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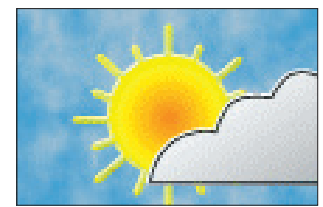
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THE BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY

MAY 1, 2011



VOLUME 106, NUMBER 129

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HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Firefighters look to douse the northeastern-most edge of a blaze that began on N. Salem Road Friday afternoon. Emergency responders from the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department — which was in the process of responding to three separate wildfires at the same time — and the Big Spring Fire Department were able to keep the damage to approximately 75 acres.

Fourteen arrested

Law enforcement rounds up alleged gang members

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

More than a dozen arrests were made this week as part of an effort to seek out violent gang members with outstanding warrants and those involved in gang-related criminal activity, according to local law enforcement officials.

Part of ICE Surge 2011 and in support of Operation Community Shield, law enforcement

See **GANGS**, Page 2A

No rest for firefighters

City, county firemen continue to battle blazes

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Friday might be a time when most employees in the Crossroads area look toward the relaxation of the weekend, but that's a very unlikely scenario for firefighters with the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department and Big Spring Fire Department.

Firefighters with both agencies were kept busy Friday, as wildfires and grass fires in and around the Howard County area continued to threaten a number of homes



Sullivan

and structures. The HCVFD responded to fires on Highway 350, McGregor Road and Salem Road throughout the day, with firefighters from the BSFD assisting on many of them. According to County Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan, high winds and desperately low moisture levels have kept emergency responders busy during the past several weeks.

"We lost about 75 acres on the

Salem Road fire, but it could have been much, much worse," Sullivan said Friday as firefighters brought the blaze under control near a dirt road. "The fire began at a home about a half-mile from where we got it stopped.

"It's a good thing this dirt road was here. It served as sort of a natural fire break for us. On the other side, to the north, is a ridge that drops off into a valley. If firefighters hadn't been able to stop it before it got into that valley,

See **FIRES**, Page 7A



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

The Big Spring Police Association Blue Santa Poker Run started off the fifth annual Dee's Trade Show, at the Howard County Fair Barn Saturday morning. Sunday, vendors will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

Trade show under way at Co. Fair Barn

By **AMANDA MORENO**
 Staff Writer

A little bit of shopping and a little bit of fun. Dee's Trade Show is in its fifth year and still bringing unique items to Howard County. The show began Saturday at the Howard County Fair Barn and continues from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

"This is a great time for everyone to come out and do their Mother's Day shopping," show owner Denise McComb said.

See **SHOW**, Page 3A

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Voting polls open Monday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Early voting in Big Spring's municipal elections will kick off Monday as area voters prepare to weigh in on not only candidates, but proposed term limits for members of the city council.

Early voting will be held at the



Bloom

Howard County Courthouse and continue through May 10, according to Sandra Bloom, county elections administrator.

"The polls will be

See **VOTE**, Page 3A

Water restrictions begin

Residents asked to limit outdoor use of water

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Stage 3 of the city of Big Spring's recently approved water conservation plan goes into effect Sunday, including a number of restrictions regarding outdoor water use, according to municipal officials.

The conservation plan — which

calls for scheduled outdoor water usage to help the city cut water consumption by 10 percent — passed final reading April 26 on a unanimous vote from the Big Spring City Council.

According to city officials,

See **WATER**, Page 3A

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Obituaries

G.W. 'Bill' Birrell



G.W. "Bill" Birrell, 89, of Big Spring died Friday, April 29, 2011, in a local nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m., May 2, 2011, at Nalley-Pickle Funeral Home Rosewood Chapel with the Rev.

Sharon Wiese, pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park with military honors.

The family will receive friends from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday, May 1, 2011, at the funeral home.

He was born Oct. 8, 1921, in Lancaster, Pa., and married Zay Harmon on Dec. 24, 1944 in Waco. She preceded him in death on Dec. 24, 1997.

Bill moved to Big Spring in 1958 and had worked as a salesman for Metropolitan Life Insurance and newsman for KHEM Radio from 1959 to 1980. He was a member of First United Methodist Church, where he sang in the choir, and always looked forward to the Living Christmas Tree. Bill was a member of the Lion's Club for 51 years and was a member of the American Legion. He served in the United States Army from 1942 to 1946. He was active in Meals on Wheels and drove

cancer patients to treatments. He was a cancer survivor. He loved to volunteer his time to helping others.

Survivors include three sons and daughter-in-laws, Greg and Clarice Birrell of Big Spring, Ronald and Dorinda Birrell of Denver, Colo., and Gordon and Lisa Birrell of Early; one brother, Dr. Donald Birrell of Pittsburgh, Pa.; as well as six grandchildren, Kristi Elliott and husband Mike; Melissa Pridemore and husband Greg; Tiffany Rundell and husband Scott; Stephanie Rodriguez and husband Larry; Megan Tidwell and husband Craigan and Morgan Birrell. He was also survived by eight great-grandchildren, Tristan Pridemore, Brandi Pridemore, Austin Edenfield, Dakota Pridemore, Kaden Pridemore, Brianna Elliott, Blakely Rundell and Brianna Rodriguez.

Bill was also preceded in death by a sister, Dorothy Ost, and one brother, Charlie Birrell.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Texas Lions Camp, P.O. Box 290247, Kerrville 78029; or a favorite charity.

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

Paid obituary

Iris Imogene 'Jane' Swann Hammond

Iris Imogene "Jane" Swann Hammond, of Excelsior, Minn., formerly of Big Spring, passed away Saturday, April 17, 2011. Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 7, 2011, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Jane was born Nov. 26, 1923 in Lorraine, the youngest child of Claude and Clyda (Copeland) Swann. She attended Bitter Creek School and Divide High School in Divide. She married Farris George Hammond in October of 1941. At the age of 18, she started working in the canteen at the Big Spring State Hospital and retired as manager on July 31, 1979, after more than 30 years of service. For the last 20 years she has lived in Excelsior, Minn., with her daughter, Becky Hammond Harrill.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Farris Hammond; her par-

ents, Claude and Clyda Swann; two brothers, Claude "Tooter" Dawson Swann Jr. and Hunter Swann; and one sister, Marie Swann Brown.

She is survived by one daughter, Beckie Hammond Harrill; two granddaughters, Nicole Harrill and Britany Harrill; one great-grandson, Riley Ferren; and a dear family friend, Rod Belsheim, all of Excelsior, Minn. She is also survived by nieces and nephews, Jean Brown Pierson and Karon Brown Huey of Abilene, Gary Swann of Colorado City, Joan Love of Baytown, Iris Swann of Lamesa and Claudia Swann of Midland; and many great-nieces and nephews.

The family suggests memorials be made to the cancer charity of the donor's choice.

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

Paid obituary

Police

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Friday to 7 a.m. Saturday:

• MARIO RIVAS, 23, of 1613 W. 32nd, Odessa, was arrested Friday on a charge of public intoxication.

• MICHAEL PAUL HOGAN, 39, of 1710 S. Young St., was arrested Friday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with previous conviction.

• ROBERT RUBEN SANCHEZ, 46, of 1023 Stadium, was arrested Friday on a charge of public intoxication.

• NANCY RANDO, 46, of 4107 S. Hwy 80 18,

was arrested Friday on a warrants for permit unlicensed operator to drive (all except parent or guardian), failed to maintain financial responsibility, fail to appear, no dog or cat vaccination (rabbits), fail to appear and a warrant from another agency.

• MELISSA GUADALUPE GOMEZ, 27, of 1700 N. FM 700, was arrested Saturday on a warrant from another agency, expired motor vehicle inspection, operate unregistered motor vehicle.

• SEAN CHASE CRAWFORD, 24, of 3609 Caldera Rd. No. 207, was arrested Saturday on a

warrant for theft of service less than \$20.

• DAVID ADAM MARTINEZ, 26, of 1002 N. Main, was arrested Saturday on a charge of fail to display drivers license.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in

the 1500 block of Sycamore Street.

• THEFT was reported in the 2600 block of Chanute Drive.

In the 2500 block of Dow Drive.

• FORGERY was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.

• Kelli Ann McAdams,

GANGS

Continued from Page 1A

officials with the Big Spring Police Department, Howard County Sheriff's Office, Customs & Border Protection (Air/Marine) and Enforcement Removal Operations made 14 arrests between Tuesday and Thursday as a result of the investigation.

According to a press release issued Friday by Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD, "It has been determined that a large gang presence has been established in the Howard County area whereby violent gang members are posing a significant threat to this West Texas community."

An analysis of the criminal histories of the subjects revealed arrests for assault, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, weapons offenses, drug possession and distribution, escaping and eluding law enforcement, burglary of a residence and building and theft of automobiles, according to Everett.

"The ICE Surge 2011 resulted in the arrests of 14 subjects and the seizure of two weapons, 5.2 grams of crack cocaine, 1.8 grams of powder cocaine, \$3,664 in U.S. currency and the recovery of one stolen vehicle," Everett said.

Those arrested include:

• Mark Arguello, 37, member of the criminal gang West Texas Tango Blast and is a U.S. citizen, was arrested on outstanding felony warrants (driving while intoxicated - third or more offense and a parole violation, per BSPD reports).

• Kelli Ann McAdams,

29, claimed no gang affiliation and is a U.S. citizen, was arrested on outstanding warrants (driving while intoxicated - second offense, per BSPD reports).

• John Ramirez, 44, member of the criminal gang Mexican Mafia and is a U.S. citizen, was arrested on outstanding warrants (parole violation, per BSPD reports).

• Ricky Wayne Washburn, 52, of 1100 Richie Rd., claimed no gang affiliation and is a U.S. citizen, was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance (less than 200 grams in a drug free zone, per BSPD reports).

• Lionso Lee Jimenez III, 32, member of the criminal gang Texas Syndicate and is a U.S. citizen, was arrested on outstanding warrants (an Austin warrant for violation of parole, per BSPD reports).

• Alexander Burciaga, 21, of 2516 Gunter, member of the criminal gang Texas Born Hustler and is a U.S. citizen, was arrested on outstanding warrants (failure to maintain financial responsibility, failure to appear - four counts, no driver's license when unlicensed - two counts, and in park after hours, per BSPD reports).

• Melissa Segundo, 24, of 2609 Wasson Rd. Apt. 68, associate of the criminal gang Texas Born Hustler and is a U.S. citizen, was arrested on outstanding warrants.

• Roy Carter, 36, claimed no gang affiliation and is a U.S. Citizen, was arrested on outstanding warrants.

• Christopher Daniel Marquez, 17, member of the criminal gang True F...ing Mexican and is a U.S. citizen, was ar-

rested on outstanding warrants (possession of a controlled substance, theft of a firearm and unlawfully carrying a weapon, per BSPD reports).

• Hermenejillo Oroscoco III, 45, of 1101 N. Bell St., claimed no gang affiliation and is a U.S. citizen, was arrested on outstanding warrants.

• Jaime Renteria, 48, of 1009 N. Bell, claimed no gang affiliation and is a U.S. citizen, was arrested on outstanding warrants (driving while license invalid and failure to appear, per BSPD reports).

• Lisa Ybarra, 41, of 1504 E. Fifth St., claimed no gang affiliation and is a U.S. citizen, was arrested on outstanding warrants (possession of drug paraphernalia, per BSPD reports).

• Steven Evans, 22, claimed no gang affiliation and is a U.S. citizen, was arrested on a charge of stolen vehicle (of burglary of a habitation and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, per BSPD reports).

• Mary Guthrie Nelson, 49, claimed no gang affiliation and is a U.S. citizen, was arrested on an outstanding warrant (charges of forgery of a financial instrument - two counts, and municipal warrants for running a red light, violation of a promise to appear - two counts, expired motor vehicle inspection, running a stop sign, displaying an expired registration, failure to maintain financial responsibility and no license plate).

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

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VOTE

Continued from Page 1A

open each day, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.," Bloom said. "We'll have extended hours Tuesday and Thursday, when the polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Our hope is the extended hours will give area residents who have to work between standard business hours a chance to come in and cast their ballots early."

Area voters planning to cast their ballot by mail have until Friday, May 6, to fill out an application, according to Bloom.

"Voters who are 65 and older, disabled or will be out of the county and unavailable to vote during early voting or election day can apply for a ballot by mail," Bloom said. "If you want to apply, you need to contact the elections office so we can mail out the form. Voters must request this application, it won't automatically be sent out."

Big Spring voters will have a number of issues to weigh in on, including the District 1 and District 3 seats on the city council, as well as a charter amendment placing term limits on members of the city council.

District 1 Councilwoman Stephanie Horton is set to defend her seat on the council from challenger Marcus Fernandez in the May 14 municipal elections, while the race for the District 3 seat has drawn multiple challengers, incumbent Councilwoman Joann Staulcup, Shannon Thomason, Glenn Carrigan and write-in candidate Oscar Velasco.

While the races for the city council seats have heated up during the past several weeks, the hottest item going into the election is undoubtedly the proposed charter amendment that would limit the number of terms council members could serve.

The amendment — which was placed on the ballot by way of a petition — would prevent council members from running for re-election

after serving two consecutive terms, according to City Attorney Linda Sjogren.

"If the proposed charter amendment passes... the net effect under this interpretation is that council members may only run for two consecutive terms in one position then must sit out one election before running again for that same position," said Sjogren.

"Council members may run for any other position than the one they currently hold if their term is expiring or if they are within the last year of their term, without sitting out a term. Council members cannot be elected to fill a vacancy (unexpired term) in any position on the council within six years of having served in any position on the council."

Election day is set for May 14. For more information on early voting, contact Bloom at 264-2273.

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

Take Note

- All Coahoma High School alumni are invited to an all-school reunion July 23. Please help spread the word by sharing this information with any CHS alumni among your family/friends. The Reunion Planning Committee is meeting every other Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Coahoma Dairy Queen. Contact Joyce York Baumann at 432-816-1588 or Patti Lee Meeks at 432-267-6688 for additional information or with mailing addresses for CHS alumni. Addresses can also be e-mailed to [Harold Aberegg at aberegg66@gmail.com](mailto:HaroldAberegg@gmail.com).

- Compass Hospice is in need of your help. If you would be interested in offering your love and God's comfort to those who are suffering, or to their families, contact Michelle Coutermarsh at 263-5999. Volunteers are needed in many categories in addition to patient care. You may give as much or as little time as you wish. Any amount of time will be greatly appreciated. Free training is offered

beginning May 10. Hospice training is invaluable for those who have a desire to make a difference to someone in need of a blessing. Training location and schedule: Compass Hospice Team Room, 1003 E. FM 700, Big Spring, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., May 10-11 and 13, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. You must attend all three days to become a hospice certified volunteer.

- May 5 is the National Day of Prayer. Locally, a non-denominational prayer service will be held at 7 p.m. that day in the Howard College Cactus Room. Everyone is invited.

- The Salvation Army has funding for Texas Military Personnel now serving or has served in Iraq or Afghanistan. The military member or their family member may apply at 811 W. Fifth St. or call 267-8239. The grant is funded by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.

SHOW

Continued from Page 1A

McComb noted there are about 50 vendors this year selling items such as clothing, candles, interior decorations and much more.

"There are lots of unique gift ideas here," McComb said. "There is something for everyone."

Barbara and Julian

Briles, vendors from Abilene, have been taking part in Dee's Trade Show for the past four years. They offer customizable crosses and other wall art, clothing and Scenty candles.

"This is a really laid back, fun show," Barbara Briles said. "I keep coming back because of the friendly people here in Big Spring."

She encourages everyone to go out and see what the trade show has to offer.

"People are going to find things that they wouldn't find anywhere else and for prices that they won't find anywhere else," Briles said. "There is lots to choose from."

This year Dee's Trade Show also partnered with the Big Spring Police Association

Blue Santa Poker Run. Riders rode out at 9:15 a.m. Saturday and went through a series of checkpoints to gain their poker hand. At the end of the ride, awards were given for the best and worst poker hand. The best poker hand received \$50 trade show bucks and the worst hand received \$25 trade show bucks.

"The money from the poker run will benefit

the Blue Santa project," said Lynn Creswell, secretary/treasurer of the Big Spring Police Association.

The Blue Santa Project provides gifts for underprivileged children of the Big Spring and Howard County area at Christmas time.

Admission to the trade show is free.

Contact Staff Writer

Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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James Thomas Wilson, 29, died Wednesday. Memorial services were held at 10:30 a.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Doug Nichols, 68, died Tuesday. Memorial services were held at 2 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel.

WATER

Continued from Page 1A

Residents with even address numbers — such as 110, 112 or 114 — are being required to limit their use of water outdoors to Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays between the hours of 12:01 a.m. and 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. and midnight.

Water customers with odd address numbers — such as 111, 113 and 115 — are required to limit their outdoor use of water to Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, also between the hours of 12:01 a.m. and 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. and midnight.

No outdoor water use — which includes watering lawns, filling swimming pools or hot tubs, the use of fountains and spas and washing vehicles — is allowed Mondays or between the hours of 10:01 a.m. and 6 p.m. on any day of the week.

"One of the reasons we've targeted the hours between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. is because the heat is so high, evaporation is at its highest," Assistant City Manager Todd Darden said. "If you're watering your lawn be-

tween those hours, only a small percentage of the water is actually making it to the roots of the grass, with the rest simply lost."

Darden said the restrictions targets automated types of watering, such as sprinkler systems and other manner of devices water customers can turn on and walk away from.

"That's where you're going to see the biggest waste," he said. "On the other hand, watering by hand — whether it's with an old fashion watering can or with a hose — is less likely to run on and on when the person using them is around. So, if you have a backyard garden and need to water, that's fine, just as long as you're doing it manually."

Efforts by the city of Big Spring and other Colorado River Municipal Water District customers to curtail water usage, especially when demands are at their highest, come on the heels of the district's announcement earlier this

year that water deliveries would be cut by 10 percent.

Area residents who choose to ignore the restrictions — or waste water — may find themselves on the receiving end of a hefty fine, according to officials.

"We want our city residents to understand we're not just going to go around handing out tickets to folks who water their lawn on the wrong day. That's not how it's going to work," Darden said firmly. "If there's a problem, our first goal is to educate the water customer. I don't want citizens to think we're just going to run around handing out citations. Our goal, first and foremost, is to conserve water, not write tickets."

"On the other hand, there are just some people who don't care, and that's why we have to have fines in a situation like this. The fines can go as high as \$2,000, but it's ultimately left up to the judge who hears the case. People make

mistakes. They can forget things, and we know this. Fines are strictly a worst case scenario."

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- ◆ Worked with Keep Big Spring Beautiful to teach methods and benefits of conservation, preservation and recycling of our resources.

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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.

Bill McClellan Managing Editor	Ron Midkiff Publisher	Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Amanda Moreno Staff Writer		Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer

YOUR VIEWS

Thoughtful Firemen

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to tell all of the firemen that helped me; Carl Condrey, Courtney Shaffer, Richard Grove, Craig Ferguson, Glenn Graves and John Manning how much I appreciate them moving some furniture for me on their lunch break.

Their thoughtfulness showed in everything they did.

May God bless their days and fill their hearts with his love.

Thank you all again and again.

JOYCE BARRETT
COAHOMA

Alley problems

TO THE EDITOR:

I have a problem and I request some guidance. I have more trash of which to dispose from my home than the city can handle.

My little elderly lady friend lives on the 2700 block of Central Drive and she is unable to get her household trash to the dumpster in her alley. Nor can I help her. The alley is so destroyed that only a mountain goat can traverse it. So I bring her trash to my home to put into my dumpster to put onto the street for the city to pick up on Tuesdays and Fridays.

It is too much for the dumpster I have on these scheduled days. So I went to Walmart and bought two dumpsters on wheels for reserve. They can't be picked up by the trash truck by design of these dumpsters.

I spoke to the very nice lady at the landfill by phone and in person. She had told her supervisor and she and he told me he had inspected the alley on the 2700 block of Central and concurred its being unaccessible by a human being and therefor the problem had been turned over to someone else to see about fixing the alley.

Since then, it's worsened. The trash truck did not pick up my trash yesterday, Good Friday, and I understand the city employees have and deserve the holiday. However, my dumpster sits on the street, more than full. I had to put a cinder block on the lid to keep my trash from blowing everywhere.

The nice lady at the landfill told me I'd have to pay another \$11 and something to have a second roll out dumpster for the street at my home to take care of my little elderly lady's trash. I called Adult Protective Services Hotline, 1-800-352-5400, because years ago I wrote the program in Texas called Adult Protective Services. My lady friend is 79 and I am 67. They are opening a case to try to assist. It's awful and I didn't know what else to do.

An ankle would be broken or there would be a fall and Old Tramp is going to look after Lady.

ORAND CARROLL
BIG SPRING

Calling it a duck

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to add my two cents to what Mr. Jenkins reported about the candidates that showed up for the debate. One shared that he was not a member of the Concerned Citizens Council and the two others did not deny their affiliation with the CCC. Well let me say that it seems that all three candidates had the same old, tired opinions as if they all three got together and decided to back the same old excuses and opinions and not one had an original opinion or idea that separated him from the pack. Let me just say that I believe in the old adage of "if it walks like a duck and it quacks like a duck, then it is a duck" and I am calling all of you three, ducks or CCC affiliates/members.

All three are pushing for term limits as if it is a remedy to something that they want their way. I call this changing the rules so they can get what they want. If you had a favorite player in the college ranks that had won two consecutive Heisman trophies and was on their way to a third Heisman, would you be okay with someone decided to set a limit of Heisman trophy's to any one person and set that limit to two Heisman trophies?

What if your mother won the Blue Ribbon at the County Fair for her apple pie and she wanted to enter her apple pie next year, but then was informed that she could not enter due to the fact that she had already won one time. Would you be okay with that happening? What they cloud is the fact that everyone has had term limits already and they are called elections. Where, if you did not like what your city council member did, you had the opportunity to vote him/her out at every single election. The next thing they all agree on is that they all do not want the water park that is being constructed and one even

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

Physician leaves 'em stitched

Brad Nieder, MD, faced directional decisions for his life when this century was just a baby.

He'd completed 21 years of formal education, including degrees from Stanford and the University of Colorado Medical School, then an emergency medicine internship in Virginia.

Immersed in emergency room medicine, he somehow couldn't stay "dunked." He pondered baseballer Yogi Berra's mind-bending advice about forks in the road, as well as poet Robert Frost's views about the road not taken.

After all, he'd straddled two career paths—medicine and humor—for about a decade. He made a big decision in 2002. Berra would say that he "took the fork"; Frost would offer him congratulations for following his heart.

Now then. What would loved ones think of his decision to pursue a career in, uh, "alternative medicine?" Six eyes—in sockets of his fiancée, Sara, and his parents, anesthesiologist and Mrs. Bob Nieder—rolled.

After all, his folks had invested much in him, and Sara admitted thoughts of her soon-to-be hubby becoming a neurosurgeon.

He thinks he and his wife are "coming out even" on expectations. "She told me she could cook."

The healthy humorist is what Nieder yearned to be. After all, that's alternative medicine, isn't it?

Whatever. He wanted to induce laughter instead of labor, dreaming of making "auditorium calls" instead of house calls and prescribing laughter through stand-up comedy for that which ails us. At first, his decision seemed about as feasible as pregnant pole-vaulting.

He hammered away, emphasizing freedom from traditional entanglements with malpractice

insurance, burgeoning alphabet-taxed medical abbreviations and weary hours logged in futile attempts to keep pace, never mind getting ahead.

Now, almost a decade after his pronouncement, he's doing well by all measures. Speaking to dozens of audiences annually (largely to health care professionals across the land) Dr. Nieder offers original humor—and delivery—equal to Jerry Seinfeld's.

He finds new humor topics in life's everyday wrinkles. With the verbal precision of a surgeon, he flashes engaging smiles, throws in leg kicks as needed and gestures with animation during remarks that flow steadily, like an unhurried river.

He has Paul Harvey kind of timing, with humor twists like the late radio personality's "rest of the story." His verbal vignettes feature clever why-didn't-we-think-of-that twists.

Dr. Nieder's healthy humor pitch is indeed timely, what with heightening problems of widening bodies, not to mention such unexpected disruptions as wildfires, tsunamis, airliners that become convertibles in midflight and budgets at all levels in red ink. His banter is balm-like in a world cluttered with sharp-edged adjectives like "beleaguered, besmirched, bemoaned, belittled and, yes, even befuddled."

At the recent Hunt Regional Healthcare Foundation Gala, the Denver humorist entertained an audience of some 400 persons in Commerce.

As emcee for the event, I watched his work up close. But my contributions were comparable to a Broadway stagehand raising the curtain. Both get things going.

A majority of the audience laughed off a pound or two, except, as Nieder explained, a few stone-faced guys in the back "who were only hurting themselves."

Back in Denver, he has no bigger fans than his wife and parents.

That this third generation Nieder became a physician

didn't surprise his folks. They never dreamed, however, that his "medicine" might be more akin to Dr. Seuss than Dr. Oz.

The healthy humorist is to contemporary life what Johnny Appleseed was to pioneers more than two centuries ago.

One audience at a time, he prescribes practical pointers, buoyed by research, that laughter is good medicine.

He and platform colleagues have collaborated to write a delightful book, *Humor Me*.

His website, healthyhumorist.com has much more information, and he's all over YouTube.

When introduced to the Hunt County group, he was greeted by a prolonged "AHHHH," as if a giant depressor flattened all tongues. (Audience followed instructions well!)

In his opening remarks, he confessed that his announced topic, *Laughter is the Best Medicine*, should be revised.

He admitted that it should be followed by "unless" provisos, such as "unless you have an infection. Or you're having a heart attack, or you're recovering from surgery, or you have 'giggle incontinence.' So, laughter is about the fifth or sixth best medicine." One fan, impressed with Nieder's recitation of his lengthy fitness poem, credited him with a *photogenic* memory. Avoiding the temptation to ask if she might have meant "photographic," he said that maybe it won't be necessary for him to get his MRI's retouched.

Yeah, he's a modern day Johnny Appleseed, and his healthy humor regimen trumps an apple a day. And around 2040, if son Isaac, 3, or daughter Molly, 1, decides to work in the circus, join an aquatic team to perform with whales or to sell sea shells, their dad should smile and pray as they follow their dreams.

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Metroplex. Send inquiries/emails to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Website: www.speakerdoc.com.

Safely accessing American energy; Lower gas prices?

One year ago, the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded, tragically killing 11 people and causing the massive oil spill off the Gulf Coast that has had sweeping economic and environmental consequences.

Since the oil spill, lessons have been learned from the accident. The oil and gas industry have put in place new advanced environmental safeguards, helping to ensure a safer and stronger energy future. Today, we are able to produce domestic energy more safely than ever before.

Nevertheless, the administration's energy policies have failed to keep up with this progress. In the aftermath of the accident, the administration put a 10-month freeze on deepwater drilling permits, until they awarded their first permit in late February 2011. To date, only 10 deepwater permits have been issued. The shallow water moratorium was "officially" lifted on May 20, 2010, but now almost one year later, only 49 new drilling permits have been issued. Prior to the oil spill, approximately 10 shallow water permits were issued per month.

With gasoline reaching \$4 a gallon in many parts of Texas and around the country, as well as the ongoing uncertainty in the Middle East, there is no justification for the government's permitting delays that have pre-

vented thousands of Gulf Coast energy workers from going back to work and opening new supplies that will bring down gas prices.

We are beginning to see the impact the Obama Administration's policies are having on domestic energy production. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, offshore oil production, most of which comes from the Gulf, is expected to average 1.55 million barrels a day this year, down 13 percent from 2010.

As a result of the drilling moratoria and the slower permitting process, essentially a de-facto moratorium for both deep and shallow water drilling, this year there is an estimated loss of 375,000 barrels of oil a day. To put this number in perspective, that is roughly a third of the production that has been currently cut off in Libya because of the political turmoil in that country.

While bureaucratic permitting delays are certainly hurting energy production in the short term, the administration's policies are also adversely affecting the leaseholders who were exploring for energy resources at the time of the oil spill. During the moratorium, the leaseholders in the Gulf had to pay "rent" while time ticked away on their leases. Now, despite the official ban on drilling being lifted, these leaseholders have not been given back the time they lost on their leases through no fault of their own.

Companies in the Gulf invest millions of dollars on a single lease, typically spending nearly a decade in the exploration

phase, and they must follow a strict timeline in order to eventually produce oil. Any time lost on a lease can jeopardize energy production and the success of an entire project.

To address this issue, I introduced the Lease Extension and Secure Energy (LEASE) Act of 2011 which will grant a one year extension on all exploration leases in the Gulf that were impacted by the administration's drilling moratoria. By fairly restoring the time lost, leaseholders will be able to use the full length of their lease, providing the certainty needed to protect and create jobs and produce energy domestically.

With the many bureaucratic hurdles the administration has put in place, from permitting delays to their failure to restore the time leaseholders lost during the moratorium, it is not surprising that we are seeing companies leave the Gulf to drill for oil overseas, taking jobs and tax revenue with them. Offshore energy producers are vital to America's economic growth and energy security, and our national energy policies need to start reflecting that reality.

We cannot afford to wait another day to leverage fully our vast domestic energy resources. It's time to put energy workers in the Gulf Coast back to work and to bring down soaring energy costs for American families and businesses.

Kay Bailey Hutchison is a U.S. Senator. More information can be found at hutchison.senate.gov.



DR.
DON
NEWBURY



KAY
BAILEY
HUTCHISON

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

even said that he was against it and said that it would only be used by a select few. What select few are you talking about? I believe that would mean the underprivileged, those without a swimming pool at home or access to one and those unable to go on vacation.

Obviously it does not include anyone from your family otherwise you would not speak such nonsense.

TONY MARQUEZ
BIG SPRING

Mr. President

TO THE EDITOR:
Dear Mr. President,
I was born in 1936 and I've lived most of my life in Hollywood, Cali., and I have seen a lot of this old world. I feel compelled to address this issue once again.

In movies and other media, the deplorable depictions of sex and violence have been out of control like a runaway freight train far, far too long. With or without pornography, the hideous, horrendous, blood curling portrayals of torture, mayhem and murder are incredibly reprehensible.

You must put a stop to this horrible, mind-boggling, filthy trash.
God bless America.

NICK HILTON
BIG SPRING

Why the top shelf?

To the Editor:
My news may not be what everyone wants to hear, although I am sure that there are a lot of handicapped people who "live" in wheelchairs that are glad I'm writing this.

I've been in Big Spring since April 3, 1984, and though it has never really been anything that I thought to be of consequence. It seems to be now.

The only two stores I go to are Walmart and H-E-B. A question sprang to my mind the last time I was at H-E-B; why do they have to put everything that I need on the top shelf? I have to go with my provider if I want to get anything that is necessary for living in my apartment. Do they intentionally do that or is it only because they either have no place else to put it or is it because they just assume that everyone can walk. I'm saying these things to both Walmart Supercenter and H-E-B.
I want to know.

KEITH OLDAKER
BIG SPRING

Time to vote

TO THE EDITOR:
As our community witnesses the restoration of the Settles Hotel project; let us not forget that our taxes provided 3 million dollars through the development board (aka: Moore Board). Furthermore, the city council under the direction of Russ McEwen granted the Settles project a 20-year tax abatement estimated at 5-6 million dollars. Ouch!

Let us not forget the "waiving of \$40,000.00 in building permits" towards the Settles project granted by Horton, Ramirez, Staulcup, McDonald and Terry Hansen, while Mayor Tommy Duncan and Councilman Craig Olson opposed. As a community we must have a watchful eye in how our taxes are being spent and hold them accountable for their actions. The pool at the north side park (aka: Boys Club Pool) was attended by many children throughout the years. However, through the purchase of the Settles Hotel, the Boys/Girls Club building and the pool were part of the package. Our community has provided millions of dollars and the waiving of thousands of dollars in permit fees, while the Boys Club Pool was emptied and closed.

I am grateful for Mayor Duncan and Councilman Olson as they attempted to make it fair for all the citizens of Big Spring as they opposed the "waiving of building permits". District 1 and District 3 it's your turn to voice your opinion. Marcus Fernandez and Glen Carrigan are seeking our support as they both will work for the people and believe in the responsibility for budget control. Early voting begins Monday through Friday at the courthouse on third floor.

EVA GARCIA
BIG SPRING

What a jewel

TO THE EDITOR:
One of the best kept secrets in Big Spring. I just got through a successful open heart surgery. After I was released from the hospital they were trying to find a facility for my cardio rehab. They picked a location in Midland for the rehab. This rehab was to last for 12 weeks with three sessions per week.

We asked about doing the rehab in Big Spring at the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center. They checked and it was approved.

I have just completed these 12 weeks. The dedication of the personnel at Dora Roberts could not have been any better. They were very caring but also very strict. If you were a very few minutes late, they would not allow you for that session. I would like to thank Paula, Patty, Penny and all the rest of the staff for a job well done.

We, in Big Spring, do not appreciate what a jewel we have in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center. Thanks to the Dora Roberts Foundation, the United Way, the employees of Dora Roberts and all the others who help keep this the first-class facility that Big Spring should be proud of.

PASCHAL ODOM
BIG SPRING

Wonderful help

TO THE EDITOR:
I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank Big Spring City Councilwoman Joann Staulcup of District 3. Several years ago I had some health problems. My employer of 19 years said I could no longer work for them. I was working on getting surgery that would help my medical condition and did not know what to do.

Someone suggested that I call Mrs. Staulcup. I did not know her and did not live in her district. I decided I would give her a call and it turned out to be excellent advice. After hearing my problem she said that she would come right over to my house to try to assist me. Frankly, I was floored. I said ma'am I can make an appointment to come to your office or home at your convenience. Mrs. Staulcup replied I don't really have an office and I don't have any committee appointments right now. She came to my home (out of her district) and assisted me with some paperwork.

I have since discovered that Mrs. Staulcup has served or is currently serving on numerous local civic committees, advisory boards and organizations to make our town a better place including Keep Our Big Spring Beautiful and the Downtown revitalization committee. She helped to start

the annual hang-gliders organization in coming to Big Spring which bring in money, tourist and entertainment to our small community.

In the current term limit controversy in a small town like Big Spring I believe the power of your vote during elections is your opportunity to impose term limits. Whether you are for or against term limits I have no hesitations in recommending Mrs. Joann Staulcup for city councilwoman for District 3. If she can drop what she is doing to help someone who does not even live in her district I am sure she would attempt to help someone who does.

CAROL SMITH
BIG SPRING

Allegations addressed

TO THE EDITOR:
During the past year, allegations have been made through Letters to the Editor. I would like to address a few with some facts.

Allegation 1: There has been a "drastic reduction in our tax base."

Fact: In 2000, our tax base was \$402,722,675. In 2010, our tax base was \$542,721,152 — an increase of \$139,998,477.

Allegation 2: There has been an "ever increasing debt."

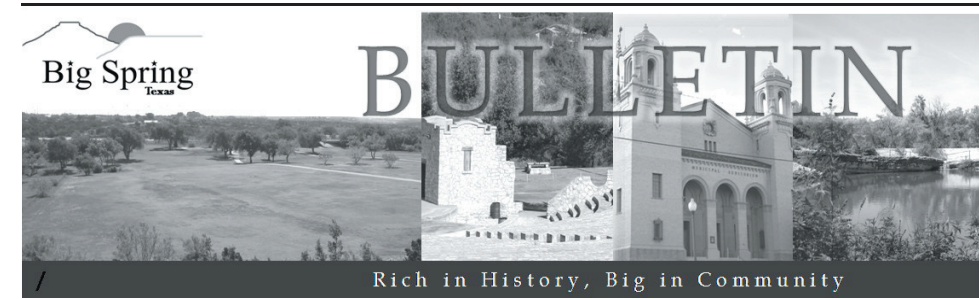
Fact: In their independent financial review and analysis of the city of Big Spring's fiscal condition, Standard and Poor's (a national rating agency) stated "Big Spring's overall debt burden is low at \$1,250 per capita ..." and this includes debt from every taxing entity in Big Spring, not just the city. At Sept. 30, 2009, debt per capita for the city's debt was \$764.

Allegation 3: Big Spring has had "poor management and irresponsible decisions."

Fact: Standard and Poor's also noted "Big Spring's management practices are considered good" and that "city officials implement conservative budgeting practices."

Allegation 4: Big Spring has a "high tax rate."

Fact: The city's current tax rate is \$1.012343 per \$100. If you subtract See **LETTERS**, Page 6A



Wildfire Safety

Due to the influx in wildfires, here are some tips if a wildfire threatens your home or property, as well as what to do if damages have occurred.

If wildfire threatens your area:

- Back your car into the garage or park it in an open space facing the direction of escape.
- Shut doors and roll windows. Leave the key in the ignition and close garage windows and doors, but leave them unlocked.
- Disconnect automatic garage door openers.
- If possible, arrange temporary housing at a relative's home outside of the threatened area.
- Know two exit routes from your neighborhood in case of emergency evacuation.
- Wear protective clothing.
- Take your emergency supplies kit.
- Lock your home.
- Tell someone you are leaving and where you are going.
- Follow the instructions of emergency workers and firefighters.

If you've experienced damage:

- Take reasonable steps to prevent further damage.
- Save your receipts.
- Check with your claim representative before you dispose of any items you plan to claim as damaged.
- Document the time you spent cleaning up, what you did and the number of hours.
- Make a list of all damaged items.
- Keep all receipts associated with the temporary housing, meals, ect.

Safety is the most important thing. Follow the instructions of local officials. If you are told to evacuate, do so immediately. Make sure everyone in your family knows what to do and agree on a designated place to meet.

Big Spring Water Restrictions

Beginning May 1st mandatory water restrictions will be implemented.

- Addresses ending in an even number will water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from either midnight to 10:00 a.m. or from 6:00 p.m. to midnight.
- Addresses ending in an odd number will water on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays from either midnight to 10:00 a.m. or from 6:00 p.m. to midnight.
- Intentional wasting of water will be prohibited.
- No watering of lawns on Mondays or any day from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Water Conservation is important because we are all in this together. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact (432) 264-2501 or (432) 264-2391.

Mother's Day is May 8th!

The Mother's Day Luncheon is May 6th at the Big Spring Senior Center. One can expect food, fun, and door prizes. Make your reservations at (432) 267-1628.



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LETTERS

Continued from Page 5A

amount the rate increased when the citizens approved the 2006 bonds (\$0.248768) and subtract the amount the rate increased when the Narcotics Task Force was established (\$0.07231), the balance of the current rate is 69.1265 cents per \$100. That reflects an increase of 3.4965 or 5.3 percent over 10 years.

Allegation 5: There was "no need for a family aquatic center" (most commonly referred to as "water park").

Fact: The previous city council spent a great deal of time researching municipal pools and studying the options faced with the dilapidated swimming pool and bath house. They arrived at three options.

Option 1: Repair the old pool which held 1 million gallons of water, but leaked about 200,000 gallons every two weeks. Every year, the city made costly repairs to the pool, trying to stop this leakage. There was a federal mandate (under the Virginia Graham Baker Act) that the pool drain had to be of a type that would prevent a person being held at the bottom of the pool and cause drowning. The pool and pool house also had to be restructured to meet the American Disabilities Act standards. The pool house was beyond being made compliant, so it would have to be bypassed and a new entrance made. All these repairs and changes were estimated at \$1 million to \$1.5 million.

Option 2: Tear out the old pool and bath house and build a new rectangular pool and bath house in compliance with the afore-mentioned federal requirements. Estimated cost, \$2.5 million.

Option 3: Full scale family aquatic center with two slides, lazy rivers and a play feature for small children. A certificate of obligation was issued for \$4.2 million. Final estimate \$3-3.5 million. This was considered much better for our children and it required fewer gallons of water to operate (a very precious commodity).

I could provide information regarding the means for renovating the golf course and building a new club house as well as the cost of preparing an office for Mayor Duncan which included new furniture, repainting and installation of a telephone. (By the way, none of our previous mayors required an office — the City Hall has meeting rooms available when needed. It is nice to have a furnished office but what about his campaign platform for controlled spending?) All the stated facts, however, are a matter of public record and you can check them out. Now ask yourselves: What would I have done to solve these situations?

It seems to me that we have a group of "naysayers" who are negative to any effort made to improve our economic development. Our city thus has become divided and the unrest among us sickens me.

Mr. Mayor, I believe your efforts to replace all former council members has clouded your judgement, e.g. encouraging Mr. Carrigan to run for office and going all out to contact District 3 constituents to vote for him. Your present council members are your "colleagues" and you should be working with them in a businesslike way.

(By the way, are you voters in District 5 proud of Mr. Olson's temper tantrum letter to the editor on April 24?)

These are just two examples of Mr. Duncan and Mr. Olsen seemingly working to get their way by any means. Mayor Duncan has even expressed his disappointment when council members did not vote as he wished.

Oh yes, I am voting for Jo Ann Staulcup (and told Mr. Duncan so when he called me to vote for Carrigan). She is well-qualified, experienced and concerned for our welfare. I have no problem going to her on city and/or District 3 business.

You can see her ad about her long years of community involvement, but did you know she served our veterans for over 30 years at the Big Spring VA Medical Center and received nu-

merous awards for her outstanding service? Among them: the Director's Commendation from the VA Medical Center in Baltimore, Md. (the highest award presented by the VA) in recognition of her team leadership in consolidating the Baltimore-Perry Point-Ft. Howard databases and training their IT departments. She held several supervisory positions, was designated internal investigator, the federal women's program manager, and a nationwide Equal Employment Opportunity super investigator (one of five in the nation) — a position she held until resigning some time after her retirement.

She has been responsible for multi-million dollar budgets, employee performance, public relations and political liaison. So, you see, she is very well qualified for council responsibilities. Please consider Mrs. Staulcup as your council representative.

BETTY RAY COFFEE
BIG SPRING

Caring community

TO THE EDITOR,

In the early morning hours on April 12, we watched our home burn down. Two independent, hard-working, and proud people were devastated. We felt so helpless.

We would like to acknowledge numerous responses from Big Spring, Howard County, our neighbors, family, and friends. Living so far out in the county, we were astonished to see two large fire trucks from the city of Big Spring within 20 minutes of our 911 call. Within minutes of their arrival, Howard County deputies Blakene, Peterson and Rollins arrived, followed by the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department.

Thanks to Chief Tommy Sullivan, who, without hesitation, hooked up to a vehicle in the driveway and pulled it to safety. Thanks to the deputies who handed us a donation and provided clothing while the firefighters fought the fire. Thank

you Permian Basin Red Cross, Iglesia Bautista Mission, Spring of Siloume Church, Spring Tabernacle Church and Gateway Baptist Church for groceries and clothing. Thank you to our H-E-B and Quality Glass employers for allowing us time to regroup, and co-workers who gave donations immediately after our loss.

Thank all of you who gave furniture, appliances, generators and money, and those who offered lodging and storage. Not only did family, friends and neighbors in Big Spring and Howard County donate, but families from Greenwood and Christoval, as well.

Special thanks goes to Sharyland Utilities, specifically Sonny and his crews, for their prompt attention in getting electric service re-established. Special thanks to Holiday Inn Express employees, headed by Tiffany Dumont and Dina King, for their efforts in collecting clothing, linen, and money donations.

An extra-special thank you goes to Stan and Brenda Stansell for use of their travel trailer, Curtis and Sarena James for lodging and food for a week, and Jim Nelson and Trish Baatz for their labor, support and electrical supplies, as well as Bill and Darlene Hipp for their incredible generosity and thoughtfulness.

For anyone who doesn't realize how caring our community is, I hope it doesn't take a fire, death, or other tragedy to bring you to your knees to find out. When a community shares and cares, as Big Spring, Howard County, Greenwood and Christoval have, we are grateful to live in a community like this.

SINCERELY,
GARY AND DEBBY NELSON
BIG SPRING

Forsan Elementary at Elbow Pre-K and kindergarten registration

Forsan Elementary at Elbow is now registering students for pre-k and kindergarten for the 2011-12 school year. To enroll your student, please come by the elementary office located south of Big Spring at the corner of Nichols Road and FM 818. The school office will be open for registration between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The district especially encourages in-district students to register at this time to allow for planning

for next year.

In order to be eligible for pre-kindergarten, the student must be four years old on or before September 1, 2011, and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Must be unable to speak or comprehend English;
- The family fully qualifies for free or reduced-price lunches;
- The family is homeless;
- One or more parents are on active-duty military service ; or

The children are in foster care To register for kindergarten, students must be five years of age on or before September 1, 2011.

Parents should bring the child's official birth certificate, Social Security card, shot records, proof of residency (utility bill with name and physical address), parent's driver's license, and proof of guardianship.

For more information, contact the district at 432-398-5444.

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FIRES

Continued from Page 1A

we could have lost 30,000 acres or more.”

Sullivan was quick to point out the vital assistance provided by the BSFD in helping to bring the fire under control.

“There are a lot of places in Texas where the volunteer fire departments and city fire departments don’t work well together. Howard County isn’t one of them,” he said proudly. “The BSFD firefighters were able to get to the edge of the fire, which was critical to being able to stop it before it spread out of our control. They did a fantastic job.”

While local firefighters continue to respond to numerous calls each day, Sullivan said the situation can still get much worse.

“Sure, it’s pretty rough on the guys right now, but this isn’t the worst of it. Not by a long shot,” Sullivan said. “If we don’t get some substantial moisture soon, it will get much, much worse. I know it’s hard to imagine that when there’s a haze of smoke across Big Spring and Howard County, but the fires we’re responding to now are nothing compared to how bad it can get.”

With no sign of rain in the forecast, Sullivan said the biggest factor to keeping the risk of wildfires and grass fires to a minimum is people.

“If there’s no rain, well, there isn’t much we can do about that,” he said. “However, the fires that start because of human error, those we can cut down on. Dispose of your smoking material responsibly and don’t burn or work with anything that could start a fire.

“It’s a \$5 fee to drop your garbage off at the

municipal landfill. However, if you decide to burn your trash, you could cost yourself and others a lot more, no matter how careful you think you are being. It’s just not worth the risk at this point.”

According to the Texas Forest Service, high winds Friday created critical fire weather conditions across an area of Texas west of a line from Wichita Falls to Abilene to Fredericksburg to Del Rio.

Texas Forest Service spokesman Bruce Palmer said the group’s crews were battling at least 10 major fires across the state, which have — so far — scorched more than half-million acres. The National Weather Service issued red-flag warnings for much of central, south and West Texas, citing strong winds and relatively low humidity. It said gusts of up to 60 miles per hour were possible in some places.

The largest of those 10 fires, according to state officials, is the Rockhouse fire believed to have begun in Marfa. It has burned nearly 300,000 acres and is about 66 percent contained, according to forest service officials.

Authorities have responded to 7,807 fires across more than 1.5 million acres since this year’s wildfire season began in late December, according to state officials, with all but two of the state’s 254 counties already affected.

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

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HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno
The Big Spring landfill caught on fire Friday afternoon around 4 p.m. and continued to burn on and off throughout the rest of the evening. There were no reports of the fire spreading outside the landfill area. The fire was only one of the many in the area as area conditions remain dry. A burn ban is still in effect for Howard County.



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HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Dee's Trade Show opened Saturday at the Howard County Fair Barn and continues through Sunday. Vendors will be open for business from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There are about 50 vendors with clothing items, candles, flip flops, home decorations and food. There is no charge for admission.

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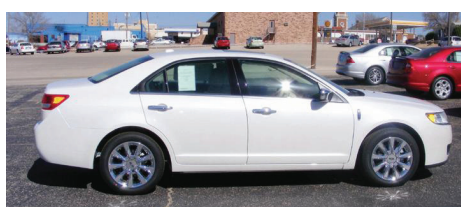
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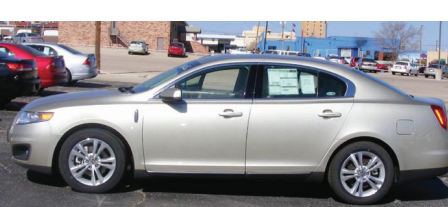
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HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Howard College's Michael Franco delivers a pitch during the first game of a Friday doubleheader with Frank Phillips College at Jack Barber Field. Franco pitched a three-hitter to pick up the victory.

Blown down

Hawks ignore windy weather, sweep Plainsmen

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

It wasn't exactly ideal conditions for baseball, but you won't hear the Howard College Hawks complaining.

The Hawks ignored howling winds to take an 11-0, 15-3 doubleheader sweep over Frank Phillips College at Jack Barber Field Friday afternoon.

Winds that topped 30 mph and smoke from distant grass fires provided a surreal atmosphere to Friday's proceedings, but the Hawks treated those conditions as minor distractions at worst en route to improving their Western Junior College Athletic Conference-leading record to 22-6.

"We played good defense, we pitched well

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B

Howard drops softball twinbill

Odessa maintains WJCAC lead with sweep of Hawks

Herald Staff Report

ODESSA — Odessa College clinched at a share of the Western Junior College Athletic Conference softball title with a 5-4, 9-8 doubleheader sweep of Howard College Friday afternoon.

The Hawks, who fell to 17-5 in conference action, came into the series one game back of Odessa in the standings and with a chance to claim the WJCAC title outright. The sweep, however, puts them three games back of the Lady Wranglers with only two games remaining, meaning the best Howard can hope for is a second-place finish in conference.

The Hawks are currently third in WJCAC play, one game behind Midland College.

"I was just disappointed that we had both ball games won, but we just couldn't finish," Howard Coach Kelly Raines said. "We were right

there in both games. We had opportunities to win, but we just couldn't seal the deal."

The two teams concluded regular season play with a Saturday doubleheader beginning at 1 p.m. at Foundation Field.

Lady Steers fall to Iowa Park

GRAHAM — Iowa Park was as good as advertised, as the Lady Eagles took a 10-0 run-rule victory over Big Spring in Class 3A softball playoff action Friday.

Iowa Park jumped out to a quick 5-0 lead after one inning and never let the Lady Steers back in the game, limiting Big Spring to only two hits in the contest.

"We were told their first four hitters were really good, and they were," BSHS Coach John Sparks said. "They just pounded the ball and made the plays they needed to make. They were just a very good team."

Starting pitcher Valerie Ross took the loss for Big Spring, which finished its season with a 14-20 record.

"I think this season had to be one of those we learn from," Sparks said. "We have to look back and say we can't play ball like that and expect to compete. The girls are plenty capable of competing, but they need to take that next step."

Kermit blanks Bulldogettes

GREENWOOD — A pair of unearned runs were the difference in the game as Kermit claimed a 2-0 win over Coahoma in the first game of a best-of-three Class 2A softball playoff series Friday evening.

The Bulldogettes committed five errors which led to unearned runs in the third and fifth innings and negated a fine performance by starting pitcher Kyla Clanton, who struck out 10 and al-

lowed only four hits.

Coahoma threatened to get back into the game in its half of the fourth, loading the bases with no outs. However, the Bulldogettes were unable to push any runs across the plate.

"That was just the way it went for us Friday," Coahoma Coach Tracy Tadlock said. "They capitalized on our mistakes and we didn't capitalize on theirs."

Game 2 of the playoff series was scheduled for 1 p.m. A third game, if necessary, will follow.

Other scores:

Class 2A softball playoffs — Forsan 10, Crane 0.

Game 2 will be played at 6 p.m. at the Freddie Ezell Softball Complex in Midland. A third game, if necessary, will follow.

Sports Calendar

SATURDAY

Class 2A softball playoffs — Coahoma vs. Kermit, Game 2, 1 p.m., Greenwood (if necessary, third game follows).

Class 2A softball playoffs — Forsan vs. Crane: Game 2, 6 p.m., MUGS Field, Midland (if necessary, third game follows).

JUCO softball — Odessa College at Howard College (DH), 1 p.m.

JUCO baseball — Frank Phillips at Howard College (DH), noon.

MONDAY

Track — Big Spring boys and girls at Region I-3A track meet, Lubbock.

Track — Coahoma and Forsan boys and girls at Region I-2A meet, Odessa.

Coahoma sending 6 to regionals

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

COAHOMA — The future may not be now for the Coahoma High School track team, but it's not too far away, either.

CHS will send six athletes to the Region I-2A track meet in Odessa Monday and coaches hope this year's contingent is a harbinger of things to come.

This year's group is on the young side — only one senior will make the trip to the regional meet — but Sanchez' track coach Raul Sanchez believes the time is coming quickly when they'll be able to run with anybody.

CHS boys competing at the regional meet are senior Hunter Williams, junior Justin Coker, sophomores Tanner Ruiz and Aaron Acevedo and freshman Tyler Frazier. Junior Kaley Owens was the only girls' track team member to qualify for regionals.

"Our times at district weren't that great, but it was a very windy day and we can run way faster than we did at district. Our major goal is to qualify for the event finals. If we can do that, anything can happen."

Raul Sanchez, Coahoma boys track coach

The Coahoma boys will pin most of their hopes on the 400-meter and 800-meter relays. In addition, Coker will compete in the 200-meter run and pole vault, and Ruiz will also compete in the long jump.

Sanchez said the team's major goal will be to make the event finals, especially in the two relays.

"Our times at district weren't that great, but it was a very windy day and we can run way faster than we did at district," Sanchez said. "Our major goal is to qualify for the event finals. If we can do that, anything can happen."

In the girls' meet, Owens will compete in the 1,600-meter run. Her coach, Stephen Stokes, admits she will have a difficult chore advancing to the state meet.

"Out of 24 girls who will compete in the event, her time is probably seventh or eighth best," Stokes said. "So her chances aren't that great. All we're asking is that she gives it her best. If she does that, we'll be proud of her, regardless."

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

In brief

Big Spring boosters schedule meeting

The Big Spring Booster Club will hold a meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Big Spring High School Athletic Training Center.

The purpose of the meeting will be to plan the annual Spring Sports Banquet.

For more information, contact Denise Carrillo at 816-1685.

CGA to host Sunday tourney

The Chicano Golf Association will hold a golf tournament at Comanche Trail Golf Course Sunday.

Registration for the individual stroke play tournament will be \$20 and will be accepted up until 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

Play will begin with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. Sunday.

Also, CGA will hold a members' meeting at 6 p.m. Monday at the golf course.

For more information, call Larry at 816-1684.

Volleyball showcase May 21 in San Angelo

Registration is now open for the West Texas Volleyball Showcase, scheduled for May 21 in San Angelo.

The tournament will be officiated by TASO-approved officials.

Registration fee is \$225 per team. Registration deadline is May 15.

Play will be held in two divisions — big school (Class 3A and up) and small school (Class 1A and 2A, as well as junior varsity).

There is a 20-team limit. For more information, contact Chris Cardenas at 325-374-2910.

San Angelo will be the site for a volleyball summer league, which begins June 7.

Registration fee is \$25 per player.

For more information, contact Chris Cardenas at (325) 374-2910.

NFL lockout returns to players' dismay

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — The wildest week in NFL history had one more twist at the end and it means football is off limits again.

The NFL locked out its players Friday night after its first legal victory in the fight with the players over the future of the \$9 billion business.

The players who showed up smiling and relieved to be back at work Friday morning are now cooling their heels. The ups and downs of the day — and the weeks and months of this labor dispute — may be taking their toll with the first preseason game little more than three months away.

"It's crazy and it's really, really making it difficult to plan," Bengals quarterback Jordan Palmer said. "It's just really hectic. Everybody I've talked to is very thrown off by the situation."

Raiders quarterback Bruce Gradkowski vented on Twitter: "Gosh I just wanna get back to work and play! I feel bad for our fans having to put up with this."

The day began with dozens, if not hundreds, of players reporting to team facilities all over the league. They met with coaches, picked up playbooks and went through workouts for the first time since they were locked out after talks for a new collective bargaining agreement broke down March 11.

"From the players' stand-

Coaches and general managers scrambled to bring their first-round picks in on Friday during what proved to be a brief window of time. They started to give the youngsters crash courses in what they wanted them to work on in the event that the lockout does drag on into the summer.

point I think everybody is pleased we're not locked out anymore, especially the rookies," Patriots quarterback Tom Brady said on CNBC in his first public comments about the dispute since he became a plaintiff in the still-pending federal antitrust lawsuit filed against the owners.

Not so fast, Tom.

U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson's order lifting the 45-day lockout on Monday was temporarily stayed by the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis. The NFL made its decision a few hours later.

Teams "have been told that the prior lockout rules are reinstated effective immediately," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello told The Associated Press.

Agent Peter Schaffer said he has advised his clients to abide by the court's ruling.

"You can't have convenient justice," Schaffer said. "Whatever the ruling of the day is, it must be followed. So I have told my players to stay away from the facilities."

The appeals court is expected to rule next week on the

NFL's request for a more permanent stay that would last through its appeal of Nelson's injunction, a process expected to take 6-8 weeks.

"Nobody's happy about any of this," Green Bay Packers general manager Ted Thompson said. "But it is what it is. The lockout is back into effect."

Teams had announced plans for organized practices and camps as early as next week, but those have again been put on hold.

"Chaotic," Vikings receiver Bernard Berrian wrote on Twitter. "I dunno where to go."

Coaches and general managers scrambled to bring their first-round picks in on Friday during what proved to be a brief window of time. They started to give the youngsters crash courses in what they wanted them to work on in the event that the lockout does drag on into the summer.

Dolphins general manager Jeff Ireland said teams had no choice but to "go with the flow."

"It was good to see the play-

ers today, great to see some of those guys, and wish it would have lasted a little longer," Ireland said.

The NFL's victory came in a venue considered more favorable to businesses than the federal courts in Minnesota, though it was a narrow one. The 2-1 decision from a panel of the 8th Circuit included a lengthy dissent from Judge Kermit Bye, who suggested temporary stays should be issued only in emergencies.

"The NFL has not persuaded me this is the type of emergency situation which justifies the grant of a temporary stay," Bye wrote.

Jim Quinn, the lead attorney for the players, downplayed Friday's order and was heartened by the dissent.

"Routine grant of stay and totally expected," he said. "The only surprise is that Judge Bye is so strongly against giving them even a tiny stay because the league obviously can't show it is necessary."

Agents were concerned with how undrafted rookies will find work with teams unable to sign free agents after

the draft concludes on Saturday.

"The owners will create a huge injustice to their own GMs and personnel departments if they don't allow the signing of undrafted free agents," said agent Joe Linta, whose clients include Baltimore quarterback Joe Flacco. "They may not care about the players, but they should at least help their own scouts, coaches and personnel people who have worked so hard in the scouting process."

"It seems like you hear something different almost hourly," Lions defensive end and player rep Kyle Vanden Bosch said.

Attorneys for the players had argued against a stay of Nelson's order, suggesting that the public and the players, with their short careers, are at far more risk when the business is stalled.

"Professional football is part of the fabric of American life," the attorneys wrote. "Because the uncontroverted record of evidence shows that the 2011 season could be canceled or significantly curtailed without an injunction in place, a stay may deprive the public of professional football altogether."

Said Jaguars owner Wayne Weaver: "It'd be great to have everybody back in the building, but the real thing is we've got to get back to the negotiating table and get a CBA."

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

and we did what we needed to do," Howard Coach Britt Smith said. "Anytime you only give up three runs when the winds blowing like it did, you've done good."

Howard ace Michael Franco pitched a gem

in Friday's first game, escaping a bases-loaded jam in the first inning to hurl a three-hit shutout. For the game, he struck out eight and walked only two.

"I don't want to blame it on the wind, but I had a hard time figuring things out in the first inning," Franco said. "But I was able to settle down after that."

While Franco was shutting down the Plainsmen, the Hawks were lighting up Frank Phillips' pitching. Nathan Burns clubbed a three-run homer in the first inning to help stake Howard to an early 4-0 lead and things only got worse for FPC from there.

Franco took the blame for a recent rough

stretch of outings, but believes that he and his teammates have found a winning combination for the upcoming Region V baseball tournament.

"The last couple of weeks, I've picked up my work ethic," he said. "I've been doing the little things, and it's showing ... We're starting to bond and become

more of a team. Everybody's doing things like a team, and the results are there."

In the nightcap, Austin Blunt started strong and his teammates followed suit, scoring six runs in the first inning en route to the blowout win. Blunt scattered seven hits, while striking out five and walking three, while his team-

mates collected eight hits off of three FPC pitchers.

The two teams concluded their series with a Saturday doubleheader beginning at noon at Jack Barber Field.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

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Cahill hangs tough, downs Rangers

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Sleep-deprived first-time father Kurt Suzuki didn't realize how tired he truly was until hitting a wall in the fifth inning.

He had already done plenty in his first game since welcoming newborn daughter, Malia.

"It was good to be back out here. It had been a long couple days," Suzuki said. "I was running on Adrenalin."

Suzuki came off the paternity leave list and delivered a go-ahead RBI single to help Trevor Cahill stay unbeaten and the Oakland Athletics topped the Texas Rangers 3-1 on Friday night.

Cahill (4-0) overcame a three-walk first inning

to pitch seven scoreless innings against the rival Rangers, who kicked off a seven-game West Coast road trip all against the division with a punchless performance to lose for the fourth time in five games. Texas fell into a first-place tie with the Los Angeles Angels in the AL West.

Grant Balfour pitched the eighth and Brian Fuentes finished for his seventh save in nine chances after allowing Michael Young's two-out RBI single.

"We had runners out there and we just needed a base hit at the right time," said Rangers manager Ron Washington, who lost on his 59th birthday. "It would have been the differ-

ence in the ballgame. We didn't get it. Even against Trevor we had bases loaded, runners on second and third and just didn't get a hit off him at the right time."

Cahill outdueled C.J. Wilson (3-1) and quickly found his rhythm after escaping his 26-pitch first inning unscathed. Cahill, who on April 11 received a new five-year contract worth \$30.5 million, issued three free passes in an inning for the fifth time in his career but the first since July 17, 2009, against the Angels during his rookie season.

"Walking three guys in the first inning put things in perspective: 'I've got to throw strikes,'" Cahill said.

"I just started pounding the zone a little bit more."

Cahill had walked only eight batters total in his first five starts this season before the four total walks Friday. The righthander allowed seven hits and also struck out four while improving to 7-2 for his career against Texas.

Mitch Moreland, Young and Elvis Andrus each had two hits for Texas, which has gained or lost ground in the division race each of the last 14 days after holding a two-game lead for three straight days from April 13-15.

Suzuki did some early catching work in the bullpen to get back in a groove but he started at

designated hitter. Manager Bob Geren said Suzuki would be back behind the plate Saturday. His two-out RBI single in the third put the A's ahead, then Josh Willingham added an RBI double in the fifth. Suzuki also grounded into a fielder's choice in the seventh as Oakland's third run against Wilson came home.

Suzuki left Anaheim on Wednesday to return to the Bay Area, where his wife, Renee, gave birth to the couple's first child Thursday morning. Malia weighed in at 8 pounds, 3 ounces.

"It's an exciting time in anybody's life," Geren said. "He was all smiles today. He was

looking forward to coming back to work."

Regular A's DH Hideki Matsui had the night off against a lefty starter but was slated to start Saturday.

Oakland played its first game back home since the venue was named the Overstock.com Coliseum this week.

"I still call it the Coliseum," quipped Washington, a longtime A's third base coach before taking the Texas job.

Texas clinched the club's first AL West title since 1999 at the Coliseum last Sept. 25 and went on to reach the franchise's first World Series before losing to the San Francisco Giants in five games.

Braun, Fielder pace Brewers past Astros

HOUSTON (AP) — Shaun Marcum shooed away the flu bug and made the Astros' hitters look sickly.

Marcum allowed three hits over seven shutout innings to lead the Milwaukee Brewers to a 5-0 victory against the Houston Astros on Friday night.

"It's (flu) been going around the clubhouse, we've just got to keep doing our jobs," Marcum said. "My legs were like jelly. I threw a lot of curveballs to keep them off balance. I didn't locate my fastball very well."

Marcum (3-1) allowed four runs and two homers in his last start against Houston, but didn't permit a runner past second base this time out. He struck out six and walked two.

"He wasn't feeling all that good," Brewers manager Ron Roenicke said. "He said no big deal and his location was great, he was down in the zone most of the day, the changeup great again, and the breaking ball really good."

The Brewers jumped on Brett Myers (1-1) early. Ryan Braun hit his 10th homer on a 2-1 pitch over leaping center fielder Michael Bourn in the first inning. Two pitches later, Prince Fielder launched a 450-foot homer to right.

"When you can achieve personal goals, it's great and when you help the team win it's even better," Fielder said. "You are doing your job and it means something."

It was Fielder's fifth of the season and the ninth longest homer in Minute

Maid Park history. "That's great but it still counts as only one," Fielder said.

Myers pitched six innings, allowed five hits, four earned runs and he walked three and struck out eight.

"I feel like if I strike out eight guys, I shouldn't give up four runs," Myers said. "It was a tough night, but you have to battle through it. I felt I made pretty good pitches. My slider wasn't as sharp early on, but I realized that later and started throwing more changeups and curveballs and was able to get through six."

"But honestly, for me, if I punch out eight guys I shouldn't give up four runs, because that means my stuff is good that day."

Yuniesky Betancourt hit his first homer of the season for Milwaukee in the fourth.

Fielder doubled in his 25th RBI of the season in the third to make it 3-0 and Braun knocked in his 23rd run with a single in the seventh against reliever Mark Melancon to put Milwaukee up 5-0.

Marcum, who was ac-

quired in a trade with Toronto in the offseason, lowered his ERA to 2.21.

Mike Stetter and Brandon Kintzler worked the final two innings, allowing one hit combined.

Myers lost at home for the first time as an Astros pitcher. He was 9-0 in 16 previous starts.

"If you look at his numbers, it was five hits and eight strikeouts," Astros manager Brad

Mills said of Myers. "Obviously the three home runs hurt, and their guy pitched pretty well. The offense wasn't there."

The Astros had runners at first and second with one out in the fourth and failed to score.

Astros first baseman Brett Wallace left the game after the seventh inning with a right hip pointer.

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Most Unusual Discard

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 8 5 3
♥ A Q 4 2
♦ 6 2
♣ A 9 4

WEST
♠ 10 6
♥ K 10 8
♦ A 3
♣ K J 10 8 6 2

EAST
♠ A 4
♥ 9 7 5
♦ 10 9 8 7 5 4
♣ 7 5

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 7 2
♥ J 6 3
♦ K Q J
♣ Q 3

The bidding:
North Pass
East Pass
South 1♠
West 2♣

Opening lead — ace of diamonds.

Bridge is a tough game, all right, but on the off chance you don't think so, here's a hand to prove the point. You're in four spades, and West leads the A-3 of diamonds. You win and play the jack of spades, taken by East with the ace. Back comes a diamond, ruffed by West with the ten, and your first problem is what to discard from dummy. You've lost three tricks already, so you must win the rest.

Oddly enough, to avoid coming home lame, you must play one of dummy's trumps on West's ten! If you do, you make the contract. If you don't, you don't! West is now end-played and must give away a crucial trick.

If he returns a low heart, you play low from dummy and later repeat the finesse to score 10 tricks. So let's say West returns a club instead. Which club he leads doesn't actually matter, but let's assume he tries the king.

You win with dummy's ace, play a trump to the king, lead a low heart to the queen, return to the queen of clubs, then cash two more trumps to produce this position:

North
♥ A 4
♠ 9

West
♥ K 10
♣ J

East
♥ 9 7
♦ 10

South
♠ 2
♥ J 6

When you next lead the deuce of spades, West is helpless. Note that if you don't undertrump West's ten of spades at trick four, you cannot reach this end position. You can't spare a heart or a club from dummy at that point because dummy's four hearts and three clubs all have a vital role to play later on.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.
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sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

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Cowboys pick linebacker, RB on second day

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys got new defensive coordinator Rob Ryan his first fresh piece — a speedy linebacker. Then they added another running back that can catch the ball out of the backfield.

Dallas used the 40th overall pick in the second round of the NFL draft Friday to select Bruce Carter from North Carolina. With the 71st pick in the third round, the Cowboys selected Oklahoma running back DeMarco Murray.

"Both of them are for their position extremely fast, they can run," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said.

It is the second year in a row the Cowboys used their second-round pick on a linebacker. Last April, they took Sean Lee out of Penn State.

Carter, a former high school quarterback and running back who has been clocked at 4.39 seconds in the 40-yard dash, started 44 of his 49 games at outside linebacker for North Carolina before tearing his left ACL late last season.

Before the injury that required surgery in December and forced him to miss North

Carolina's bowl game, Carter had been considered by many to be a potential first-round pick.

"I just didn't want teams to overlook me just because of my knee," said Carter, who was forced to constantly answer questions about his injury during the pre-draft process. "It was very frustrating to hear it over and over again. It's something you have to explain."

Jones said that the Cowboys had Carter, who likely will play inside linebacker in the Cowboys' 3-4 scheme, graded "literally up there" in the first round. They felt fortunate he was available for their second pick.

"We do think we got the opportunity," Jones said. "Rehab probably had something to do with it."

Carter said he has started cutting on the knee and is getting back into a regular routine with his workouts, including squats and leg presses. Jones said Carter should be ready to contribute this season.

With the ninth overall pick Thursday night, the Cowboys selected offensive tackle Ty-

ron Smith from Southern Cal. It was the first time under Jones' ownership that Dallas used a first-round pick on an offensive lineman.

The Cowboys have five picks for Saturday's final day of the draft. That will give them a chance to address needs such as cornerback.

Murray set Oklahoma's career record with 65 total touchdowns and 6,718 all-purpose yards in his 50 games. He had two 1,000-yard rushing seasons for the Sooners and averaged 27.6 yards on kickoff returns.

Jones said he called Barry Switzer, the former Cowboys and Oklahoma coach he considers one of the best running back evaluators, to weigh in on Murray.

Coach Jason Garrett likes Murray's versatility running and catching the ball, as well as blocking on third downs.

"He's a guy that's big and sturdy," Garrett said. "You see how long he is, how big his hands are, he's a physical looking halfback."

Murray said he learned plenty from Adrian Peterson the season they were at Oklahoma together in 2006, Peter-

son's senior year when Murray redshirted. That included blocking.

"I take a lot of pride in that, it was something instilled with me," Murray said.

Though Murray didn't return punts at Oklahoma, the Cowboys have looked at film of him doing that before and expect him to be able to contribute in that way as well.

Carter is also expected to be a special teams contributor after setting a UNC record with seven career blocked kicks (six punts, one field goal).

In his four seasons at UNC, Carter had 215 tackles (145 solo) with 9 1/2 sacks. He deflected nine passes and returned two interceptions for touchdowns.

Smith, Carter and Murray were among the players the Cowboys had visit their Valley Ranch facility before the draft.

"The visit was awesome," Carter said. "Jerry was an awesome guy. We sat down and had lunch together. ... I'm just ready to learn and ready to get after it."

During that visit, Carter also spent time with Ryan, who taught him a few plays

and then quizzed him about what he had learned in a short time. Carter said he did good on that.

And he already has a good impression of his new defensive coordinator.

"He's a fired-up guy. I love his attitude," Carter said. "He's a coach that loves to get after it, he's a players coach. ... He will jump up and down on the sideline with you. You just love coaches like that."

Lee, who was also coming off a knee injury in college, played 14 games in his rookie season for the Cowboys. He had 45 tackles and two interceptions, returning one of them for a touchdown off Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning.

Veteran linebackers Keith Brooking and Bradie James, the Cowboys' top two tacklers last season, are both going into the final years of their contracts. Brooking has played 13 NFL seasons, the last two in Dallas, and James has spent all his eight seasons with the Cowboys.

Jones said he fully expects Brooking and James to be there this season with the two youngsters.

Texans draft Arizona's Reed, Miami's Harris

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Texans' first three draft picks all seem cut from the same mold: smart, hard-working defensive players who are comfortable fits for Wade Phillips' 3-4 alignment.

The Texans took converted Arizona defensive end Brooks Reed and Miami cornerback Brandon Harris with two second-round picks on Friday. Reed will play outside linebacker for the Texans.

Reed and Harris join first-round pick J.J. Watt, a defensive end from Wisconsin, to boost a defense that ranked 30th overall in 2010.

"We've drafted three players who are smart, good players, who want to work every day," Texans secondary coach Vance Joseph

said. "Probably less flash than some other guys that we could've drafted. But we've got three solid players that are going to be the same every Sunday and that's important."

Houston took the 6-foot-2, 255-pound Reed with the 42nd overall pick. Reed started 27 games for the Wildcats, recording 87 tackles, including 15 sacks. He also forced four fumbles and deflected four passes.

"He's a mature, physical player at this level right now," linebackers coach Reggie Herring said. "In the NFL transition from college, play strength and play speed are probably the biggest adjustments. What he possesses right now, along with a great motor and great work ethic, he gives you a chance to

make that transition."

Later Friday, the Texans moved up to the 60th overall pick to nab Harris. Houston dealt its third-round (73rd overall) and fifth-round (138th overall) picks to New England.

"He plays a like a five- or six-year veteran," Joseph said of Harris. "His route recognition and his football IQ are very high. When you meet the kid, he's energetic, he's a pro already. He's going to fit right in."

The Texans used their first three picks on defensive players for the first time since 2004.

Phillips, who replaced fired defensive coordinator Frank Bush, said the Texans would use the draft to rebuild a defense that ranked last against the pass. Herring said the renovation

of the defense begins up front, and Houston acquired two cornerstones in Watt and Reed.

"This is a great start for our foundation, in our 3-4," Herring said. "When you throw in the other pieces that we already have, you've got a lot of young, speedy, anxious, hungry players who can't wait to get to work. This is a good start for us."

Herring also said Watt and Reed both have strong leadership skills.

"They bring you intensity, into the meeting room and onto the practice field. They will set the stage," Herring said. "They are the types of guys who are not going to look around to see who to follow. They're going to lead. That's the intangible parts and the things that bring extra

to the table for this defense."

The knock on Reed is his short arms, but Herring said Reed makes up for that with his explosive burst off the line of scrimmage.

"Every player has holes," Herring said. "The first thing I would tell him when he comes in the meeting is that you win with your feet. And, son, you've got the fastest feet in this draft. Your feet put you in a position to win battles. He has as quick of feet as anyone in this draft. That's what separates him from average."

Houston also needed secondary help after ranking 23rd in interceptions (13) and giving up a league-high 18 passes covering at least 40 yards. The Texans drafted Kareem Jackson

in the first round last year, and he struggled in a starting role.

The 5-foot-9, 191-pound Harris started 32 games for Miami, where Texans All-Pro wide receiver Andre Johnson played. Harris intercepted four passes and broke up 28 passes in three seasons with the Hurricanes.

Harris trains with Johnson the offseason, and said that experience will help him get a head start on his NFL career.

"I'm going to bring a lot to the organization," Harris said.

"I'm going to be a shutdown corner. I'm going to bring the University of Miami swagger to the team, be a very disciplined player, very coachable and just have a good time enjoying it."

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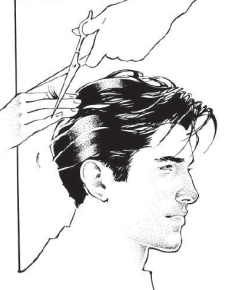
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Before the STORM



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Preparing for severe weather

FAMILY FEATURES

Severe weather can strike in any state, at any time. According to the National Weather Service, there are an average of 10,000 thunderstorms, 5,000 floods, 1,000 tornadoes and two hurricanes that make landfall each year.

No matter where you live, you need to be prepared to deal with severe weather. If you have children, get them involved in planning and preparing — it will help them learn what to do to stay safe. They can help pack emergency kits and make lists of other items such as books and games to keep them occupied, blankets and pillows, and pet care items.

These tips and checklists from Energizer will help you get ready before severe weather strikes.

Let them know you're safe

If your community experiences a weather-related disaster, the American Red Cross can help you let friends and family know you are safe. Register on the Safe and Well website (safeandwell.communityos.org), or by calling 1-866-GET-INFO.



Storm-ready checklist

- Know your community's warning systems for severe weather.
- Talk to someone at your local emergency management office to find out the types of severe weather or natural disasters most likely to happen in your area. Ask about animal care after a disaster as well.
- Pick a safe place in your home for family members to gather. For tornadoes, it should be a basement, storm cellar, or an interior room with no windows on the lowest floor. For severe thunderstorms, it should be away from windows and doors that could be broken by strong winds or hail.
- Have a hurricane evacuation plan in place which includes designated places to meet. When an evacuation is called, leave immediately.
- Practice severe weather drills so everyone knows where to go and what to do.
- If someone in your home is dependent on electricity powered medical equipment, make sure you have backup power available.
- Move or secure lawn furniture, trash cans or anything else that can be picked up by high winds.
- Make sure you know what plans your workplace and your child's school or day care center have for severe weather occurrences.

Emergency preparedness kit

The American Red Cross recommends that you have an easily accessible Emergency Kit ready for severe weather outbreaks and power outages. It should have supplies for at least three days.

- Water — One gallon per person, per day, for drinking and for hygiene
- Food — Nonperishable foods
- Flashlights or other battery-powered lighting devices
- Battery powered weather radio
- Extra batteries
- Cell phones and chargers
- First aid kit
- Medications
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents — medical information, birth certificates, deed/lease to home, insurance policies, credit cards, etc. Keep them in a waterproof bag.
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Food, water and medication for pets

Pack the items in easy-to-carry containers, such as duffle bags, backpacks or covered trash receptacles. Make sure the containers are clearly labeled.

What to do when the power goes out

Power outages can range from a minor nuisance of an hour or two, to a prolonged outage of several days. Either way, keep these safety tips in mind:

- Turn off and unplug all unnecessary electronic equipment — when the power comes back on, a power surge could damage it.
- Leave one light switched on so when the power does come on, you'll know right away.
- Do not use candles during a power outage — the potential risk for fire is too great. Instead, use flashlights or lanterns, and make sure they are easily accessible to all family members. The line of Energizer Weatherready lights feature long-lasting LED technology to provide extended run times.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. An unopened refrigerator will keep foods safely cold for about 4 hours; a full, unopened freezer will keep its temperature for about 48 hours.
- If the power will be out for more than a day, use a cooler with ice for cold items.

For more information, visit www.energizer.com.

Know the difference

Severe Thunderstorm Watch: Severe thunderstorms are possible in and near the watch area.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning: Severe weather has been reported or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate impending danger to life and property.

Tornado Watch: Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area.

Tornado Warning: A tornado has been sighted or is indicated by weather radar. Find shelter immediately.

Hurricane Watch: Hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are possible within a specific coastal area. Generally issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

Hurricane Warning: Hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are expected within a specific coastal area. Generally issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

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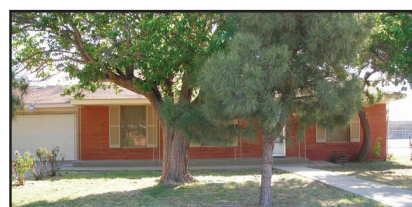
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Hernandez and Alcantar



Christina Hernandez Alcantar

Christina Hernandez Alcantar of Killeen and Guillermo Willie Alcantar of Sheppard AFB announce their engagement.

Christina is the daughter of Jose G. and Celia M. Hernandez of Killeen. She is the granddaughter of Jose G. and Juanita G. Hernandez and James L. and Celia R. Merritt, all of Eagle Pass.

Guillermo is the son of Richard Alcantar and Maria B. Alcantar of Big Spring. He is the grandson of Ofelia Alcantar of Dallas and the late Perfecto and Rosa Baca and Guillermo Alcantar.

The bride-elect graduated Howard College with her associates of science degree.

The groom is attending Community College of the Air Force and is employed by the U.S. Air Force.

The couple will exchange wedding vows April 30, 2011 at First Christian Church.

Leubner and Dunn



Catherine Leubner and Kirby Dunn

Catherine Leubner, of Big Spring and Kirby Dunn of Bowie announce their engagement.

Catherine is the daughter of John and Ruth Leubner of Big Spring and Kirby is the son of Chris and Karla Dunn of Bowie.

She is a 2009 graduate of Big Spring High School and is attending Wayland Baptist University.

The prospective groom is a 2006 graduate of Bowie High School and also attended Wayland Baptist University. He is employed at Harvest Christian Fellowship of Plainview.

The couple will exchange wedding vows on July 9, 2011 at Hillcrest Baptist Church.

1st in show

Glitter and Chrome Bike Show



Maira Garvin-Olivarez was 1st in show winner at the Glitter and Chrome Bike Show this past Saturday, April 23, benefitting the Special Olympics.

She and her husband Chris Olivarez worked many hours preparing this Bike to what she feels is "Her dream come true".

The 1994 Harley Davidson Fat Boy is a true custom Bike from the Chrome to the Brandywine Candy Paint job.

Not only does Maira ride this show winning bike, but she also works on it!

221803

Congratulations Maira on her BEST IN SHOW VICTORY!

Menus

BIG SPRING ISD

Monday: Breakfast: mapple mini pancakes, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: pizza, baby carrots, ranch dressing, rosy applesauce, fresh fruit, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast: sausage biscuit, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: chicken spaghetti, garden salad, ranch dressing, corn, apricots, roll, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: breakfast pizza, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: beef taco, border beans, lettuce/tomato salad, mandarin oranges, salsa, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast: peanut butter and jelly uncrustable, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: cheesy egg casserole, biscuits and gravy, potato rounds, turkey ham, fresh fruit, milk.

Friday: Breakfast: honey bun, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch:

hot dog on a bun, mac and cheese, fruit cocktail, fresh fruit, milk.

FORSAN ISD

Monday: Breakfast: honeybun, juice, milk. Lunch: ravioli, green beans, garlic toast, apple and orange smiles, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast: scrambled eggs, toast, juice, milk. Lunch: turkey sandwich, veggies, sunchips, baby carrots, frozen fruit cup, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: pancakes, sausage, juice, milk. Lunch: corndog, tater tots, pinto beans, mixed fruit cup, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast: breakfast pocket, juice, milk. Lunch: chicken fajitas, refried beans, seasoned corn, rosie applesauce, milk.

Friday: No School/ Bad weather day

COAHOMA ISD

Monday: Breakfast: biscuits, gravy, sausage, jelly, apple juice, milk. Lunch: grilled cheese, sandwich, corn on cob, oranges, milk, corn dogs.

Tuesday: Breakfast: pop tarts, ham, grape juice, milk. Lunch: green enchiladas, pinto beans, tortilla chips, pineapples, milk, burritos.

Wednesday: Breakfast: donuts, ham, fruit, milk. Lunch: chicken dumplings, jello with fruit, peas/carrots, milk, barbecue on a bun.

Thursday: Breakfast: oatmeal, sausage, orange juice, milk. Lunch: nacho grande, baked beans, juice bars, cookies, milk.

Friday: Breakfast: pancake sausage on stick, grape juice, milk. Lunch: chicken patty,

mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, rolls, milk.

SENIOR CENTER

Monday: pork tenderloin patty, lima beans, okra and tomatoes, banana pudding, rolls, milk.

Tuesday: barbecue chicken, potato salad, yellow squash, Texas toast, peaches with whipped topping, milk.

Wednesday: hamburger on a bun, potato wedges, lettuce and tomatoes, mandarin oranges, sugar cookies, milk.

Thursday: chicken fajitas, Spanish rice, lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, picante sauce, apricots, milk.

Friday: chopped steak with onions and peppers, corn, peas and carrots, tossed salad, biscuits, pineapple tidbits, milk.

Hormone replacement therapy (HRT) is a system of medical treatment for surgically menopausal, perimenopausal and to a lesser extent postmenopausal women. It is based on the idea that the treatment may prevent discomfort caused by diminished circulating estrogen and progesterone hormones. It involves the use of one or more of a group of medications designed to artificially boost hormone levels. The main types of hormones involved are estrogens, progesterone or progestins, and sometimes testosterone. It often referred to as "treatment" rather than therapy.

HRT is often given as a short-term relief often one or two years usually less than five) from menopausal symptoms (hot flashes, irregular menstruation, fat redistribution etc.). Younger women with premature ovarian failure or surgical menopause may use hormone replacement therapy for many years, until the age that natural menopause would be expected to occur.



This treatment may help women who have reached or passed menopause. HRT may reduce or stop symptoms. Women feel stuck thinking they can't find the time, effort or expense and continue to suffer with symptoms that is not necessary with so many options and alternatives available. HRT is one of the most commonly prescribed treatments in the U.S. and is designed to replace the estrogen hormone that the natural aging process takes away.

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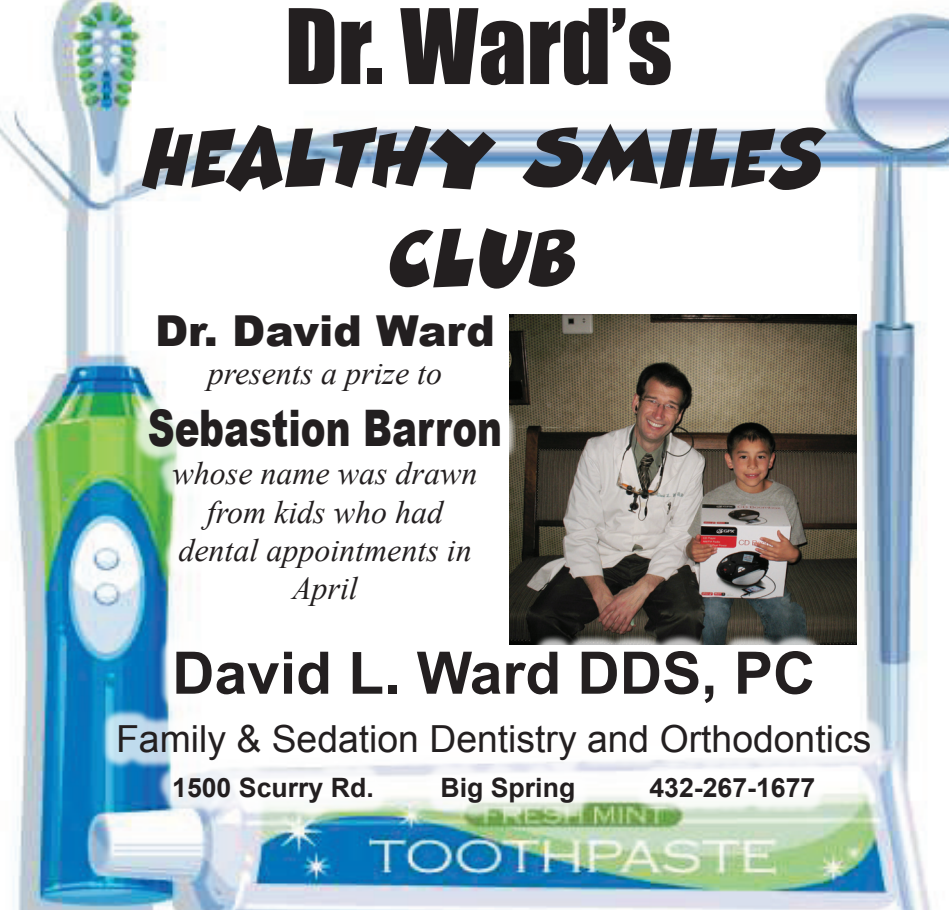


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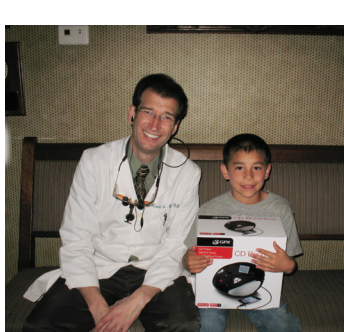
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DEAR SAVVY SENIOR
What resources can you recommend to help seniors learn how to use technology devices? I am particularly interested learning how to text, e-mail and Facebook so I can keep up with my grandkids.
Tech-Shy Senior

DEAR TECH-SHY,
Keeping in touch with the younger generation these days is a lot easier if you know how to use basic cell phone and computer technologies. Here are several tips and resources that can help you get started.

HANDS-ON HELP
While seniors make up the fastest growing group of Internet and e-mail users in the U.S.,

they still lag way behind the younger generations. One of the best places seniors can turn to for help using their cell phone or computer is their own grandkids who have grown up with these technologies and are practically experts at operating them. If that's not an option, ask your friends or other family members who are tech-savvy to help you.

Depending on where you live, you may also be able to get help through your public library, local senior center, schools or community college — many of which also offer basic computer and personal technology classes to seniors. To find out what's available in your com-

munity, call your Area Agency on Aging (call 800-677-1116 to get your local number) or your public library.

Also check out SeniorNet (seniornet.org, 571-203-7100), a national organization that offers a variety of basic online computer courses as well as instructor-led workshops at around 60 learning centers throughout the U.S. A first year membership fee of \$40 is required.

How-To Resources
Another nice resource that can help you is Eldercare Locator's new publication called "Staying Connected: Technology Options for Older Adults." This simple six-page guide will take you through

the basic facts about how to use tools like Facebook, e-mail and texting, including privacy and safety information. The guide also introduces YouTube, Twitter, Skype, Instant Messaging and blogging — all tools that seniors can use to stay connected. To get a free copy, call 800-677-1116 or you can read it online at www.eldercare.gov.

There are also a wide variety of how-to books you can purchase that are very helpful. The "For Dummies" books (see dummies.com), for example, offer dozens of technology guides for seniors like "Computers For Seniors For Dummies," "Facebook and Twitter For Seniors For Dummies," "Instant Messaging For Dummies" and many others. These books can be found in book stores nationwide or online at sites like amazon.com.

And some great online resources to check out are seniorconnects.org, which provides basic computer, Internet and e-mail training materials tailored to seniors that can be viewed online or printed out for free. And teachparentstech.org, a site created by Google that offers a

number of simple videos that explains how to do many computer functions.

SENIOR-FRIENDLY TECHNOLOGY

Having the right tools can also make technology a little easier. Senior-friendly cell phones like the Jitterbug J (jitterbug.com, 800-733-6632), Doro phones sold through Consumer Cellular's (consumercellular.com, 888-345-5509), and Just 5 (just5.com, 800-709-0509) are all easy to see, hear and operate, and they all have texting capabilities.

For computers, Hewlett-Packard's SeniorPCs (enablemart.com, 888-640-1999), the Go Computer (thegocomputer.com, 877-671-5846) and KiwiPC (kiwipc.com) are three options developed specifically for older adults.

SIMPLER OPTIONS

If you find that the technology is too confusing, there are other

products and services available today that can help you stay connected to your younger tech-using family members. One example is PostEgram (postegram.com), a service that will turn your family's Facebook news and photos into stamped letters that you could receive in the mail every week.

Or, consider a Celery (mycelery.com; 866-692-3537) or Presto (presto.com, 866-428-0970), two companies that turn e-mails into printed faxes almost immediately. All of these services cost under \$15 per month, but if you opt for a Celery or Presto you'll need to purchase a fax machine too, which will run around \$100.

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

Phinney earns Ph.D from North Texas University

May 13, 2011 the University of North Texas will confer on Lucas Carter Phinney a Ph.D. in physics.

He successfully defended his dissertation March 9, 2011.

Lucas is a 1998 graduate of Coahoma High School. He was the class valedictorian.

He then attended Angelo State University in San Angelo graduating in 2002 with a bachelor of science in applied physics.

While at ASU he was made a member of Sigma Pi Sigma and graduated cum laude with a 3.5 grade point average.

Lucas then received a master's degree in nuclear engineering from Texas A&M in College Station graduating in 2003.

After graduating from A&M; he began attending UNT to work on his Ph.D.

Lucas is the son of Ronald and Shelly Phinney of Coahoma.

Grandparents are Janie Phinney and the late Clovis Phinney Jr. of Coahoma and Beulah Mae Carter and the late E. G. Carter of Hugoton, Kansas.



Lucas Carter Phinney

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Arrive Alive!



Suggs Hallmark, located inside the Big Spring Mall, had its grand re-opening and ribbon cutting Thursday morning. The ribbon cutting was in celebration of their remodel completion. The card and gift shop will now have two entrances, the original entrance on the inside of the mall as well as the newly added red door outside.

HERALD photo/
Amanda Moreno

Scenic Mountain Medical Center celebrated its new digital mammography and bone density screening machine with a ribbon cutting. Hospital staff, including registered mammographer Ginger Silva and radiology director Vivian Gordan, were on hand for the ceremony. With the new, state-of-the-art equipment, Big Spring residents will be able to get faster results and better quality, detailed images.

HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno



H-E-B helps with fire disaster relief, invites customers to take part as well

Special to the Herald

H-E-B and Central Market have activated their emergency response unit to assist the American Red Cross and Texas firefighters as the state combats wildfires in West and North Texas.

Central Market is a division of parent company H-E-B.

As the wildfires ravage more than a 1.4 million acres and displace hundreds of people from their homes, the company is supporting emergency first responders and the American Red Cross by donating pallets of Hill Country Fare bottled water and H-E-B snack items as well as

ready-meals and supplies such as sunscreen, goggles, lip balm and moisturizer.

The company also hosted a fundraiser for the American Red Cross in Midland which raised more than \$60,000 from H-E-B customers and employees.

Additionally, H-E-B and Central Market have announced they are expanding their relief effort by providing a way for its customers to donate funds to the American Red Cross. The company has launched a checkstand donation campaign in select stores.

Customers have the opportunity to add a donation of \$1, \$3 or \$5 to their total grocery bill when they check out, or at the Business

Center.

One hundred percent of the donations will go to the American Red Cross and its emergency relief efforts in Texas.

"This is a heart wrenching time for many of our neighbors as they face loss and uncertainty due to the wildfires. We are committed to providing assistance during this time of crisis," said Winell Herron, H-E-B Group vice president of public affairs and diversity.

"Our customers have expressed a desire to help as well. Our in-store donation campaign gives them the ability to contribute and provide crucial recovery aid," Herron added.

Texas viticulture certification program ripe for new applicants

By PAUL SCHATTENBERG

Special to the Herald

LUBBOCK — The Texas Viticulture Certificate Program soon will start accepting applications for its next educational series leading to a professional certification in viticulture, said the

program's director.

"This program is the product of collaboration between the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at Texas Tech University and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, an agency of the Texas A&M University System," said Dr. Ed Hellman, who has

viticulture-related appointments with both universities. "The rigor and quality of the program is designed for individuals with an orientation toward commercial grape production and professional work in the viticulture industry."

See GRAPES, Page 11C

Funds raised will benefit 12 children's hospitals in 3 states

Special to the Herald

Stripes convenience stores raised \$618,429 for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals during its fund-raising campaign March 7-April 3. The campaign ran in all 526 Stripes locations across Texas. New

Mexico and Oklahoma. Stripes raised close to \$1,200 a location, beating the company goal of raising \$500,000 during the campaign.

Stripes raised funds by asking customers to purchase a \$1 Miracle Balloon icon or donate spare change to raise

funds for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. The icons were attached to coupons, providing customers an additional incentive to make the \$1 purchase. The \$618,429 campaign total was a 35 percent increase over the 2010 total of \$456,000. Dur-

ing the past eight years, Stripes convenience stores have raised more than \$2 million for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

"Thousands of Stripes team members worked hard to raise funds for

See STRIPES, Page 6C

Energy Watch



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

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



The stock market remains resilient after its two-year climb to the February highs followed by the month-long modest hiccup, and subsequently rally from the mid-March lows, pushing the averages back near or to their highs. Negative news remains largely shrugged off as evidenced by the major averages proximity to their highs. What's lacking at this time and makes the market "feel heavy" is its inability to break out above the recent highs. Neither buyers nor sellers are acting anxious and appear to be watching and waiting for a catalyst. The market's message is that it needs more time to digest the March gains, and the consolidation has taken the form of a dull, sideways trading range.

Last week was extremely dull with the major stock market averages losing ground and signaling a further slowdown in momentum. The averages have lost ground the past two weeks and made just minimal progress during the past three weeks. Watching paint dry has been about as eventful as following the stock market's net progress since March 24.

The New York Stock Exchange cumulative advance/decline line, a gauge of the breadth of the stock market's advance, has shown a rapid reversal of fortunes after recently breaking out to a new high. Seasonality had been working in the market's favor but is no longer with April now more than half complete and stocks turning in a negative return during that time frame, a disappointment given that April has historically been one of the strongest performing months. Volume continues to run at a light pace, signaling both indecision and hope that investors are not panicking. There is an old adage, "never sell a dull market."

Investors will have plenty to digest in the coming weeks, including the budget battle in Washington, problems overseas and corporate first-quarter earnings and outlooks. President Obama laid out his plan to reduce the budget deficit in a speech last week. He proposed \$4 trillion in deficit cuts within 12 years. His plan includes a mix of spending cuts as well as an adamant pledge that he would not go along with tax breaks for the rich anymore. House Republicans countered with a deficit reduction plan that cuts \$5.8 trillion during the next 10 years. It would also make spending cuts but doesn't include raising the wealthiest American's taxes.

The International Monetary Fund said the United States faces an "urgent" need to establish a credible plan to cut its debt and deficit and prevent global instability. Washington was sent another warning shot to work together after Standard & Poor's revised its outlook on long-term U.S. government debt from neutral to negative. The rating agency said there is a one in three chance of lowering the rating to negative in the next two years. Politically motivated or not, maybe it will have a beneficial long-term impact on getting lawmakers to work together and compromise.

Overseas last week, problems in the Euro zone continued as Moody's downgrades Ireland's government debt by two notches and kept a negative outlook on the country. The cost of insuring against Spanish bond default has risen since Portugal formally requested a bailout. A restructuring of Greece's debt appears near inevitable. In China, a report of a surge in inflation had fueled expectations of further monetary tightening. The People's Bank of China raised reserve requirements on its lenders again over the weekend.

Corporate first quarter earnings and outlooks have not started out in a stellar fashion. The surge in earnings reports began this week. If some positive momentum can build on the earnings front, we believe odds favor a breakout to the upside and a modest advance from there. If the ho-hum results seen so far persist, we see a tougher road for the market.

We will watch and wait, but right now the market maintains an impressive balancing act between the bad news and growing uncertainties on the one hand and its resilience in the face of these factors on the other. Probabilities are growing, in our opinion, that the market could be knocked off that balance in the next several weeks.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Portions of this article were produced April 19 by Scott Marcouiller, Wells Fargo Advisors chief market strategist. Wells Fargo Advisors did not assist in the preparation of this article, and its accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed. The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of Wells Fargo or its affiliates. The material has been prepared or is distributed solely for informational purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy any security or instrumental to participate in any trading strategy. Additional information is available upon request (432)684-7335. Wells Fargo Advisors LLC, member SIPC is a registered broker dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

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District Court Filings:

Donna Ferrel vs. Daniel Anthony Ferrel, divorce.
 In Re Evan Irby Saiin Williams, family.
 In Re Austin Tomas Molina, family.
 Keith L. Corley vs. Tasha M. Corley, divorce.
 Sheryl Denise Pimpton vs. Rodney Ray Pimpton, divorce.
 Raymundo Chavarria vs. Lisa Ann Ramos Chavarria, divorce.
 Kimberly Joanne Hughes vs. Wes Lee Hughes, divorce.
 Aaron Domingo Fulcher vs. Latoya Marquis Fulcher, divorce.
 Arealle Ortega vs. Juan Jose Mojica, divorce.
 Manuel Ontiveros vs. Kendra Ontiveros, divorce.
 In Re Jacquizz Jae'Vontae Graham, family.
 In Re Hailey Faith Hawkins, family.
 In Re Nicholas James Williams, family.
 In Re Manuel Sosa V, family.
 In Re Janeigh Alexis Vanderbilt, family.
 Debra Walker DBA Walker Construction vs. Berkshire Operating LLC, civil.
 Denita Fuentes vs. Ruben Fuentes, divorce.
 In Re order for foreclosure concerning E. Warren and Leola McCrea, foreclosure.
 In the estate of Wayne H. Pherigo, civil.
 Leroy Thomas Saiz vs. Martha Denell Saiz, divorce.
 Travis Allen Melton II vs. Etta Renee Melton, divorce.
 In Re Rylie Jayde Wilson, family.
 In Re Zoey Isabella Garza, family.
 Freda Flores vs. Mike Flores, divorce.
 Christopher Don Jett vs. Sabrina Natasha Jones, divorce.
 In Re Joe Castaneda Jr., family.
 Amy Carol Peterson vs. Michael Wayne Peterson II, divorce.
 The State of Texas vs. Kimberly Rios, seizure.
 Scenic Mountain Medical Center vs. Erika Armendariz, accounts, notes and contracts.
 Scenic Mountain Medical Center vs. Matthew Grisham, accounts, notes and contracts.
 Scenic Mountain Medical Center vs. Carolyn Payne, accounts, notes and contracts.
 Scenic Mountain Medical Center vs. Maryann Bernal, accounts, notes and contracts.
 Pedro J. Chavez III vs. Patricia Gale Diaz, divorce.
 Virginia L. Duenez vs. Joaquin A. Duenez, divorce.
 In Re Ruben Noel Lopez, family.
 In Re Jaydan Josiah Thomas, family.
 In Re Lawrence Nathan Shroyer, family.
 In Re Zohie Nicole Crossman, family.
 Bobby Brown vs. Crystal A. Brown, divorce.

Marriage Licenses:

Matthew E. Jackson, 32, and Connie L. Hernandez, 30, both of Big Spring.

STRIPES

Continued from Page 5C

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and our customers stepped up with enormous generosity," said Steve DeSutter, Stripes president and CEO. "The dedication of our team members goes beyond setting higher goals. They exceed expectations because they know they are making a difference in somebody's life and helping families to get the best medical care possible."

Because all donations to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals stay local, the Stripes fundraising totals will benefit 12 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals near Stripes convenience store locations. Benefiting hospitals often use Children's Miracle Network Hospital funds

Margarito C. Loya, 34, and Leighanna R. Wingo, 24, both of Big Spring.
 Ace Lee Nieto, 20, and Krista Rachell Lyons, 19, both of Big Spring.
 Juan Carlos Perez, 26, and Veronica Nell Villa, 35, both of Big Spring.

Warranty Deeds:

Grantor: Bobbi Miller
 Grantee: Gloria M. Hinojosa
 Property: The E/2 of Lot 7, Block 15, Original Town of Big Spring
 Date: March 24, 2011

Grantor: Patricia Sherrod
 Grantee: Big Spring ISD
 Property: Lots 3-4, Block 44, Town of Forsan
 Date: March 24, 2011

Grantor: Nora Torres
 Grantee: Aubrey C. Richardson Jr.
 Property: Lots 5-6, Block 27, Fairview Heights
 Date: March 25, 2011

Grantor: PHH Mortgage Corp.
 Grantee: Department of Veterans Affairs
 Property: A .99-acre tract out of Section 14, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
 Date: March 28, 2011

Grantor: Ralph E. De Voge and Roberta De Voge
 Grantee: Victor Wilbur Smith
 Property: Lot 1, Block 3, Lockhart Addition
 Date: March 29, 2011

Grantor: Andrew Aguirre Sr. and Rosita Aguirre
 Grantee: Jose Manuel Aguilar and Rosa Maria Aguilar
 Property: A .5-acre tract out of Section 45, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
 Date: March 29, 2011

Grantor: Sofia Hinojosa
 Grantee: Oscar Flores
 Property: Lot 3, Block 102, Original Town of Big Spring
 Date: March 31, 2011

Grantor: Thomas Oran Vick
 Grantee: Melvin Berry Carla Berry
 Property: Lot 20 and the W/2 of Lot 19, Block 6, Washington Place Addition
 Date: March 31, 2011

Grantor: Horace E. Tubb
 Grantee: Kelly Elliott
 Property: One-half interest in Lot 7, Block 3, Indian Hills Addition
 Date: March 31, 2011

Grantor: Kenneth Branham
 Grantee: Cody Cantu and Lisa Cantu
 Property: Lot 4, Block 1, Indianola Addition
 Date: March 31, 2011

Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien:
 Grantor: Ruel Metcalf
 Grantee: Mark Andrew Prince and Lindsey Nichole Prince
 Property: Lot 8, Block 10, Hall Addition
 Date: March 25, 2011

Grantor: Horace E. Tubb
 Grantee: Michael S. Watts
 Property: A 6.05-acre tract out of Section 46, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
 Date: March 25, 2011

Grantor: Richard Laswell
 Grantee: Robert McEwen and Laura McEwen
 Property: Lots 4-5, Block 6, Worth Peeler Second Section
 Date: March 29, 2011

Grantor: Mike Runion
 Grantee: Rowland Anglin
 Property: A 1-acre tract out of Section 33, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
 Date: March 31, 2011

to purchase life-saving equipment, invest in research or training or cover the medical costs of uninsured or under-insured pediatric patients.

"There is a great need in children's hospitals around the country, and funds raised from Stripes campaign help fill this need," said John Lauck, president and CEO of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. "We thank Stripes for their commitment and dedication to helping children in the communities they serve."

Stripes has been a partner of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals since 1997, raising funds for children's hospitals through different campaigns.

To learn more about helping Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, go to www.cmnhospitals.org.

The Big Spring Herald is offering Fax & Copy Services

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Announcements

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IMMEDIATE OPENING for Shipping and Receiving Clerk. Requires Forklift experience and Basic Computer Skills. Work location is 22 miles South of Big Spring. Call (432)689-9801 or apply in person at Kelly Services 6 Dosta Drive Ste 1260, Midland TX.

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Email submissions to: free.silas@earthlink.net



West Texas Centers

Case Manager for Mental Health: Assists individuals in gaining access to medical, social, vocational and educational services. Requires Bachelor's degree in Social Work field or Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 24 hours in psychology, sociology or other human service hours. Base salary \$14.71-\$15.72 per hour (\$30,588.00-\$32,700.00 annually) DOE, plus excellent benefit package. Four day work week is possible. Flexible schedule offered. Crisis on-call rotation required. Applicants must live within 70-mile radius of duty.

LPHA Counselor: Position will be responsible for providing a combination of both intake eligibility assessments and counseling duties. Duties of the position will require routine interactions with individuals with mental illness and their families to complete eligibility assessment on new and returning clients. Position will be responsible for completing diagnostic assessments and making level of care recommendations. This position will also be responsible for providing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to an individual, group, or family, depending on assignment. Travel required within service area. Employee will participate on Crisis Consult Rotation by phone, providing support to Crisis Duty Staff & authorizing options for interventions. Must have a valid Texas driver's license and a driving record that is acceptable for insurability through the Center's insurance carrier. Must be licensed by State of Texas as an LPC, LCSW, LMT. \$19.79 per hr (\$1583.08 bi weekly \$41160.00 annually).

MH LVN: The position performs responsible nursing duties in the assigned outpatient centers. The nurse is responsible for the care and treatment of individuals in accordance with the accepted nursing standards. Consultation and in-service training related to nursing duties are provided by Supervisor. A personal vehicle is required. Licensed to practice as licensed vocational nurse in the State of Texas. \$14.71 hr (\$1176.46 bi weekly \$30,588.00 annually).

Applications available at 409 Runnels or www.wtcmhm.org or by calling **JOBLINE 800-687-2769.EOE**

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For more information go to www.mybigspring.com, or apply in person in the Human Resources Office located at 310 Nolan. (432)264-2346.

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Legals

Public Notice
The County will list larger surplus items as they become available online at www.GovDeals.com Please check the website periodically as the County will not advertise each item.
#6878 May 1, 2011

Legals

Lee Lewis Construction, Inc. will receive proposals for the Big Spring ISD-Bond Improvements Jr High Renovations. Proposals are due by 3:00 PM, Tuesday May 10th, 2011. No proposals will be accepted after this time.

Plans are available from: Lee Lewis Construction, Inc. 7810 Orlando Ave. Lubbock, Texas 79423 806-797-8400

Plans are available for viewing in the following locations:

- AGC Plan Room - Lubbock
- Dodge Plan Room - Lubbock
- Dodge - Scan
- Midland AGC
- Concho Valley Plan Room
- LLCI Virtual Plan

Contact - PDM@leelewis.com
A Pre-Proposal Conference will be conducted - Monday April 28th, 2011 2:00 pm 707 11th Place Big Spring Texas, in the Board Room.
#6971 April 24 and May 1, 2011

Legals

CITY OF BIG SPRING
310 Nolan Street
Big Spring, Tx 79720-2657
432-264-2513

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ENACT STAGE III OF THE CITY'S DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN; ESTABLISHING WATERING SCHEDULES FOR CITY OF BIG SPRING WATER CUSTOMERS; ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION.

TAMI L. DAVIS
ASSISTANT CITY SECRETARY
#6983 May 1 & 2, 2011

Legals

CITY OF BIG SPRING
310 Nolan Street
Big Spring, Tx 79720-2657
432-264-2513

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS AMENDING CHAPTER TWENTY OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING ENTITLED 'BUILDING CODES AND BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS' BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 20-9 ENTITLED 'LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION' IN ORDER TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE TITLE 30, PART 1, CHAPTER 344 OF THE TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED 'LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION' ALONG WITH CERTAIN AMENDMENTS THERETO; PROVIDING FOR A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF \$2,000; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION.

TAMI L. DAVIS
ASSISTANT CITY SECRETARY
#6982 May 1 & 2, 2011

Legals

CITY OF BIG SPRING
310 Nolan Street
Big Spring, Tx 79720-2657
432-264-2513

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING AMENDING THE BIG SPRING CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADOPTING CHAPTER 16-A TO BE ENTITLED 'WATER CONSERVATION PLAN' IN ORDER TO INCLUDE THE 2002 WATER CONSERVATION PLAN IN THIS CODE AND ADOPTING CHAPTER 16-B TO BE ENTITLED 'DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN' IN ORDER TO INCLUDE THE 2005 DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN (THE 'DCP') IN THIS CODE; ADDING A NEW SECTION ENTITLED 'WASTING OF WATER PROHIBITED' TO THE DCP; AMENDING SECTIONS 1 AND 2 OF THE STAGE III MANDATORY WATER USE RESTRICTIONS IN THE DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN TO PROVIDE FOR DESIGNATION OF WATERING SCHEDULES; PROVIDING FOR A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF \$2,000.00; REPEALING ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE INCLUDING ORDINANCE NO. 8-2002 AND ORDINANCE NO. 17-2005; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

TAMI L. DAVIS
ASSISTANT CITY SECRETARY
#6984 May 1 & 2, 2011

Legals

CITY OF BIG SPRING
310 Nolan Street
Big Spring, Tx 79720-2657
432-264-2513

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS, AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 27-2010 WHICH ADOPTED THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2010 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2011 TO INCREASE THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING A COMMUNITY RETAIL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

TAMI L. DAVIS
ASSISTANT CITY SECRETARY
#6985 May 1 & 2, 2011

Legals

REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS

GLASSCOCK COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT will receive competitive sealed proposals for General Construction Work, including mechanical, plumbing and electrical work for the Renovations at the Elementary School. Sealed proposals (prepared according to the Instructions to Proposers and Request for Competitive Sealed Proposals) may be sent to Steve Long, Superintendent, Glasscock County ISD, 240 West Bearkat, Garden City, TX 79739 until 2:00 p.m., local time, May 19, 2011. Proposals received prior to this time will be securely kept, unopened. Proposals received after this time will not be considered. The proposal opening location will be held in the Glasscock County ISD Administration Board Room, 240 West Bearkat, Garden City, TX 79739, 2:00 P.M., local time, May 19, 2011.

Proposal Documents will be available for a refundable deposit of \$150.00 per set for paper copies with a maximum of (2) sets for General Contractor and one (1) set for subcontractors. Electronic documents are available for download at no charge. The documents are also available on CD for a non-refundable cost of \$18.48 plus tax for each CD. These documents may be secured by contacting Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., 1700 W. Wall, Ste 100, Midland, TX 79701, (432)697-1447. No partial sets will be issued.
#6988 May 1 & 8, 2011

Legals

No. P-13,951
ESTATE OF JESSIE BELL, DECEASED IN THE COUNTY COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JESSIE BELL, Deceased were issued on the 18th day of April, 2011, under Docket No. P-13,951 pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to Ann Bell Carter.

Claims may be presented in care of Ann Bell Carter to the estate, addressed as follows:

Estate of Jessie Bell
c/o Ann Bell Carter
204 Roselawn
Coleman, TX 76834

All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 18th day of April, 2011.
ANN BELL CARTER, Independent Executrix of the Estate of Jessie Bell, Deceased
#6979 May 1, 2011

Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Original Letters of Administration for the Estate of MABEL JANICE DUNAGAN, Deceased, were issued on April 20, 2011, under Docket No. P-13945, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to DERYL ANN HALL. Claims may be presented to the Administrator addressed as follows:

Deryl Ann Hall
c/o Brandon S. Archer
317 W. Concho
San Angelo, Texas 76903

All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
#6990 May 1, 2011

Legals

Notice of Public Sale

Sale of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale to be held at R2 Storage at 1506 E. FM 700, Big Spring, TX 79720 on May 16th at 9am. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the properties at any time before the sale. Unit items sold for cash to highest bidder. All spaces contain household items unless otherwise noted. Contents of units for the following tenants:

- Vicki Newman, Shelia Richardson, Aaron Johnson: Rims, Car Springs, Extension Ladder, Tires, car engine, Fish Tank
- Paula Andrews: Bicycles, Tool Box, Step Ladder
- Christy Caldwell

#6986 May 1 & 8, 2011

Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Letha Margaret Nunley, Deceased were issued on the 25th day of April, 2011, in Cause No. P-13965, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to: Pat Armstrong.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Pat Armstrong
c/o: Representative,
Estate of
Letha Margaret Nunley
P.O. Box 2235
Big Spring, TX 79721

DATED the 25th day of April, 2011.

Robert D. Miller
Attorney for Pat Armstrong
State Bar No.: 14108500
608 Scurry
Big Spring, Tx 79720
Telephone: (432)267-7449
Facsimile: (432)267-1043
#6978 May 1, 2011

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Gather around the maypole to celebrate this midway moment between spring and summer and to affirm the abundance around us.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When you are very comfortable, you make people laugh.

though, because your awareness now will prevent problems in the future.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The conversation gets heated. You'll draw from your store of information for interesting contributions;

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Stay relaxed as you make your requests of others. Trust your personal influence.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's more fun when things don't go as expected. It gives you fodder for being friendly and for flirting, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The way you tune into others is an act of love and respect. You'll anticipate the needs of another person before they express those needs

in words. And somehow you manage to do this without seeming overbearing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're in an exciting phase of a project. You've taken your idea through many action steps, and now it's almost a tangible reality.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're not waiting for someone to hand you the next opportunity. You're busy making it happen.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're interested in so many different things that you will meander and veer away from your original destination.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You are naturally mesmerizing. The comments you make have a way of evoking strong feelings and

awakening people's senses. Enjoy the extra attention that's swirling around you today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It would be easy to let your imagination conjure up scenarios as to why someone is not calling you back.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Try to conduct your journey in a linear fashion. Decide what the checkpoints are along the way so you will know when you hit them.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 1). You know what you want, and you get your way this month. When the main roads are blocked, you take the back roads to your destination.

November. Gemini and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 14, 1, 27 and 18.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: Due to unpredictable weather patterns of late, the ice cream truck may already be circling your neighborhood — or is that a snow plow? Whether it's unseasonably hot or unseasonably cold in your neck of the map, it is the astrological height of spring.

moon encourages us to let go of history and embrace a complete "do over." The concept applies most directly to finances, though. This week will be ideal for economic restructuring.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Taurus Tim McGraw has been busy proving that his talent is deep and wide. With starring roles in "The Blind Side" and "Country Strong," the country superstar shows that he knows how to pick a script and play just the right notes both musically and emotionally.

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. © 2011 CREATORS.COM

Dear Margo: Three of wands

Dear Margo: I have an odd question. I am self-trained to read tarot cards. I believe they have helped me become more intuitive, but mostly I find that the symbols help me think through problems logically and present possible solutions.



MARGO HOWARD

started offering readings to the public as a business, I've turned down several opportunities from people who seemed to be — I don't know how else to put it — "disturbed."

Is there any free or inexpensive training program I could take to help redirect them? Something like the kind of training people who volunteer to work for crisis hotlines might receive? — Entertainer, not Psychiatrist

Dear Ent: I suppose I will hear from all the

tarot card readers, but I agree that what you do is entertainment. Your concern for disturbed people is admirable. You have one of two choices, as I see it. You can save your readings for parties and actually train to become one of the many types of counselors, or when you get a client who seems genuinely troubled, you might say, "I am not equipped, through my cards, to deal with your problem, and I suggest you seek a mental health professional."

Having a Family Should Not Be a Taboo Subject When Dating

Dear Margo: I've been dating a wonderful man for nine months. We

enjoy a variety of activities and generally have a lot of fun together. However, as I approach my 31st birthday, I find myself thinking in terms of the big picture. I've always thought I would like to have children, but I would prefer not to have them close to my 40s.

I have been in a few serious relationships in the past, but he has only had one previous partner, and from what little bits he has told me, it ended very badly. To date, he has not been able to say the "L" word, and from what I understand, this may be a lingering effect

of his past relationship. I'm not sure what to do. I feel ready to start thinking about settling down and having children in the near future, but I have no idea whether my boyfriend will be at that point anytime soon. Should I "go with the flow" for now and enjoy what we have, or discuss my thoughts? Maybe he'll never get to the same page. — Stuck

Dear Stuck: I have a hunch your fella is suffering from the burns of his previous (and only) love affair. I also think the absence of discussion about children is odd. Why don't you ask him what his thoughts are? As for your differences (i.e., money and travel), those are pretty major items when considering making a life together — presuming you are not

the only one doing the considering. My instinct tells me this man would be a reclamation project, but the only way to find out is to TALK. — Margo, investigatively

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. © 2011 MARGO HOWARD DISTRIBUTED BY CREATORS.COM

Answer to previous puzzle

Grid of crossword puzzle answers including CANT WRAPS TWAS, AJAR HECHT WIRE, VANITYFAIR ANEW, EXAMINER ADIDAS, ROD PIANO, MUFFET FOND WOW, UNLID LIKES SHE, TIED BUSED CHAN, ETA PARTY CHORD, DEM ORES PREPAY, AMEND SLO, STRATA TEACARTS, TIKI CHAINSTORE, OMEN LANZA OVEN, PETE EDGER MEET

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Advertisement for The American Community Marketplace. Includes sections for Security/Electronics (Security Cameras), Employment (Truck Drivers Wanted), Real Estate (Free Foreclosure Listings), Dish Network (\$24.99/month), and Repair Yourself! (Blown Head Gasket?).

Newsday Crossword SATURDAY STUMPER by Anna Stiga

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. Clues include: Across: 1 Bay City neighbor, 8 New grandparents, probably, 15 Single out for a closeup, 16 University of Wyoming locale, 17 Attends, 18 Credit, 19 Contribution option since 1974, 20 NATO member since 2009, 22 Cardinal, for instance, 23 Fly in a lake, 25 Does poorly, 26 Motown's top-selling '60s soloist, 27 Place of worship, 29 Hope/Crosby destination, 30 Exhaust, with "out", 31 Recharge one's batteries, 33 Not to mention, 35 Memorable line from a '39 film, 37 Supports, 41 Artery connector, 46 Eccentric, 47 Auxiliary, 49 Studio supporter, 50 Hail of a sort, 51 Makes an example of, 53 ___ bean, 54 Club alternative, 55 Student's sabbatical, 57 Heel, 58 Heckling group, 60 Priding (oneself), 62 USA, to Salvadorans, 63 Purple-haired author of My Gorgeous Life, 64 Seasonal irritant, 65 Snug, Down: 1 In the ballpark, 2 Mainly, 3 Roofless racers, 4 Text conclusion, 5 Its motto is "For the benefit of all", 6 Inclined, 7 Basement amenity, 8 Delete, 9 Source of relief, 10 Flipper cousin, 11 Damage, 12 Kingdom kin, 13 Chuck's neighbors, 14 Farm machines, 21 Considerable friction, 24 Put away, 26 Hair ___, 28 Needing filling-in, 30 Call, 32 Inspiration for Verne, 34 Happy sound, 36 Wandered, 37 Be a motormouth, 38 Exclamation of approval, 39 Pirate's pleasure, 40 Spot, 42 Hammer away at, 43 Not mixing well, 44 Mixed bag, 45 Spoken for, 48 Compound, 51 Ordering reference, 52 Source of relief, 55 Looking for Mr. Goodbar villain, 56 Cries over, 59 Drag, 61 Bouncer-turned-actor.

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GRAPES

Continued from Page 5C

try.”
Hellman said the application period for the next certification program will be from June 1-30. Notification of acceptance will occur by about July 15, with registration from approximately July 15-Aug. 31. The program will begin on or around Sept. 15.

“The program involves completing six comprehensive courses over a two-year period, which leads to a professional certificate in viticulture,” Hellman said.

Participants must apply for admission into the program and meet prerequisites, including approval from the instructor and attending an AgriLife Extension prospective grower workshop, he said. Enrollment is limited to 40.

Hellman said while the classes do not carry academic credit, the coursework can be rigorous and demanding in terms of time and content. Online and in-person instruction is provided by a Texas Tech instructor and members of the AgriLife Extension Viticulture Team, each a viticulture adviser in wine-grape producing areas of the state, with distance learning support provided by Texas Tech staff.

Successfully completing these courses leads to the “Professional Certificate in Viticulture,” and participants receive 17 continuing education units for a total of 170 clock hours of instruction, he said.

The six educational modules of the program cover grapevine biology, site assessment and vineyard development, vine nutrition and water management, canopy management and crop load management, and disease, insect and weed management. There also is a

vineyard practices module in which participants receive hands-on, experiential instruction through instructor-led activities on standard seasonal vineyard practices.

“A series of three one-day sessions comprise the vineyard practices course, and sessions are held during three key times of grape establishment and growing to encompass all major seasonal activities in the vineyard,” Hellman said.

The first vineyard practices session will be held in the winter and cover pruning, trellis maintenance and repair, plant material assessment and handling, and vine planting, he said. The second is a summer session addressing canopy management, vine nutrition, irrigation scheduling, and disease and pest management. The third will be a spring pre-harvest session covering crop estimation, thinning, fruit maturity analysis, harvest practices and logistics. Participants are required to attend all three seasonal sessions.

To become part of the certification program, applicants must first attend an AgriLife Extension prospective wine-grape grower workshop and complete an online distance learning self-assessment. Other academic viticulture coursework may be considered to fulfill the prerequisite at the discretion of the program director.

Prospective grower workshops take place in different wine-grape growing regions of the state. Primary workshop topics include: vineyard economics, necessary viticulture expertise, vineyard site considerations, risk factors and labor requirements. More information on upcoming workshops can be found at <http://winegrapes.tamu.edu> under Educational Opportunities.

“We’re encouraging people to go to either the workshop being held in Fredericksburg

on May 2 or the one in Lubbock on June 17 to fulfill the prerequisite prior to the certificate program application deadline,” Hellman said.

An application form for the 2011 Viticulture Certificate Program and instruction for its submission can be found at <http://winegrapes.tamu.edu/>

The cost of this two-year program is \$3,000. Payment may be made by check, Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. Payment need not be included with the application form.

“The Wine Society of Texas also has an annual Scholarship Grant Program for individuals studying viticulture and enology in Texas,” Hellman said. For scholarship details and a scholarship application form, go to <http://www.winesocietyoftexas.org/>.

There also are a few recommended textbooks, plus some essential computer requirements for the online portion of the program which is delivered using the Blackboard course management system, he said. The minimum computer requirements are a 400 MHz or faster processor, 128 megabytes of RAM or more, 5-10 megabytes of free disk space, Internet access service, and a minimum Internet connection speed of 56k per second.

“Since most of the lectures are narrated and delivered via streaming audio, a high-speed Internet connection is highly recommended,” Hellman said. “And a reliable email address and word processing software will also be needed.”

Applicants accepted into the program will be provided with Internet access to coursework following completion of registration.

For more information on the viticulture certification program, contact Hellman at 806-746-6101, ewhellman@ag.tamu.edu.

Court won't halt stem cell research funds

WASHINGTON (AP) — Opponents of taxpayer-funded embryonic stem cell research lost a key round Friday in a federal appeals court ruling that gives support to the Obama administration's expansion of the promising but disputed approach to finding disease cures.

In a 2-1 decision, a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington ruled that opponents are not likely to succeed in their lawsuit to stop federal financing of stem cell research and overturned a district judge's order that would have blocked the funding.

The panel reversed an opinion issued last August by U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth, who said the research likely violates the law against federal funding of embryo destruction.

The White House said the ruling was a victory for scientists and patients. “Responsible stem cell research has the potential to treat some of our most devastating diseases and conditions and offers hope to families across the country and around the world,” spokesman Nick Papas said.

Researchers hope one day to use stem cells in ways that cure spinal cord injuries, Parkinson's disease and other ailments. Opponents of the research object because the cells were obtained from destroyed human embryos. Though current research is using cells culled long ago, opponents also fear research success would spur new embryo destruction. Proponents

say the research cells come mostly from extra embryos discarded anyway by fertility clinics.

A 1996 law prohibits the use of taxpayer dollars in work that harms an embryo, so private money has been used to cull batches of the cells. Those batches can reproduce in lab dishes indefinitely, and the Obama administration issued rules permitting taxpayer dollars to be used in work on them through the National Institutes of Health.

The administration's rules expanded the number of stem cell lines created with private money that federally funded scientists could research, up from the 21 that President George W. Bush had allowed to 91 and counting. To qualify, parents who donate the original embryo must be told of other options, such as donating to another infertile woman.

The lawsuit was filed in 2009 by two scientists who argued that Obama's expansion jeopardized their ability to win government funding for research using adult stem cells — ones that have already matured to create specific types of tissues — because it will mean extra competition.

Samuel B. Casey, a lawyer representing the plaintiffs, expressed some disappointment but no surprise at the ruling. He said they will ask the full appeals court to review it, but even if that is rejected, Lamberth “has been waiting to address other issues and the district court can fashion its decision in light of what the appeals court has told it.”



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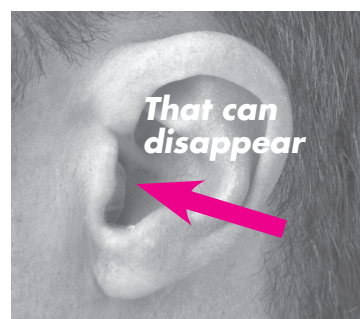


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Hints From Heloise: A pet hedgehog?

Dear Readers: Have you ever considered getting a hedgehog as a pet? These adorable, pleasant-natured, inquisitive animals make wonderful additions to your home. Here are some pointers to keep in mind when considering a hedgehog:

They can live between 4 and 9 years of age, and they do not get sick easily. They can be fed good-quality cat food, or special hedgehog food (you can find it at any pet store).

They do well in an aquarium or cage (about 2 feet by 3 feet). Keep their cage clean. They are nocturnal, but they can play during the day. They are intelligent and will attach to you, much like a dog. They love to play, and a bathroom-tissue roll will make for lots of fun.

What are some things to be careful of with hedgehogs? They have been known to bite, but this is how they communicate.

Your hedgehog may feel rough and bristly, so careful handling is a must. Hedgehogs may not be ideal for small children, as the hedgehog quills are sharp and can poke tender skin. Hedgehogs are considered an exotic animal, and your city or town may have restrictions. Check with local regulations.

Hedgehog trivia: What is a baby hedgehog called? It's called a hoglet! Isn't that adorable?

A specialty pet store or breeder is your best bet for finding a hedgehog. They usually cost around \$150. — *Heloise*

Pet pal

Dear Heloise: My cat Lucy has always loved to fetch. She was the only survivor of a litter of wild kittens on my son's farm when she was found. She loves to fetch every morning and evening. If she doesn't promptly return, no treat.

I was reading your article in the *Amarillo Globe-News* when I saw the following: "Most cats are independent, don't play fetch and most likely won't want to go for a run." (We were comparing certain dog breeds versus cats. — *Heloise*).

So, I was inspired to share my Lucy, who is a wonderful, playful and loving companion. — *Iris R., Pampa, Texas*



HELOISE



Iris R. of Pampa sent us this picture of her cat Lucy, who loves to fetch.

Dear Readers: To see a picture of Lucy and our other Pet Pals, go to www.Heloise.com and click on "Pets." Does your pet, like Lucy, have an unusual talent, flair or skill? Why not share it with us? Drop an action shot of your animal in the mail to: *Heloise/Pets*, P.O. Box 795000, San Antonio, TX 78279-5000. — *Heloise*

Cat toys

Dear Heloise: I can get fuzzy balls and all sorts of safe playthings for cats at a crafts store for so much less than at a pet store! — *Susan in Ellicott City, Md.*

Nail trim

Dear Readers: While trimming your dog's nails, did you trim one a little too close, and it is bleeding? It can be painful, so here is what to do: Wrap the nail with a clean tissue for several minutes, or use a styptic clot-promoting powder to stop the bleeding. The powder is available at the pet store. If bleeding continues, a visit to the vet may be needed. — *Heloise*

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My daughter will soon be 16. Her father and I were never married, and we had broken up by the time she was born. When my ex discovered I was pregnant, he threatened to take the baby away and never let me see her. So I left him when I was six months along. Due to some complications during delivery, my mother filled out the birth certificate. Since my mother never liked my ex-boyfriend, she made no reference to him and put down my name only.

I tried to contact my ex after our daughter was born and got his mother instead. She told me no one believed her son was the father, and she would not help me get in touch with him. She also refused to give me any family medical history, saying it was irrelevant since they "weren't related."

My plan was to take our daughter to his hometown when she turned 16 so she could get to know her father and his relatives. I recently found out that my ex passed away a

few years ago. He was only 37. I do not know the cause of death and worry that my daughter has inherited something fatal. How can I get a copy of the death certificate? Is there another way to get this information? His family refuses to answer my calls. — *Mom of a Mystery Daughter*

Dear Mom: In many states, records of deaths are public and should be available through the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state where the person died. If you encounter difficulty, you should talk to an attorney. It is important for your daughter's health that she have this information.

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

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Summer grooming for pets

When warm weather hits, people put away the winter coats and slip into something a little more comfortable for the higher temperatures.

The four-legged family members need a little help to make the transition, however, as pets also need to stay cool when sunny days arrive. PetSmart grooming expert Linda Erickson shares her tips on prepping pets for the season with regular grooming appointments and at-home treatments that will make everyone paw-fectly happy it's summer.

Drop the Winter Coat: It's important to help your dog get rid of their heavier winter

coat so they can stay cool as temperatures rise. A bath will release the undercoat and a good brushing will get rid of the extra hair. To make sure pets are extra silky and shiny, a dose of milk bath moisturizing conditioner and regular at-home brushings will help make coats softer and healthier.

Less is Not Always More: Pet parents often think shaving a dog during the summer is the answer to shedding and overheating. However, a pet's coat actually helps regulate their body temperature and protects them from the sun. The FURminator Shed-less Treatment is an alternative to shaving and an effective way to help control shedding and keep pets cooler.

Swimming Safety: Swimming is a great activity during warm weather, but your dog will need a good clean-

ing after a dip in the pool or ocean. Be sure to rinse your pet after swimming to remove chemicals or irritants from their coat, as these can dry out your pet's skin. Also, try to keep your dog's ears clean and dry after swimming. Swab their ears with a cotton ball and use a recommended ear cleaner to help remove any waxy build-up or water left behind.

Regular Maintenance Required: Dogs have regular, ongoing needs no matter the season, including coat, tooth and paw care. A good teeth-cleaning routine both at home and the grooming salon is an essential part of a pet's health. And it's important to help keep dogs' paws healthy with regular nail trims and removal of any extra hair so debris won't get stuck in their paws.

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