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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY
 JANUARY 12, 2011



50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

VOLUME 106, NUMBER 35

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Terminated

By 5-2 decision, council ends push for term limits

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

When it comes to putting the idea of term limits before the voters, the Big Spring City Council has had a change of heart.

By a 5-2 vote Tuesday, the council rejected a resolution that would have put a term limit proposition on the ballot during May's municipal elections. The vote comes weeks after the council gave its preliminary approval to the measure by a scant 4-3 majority.

Council members Terry Hansen and Stephanie Horton, who had supported the measure earlier, joined Joann Staulcup, Gloria McDonald and Man-



Big Spring City Council members Craig Olson, left, and Terry Hansen listen to remarks during the group's meeting Tuesday night.

uel Ramirez Jr. in voting against the proposition. Mayor Tommy Duncan and Craig Olson voted in favor of putting the measure on the May ballot.

A somber Duncan told the council it was selling the citizens of Big Spring short by not putting the measure on the ballot.

"I cannot express how utterly disappointed I am that this council is refusing the citizens the right to vote on such a significant issue," Duncan said.

Hansen said feedback from his constituents convinced him to change his mind.

See **LIMITS**, Page 3A



Hailey Dunn

Affidavits suggest mom, her boyfriend suspects

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

COLORADO CITY — Information obtained through the Freedom of Information Act regarding search warrants executed in the case of missing 13-year-old Hailey Darlene Dunn may indicate the teen's mother and her live-in boyfriend are suspects in the case, according to Abilene's KTXS Channel 12.

According to a report from Merlin Mann, a reporter with KTXS, copies of the affidavits filed by law enforcement officials to secure a number of search warrants in the case have revealed some startling details concerning what was found in the Dunn home.

According to the affidavits:

- Adkins had threatened the lives of both Hailey Dunn and Billie Dunn in February 2010.
- Both Adkins and Billie Dunn apparently held an ongoing,

See **MISSING**, Page 3A

Proposal would get historic Municipal Auditorium open

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

If all goes well, the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium will be back in business by early next year.

The auditorium, which was shuttered in February 2009 as the result of accessibility issues, may have a new lease on life, thanks to an architectural proposal that will address the concerns which forced the building's closure.

Assistant City Manager Todd Darden told the Big Spring City Council during its Tuesday night meeting that the proposal, drawn up by architects with the firm of Parkhill, Smith and Cooper, could be completed using funds already set aside for auditorium renovation.

PSC architect Phil Furqueron said the plan would address the following accessibility issues:

- Ramps, walkways and handrails will be added



to the east side entrances, while the existing steps will be pushed back.

- More handicapped accessible parking spaces will be added.
 - Unobstructed-viewing seating for wheelchair occupants will be added.
 - Restrooms will be reconfigured.
 - The stage will be extended and the orchestra pit will be covered.
 - The stage will be accessible via ramp.
 - Backstage areas, including
- See **STAGE**, Page 3A

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www.bigspringherald.com

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BSISD trustees to discuss possibility of a fourth new elementary campus

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District trustees will discuss the possibility of adding a fourth new elementary campus to the district's construction to-do list when they meet at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.

When voters approved \$60

million in construction bonds in May, original plans called for the the building of three new elementary campuses and extensive renovation of Moss Elementary, among other projects.

However, the cost of renovating Moss vs. replacing the building has narrowed to the point that the district may be

able to build four new campuses and still stay within the financial guidelines approved by voters.

Earlier this month, BSISD Superintendent Steven Saldivar said renovating Moss will cost between \$9.7 million and \$10 million, which erecting a new campus will cost around \$11 million.

One of the options officials are looking at to eliminate that gap is to have BSISD personnel perform some of the construction work, which would allow the district to add another campus while staying within the financial boundaries set by voters in

See **BSISD**, Page 3A


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Obituaries

Luis James Vasquez



Luis James Vasquez, 44, of Big Spring died Monday, Jan. 10, 2011, at his residence. Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. The family will receive friends immediately following the service.

He was born June 23, 1966, in Big Spring. He had been a field supervisor for Plains All American Pipeline. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring.

He is survived by his son, Luis J. Vasquez Jr. of South Korea; daughter, Samantha J. Vasquez of Big Spring; mother, Teresa Vasquez of Big Spring; one brother, Frank Vasquez of Tyler; and three sisters, Cindy Talamantez and husband Jesse of Big Spring, Sylvia Torres and husband Sammy of Midland and Lisa Reyes of San Angelo.

He was preceded in death by his father, Pancho Vasquez. The family will receive friends at 4108 Dixon.

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

Take Note

- American Legion Post 506 will hold a fish fry from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the post home, 33203 W. Highway 80. Carry outs are welcome and delivery is available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084.

- 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 Retirement Center.

- Mobile Meals is in need of volunteers to deliver meals to the homebound elderly in Big Spring. If you can donate at least one hour a week, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016 and leave a message.

- Big Spring's own Charley Johnson will be inducted as a member of the 2010 Class into the Texas Sports Hall Of Fame on Feb. 7, 2011, in Waco. If you can't attend but would like to list your name in an official program ad that congratulates Charley for this momentous achievement, contact Ken Johnson at 940-325-4366 for details or e-mail at kenrocknj@suddenlink.net. If you want to attend the ceremonies, contact Ken about discount tickets.

- An account has been set up to help Bob and Jeanine Fishback with Bob's medical and travel expenses: Bob Fishback Medical Account 915967, Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union, 1110 Benton, Big Spring 79720. For more information, call 263-8393.

- A fund has been established at Citizen's Credit Union for the Lupe Chavarria family, which lost all of its possessions in a house fire. For more information, contact the credit union at 267-6373.

- Do you have a minute? An hour? How about making a difference in someone's life? Become a hospice volunteer. One hour a month can make a difference. Whether it visiting a patient, or working in the office, or helping with a craft, you can make a difference. We can work around your schedule. If interested, please call Michelle Coutermarsh, at Compass Hospice, 263-5999 or apply in person at 1003 E. FM 700 in Big Spring.

- Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. Thursdays at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Bring this note when you join and receive a box of Weight Watchers snacks through Oct. 31. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

- Big Spring Band Boosters meet the second Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the BSHS Band Hall. All band parents are welcome.

- The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We currently have 55 children in foster care without a volunteer. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering please contact Suzy Milliken at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

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Police blotter

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

- ADALBERTO EDDIE DELEON JR., 48, of 312 N.E. Eighth St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid - no insurance.

- MICHAEL DALE PARKER, 25, of 1202 Lloyd St., was arrested Tuesday on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility (three counts), driving while license invalid, no driver's license - when unlicensed (two counts), noise, speeding and failure to appear.

- KENNETH KIRK KIRKHAM, 42, of 2600 Carol, was arrested Tuesday on charges of driving while license invalid - DWI related and possession of drug paraphernalia.

- HOLLEY DENISE JENNINGS, 25, of 1405 Tucson, was arrested Tuesday on charges of theft with two or more convictions - shoplifting less than \$1,500 (three counts) and possession of drug paraphernalia.

- RONNIE LEE DELP, 64, of Fort Worth, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.

- THEFT was reported:
In the 1800 block of E. FM 700.
In the 1100 block of Lloyd Avenue.
In the 200 block of W. FM 700.
- ASSAULT was reported in the area of Goliad Intermediate School.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 64 inmates at the time of this report.

- ADALBERTO EDDIE DELEON JR., 48, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

- MICHAEL DALE PARKER, 25, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to maintain financial responsibility and municipal warrants for driving while license invalid, no driver's license (two counts), city ordinance - excessive noise, speeding, failure to maintain financial responsibility (two counts) and failure to appear.

- HOLLY DENISE JENNINGS, 25, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of theft with two or more convictions - shoplifting less than \$1,500 (three counts) and possession of drug paraphernalia.

- KENNETH KIRK KIRKHAM, 42, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension and possession of drug paraphernalia.

- RONNIE LEE DELP, 64, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

- KRISTEN SHANEE MARMALEJO, 18, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft of property.

- STEPHANIE JUAREZ, 17, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to attend school (two counts) and theft of property.

Fire/EMS

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

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 900 block of S. Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported near the intersection of Third Street and Goliad. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

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Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 1/14	Sat 1/15	Sun 1/16	Mon 1/17	Tue 1/18
61/34 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	63/37 Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	69/41 Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.	73/33 Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 30s.	63/31 Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 6:03 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 6:04 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 6:05 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 6:06 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 6:06 PM

Texas At A Glance



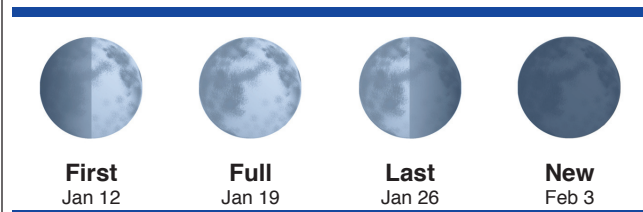
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	57	38	pt sunny	Kingsville	65	53	rain
Amarillo	54	26	cloudy	Livingston	55	42	cloudy
Austin	49	46	rain	Longview	49	41	cloudy
Beaumont	54	44	pt sunny	Lubbock	59	28	cloudy
Brownsville	66	58	rain	Lufkin	55	41	cloudy
Brownwood	55	41	cloudy	Midland	62	33	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	61	54	rain	Raymondville	68	55	rain
Corsicana	50	41	cloudy	Rosenberg	57	48	cloudy
Dallas	50	41	cloudy	San Antonio	55	50	rain
Del Rio	58	43	pt sunny	San Marcos	50	46	rain
El Paso	62	34	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	49	40	cloudy
Fort Stockton	64	36	pt sunny	Sweetwater	58	37	pt sunny
Gainesville	48	35	cloudy	Tyler	48	39	cloudy
Greenville	47	37	cloudy	Weatherford	50	37	cloudy
Houston	56	48	cloudy	Wichita Falls	55	34	cloudy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	41	24	mst sunny	Minneapolis	20	15	sn shower
Boston	25	12	pt sunny	New York	27	17	pt sunny
Chicago	27	22	cloudy	Phoenix	70	43	sunny
Dallas	50	41	cloudy	San Francisco	61	52	pt sunny
Denver	48	30	cloudy	Seattle	51	48	rain
Houston	56	48	cloudy	St. Louis	32	28	pt sunny
Los Angeles	75	51	sunny	Washington, DC	34	25	pt sunny
Miami	71	56	pt sunny				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Fri 1/14	Sat 1/15	Sun 1/16	Mon 1/17	Tue 1/18
4	4	4	4	4
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

Support Groups

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.

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LIMITS

Continued from Page 1A

"This is probably the hardest decision I've ever had to make as part of the city council," Hansen said. "On a personal basis, I'm against term limits at this level of government, but I did not have a problem with the voters having a say, and I still don't have a problem with them having a say. Having said that, after I received call after call after call (from people opposing

the term-limit election), that weighed heavily in my decision (Tuesday)."

Hansen said term limits, especially at the local level of government, does little more than limit the number of opportunities for people to serve their community.

"Everyone on this council is serving for (little or no money)," he said. "This is basically a service — it is not a vocation or an avocation. I merely offer my services to the people of District 6."

Horton said she changed

her mind after talking with constituents and representatives from the League of United Latin American Citizens.

"They told me, 'We have a chance to (limit a representative's terms) every time we go to the polls. That's what we have elections for,'" Horton said. "And if you still want term limits, you can get your petition drive started."

Faced with the apparent shift in council opinion, Duncan nevertheless remained steadfast in his support for the measure, although he

said he would not bring the matter up before the council in its current composition.

"It should be the voters' decision, not ours," Duncan said. "And I'm going to do everything in my power to give them a voice in making decisions on major issues facing this community."

In other business Tuesday, the council approved:

- Emergency reading of resolutions allowing the city to move ahead on pavement improvement projects at the city airport and continue the

city's contribution to the Dispute Resolution's Juvenile Accountability Program.

- First reading of a resolution that would allow the city 90 days before formally responding to Oncor's request for a rate increase.
- An agreement with Big Spring Independent School District to jointly hold elections this May.

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

MISSING

Continued from Page 1A

intense fascination with horrific films and brutal crimes. Seized in a box in their bedroom were numerous documents, some fictional and some past crimes, that covered such topics such as serial killers, ax murders, sexual sadistic activities, the occult, sex and death topics, motives for murder and mass murderers — including the killing of family members.

• Billie Dunn and Adkins hosted a number of friends for a New Year's Eve party at their home — just three days after Billie Dunn reported Hailey missing. Adkins downplayed the party, stating they just had a few friends over to the house to have drinks on New Year's Eve.

• Billie Dunn volunteered to take a polygraph examination, but when she arrived, she was found to be "under the influence of narcotics," and she was dismissed from the test at that time. On her second attempt, the investigators concluded there was "deception indicated." After the examination, Billie Dunn was given the chance to discuss and explain "why she failed the examination." Officials said she couldn't explain them, and she ended the interview by walking out.

• Adkins twice refused to take polygraph examinations. Then he agreed

to a polygraph, but after providing some inconsistent information, he ended this polygraph by walking out. Officials said he failed the polygraph, particularly concerning the whereabouts of Hailey.

- During his polygraph examination, before walking out, Adkins provided some positive reaction about knowing where Hailey Dunn is. Indications were that Hailey may be in Scurry County.

- Adkins and Billie Dunn made two withdrawals of cash from an ATM machine in Snyder, in Scurry County, at about 6:20 p.m. on Dec. 27 totaling \$140. They told investigators the money was for purchasing drugs.

- Numerous statements made by both Adkins and Billie Dunn, particularly Adkins, have been inconsistent, some with initial denials, then admissions, then changed statements.

Officials also reported several inconsistencies in both Billie Dunn and Adkin's stories regarding their whereabouts on the morning Hailey Dunn went missing. According to reports, Adkins told investigators he was fired the morning of Dec. 27, a statement his employer has since denied, describing him as a good employee.

According to statements given by Adkins, he left his place of employment at 6:10 a.m. Dec. 27, headed to Big Spring. However, according to affidavits, his cell phone was in contact with towers in Scurry County from

6:35 a.m. until 6:56 a.m., at which time he was allegedly traveling to Big Spring.

Billie Dunn's statements were also contradicted, as she allegedly left for work in Snyder at 6:20 a.m., although her phone remained in contact with the same towers as Adkin's during the same time period of 6:35 a.m. until 6:56 a.m.

KTXS also reported Clint Dunn, Hailey's father, told investigators his 16-year-old son, David, arrived at the Dunn home at approximately 4 p.m. According to Clint Dunn, David pounded on the door of the residence for approximately five minutes with no answer before climbing in a window.

According to Dunn, David then encountered Adkins in the home's hallway with what he described as a "deer in the headlights look."

As the affidavits become public knowledge, an official with the Texas Department of Public Safety said a miscommunication earlier in the week may have led West Texas residents to believe the 13-year-old girl missing from Colorado City was in hiding, a situation that has neither been confirmed or unconfirmed.

DPS Senior Trooper Sparky Dean issued the statement this week after reports were made by the Abilene Reporter News he had told students at Colorado Middle School that Hailey Dunn was believed to be alive and in hiding.

"I want to clarify for the miscommunications I have caused," Dean wrote. "Hailey Dunn has not been found and we are still actively pursuing leads in her disappearance. There is no evidence that supports the assertion that Hailey Dunn is a runaway or is hiding."

Dunn 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 reports issued by Interim Colorado City Police Chief John Bivins.

Since Dunn's disappearance gained national attention, searches have been conducted all over Colorado City, as well as the area between it and Dunn, a tiny community north of Colorado City. According to investigators involved with the case, at least nine agencies — including the FBI and Secret Service — totaling more than 30 law enforcement officers are currently working on the investigation.

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.

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

STAGE

Continued from Page 1A

ing restrooms, will be renovated.

In addition, terraces will be added next to the southeast entrance to eliminate erosion problems.

Darden said the main drive of the plan's proponents was to address the accessibility issues without drastically changing the auditorium itself.

"We're trying not to disturb the historical qualities of the auditorium," he said. "This plan won't address every sin-

gle issue, but it would allow us to reopen the auditorium, and it leaves us avenues for future improvements."

Money for the renovation will come from \$500,000 in city funds already set aside for the project.

"We looked at secur-

ing grants and other avenues, as well," Darden said. "But I think with the \$500,000, we can at least get the building back open."

Assuming the city council gives its formal blessing to the proposal, Darden said he's hopeful the auditorium can be reopened to the public either late this year

or early in 2012.

"We're hoping to open it back up in time for the start of the (Big Spring) Symphony's next season," he said.

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

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

May.

Already, BSISD has put its personnel to work on one of the bond projects — constructing new classrooms at the junior high — Saldivar said.

Moss, which was built in 1966, is the youngest of the current elementary campuses.

Saldivar said keeping the public up to date on the bond projects will be an ongoing priority for the district.

"We are going to hold a public hearing, probably in February, to discuss the entire bond package," he said. "We are going to keep everyone informed on what's

happening."

Also Thursday, trustees will consider the issuance of the last of the construction bonds.

When the bonds were first sold in September, officials kept \$6.7 million of the total in abeyance, hoping to qualify for federal funds that featured extra-low interest rates.

With current rates near all-time lows, however — and with several conditions tied to the federal money — trustees will likely sell the last of the bonds on the open market.

"We were very far down on the (waiting list for the federal money), so we're going to go ahead and sell the bonds," Saldivar said. "And with (the federal program), there's a lot of government regulations we'd have to follow."

In other business Thursday, trustees will consider:

- Approval of an ordinance calling for trustee

elections on May 14.

Two seats — District 1, currently held by Irene Galan, and District 3, where Alan Partee is the incumbent — will be up for election this year, officials said.

First day to file candidacy papers in Feb. 14.

- The 2009-2010 audit.
- Personnel matters.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331

ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

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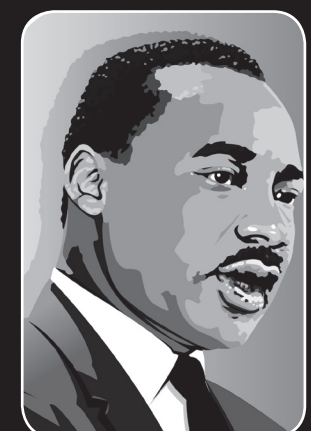
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MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
 24th & Johnson 267-8288
 Deborah De Ax, 56, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.
 Luis Vasquez, 44, died Monday. Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

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A Salute to Dr. King and His Legacy



The following Financial Institutions will observe the following in observation of Martin Luther King's Day

- Big Spring Community FCU **CLOSED**
- Citizen FCU **CLOSED**
- State National Bank **OPEN**
- Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. **CLOSED**
- Western Bank **CLOSED**

Compass Hospice Guiding You on Your Final Journey
10 Things You Need to Know About Hospice
Question: Isn't Hospice a place?
Answer: No. Hospice is a service that brings care into your own home.
Question: What does Hospice provide?
Answer: Medication, equipment (such as oxygen) and supplies.
Question: When do you qualify for Hospice Care?
Answer: Most people get hospice care too late. **You can qualify as much as 6 months earlier!**
Question: Don't most people die at home?
Answer: 70-80% of Americans die in facilities. Hospice patients get their wish to die at home.
Question: Can Hospice patients die in a hospital?
Answer: If the patient chooses to, the hospice staff will make the arrangements.
Question: Will entering a Hospice make you die sooner?
Answer: Statistical studies show that Morphine eases pain but does NOT shorten life.
Question: Do patients admitted to hospice ever improve?
Answer: Yes, some patients actually improve and in time, are discharged from hospice.
Question: Isn't Hospice only for Cancer patients?
Answer: Hospice services are available for anyone who has a life-limiting illness.
Question: Is Hospice care expensive?
Answer: Medicare and most Medicaid insurances cover hospice at 100%.
Question: Does this mean "giving up"?
Answer: Hospice focuses on living...living as fully as possible up until the end of life.
Hospice care is a necessary service that many people never receive.
 There are myths about hospice that keep people from getting this specialized and compassionate care when they need it most.
 Compass Hospice will guide you through this journey.
 For any additional info or questions, please contact us.
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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

Bill McClellan
News Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

Tell us how your pet is truly No. 1

People love their pets, that's a given. As a matter of fact, we're reasonably certain millions of dollars are spent across the country simply on people's pets.

And now we're interested in hearing why our online readers think their pets are tops.

If you haven't noticed, the *Herald's* online edition has made a number of changes in recent months, and one of them is the Pet Pal page.

To find the Pet Pal page, go to www.big-springherald.com and either use the entertainment button at the top of the page or scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the Pet Pal button under Entertainment.

There you'll find a number of photos of pets that readers have entered on the page and at the very bottom (once again, you'll need to scroll down the page), there's a button entitled "Tails in Town" that asks our readers to share with us why your pet is No. 1 and encourages them to "spread the word!"

Once you click on that button, all you'll have to do is login and the site will direct you to give us your pet's name and tell us its story in 90 words or less.

Once the story is submitted, our editor will edit the submission and approve it for publishing. All entries will be approved.

The story will then be published on the site below the "Tails in Town" module. The module is already up and running on www.big-springherald.com, so check it out.

We're waiting to hear from you.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we incorporate Your ideas, Lord, into our daily life.

Amen

First casualty not partisanship

How do we react to the horrific murders of Christina Green, 9; John Roll, 63; Gabe Zimmerman, 30; Dorothy Morris, 76; Dorwin Stoddard, 76; and Phyllis Schneck, 79; and the shooting of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., and 13 others?

For one thing, we can refuse to engage in political opportunism. There's been too much of that.

Before any relevant facts about the alleged shooter were in, *New York Times'* columnist Paul Krugman posted a blog in which he admitted that he had no proof that the right was involved, but blamed Sarah Palin anyway for targeting the Democratic congresswoman's district in "crosshairs." MSNBC host Keith Olbermann did likewise.

Slate's Jack Shafer put that trick to rest when he wrote, "For as long as I've been alive, crosshairs and bull's-eyes have been an accepted part of the graphical lexicon when it comes to political debates. Such 'inflammatory' words as targeting, attacking, destroying, blasting, crushing, burying, knee-cap-

ping, and others have similarly guided political thought and action. Not once have the use of these images or words tempted me or anybody else I know to kill."

There's been opportunism on the right as well. Before the blood was even dry, some conservatives leaped at the opportunity to wallow in their beloved role as victim. On CNN's "Reliable Sources," radio talk-show host Steve Malzberg said that after he got a CNN alert about the shooting, he turned to his son and remarked, "Wait — five minutes, they're going to blame talk radio."

Malzberg offered up tit-for-tat quotes from the left — including President Obama's remark, "If they bring a knife to the fight, we bring a gun." Proving what? We know that Palin's "crosshairs" is a phony excuse to dish out blame.

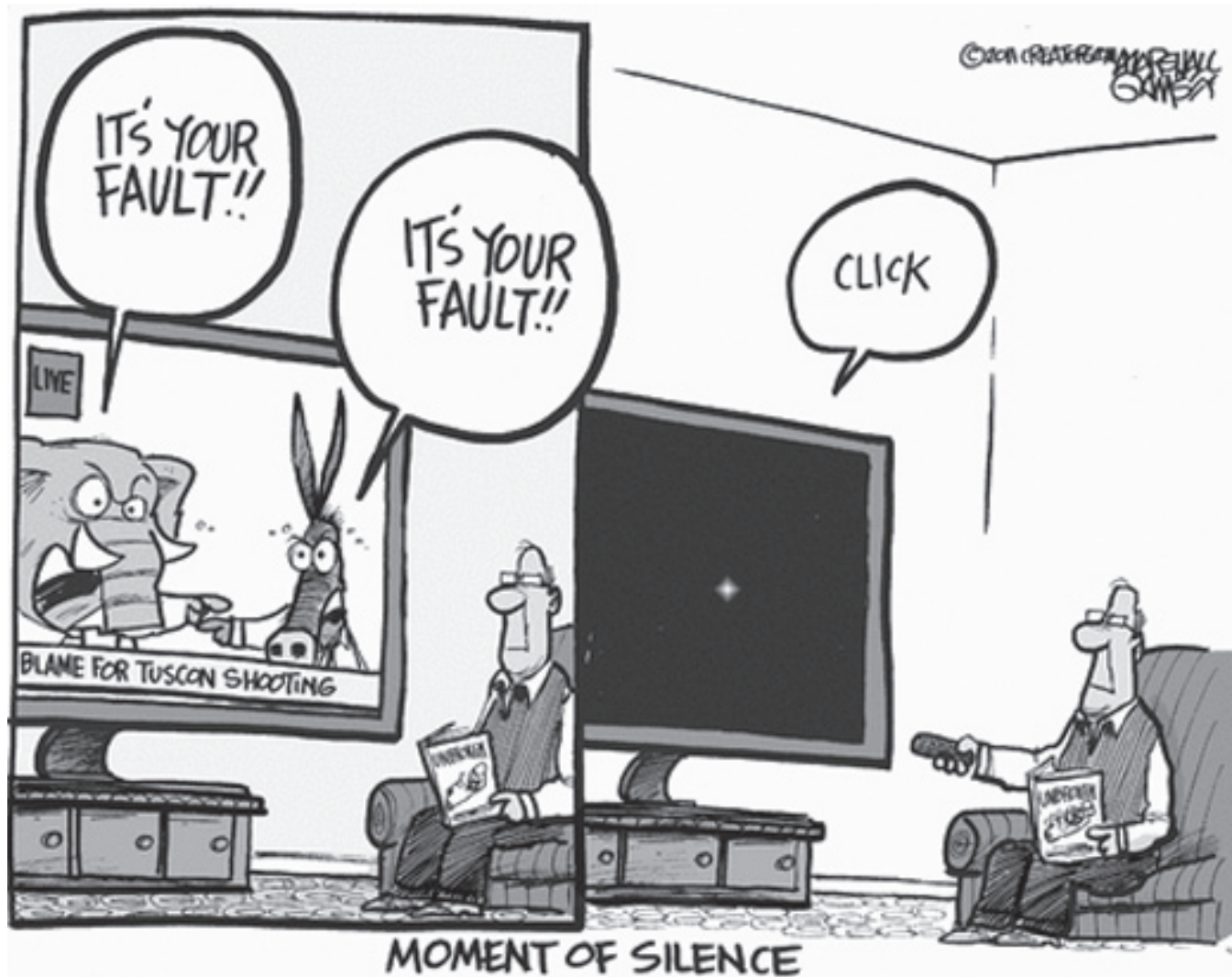
So why show that Republicans can be equally as craven?

I've decided not to use the accused shooter's name because that's what he wants.

As of this writing, there is nothing tying this loser to the tea party movement or the GOP — and he wasn't shy about airing his views. Yes, he listed "Mein Kampf" as one of his favorite books. He also listed "The Communist Manifesto." From what we know now, he appears



DEBRA SAUNDERS



Crazy gunman, but a political attack

House Speaker John Boehner seemed truly appalled by the murderous rampage against Democratic Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and constituents at a supermarket in her Tucson, Ariz., district. But the Republican's contention that this was "an attack on all who serve" wasn't quite right.

The apparent gunman, Jared Lee Loughner, may be a 22-year-old loner and is probably insane, but his attack was not against "all who serve." It was on a Democrat who had been vilified by a gun-waving right wing that Boehner's party tolerates and feeds with self-pitying visions of oppression.

In the wake of the Tucson tragedy, Republican House Majority Leader Eric Cantor wisely decided to postpone the scheduled vote to repeal health care reform. No issue has been more subject to his party's violence-tinted theatrics than has this one.

It's not easy to reject legislation that guarantees health care security while trimming hundreds of billions off projected deficits — and all in the service of corporate interests.

To pull it off, Republicans had to distract the confused and angry tea party folk with ravings about loss of freedom, a shredding of the Constitution and the

need to take up arms.

So it wasn't shadowy fringe elements accusing Democrats of creating government-run death panels in their health care reform. Establishment figures from Grand Old Party — the "nice" Iowan Sen. Charles Grassley — painted paranoiac images of government pulling the plug on grandma.

On the health care legislation, Sarah Palin said last March: "It's undemocratic. It's un-American," and was being "crammed down our throats."

Speaker Boehner, politics may be a rough sport, and nastiness does come from all sides. But Democrats have no Palin-like figure putting political opponents in the cross hairs of gun sights, as she had placed Giffords' district in her famously repulsive graphic.

There is no Democratic version of Giffords' recent Republican opponent, who ran the following sicko notice: "Get on Target for Victory in November. Help remove Gabrielle Giffords from office. Shoot a fully automatic M16 with Jesse Kelly."

Listen to the language employed by Jeff McQueen, a tea party "leader" widely interviewed on national radio. A self-proclaimed defender of the "House of Liberty," McQueen told NPR: "We have a choice of four boxes if we want to make political change in this country. We can go to the soap box, we can go to the ballot box, or we can go to the jury box, and hopefully, we won't have to go to the bullet box."

An astonished show host Tom

to have no partisan leanings, only a sick desire for infamy.

Longtime friend Bryce Tierney told Mother Jones that the accused shooter became obsessed with Giffords after he attended a 2007 "Congress on Your Corner" event and she failed to answer his bizarre question, "What is government if words have no meaning?"

Tierney, who described the alleged shooter as nonideological, thinks his friend's motive was "mainly to just promote chaos. He wanted the media to freak out about this whole thing."

So how do the media react? Lacking any solid evidence tying conservative speech to the suspect, CNN reporters and media scolds pronounced that Arizona's political "climate" was a factor. "Climate" in this story is a code word for: no proof.

With a precious 9-year-old girl and five others dead, and an energetic congresswoman and other shooting victims recovering, this country has suffered a tremendous loss. On the left and the right, some partisans are determined to use this tragedy to defame their political enemies.

It seems that as a country, we have forgotten how to mourn.

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

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Ashbrook responded: "Bullet box! Are you talking about armed revolution?"

McQueen answered in his blankly confident way, "Have you seen ammunition sales in the last 12 months?"

A weird comment from an insignificant player? During the recent campaign, the Republican senatorial candidate in Nevada, Sharron Angle, spoke of "domestic enemies" in Washington. A tea party favorite, she added, "I hope we're not getting to Second Amendment remedies."

Given this normalization of violent rhetoric by a mainstream party, it was only inevitable that a psychopath with a semiautomatic would get pushed off his shaky edge.

That he landed on a Norman Rockwellian "Congress on Your Corner" event, run by the gentle and moderate Gabby Giffords, makes the outrage all the more grotesque.

Loughner didn't put a bullet through the head of just any public servant, but one subjected to repeated threats, one whose office was vandalized after she voted for the health care bill. Loughner may be crazy, but his choice of officeholder was hardly random.

So no, Speaker Boehner, that massacre wasn't about "us" who serve the people. It was about Democrats operating in a political environment his party helped poison.

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Nation/world news in brief

Australia floods turn Brisbane into watery ghost town; 20,000 homes expected to be swamped

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Emergency sirens blared across Australia's third-largest city Wednesday as floodwaters that have torn a deadly path across the northeast poured into an empty downtown, swamping neighborhoods in what could be Brisbane's most devastating floods in a century.

The surging, muddy waters reached the tops of traffic lights in some parts of Brisbane, and the city's mayor said at least 20,000 homes were in danger of being inundated.

At least 22 people have died and more than 40 are missing across Australia's northeastern state of Queensland since drenching rains that began in November sent swollen rivers spilling over their banks, flooding an area larger than France and Germany combined. Brisbane, the state capital with a population of 2 million, is the latest city to face down the waters, and officials expect the death toll to rise.

On Wednesday, Brisbane residents who had spent two days preparing took cover on higher ground while others scrambled to move their prized possessions to the top floors of their homes. Some stacked furniture on their roofs.

The Brisbane River is expected to reach its highest point on Thursday. After days of bad news in which figures were constantly being revised, the Bureau of Meteorology late Wednesday delivered a small and rare positive forecast — the floodwaters would crest about a foot (30 centimeters) lower than earlier thought.

New York City keeps schools open, armies of emergency workers hit the streets to fight snow

NEW YORK (AP) — Up and down the East Coast, armies of emergency workers with plows and salt spreaders are hitting the streets as the snowstorm that caused mayhem in the South moved into the region, dumping more than a foot in some areas overnight.

New York City says its public school system will remain open despite the snow, but schools were shut elsewhere, including Philadelphia, Boston and most of Connecticut.

New York City public schools have only closed six times since 1978.

School Chancellor Cathie Black made the announcement at 5 a.m. Wednesday. But she says all field trips planned for the day will be canceled.

Snow started falling late Tuesday. It's stopped in Philadelphia but is still coming down in New England and New York City. By 4 a.m. Wednesday, 8.8 inches had fallen on Central Park.

AP-GfK Poll: Obama, Republicans in Congress get higher marks after season of compromise

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans give higher marks to President Barack Obama and congress-

sional Republicans after a holiday season of compromise paid dividends for both, according to the latest Associated Press-GfK poll.

At the start of the divided government era, the survey found that 53 percent of Americans approve of how Obama is doing his job, his best numbers since the divisive health care vote 10 months ago.

And, compared with just after the November elections, more now express confidence that Obama and the new Republican-controlled House can work together to solve the country's most urgent problems, chief among them the struggling economy.

"It's going to be difficult because there are some bleeding-heart liberals way over on the left and some uptight conservatives," said Spirit Fliege, 83, a Republican from Brentwood, Calif.

"It's going to take someone who can operate very smoothly. Whether Obama can or not, we don't know."

Most people, according to the poll, now are putting their faith in Republicans to implement the changes needed to fix the economy.

But a majority also now view the Democrats favorably, an oddity just two months after voters dealt Obama's party what he called "a shellacking" in congressional elections.

U.S. vice president in Pakistan to strengthen vital alliance in terror fight

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Vice President Joe Biden met with Pakistan leaders Wednesday as part of American efforts to get Islamabad to intensify the fight against Islamist militants sheltering along the Afghan border.

Biden's one-day trip comes amid fresh reminders of American's challenges in the unstable, nuclear-armed Islamic country. A security guard with extremist sympathies has confessed to gunning down a liberal governor from the ruling party last week, while the pro-Washington government narrowly avoided collapse when its coalition partners threatened to pull out.

Washington is committed to giving Pakistan \$7.5 billion in aid in the coming years to improve the lives of ordinary Pakistanis and show its military and civilian leaders that the U.S. is its long-term friend.

The U.S. is also asking Islamabad to step up military efforts against Taliban and al-Qaida militants who use bases in northwest Pakistan to launch attacks on American and NATO troops in neighboring Afghanistan.

Pakistan has undertaken operations in six out of its seven tribal regions close to Afghanistan and lost more than 2,000 soldiers, but has so far not moved into North Waziristan, which remains a haven for militants.

Islamabad says its forces are too stretched to attack that region presently — an assessment that some U.S. military officials have publicly agreed with.

During Biden's stop in Afghanistan on Tuesday, the vice president said success there would "require more pressure on the Taliban, from Paki-

stan's side of the border, than we've been able ... to exert so far."

Ill. again at center of death penalty debate as gov. weighs bill to abolish capital punishment

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Illinois again finds itself at the center of the death penalty debate as advocates on both sides wait to hear whether Gov. Pat Quinn will support abolishing capital punishment in a state that had 170 people awaiting execution less than a decade ago.

Lawmakers on Tuesday sent legislation repealing the death penalty to the Democratic governor, who supports capital punishment but has upheld an 11-year moratorium on executions imposed by a predecessor amid a spate of wrongful convictions.

Already wrapped up in a massive state income tax increase that could sully his political future, Quinn wouldn't say whether he would sign the bill after the Senate approved it 32-25. The House passed it last week.

Still, death penalty foes were enthused about the chances for repeal elsewhere if a large, industrial state such as Illinois does it — following New York, New Jersey and New Mexico since 2007.

"It's a clear trend," said Debra Erenberg, the Midwest regional director for Amnesty International USA.

2 Koreas restore key cross-border communication channel despite tension

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The two Koreas restored an important cross-border communication channel on Wednesday, though South Korea still rejected North Korea's calls for talks meant to defuse high tensions.

The North cut off the Red Cross communication line at the border village of Panmunjom last year when tension spiked over the sinking of a South Korean warship blamed on Pyongyang.

Relations between the Koreas further soured after a North Korean artillery attack that killed four South Koreans on a front-line island in November 2010.

The North, however, has recently proposed resuming talks with South Korea. It also made conciliatory gestures Monday, offering to restore the Red Cross line and allowing South Korean officials back into a joint factory park in the North.

Seoul has so far rebuffed the dialogue offer as a ploy for aid, saying the North must demonstrate responsibility for the attacks and take steps toward nuclear disarmament before talks can be held. North Korea has denied involvement in the ship sinking, which killed 46 sailors.

South Korea, however, decided to let telecommunication workers from the two Koreas restore the Red Cross line, which is used for exchanging messages on humanitarian issues such as reunions of separated families, according to Seoul's Unification Ministry.

Texas news in brief

DART buying compressed natural gas-powered buses

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Area Rapid Transit is spending \$217 million on up to 452 buses powered by compressed natural gas.

The Dallas Morning News reports DART's order for new buses will be the nation's largest and will be the first big purchase to include electric air conditioning.

A DART board committee voted unanimously Tuesday for the fleet purchase, with service expected to begin in 2013.

DART will build CNG fueling stations, with the federal government helping with the cost. Current buses run on diesel fuel.

DART chairman William Velasco cited environmental reasons for using CNG-powered buses, saying "cleaner air is better air."

Man caught over stabbing at Texas McDonald's

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — A suspect has been caught in the apparent random stabbing of a 12-year-old girl at a McDonald's restaurant near the Texas A&M University campus.

College Station police early Wednesday an-

nounced the arrest of 23-year-old John Robert Murphy III of College Station.

Tips led to Murphy, who was located in the Houston area.

Murphy has been charged with injury to a child with serious bodily injury.

Police say the girl, who was attacked Monday night, remains hospitalized in stable condition. Her name has not been released.

Texas Railroad Commission may get a new name

HOUSTON (AP) — What is 120 years old, has nothing to do with trains, planes or automobiles and oversees a massive chunk of the nation's oil and gas activities? The Railroad Commission of Texas — of course.

And now — after being turned down in two other state Legislative sessions — the agency responsible for overseeing more than 350,000 miles of pipelines and a massive gas boom is again trying to get its name changed to something more in line with its duties.

"We're the worst-named agency in state government," said Commission Chairman Michael Williams.

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Verizon big winner from having iPhone? Not so fast

PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK — Verizon Wireless would seem to be a big winner now that it will start selling the iPhone and break Apple Inc.'s monogamous relationship with AT&T Inc. in the U.S.

But for several reasons, the iPhone's arrival to Verizon is poorly timed, and Verizon's gains won't be as clear-cut as one might think.

There's no doubt a Verizon iPhone will attract millions of buyers, and it will give the country's largest wireless carrier a chance to catch up with AT&T in attracting high-paying smart-phone customers.

Since the iPhone's debut in 2007, AT&T has been its exclusive distributor in the U.S. Many people held off on getting one because they already had service with a carrier they liked or were apprehensive about congestion on AT&T's network, particularly in New York and San Francisco.

On Tuesday, Verizon announced a deal with Apple to start selling iPhones on Feb. 10. Prices for the phones will be about the same as with AT&T.

The iPhone is big business for AT&T: The carrier activated 11.1 million iPhones in the first nine months of 2010. Analysts now estimate Verizon will sell 5 million to 13 million

iPhones this year, some coming from what AT&T would have sold. Many believe Verizon could sell more iPhones in the U.S. than AT&T this year, given pent-up demand from customers not wanting to switch to AT&T.

Yet several factors may give prospective Verizon iPhone buyers pause.

The first Verizon iPhone will only work on the older, "3G" network. That network has wide coverage, excellent reliability and less congestion than AT&T's, but data speeds are much slower than new "4G" networks both AT&T and Verizon are building. You also can't talk and surf at the same time with Verizon 3G phones.

Also, Apple has been launching a new iPhone model every summer. Presumably, an iPhone 5 is coming this year. But Apple won't say whether Verizon would get it. Verizon may have to wait until next January, if it's on the same one-year upgrade cycle that AT&T has been on. That would give AT&T a head start.

Most importantly, cell phone companies do their best to tie subscribers up with contracts. AT&T executives last year stressed to investors that most of their iPhone users are on family and employer plans — more difficult for an individual to switch from.

"The consensus is that AT&T is reasonably well-prepared for Verizon's iPhone onslaught ... for now," said Sanford Bernstein analyst Craig Moffett.

For this reason, John Hodulik at UBS expects that 77 percent of his estimated 13 million Verizon iPhones this year will go to current Verizon subscribers, rather than new ones. That's a concern because Verizon has to subsidize the cost of each iPhone, hoping to make it up through service fees over time.

Verizon will essentially be paying heavily to upgrade its own subscribers. Hodulik figures that even with the iPhone's boost to service revenue, iPhone subsidies will reduce Verizon earnings this year by a net 15 cents per share, or about \$425 million.

Still, analysts don't expect the Verizon iPhone to affect stock prices much, reasoning that investors have already factored in the news.

Verizon Wireless is a joint venture of Verizon Communications Inc. of New York and Vodafone Group PLC of Britain. Since mid-July, Verizon Communications' stock has gained 40 percent, while AT&T's has gained 20 percent.

Analysts vary widely in their estimates of how many AT&T iPhone users will jump ship: Christopher King of Stifel

Nicolaus thinks as many as 6 million will flee to Verizon over two years, while James Ratcliffe at Barclay's expects just 1 million this year.

Hodulik says AT&T will actually benefit in the short term from paying fewer subsidies, saving about 10 cents per share, or about \$590 million, this year.

The No. 3 and No. 4 carriers in the U.S., Sprint Nextel Corp. and T-Mobile USA, may have as much to lose from a Verizon iPhone than AT&T. They won't have iPhones of their own and will face the added competition from Verizon's model. Sprint recently started reversing a multi-year subscriber loss, but its recovery is still tentative, and T-Mobile's subscriber figures are stagnating.

Other potential losers are Google Inc. and Motorola Mobility Inc. To counter the iPhone's popularity, Verizon has worked closely with Google to promote its Android phone operating system. Motorola was one of the main beneficiaries, having bet on Android phones to turn around a multi-year slide in its sales. Verizon now accounts for about 45 percent of Motorola's smart phone sales, according to analyst Tim Long at BMO Capital Markets.

The Verizon iPhone "will be the first true test for An-

droid," Kaufman analyst Shaw Wu said. It will demonstrate whether gains in its market share are real or just temporary, stemming from weak competition from other iPhone rivals such as the BlackBerry, he said.

The biggest winner will be Apple. With the benefit of hindsight, the tie-up with AT&T was a strategic mistake.

Cell phone makers often give U.S. carriers exclusive rights to sell a model, but usually only for six months or so. Apple signed a multi-year contract with AT&T, probably so AT&T would carry a phone that broke many industry rules. Apple had complete control over the software on the phone, and it was linked to Apple's music and video stores, not AT&T's. When the App Store came along a year later, that was completely controlled by Apple as well.

But AT&T exclusivity limited sales in the U.S., both because many people are tied to other carriers, and because AT&T's network buckled under the onslaught of data-hungry iPhone users.

Apple didn't sign multi-year exclusivity deals in other countries, and the U.S. is now one of few countries to have a single iPhone carrier. In just weeks, even that distinction will end.

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I'm 15 years old. Two years ago, I arrived home from school to find a burglar in my room.

My bedroom door was locked, and when I got near it, the thief burst through the door.

I attempted to kick him in the groin, but missed. He grabbed my throat, squeezing it tight, and then went out the window.

I called 911 and waited inside a closet for help. I made out a report and told my parents.

They never found the guy, and ever since, I have become extremely paranoid when left home alone, even if it's for only an hour.

In the past few months, it has gotten worse. I keep thinking there's someone trying to get in, or I hear imaginary footsteps in the hallway.

Until my parents come home, I keep a kitchen knife by my side. A sec-

ondary problem is that when I think someone is going to touch my back or neck, I tense up.

I don't know how to express my feelings to my family without sounding pathetic.

I don't want therapy, because my parents can't afford it. Do you have any suggestions about how to get over my phobia? — *Paranoid in Southern Calif.*

Dear Paranoid: Your parents should know how you feel because they will want to help. But if you are reluctant to speak to them, talk to your school counselor or nurse.

It sounds as if you are suffering from post-traumatic stress, and some short-term therapy could be extremely helpful in working through your fears and learning techniques to cope with your anxiety.

Dear Annie: My boyfriend was divorced a couple of months ago. He and his ex-wife have six children together.

She is very bitter about the divorce and dislikes me intensely.

The ex's mother passed away last week.

My boyfriend attended the wake and funeral. The problem is, he felt I should have gone with him to be supportive, regardless of what his ex thought about it.

I say that because this woman dislikes me so much — and has for 30

years — it was better that I did not attend the funeral and make a bad situation worse for her and their children. What do you say? — *Sure I Did the Right Thing*

Dear Sure: You behaved correctly. This was not about your boyfriend. It was about his ex-wife. Your boyfriend was there to pay his personal respects and support his children. Your presence would have created tension and anger, adding more pain for the bereaved.

If your boyfriend needed your support, he

could find you at home.

Dear Annie: I would like to reply to "Pleading for a Little Privacy," who works nights and sleeps days and can't get people to leave her alone.

My wife and I work opposite shifts so one of us can be home with our sons. We have done this for 11 years. If someone rang the doorbell, I would not answer.

I used to have a problem with my father-in-law, who would come over and ring the doorbell or phone me about things that could have waited.

I had a simple solution for this. Whenever he would wake me up during the day, I would call him at the corresponding time late at night and do the same to him.

If he woke me up at noon, I would refuse to talk to him. Then, when I got to work, I would call him at midnight and ask him what he wanted to talk about.

After my third call, he got the hint. Now he never calls me during the day. In fact, he never calls me at all.

If he needs something, he will call my wife. This has worked pretty well, and I get a lot more sleep. — *Andrew from Illinois*

Dear Andrew: You've solved one problem, but we hope you haven't created a second one with an alienated father-in-law.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the *Annie's Mailbox* 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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KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Keeping an Open Mind

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 5
♥ A Q J 9 3
♦ A K 10 2
♣ 7 4

WEST
♠ 8 2
♥ 8 7 6 2
♦ 9 7 5
♣ A 9 6 5

EAST
♠ Q J 10 9 6
♥ K 4
♦ Q 8 3
♣ K 8 2

SOUTH
♠ K 7 4 3
♥ 10 5
♦ J 6 4
♣ Q J 10 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1♥ 1♣ 1NT Pass
3NT

Opening lead — eight of spades.
There are times when a defender must revise his initial plan to defeat the contract and look elsewhere for the setting trick(s). Today's deal from a 2010 team contest provides a case in point.

Declarer won the opening spade lead in his hand in order to try the heart finesse, and East took the king and returned a spade to establish his suit. East hoped to regain the lead with a diamond or a club, in which case his three spade winners would set the contract.

After taking the spade return, declarer ran dummy's hearts, forcing

East to make three discards. The first discard — a club — was easy, but the last two were not. To keep all of his spades as well as protection for the queen of diamonds, East decided to get rid of his K-8 of clubs, hoping his partner could guard against that suit.

This made things simple for declarer, who next led a club to the queen. West allowed the queen to hold (South would have made an overtrick if West had taken the ace), and declarer had his ninth trick.

Nine tricks would also have accrued if East had thrown one of his spades in order to keep the club king. In that event, East would win the club lead from dummy at trick eight and cash his two remaining spades, but would then have to return a diamond from the queen to yield the contract.

The trouble with East's defense was that he had his heart so set on scoring his spades that he missed an obvious alternative. All he had to do was to discard two spades on the last two hearts and hold the K-8 of clubs. East could then put up the king on the first club lead (if South had the ace, declarer had nine tricks), cash his good spade and lead a club to West's ace.

West's diamond return would leave declarer with no recourse, and the defenders would wind up scoring two clubs, a heart, a spade and a diamond for a one-trick set.

Tomorrow: You don't need a calculator.

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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



Space Man

Space shuttle astronaut Dr. Bernard Harris shares his out-of-this-world experiences with inner-city teens in motivational talks urging them to follow their dreams through education.

AmericanProfile

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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

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

Dad pursued suspect before fatal shooting

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Mysterious black bag in hand, Jared Loughner ran into the desert, his angry father stopping pursuit in his truck.

Hours after Randy Loughner's futile confrontation with his 22-year-old son Saturday morning, six people were shot dead and more than a dozen others wounded — and Jared Loughner was in custody.

The sheriff's deputies who swarmed the Loughners' house removed what they describe as evidence Jared Loughner was targeting Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, who doctors said Tuesday was breathing on her own for the first time after taking a bullet to the forehead. Among the handwritten notes was one with the words "Die, bitch," which authorities told The Associated Press they believe was a reference to Giffords.

Investigators with the Pima County Sheriff's Department previously said they found handwritten notes in Loughner's safe reading "I planned ahead," "My assassination" and "Giffords." Capt. Chris Nanos said all the writings were either in an envelope or on a form letter Giffords' office sent him in 2007 after he signed in at one of her "Congress on Your Corner" events — the same kind of gathering where the massacre occurred.

On the morning of the shooting, a mumbling Jared Loughner fled

after his father asked him why he was removing a black bag from the trunk of a family car, said Nanos and Rick Kastigar, chief of the department's investigations bureau. Investigators are still searching for the bag.

Meanwhile, this city held a tribute to victims the eve of a presidential visit.

On Tuesday night, several hundred mourners filled a Tucson church for a public Mass to remember the slain and pray for the injured. As people filed in, nine young girls sang "Amazing Grace." The youngest victim of the attack, 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green, was a member of that choir.

"I know she is singing with us tonight," said Tucson Bishop Gerald Kicanas, who presided over the service.

On Wednesday, President Barack Obama visits Arizona and gives a speech honoring the victims.

In one apparent reaction, the FBI said background checks for handgun sales jumped in Arizona following the shootings, though the agency cautioned that the number of checks doesn't equate to the number of handguns sold.

Still, there were 263 background checks in Arizona on Monday, up from 164 for the same day a year ago — a 60 percent rise. Nationally, the increase was more modest: from 7,522 last year to 7,906 Monday, a

5 percent jump.

Loughner's parents, silent and holed up in their home since the shooting spree, issued a statement Tuesday.

"There are no words that can possibly express how we feel," Randy and Amy Loughner wrote in a statement handed to reporters waiting outside their house. "We wish that there were, so we could make you feel better. We don't understand why this happened."

Sheriff's deputies had been to the Loughner home at least once before the attack, spokesman Jason Ogan said. He didn't know why or when the visit occurred, and said department lawyers were reviewing the paperwork and expected to release it Wednesday.

The visits were for nonviolent incidents, including a report by Jared Loughner of identity theft, a noise complaint and Amy Loughner's claim that someone had stolen her license plate sticker, according to a report by The Wall Street Journal.

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

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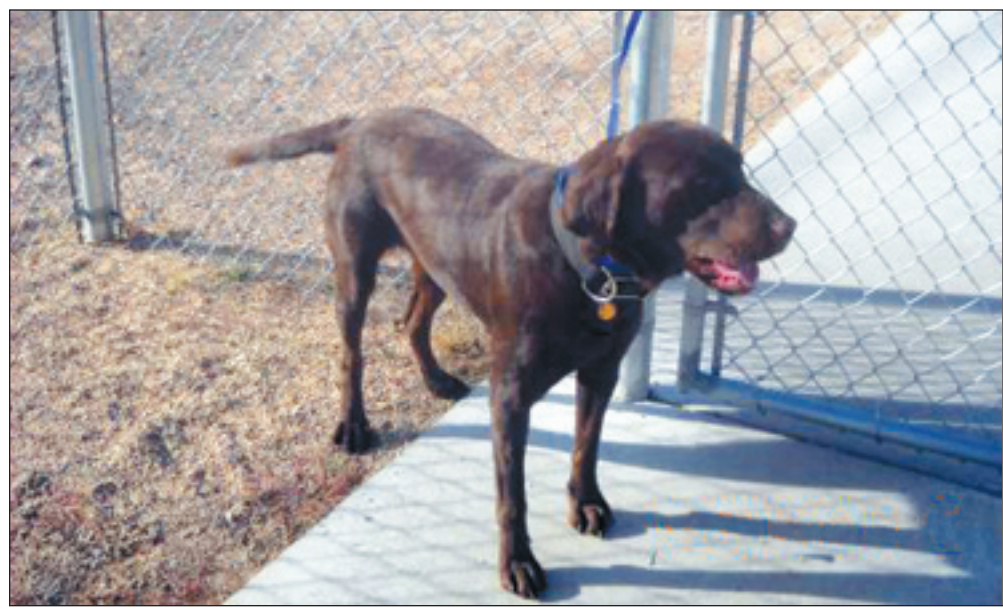
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Stanton girls, boys steal wins at Forsan

BY ADAM COLEMAN

Sports Editor

FORSAN — Forsan girls' basketball coach Robert Hillger didn't have much explanation for Tuesday's 44-41 loss to Stanton at home.

He said Stanton beat Forsan fair and square.

"I couldn't figure out our identity Tuesday. At the beginning of the game, really the first half, we're pushing and running and they're making shots and we're not. We like to push and run and we were down five (at the half) anyway, so I was like 'Alright, we're going to slow down the pace of the game. We're going to dictate what we want to do and not let them dictate what we want to do.'"

In what was a back and forth affair, Forsan looked like it was out of the game in the third quarter when Stanton outscored the Lady Buffaloes 12-5. The third quarter was good enough for a 41-29 Stanton lead.

But Forsan battled back in the fourth quarter — thanks to forcing turnovers. It was enough to get the last shot of the game when Forsan's Ambra Hill took the 3-pointer to tie,



Photo Courtesy of Wesley Galloway

Forsan's Kolten Self goes for a layup during Stanton's 58-44 win Tuesday night in Forsan.

but it was off the mark and Stanton staved off a district rival.

"You have to give them a lot of credit," Stanton head coach Jim Kinnear said. "I think we had a 12-point lead and then they picked up their defensive pressure and

we didn't do a very good job of handling it. We let them back in the game. But you have to give our kids a lot of credit, too. We were able to cowboy up and hold our composure."

Free throws were huge in the closing minutes of

Tuesday's game, Hillger said. Forsan was 13 for 30 from the line overall. Stanton was just 4 of 11. Stanton is 2-4 in District 3-2A play and Forsan is 3-3.

Stanton 44, Forsan 41
Forsan 12 12 5 12 - 41

Stanton 14 15 12 3 - 44
Forsan — Hill 12, Stanley 10, Park 7, Forshee 4, Roemer 4, Wilson 2, Galloway 2

Stanton — Ramsey 9, Patterson 9, Bryan 8, Hale 8, Graham 4, Snellgrove 4, Henley 2

Next games: Forsan vs.

Slaton at 6 p.m. Friday in Slaton, Stanton vs. Denver City at 6 p.m. Friday in Stanton

Forsan boys
FORSAN — Stanton's

See **FORSAN**, Page 2B

Coahoma boys get first district win, girls lose to Roosevelt

BY ADAM COLEMAN

Sports Editor

COAHOMA — Coahoma boys' basketball head coach Kim Nichols could breathe a little easier after Tuesday's 48-44 win over Lubbock Roosevelt at home in District 3-2A play.

The Bulldogs finally got their first district win and they had to battle for it, too.

"I'm proud of them," he said. "We've been sick, injured, I thought all eight of our guys played hard. Hunter (Williams) did a great job on the boards. We've handled pressure better than we've been handling pressure. Just going to try to build on it."

The closing minutes of the Coahoma-Roosevelt game was probably indicative of the pace of the game. Coahoma was doing everything it could to hang on to the lead, but Roosevelt just continued to push.

The Bulldogs were just 13-of-26 from the charity

stripe — something Nichols said has to improve. But with 50 seconds left in the game and Coahoma with a slim 44-41 lead, Tanner Ruiz hit his free throws. Ruiz hit another two free throws to essentially seal the win with 11 seconds left.

Roosevelt quickly hit a 3-pointer after that, but it wasn't enough to steal the win.

"They did a good job pressuring us," Nichols said. "We were trying to delay the game at the end. I think obviously we were tired because those five had played most of the game. The bench did a great job. They helped us out when we needed it."

Ruiz led with 13 points, but what's impressed Nichols is Hunter Williams' play. Nichols said he may not score a lot of points at times, but he's active on the boards and that is vital to Coahoma's success.

"He battles and battles and when he doesn't score you can guarantee he gets eight, 10, 12 rebounds," he said. "He's always a presence and he's got a couple of steals in the backcourt."

Now Coahoma's sights move on to Colorado City. Nichols said the Bulldogs' opponents are on of the better defensive teams in the district. The Bulldogs can't fall much farther, either. Nichols said his squad needs another win to keep pace in the district.

Coahoma 48, Lubbock Roosevelt 44
Coahoma 13 19 5 11 - 48
Roosevelt 14 10 6 14 - 44
Coahoma — Ruiz 13, Acevedo 8, Williams 8, Cravens 11, Echavarria 6, Reid 2
3-point field goals — Coahoma 3 (Cravens 3)
Records: Coahoma (9-11, 1-3 in district play)
Next game: Coahoma vs. Colorado City at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Colorado City

Coahoma girls

COAHOMA — Some coaches have nabbed the

See **COAHOMA**, Page 2B

Players have major concerns about NFL's 18-game proposal

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Concerns about injuries and insurance make the league's push to switch to an 18-game regular season a major sticking point in negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement, according to two NFL players who are members of the union's executive committee.

The NFL wants to add two games to the current 16-game format for the regular season, and eliminate two of four preseason games, saying fans would prefer that and more revenue could be generated.

"To me, right now, as things stand, 18 games, the way it's being proposed, is completely unacceptable. ... I see more and more players get injured every season," Cleveland Browns linebacker Scott Fujita said Tuesday

on a media conference call arranged by the union.

"There are so many things now — with player health and safety, and the future of us and our families — that aren't even being considered. And for us, it's disappointing," Fujita said. "It feels like a slap in the face."

Union spokesman George Atallah said Tuesday that 352 active players went on injured reserve at some point during this season, each missing an average of 9½ games.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said "a few hundred" players out of the nearly 2,600 that go through the system each season — 80 with each of 32 teams entering camp — go on injured reserve.

"That number would include undrafted rookies put on IR for the season and players with relatively mi-

nor injuries who then reach injury settlements with their teams and are released," Aiello wrote in an e-mail. "We do not know how the union calculated games lost."

Both Fujita and Baltimore Ravens cornerback Domonique Foxworth, the other player participating in Tuesday's call, went on IR in 2010.

"We put our bodies on the line and produce a lot of revenue and we get five years" of post-retirement health insurance," said Foxworth, who missed all season after tearing his right knee during an orientation practice the day before training camp. "And then they want to tack on two more games ... which is just going to multiply the injuries and the ailments that we're going to see after we go into our 40s, 50s, 60s — 70s, if we're lucky. ... We're not willing to budge on health and

safety, and we'd like to gain some more ground in ways we can protect former players and current players."

Right around the time the call was beginning, the NFL announced the launch of www.NFLHealthandSafety.com, a website the league touted as "providing information on the various ways" it's addressing those issues.

The league's lead negotiator, Jeff Pash, said last month "it is realistically an easier agreement to reach in the context of an 18-game regular season."

But Fujita said Tuesday: "The 18-game discussion is not even worth having at this point, because there's nothing on the table from their end that makes any one player consider

See **NFL**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Coahoma Girls Softball Association

The Coahoma Girls Softball Association will conduct a baord meeting at 7 p.m. Jan.19 in the community center in Coahoma. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting.

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.

Chizik: Time for Auburn to get back to work

The Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Ten hours after winning the national title, Auburn coach Gene Chizik was typically intense and businesslike, already saying the time to celebrate was over.

"It's expired," he said Wednesday morning, adding that they "have to start all over starting today."

OK, the Tigers might not have to start from scratch after a 14-0 season that culminated with the program's second national title, first since 1957.

They do face quite a challenge to make sure their rise to national championship contender is not a passing fad. That's especially true if the Tigers' biggest stars, quarterback Cam Newton and defensive tackle Nick Fairley, head

to the NFL following their junior seasons.

Those two All-Americans often powered the Tigers to wins. If they join the exodus of 23 seniors — including 13 starters — Auburn seems unlikely to be picked to repeat in the SEC West much less as national champs.

Of course, the Tigers were predicted as middle-of-the-packers in the division this season, too, but wound up perfect and pulled off nine comeback victories — including Monday night's.

Those modest projections came before Newton emerged as college football's most dynamic player and a runaway Heisman Trophy winner, and before Fairley became the most fearsome defensive lineman in the nation.

Newton weathered a recruit-

ing scandal along the way. Now, he's moved on to celebrity status and was to appear on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" Tuesday night.

"When you look at that guy a year ago, nobody knew who he was," Chizik said. "And you look at just what he's done, it's a great story. He is a huge part of what our football team became. I think he got our players to rally around him in terms of the way they upped their level of play."

Chizik and Fairley both said after the game they would sit down with family and coaches before making the NFL decision. It would be hard to imagine either — or Auburn — topping this season.

They have only until Saturday to declare for the draft.

"The time is obviously coming up," Chizik said. "We

have one focus before this game and I've got so much respect for both of those guys because they are getting hit from every angle with the same question, 'What are you going to do? Are you going to stay? Are you going to go?'"

They didn't miss a beat on the field.

Newton passed for 265 yards and two touchdowns with an interception and ran for 64 yards despite hurting his back. Chizik said he had no update on the injury, which didn't sideline the quarterback for any plays in the title game.

Newton did leave the post-game news conference early.

Fairley had three tackles for a loss, a sack and forced a fumble while making a key stop on a goal line stand. The performance "proved he's the

best defensive lineman in the country," Oregon coach Chip Kelly said.

Chizik proved something, too. He needed just two seasons to take the Tigers to the top after his hiring met with plenty of skepticism following two losing seasons at Iowa State. Far from gloating, he said he was "just very blessed to be a small part of something really big."

The only difference the morning after was he wore a leather jacket and jeans instead of a suit to the news conference, before heading to the airport for the flight back to Alabama. His demeanor was as serious and focused as ever. No jokes. Few big smiles. Just business.

As he pointed out, "there are no days off" in major college football these days.

All-time saves leader Trevor Hoffman retires at 43

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Baseball's all-time saves leader Trevor Hoffman has thrown his final changeup, deciding at age 43 to retire and return to the San Diego Padres in a front office job.

Known for his high leg kick, menacing glare and deceptive changeup, Hoffman recorded 601 saves in 18 seasons, 15½ of them with the Padres.

"It was a little bit of self-reflection, trying to be honest with where I was at in my career skill-wise, and realizing that it was a time for a change, a change in venue, in a sense," Hoffman told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "It's turning the page, a new chapter in my life."

Hoffman had a difficult 2010 season with the Milwaukee Brewers, losing his job as closer. Still, he said he didn't want to rush to a decision about his future.

"It was a tough year, and I didn't want to make it off how things turned out," he said. "I wanted to see how it played out in the offseason. The new year is the time to crank it up and get ready for the new season."

He felt he could still pitch. Knowing that West Coast teams were set, he didn't want to pitch too far away from his family.

"I definitely could have pitched in the big leagues, but that was part of the self-reflection part: Do I have enough in the tank to be a closer and help get the team to the postseason?" he said. "There's a certain level of play I wanted to play at, but if I couldn't match what I'd done in the past, I wouldn't be doing another team justice."

Hoffman, who was converted from shortstop to pitcher in the minor leagues, knows people will always talk about his stats.

"What I'll take away from it is I'll have no regrets," he said. "I went at the game 100 percent and didn't leave myself with any questions. I got the most out of what I was given."

Hoffman was acquired as a rookie from the Florida Marlins in 1993 during the Padres' infamous "Fire Sale" that stripped away most of their high-paid veterans. He left San Diego as a free agent following the 2008 season after contract talks abruptly ended, and pitched with the Milwaukee for two seasons.

Padres co-owner Jeff Moorad said Hoffman will spend the next year familiarizing himself with several departments, including baseball operations, and then the two sides will determine what area is best for him.

"Clearly, Trevor is one of the most significant players that the organization has ever had and we felt it only appropriate for him to return to the Padres family," Moorad told the AP. "We're thrilled that he was agreeable with coming back."

Hoffman said he'll "help out where I can, be a jack-of-all-trades. I'll learn the sides of the game I haven't been exposed to."

Moorad said the sides decided against having Hoffman return to the team for one day before retiring.

"Given the seriousness with which Trevor is approaching his next stage of his life, I don't think he or we cared to focus on the theatrics," Moorad said.

The Padres will discuss Hoffman's job at a news conference at Petco Park on Wednesday morning.

The Padres abruptly pulled a contract offer off the table following the 2008 season, leading to a less-than-amicable parting for a player who had be-

come the face of the franchise after Tony Gwynn retired following the 2001 season. The front office has changed dramatically since then.

Although Hoffman struggled toward the end of his Padres tenure, his home save opportunities were always lively because AC/DC's "Hells Bells" began blaring from the sound system the instant he started jogging in from the bullpen.

He became the career saves leader when he notched No. 479 at home on Sept. 24, 2006, breaking the previous mark of 478 by Lee Smith. The following June, Hoffman reached 500, also at home and against the rival Los Angeles Dodgers.

He had 552 saves with the Padres.

Then an unknown rookie, Hoffman had two saves for Florida in 1993 before being acquired by the Padres on June 24, 1993, along with two other players for Gary Sheffield and Rich Rodriguez. Then-general manager Randy Smith said the Padres received "value for value" in the deal. But fans, steamed at the exodus of talent, booed Hoffman during his first several appearances. As he grew into the closer's role, it was clear Smith had indeed traded for a valuable player.

Hoffman was brilliant in his first season in Milwaukee, converting 37 of 41 save opportunities with a 1.83 ERA.

He also relished his role of no longer being a vocal leader or face of a franchise like he was all those years in San Diego. He organized conditioning drills and games of football for the relievers before that night's contest and enjoyed riding into Miller Park on a skateboard that he picked up in Wisconsin.

But after signing a new contract to stay in Milwaukee, last season became a struggle.

NFL

Continued from Page 1B

playing 18 games."

The current CBA expires in March and the union long has said it expects NFL owners to impose a lockout, affecting the 2011 season. The NFL has not missed games because of labor problems since 1987, when the players went on strike.

Asked if he thinks a lockout is inevitable this time, Fujita replied: "It certainly looks that way to me."

Among other issues discussed on Tuesday's call:

—Fujita took a swipe at Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones for his com-

ments during an interview with CBS last month. In a portion of the interview posted on the Internet, Jones is asked whether he thinks a lockout "might be disastrous for the game?" Jones' response: "No, I do not. But I know that the sentiment is not to have a lockout."

Fujita's take: "For him to say something like that, to me, is one of the more irresponsible things I've heard through this whole process."

Fujita said he gets the sense owners might not be unified, because some want to get a deal done, while others — and he cited Jones as an example — "are fine with letting this thing run down to at least the 11th hour and try to squeeze the players into accepting

a deal that's not fair to us."

—Atallah said the union expects a decision from a special master "sometime before the Super Bowl" in the players' complaint that the NFL structured network TV contracts to guarantee revenue even if there's a lockout — while not maximizing revenue from other seasons when the league would have to share that income with players.

"We're arguing that those contracts were made explicitly in an effort to gain leverage over the players," Atallah said.

Said Fujita: "Does it sound like 'lockout insurance'? Absolutely. Does it sound like a war chest to me? Absolutely," he said, adding that it seems

as though the networks are "funding the lockout."

—Fujita and Foxworth both are against the league's desire for some sort of rookie wage scale.

"It seems like the league is asking the union to bail them out because of some of their bad decisions and draft choices," Fujita said. "That's not our responsibility. We weren't the ones twisting their arms when they signed guys like ... JaMarcus Russell to those huge contracts."

Noted Foxworth: "They pay a lot of people a lot of money to scout, so the teams who keep ending up with busts might want to do a better job of selecting scouts and general managers."

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1B

Lubbock Roosevelt girls as one of the best teams in the district. Whether that is true or not, the Lady Eagles were just too much for the Coahoma Bulldogettes.

Jennifer Castilaw had 16 points, but it wasn't enough to trump two players with at least 20 points for Roosevelt Tuesday night in a 71-42 loss.

Approaching the second half of district play, the Bulldogettes hope to find

their stride at Colorado City Friday. After that game, the Bulldogettes will begin playing teams they've already played.

Roosevelt 71, Coahoma 42

Coahoma 11 10 10 11 — 42

Roosevelt 15 19 18 19 — 71

Coahoma — Castilaw 16, Gonzales 9, Clanton 6, Neff 5, Ferrell 3, Morgan 2, Goodblanket 1

3-point field goals — Coahoma 4 (Castilaw 2, Gonzales 1, Neff 1)

Next game: Coahoma vs. Colorado City at 6 p.m. Friday in Colorado City

FORSAN

Continued from Page 1B

Tyler Fulton went on a tear as usual and Trace Sidle's 19 points didn't hurt the team's efforts in Forsan Tuesday night.

Stanton beat Forsan 58-44 to move to 3-1 in district play. Forsan had Ty Johnson and Patrick Robles score in double figures, but what Fulton and Sidle did powered Stanton past the Buffaloes.

Forsan dropped to 2-2 in district play after Tuesday's loss.

Stanton 58, Forsan 44

Forsan 9 10 16 9 — 44

Stanton 20 8 10 20 — 58

Stanton — Fulton 24, Sidle 19, Brantley 6, Mauldin 5, Gray 2, Ramos 2

Forsan — Johnson 14, Robles 10, Bagnall 8, Phillips 6, Self 6

Next games: Forsan vs. Slaton at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Slaton, Stanton vs. Denver City at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Stanton

Contact Sports Editor Adam Coleman at 263-7331 ext. 237

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NIGHT WATCHMAN wanted for local company. Must be dependable and trustworthy, references are required. Pay will be BOE. Please apply at 1508 E. FM 700 Big Spring TX 79720.

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.

BLAST MASTERS has positions available for: * Crew Tech Must have valid Texas Drivers License, will train, Come by 1711 Snyder Hwy., Pick up application. No phone calls please.

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

CITY OF BIG SPRING Communications Officer Inventory Specialist Water Treatment-Plant Operator Animal Control Warden Police Records Technician Human Resources Technician Airpark Maintenance-Technician Streets Heavy Equipment-Operator For more information go to www.mybigspring.com, or apply in person in the Human Resources Office located at 310 Nolan. (432)264-2346.

COASTAL TRANSPORT We are now hiring drivers to deliver petroleum products in and around surrounding areas of the Permian Basin. Qualifications: *Class A CDL drivers w/hazmat and tanker endorsements *23 years of age or older *1 year verifiable tractor/trailer experience *Clean driving record *Sign on bonus *Home Everyday Please contact our office M-F 8am/5pm for more information 1-888-527-7221.

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.

Help Wanted

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

DRIVERS WANTED for local Company. Must have CDL with Tanker Endorsement and Vacuum experience required. Must have good MVR. Great Benefits- 401k, insurance, vacation and etc. Call Universal Oil Well Service Co. at (325)207-3337 or 207-3343.



FAST GROWING company seeking the following positions: CNA and LVN for Medicare home visits. Apply at 1030 Andrews Hwy. Ste. 109, Midland, or call 432-570-8880 for application.



HIRING RECEPTIONIST, M-F 8-5, \$8-\$12/hr DOE. Potential to grow into entry level bookkeeping position. Health/ vision/ dental insurance 100% paid! Call 432-394-4604.

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 cyrlhem@bellsouth.net Call (904)864-1667.

Need CASHIER & STOCKER for weekends & evening shifts, 3:00-11:00pm. Must be TBAC Certified. Apply at Fast Stop, 1500 E. 4th St.

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

PART-TIME DISHWASHER needed for evening shift. Apply in person at Big Spring Country Club. No phone calls please.

PIZZA INN NOW HIRING DELIVERY DRIVERS. MUST HAVE CLEAN DRIVING RECORD AND INSURANCE. MAKE UP TO \$12.00 PER HOUR. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG.

Help Wanted

TRANSPORT DRIVERS Griffin Transportation Positions In Big Spring & Odessa CDL/Hazmat, 2 yrs exp (tanker preferred), good MVR. Full Benefit Package. rbarron@riggriffin.com Fax: 806-785-4182 Call: 806-744-2067 Ask for Transportation Dept. Day & Night Shifts Available

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

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.

Items for Sale

SALE: 2 Horse trailer- \$500, home gym- \$75, elliptical trainer- \$45 also assorted furniture, and baby items. Call (432)816-5358, (325)436-9612.

SEASONED OAK Firewood. \$325.00 Full Cord & \$180.00 Half Cord. Delivered and Stacked. Call 325-648-2818 or 512-913-7406.

Pets

FREE TO good home, sweet chihuahua, owner becoming disabled, for more information call 432-264-7520 ask for Cathy.

Real Estate for Rent

1206 EAST 16TH, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A, carport. \$535 month, \$500 deposit. No Pets. Call (432)263-1792.

Real Estate for Rent



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1101 DOUGLAS-- Very Clean 1 Bdrm, Central Heat/Air, washer, dryer, stove and refrigerator. References required. \$600. month, \$600. deposit. Call (432)213-2319.

FOR RENT large bedroom, 1503 Scurry-B. All bills paid. \$575. month, \$500. deposit. Call (432)212-3646.

1635 SQ. ft office space for lease at 1308 Scurry, Suite A. Completely remodeled, ample parking. Would make great Dr. office or clinic. Call (432)714-4001 for details or viewing.

706 GOLIAD- 2 bdr, CH/A. Stove & refrigerator furnished. Carport. \$500.00 month, \$200.00 deposit. Call (432)267-1543.

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ATTENTION

THE BIG SPRING HERALD APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS

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.

West Texas Centers Quality Service for Quality Life. West Texas Centers has an opportunity for a Medicaid billing specialist position. Successful applicant will enjoy challenging work with an excellent benefit package. Requirements include a high school diploma, GED or higher education, medical/health billing experience is preferred. Excellent organization skills and comprehension ability required. Applicant must have ability to perform work in Word, Excel and/or other software applications. Salary begins at 10.00 per hour but may be negotiable depending upon experience. Applications available at 409 Runnels or www.wtcmhmr.org or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769.EOE 219056

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Legals

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS

The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive proposals for the following services through the Universal Service Fund (E-Rate) until February 2, 2011:

- Internet Services
Local Telephone Service
Long Distance Telephone Services
Cellular Telephone Services
WAN Service
Wireless LAN
IPT Phone Systems

Specifications and documents may be secured from the school district's Technology Coordinator, Corey Wood, located at 3600 East 11th Place Ext., Big Spring, Texas 79720, phone number (432)264-4155. The goods and services requested must qualify for E-Rate funding under the guidelines of the School and Libraries Division (SLD). Vendors submitting responses for the goods and services that qualify for E-Rate funding must be in full compliance with SLD requirements and follow all the policies and procedures set forth by the SLD for a service provider. The eligibility and purchases requested above are contingent upon funding from the E-Rate program. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. #6825 January 5 & 12, 2010

Legals

AGENDA
Glasscock County Independent School District
Board of Education
Public Meeting To Discuss The 2010 Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS)
January 19, 2011
9:00 am
Boardroom of Administration Building (308 West Chambers, Garden City, Texas)

1. The Public Meeting will be combined with the called meeting of the board of trustees. #6827 January 5 & 12, 2011

Do you have a service to offer? Place your ad in the Herald Classified Professional Service Directory Call 263-7331 Today!

The ambitious Capricorn sun has our inboxes overflowing, and Mercury's precarious angle to Uranus and Jupiter makes it tough to keep up with the pace. Luckily, the zesty Aries moon puts some vigor into the mix, helping us get a jump on all of our responsibilities. By the end of the day, there will be an important breakthrough.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's one thing to face a certain direction and gaze longingly at the horizon. Reaching that horizon is quite another thing. It takes action — consistent action. Keep moving and you will arrive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's time to measure your results. If this seems extreme or inconvenient, it very well may be so. Nevertheless, it's worth the hassle. What gets measured gets done.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). By doing what comes naturally, you make yourself and everyone around you very happy. You will succeed at something you enjoy, and you will make it look easy — because it is easy for you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You will brilliantly bring together items, ideas and people that seem dissimilar. Your powers of assembly are impressive, especially to a Virgo or Pisces.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The one who remembers you fondly also wants to visit you. Are you ready for such an encounter? Your feelings about this indicate your satisfaction with life thus far.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Block interruptions so that you can concentrate on what really matters to you. Your actions will train those around you to give you the gift of space and silence when you need it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Because you love someone, you'll listen to information that wouldn't normally qualify as "interesting" to you. You'll even act like you enjoy hearing about it — that's how giving you are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your problem is quite circular in nature. The beginning leads back to itself. A total change of scenery will help you get into just the mindset to break the chain.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are becoming savvy about how you use your energy. What you think and talk about certainly has merit, though it's what you actually do that is really important.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The first thing you thought of this morning was a strong indicator of your current mindset. Was it a problem in imminent

need of resolution, or a project or relationship you can't wait to get started on?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your sign mate John Donne was a poet, preacher and metaphysician who stated, "No man is an island, entire of itself." You'll live by the creed, sharing your knowledge and resources and asking for help, too.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It may take a while for you to clear your working space — things have gotten a little out of hand, you must admit. After the filing, cleaning and organizing, you can get down to business.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 12). Because you are so honest, good things happen to you this year. It takes courage to speak your heart, and people will open up to you as you do. A long-distance excursion brings money in March. May brings healing. There's a celebration of love in June. In July, you'll discover a talent you didn't know you had. Pisces and Aquarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 1, 22, 39 and 15.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm 14 years old, and my parents are very strict. They don't let me wear any makeup or watch television or listen to the music I want to listen to, and they still pick out all my clothes. I don't have any friends in my class at school, only friends from church. I want them to let me do more of what I want to do. I get good grades, all A's. How can I get them to trust me? My mom is a Scorpio, my dad

is a Taurus, and I am a Capricorn."

Chances are, they do trust you; they just don't trust the rest of the world. You are what is most precious to them in the world, and they want to be sure they have done their job of teaching you to the very best of their ability. It is much harder for them to live and raise you in this manner than it would be for them to conform to the norms of society. You all have extremely strong sun signs. You are unlikely to change their minds, so your best bet is to work within their rules and express yourself in the ways that are available to you, perhaps through art, appropriate music and in your private journal.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Capricorn shock jock, author and television personality Howard Stern releases highlights of his career and achievements in increments. "The History of Howard Stern: Act IV" is the latest installment, featuring celebrity interviews, musical performances and memorable moments on the air. Capricorns like Stern are known for their stellar business sense and career longevity.

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

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Legals

AGENDA

Glasscock County Independent School District
Board of Education
Public Meeting To Discuss The 2010 Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST)
January 19, 2011
9:00 am
Boardroom of Administration Building (308 West Chambers, Garden City, Texas)

1. The Public Meeting will be combined with the called meeting of the board of trustees. #6828 January 5 & 12, 2011

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

ConocoPhillips Company, 3300 N.A. Street, Building 6, Midland, TX 79705, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation that is productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Glorieta formations, Chalk, Sloan 22W. This well is an injection well and ConocoPhillips is amending the injection intervals. The well is located 15 miles SE from Big Spring, Texas, in the Howard Glasscock (Glorieta) Field in Howard County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into the subsurface depth interval of 2489'-2968'. LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of The Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a 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 Division, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Drawer 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711. (Telephone (512)463-6792). #6853 January 12, 2011

Legals

THE STATE OF TEXAS NOTICE OF DEFENDANT: 'You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.'

To: April Ann Redlin
Respondent Greeting: The petition of Texas Department Of Family And Protective Services, Petitioner has been filed in the 118th District Court of Howard County, Texas, on the 02/25/2010 against April Ann Redlin, Respondent, numbered 47045 and styled IN THE INTEREST OF A CHILD. This case requests protection of a child or conservatorship and for termination. The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment which will be binding on you. Issued and given under my hand seal of said court at office this 5th day of January, 2011. COLLEEN BARTON District Clerk of Howard County, Texas #6851 January 12, 2011

Legals

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Permian Basin Community Centers is seeking proposals for the provision of the following services: Licensed Chemical Dependency Services for the Outpatient Treatment Youth Program in Howard County. The contract shall be for a twelve (12) month period with an option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year contract terms. A copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) #SA/LCDC 11-01 may be obtained by submitting a written or faxed request for the RFP to: Permian Basin Community Centers 401 E. Illinois Midland, Texas 79701 Contact: Keysha Kidd kkidd@pbmhm.com Phone: 432-570-3312 Fax: 432-570-3346 Or proposals can be downloaded off the Permian Basin Community Center website at www.pbmhm.com under the contract category. Proposals must be received no later than 5:00 pm February 15th, 2011. #6852 January 12, 16, 19, 23, and 26, 2011

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