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H I BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 4, 2011



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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 44

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County likely to extend burn ban

Fireworks prohibition also on commissioners' agenda

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

If your Christmas or New Years celebration plans include rockets or fanned fireworks, you may want to think again.

Howard County Judge Mark Barr said Friday he plans to propose an extension to the existing burn ban and a nix on fanned fireworks and rockets going into the Christmas and New Year holidays during the commissioners' Dec. 12 meeting in hopes of staving off wildfires in the coming months.

What: Howard County Commissioners meeting.
Where: Third floor, county courthouse.
When: 10:30 a.m., Monday.

Barr said the county must have the fireworks ban in place no later than Dec. 15.

"The ban will effect rocket-type fireworks with fins. It's just so dry out there and there's so much fuel, we're worried it could pose a serious danger," Barr said. "Honestly, I expect both measures — the continuation of the burn ban and the ban on the fireworks — to pass easily. It's no secret how dangerous conditions are right now, and with no real relief in sight, they

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A

Santa comes a-callin'



Clockwise, from top right: Macie Wallace talks to Santa Claus during the VA Medical Center's Lighting of the Lights ceremony Friday; Providence Dickson and Chicago Dickson decorate ornaments during Heritage Museum's Breakfast with Santa Claus event Saturday; and Santa and Mrs. Claus have a chat with Jaycob McGee at Heritage Museum Saturday morning.

HERALD photos/Amanda Moreno and Steve Reagan



CFOT puts out call for volunteers

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

Donations have been collected, but they still need to be packed.

Christmas for Our Troops has wrapped up donation collections and is now seeking volunteers to help pack up items at 6 p.m. Dec. 7 at First Christian Church. Volunteers will be packing 500 boxes which will go to soldiers in Afghanistan.

This is the 11th year for the program, which is aimed at ensuring soldiers fighting for our country are not forgotten during the holiday season.

"It all started with five boxes and a group of guys thinking we

"People want to say thank you to these soldiers. We are just providing a venue for them to do that."

Scott Davis, founder
Christmas For Our Troops

need to send those guys on the ground over there fighting for us some Christmas," Scott Davis, founder of CFOT, said.

This year's box pack-up day is extra special according to CFOT representatives because it not only recognizes those serving today, but will be a reminder of those who fought during World War II, as the pick up will take place on the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

"The similarities between the U.S. Efforts after Dec. 7, 1941 and Sept. 11, 2001, are obvious. On both occasions, after our country was attacked on our shores, American men

and women took up arms and traveled to far away lands in order to protect the liberties we, as Americans, have enjoyed since the founding of our country. Just as we honor those men and women currently in harm's way, we never forget those veterans of the wars that went before," quoted in an article provided by Stephanie Sparkman, public relations coordinator for CFOT.

The program has grown to a size Davis never imagined, but the modest and humble beginnings are only part of what makes this program such a success.

"People want to say thank

you to these soldiers. We are just providing a venue for them to do that," Davis said.

"We can't allow what happened with our Vietnam vets to happen again. We owe these soldiers more than we can possibly ever pay them. We are able to do what we do everyday because people sacrifice for us. They are willing to give their legs, arms, eyesight and intellect on our behalf."

To volunteer or find out more information, contact Debbie Burrow at 432-267-7165 or 432-270-8554.

"We owe it to our military to let them know they haven't been forgotten," Burrow said. "This is our first time packing so we are hoping that Big Spring will do it big."

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



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Police blotter

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

- RICHARD LEOS, 33, of 1207 E. 16th St., was arrested on warrants for disregard a stop sign and fail to appear.
- TIMOTHY JOSEPH MAJOR, 37, of 114 Colorado, was arrested on charges of driving while license suspended/invalid with previous conviction, accident involving damage to vehicle more than \$200 and criminal mischief more than \$1500 less than

- THEFT was reported in the 1300 block of S. Gregg.
- BURGLARY OF HABITATION was reported in the 600 block of Linda.
- BURGLARY OF VEHICLE was reported: In the 1400 block of Princeton Avenue. In the 600 block of Edwards.
- CRIMINAL MISHCIEF was reported: In the 2300 block of S. Scurry St. In the 1500 block of Sycamore.

Take Note

• A benefit account for the Arguello family, who lost two family members in a recent house fire in Coahoma, has been established at Western Bank. Interested persons can contribute to the account at any of the bank's three locations (two in Big Spring; one in Coahoma). For more information, call 432-394-4256.

• An account has been established at Wells Fargo to help defray medical expenses for 4-year-old Zayde Stallings, who recently died of a rare heart condition. She was the daughter of Kenny and Renea Stallings of Big Spring. If you need more information, contact Four Seasons Insulation and Siding at 264-8610. The account number is 7938527277.

• A fund has been set up at Myers & Smith Funeral Home for Mike Williams, 39, a lifetime resident of Big Spring who died Nov. 1. He leaves behind a wife and seven children. Any donations can be brought to the funeral home office at 301 E. 24th St. For more information, call 267-8288.

• American Cancer Society will have its board meetings at noon on the second Tuesday of the month through April. Lunch will be furnished. Meetings will take place at Home Hospice, located at 111 E. Seventh.

• Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Training will be provided and geared to your time frame. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Sherry Hodnett at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.

• Every 10 years, Texas requires that marks and brands be re-registered in the county or counties in which you operate. The re-registration period began Aug. 31 and runs through Feb. 29, 2012. At the conclusion date, all marks and brands that have not been re-registered are automatically available for registration by another party. For additional information, contact the Howard County Clerk's Office at 264-2214 or 264-2213.

• Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help! We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions such as tour guides, front desk, clerical, events, and many others. Set your hours and days of the week you are available. Meet new people and enjoy a rewarding experience. For more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.

• Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union is raising money to benefit Maurine Pittman, who is undergoing cancer treatment in a Dallas-area hospital. For more information, call the credit union at 263-8393.

• A benefit fund has been established at Western Bank for Eric Kelly, a 24-year-old Big Spring resident with cystic fibrosis who is recovering from a double lung transplant in Dallas. All donations are appreciated. For more information, call 432-213-0795

• The Salvation Army is holding its annual heater drive and is in dire need of heaters. Community members can donate new or used heaters. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

• The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop foreclosure and are in need of foreclosure help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. The Homeowner's HOPE hotline is a counseling service provided by HPF to work with you to find a solution to your problem. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Free free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

• Fridays are live band dance nights at Big Spring Senior Center, 1901 Simler. Senior adults are invited to an evening of fellowship (and good exercise) from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. each Friday. Cost is \$8 per person. For more information or to find out what band is playing, call the Senior Center at 432-267-1628.

• 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.

• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. Thursdays at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

• HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915 or the local ACS office at 432-683-6375.

• Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call (877) 277-1618, the High Plains American Cancer Group Report Center. For more information, call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599 at her office at Home Hospice.

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Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sun 12/4	Mon 12/5	Tue 12/6	Wed 12/7	Thu 12/8
41/32 Mostly cloudy skies. Cold. High 41F. Winds NE at 10 to 20 mph.	34/23 Periods of snow. Highs in the mid 30s and lows in the low 20s.	38/23 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 30s and lows in the low 20s.	51/26 Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the mid 20s.	56/28 Sunny. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the upper 20s.
Sunrise: 7:31 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:32 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:33 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:34 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:35 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM

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Stories for and about hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

Texas At A Glance

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	40	33	rain	Kingsville	83	60	cloudy
Amarillo	39	23	pt sunny	Livingston	69	51	t-storm
Austin	58	40	rain	Longview	60	44	rain
Beaumont	72	59	t-storm	Lubbock	41	27	pt sunny
Brownsville	84	65	cloudy	Lufkin	69	51	rain
Brownwood	43	37	rain	Midland	40	32	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	80	58	t-storm	Raymondville	84	62	pt sunny
Corsicana	49	39	rain	Rosenberg	73	55	t-storm
Dallas	47	40	rain	San Antonio	68	46	rain
Del Rio	57	44	rain	San Marcos	60	41	rain
El Paso	54	33	rain	Sulphur Springs	50	39	rain
Fort Stockton	47	34	pt sunny	Sweetwater	39	32	rain
Gainesville	41	35	rain	Tyler	58	42	rain
Greenville	46	39	rain	Weatherford	41	35	rain
Houston	73	55	t-storm	Wichita Falls	42	34	rain

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	58	49	cloudy	Minneapolis	32	23	pt sunny
Boston	52	43	mst sunny	New York	57	45	mst sunny
Chicago	47	30	pt sunny	Phoenix	56	38	sunny
Dallas	47	40	rain	San Francisco	62	45	sunny
Denver	26	7	sn shower	Seattle	43	31	pt sunny
Houston	73	55	t-storm	St. Louis	50	34	cloudy
Los Angeles	65	43	sunny	Washington, DC	56	43	mst sunny
Miami	80	71	windy				

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Canterbury Retirement Community held its annual Christmas bazaar Saturday morning. Canterbury residents and more than 30 local vendors joined together to provide area residents with unique gift ideas such as Christmas decorations, Mary Kay baskets, homemade items and goodies and more. The Canterbury Auxiliary also sold burritos and baked goods.

HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

are only going to get worse as the winter months continue on."

According to county officials, the ban will only effect rocket-type fireworks with fins. However, Barr, along with County Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan, are imploring local residents to use extreme caution when dealing with any kind of ignition sources.

"The rockets pose the highest level of danger when it comes to starting a grass fire or wildfire," Sullivan said. "However, don't be fooled into thinking everything else is OK. Any kind of firework that produces heat or sparks can start a fire, even firecrackers and other items that don't normally take flight. The best way to avoid a problem is to just avoid shooting fireworks altogether."

Barr said a complete ban of fireworks sales during the holiday season would require support from the Texas Governor's office, something he isn't expecting at this point.

"I can place a ban on all fireworks for a 60-hour period, but 60 hours won't do much good," Barr said. "It takes the governor to sign a decree to make the ban last long enough to get us through the holiday, and right now

I'm not expecting that to happen."

Barr said he has spoken with meteorologists at the state level and the outlook for West Texas at this point doesn't look very good going into 2012.

"Without some serious rain, we could be looking at a fire risk greater than what we had this time last year," Barr said ominously. "The meteorologists have all said the outlooks don't look favorable for rain between now and this coming spring and they are simply unwilling to try to guess beyond that. So no one really knows at this point what to expect. We really need to try to do everything we can to protect our county."

Barr said he hopes the continuation of the burn ban will help the county accomplish that, but it will take county residents observing it to really drive home the message.

"I think everyone remembers what we went through earlier this year and during the past couple of years. That re-

ally woke a lot of people up to the danger of these fires," Barr said. "We just want to keep that caution at the forefront of their thinking so we can avoid those kinds of conditions."

Sullivan said there are already so many different ways fire can start that are out of residents' control, it's vital to eliminate as many of the preventable fires as possible.

"It's an extremely dan-

gerous situation right now, and it's going to get worse as we move further into the winter months," Sullivan said. "There are plenty of ways fire can start, such as downed electrical lines or problems with the railroad tracks, so we need to do everything we can to keep the human causes of these grass and brush fires to a minimum."

Contact Staff Writer

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

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Happy Feet Two (PG) Sun.: 1:10 4:10 6:30	The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) Sun.: 1:00 4:00 7:00
Jack and Jill (PG) Sun.: 6:45	

NO PASSES CC Additive Licensing or Captioning System Avail.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Alejandra "Ale" Doporto, 69, died Wednesday. Funeral Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Homer "Lee" Williford, Jr., 63, died Wednesday. Graveside services will be at 4 p.m. Saturday at Trinity Memorial Park.

Teri Nall, 54, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Thy Will Be Done

We would like to thank all the friends, neighbors and relatives of "Geri" Lopez for all the foods, paper goods, flowers and money donations made in her name. All the visits prayers, love and support were greatly appreciated by her family and by Geri herself.

A special thanks to Monsignor & Gully, St. Vincent de Paul Youth Group, Pro Life Organization and all members of the church. Also to Deacon Juan Arguello and Perry Gamble of Big Spring Realty.

Thanks to Compass Hospice, Dr. Lang, Myers & Smith Funeral Home and Inspirations Flowers. All things done & given touched our hearts.

**May God Bless You All
From The Family Of
Geraldine Lopez**

BIG SPRING HERALD

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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

Big Spring trash control

TO THE EDITOR:

I have been aware of the blowing trash. Yes, there has been a shortage of drivers, but some forget that recently the city lost one of the sanitation trucks.

Here are a few suggestions for citizens to do to help reduce the overflow.

One, break down boxes before putting them in the household trash or the dumpster. Two, flatten large cans and soft plastic bottles. Three, make sure trash bags are securely closed by tying with a double knot or rolling the top part of the bag and doing a double knot. Four, put loose unwanted plastic bags into another bag or save your grocery store bags and take them back to the store to recycle.

All city and county residents need to do their part when putting the trash in the dumpster.

Thanks for your renewed efforts.

BARBARA LEWIS
BIG SPRING

Xiled MC Club

TO THE EDITOR:

Howard Co.,

I've been getting so many questions about Xiled Motorcycle Club. I hope I can clear some things up for you. Xiled M.C. Is a new M/C club started by men from Howard Co. Like Ron "Smurf" Sawyers (our founder president, Robert "Meskin" Gomez (Howard Co. Chapter President), Roland "RO" Gore (charter member), to name a few. You may know us or our families like my mom Zelda Gibbs, but chances are if you don't know us you may be kin to one of us, (I'm sorry.)

What is Xiled all about?

We are a club of motorcycle riders whose purpose is to serve Howard Co., Texas. We engage in fund raisers all year to be able to help folks in need, help stranded bikers and their families passing through Howard Co. and local families facing hardships. How this can be done is only by Howard Co. folks helping out.

This year is our first "X-Mas for Kids" which we started working on back at our Halloween event. By the way, thank you, so much Howard Co. for your support during that event we raised funds that set our goals higher than we expected.

This year we get to serve 21 families and 69 children for this Christmas seasons "X-Mas for Kids," with meals for their whole family and too many toys for each child. (YeaHa!)

This could not be done by ourselves. Officers and members of the Eagles Lodge Aerie 3188 and American Legion Post 506 work all year as well, to support this event, providing tons of monies and food. Groups like Women's Auxillary. Businesses and personal supporters like PaPa John, Eloise Taylor or Partee Drilling and The Harley Davidson shop help us. May our Lord bless Howard Co. We love you.

So I would invite you to get to know us. Our X-Mas for Kids parade will take place Dec. 17, a Saturday.

All bikers and bikes are welcome to ride with us.

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

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

This is a tribute to our visionaries

As islands go, it's a small one—32 miles long and 2.5 at its widest point—but thanks to the grit and determination of visionaries who dug in 109 years ago, it's still on maps. Mother Nature almost eliminated Galveston Island during the Great Storm of 1900. Winds peaked at 145 MPH; the entire island was covered by raging flood waters seven feet deep.



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Nature's calling card of carnage marked the nation's deadliest natural disaster. Fatality estimates range from 6,000-12,000, with most figures pegged at some 8,000. About 20% of the island's residents died, and many thousands fled, most never to return.

Within two years, remaining stalwarts didn't change the order of galaxies or alter the earth's orbit. But with grit and determination, they methodically took on two seemingly impossible tasks — to build a 17-foot seawall and to increase much of the island's surface by up to 17 additional feet above sea level. Their hope and prayer was that such herculean efforts would eliminate future historic disasters.

Visionaries remain strong. In 2002, the Port of Galveston, hoping to tap growing tourism interest, convinced Carnival Cruise Lines to add Galveston to its list of homeports. It was done, and the years since have been history-making, with leapfrog jumps in boardings each year. More than a million people will board cruise ships in Galveston in 2011.

So confident are Carnival leaders that their newest, most innovative vessel, the Magic, is

assigned to the Port of Galveston on a year-round basis. (With another vessel, the Carnival Triumph, also in Galveston, the cruise line expects to carry a record 450,000 cruisers in 2012.)

The arrival of the Magic in Galveston for its inaugural voyage resulted in unprecedented news coverage. Indeed, November 13-14 were red-letter days on cruise calendars.

On the 13th, more than two dozen media folks, several from out-of-state, were taking notes and shooting photographs during a 20-hour preview blitz of local attractions arranged by the Galveston Island Convention and Visitors Bureau. At the same time, the Carnival Magic was completing a 16-day trans-Atlantic voyage from Barcelona, where its initial cruises of the Mediterranean began May 1.

The \$830 million vessel docked in Galveston hours before daylight on the 14th, and with day's first light, motorists were slowly driving by. Children were eager to see the twin water slides atop the 15-deck vessel. Adults' imaginations whirled at recollections of innovations dominating the cruise conversation grapevine. ("Laid-back" describes the ship's ambiance. One example: "Gangway" signage is complete with definition — the "thingy" we use to get from ship to shore.)

Soon, U.S. immigration officials boarded as expected to check credentials of 1,400 crew members from more than 100 countries. Then came U.S. Department of Public Health officials. "Oh, no, the government is occupying Carnival," one writer exclaimed. (It is worthy of note that the Magic received a grade of 100 from the health officials.)

Dockside for some 36 hours, the Magic got once-overs — even twice-overs — from some 2,500 travel agents and tour directors on an overnight visit to check

out the ship. And 4,000 fans gathered for a Maroon 5 dockside concert of celebration.

Before lifting anchor, Carnival officials exchanged plaques, plaudits, promises and pleasantries with Port of Galveston leaders. Enthusiasm abounded concerning the future of what is now the nation's fourth-busiest homeport — number 1 outside of Florida, where the modern-day cruise industry began.

Throughout the cruise, "oohs and ahhs" reached record levels.

Truly, this 1,000-foot vessel is a marvel, already duly noted by national cruise writers. Galveston Island is a marvel, too, the latter likely unknown by most Texans. It is rich in history, offering attractions to augment cruises.

Prospective visitors will do well to visit www.galveston.com for details on an array of attractions. An additional three days tacked on either end of cruises can be well spent.

Until this century, Texans rarely included cruises in vacation conversations. Now, it is commonplace.

Carnival claims that one of its 19 North American homeports is within a day's driving distance of about half of all Americans.

Galveston CVB leaders say that 30 million folks live within 300 miles of their port. With the recent addition of the Royal Caribbean's Mariner of the Seas-plus Disney's Magic and Princess' Crown Princess-scheduled for seasonal cruises in 2012-Galveston is destined to become one of the world's most popular cruising homeports. The Carnival Magic, in a class by itself, defies description. It must be experienced.

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Metroplex. Inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com.

Tycho Brahe described as what some say unlikely revolutionary

December 14 is the 465th birthday of Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe (1546-1601), one of five key players in the 150-year long Copernican revolution — a revolution he didn't even fully support.

Up to their time, it was believed the Earth was the center of all creation, a view called the geocentric theory. In the 1530s, Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543) postulated that the Sun was at the center, called the heliocentric theory — but he had no observational evidence to support his radical theory. With the newly invented telescope, Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) began finding supporting evidence in 1610, but using the then-prevailing view that planetary orbits are circular, the heliocentric theory still wasn't convincing.

About this same time, Johannes Kepler (1571-1634) discovered that planetary orbits are elliptical, not circular, and when this was applied to Copernicus' heliocentric view, things fell into place — although ironically Galileo was never convinced of elliptical orbits. The fifth player, Isaac Newton (1642-1727), in the 1680s discovered and set forth the laws of gravity to further explain planetary motions. So where did Tycho Brahe come in? He furnished the data without which mathematician Kepler would never have discovered elliptical orbits.

The son of a prominent Danish nobleman, Tycho's life was both colorful and full of ironies. At age 2 he was kidnapped and raised by an uncle and aunt. Before his birth his parents promised him to his father's brother

and wife as they were unable to have children, however after his birth, his parents began to have second thoughts — so he was kidnapped. Apparently, no hard feelings resulted as the families remained close.

Tycho received an education befitting a nobleman, but he also had a brash tempestuousness about him that he came to regret on occasions. At age 20, he got into a duel and suffered a disfiguring injury when his rival's sword removed the bridge of his nose. Being a resourceful chap, he fashioned a prosthetic nose-piece of silver and gold which he affixed with a wax paste and wore the rest of his life.

At the age of 25 he fell in love with Kirstin, a Lutheran minister's daughter. Since she was a commoner and he a nobleman they couldn't officially marry, so they lived together as husband and wife, establishing a common-law marriage. It lasted 30 years until Tycho's death, and produced eight children, six of whom lived to adulthood.

His family intended that he go into law, but being star-struck at age 13 by a solar eclipse, he began his own personal astronomical studies along with his other formal studies. He quickly recognized the imprecision and inconsistencies of the astronomical books and charts of the day, and at age 17, set forth his life goal when he wrote:

"I've studied all available charts of the planets and stars and none of them match the others. There are just as many measurements and methods as there are astronomers and all of them are disagree. What's needed is a long term project with the aim of mapping the heavens conducted from a single location over a period of several years." Truly remarkable for a renaissance teenager.

In 1573, he wrote De Stella Nova about a "new star" he had

observed the previous year — now known as Supernova 1572.

In 1576, at age 29, Tycho was given, by the king of Denmark, the small island of Hven and funds for the construction of an observatory. Here he spent much of the next 20 years making the observations for which he is famous.

He constructed many of his own astronomical instruments and invented others. Born with exceptional eyesight, he became one of the great observers in astronomical history. Ironically, he died eight years before the invention of the telescope — the instrument that revolutionized observational astronomy.

With remarkable precision, he charted the locations of 777 stars and compiled tables of motions of the then-known five planets. Shortly before his death, Tycho was joined by the 29-year old mathematician Johannes Kepler in what proved to be a scientifically fateful collaboration. They worked together only a year or so, but following Tycho's death, Kepler used Tycho's 20 years of measurements of the positions of Mars to discover the elliptical nature of planetary orbits — an enormously significant contribution to the Copernican revolution.

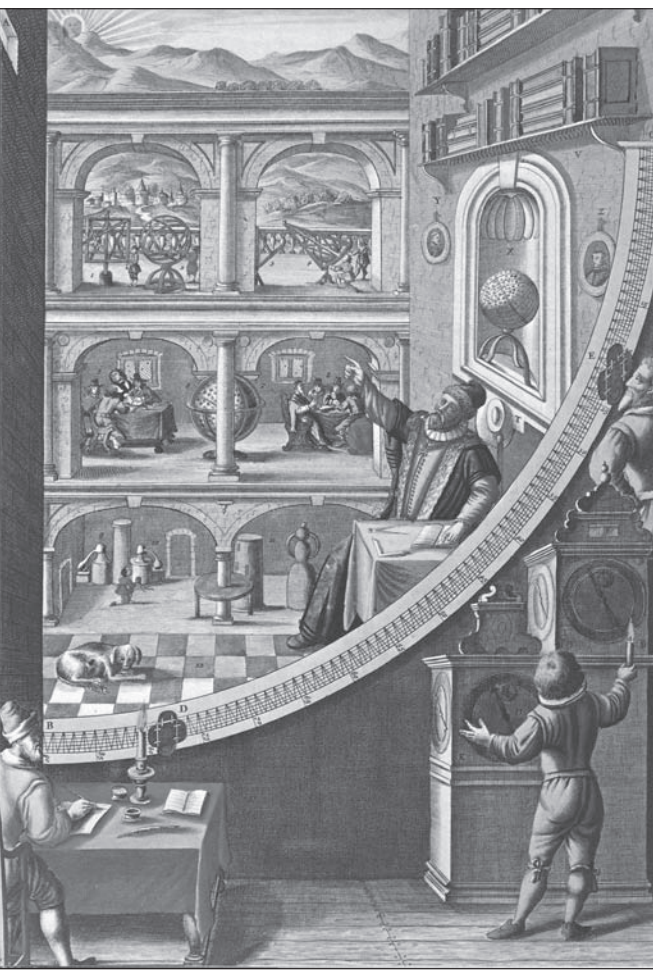
Ironically, although Tycho was a contemporary of Galileo, there is no indication they ever met. In fact, Galileo, 18 years younger, was a mathematics professor who didn't get into astronomy seriously until after Tycho's death.

While Tycho reportedly admired Copernicus, he never knew him, having been born three years after Copernicus died. Furthermore, he never came to agree with Copernicus' heliocentric theory, and even came up with his own theory, known as the Tycho system, which enjoyed favor for a time.

See **STARGAZER**, Page 5A

STARGAZER

Continued from Page 4A



Courtesy photo

Wood carving depicting Tycho in his observatory with his mural (wall) quadrant.

Yet, it was his accurate and meticulously recorded observations that doomed his own theory and led to the eventual acceptance of Copernicus'.

Tycho Brahe died rather suddenly at the age of 54, and the cause of his death is still a mystery. Initially attributed to kidney stone complications, his body was exhumed in 1901 and when no stones were found, the cause of death was cited as uremia. Later studies found toxic levels of mercury in his body – he has also dabbled in alchemy – and it is now believed he died from mercury poisoning.

Paul Derrick is an amateur astronomer who lives in Waco. Stargazer appears twice monthly. Paul's website (www.stargazerpaul.com) contains an archive of past Stargazer columns, a schedule of his upcoming programs, star parties and classes, and other basic stargazing information. Contact him at paulderrickwaco@aol.com or 254-723-6346 or 918 N. 30th St., Waco, TX, 76707.

► Church News

First Christian Church holds final board meeting Sunday

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is located at 911 Goliad.

Each Sunday starts with fellowship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday school is at 9:45 am. Church starts at 10:50 a.m.

Sunday the Rev. Ken McIntosh will bring the message from Psalm 85: 1-13 "Restore Us, O God: Peace."

Elders will be Joycee Davis and Shirley Burgess; Deacons will be Michelle Hamby, Josh Hamby, Mary Beth Johnson, Ken Johnson; Worship Leader will be Paul Smith; Communion Prep; will be Michelle Hamby and June Waters; Greeter will be Barbara Ervin; Homebound Communion will be Joycee Davis.

Sunday after church service there will be the final board meeting of the 2010 year all elders and deacons that are on the board. Please attend this meeting. Also in the Fellowship Hall

the final Beth Moore Bible Study will be at 1:30 p.m. Sunday

Monday the TOPS Group will meet at the church in the fellowship hall at 5:30 p.m. for weigh-in and the meeting at 6 p.m.

Also Mondays ISAIAH 58 Food Pantry needs volunteers at 9 a.m. to help unload the food bank truck. We will be open Monday at 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. for food delivery to clients.

This Wednesday at 6 p.m. there will be choir practice. They will have their practice time in the choir room. Also, the youth will meet at the church at 6 p.m. for their weekly meeting.

For questions or further information, call the church office 432-517-4821 or view our website at www.fcbs125@yahoo.com or email to fcbs125@yahoo.com

First Methodist and ACS provides HATS

HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr Shane Brue, main-

tains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915 or the local ACS office at 432-683-6375.

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

Other MC clubs and all Xiled MC Chapters in Texas will be coming to Big Spring to ride that day. Clubs like "Guardians of the Children" are expected to have several Texas chapters come and ride. So all you Howard Co. Riders come on ride with us.

The parade will leave RO's Shop on the north I-20 service road at 1 p.m. Saturday Dec. 17. Riders may join us in the back of the formation as we ride or join us at the Fourth and Birdwell 7-11 at College Park Shopping Center as we stop for a break, or as the parade ends at American Legion Post 506.

Get to know us Howard Co. and someone ask Robert Gomez about the time Dorothy Garrett told him "I'm going to beat you with a hoe handle."

I love you Howard Co.

REV. L.C. "TRIP" GIBBS RN
BIG SPRING

Trash problem

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing to address the problem of trash in Big Spring. Since June, my family has received spotty trash pick up service.

For several weeks in July, I had to call every week to have my trash picked up. I have five people living in my home full time and have up to eight on any given weekend. Our family has a small rollout dumpster. Lately, our trash has not been getting picked up but once a week at the most. Today when I called, I was told they are not sure when my trash will get picked up.

I have emailed Gary Fuqua (no response), called my city councilman (he got a city worker to call me back) and called the trash collection service many times.

Since July, I have been told the city is having a hard time keeping workers, the trucks are broken down, the workers had a meeting, or that the driver is new and doesn't know the route.

These are excuses — I am tired of hearing excuses. If this is an ongoing problem, the city needs to have a contingency plan. The city has increased

our water and sanitation bills; however, our trash is not being picked up and we continue to get notices in the mail warning us that our water is not safe to drink. I wonder what the city water department would say to me if I called and gave them an excuse for not paying my bill.

Instead of excuses, I would like to see the city leaders step up and take action. My husband owns several businesses, and if any of his employees call in sick or quit, his management finds a replacement, or he covers the position himself. What he cannot do, however, is continue to charge for services not rendered, which is exactly what the city is doing. In the story aired on NewsWest 9, citizens were told they could haul their trash to the dump themselves for a fee of \$5, but there was no mention of taking \$5 off of our bill for each trip we have to make to the dump. A large dumpster has been placed on the College Park Center parking lot, but many citizens are not able to carry their own trash.

I would truly like to see the leaders of our city find a solution for this problem. I know we are not the only family that is frustrated and at our wits end.

LISA EMERSON
BIG SPRING

TV Guide

TO THE EDITOR:

This is to let you know that I hate the new T.V. guide. It is twice as difficult to read and find the hour and channel you want to watch. Whoever thought this was a brilliant idea missed the mark big time.

It's just a big jumbled mess. Please change it back.

THANK YOU
LIBBIE HENDRICKS
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www.bigspringherald.com

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MUST BE PRESENT TO REGISTER

ONE ENTRY PER PERSON PER DAY / 18 AND OVER TO ENTER

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS SPONSORS

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GARY B'S MUSIC

D & S GIFTS

POLLARD CHEVROLET-BUICK-CADILLAC

THE BIG SPRING HERALD

A Time to Remember

Community Wide Service of Remembrance
Sponsored by
Nalley-Pickle & Welch
Funeral Home & Crematory
Gilbreath Funeral Home
Sunday, December 11, 2011 - 2:00 PM
Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel
906 Gregg Street

Christmas is a season for remembrance --- and a beautiful and joyous time to let your love shine through. However, for those who have lost a loved one it is a reminder of happier days gone by.

If you have lost a loved one during the past year, please join us at our Service of Remembrance. Let us remember and celebrate that life --- together.

For more information or to have your loved one's name added to the book of memory, please RSVP to Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home by Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at 267-6331

Nalley-Pickle & Welch
Funeral Home & Crematory
906 S. Gregg Street
Big Spring
www.npwelch.com

As voting nears, ad wars get intense

NEW YORK (AP) — The crush of presidential campaign ads is here.

Less than five weeks before voting begins in the 2012 presidential contest, the Republican candidates are stepping up their presence over the TV airwaves and online. Super PACs have been running ads, and the Democratic National Committee is doing its best to try to weaken a leading GOP contender, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

President Barack Obama has even tiptoed into the fray with a limited ad buy soliciting volunteers for his campaign.

"We've been waiting for it to start, and it's been a little slower in Iowa and New Hampshire than we expected. But that doesn't say anything about what's going to happen next, and in the coming year," said Ken Goldstein, president of the Campaign Media Analysis Group, which tracks ad spending.

The new, more aggressive advertising phase comes as the Republican field remains deeply unsettled before the Iowa caucuses Jan. 3. The New Hampshire primary follows on Jan. 10.

The field may become more volatile still. After months of training their attacks primarily on Obama, a Democrat seeking his second term, the Republicans are beginning to

assail one another.

This emerging ad crush poses particular challenges for Romney, who polls at or near the top of the field in the early states but has failed to consolidate support behind his candidacy. While he's tried to run a general election strategy focused on beating Obama, he's been the target of attacks from both his GOP rivals and the DNC.

Romney's campaign began running its first TV ad just last week, in New Hampshire, and it immediately drew criticism.

The ad criticizes Obama's handling of the economy and appears to quote the president from the 2008 campaign saying, "If we keep talking about the economy, we're going to lose." But the quote is misleading — Obama was paraphrasing a comment from an aide to then-Republican rival John McCain. Romney has stood by the ad, saying the quote is fair game.

Romney's campaign announced Thursday it would begin running ads in Iowa, signaling he has decided to compete fully in the state after steering clear of it for much of the campaign. Romney spent about \$10 million in Iowa in 2008 only to lose the caucuses to former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee.

Romney's rivals, meanwhile, have sharpened their

attacks on him.

Former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman has launched a tough web ad against Romney, using a tense interview Romney gave with Fox News earlier this week as a pretext to renew criticism of Romney as a flip-flopper on key issues. Our Destiny, a super PAC supporting Huntsman, has spent \$650,000 on an ad in New Hampshire indirectly hitting Romney.

Huntsman, the ad promises, won't be a "phony who tells me one thing and you another."

The DNC has also gotten in the game, producing a TV spot likening Romney's shifting positions to "two men trapped in one body." The ad is being aired in a handful of swing states, and it garnered considerable publicity in national news outlets.

But Romney isn't the only target.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who has surged to the top of many recent polls, has come under withering attack from rival Ron Paul. The Texas congressman released a scathing web video painting Gingrich as a shape-shifting mercenary who has changed position on key issues because of lucrative consulting contracts with the housing giant Freddie Mac, the health care industry and others.

Romney gently pokes Ging-

rich in his new Iowa ad, which closes with a shot of Romney and his wife of 42 years, Ann, walking through a corn field and holding hands. It's a not-so-subtle contrast with Gingrich, who has been married 3 times and has acknowledged infidelity in his first two marriages.

Gingrich hasn't aired commercials yet but his rising popularity has fueled a burst of fundraising success that could fund some advertising in the coming weeks, campaign officials said.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry has devoted more resources to TV advertising than anyone in the field.

His campaign took the unusual step of buying ads on the national Fox News network, an expensive gamble aimed at boosting his credibility with conservatives following several weak debate performances.

The campaign has also spent more than \$2 million on television in Iowa, including a special "one time only" ad making light of Perry's recent flub of which Cabinet departments he'd eliminate. The ad was paired with Perry's appearance Thursday on NBC's "The Tonight Show."

A pro-Perry super PAC, Make Us Great Again, has spent nearly \$900,000 to run ads in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, another

early voting state.

The ad blitz hasn't done much to boost Perry's standing in the race.

Most polls show him trailing many rivals in the early states, including Romney, Gingrich, Paul and businessman Herman Cain.

Cain, who briefly topped many polls until he was hit with sexual harassment allegations last month, released a new ad promoting his business credentials Thursday in part to insist his campaign remains on track.

But it's unclear whether the ad is actually airing anywhere.

A Georgia woman came forward this week claiming to have had a 13-year affair with Cain, and while he has denied the allegations he has said campaign contributions have dried up and he's re-assessing whether to stay in the race.

Obama, meanwhile, has appeared in two new re-election ads urging people to volunteer for his campaign. "Don't sit this one out," the president says, apparently trying to counter the expectation that the intense grassroots interest in his candidacy in 2008 has abated this time. Campaign aides said the ad is airing lightly on satellite television and only as a test to see whether TV is an effective way to recruit volunteers.

A glimmer of good news for Obama in jobs report

WASHINGTON (AP) — Finally, a flicker of economic hope for President Barack Obama and his fellow Democrats, even if it's a faint one.

November's sharp drop in the unemployment rate shows that jobs are finally moving in the right direction

and suggests the economy is on firmer footing as the country heads into a presidential election year.

The Labor Department reported the jobless rate fell to 8.6 percent in November from 9 percent the month before, a 2½ year low.

That's still high unemployment by historical standards. And lots of problems still lurk — from Europe's debt crisis to congressional gridlock to the tens of millions of Americans still out of work or otherwise feeling economic distress. Furthermore, part of the improvement came because 300,000 people stopped their job searches and were no longer counted as unemployed.

But Friday's report, combined with other recent economic data showing advances in manufacturing and consumer spending, could give Obama momentum for the re-election campaign.

The White House and congressional Democrats were quiet in show-

ing any enthusiasm they might have felt, instead using the new figures to step up criticism of anti-tax Republicans for blocking measures they said could help create even more jobs. Those include an extension of an expiring Social Security payroll tax cut that largely benefits the middle class.

"The unemployment rate went down," Obama said. "And despite some strong headwinds this year, the American economy has now created in the private sector jobs for the past 21 months in a row. That's nearly 3 million new jobs in all, and more than half a million over the last four months."

Said House Democratic Caucus Chairman John Larson of Con-

necticut: "Today's unemployment numbers, while encouraging, simply underscore the urgency for Congress to address the top issue facing American families — jobs."

Republicans were publicly unimpressed with the jobs report, insisting Obama hadn't done enough and emphasizing that the jobless rate was still higher than when he took office in January 2009, when it stood at 7.7 percent.

"Any job creation is welcome news, but the jobless rate in this country is still unacceptable. Today marks the 34th consecutive month of unemployment above 8 percent," said House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

That view was echoed on the campaign trail.

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, in a Fox News interview, acknowledged that the report was good news but said it wouldn't help Obama politically. "This is the slowest recovery

we've seen since (President Herbert) Hoover," Romney said. "He's going to have a hard time putting perfume on this pig." Hoover held office from 1929 to early 1933, at the outset of the Great Depression.

Despite stimulus measures by the Obama administration, Congress and the Federal Reserve, unemployment has remained high, peaking at 10.1 percent in October 2009.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, another Republican seeking Obama's job, noted that a major part of the sharp drop in the unemployment rate was "not because entrepreneurs were creating new jobs" but because some 300,000 Americans "have simply given up looking for work."

"The Obama model of class warfare, government takeovers in the economy and creating fear and uncertainty for job-creators have failed," Gingrich asserted.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Look Before You Leap

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
 South 1♣ Pass North 1♦ Pass
 East 2NT Pass West 3NT

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

You don't have to see all 52 cards to play a hand to best advantage. There are times when the correct method of play can be determined as if the opposing cards were face up on the table.

Consider this deal where West leads a club against three notrump. Declarer starts with six tricks and is a decided favorite to score three more by establishing dummy's diamonds.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

News in brief

Woman, 81, unharmed after plane crashes into house

MIDLAND (AP) — Officials say an 81-year-old woman was rescued unharmed after a small plane crashed into her West Texas home, a fiery accident that destroyed the house and injured the pilot.

City of Midland spokeswoman Tasa Watts says the woman was inside the home when the crash occurred Friday morning. Watts says the woman's two dogs also were safely removed.

Midland Fire Department spokesman David Hickman said the pilot of the twin-engine plane survived. A Midland hospital spokeswoman said the unidentified man from the Houston suburb of Fort Bend was in stable condition.

Hickman says the plane went down near the back of one house, damaging a storage room and a garage before traveling across an alley and smashing into the elderly woman's home. The house caught fire and was destroyed.

3rd plea approved in alleged sex assault

LIBERTY (AP) — A Southeast Texas judge has accepted a plea deal from a third juvenile among 20 males accused of sexually assaulting an 11-year-old Cleveland, Texas girl.

Liberty County Attorney Wesley Hinch said Friday the plea deal was approved earlier this week by Liberty County Court-at-Law Judge Tommy Chambers.

Chambers had approved plea agreements for two other juvenile boys last month.

Details of the agreements were not disclosed because the boys are minors.

Fourteen adults and three more juveniles face assault and abuse charges over the alleged 2010 incidents in an abandoned trailer and a home in Cleveland, about 45 miles northeast of Houston. The investigation began last December amid reports of a lurid cell phone video of the incidents.

The 14 adults were set to appear in court in Liberty on Monday.

Man hanging holiday lights dies from electrocution

GRAND PRAIRIE (AP) — A North Texas worker hanging Christmas lights on a historic building has died after being electrocuted.

Grand Prairie police say the man was moving a 40-foot-tall aluminum ladder when it fell onto power lines Friday morning. He had been standing on the ground but was still holding onto the ladder.

Police say 51-year-old Jens "Renee" Gardner died at a hospital, where he was taken after emergency personnel started CPR at the scene.

Grand Prairie is about 15 miles west of Dallas. A website for the Historic Anderson Building shows photos from previous holidays. Red and clear lights outlined the windows of the two-story structure built in 1915, and a Christmas tree with sparkling lights was atop the canopy at the entrance.

Feds appeal judge's fine for La. oil spill

LAFAYETTE, La. (AP) — The Justice Department is appealing a judge's ruling that CITGO Petroleum pay only \$9 million out of the more than \$240 million in penalties government attorneys had sought in a 2006 oil spill at the company's Lake Charles refinery.

U.S. District Judge Richard Haik ruled in September that CITGO should pay \$6 million to the federal government and \$3 million to the state government in a federal Clean Water Act lawsuit pursued by the Justice Department.

During a trial earlier this year, The Advocate reports (<http://bit.ly/snCE94>) reports federal attorneys had asked for at least \$247 million in penalties, noting the magnitude of the oil spill and alleging that CITGO put profits before safety.

Justice Department spokesman Wyn Hornbuckle declined to comment Thursday on details of the appeal arguments, citing a policy of not discussing pending litigation.

The lawsuit was filed in response to a June 2006

spill that occurred when heavy rains caused the overflow of two tanks holding "slop oil," a mix of oil, water and other waste from the refinery.

CITGO did not deny its fault in the spill but had argued against the penalties sought by the Justice Department and disputed the government's figures on how much waste oil flowed into area waterways, including the Calcasieu River.

CITGO argued that about 54,000 barrels of waste oil leaked out, while government experts put the amount at 76,800.

The figure is important in Clean Water Act cases because the number of spilled barrels is generally used in calculating the penalty.

Bush starts health project in Zambia

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — Former U.S. President George W. Bush and his wife have launched a project in Zambia to expand the availability of cervical cancer screening, treatment and breast care education.

The George W. Bush Institute said in a statement Friday that Zambia is the first country to become part of the Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon project. The Bushes were in the country Friday.

The Bush institute, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the U.N. AIDS agency and Susan G. Komen for the Cure are working together on the project, bringing public and private funds to the effort.

Bush, who launched PEPFAR in 2003, says "It's not acceptable to save a woman's life from HIV/AIDS and watch her die from cervical cancer."

Weekly US oil and gas rig count drops by 7

HOUSTON (AP) — The number of rigs actively exploring for oil and natural gas in the U.S. dropped by seven this week to 1,993.

Houston-based drilling product provider Baker Hughes Inc. reported Friday that 1,132 rigs were exploring for oil and 856 for natural gas. Five were listed as miscellaneous. A year ago this week Baker Hughes reported 1,713 active rigs.

Of the major oil- and gas-producing states, North Dakota and Oklahoma each gained one rig.

Colorado and Texas each lost four rigs, Louisiana lost two, and New Mexico and Pennsylvania each lost one. Alaska, Arkansas, California, West Virginia and Wyoming were unchanged.

The rig count peaked at 4,530 in 1981. A low of 488 was recorded in 1999.

3 Dallas police officers hurt working wrecks

DALLAS (AP) — Three Dallas police officers have been hurt while trying to clear two unrelated Interstate 635-area wrecks on a rainy morning.

Police say two officers were injured around 2 a.m. Friday when a tractor-trailer rig hit two parked squad cars.

Police say both officers were transported to Parkland Memorial Hospital, where one was treated and released. The other remained for observation.

The second accident happened around 2:30 a.m. Friday when a stopped patrol car was hit from behind by another vehicle. Police say the squad car's gas tank ruptured, leading to a hazardous materials spill. One officer was transported to Parkland for observation.

Names of the three officers weren't immediately released.

Bay City woman shot by spouse remains critical

BAY CITY (AP) — A Southeast Texas woman shot three times by her husband, who then fatally shot their four children before killing himself, remains in critical condition two days after the attack.

A spokesman for Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center in Houston said Laura Gonzalez of Bay City remained hospitalized Friday.

Gonzalez last month went to a battered women's shelter after allegedly being assaulted by Jose Avila. Police say Gonzalez declined to press charges.

Investigators say Avila on Wednesday afternoon shot his wife during an argument at the family's mobile home in Bay City, 65 miles southwest of Houston. Police say Avila then shot their children, before turning the gun on himself.

Two boys, ages 3 and 5, died Wednesday night. Their 2-year-old sister and 4-year-old brother died Thursday.

To submit a news item, call 263-7331, ext. 230

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

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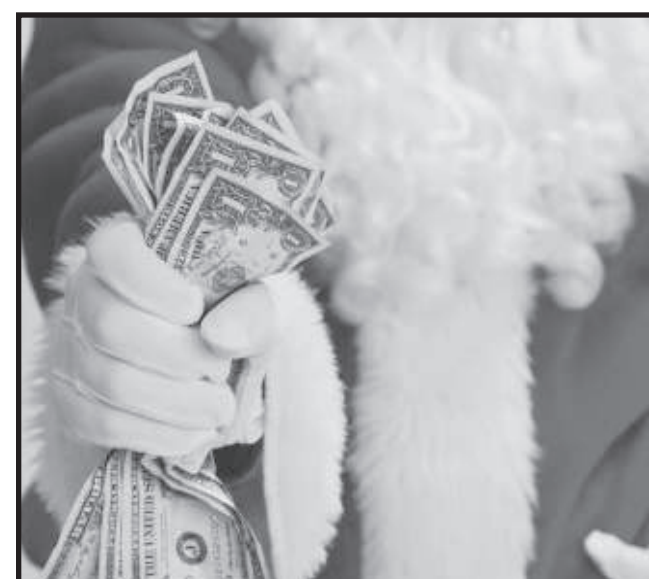
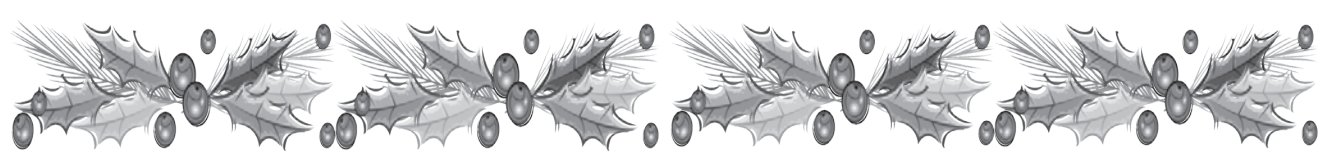

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News in brief

In or out? Cain to announce whether he'll stay in GOP race

ATLANTA (AP) — Herman Cain is keeping supporters in suspense as he readies an announcement on whether to abandon his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination following a string of sexual harassment allegations and a claim of an extramarital affair.

The Georgia businessman planned to make the announcement Saturday at what was supposed to be a festive grand opening of a new headquarters in Atlanta, rented when Cain sat surprisingly atop the GOP pack.

With the candidate's poll numbers plummeting and fundraising stalled, some campaign aides said privately they expected him to exit the race. But Cain spokesman J.D. Gordon cautioned late Friday that no decision had been made.

A meeting with key staff members was expected early Saturday.

Cain returned to his suburban Atlanta home Friday and met with his wife, Gloria, the first time they have seen each other face to face since 46-year-old Ginger White came forward on Monday and said she and the Republican had carried on a 13-year relationship.

Sandusky says Paterno never discussed alleged incident with him

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Penn State defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky said Joe Paterno never spoke to him about any suspected misconduct with minors, the New York Times reported Saturday.

Sandusky has been charged with 40 counts of molesting eight boys over 15 years and is free on bail while awaiting a preliminary hearing on Dec. 13.

Penn State's board of trustees fired Paterno on Nov. 9 because it felt the football coach didn't go far enough in alerting authorities after an assistant coach said he told Paterno he saw Sandusky assaulting a young boy in the football building showers in March 2002.

During a lengthy interview at his lawyer's home, Sandusky told the newspaper he and Paterno never spoke about the alleged 2002 incident or a 1998 child molestation complaint investigated by the Penn State campus police.

"I never talked to him about either one," Sandusky said. "That's all I can say. I mean, I don't know." He worked for Paterno for nearly 30 years.

Presidential campaigns doing more to track voters across the Web

NEW YORK (AP) — As they peruse the Internet, voters in New Hampshire and Iowa are probably seeing ads for Mitt Romney and President Barack Obama alongside those for shoes and holiday gifts. The ads will then follow those voters around the Web, popping up on news sites, Google searches and on social networking sites like Facebook.

Online advertising, once used primarily as a way to reach young and heavily wired consumers, has emerged as an essential communications tool in the 2012 presidential contest. While few expect Web ads to supplant television commercials anytime soon, strategists say online ads may be the most nimble, efficient and cost-effective way to reach voters.

"Online advertising cuts through because of its ability to target. It's unparalleled in any other medium," said Romney's digital director, Zac Moffatt. "TV may be more effective for driving a big message, but per usage, the Internet is more powerful. We are probably one presidential cycle from everyone believing that."

Web ads can take many forms, from small display boxes to clickable videos to 15- or 30-second commercials known as "pre-rolls" a viewer sees before the start of a news clip or YouTube video.

Targeting is key. While campaigns invest heavily in television ads to reach a mass audience, Web ads are geared specifically to people based on their ZIP code, demographics and, most importantly, their Internet browsing history.

2.6 million Afghans at risk of hunger from severe drought

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan (AP) — Zara, an Afghan mother of seven, doesn't know what to tell her children when they ask about dinner.

"I simply tell them that we must wait until their father gets home to see if he's going to bring anything," she said, speaking from under a dusty blue burqa covering her from head to toe.

Zara, who uses just one name, is one of an estimated 2.6 million Afghans facing food shortages after one of the worst droughts to strike northern Afghanistan in a decade, according to Afghan officials and aid agencies. Already living in poverty in a country at war, many have been left destitute by the drought, which has affected 14 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces — all in the north.

Wells have dried up. Hundreds of children have been treated for malnutrition. Families are selling their animals at below-market prices. People are moving to cities to try to find food, water, work and, in some cases, a refuge from the fighting.

The Afghan government and aid agencies are racing to help them before snow blocks access to remote areas.

As Putin plans to stay in power, many Russians want to leave

MOSCOW (AP) — Natalia Lepleiskaya is just the sort of person today's Russia needs — a successful young IT manager who does charity work in her free time.

But frustrated by what she describes as the corruption and stagnation around her, she and her husband are packing their bags to start a new life in Canada.

"I don't see how I can change things ... and I don't want to waste my youth on it," said the 29-year-old, who moved to Moscow from a provincial city several years ago and rose to a senior position at a top technological company.

As Vladimir Putin's party prepares to dominate weekend parliamentary elections in a prelude to his planned return to the presidency in spring, an increasing number of Russians are contemplating leaving their homeland in search of a brighter future abroad. A March presidential election victory for Putin — all but taken for granted — raises the

prospect of his being in the top job for 12 years.

Disenchantment with life in Russia was growing even before Prime Minister Putin and President Dmitry Medvedev agreed in September to swap jobs,

Leaders say safeguarding economies a top priority

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Leaders from across Latin America and the Caribbean pledged to work together to fend off the effects of the world financial crisis and safeguard the region's growing economies.

Several presidents stressed at the start of a two-day summit Friday that they hope to ride out turbulent times by boosting their local industries and increasing trade within the region.

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff led such calls, saying that if the nations are to keep thriving they will need to look more to their neighbors.

"The economic, financial crisis should be at the center of our concerns," Rousseff said. "We should respond to this crisis with a new paradigm."

Rousseff said Latin America should "realize that to guarantee its current cycle of development despite the international economic turbulence, it means that every politician must be aware that each one needs the others."

McGovern hospitalized after falling prior to TV interview

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Former Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern was being treated at a hospital in South Dakota after falling and hitting his head on the pavement outside a library bearing his name.

McGovern's daughter Ann McGovern said her father was to be treated at a Sioux Falls hospital after being flown by helicopter from Mitchell, S.D., where a live C-SPAN interview was to take place at the Dakota Wesleyan University's McGovern Library on Friday.

"He had just walked from home to the center. He lives literally just across the street," Ann McGovern told The Associated Press.

McGovern has lived in St. Augustine, Fla., since 2008 but also has a home in Mitchell.

Friends and faculty who had gathered at the library for the C-SPAN taping said McGovern fell at about 5:15 p.m. — less than two hours before the program began. A former South Dakota senator, McGovern, 89, was "bleeding profusely" but was conscious and talking as he was taken from the university by ambulance, said Donald Simmons, dean of the College of Public Service.

Top UN official confident rich nations will renew CO2 pledges

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — The top U.N. climate official said Saturday she is confident industrial countries will renew their pledges to cut greenhouse gas emissions after their current commitments expire next year.

Further commitments under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, an unshakable demand by poor countries, would avert a feared derailment of U.N. negotiations, but would mark little advancement toward the goal of a rapid and steep drop in worldwide carbon emissions blamed for climate change.

The protocol's future has been in doubt because rich countries have conditioned its continuation on an agreement by nations such as China, India, Brazil and South Africa to also accept binding emissions targets for themselves in the future.

"Countries are here these two weeks exactly talking about how they are going to go into a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol," U.N. official Christiana Figueres told The Associated Press.

"The discussion this week is not about the 'if,' it's about the 'how.' That doesn't mean that we are out of the thick of it," she said. Delegates are discussing participation, the legal form of the rules and all of the conditions that will define the second commitment period, she said.

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Lady Steers top Odessa High in Andrews

Ritchey leads the way

By **ROBERT GRIFFIN**

Sports Editor

ANDREWS — The Lady Steers outscored Odessa High in every quarter to take a 34-23 win in a low-scoring game at the basketball tournament in Andrews.

Cerbi Ritchey led everyone on the court with nine points and 12 rebounds, while Diamond Mayes added eight points and six rebounds. Workhorse Bridgette Tuitt (32 minutes of game time) joined in with seven points and four rebounds.

Big Spring's three top-scorers combined for 70 percent of the Lady Steers' points, 69 percent of their rebounds and were responsible for all three of the team's blocked shots. Tuitt also dropped the lone 3-pointer for the Lady Steers.

In what turned out to be a low-scoring affair, the Lady Steers grabbed a 5-3 first-quarter lead, before outscoring Odessa High 7-4 in the second period to take a 12-7 halftime lead.

Things were a little closer in the third period, as Odessa got its largest output of the night, scoring 10 points. But Big Spring had no intention of letting the early lead fade, as they scored 12 of their own points.

In the final frame, Odessa had been through enough and the Lady Steers easily outscored them 10-6 to seal an 11-point win.

The Lady Steers will embark on a long, tournament-filled road trip beginning Dec. 6 in Pecos. They will not see the friendly confines of Steer Gym until their Dec. 16 match with Lubbock High. It will represent the team's only home game in the month of December.

However, the girls will begin district play at home, when they host Abilene Wylie Jan. 6 and then Brownwood Jan. 13, with an open date Jan. 10.



WHEN LADY STEERS FLY — Big Spring's Cerbi Ritchey (right) gets a shot off just in time before a defender can get her hands on it in recent Lady Steers basketball action.

HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Ducks earn Rose Bowl trip with win over UCLA

EUGENE (AP) — There's at least one more celebration running back LaMichael James would like to take part in as a Duck. That's a victory in a BCS bowl game.

James, a junior, has been to the Rose Bowl before, and then last year he accompanied Oregon to the national championship. But so far during his tenure, Oregon has yet to win one of those big games.

He'll get another chance on Jan. 2, when Oregon goes to the Rose Bowl. The No. 8 Ducks earned the trip with a 49-31 victory over UCLA Friday night in the inaugural Pac-12 championship game.

Oregon will play the winner of the first Big Ten championship game Saturday against No. 11 Michigan State and No. 15 Wisconsin in the Rose Bowl on Jan. 2. The bowl pairings will be formally

See **DUCKS**, Page 10A

McNabb back on the market

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Donovan McNabb is a free agent for the first time in his 13-year career. After his last two disappointing stints as a starter, it's not clear what the future has in store for one of the most accomplished quarterbacks of his generation.

McNabb was unclaimed by the waiver deadline on Friday afternoon, one day after he was cut by the Minnesota Vikings so he could pursue an opportunity for playing time elsewhere.

"This was probably the most desirable outcome," McNabb's agent, Fletcher Smith, told The Associated Press on Friday. "This way it really gives him a chance to weigh his options and evaluate the situations as they come and make the

See **MCNABB**, Page 11A

Coahoma Invitational Tournament latest results

GIRLS

Midland Christian JV 30

Stanton 58

Top scorers:

Mid. Christ. — Smith — 9

Stanton — Patterson — 16,

Beasley — 12

Grape Creek 53

Coahoma 39

Top scorers:

Grape Creek — Daniel — 14, Doss

— 12

Coahoma — Castilaw — 14, Good-

blanket — 11

Fort Stockton 49

Stanton 33

Top scorers:

Ft. Stock. — Fuenty — 10,

Singh — 13

Stanton — Graham — 12

Midland Christian JV 35

Coahoma 46

Top scorers:

Mid. Christ. — Macham — 10,

Johnson — 10

Coahoma — Castilaw — 14

Grape Creek 40

Stanton 28

Top scorers:

Grape Creek — Doss — 14

Stanton — Patterson — 8

Fort Stockton 45

Midland Christian JV 14

Top scorers:

Ft. Stock. — Forman — 8

Mid. Christ. — Johnston — 5

Midland Christian JV 12

Grape Creek 53

Top scorers:

MCJV — Mached — 3

Grape creek — Banner — 24

Fort Stockton 61

Coahoma 41

Top scorers:

Ft. Stock. — Furman — 13,

Singh — 10

Coahoma — Castilaw — 11

BOYS

Midland High JV 32

Stanton 40

Top scorers:

MHJV — Rodriguez — 16

Stanton — Fryar — 12

Sweetwater 47

Reagan County 50

Top scorers:

Sweetwater — Hoover — 15,

Jones — 11

Reagan Co. — Pullis — 9

Midland High JV 47

Wall 44

Top scorers:

MHJV — Don Juan — 13

Wall — Walling — 10

Big Spring JV 38

Coahoma 49

Top scorers:

Coahoma — Ruiz — 29

Big Spring JV — Young — 12

Sweetwater 43

Coahoma 42 (overtime)

Top scorers:

Sweetwater — Jones — 14,

Hoover — 13

Coahoma — Echavarría — 13,

Ruiz — 11

Big Spring JV 41

Reagan County 46

Top scorers:

Big Spring — Young — 13

Reagan Co. — Benitez — 16

Wall 42

Stanton 39

Top scorers:

Wall — Henderson — 10,

Matschek — 10

Stanton — Mauldin — 11

Reagan County 39

Coahoma 49

Top scorers:

Reagan Co. — Rey — 14

Coahoma — Ruiz — 29

DUCKS

From Page 9A

announced on Sunday.

"We've got to," he said about winning in Pasadena. "We've got to compete. We might have lost, but we always compete. That's where it starts at."

James ran for 219 yards and three touchdowns against UCLA, setting a league record with three straight 1,500-yard seasons, will bolt to the NFL next season.

While James celebrated with his teammates after the victory, UCLA coach Rick Neuheisel paused before Bruins fans at Autzen Stadium and tipped his hat.

The former UCLA quarterback was fired this week after four seasons at his alma mater.

"They can take my job," Neuheisel said, gesturing to the locker room as he left the field, "but they can't take those boys away from me."

Neuheisel was fired following last weekend's 50-0 loss to No. 9 Southern California, in what turned out to be a wave of coaching moves around the Pac-12. Arizona State let go of Dennis Erickson. Washington State parted ways with Paul Wulff, then quickly hired former Texas Tech coach Mike Leach a day later.

The Bruins were granted permission this week from the NCAA to accept a bowl invitation despite their losing record.

"We made it a game, at least for a time. I was thrilled that we got that kind of effort, given the events of the last week," Neuheisel said. "I just am excited for these guys. They get one more game. They'll find out where here soon."

With his three TDs, James moved into a tie with USC's

LenDale White (2003-05) for second on the league's career rushing TD list with 52.

James ran 30 yards for a touchdown on Oregon's first drive. He went into the game as the nation's top running back with an average of 142.7 yards per game.

UCLA tied it when linebacker Patrick Larimore intercepted Darron Thomas and ran 35 yards for a touchdown. Neuheisel pumped his fist in celebration.

Thomas scored on a 10-yard keeper and then found true freshman tight end Colt Lyerla alone in the end zone with a 7-yard scoring pass to make it 21-7.

UCLA narrowed it with quarterback Kevin Prince's flea-flicker to Nelson Rosario for a 37-yard touchdown, but James added a 3-yard scoring run to make it 28-14 before Thomas connected with Daryle Hawkins for a 25-yard TD reception.

UCLA's Tyler Gonzalez kicked a 44-yard field goal to make it 37-17 at halftime.

Prince scored on a 1-yard run early in the third quarter to pull UCLA closer to the Ducks, but James answered with a 5-yard TD dash to make it 42-24.

A Heisman Trophy finalist last season as a sophomore, James fell out of the running for the most part this season because he missed two games with a dislocated right elbow.

There has been speculation all season last season that James may leave for the NFL after this season.

David Paulson caught a 22-yard touchdown pass midway through the third, which put Darron Thomas in front of Danny O'Neil (1991-94) for most passing TDs at Oregon. Thomas has 63.

Rosario pulled down a one-

handed, 19-yard touchdown pass from Prince with less than two minutes to play. Rosario finished with six catches for 98 yards.

Prince completed 13 of 26 passes for 164 yards and two touchdowns.

Oregon was stung early in the game when dynamic true freshman De'Anthony Thomas fumbled after a hit by Tevin McDonald. Shaken up on the play, the versatile running back who earlier this week was named the Pac-12's co-freshman of the year on offense did not return.

Oregon coaches said after the game the injury was not serious.

The addition of Colorado and Utah to the Pac-12 paved the way for a league championship game this season. In previous years, the team with the best conference record claimed the title.

While No. 9 USC (10-2, 7-2) finished atop the Pac-12 South, the Trojans are ineligible to play in the postseason because of NCAA sanctions, which put UCLA in the title game.

Because of Neuheisel's dismissal, offensive coordinator Mike Johnson will take over if UCLA is selected to play in a bowl game. The NCAA granted permission to the Bruins to play in a bowl despite their losing record.

The Bruins have reached just one bowl in the past three seasons. Athletic director Dan Guerrero said he wants to reward the Bruins' 18 seniors by going to a bowl even while the program is in upheaval.

Oregon went to the 2010 Rose Bowl in its first season under Kelly, losing to Ohio State. Last season the Ducks went to the BCS championship, where they fell to Auburn.

Sandusky speaks on Paterno, case

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Penn State defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky said Joe Paterno never spoke to him about any suspected misconduct with minors, the New York Times reported Saturday.

Sandusky has been charged with 40 counts of molesting eight boys over 15 years and is free on bail while awaiting a preliminary hearing on Dec. 13.

Penn State's board of trustees fired Paterno on Nov. 9 because it felt the football coach didn't go far enough in alerting authorities after an assistant coach said he told Paterno he saw Sandusky assaulting a young boy in the football building showers in March 2002.

During a lengthy interview at his lawyer's home, Sandusky told the newspaper he and Paterno never spoke about the alleged 2002 incident or a 1998 child molestation complaint investigated by the Penn State campus police.

"I never talked to him about either one," Sandusky said. "That's all I can say. I mean, I don't know." He worked for Paterno for nearly 30 years.

Sandusky said he never sexually abused any child and that prosecutors have misunderstood his work with children.

"They've taken everything that I ever did for any young person and twisted it to say that my motives were sexual or whatever," Sandusky told the Times. "I had kid after kid after kid who might say I was a father figure. And they just twisted that all."

He is accused of mining the ranks of his Second Mile charity to find underprivileged boys to abuse. Sandusky also said that the charity never restricted his access to children until he became the subject of a criminal investigation in 2008.

He said he regularly gave money to the disadvantaged boys at his charity, opened bank accounts for them and gave them gifts that had been donated to the charity.

"I tried to reward them sometimes with a little money in hand, just so that they could see something," he said. "But more often than not, I tried to set up, maybe get them to save the money, and I put it directly into a savings account established for them."

"I never bought a computer for any kid; I had a computer given to me to give to a kid. I never bought golf clubs. People gave things because they knew there would be kids. They wanted to get rid of things."

Asked about his physical interaction with children who were not his own, Sandusky said that aspect of the relationships "just happened that way."

"I think a lot of the kids really reached out" for wrestling and hugging, he said.

The paper said he grew most animated when talking about his relationships with children and most disconsolate when he spoke of Paterno and Penn State.

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Manning looks to be passing the ball soon

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Peyton Manning could soon be throwing footballs to his teammates, the best news Colts fans have heard since this miserable season began.

While the Colts and the four-time league MVP are still trying to find out what the next part of his rehabilitation program entails, lifting weights and throwing balls are apparently going to be part of it.

"Throwing will be part of the next progression," Manning said Friday before heading back to the team's weight room. "I will be doing some throwing and I have been doing some throwing. But now we're going to ramp it up a little more."

Manning called the news encouraging and said he would like to practice or even play

this season if he's cleared.

Vice chairman Bill Polian said he is pleased with Manning's progress

"It's great news that the fusion has healed," Polian said after speaking at the Big Ten Football Awards Gala. "It's on schedule, so we just keep going from here."

It was welcome news in a winless season that began with Manning underdoing his third neck surgery in 19 months back on Sept. 8. He has not practiced since having a single-level spinal fusion that doctors hope will not only alleviate pressure on a damaged nerve that had caused weakness in Manning's throwing arm but allow the 35-year-old quarterback to return to his perennial Pro Bowl status.

Indy (0-11) has kept Man-

ning on the active roster all season with the hope that he may start throwing at practice before the Jan. 1 season-finale at Jacksonville. He just might.

On Thursday night, the team issued a statement from Dr. Robert Watkins who said the fusion had healed firmly enough for Manning to increase the intensity of his workouts.

Those at the team complex are still trying to figure out what Manning can do.

"I don't know. I really don't know," coach Jim Caldwell said when asked about Manning's rehab program. "I just know they've been pretty cautious with what they've allowed him to do. I just know he's not practicing today. I know that."

The Manning story was newsy on a busy day in Indianapolis, where the inaugural Big Ten football championship is being played Saturday night and basketball fans are celebrating the return of the Pacers and the resurgence of the Indiana Hoosiers (7-0).

Even before Manning walked into the room, his locker was surrounded by so many reporters that teammates started joking about the entourage. Some simply laughed. Pro Bowl defensive end Robert Mathis climbed a cameraman's unoccupied stool to get a view from above. One player asked whether President Obama was expected in the locker room and when another asked what was going on, Pro Bowl receiver Reggie Wayne quipped: "He's

retiring."

Manning was not amused by the media horde, which had anticipated a medical update Wednesday.

"There is no schedule, there never has been. I think we have checkpoints here, and I don't know when the next one is," he said during a 12½-minute question-and-answer session. "But I hope they don't announce it, so y'all won't be here on decision day like Wednesday supposedly was."

At times, Manning was self-deprecating.

At others, he brushed off questions by acknowledging he didn't have all the answers.

Yet he wanted to avoid adding to the speculation about the hottest topics in Indy.

MCNABB

From Page 9A

best decision for him.

"The intent all along was to put himself in a position to explore any opportunities as they present themselves. He could not do that while he was a member of the Minnesota Vikings."

Vikings coach Leslie Frazier knew McNabb from their days together in Philadelphia, and he hand-picked the veteran to serve as a bridge between Brett Favre and rookie Christian Ponder.

Frazier was convinced a rough season in Washington in 2010 was a fluke and McNabb could help the first-year head coach avoid a rebuilding season in Minnesota.

Playing behind a leaky offensive line and with a lack of playmaking receivers in the passing game, McNabb struggled to get the Vikings offense off the ground. He completed 60 percent of his passes for 1,026 yards with four touchdowns and two interceptions in six games. But he only completed five passes of 25 yards or more and was benched in the fourth quarter of a blowout loss in Chicago that dropped the Vikings to 1-5.

Ponder took over as the starter the following week, and McNabb pushed for his release when he realized that there would be no chance for him to see the field for the rest of the season. The Vikings (2-9) obliged on Thursday and picked up Sage Rosenfels off waivers from Miami to fill McNabb's roster spot.

That leaves the future of a highly decorated quarterback — six Pro Bowls, five NFC championship games, a Super Bowl appearance and more than 37,000 yards passing — very much in doubt. After leading the Eagles so proudly for 11 seasons, the 34-year-old McNabb has stumbled in his last two stops in Washington and Minnesota.

Smith said McNabb "still feels he can play at a high level today."

There was talk of his hometown Bears putting a claim in on McNabb after they lost starter Jay Cutler to a broken thumb. But the Bears declined to do so, hoping that Caleb Hanie can steer them to the playoffs before Cutler is healthy enough to return to the field.

After passing through waivers, McNabb is free to sign with any team, and Smith said that playing time wouldn't necessarily be the top priority.

"At the end of the day, at this stage of his career, the most important thing for him is winning a Super Bowl," Smith said. "That's what he wanted in Minnesota, that's what he wanted in Washington and that's what he wanted in Philadelphia. If he moves to another team, that's what he'll want there."

But will that next opportunity come as a starter? Frazier said Thursday he still believes McNabb has a future in the NFL, but he hesitated when asked if it was as a starter.

"I'm not certain about that," Frazier said. "It depends."



DEFENDING THE CAUSE — Big Spring's Tyle rWigington guards a ball-handler in recent Steers basketball action.

HERALD photo/Robert Griffin

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Clockwise, from top: The Big Spring VA Medical Center's Lighting of the Lights took place Friday evening; shoppers look for Christmas gifts at the second annual St. Vincent DePaul Christmas Bazaar; gifts also were available at Canterbury's annual Christmas Bazaar; a young girl tells Santa Claus what she'd like for Christmas during Heritage Museum's Breakfast With Santa event Saturday.

HERALDE photos/Amanda Moreno and Steve Reagan



Support groups

MONDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, noon-1 p.m., 615 Settles.

- PEP — Parent Education Program for CPS participating and non-participating parents, single parents, grandparents, adoptive or fostering parents. Every first and fourth Monday of the month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Northside Community Center. Classes are free. For information, call 263-2673.

- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting, 8-9 p.m., fourth floor, VA Medical Center.

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. This is a group for those with Parkinson's Disease, Young Onset Parkinson's, caregivers, and those interested in learning more about the illness. There is time for socializing and information. For more information about the support group

or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jody at 432-699-6640 or midlandparkinsons@yahoo.com or Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-2732.

- Special Parents for Special Children support group meets the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Elbow Elementary. Contact Kerri Rosenbaum at 432-816-3320 or kerriroosenbaum9488@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.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.

THURSDAY

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

Letters to Santa



Deadline For Letters Is Friday, December 9th

Letters will be published in the Letters To Santa Section on Sunday, December 23, 2011

Big Spring Herald
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