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State Park Manager Ron Alton explains one of the carvings from the 1800s atop Scenic Mountain as part of the hayride activities held Saturday afternoon at the Big Spring State Park. Two hayrides took residents around the top of the mountain as Alton provided information about the park.

Tidwell trial to begin

HERALD Staff Report

Winkler County Attorney Scott Tidwell — charged with two counts each of retaliation and misuse of official information in connection with a whistleblower case involving a pair of nurses — will go to trial Tuesday in Howard County's 118th District Court.

According to indictments, Tidwell — along with former Winkler County Sheriff Rob-

Arafiles — was charged in connection with the whistleblowing scandal of two Winkler County Hospital nurses who reported "questionable practices" by Arafiles to the Texas Medical Board.

Anne Mitchell and Vicki Galle were both charged with misuse of official information. Mitchell was later acquitted in a trial prosecuted by Tidwell in Andrews County, where the proceedings were moved in an effort to ert Roberts and Dr. Rolando avoid publicity. Shortly after See **TRIAL**, Page 3

Mitchell's acquittal, charges against Galle were dropped.

Since Mitchell's acquittal, Arafiles has been accused of aggravated perjury for testimony he gave during the trial. An Andrews County grand jury indicted Arafiles on June 30 on a single count, alleging he lied while under oath when he denied knowing how Winkler County Sheriff Robert Roberts, a friend, obtained names and

City to set budget, tax rate for FY

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Big Spring City Council will look to put the finishing touches on its 2011-2012 fiscal plan Tuesday with final read-

ing of its proposed budget and ad valorem tax rate. The budget

which passed first reading Sept. 13 on a 6-1 vote — includes \$1.5 million for a centrifugal Ramirez sludge collection

system for the city's water treatment plant, a project city officials are hoping will help raise the quality of water delivered by the municipality by lowering turbidity levels.

District 1 Councilman Marcus Fernandez cast the lone vote against the first reading of the budget, while District 2 Councilman Manuel Ramirez Jr., District 3 Councilman Glen Carrigan, Mayor Tommy Duncan, District 4 Councilwoman Gloria McDonald, District 5 Councilman Craig Olson and District 6 Councilman Terry Hansen all gave the financial plan their approval.

Fernandez said he voted against the proposed budget because it contained a hike in water rates.

"I had a lot of people come to me over the past few weeks and the opposed the increase in water rates," Fernandez said. "Because the water rate increase is a part of the budget, I felt I should vote based on the way my constituents felt about it. In the end, the people of District 1 are my bosses, and I answer to

them." The increase — which will total approximately \$13.25 on most residential customers' base rate — also establishes a tiered system that city officials hope will encourage water conservation during the

ongoing drought. The council also approved first reading of the rate increase for city water customers on a 5-2 vote, with

FISD gets superior financial ranking

By STEVE REAGAN

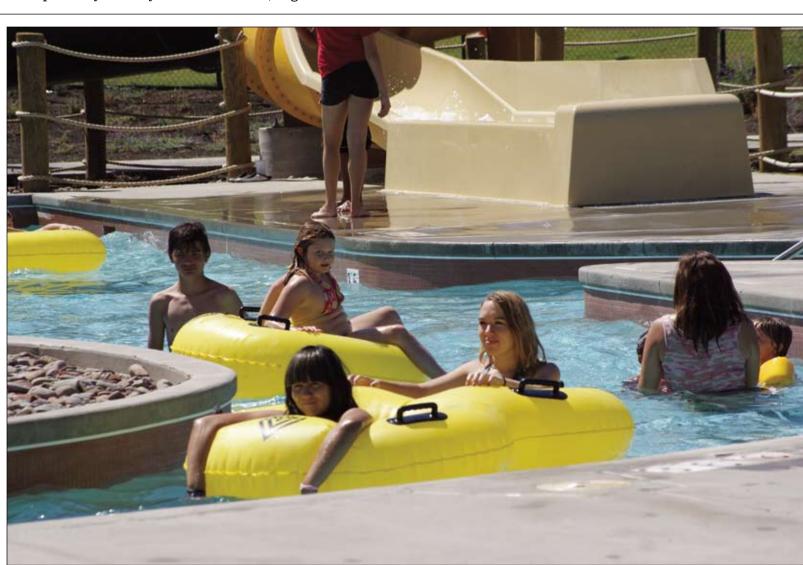
Staff Writer

FORSAN — School officials here continue to be good stewards of the taxpayers' money, and they have the paperwork to prove it. Forsan Independent Sch-

ool District has received a "superior achievement" rating — the highest possible — from the Texas Education Agency as part of its annual Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) report.

See FISD, Page 3





HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Crossroads residents were able to enjoy one last go round at the aquatic center Saturday as they celebrated Splash Out. Admission was \$1 with a can donation or \$3 otherwise. Not only were people able to enjoy the pool one last time, but help a good cause at the same time.

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Obituaries

Clyde James 'Jimmy' Bailey

Clyde James "Jimmy" Bailey Jr., 65, of Big Spring died Friday, Sept. 23, 2011, at Hospice House in Odessa. No services are planned.

He was born Sept. 24, 1945, in Lamesa to Opal and Clyde Bailey Sr. He grew up in Lamesa and lived most of his life in Albuquerque, N.M., and Hot Springs, Ark. He was a retired car salesman. He is survived by one sister, Phyllis Smith of Big

Spring; and one nephew.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

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

Claudine Karnes Claudine Karnes, 85, died Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011,

at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Support Groups

- Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at
- · Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, noon-1 p.m., 615 Settles.
- · Parents Empowering Parents, first and third Mondays, 6-7:30 p.m. Northside Community Center. Support group for parents, grandparents raising grandchildren, adoptive-foster parents or stepparents. Professional facilitator, parent-led discussions on variety of topics.
- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting, 8-9 p.m., fourth floor, VA Medical Center.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

- Special Parents for Special Children support group meets the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m.atElbowElementary.ContactKerriRosenbaum at 432-816-3320 or kerrirosenbaum9488@msn.com
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.



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Police blotter

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

- AMADOR RIOS, 30, of 4215 Dixon, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ISAAC NATHAN RIOS, 21, of 2911 W. Highway 80 Apt. 124, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid – no insur-
- FRANK GARZA JR., 61, of 405 N.E. Ninth St., was arrested Saturday on a charge of theft.
- MELINDA GAMBOA, 35, of 1200 Dixie, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxica-
- NICHOLAS LOYA, 32, of Dallas, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- EDWARD LOPEZ, 22, of 411 N. Scurry, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while intoxicated – open container.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 3200 block of
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported: In the 400 block of Pennsylvania.

In the 1400 block of E. Sixth Street.

BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported

in the 200 block of Lockhart.

Sheriff

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

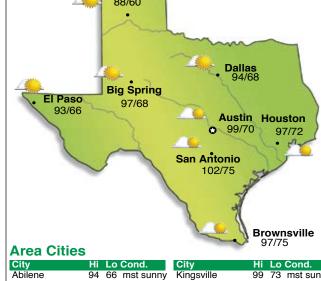
Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 69 inmates at the time of this BRANDON LEON RAMEY, 32, was transferred

- to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- ANDRES REYES PERCHES III, 17, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of theft.
- THOMAS KEITH JORDAN, 49, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxica-
- CHRIS ALAN NIX, 27, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
- JACKIE LYNN STEEN, 38, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of theft by check (two counts), speeding and issuance of a bad check. • ISAAC NATHAN RIOS, 21, was transferred to
- the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension. AMADOR RIOS JR., 30, was transferred to the
- county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication. CLAYTON THOMAS KECK, 24, was arrested
- Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxi- CLIFFORD PAUL COOPER, 38, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on charges of failure to
- maintain financial responsibility, violation of a promise to appear (two counts), displaying wrong license plate and no liability insurance. • FRANK GARZA, 61, was transferred to the
- theft.
- JASON DEMPSEY PEOPLES, 21, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of failure to identify and driving while license invalid.
- SAMMY SANCHEZ, 38, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated third or more offense. • MARSHA DIANNE CARTER, 34, was arrested
- Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to report address change - driver's license. • NICHOLAS LOYA, 32, was transferred to the
- county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication. • EDWARD LOPEZ, 22, was transferred to the
- county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated – open container. • MELINDA MACHADO GAMBOA, 35, was trans-
- ferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication. • DANIEL JOE RAMSEY, 48, was arrested Sunday
- by DPS on a charge of theft by check.
- DARRIN GRAY IVEY, 49, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the Glasscock County

Local 5-Day Forecast 9/27 9/28 9/29 9/30 10/1 97/68 96/65 94/64 89/61 90/61 Plentiful sur Plenty of More sun shine. Hot. cloudy. sun. Highs i than clouds Highs in the High 97F. Winds ENE Highs in the mid 90s and and lows in lows in the lows in the at 10 to 15 the mid 60s and lows in low 60s. mid 60s Sunrise: 7:39 AM 7:37 AM 7:40 AM Sunset: Sunset: Sunset: Sunset: Sunset:

Today's Weather





Area Cities							
City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	94	66	mst sunny	Kingsville	99	73	mst sunny
Amarillo	88	60	mst sunny	Livingston	98	69	t-storm
Austin	99	70	pt sunny	Longview	94	66	t-storm
Beaumont	93	72	pt sunny	Lubbock	89	61	mst sunny
Brownsville	97	75	pt sunny	Lufkin	99	69	t-storm
Brownwood	98	68	mst sunny	Midland	96	69	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	96	74	pt sunny	Raymondville			pt sunny
Corsicana	94	67	pt sunny	Rosenberg	97	72	pt sunny
Dallas	94	68	mst sunny	San Antonio	102	75	pt sunny
Del Rio	100	72	pt sunny	San Marcos	99	71	pt sunny
El Paso	93	66	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	92	62	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	96	67	mst sunny	Sweetwater	94	67	mst sunny
Gainesville	92	62	mst sunny	Tyler	94	65	t-storm
Greenville	92	62	mst sunny	Weatherford			mst sunny
Houston	97	72	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	92	63	mst sunny
National C	itie	S					

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	82	62	mst sunny	Minneapolis	71	57	rain
Boston	74	61	pt sunny	New York	75	69	t-storm
Chicago	59	53	rain	Phoenix	98	73	mst sunny
Dallas	94	68	mst sunny	San Francisco	76	60	pt sunny
Denver	80	53	mst sunny	Seattle	62	51	rain
Houston	97	72	pt sunny	St. Louis	69	56	rain
Los Angeles	82	64	sunny	Washington, DC	76	68	t-storm
Miami	88	75	t-storm				

Sheriff's Office on a charge of driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.

- STACY KAY COBB, 36, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug parahernalia.
- ROBERT ALLEN CHANDLER, 33, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of intoxicated assault causing serious bodily injury with a vehicle.

Fire/FMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 3700 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of Spring Creek Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Allendale. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2100 block of Runnels. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 2100 block of W. Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of N.W. Seventh Street. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N.W. Seventh Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Avenue C. Service refused.

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TRIAL

Continued from Page 1

contact information of patients for questioning about who complained about the physician.

Roberts was the first of the trio to go to trial and was convicted of misuse of official information and retaliation, both third-degree felonies, and official oppression, a Class A misdemeanor. After waiving jury punishment — part of a deal between the prosecution and defense — Roberts was given four years probation for each of the felony charges and 100 days in county jail for the misdemeanor offenses, all of which will be served concurrently.

Former hospital administrator Stan Wiley pleaded guilty in March to a misdemeanor charge of abuse of official capacity in exchange for his testimony.

Investigators allege Arafiles approached his close friend, Roberts, who was also a patient, after the Texas Medical Board contacted the doctor about the complaint. Arafiles asked his friend to help him find out who filed the complaint and Roberts used his authority to get a copy, investigators said. Arafiles and other officials were then able to determine

the identities of those who filed the complaint — names that would have been protected from disclosure if law enforcement officials had not misused their position to obtain confidential information, the Texas attorney general's office said. Among the nurses' complaints in their unsigned April

2009 letter to the medical board were that Arafiles improperly encouraged patients to buy herbal medicines from him and had wanted to use hospital supplies to perform a procedure at a patient's home.

Arafiles, licensed in Texas since 1998, has said the nurses' letter to the board was intended to harm him personally.

Mitchell and Galle — who were fired from the hospital, indicted and arrested in June 2009 — have since sued the county and accepted a \$750,000 settlement after they were cleared of wrong-doing.

Tidwell's trial was moved to Howard County earlier this year because of the amount of publicity surrounding the

Focus on Positive project wants input from residents

By AMANDA MORENO

Staff Writer

Lots of positivity is flowing through the community, according to the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, which is looking to see if residents are noticing.

Focus on the Positive is a new campaign geared toward prompting residents to notice the positive instead of focusing on the negative. "We have so much positive

and it can be contagious, even more so than the negative," said Terri Johansen, Chamber president. She said the idea is to get people to a point when they are

with something positive and in turn, break the negativity. Residents are being encouraged to create a top 10 list of

approached with something

negative they can respond

positive things about Howard County, Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan and submit that list to the chamber. Forms can be picked up at the chamber office or residents can submit their own lists, as long as their name, address and phone number are included so they can be eligible for a drawing.

"It's time to get rid of the 'stinkin' thinkin'. These are hard times with the drought and high temperatures, but we need to get people out of the negative way of thinking and bring in some positive,' Johansen said.

The contest will conclude Oct. 17 and a drawing for one of 10 prizes will be held Oct. 19. Contributions for prizes come from Crispy's Cafe, Displays of Splendor, Higginbotham-Bartlett, Johansen Nursery, Mary Kay, Dene Sheppard Unit, Moss Creek Ranch, My

Favorite Place, Sears of Big Spring, T. Blackshear Interiors and The Red Barn Studio.

"We are expecting there to be repeats, but at the same time it doesn't mean people are thinking the same way." Johansen said. "Each person is going to have their own reasons behind the positives they list and we might even follow up on some of the lists and find out what those reasons are."

To find out more about Focus on the Positive, contact the Chamber at 263-7641 or any of the board members. Lists can be dropped off at or mailed to the Chamber office, located at 215 W. Third St. Also, they can be faxed to 432-264-9111.

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

Take Note

• The Class of 1957 will meet Oct. 1 at 11:30 a.m. at the Wagon Wheel Drive-In. 2010 Scurry, for lunch. If you have questions, call Troy McClendon at 267-6025 or Edward Slate at 270-American Cancer Society will have their

board meetings starting noon, Sept. 13 on the second Tuesday of the month through April. Lunch will be furnished. Meetings will take place at Home Hospice, 111 E. Seventh.

• Are you a 1971 BSHS graduate? Come to our 40th reunion Sept. 30-Oct. 1. For information, contact bshs71@yahoo.com or Susan Green McLellan at 432-267-5759.

CITY

Continued from Page 1

Fernandez and Ramirez voting against the mea-The council will also

look to approve final reading of the ad valorem tax rate during Tuesday's meeting. The proposed tax rate

 which the council approved unanimously on first reading Sept. 13 is 94.95-cent per \$100 valuation, a drop of 5 cents compared to last year's 99.95 cent rate. The proposed rate is also nearly 5 cents below the effective tax rate of 99.7 cents per \$100 valuation.

According to City Fi-

nance Director Peggy Walker, the rate consists of 62.1317 cents toward the municipality's general fund; 8.5 cents for the Big Spring Police Department Narcotics Task Force; 20.7249 cents for general obligation bonds issued in 2007 on voter approval; .7133 cents for certificates of obligation issued in 2007; and 2.8801 cents for certificates of obligation issued in 2010 to finance the newly constructed city aquatic center.

According to Walker, the tax rate reduction will mean approximately \$16.68 in savings for the owner of a average residence (approximately \$41,688) and a \$40 reduction for homeowners whose property is valued at approximately \$100,000.

Also during Tuesday's meeting, the council will look to finalize fee increases for the municipal golf course located at Comanche Trail Park. The increase would have weekday green fees go from \$15 to \$18 per person; weekend and holiday green fees from \$20 to \$22 per person; and cart fee for 18 holes of golf from \$20

The council approved first reading on a 6-1 vote, with Ramirez the

lone dissenter. Ramirez said during the previous meeting he fears local golfers will simply stop frequenting the course if efforts aren't made to improve the overall state of the

"I spoke to someone about the fee increases and they told me they didn't want to pay for a Cadillac and drive a Pinto," Ramirez said. "I'm afraid we're going to lose golfers because of this."

The amendment would also do away with the private cart rider fee and offer annual green fees for individual unlimited play for \$625; individual limited play for seniors 65 or older for \$475; individual limited play for juniors 17 years or younger for \$150; family unlimited play for \$850; and family limited play for seniors 65 and older for \$600. The city course would

also offer an annual fee for unlimited use of the driving range — including an unlimited supply of driving range balls – for \$250. Tuesday's meeting is

expected to get under way at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth St. For more information, call 264-2401.

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

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Oscar Lujan Madrid, 64. died Thursday. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Jacquie Kirkendoll, 56, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Clyde James "Jimmy" Bailey, Jr., 65, died Friday. No services are planned.

Claudine Karnes, 85, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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FISD

Continued from Page 1

Business Manager Dianna Walker said the district has achieved the highest rating every year since the program began.

FIRST was designed by TEA to evaluate more than 20 financial and academic factors to determine if school districts were making good use of taxpayers' money. Among the the factors considered are how much money is in the district's reserve fund, percentage of due taxes

collected, how much money is paid to administrative staff, the ratio of students to teachers and to total staff, the district's academic rating and audit reports.

No Howard County school district has received less than a superior rating since the program was instituted.

Forsan ISD received 78 out of a possible 80 points on the report,



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

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(Mon.-Fri. 8a.m.-6p.m.

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Texas refineries may get back \$135M

Almost half the funds to come from school districts

(AP) — Three commissioners appointed by Gov. Rick Perry may grant some of the nation's largest refineries a tax refund of more than \$135 million — money cash-strapped schools and other local governments have been counting on to help pay teachers and provide other public services.

The refund would mean more pain for some communities after a year in which state lawmakers had to grapple with a \$27 billion shortfall and slashed spending on public schools by more than \$4 billion. Nearly half the refund would be taken from public schools, and those in cities where the refineries are based would be hurt the most.

"We were already cut at the knees as it is, but more cuts? It's appalling," said Patricia Gonof 13-year-old twins at Park View Intermediate School in Pasadena, a refinery town just south of Houston. Gonzales was just elected president of the school's new parent-teacher organization, which was formed this summer after the state budget cuts left the school lacking everything from pencils to paper towels.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is evaluating 16 requests for the refund, which concerns a piece of pollution-controlling equipment. If granted, the refund total for those requests could add up to more than \$135 million, according to county tax data and application documents analyzed by The Associated Press. What's more, agency documents show that if the commission grants the requests, at least have not sought a refund also could qualify.

The three-person commission last year expressed some support for the refund, prompting concern the panel is preparing to side with the industry in the middle of a budget crisis.

Should the commission approve the request, it would fall in line with Perry's argument on the GOP presidential campaign trail that by being friendly to business he has attracted businesses and jobs to Texas while other states suffered.

"Gov. Perry appoints individuals who are qualified and willing to serve, and expects they will consider all of the facts and make the appropriate decision," said Lucy Nashed, a spokeswoman for Perry.

The refund request has to do with a piece of technology used by refineries to minimize **Beginning** pollution. in 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began requiring refineries to remove sulfur dioxide from diesel and gasoline in an attempt to reduce vehicle pollution. Many refineries had to either upgrade existing "hydrotreater" units or purchase new, more effective equip-

Valero first asked for the refund for six of its refineries in 2007, and wants payment retroactive to that year. Since then, at least four other companies have joined in and asked for the same retroactive refund.

Valero is arguing that the units should be exempt under a Texas law that savs industrial plants don't have to pay taxes on equipment pur-

Texas zales, a single mother 12 other refineries that chased to reduce on-site pollution. The law saves companies millions. and is meant to encourage investment in new technology.

> At first, the request was denied. The commission's staff said the hvdrotreaters pollution in diesel and gas, not necessarily at the plant. In fact, staff said, the hydrotreaters actually increased sulfur dioxide pollution near the refineries because the toxic gas is now burned off in a

Valero appealed, and the panel's chairman, Bryan Shaw, said last April that the Legislature likely intended a broader interpretation of the law. He instructed his staff to research whether they could award partial exemptions to Valero. Shaw declined to be interviewed for this story, saying it could present a conflict because the issue will be brought before him again.

Valero alone could potentially get a refund of more than \$92 million, but spokesman Bill Day said the San Antoniobased company believes the final refund — if approved — would be much smaller. He said appraisers will ultimately decide the value of the refinery properties and it's unlikely the numbers will be as high as those the companies noted on the applications they submitted to the commission.

There is no timeline for a ruling. The slow pace of decision-making has left municipalities and school districts in an uncomfortable position in which they collect — and spend money they could be forced to return.

Refunding tax money would be yet another hit for counties, cities and school districts already cutting corners.

Briefs

Lubbock police shoot man, 90, who shot at them LUBBOCK (AP) — Lubbock police say they shot

and wounded a 90-year-old man who opened fire on officers responding to a burglary call. The victim, whose name was not released, was

hospitalized after the Sunday shooting although his wounds were not considered life threatening. Police were called to a west Lubbock apartment complex after getting a call that several people were trying to break into an apartment. Sgt. Jon-

athan Stewart told the Lubbock-Avalanche Jour-

nal that when officers showed up, the man in a

neighboring apartment fired a shot at them. Neighbors said the man may have become confused, that he was known to be forgetful but not aggressive or violent.

Teen held in apparent strangling of stepfather

FORT WORTH (AP) — Authorities in Fort Worth are questioning a 16-year-old about the apparent strangling of his stepfather.

Police responded Sunday to a call about a domestic dispute and found a 47-year-old man not breathing. He died later at a hospital.

The Tarrant County medical examiner's office didn't immediately rule on a cause of death but the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported Monday a preliminary police report indicated the man was strangled by his stepson.

Name of the victim was not immediately disclosed.

Charges are expected to be filed.

Man credited with creating **Doritos dies in Dallas**

DALLAS (AP) — Arch West, a retired Frito-Lay marketing executive credited with creating Doritos as the first national tortilla chip brand, has died in Dallas at age 97.

A statement issued by the West family says he died Tuesday at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas. A graveside service is scheduled for Oct. 1. Daughter Jana Hacker of Allen tells The Dallas Morning News the family plans on "tossing Doritos chips in before they put the dirt over the urn."

West was a marketing vice president for Dallasbased Frito-Lay in 1961 when, while on a family vacation near San Diego, he found a snack shack selling fried tortilla chips. Hacker says her father got a tepid corporate response to the tortilla chip idea but conducted marketing research that led to the Doritos rollout.

Obama takes shots at Perry

WOODSIDE, Calif. (AP) — President Barack Obama is swiping at Texas Gov. Rick Perry, criticizing him as "a governor whose state is on fire, denying climate change."

Obama also poked at the audience reactions at recent GOP presidential debates, singling out those who cheered at the prospect of someone dying because he didn't have health insurance and those who booed a gay service member.

The president said "that's not reflective of who we are."

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Page 5 Monday, September 26, 2011

Steers stumble in Saturday showdown

BY ROBERT GRIFFIN

Sports Editor

MIDLAND — The Big Spring Steers' impressive first half again was not enough to sustain them for the entire 48 minutes, as they fell Saturday night in Midland, 34-9 at the hands of Midland Christian.

For the first time this season, the Steers took the opening kick off after winning the coin flip. The result was a 45-yard drive, followed by a 36-yard Devin Roberson field goal and a Big Spring lead. Repeated passes to Tyler Hall and runs by Garrett Stuteville, Michael Oliva and Michael Vanderbilt blended perfectly for an almost flawless drive.

After a good return gave Midland Christian the ball on the 49 yard line, they moved the ball quickly to the Steers' 17 yard line, before fumbling the ball over to Big Spring. But when Big Spring failed to move the ball, Midland Christian got it back on their own 43. A big sack by Diamond Bailey — along with two other tackles — was

not enough to stop Midland on this drive, as they hit a 28-yard pass across the middle to the end zone for a 7-3 lead going into the second quarter.

Big Spring stiffened up in the second frame to keep the score 7-3. The half ended after Roberson deflected a pass in the end zone and Jared Deporto picked it off for Midland's second turnover.

But the second half started out with a barrage of Christian Whigham, as he broke one for 50 yards on Midland's first possession of the third quarter. When Big Spring was unable to answer, Midland struck again, going 64 yards on seven plays. Again Whigham found the end zone, from nine yards out this time, to put the Mustangs ahead 19-3.

On their next possession, the Mustangs scored in three plays, ending with a 59-yard touchdown pass to put Midland ahead 27-3 with 2:47 left in the third quarter.

After starting on their own 18 following the Midland kick, Big Spring seemed to catch a break when Vanderbilt reached the corner quickly and was down the field before anyone knew it. He was 60 yards from the line of scrimmage before he was finally tackled on the Midland Christian 30 yard line. The Steers drove a bit further, reaching the 16 yard line, but ran out of downs before they could get any more points on the board.

Midland Christian took the ball and drove it 86 yards for another score, making it 34-3.

On the final drive of the game, the Steers drove 89 yards and reached the end zone on an 19-yard touchdown pass from Stuteville to Roberson as time expired.

Big Spring — 178 rushing yards, 93 passing yards for 271 totalyards on offense. Vanderbilt-88 yards rushing, Deporto-48 yards rushing, Roberson-44 yards receiving and one touchdown. Stuteville-93yards passing with one touchdown.

Midland Christian — 155 rushing yards and 382 passing yards for a total of 537 yards of offense.



HERALD photo/Robert Griffin

Devin Roberson finds a little breathing room on a pass play in Saturday night's game in Midland.

Briefs

Quarterback Club meeting Monday

Big Spring Quarterback Club meetings are held Mondays at the ATC. The meetings will start at 6 p.m. All parents of football players in grades 7-12 are encouraged to attend.

For more information, call Denise Carrillo at 432-816-1685.

BSLL election meeting Oct. 8

Big Spring Little League will have an end of season meeting at 7 p.m. Oct. 8 at the Life Church. We will have election of officers for the 2012 season.

Red Raiders rally late for win

LUBBOCK (AP) — Seth Doege scrambled, looked right and found a wide open Eric Ward with 44 seconds left to rally the Red Raiders to a 35-34 win over Nevada on Saturday night.

Ward caught Doege's third TD pass of the night as the Red Raiders (3-0) came back from a 28-14 deficit midway through the third quarter.

The winning score happened on a fourth-and-three.

He threw touchdowns of 4, 8 and 2 yards en route to completing 26 of 38 passes for 222 yards.

The Red Raiders struggled on defense, giving up 562 total yards and Nevada (1-2) capitalized.

Redshirt freshman Cody Fajardo threw two touchdowns passes and ran for a 56-yarder for Nevada. He finished with 139 yards on 10 carries.

Fajardo also ran for a 6-yard touchdown and threw a 16-yard

TD pass to Kolby Arendse. Mike Ball compiled 139 yards on 27 carries.

Doege looked stymied as he took the snap on the final score of the game. He back-peddled to about the 17 yard line as he scanned for an open receiver in the end zone. No one in the middle. No one on the right. He looked left and saw Ward, lofting it to him in the back corner for the winning score.

Fajardo and Tyler Lantrip shared quarterback duties for the Wolf Pack, but it was Fajardo who provided the spark. He put them up 28-14 when he faked a handoff to Ball and scampered

along the right sideline to score.

Doege found Jace Amaro for an 8-yard score to pull the Red Raiders within 28-21. Two field goals by Nevada gave the Wolf Pack a 34-28 lead before Doege led Texas Tech down the field

for the winning score.

Texas Tech was without its leading receiver, Darrin Moore, for most of the game. Moore left early in the first quarter after he injured his left ankle and knee on a deep incompletion. Isaiah Frey hit Moore as he tried to catch a pass. Moore, ranked No. 2 nationally in receptions per game (11) has caught 21 passes for 339 yards. He had no catches Saturday night.

The Wolf Pack went up 14-7 near the end of the first half quarter when redshirt freshman quarterback Cody found a wide open Kolby Arendse on the right side of the field for a 16-yard touchdown pass. On the first play of the drive, Fajardo turned a broken play into a 34-yard gain. Three plays later, he

See **TECH**, Page 10

Aggies fall to OSU

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Oklahoma State didn't panic when it was down by 17 points to eighthranked Texas A&M at halftime on Saturday.

It wasn't anything new to the seventh-ranked Cowboys, after they bounced back from a big first-half deficit last year to beat the Aggies.

Brandon Weeden threw for a school-record 438 yards and two scores and Justin Blackmon and Josh Cooper combined for 244 yards receiving as Oklahoma State rallied for a 30-29 win over Texas A&M.

"We came out confident in the second half," Blackmon said. "We knew we could come back if we played our game and executed the game plan (and) that's what we did."

The Aggies built a 20-3 halftime lead before the Cowboys (4-0, 1-0 Big 12) took advantage of three Texas A&M turnovers and numerous penalties to reel off 27 straight points to take a 30-20 lead.

"The way they handled that situation was beautiful," Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said of his team's second half. "And the win makes it's special. The way they fought back as a group shows a lot about their character and what they are."

who they are."

Jeff Fuller caught a 4-yard touchdown pass with 2:20 remaining for See **AGGIES**. Page 10

A&M's first score since the second quarter to get A&M within 30-27.

A&M's defense forced a punt and the Aggies (2-1, 0-1) got the ball back with almost two minutes remaining, but Ryan Tannehill threw his third interception to seal the Cowboys' win.

Blackmon ran 39 yards into A&M's end zone for a safety as time expired to finish off the victory.

Oklahoma State won its fourth straight in the series and its seventh overall on the road in the first top 10 matchup at Kyle Field since 1975. It marks the first time the Cowboys have won consecutive games in College Station.

It could be the last time these teams meet in conference play with the Aggies likely headed to the Southeastern Conference next season. It was a fact not lost on the few Oklahoma State fans in attendance who chanted, "Big 12, Big 12" as the final seconds of the game ticked away.

The matchup was oddly similar to last year's matchup between these teams when A&M led 21-7 at halftime before errors led to a 38-35 Oklahoma State win in Stillwater.

The Aggies talked about what happened last year in hopes that



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler night's game.

The Grady defense gang-tackles a Ropes runner in Friday night's game.

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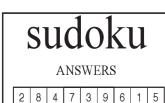
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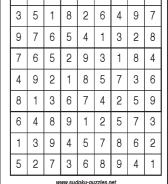
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The battle rages on. Maybe it's not the most peaceful way to think about this lifetime, but it's hard to ignore the heroism involved in our daily struggles as Mercury and Uranus pull from opposite parts of the sky. The sun and Uranus are also in opposition, bringing a black-and-white quality to many of our observations.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be fixing things, putting them together and making them work perfectly. This requires a bit of tinkering and a healthy curiosity. You are willing to experiment until you get it right, and get it right you will.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You do not define yourself by your ability to live up to your commitments — but if you did, you would have an excellent opinion of yourself. You continually prove what a solid human being you

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Someone isn't who you thought she was. You don't know yet who she really is, and maybe you never will. But you'll enjoy the puzzle and the challenge of being observant enough to see the deeper layers.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Rituals have a way of quieting the racket in your head so that you can get busy. It doesn't have to be too elaborate. The ritual

of making yourself a beverage and sitting in your favorite chair to drink it may be enough.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You want to be attuned to the needs of a loved one, and yet you don't want to foster the kind of intense relationship that would be difficult to keep up for the long haul. So you are ever mindful of your boundaries.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll grow increasingly self-sufficient. You may not realize that this makes you seem inaccessible to others, which works in your favor. People will reach toward you in a way. They will be willing to do more to get to

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your sign mate Oscar Wilde said it best: "One should always play fairly when one has the winning cards." You will recognize your advantage and exercise it judiciously. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A friend's observa-

tions may rub you the wrong way, but there may be a kernel of wisdom there that you could apply to make your life better. The truth you would prefer not to hear is the same truth that will set you free. **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Because your

tastes are so varied, you are a fan of many different people. Your appreciation for great work will lead you to create great work yourself. Your connection with Libra will be especially significant.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It seems you can survive anything nowadays. Your ability to stay in the game will impress the other players, but that doesn't mean much to you. You're too busy finding a way to win.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are not content to mimic what others are doing. You are your own person with your own opinions and passions. Life sparkles when you focus on those specific inter-

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You will be making an investment of time, energy and money. It can be unnerving as costs add up. Do your research and make a budget. If you know what the total is likely to be, you will feel comfortable with the process.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 26). You have so much love to give and many takers. People depend on your strength and wisdom. October brings a new vision. A change of residence affects your life in November. You'll quickly decide what to do with surprise money in December. A wonderful transformation happens in the new year. Scorpio and Gemini people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 2, 30, 18 and 14.

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

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"Classic" Ann Landers®: Widower computes romance

Note:AnnLanders' loyal readers have requested that newspapers continue to publish her columns. These letters originally appeared in 1999.

Dear Ann Landers: I am a male, 49 years old.

East dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

The bidding:
South

Pass

NORTH

SOUTH

Opening lead - king of hearts.

Contract A Bridge

Famous Hand

I lost my wife in an auto accident two years ago, and it has taken me until now to restart my life. A few weeks ago, I put a personal ad online, and one of the responses was from a 45-year-old woman. She seemed to be exactly what I wanted — pretty, intelligent,

By Steve Becker

would provide just what his partner

needed for slam, so he carried on to

of making, but failed when Woolsey, despite West's pre-emptive bid, elected to play the clubs normally, cashing the A-K. After that, he had to

lose a club and a diamond for down When Ricardo Janz and Carlos

Camacho of Brazil held the North-South hands, the bidding went:

Here the U.S. West chose the

declarer's problem in that suit. Camacho then crossed to dummy

with a spade and played the queen of

diamonds, ducked all around. The ten of diamonds was led next, and

the jack. He then conceded the nine

to the king and scored the rest of the

when East again followed

Pass

South

HOLIDAY

MATHIS

independent and with a good sense of humor. The problem is, I think our relationship may be moving too fast.

When I placed my ad online, I had a game plan for finding someone to fill the empty spot in my life. I figured we would get to know each other through e-mail for two months. Then, we would start phoning each other for another month or so. Finally, we would meet for coffee, and if all went well, we would begin to date.

We are way ahead of the game plan. I'm afraid we might be setting ourselves up for a letdown if we move too quickly. I really like this woman a lot and don't want to mess things up, because she could be the one I've been waiting for. I have been trying to put the brakes on, but it's not easy. Please tell me what to do. - *Rich on* the Computer

Dear Rich: It appears that you are doing just

Follow instincts, but keep those brakes on. Introduce the woman to family and friends, and get their opinions. I'm hoping those bluebirds will sing for you again.

Dear Ann Landers: I thought you might like this for your "stupid crooks" collection. It appeared in Deerfield Beach, Fla., Times. — Susie Q in Florida

Dear Susie Q: Thanks for sending it on. I laughed out loud. Here

The vote is still out on whether a man found stuck in an air-conditioning vent of a pizza parlor was trying to find a place to sleep, as he told police, or whether he was trying to burglarize the parlor, as police said.

At 9 p.m. on Labor Day, the manager of a local pizzeria walked into the shop and found more than dough and pizza sauce waiting for him. While checking inventory, the manager noticed that the vent cover to the air-conditioning duct had fallen to the floor of the kitchen. Upon closer inspection, he noticed there were feet hanging from the hood. The manager called 911.

Deputies quickly located the man, who had begun screaming for help. Police said the

29-year-old man was trying to break into the pizza parlor through a rooftop air vent. During his "Santa-Claus-like" entrance, the man got stuck in the middle of the shaft, where he remained for at least 22 hours because the business was closed for the Labor Day holiday.

Fire Rescue said the man was stuck in the L-shaped vent and could not be pulled out from the bottom. The firefighters and paramedics poured grease from the roof to lubricate the vent. A rope was then tied around the man's hands, and he was pulled from above. The man was taken to the hospital and treated for

dehydration. He has been charged

with burglary. When planning a wedding, who pays for what? Who stands where? "The Ann Landers Guide for Brides" has all the answers. Send a selfaddressed, long, business-sized envelope and a check or money order for \$3.75 (this includes postage and handling) to: Brides, c/o Ann Landers, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about

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

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

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Camacho went into the tank. Should This deal accounted for nearly a he allow the ten to ride in case East third of the margin by which Brazil started with the K-J-x-x? Or should he put up the ace, playing for a 3-3 break or for West to have started with defeated the United States in the 989 world team championship When Mike Lawrence and Kit the J-x of diamonds? Eventually, Camacho played the

Woolsey of the U.S. held the North-South hands, the bidding went as

ace and was rewarded with the fall of

shown. Woolsey's bidding implied a strong two-suiter with better clubs than diamonds. After Woolsey bid five clubs, Lawrence judged that his two aces and Q-10 of diamonds

tricks, giving Brazil a 16-IMP pickup on the deal. Tomorrow: The Rule of Eleven

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KOSA 7

KTLE 8

KWES 9

WTBS 11

KMLM 12

KMID 3

KPBT 13

DISC 20

AMC 21 SPIKE 22

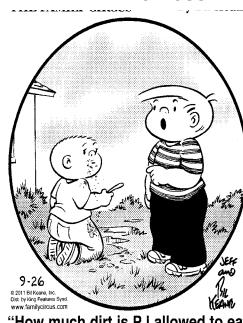
TNT 23

DISN 27 ESPN2 28





"WITH BOOKS YOU CAN *FAST-FORWARD* JUST BY TURNING THE PAGE."



"How much dirt is PJ allowed to eat before it spoils his dinner?



ONE OF MY FRIENDS GOT A COST-OF-LIVING RAISE

BLONDIE



This Date

In History

Today is Monday, Sept. 26,

On Sept. 26, 1789, Thomas

Jefferson was confirmed by the

Senate to be the first U.S. secre-

tary of state; John Jay, the first

justice;

Highlight

Edmund

the 269th day of 2011. There are

96 days left in the year.

Today's

History:

chief





BCI SEE YOU HAVE A DEGREE IN SHORTHAND.

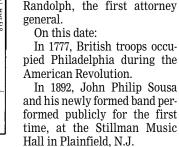








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In 1914, the Federal Trade Commission was established.

In 1918, the Meuse-Argonne offensive, resulting in an Allied victory against the Germans, began during World War I.

In 1955, following word that President Dwight Eisenhower had suffered a heart attack, the New York Stock Exchange saw its worst price decline since 1929. In 1960, the first-ever debate

between presidential nominees took place in Chicago as Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon faced off before a national TV audience.

In 1981, the twin-engine Boeing 767 made its official debut in Everett, Wash. In 1986, William H. Rehnquist

was sworn in as the 16th chief justice of the United States, while Antonin Scalia joined the Supreme Court as its 103rd member. In 1990, the Motion Picture

Association of America announced it had created a new rating, NC-17, to replace the X rating. In 1991, four men and four

women began a two-year stay inside a sealed-off structure in Oracle, Ariz., called Biosphere 2. (They emerged from Biosphere on this date in 1993.) Today's Birthdays: Retired baseball All-Star Bobby Shantz is 86. Actor Philip Bosco is 81.

Actress Donna Douglas is 79.

Country singer David Frizzell is 70. Actor Kent McCord is 69. Television host Anne Robinson is 67. Singer Bryan Ferry is 66. Actress Mary Beth Hurt is 65 Singer Lynn Anderson is 64 Singer Olivia Newton-John is 63. Actor James Keane is 59. Rock singer-musician Cesar Rosas (Los Lobos) is 57. Country Actress Linda Hamilton is 55. Country singer Doug Supernaw is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Cindy Herron (En Vogue) is 50. Actress Melissa Sue Anderson is 49. Actor Patrick Bristow is 49. Rock musician Al Pitrelli is 49. Singer Tracey Thorn (Everything But The Girl) is 49. TV personality Jillian Barberie

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Answer to previous puzzle

RADIUS STANDSIN UPROSE CHLORINE

AGNES THERE IS A BIG YOU TALENT CONTEST AND I WILL SLAM HAVE ALL COMERS. TALENT





HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST









SNUFFY SMITH









SHOOT !! I WUZ HOPIN' YOU KNOWED !!

THING THAT GOT US HERE

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS 66 Start a 1 Customary poker pot practice 6 Lasso

50+ 14 Caribbean resort isle

10 Org. for those

15 Verbal exam

16 Sandal, for one

17 Cruise ship 18 China's continent

19 Beer barrels 20 Desperate strategy

22 Stretched tight 23 CPR specialist

24 Wears away 26 "Ticker-tape"

event 30 Whirlpool

32 Underground plant part

33 Rudolph's red feature

35 __ living (be employed)

40 "Case closed!" 43 Teacher's

request 44 Store-sign gas

45 Small lake 46 Boats like

Noah's 48 Tries a bite of 50 Promise

confidently 54 Poorly lit

55 As compared to **56** Negotiation step

64 Give off 65 Avoid capture by

63 Noisy

67 Occupy the throne

68 Foundations 69 Crystal-ball user

70 Went fast 71 Deal go-between

DOWN

1 Corridor

2 Opera solo

3 Hamburger rolls

4 Skeptical comment 5 Repaired, as a

cook chicken

roof

6 One way to

27 Top-notch 28 Went by bus

29 Molecule part 30 Letters before

tees 31 Art __ (retro style)

8 Twosome

12 Scoundrel

25 Sandwich

breads

26 Chief exec.

21 Edit

13 Annoying ones

9 Made happy

34 Sow's squeal 36 African

snakes

singer Carlene Carter is 56 is 45.

Actor Richard Herd is 79. South African nationalist Winnie RESTEASYSHORTS Madikizela-Mandela is 75.

CLOSING WORDS by Gail Grabowski

Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com 7 Approximately 37 Unruly

10 Send an **39** "No ifs, _ invitation for buts!" 11 In the lead

41 Dread

42 No later than

outbreak

38 Not any

47 Alludes (to) 49 Single-celled

creature

50 Book of maps

51 Glistened

52 Pan-fry 53 Below 54 Went out with

57 "It's my turn!" 58 Cairo's river 59 Old Glory

60 Firecracker part

61 Biblical paradise

62 Take a break

								1-								
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12			
14						15					16			-		
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TECH

Continued from Page 5

found Arendse open in the middle of the field and he turned it into a 27-yard play.

Fajardo replaced starter Lantrip midway through the second quarter and led the Wolf Pack on an 83-yard scoring drive, keeping the ball on the ground for all but one play. Fajardo scored untouched on a 2-yard run around the left side for to tie it at 7-7.

Nevada held Texas Tech scoreless in the first quarter, which was a first this season for the Red Raiders. The Wolf Pack found success on the ground early while simultaneously eating clock and keeping the Red Raiders off the field. Their first scoring chance came at the end of a 14-play drive, but Anthony Martinez's 31-yard field goal missed when he hit the right upright.

AGGIES

Continued from Page 5

they wouldn't suffer the same fate on Saturday. It didn't help.

"We gave the game away," Aggies safety Hunter said. "We didn't step up and play with the same passion we did in the first half. We weren't going out with that same fire and we weren't ready to fight. Regardless of what they did in the second half ... we just didn't go out and want to win." Texas A&M kept Oklaho-

ma State's high-powered offense in check through the first two quarters, but looked frazzled and tired dealing with its frenetic pace after halftime.

"They did a nice job of coming out in the second half and changing the tempo of the game and taking adcoach Mike Sherman said. "They kind of had us on our heels."

Several Texas A&M players had cramps and some had to receive IVs at half-

Jeremy Smith ran untouched into the end zone on a 13-yard run that cut the lead to 20-10 early in the third quarter. Blackmon's TD catch got the Cowboys within three and they took a 24-20 lead when Weeden found Tracy Moore on a 4-yard pass after an A&M fumble.

Quinn Sharp added two short field goals in the fourth quarter to extend the lead.

Tannehill threw for 309 yards and two scores and ran for another touchdown and Ryan Swope had 105 yards receiving for A&M.

Cooper had 11 catches for 123 yards — both ca-

vantage of it," Texas A&M reer highs, Blackmon had 11 receptions for 121 yards, and Hubert Anyiam had 10 receptions for 92 yards. It was the first time in school history that three receivers had at least 10 catches in a game. Before Saturday, the Cowboys had never had more than one player with 10 catches in a game. On Blackmon's score in

the third quarter, Weeden found him in the corner of the end zone, but he dropped the ball well out of bounds and officials first said it was an incomplete pass. Blackmon yelled at an official that it was a touchdown as he walked away and after a review, the star receiver ended up being right. It was an 11-yard touchdown pass and Oklahoma was within 20-17.

The Cowboys were helped earlier in that drive when A&M's Jonathan Stewart hit Anyiam when he was

out of bounds and the penalty tacked on 13 yards to the 9-yard reception.

Kenric McNeal caught a 33-yard pass from Tannehill on the second play of A&M's next drive, but fumbled, giving the Cowboys the ball right back.

They took advantage of the error and got their first lead of the game, 24-20, when Weeden hit Moore in the back of the end zone for the "At halftime we didn't

change anything, we just started executing and things started going our way," said Weeden, who also set school records for his 47 completions and 60 attempts on Saturday. "Our guys did a great job up front. In the second half things started click-

On a repeat of their last drive, Texas A&M just got one play in.

SEC: Texas A&M will join next summer

By JOHN WERNER Tribune-Herald

Southeastern Conference presidents and chancellors announced Sunday that Texas A&M will join the league despite the threat of legal action from Baylor and other Big 12 schools.

The SEC announced the move will be effective July 1, 2012, and said Texas A&M will participate in all sports during the 2012-13 academic year. The addition of Texas A&M gives the SEC 13 members, and its first addition since South Carolina and Arkansas in 1992.

A source with knowl-

edge of the situation Sunday said neither the SEC nor Texas A&M have asked Big 12 schools to waive their legal rights to sue Texas A&M or the SEC. However, another source told ESPN that the SEC has accepted Texas A&M unconditionally, and the Aggies will begin negotiations of an exit fee from the Big 12.

The SEC was set to originally announce Sept. 7 that Texas A&M would join the SEC. But the Aggies' defection had been held up by the possibility of legal action by Baylor and several other Big 12 schools. The statement released by the SEC on Sunday did not mention that situation, and SEC spokesman Charles Bloom declined comment to the Associated Press.

Once it appears the Big 12 becomes stable and Texas A&M agrees to pay its exit fee to the league, Baylor and the remaining schools that have not signed waivers are unlikely to take legal action against Texas A&M or the SEC, a source with knowledge of the situation said. The Texas A&M situation is expected to be discussed when Big 12 athletic directors meet Tuesday and Wednesday.

Big 12 interim commissioner Chuck Neinas had planned to visit College Station this week in a last-ditch effort to convince Texas A&M to stay in the Big 12. Neinas was named Big 12 interim commissioner Thursday following the departure of Dan

Big 12 moves forward

"I am personally saddened to see Texas A&M depart from the Big 12, and wish I had the opportunity to visit the campus to sit down and talk with their administration," Neinas said. "We will continue to work diligently in securing the long-term stability of the Big 12. Now that the status of Texas A&M has officially been determined, the membership can focus on the desired course for the conference moving forward. Although no timeline has been established, an expeditious pursuit is anticipated."

The Big 12 appeared to be on the brink of collapse when Oklahoma, Texas, Texas Tech and Oklahoma State explored moving to the Pac-12 last week. However, Pac-12 commissioner Larry Scott announced last Tuesday that the league would not expand this year.

On Thursday, Oklahoma President David Boren said the nine remaining Big 12 schools besides Texas A&M agreed to give a six-year grant of their first- and second-tier television rights to the Big 12. The Kansas City Star reported that Missouri could still opt for the SEC if Big 12 negotiations didn't pan out.

When the Big 12 media rights contract is finalized, the league is expected to be stabilized since revenue from the top television games would continue to go to the Big 12 even if a school bolts to another league during the sixyear period. ABC/ESPN holds the Big 12's Tier I television rights, while Fox holds the Tier II rights.

26th Annual Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade 5:30 pm, Saturday, December 3rd Parade Theme

"A Wild West Christmas"

ENTRY DEADLINE - FRIDAY, NOV. 11TH \$100 Herald's-Best Of Show

(Best Interpretation Of Theme)

\$75 Publisher's Award (Best Use Of Lighting)

\$50 Grand Marshal's Award

(Best Costuming)

Special Awards presented to:

Individual or Family • Civic Group, School or Church Commercial • Industrial • Mounted Entry

- 1. The parade's official Santa Claus will be provided by the Herald.
- 2. Floats not to exceed 52' in length, 8' in width, 14' in height. **3.** Parade entries not in line by start of parade will be ineligible for awards.
- 4. Do not throw candy from float, you may walk beside your float if you wish

to throw carray.
2011 CHRISTMAS PARADE ENTRY FORM Name Of Organization
Contact Person
Mailing Address
Phone
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Individual Mounted
Mail, Fax or Hand Deliver To:
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