled kid-lit character 31 Swedish eponymous botanist 35 Former US territory 37 John Wayne film setting, for short 38 Tub filler 39 Fly, perhaps 40 What Hepburn called Tracy 43 Name from the Gaelic 44 Lower oneself, in a way 46 A in science 48 Whodunit stock character 52 Some megafauna 53 Rising currents 55 Has power over

- DOWN 1 Mariner's group 2 Daisy relative 3 Drafty places? 4 Wonder's output, maybe 5 Overly complex 6 1983 Pritzker Prize winner 7 Rib-joint servings 8 Major defense contractor 9 Celebrated 10 Seven Cities of Gold seeker 11 Angle symbol in geometry 12 Really ride 13 Natural cleaner 21 Service-academy boss, informally 23 Old French poetic form 25 First of the Biblical high priests 26 Bay sound 30 "Uh oh!" 32 Put off 33 "Amber waves of grain" area 34 Set apart 36 Hornbill's voice in The Lion King 40 Is prone 41 Wire room 42 Came through 45 Base figure: Abbr. 47 Samuel Richardson novel 48 Gets going 49 "Unreal!" 50 Pretty, in Mexico City 51 Butler of fiction 54 Deferral 57 Name associated with fins

Crossword grid with numbers 1-64 indicating starting positions for clues.

Answer to previous puzzle

Word search grid with words like ALOHA, WEBER, LEM, CAVIL, ADORE, AXE, etc.

State Office Constr./Maint. Division 200 E. Riverside Dr. Austin, Texas 78704 Phone: 512-416-2540 Dist/Div Office(s) Abilene District District Engineer 4250 N. Clack Abilene, Texas 79604-0150 Phone: 325-676-6800 Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin. #6829 January 9 & 16, 2011

NOBODY ASKS FOR IT Help STOP Sexual Assaults Call 263-3312 Rape Crisis Services/Big Spring

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Annie's Mailbox®

Dear Annie: Five years ago, I became friends with "Jim." As our friendship deepened, it turned into something more. I've never had a relationship with such mutual respect and understanding. We even started a business together.

The problem is, Jim is married. From the beginning, he made no promises, and I had no expectations that he would change his life for me. I've dated a few other people during this time, which has made Jim extremely jealous. And, frankly, my love for Jim has made it impossible for me to fully open myself up to anyone else.

After all this time, I want to stop worrying about getting caught. I know I should walk away, but with our mutual business interests, that would be both difficult and suspicious. And even if we did try to end things, our constant contact would make it nearly impossible to keep our personal distance.

Jim's youngest child graduates in June, and I suspect he may be more willing to get out of his marriage then. Unfortunately, it's not soon enough. Every day that goes by makes me more afraid of someone finding out, which would cause irreparable damage to multiple areas of my life and his. What do you suggest?

—**Sweet Sue**
Dear Sue: You won't get caught if there is nothing to catch. There are ways to extricate

yourself from a jointly owned business without raising suspicions if you do it for logical reasons, supported by sound legal advice. Find a way. If Jim wants out of his marriage, that is up to him, but you should not be encouraging him or wasting your life waiting. We know it won't be easy, but it sounds as if you've reached your limit. Good.

Dear Annie: I am a well-educated young female with a good job, great family and a loving boyfriend. I have everything I need to be happy except close friends.

Where does one go to meet new people? At the office, I'm surrounded by significantly older people with grown families. And I don't think a bar is the appropriate place to "pick up" friends. My boyfriend and I crave the company of a nice couple our own age. What do you suggest?

— **Female Seeking Friendship**

Dear Female: Most churches and synagogues have social groups, especially for young couples. Try them out. Check your park districts and community centers for book clubs, art classes, hiking clubs. Do some volunteer work or stuff envelopes for a political candidate. You have to get out of your work-and-home circle in order to find new people who share your interests. And those "significantly older people" at the office?

Get to know them. Maybe their children are your age.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Nervous in the Nutmeg State," whose neighbor likes to mow her lawn and she wants to report him to the police.

She seems a bit con-trolling, and she obviously has too much time on her hands. Perhaps she could bake a batch of cookies and take them to her neighbor as thanks for mowing. When

one extends a kindness or responds with kindness, ill-will can dissipate and, over time, conversation will develop. Once she has a neighborly connection, she may find it easier to ask the guy to stop mowing. Or she may find she appreciates it.

This guy may be old, retired and lonely. Maybe mowing keeps him busy. Perhaps she could meet with other neighbors and let them know how kind he is, and then suggest they invite him to mow their lawns, too. — **Focusing on the Good**

Dear Focusing: You are probably right. Still, "Nervous" has already asked the guy to stop, and since she is

home alone all day, his unexpected presence is making her uncomfortable. There may be no reason to worry, but these days, you never know.

Dear Annie: This is for "Concerned Teacher," whose 9-year-old pupil rubs herself against her seat all day

long. I am a school psychologist. If sexual abuse has been ruled out, she should simply treat it like any other publicly unacceptable behavior, the same way you would treat a child picking his nose in

class. However, kids often engage in self-pleasure when anxious. So the first step should be to track the behavior and see if it happens when certain subjects are taught. The teacher and parents should talk to the child about a signal to let her know when she is doing it because she may not be aware of it at the time.

Another point is to make sure she doesn't have a learning or cognitive disability. Students with mild cognitive disabilities sometimes do not understand the social inappropriateness of this behavior. — **A School Psych**

Dear School Psych:



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

tain foods, etc.) that is causing itching or discomfort. Infections and/or exposure to allergens can come and go, even over several years. A child may say nothing to her parents because she may not realize her symptoms are not normal, and she may have become accustomed to them.

Texas: We had the same situation with a pupil at our school. The girl's third grade teacher came up with a solution. She met with the student and her mother, and found a simple gesture the teacher could use to signal the student when the behavior was happening. In this case, the teacher tapped her own chin with her finger. It was so subtle, no one else was even aware of it, but the student knew to stop the behavior. When the child entered my fourth grade class, this information was passed on to me, and I only had to signal her once.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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- 2009 Ford F250 Crew Cab 4X4 FX4 - Silver w/Leather, V-10, Local One Owner w/10,000 Miles. Stk# 2567A-1. Was \$38,995 **NOW \$36,995**
- 2009 Lincoln MKX Limited - Pearl White w/Leather, Panoramic Roof, Navigation, One Owner w/44,000 Miles. Stk# 2512A. Was \$35,995 **NOW \$33,995**
- 2008 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT 4X4 Diesel - Red w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner, w/34,000 Miles. Stk# 22571A. Was \$37,995 **NOW \$35,995**
- 2008 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Arizona Beige w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/28,000 Miles. Stk# 2657A. Was \$27,995 **NOW \$25,995**
- 2007 Ford F1560 Supercrew XLT - Arizona Beige w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/33,000 Miles. Stk# 2516A. Was \$27,995 **NOW \$25,995**
- 2007 Lincoln MKZ - Amythyst w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner And 37,000 Miles. Stk# 2438A. Was \$24,995 **NOW \$22,995**

★★★ TRUCKS ★★★

- 2010 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Red w/Camel Cloth, All Power, Program Truck w/9,000 Miles. Stk# 5064FP. Was \$29,995 **NOW \$27,995**
- 2009 Dodge Ram 2500 Quadcab SXT 4WD - White w/Cloth, 5.7 Hemi, One Owner w/27,000 Miles. Stk# 2544A. Was \$29,995 **NOW \$27,995**
- 2008 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat 4X4 - Black w/Black Leather, Navigation, Moonroof, One Owner. Stk# 2639A. Was \$34,995 **NOW \$32,995**
- 2006 Ford F250 Crew Cab Diesel Lariat - Red w/Tan Leather, All Power, 72,000 Miles. Stk# 2534A. Was \$27,995 **NOW \$24,995**
- 2006 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Arizona Beige w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned. Stk# 2672A. Was \$20,995 **NOW \$18,995**
- 2005 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Gray w/Cloth, 5.4 V-8, All Power, One Owner, Lots Of Miles, But Nice. Stk# 1335A. Was \$12,995 **NOW \$9,995**
- 2010 Chevrolet Silverado Crew Cab LTZ - 6.2 V-8, Black With Charcoal Leather, ONLY 1,400 Miles, Local One Owner Trade-In, Just About New. Was \$35,995 **NOW \$34,995**
- 2003 Ford F150 Supercab XL - White, V-8, One Owner w/49,000 Miles. Stk# 2458C. Was \$11,995 **NOW \$9,995**
- 2003 Ford F250 Crew Cab XL - White, V-8, One Owner. Stk# 1673C. **NOW \$9,995**

★★★ CARS ★★★

- 2010 Lincoln MKZ - Sterling Gray With Leather, Fully Equipped Local One Owner, Chrome Wheels, Luxury. Stk# 5075P. Was \$30,995 **NOW \$28,995**
- 2010 Ford Focus SE - White With Tan Cloth, Automatic, FORD PROGRAM UNIT, 23k Miles, All Power w/Cruise. Stk# 5085FP. Was \$16,995 **NOW \$15,995**
- 2010 Ford Focus SEL - Natural Color With Light Leather Interior, Power Sunroof, 21k Miles, FORD PROGRAM UNIT, Chrome Wheels, Fully Equipped. Stk# 5082FP. Was \$18,995 **NOW \$17,995**
- 2010 Mercury Grand Marquis LS - Tan With Leather Interior, Factory Wheels, 13K Miles, Excellent Ride And Fuel Economy, FORD PROGRAM UNIT. Stk# 5081FP. Was \$22,995 **NOW \$21,995**
- 2010 Lincoln Towncar Signature Limited - Beautiful Light Tan With Neutral Interior, Chrome Wheels, Only 10K Miles, FORD PROGRAM UNIT. Stk# 5080FP. Was \$34,995 **NOW \$32,995**
- 2010 Ford Fusion SEL V-6 - Blue With Leather Interior, Pwr Sunroof, Chrome Wheels, SYNC, FORD PROGRAM UNIT. Stk# 5079FP. Was \$20,995 **NOW \$22,995**
- 2010 Ford Focus SES - Medium Red w/Gray Leather, Power Sunroof, Factory Wheels, Ford Sync System, All Power. Was \$18,995 **NOW \$17,995**
- 2010 Ford Fusion SE - Medium Red w/Gray Leather, Silver w/Gray Cloth, Ford Sync System, 15,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 **NOW \$19,995**
- 2010 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series - White w/Tan Leather, All Power, Program Car w/9,700 Miles. Stk# 5074FP. Was \$34,995 **NOW \$32,995**
- 2007 Chrysler Sebring Limited - Blue w/TanLeather, Local One Owner w/27,000 Mile. Stk# 2587A. Was \$16,995 **NOW \$14,995**
- 2007 Honda Civic LX 2-DR Coupe - Gold w/Cloth, One Owner w/43,000 Miles. Stk# 26450A. Was \$14,995 **NOW \$12,995**
- 2006 Nissan Maxima SE - Black w/Leather, Moonroof, All Power, Local One Owner w/52,000 Miles. Stk# 2655A. Was \$19,995 **NOW \$17,995**
- 2004 Ford Mustang GT - Silver, Black Leather, 4.6 V-8, Manual Transmission, 66,000 Miles. Stk# 2692A. Was \$13,995 **NOW \$11,995**
- 2004 Volkswagen Jetta GLS - Red w/Leather, Manual Transmission. Stk# 2648A. Was \$8,995 **NOW \$6,995**
- 2004 Mazda 6 4-DR i - White w/Tan Leather, All Power, 59,000 Miles. Stk# 2648A. Was \$10,995 **NOW \$8,995**
- 2004 Nissans Maxima SL - Black w/Gray Leather, Moonroof, All Power, Local One Owner w/73,000 Miles. Stk# 2530A. Was \$14,995 **NOW \$12,995**
- 2003 Mustang GT - Black w/Black Leather, Manual Trans., 4.6 V-8, Local One Owner, w/65,000 Miles. Stk# 5071FPA. Was \$12,995 **NOW \$10,995**
- 2001 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series - White w/Leather, All Power, Nice Car. Stk#2565B. Was \$9,995 **NOW \$8,995**

★★★ SUV'S ★★★

- 2010 Ford Flex Limited AWD - Sterling Gray With White Top, Neutral Leather Interior, Third Row Seating, Navigation System, DVD System, Rear A/C, Heated Seats, FORD PROGRAM UNIT, Only 18K Miles. Stk# 5086FP. Was \$33,995 **NOW \$32,995**
- 2010 Ford Explorer Eddie Bauer 2WD - Cinnamon w/Tan Bottom, Tan Leather Interior, Power Folding 3rd Row Seats, Rear A/C, FORD PROGRAM UNIT, only 16K Miles. Stk# 5066FP. Was \$29,995 **NOW \$28,995**
- 2010 Mercury Mountaineer 2WD - White With Beige Leather Interior, Rear A/C, Dual Pwr/Heated Seats, SYNC, Fold Flat 3rd Row Seating, FACTORY PROGRAM UNIT, Only 19K Miles. Stk# 5083FP. Was \$28,995 **NOW \$27,995**
- 2003 GMC Envoy SLT - White With Gray Leather, Chrome Wheels, Excellent Condition. Stk# 2679A. Was \$12,995 **NOW \$11,995**
- 2007 Ford Expedition EL Limited - Pearl White With Leather, DVD, Power Third Row Seats, Local One Owner. Stk# 2689A. Was \$30,995 **NOW \$29,995**
- 2010 Ford Explorer XLT - Silver w/Cloth, Dual Air, 3rd Row Seat, Program Unit w/21,000 Miles. Stk# 5066F. Was \$26,995 **NOW \$24,995**
- 2010 Ford Escape XLT - Gray w/Cloth, All Power, V-6, Program Unit w/17,000 Miles. Was \$23,995 **NOW \$21,995**
- 2008 Chevrolet Tahoe LT - Pewter w/Leather, Dual Air, All Power, One Owner w/42,000 Miles. Stk# 2706A. Was \$31,995 **NOW \$29,995**
- 2006 Ford Freestyle SE - White w/Tan Trim, All Power, One Owner w/66,000 Miles. Stk# 2623A. Was \$14,995 **NOW \$12,995**
- 2006 Nissan Pathfinder LE - Black w/Leather, All Power, One Owner w/60,000 Miles. Stk# 1629A. Was \$24,995 **NOW \$19,995**
- 2005 Ford Freestyle SEL - Black w/Gray Sweep, All Power, Local One Owner w/73,000 Miles. Stk# 2529A. Was \$12,995 **NOW \$10,995**
- 2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer LS 4X4 - White w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/51,000 Miles. Stk# 2383C. Was \$14,995 **NOW \$12,995**
- 2004 Nissan Murano SE - White, All Power, Stk# 1798A. Was \$14,995 **NOW \$8,995**
- 2004 Freestar Mini Van - White w/Tan Sweep, Leather, All Power, 84,000 Miles. Stk# 2517A. Was \$11,995 **NOW \$9,995**
- 2004 GMC Yukon XL SEL - Maroon w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner. Stk# 1377A. Was \$14,995 **NOW \$11,995**
- 2008 Chrysler Aspen Limited - Black, All Power, Local One Owner w/83,000 Miles. Was \$19,995 **NOW \$16,995**

Happy Happy New Year To You And Your Families

Bob Brock Ford Lincoln

Report: More young people are winding up in nursing homes



MATT SEDENSKY
Associated Press
SARASOTA, Fla. — Adam Martin doesn't

fit in here. No one else in this nursing home wears Air Jordans. No one else has stacks of music videos by 2Pac

and Jay-Z. No one else is just 26.

It's no longer unusual to find a nursing home resident who is decades younger than his neighbor: About one in seven people now living in such facilities in the U.S. is under 65. But the growing phenomenon presents a host of challenges for nursing homes, while patients like Martin face staggering isolation.

"It's just a depressing place to live," Martin says. "I'm stuck here. You don't have no privacy at all. People die around you all the time. It starts to really get depressing because all you're seeing is nega-

tive, negative, negative."

The number of under-65 nursing home residents has risen about 22 percent in the past eight years to about 203,000, according to an analysis of statistics from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. That number has climbed as mental health facilities close and medical advances keep people alive after they've suffered traumatic injuries. Still, the overall percentage of nursing home residents 30 and younger is less than 1 percent.

Martin was left a quadriplegic when he was accidentally shot in

the neck last year by his stepbrother. He spent weeks hospitalized before being released to a different nursing home and eventually ended up in his current residence, the Sarasota Health and Rehabilitation Center. There are other residents who are well short of retirement age, but he is the youngest.

The yellow calendar on the wall of Martin's small end-of-the-hall room advertises activities such as arts and crafts. In the small common room down the hall, a worker draws a bingo ball and intones, "I-16. I-one-six." As Martin maneuvers his motorized wheelchair through the hallway, most of those he passes have white hair and wrinkled skin.

"It's lonely here," Martin says, as a single tear drips from his right eye.

Martin exchanges muted hellos with older residents as he travels down the hall to smoke outside. His entire daily routine, from showering to eating to enjoying a cigarette, is dictated by the schedules of those on whom he relies for help.

He usually wakes up late, then waits for an aide to shower him, dress him and return him to his wheelchair. He watches TV, goes to therapy five days a week and waits most days for his friend to bring him meals.

He mostly keeps to himself, engaging in infrequent and superficial conversations with his elders.

Martin's parents are unable to care for him at home. His father is a truck driver who is constantly on the road, and his stepmother is sick with lupus. Medicaid pays his bills; it could take a lawsuit for him to get care outside a nursing home.

Advocates who help young patients find alternatives to nursing homes say people are often surprised to learn there are so many in the facilities. About 15 percent of nursing home residents are under 65.

"When I tell people I try to get kids out of nursing homes, they have no idea," says Katie Chandler, a social worker for the nonprofit Georgia Advocacy Office.

Federal law requires states to provide alternatives to institutional care when possible, though its implementation varies from place to place. Navigating the system can require a knowledgeable advocate and, sometimes, litigation.

Not all younger nursing home residents are there for good. Some nursing homes are seeing an increase in patients who come to recover there instead of in a hospital, because it is cheaper for their insurance company.

Like Martin, many younger residents have suffered a traumatic injury. Others have neuromuscular diseases such as multiple sclerosis, or have suffered a stroke.

Brent Kaderli, 26, of Baytown, Texas, became a quadriplegic after a car accident in 2006. He hopes rehabilitation will help him gain enough strength to move into an assisted living facility and eventually, to an apartment with his girlfriend.

He shares his nursing home room with an older man who suffers from dementia. It is not ideal, but because his parents' home is not modified to accommodate his wheelchair, he thinks it's the only option right now.

"Just knowing that one day I will be better, I'm still hoping and praying for that. In the meantime, I think about my family and my friends, what I used to be able to do, and I stay sad a lot," he says. "This is probably the best that I could have at this point."

The same generational tensions that exist outside nursing homes are inside them as well, and are sometimes exacerbated by the often close confines.

Older residents complain about loud music and visitors, younger residents complain about living with someone with dementia or being served creamed spinach. Many nursing homes try to house younger residents together, though in many cases their small numbers make that difficult.

For young people who find themselves newly disabled, the psychological and social needs are often even more challenging than their physical demands. That presents a challenge for nursing homes that are used to serving people near the ends of their lives.

At Bayshore Health Center in Duluth, Minn., 34 of the 160 residents are younger people, all living in private rooms in their own wing. The staff has found that subtle changes can improve their lives.

Instead of bingo night, there are poker games and outings to nightclubs. For someone who stays up late watching a movie, breakfast can be served at 10 a.m., rather than 7 a.m. Pizza is offered in place of lasagna; Mountain Dew and Coke are poured instead of coffee and tea.

Still, many younger residents sink into depression because of their physical limitations, their loneliness and their nursing home surroundings.

"For them it's a life sentence. When you're 40 years old you know you're never getting out. This is the way your life will be forever and ever. Amen," says Diane Persson, a gerontologist who has written about the boom in younger nursing home residents.

Martin fears that may be true for him. He used to look forward to joining the Army and earning a college degree in science or engineering. Now he simply looks forward to visits from his friend Paul Tuttle, who on this day brings him nachos he feeds him along with sips of water.

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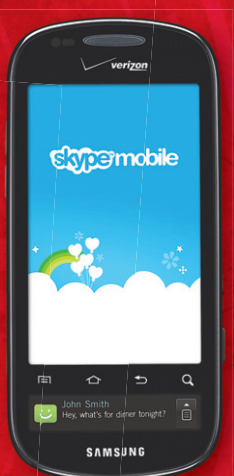
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