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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 68

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The long, hot (and dry) summer

A look back at the top stories of 2011

HERALD file photo

Wildfires sparked by a downed power line rage south of Big Spring this past June.

Heat, drought, fire left area residents reeling

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Heat. Fire. Dust.
 No, we're not talking about the apocalypse, we're remembering 2011.
 To say Mother Nature was unkind to the Crossroads area in the past 12 months is a gross understatement. It was a year of record heat waves, debilitating drought, water rationing and wildfires that left practically every area of Texas — including our own — scorched.
 This long, hot summer was easily voted by the *Herald* news staff as the top story of 2011, but it was by no means the only item of note.

Big Spring Mayor Tommy Duncan and two city council candidates found themselves under investigation for accepting illegal campaign contributions, political incumbents became an endangered species, Big Spring Independent School District received a long string of F's on its accountability report card and groups across West Texas searched for a missing Colorado City teenager.
 The news wasn't all bad, however. The City of Big Spring and Howard County joined forces to make a joint law enforcement facility a reality, the city's aquatic center — which was the source of

much debate and controversy — finally opened and provided residents with a welcome respite from summer's unrelenting heat and Congress passed a bill renaming the local VA medical center after Big Spring's lone Medal of Honor recipient.
 There's no doubt — 2011 may not have been the most joyous year on record, but it was certainly memorable. Following are the *Herald's* top 10 stories of the year:
 • **Drought, heat, fire** — First, it didn't rain. Then it got dry. Then it got hot. Then the fires came. Welcome to the summer of 2011.

One of the most popular activities in the past year was praying for rain, but for the most part, those prayers went unanswered. The National Weather Service office in Midland recorded a paltry 5.49 inches of rain in 2011, almost 10 inches below yearly averages.
 To make matters worse, it got hot — even by West Texas standards. At one stretch, this area recorded temperatures in excess of 100 degrees for more than 30 consecutive days, topping out at a wilting 113 degrees on June 25.
 As temperatures rose, reservoir levels dropped, eventually forcing the Colorado River Municipal Water District to ration water deliveries to cities in its service areas. That rationing was then passed on to residents.

At year's end, two of CRM-WD's three reservoirs were effectively dried out, while the third was less than 20 percent full. If the drought continues through 2012, that last reservoir will shut down as well, water district officials warn.
 But the worst part of the summer was the fire threat. Howard County became, in effect, a giant tinderbox, waiting for the least little spark to set off a wildfire.
 Unfortunately, fires became a too common occurrence in 2011. The Howard County Volunteer Fire Department responded to 380 calls during the year, battling blazes that eventually consumed more than 50,000 acres in the county.
 • **Campaign contribution controversy** — Mayor Duncan and city council candidates James Glen Carrigan

See **2011**, Page 3A



Readers,
 Just a reminder — there will be no Monday edition and the *Herald* office will be closed. Have a Happy New Year!



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Take Note

• A fund has been set up at Myers & Smith Funeral Home for Teresa "Terry" Gonzales, who died Monday, Dec. 19, in Lubbock, to help defray funeral costs. Contact the funeral home at 432-267-8288 for more information.

• An account has been set up at T&P Credit Union for Herchel Lewis who is trying to rebuild his house at 904 E. 12th after a recent house fire claimed the house and the life of Doris Lewis. Lewis is asking for help to gather funds in order to rebuild the house, which his family has called home for more than 30 years. For more information, contact Lewis at 432-517-4308.

• West Texas Opportunities Inc. will be closed Dec. 30 and will reopen for business Jan. 3 at its new location, 2001 Scurry.

• 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 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.






• A benefit fund for Chris Johnson (account 5945033396) has been established at Wells Fargo Bank to help defray expenses from a house fire. All donations are appreciated.

• 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.

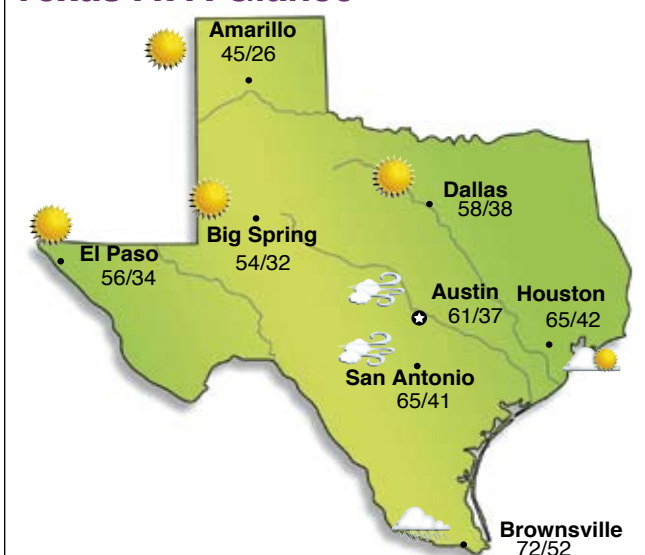
• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. Thursdays at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sun 1/1	Mon 1/2	Tue 1/3	Wed 1/4	Thu 1/5
 54/32 Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s.	 52/34 Sunny. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	 62/37 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	 59/35 Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	 65/39 Sunny. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 5:52 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 5:53 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 5:53 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:54 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:55 PM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	54	33	sunny	Kingsville	71	44	pt sunny
Amarillo	45	26	sunny	Livingston	62	37	pt sunny
Austin	61	37	windy	Longview	58	36	sunny
Beaumont	66	41	pt sunny	Lubbock	49	27	sunny
Brownsville	72	52	rain	Lufkin	60	37	pt sunny
Brownwood	58	35	sunny	Midland	54	32	sunny
Corpus Christi	68	45	pt sunny	Raymondville	70	46	pt sunny
Corsicana	57	36	sunny	Rosenberg	66	41	pt sunny
Dallas	58	38	sunny	San Antonio	65	41	windy
Del Rio	65	37	sunny	San Marcos	62	37	windy
El Paso	56	34	sunny	Sulphur Springs	57	36	sunny
Fort Stockton	54	33	sunny	Sweetwater	54	32	sunny
Gainesville	54	32	sunny	Tyler	57	35	sunny
Greenville	56	34	sunny	Weatherford	55	32	sunny
Houston	65	42	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	54	32	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	60	32	cloudy	Minneapolis	28	12	windy
Boston	49	36	pt sunny	New York	52	37	pt sunny
Chicago	36	19	sn shower	Phoenix	76	49	sunny
Dallas	58	38	sunny	San Francisco	68	49	pt sunny
Denver	40	25	mst sunny	Seattle	47	40	mixed
Houston	65	42	pt sunny	St. Louis	46	27	windy
Los Angeles	80	49	sunny	Washington, DC	59	36	pt sunny
Miami	80	59	pt sunny				

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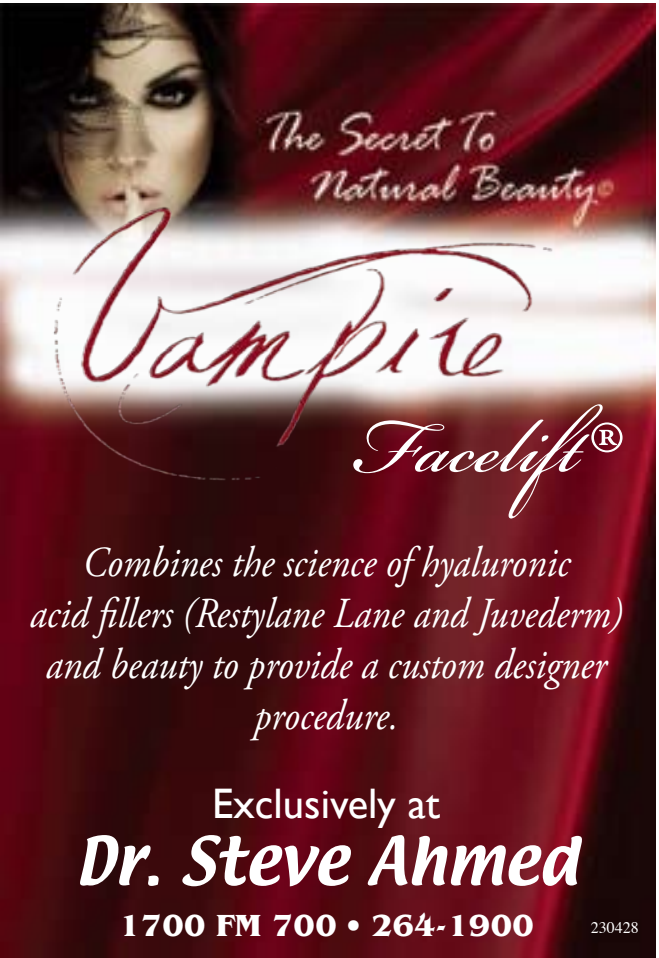
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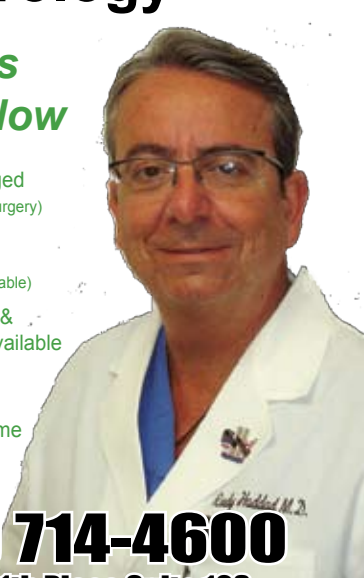
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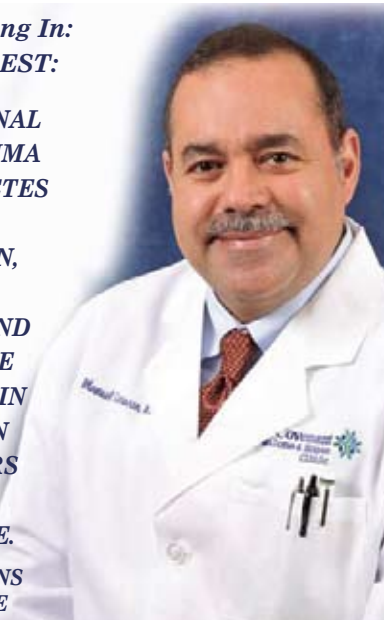
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2011

Continued from Page 1A

and Marcus Fernandez were investigated by the Texas Rangers in 2011 for allegedly accepting illegal campaign contributions the previous year.

According to the campaign information submitted by the three men, they accepted political contributions from Hydro Dynamics Inc. and Quad A Inc. that allegedly violated Texas campaign laws.

The three men returned the contributions and accepted full responsibility for the incidents. They were eventually cleared of any criminal wrongdoing by a Howard County grand jury.

• Open season on incumbents — Elections in May changed the political landscape in Big Spring, as incumbents were swept out of office and a term limit referendum was overwhelmingly passed by voters.

Despite their difficulties stemming from the controversial contributions, Carrigan and Fernandez were elected to the Big Spring City Council, ousting incumbents Stephanie Horton and Joann Staulcup in the process. In addition, a measure limiting elected city officials to two consecutive terms

was approved by more than 64 percent of the voters.

• BSISD “academically unacceptable” — Big Spring Independent School District was hammered in the latest round of school accountability ratings released by the Texas Education Agency in July.

BSISD received a district-wide rating of “Academically Unacceptable,” the lowest of four possible TEA ratings. In addition, all but one local campus’ academic performance was rated as unacceptable by the state education agency. Moss Elementary received a “Academically Acceptable” rating from TEA.

The ratings are based on high school completion rates, dropout rates and passing rates on the state test, the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS).

Later in the year, the district announced several steps aimed at improving students’ academic performance.

• The search for Hailey Dunn — A story that surfaced in 2010 continued to grab readers’ attention in 2011 as the search continued for missing Colorado City teenager Hailey Dunn.

Dunn, 13, was reported missing by her mother on Dec. 28, 2010. The search for the girl domi-

nated area headlines for several months and even attracted attention nationally.

Shawn Adkins, the live-in boyfriend of Dunn’s mother, Billie, would be named a person of interest in the case, but no arrests have been made, law enforcement officials said.

To date, the teenager remains missing.

• Deadly house fires — A pair of house fires — one in Coahoma and the other in Big Spring — claimed the lives of three Howard County residents in late 2011.

In November, a fire in Coahoma claimed the lives of Petra Arguello and her 9-year-old grandson, Jacob. Officials said the cause of the fire was related to the use of a stove to generate heat.

A space heater that came into contact with combustibles was blamed for a fire in the 900 block of East 12th Street in Big Spring that killed 62-year-old Doris Lewis.

• Water reclamation project — Responding to 2011’s crippling drought, CRMWD began work on a water reclamation plant that is expected to provide up to 2 million gallons of water a day upon completion.

Also, the water district announced plans for a pipeline to convey



HERALD file photo

Howard County Sheriff Stan Parker, left, and Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith discuss planned operations at the new joint law enforcement center.

water from CRMWD’s underground wells in Ward County. That project is slated to be completed in late 2012 or early 2013.

• Joint law enforcement center — Consider it one-stop shopping — law enforcement style.

In an effort designed to streamline operations and save taxpayer money, Howard County commissioners and Big Spring city council members approved plans for a joint law enforcement center to be located adjacent to the county detention center in west Big Spring.

It is estimated that officials could save up to

\$300,000 a year in services that are currently being duplicated.

• Making a splash — It was bitterly opposed in some circles and wasn’t finished on schedule, but Big Spring’s new aquatics center provided area residents with a welcome respite from the unrelenting heat this past summer.

Not only did the facility provide cool, wet fun for residents, it also resulted in a small profit for the city, as revenue outpaced expenditures during the center’s first summer of operation.

• VAMC renaming — A measure to rename the local VA medical center after Medal of Honor recipient George H. O’Brien Jr. was ap-

proved by Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama in late 2011.

O’Brien, a long-time resident of Big Spring who died in 2005, received the Medal of Honor — the nation’s highest military decoration — for meritorious service in Korea in 1952.

The renaming ceremony is scheduled for Jan. 18.

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



Big Spring’s new aquatic center opened in 2011.

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

Published afternoons Mon. thru Fri. and Sunday mornings, except July 4, Memorial Day, Labor Day and Christmas Day, except if Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. All materials copyrighted.

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

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

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-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	

OTHER VIEWS

The southwest border anti-money laundering alliance

Deadly violence from drug cartels and transnational gangs in Mexico poses an increasingly dangerous threat to Texas communities — particularly those along the 1,254-mile Texas/Mexico border. At the heart of the violence is not only human smuggling, narcotics and weapons, but also currency. Drug cartels are fighting for control over the lucrative trade corridors they need to transport their contraband.

Unfortunately, the United States is a top destination point for illegal drugs. Whether the narcotics are produced in Mexico or just shipped from there, rivaling drug trafficking organizations generate enormous profits from their illicit sales. And for a variety of reasons, they largely rely upon cash. For the cartels to fund their violent battles, they must be able to collect, consolidate and launder currency into forms that avoid confiscation

by law enforcement.

By identifying, preventing and reducing money laundering, law enforcement can strike at the very heart of the cartels' illicit profits — which is why the Texas Attorney General's Office is working with the Southwest Border Anti-Money Laundering Alliance. The Alliance was created in February 2010 to help Texas and other Border States work cooperatively on money laundering prevention, investigation and prosecution.

The Alliance is the product of two agreements — one with Western Union Financial Services, Inc., and the other with the States of Arizona, California and New Mexico — that established new protocols for sharing Western Union's extensive information about border-area wire transfers. In addition to providing certain person-to-person money transfer data to law enforcement, the agreements created the Southwest Border Anti-Money Laundering Alliance itself. They also provided that Texas law enforcement agencies are eligible to apply for grants from a \$50 million multi-state border crime prevention fund.

The Texas Attorney General's Office is currently developing plans to seek grant funding for both human trafficking and money laundering prevention from the border crime prevention fund. If the agency's application is approved, the one-time funds would be used to enhance programs to disrupt Mexican drug cartels' money laundering and trafficking operations — and will additionally help provide human trafficking prevention training opportunities for law enforcement.

The Texas Attorney General's Office has a long history of combating financial crimes — with a special emphasis on money laundering by criminal enterprises. Texas law enforcement agencies may contact the Texas Attorney General's Office to obtain access to the person-to-person money transfer data that was provided under the terms of the Alliance agreement. In the long tradition of the Attorney General's Office, we stand ready to assist Texas law enforcement or prosecutors in the fight against Mexican drug cartels and their financial underpinnings.

Once narcotics trafficking is less profitable and law enforcement successfully interrupts the cartels' access to cash, drug traffickers' ability to sustain their criminal enterprise will be diminished. So Texas and other Border States — through the Southwest Border Anti-Money Laundering Alliance — are joining forces and working cooperatively to crack down on money laundering. Together, we are committed to fighting the criminal cartels that plague our southern border.

General Greg Abbott is the Texas Attorney General. Find out more by visiting <https://www.oag.state.tx.us/index.shtml>.

A few more musings with Mort

Surely he uses cue cards when he phones during bowl game intermissions, touching topics all over the conversation map in record time.

Verbal responses lengthen calls, so I simply smile, nod or frown, relying on assorted expressions of bewilderment.

Such was the plan when Uncle Mort, my 99-year-old kin, called from the thicket.

He was awash in holiday excitement akin to a 10-year-old on Christmas morning.

Like horses released from barn confines, his words fairly galloped. Committed to a vow of silence, I listened.

First off, he spoke of 2011's final meeting of the Lions Club.

No, he's not a member, but he hastily accepts when friends invite him. Sure enough, they had turkey, dressing and pecan pie — two pieces, since Mort sat next to a guy on the front end of a diet dare.

At meal's end, a usually-timid Lion — for whom joining in the Pledge of Allegiance was problematic and voicing a holiday prayer was unthinkable — approached the lectern. He wasn't scheduled to speak, but requested a “point of personal privilege.”

Members stopped at mid-bite, moved that the mild-mannered, “milquetoast-y” man might muster the mettle to make meaningful microphone mentions.

Gripping the lectern, the Wizard-of-Oz-like Lion admitted his fondness for juice of the grape

and occasional indulgence to excess.

“Sometimes I reach a state of amiable incandescence,” he said, “But this time, good judgment prevailed.”

At a holiday party, he was warmed by “too many trips to the eggnog bowl.”

When hours wound down to wee, a sunny thought broke through his cloudy mind.

“I decided to take a bus home,” he said proudly.

Listeners silently considered applauding, or at least offering back-pats and/or congratulatory notes.

“I'm sure some of you have imbibed to excess and that my decision to take a bus home comes as a surprise to you,” the speaker said.

“It shocked me, too, since I don't know how to drive a bus, don't know where I found it and have no clue where I parked it.”

Stone-faced, the speaker walked slowly back to his table to finish his pie.

Switching topics, Mort mentioned feeling sorry for football coaches.

“For the few who run championship flags up the pole, there are hundreds of others who feel run over at worst, or run down at best,” he said.

He cited a recent high school state championship game at Cowboys Stadium.

“The losing coach probably felt like he'd been run over by a truck — figuratively — and the winner's response hit dead center of the truth button,” my uncle opined. “He likely felt as if he'd been run over by a golf cart — literally.”

Sometimes Mort reaches “way back” comparing current notables to historical figures.

He asked what Dallas Cowboys defensive Coach Rob Ryan

has in common with the late Gorgeous George — whose showmanship did for TV wrestling what Elvis Presley's did for rock-n'-roll music.

I kidded that since both showed partiality to long locks, maybe they had the same hair-dresser.

Mort agreed, adding that both of them seem better known for their bravado than for “delivering the goods.”

My uncle remembered one interview with the wrestling star best known for his TV antics during a decade beginning in 1947.

“I don't believe I'm the most capable wrestler in the world, I don't think I'm the most handsome man on the planet and I don't think I'm the most intelligent athlete in the history of sports,” the gorgeous one said.

“But what's my opinion against millions of others?”

Gorgeous George warrants Googling.

A showman and well-above-average wrestler, his flamboyance propelled him to stardom. Wearing garish capes and sparkling jewelry, he sprayed the ring with what he called “Chanel No. 10” (Why be half safe?)

His ring entry, set to music with assorted folderol, often took more time than the matches. Oft-quoted, his admonitions usually ended with zingers, such as “Win if you can, lose if you must, but always cheat!”

With that, Mort signed off, I dozed off and the second half kicked off.

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



DR.
DON
NEWBURY

YOUR VIEWS

Ports to Plains

TO THE EDITOR:

Regarding Dec. 11, 2011, letter of Ardis McCasland, appearing in the *Big Spring Herald*:

Gloria McDonald, I can say, leaves her doorway every morning with a mission to enable Big Spring to be more competitive and seeking synergies to make it a better, more inviting place to reside.

If not here, McCasland might find comfort in the camp of Mayor Tommy Duncan and his single dimension solution to solve Big Spring's problems with just one economic approach.

Should the energy bloom wilt, we will wish for city opportunities that produced growth, density and tax base income such as retirement property infrastructure by an invited developer who departed disgusted by city council leadership.

Mayor Duncan could have solved a better outcome for Big Spring before and during the Developers' Council appearance. Failure by Mayor Duncan to personally communicate (per the developer) with him for months thereafter, left Big Spring without a potential \$70,000 approximate annual city income and loss of a developer with other successful West Texas retirement projects.

Retired citizen income and increased population needed so desperately from other places could have been permanently anchored in Big Spring. Our community could have joined an exclusive group of 83 towns in five states after receiving the coveted certified retirement designation by the State of Texas for which some Big Spring citizens had worked so very hard to obtain.

There's another developer spending millions now to revitalize a part of Big Spring and improve future property tax income. Has Mayor Duncan ever consulted the developer for what he might do for Big Spring

with his resources, talent and experience?

These kinds of opportunities won't often come our way and yes they are events that can directly affect what you and I pay in property rates.

Gloria has always appreciated those who endeavored with Ports to Plains and never supplanted former commissioner Bill Crooker, now retired from Ports to Plains and indeed voted for his continuance.

Her role was representing city investment.

Characterized by McCasland as a “wannabe” — instead she's been a devoted worker-bee. She began with a presentation map. Dumas, Amarillo, Lubbock, Lamesa and Midland were named and graced the original Ports to Plains presentation map that went out to the world and probably Congress — with no Big Spring shown on it. The new map Gloria encouraged identifies Big Spring by name and location.

Some other of her city purposes at a Ports to Plains conference included knowledge placement to an Alberta, Canada Premier Governor and his delegation of a Big Spring refinery that could process Canadian type crude if oil scarcity reverted back to the 1970s.

Gloria visited southern representatives in their country sharing information of a shorter, safe, less fuel, way to direct their transportation north.

Midland was successful, directing part of the Ports to Plains route over to itself beginning in Lamesa. That part of the route stands to bypass Big Spring.

The Big Spring Economic Board totes the heavy load of growing commerce and keeping industries in Big Spring. Elected city officials are also in unique positions and responsibilities, I believe to exercise outreach for community benefit. The State of the Community was an excellent opportunity

for Mayor Duncan and his favored three council persons to record their accomplishments to the Big Spring community.

None did.

They've been advised in writing of the strategic linkage at the single (only) Ports to Plains overpass access to the Big Spring industrial airport.

At the San Angelo Ports to Plains Conference, Gloria studied the San Angelo approach seeking to benefit from the Ports to Plains corridor.

She had adopted similar strategy in attracting a downtown city grant and links to more grants. Through chauffeur responsibility — its a frequent drive of Gloria to cities across Texas for on-site visits and at times across several states — in research activities before she assembles a final opinion. Ports to Plains was a natural city assignment for her. Internet and telephone, while valuable, doesn't match onsite research.

State transportation officials understood a large portion of traffic through Big Spring was trucks, some with high-risk cargos traveling through 11 traffic lights, dozens of street intersections, up/down grade hills stressing the condition of brakes and vehicles. A traffic accident explosion on Gregg similar to the IS20/Birdwell incident could cause havoc in loss of life and unbelievable damage.

In their opinion Big Spring represented safety liability and obstruction.

Different medias assemble presentations usually by random choice. In this case it was the Howard County Judge and Gloria. If McCasland wants an article designed more to his preference, maybe he can use an approach other than his spurious letters. He could attend Ports to Plains conferences then perhaps be the one interviewed.

BOBBY McDONALD
BIG SPRING

Best and worst from 2011

Here's our modest annual list looking at 2011 — a list that might help guide us in 2012.

Best New National Scene Republican: Former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman. Some GOPers never forgave him for having served as President Barack Obama's Ambassador to China, but he offered the kind of thoughtful conservative Republicanism that could have roped in independents. He would have had a better chance running 10 years ago.

Most Interesting Moderate Republican: Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who was a moderate Republican in his old incarnation. But you always suspected in those days that Romney didn't really mean it - that he was just saying what he needed to get elected and survive politically.

Most Interesting Conservative Republican: Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney who is a conservative in his new incarnation." But you always suspect he doesn't really mean it - that he is just saying what he needs to get nominated.

Most Overexposed Liberal (if you don't include Rep. Anthony Weiner): Vermont independent Senator Bernie Sanders, who gets excruciatingly long segments on liberal talk radio and ideological cable, shows. With all of his airtime you think he was a Senator with enormous clout. Wrong. He's on the shows because he validates these shows' hosts', viewers' and listeners' viewpoints.

Worst Republican Moment: The Tea Party influenced House Republicans' refusal to pass the Payroll Tax Extension until the GOP establishment and Senate Republicans denounced them -- and polling showed Republicans taking a beating. This political Christmas gift for Obama added lingering imagery about Republicans that will hurt the party with independents.

Worst Democratic Moment: The Democrats' impotence in the debt ceiling debate and/or in any major political controversy pitting them against Mr. Super Pro Strategist Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, the Karl Rove of the U.S. Senate.

Biggest Republican Rising Star: New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. Liberals may despise him, but he has a refreshing authenticity and comes across to many voters as an old-school center-right Republican who is in many ways -get ready,

here comes the dirty word for some - moderate. Christie has a huge future (if he chooses to pursue it).

Biggest Democratic Party Rising star: New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who has a 68 percent approval rating in a new poll. When his moment comes to decide whether to run for President, he won't dither forever like his politically ill-fated father Mario.

Best Sopranos Wannabe "Boardwalk Empire": Its shocking season finale made it a reason to subscribe to HBO. Set in a meticulously re-created prohibition era Atlantic City, this show is about as good as TV gets.

Beset Soprano's Replacement: "Breaking Bad". The AMC show with solid writing and top rate acting about a teacher turned drug dealer is today's Sopranos replacement. It's as good as TV EVER gets.

Best Cable Political Show for Moderates and Independents: MSNBC's Morning Joe, where Joe Scarborough and friends offer consistently thoughtful political talk that avoids screaming and name calling found elsewhere.

Biggest Career Shrinkages: Conservative Glenn Beck and liberal Keith Olbermann. Hey, guys, being off a major cable channel matters.

Most Interesting Republican: Herman Cain. The charismatic Godfather's Pizza CEO who skyrocketed and crashed, and was famous for groping for answers and accused of groping. His "999" tax plan became a comedian punch line.

Biggest Career Melt Down Charlie Sheen: "Losing!" Wait: he got a new TV sitcom. "Winning!"

Most Gratifying News Story: The end of Osama bin Laden. A moment of national justice and retribution.

Best Healthy Restaurants: Souplantation also known as "Sweet Tomatoes" in some states, the best salad-soup buffet chain around where everything is freshly made, healthy and delicious. In Evansville, Indiana I stopped at the new small Salad World chain, a different concept (not a buffet) but equally superb - with delicious custom salads and the world's best vegetarian chili.

Best Pizza: No competition here. Pepe's Pizzeria in New Haven, CT.



JOE GANDELMAN

Joe Gandelman is a veteran journalist who wrote for newspapers overseas and in the United States. He has appeared on cable news show political panels and is Editor-in-Chief of The Moderate Voice, an Internet hub for independents, centrists and moderates.

Club News

Friends of the Library

The meeting of the Friends of the Library of Howard County was called to order by President Jo Ann Staulcup at noon Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011. Those attending were: Jo Ann Staulcup, Linda Holmes, Sherri Anthony, Linda Schafer, Walter Ward, Pat Ward, Suzanne Markwell, Shonda Folsom, Lee Emerson, Fran Emerson, Doris Huibregtse and Ruth Ann McKay.

The minutes of the Aug. 25, 2011, meeting were read and approved as presented.

The treasurer reported the annual book sale was the most successful to date. Thanks to the great support from the public. Staulcup expressed appreciation for all the donations. Although we lost money at the fair, we agreed it is a great way to promote literacy and membership in the FOL. The FOL will continue to hold sales at the Howard County Fair. Appreciation was expressed for everyone who assisted with the book sales. The treasurer gave a comprehensive report of funds on hand, expenditures and donations FOL approved for the Library.

Members will meet at our spot near the Spring to put up our display for the Festival of Lights on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m. Reminders will be sent to all FOL members. The decorations will be dismantled New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2012, at 2 p.m. and members will be reminded.

The treasurer gave the report of the annual election of officers. The election was conducted by mailing ballots to all members. Canvass of the returned ballots are as follows: Jo Ann Staulcup, President; Linda Holmes, Vice President; Sherri Anthony, Treasurer; and Ruth Ann McKay, Secretary.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m. so members could enjoy a pot luck lunch. Lee Emerson gave the blessing on the food which was enjoyed by all present.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012, at noon, in the break room at the library. The public is welcome to attend.

American Cancer Society

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.

West Texas Relay For Life Summit, for team captains and committee members will be in Odessa on Jan. 27-28. Registration is \$25.

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229701

A holiday tradition unlike those of others

LINDSEY TANNER,

AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO — Attorney Colleen Gorman has a holiday ritual that doesn't involve buying presents or counting down to midnight: She goes online to look for new hangover remedies she hasn't tried.

She already has scratched off those big "prevention" pills, vitamins and chugging sports drinks, along with more quirky folk remedies including peanut butter sandwiches.

"My fiance says I should probably just drink less," said Gorman, 28, of Chicago.

Experts say that's good advice for everyone.

"The only way to prevent a hangover is to not get drunk," said Boston University researcher Jonathan Howland.

That might be too radical a remedy for many revelers, but it's the only one proven to work. Still, there are strategies that can soften the blow.

Topping the list? Don't drink on an empty stomach, said Sam Zakhari, director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism's metabolism and health effects division. Food helps absorb alcohol and delay its toxic effects on the body.

Drinking plenty of water before, during and after also helps because alcohol can dehydrate the body.

Kim Khan teaches at the American Professionals Bartending School in Villa Park, Ill., and devotes a

class to serving responsibly. That includes encouraging bar patrons to drink water. Khan, who also tends bar, says alternating drinks with glasses of water helps and is a method she uses "because I've been doing this way too long."

Some people think choosing clear alcohols is safer, because darker-colored drinks contain more compounds called congeners. That is based on an unproven theory that those compounds cause the body to make toxins that upset the stomach and cause other hangover symptoms, said Howland, a researcher in the emergency medicine department.

But no one really knows what causes hangovers, which makes preventing them a challenge, Howland said.

He's hoping to find a clue in his research into why some people don't get hangovers. About 1 in 4 drinkers never feel yucky after overindulging. In Howland's lab, that includes study subjects given normally "intoxicating" doses — about six beers for men and five for women.

That may seem enviable, but Howland said those 25 percenters also may be more likely than the rest of us to become alcoholics.

Some experts think hangover symptoms are caused by toxins from methanol after the body breaks down the ethanol alcohol in booze. That's why some people swear by "the hair of the dog" — more alcohol the next day. But Howland says if that helps, it only delays the inevitable.

The list of purported remedies for preventing or treating hangovers includes a witch's brew of products, including milk thistle, honey, bitters and soda, Pedialyte, cranberry juice and Tabasco sauce. None has been scientifically proven to work, Howland said.

Brian Chui, a 23-year-old Los Angeles publicist, says he's tried a lot of them, but so far, "nothing works that great for me."

This year, Chui says he may try new anti-hangover pills combining aspirin and caffeine that his friends have been touting.

Zakhari, the government expert, said the

product may or may not be harmful, but could give drinkers "a false sense that 'I can drink as I wish because I have the cure.'"

Some people think popping a couple of Tylenol tablets after a night of drinking will help prevent hangover symptoms, but experts warn that can be dangerous. Both alcohol and acetaminophen, the active ingredient in Tylenol, are broken down in the liver, and taking them together can cause irreversible liver damage.

The risk of combining the two is small in a healthy person taking a recommended dose of Tylenol. But Zakhari says aspirin and ibuprofen are safer alternatives to treat hangover-related ills and the best advice is to avoid Tylenol for a couple of days after drinking because even some healthy people may be vulnerable. Plus more than 600 over-the-counter medicines contain acetaminophen, so it's pretty easy to accidentally take too much.

Alcohol can irritate the stomach and aspirin and ibuprofen can cause stomach-bleeding, so they should be used with caution, a government publication on hangovers advises.

A study to be published in the February edition of the journal Drug Safety found that cases of liver damage linked with accidental overdoses of acetaminophen more than doubled between 2000 and 2007. The analysis of data from the American Association of Poison Control Centers found a rise in liver damage caused by acetaminophen alone, and in medicine combining it with opiate drugs, which includes the painkiller Vicodin.

The study lacked data on alcohol use, but it's likely some cases involved drinking, said study author Randall Bond, a medical toxicologist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Most liver damage seen in the study was minor, he said.

Of course, routine, excessive use of alcohol alone can cause liver damage, so making hangovers a habit is not a good idea.

Time is really the only cure, Zakhari said. Because drinking alcohol can cause fitful sleep, getting extra sleep the next day can help. Zakhari advises calling in sick if it happens to be workday.

"I have seen some people go to work with a hangover and their output is somewhere between zero and 1," he said.

As for Zakhari, he's never even been drunk. He

can't tolerate alcohol.

"If I drink more than one drink, I get nauseous and vomit," he said.

So to celebrate this year, he'll probably have a "casual glass of wine with dinner with friends and watch the ball drop. Cheers!



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Vicki Slaton

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sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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Federal stalking statistics

In January, the Bureau of Justice Statistics released the largest-ever study of its kind on stalking, "Stalking Victimization in the United States," (pdf) an Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)-sponsored report based on supplemental data gathered from the National Crime Victimization Survey.

The report showed that technology, including Internet-based services like e-mail and instant messaging along with other technology such as GPS and computer spyware, have been used to harass one in four stalking victims. That translates into about 1.2 million victims whose stalkers used some form of technology to find them.

However, law enforcement remains under-equipped to deal with stalking. When it comes to technology use in the crime, the problem worsens. There are many reasons for this, but the end result, as revealed in the survey, is that victims have mixed feelings about police response to their problem.

INTERNET SAFETY

Computers record everything you do. It is IMPOSSIBLE to clear your tracks completely. Your computer stores hundreds of bits of information about everything you do with your computer, including information about which websites you've visited, your passwords, and what your emails say. Your abuser can readily track the websites you visit or read your email messages.

If you suspect your activities are being monitored, they probably are. Abusive people are often controlling and want to know your every move. You don't need to be a computer programmer or have special skills to monitor someone's computer activities — anyone can do it and there are many ways to monitor your activities — even without having direct access to your computer.

If you must use a computer that your abuser knows about, we suggest "safer" Internet surfing. For example, if you are planning to flee to California, don't look just at California web pages for jobs, apartments, bus tickets, etc. Look for the same information in at least a half dozen other states too.

EMAIL SAFETY

Email is not a safe or confidential way to communicate.

Sending email is like sending a postcard through the mail. Anyone along the path can read what it says. If you need to talk to someone about the danger or abuse in your life, if possible, please call a hotline instead.

If you must use email to discuss your situation we suggest you use an account that your abuser doesn't know about. Set up a new account with a free email service like hotmail, yahoo, or gmail.

PASSWORD SAFETY

DO NOT use a name or password that contains any identifying information (no names, nicknames, initials, birthdates, zipcodes, etc.) Instead use a name and password that contains a random mix of letters, CAPITAL letters and numbers (for example, HJ3v67Tn) -

Make sure you can remember the user name and password. If you must write it down somewhere, put it in a place your abuser is unlikely to find it.

If the computer asks if you would like it to save your password or login information tell it NO.

Permalink:

<http://www.stopfamilyviolence.org/pages/2>

Victim Services Agency
263-3312

Annie's Mailbox®

Dear Readers: Happy New Year! We hope you celebrated responsibly, and that 2012 will bring good health and good cheer to all of our wonderful readers.

Dear Annie: I've been married for 14 years and have known my husband's family for an additional 10. My mother-in-law has always been critical of me, and I know she was critical of both her sons' previous partners. She has called me lazy, disparages any gift I buy her, criticizes my weight and even selected furniture for our home because I "have no taste." I always bite my tongue.

Now that we have a child, her behavior has escalated. We moved to a different country (it was my husband's dream), and she blamed me, saying I am preventing her from having a relationship with my husband and child. For the first time ever, I stood my ground and we had an argument.

Since then, she has openly complained about me to my mother and stepmother. My husband told her she was out

of line, but she didn't stop. My father-in-law takes her side, and they both are demanding an apology. (I've already apologized.) They say I am not welcome in their home. My husband's brother also has joined forces with them.

My husband is having a hard time standing up to his family.

I also believe he figures it's pointless since we live so far away. I will support my husband and child in whatever relationship they decide to have with my in-laws, but I have decided to remove myself from his parents' lives altogether.

How do I do this without causing an issue in my marriage? Although I am convinced that cutting ties is the healthiest option, how do I stop the anger and sadness at the way I've been treated? -- California

Dear California: Try to understand that this is not about you. It's about your mother-in-law's need for absolute control over her children. We think you are



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

making the right decision to remove yourself from the drama while allowing your husband and child to have a relationship with the in-laws. But your husband must be vigilant when he visits to make sure that your mother-in-law does not say unkind things about you to the grandchild. If she does, he should leave immediately.

Dear Annie: My older sister (who has a longstanding case of sibling rivalry) will often say something critical about herself and include me in the

put-down. One of my friends does this, as well. For instance, they may say, "It's time WE got a face lift" or "Too bad WE look our age." I think such statements are meant to sabotage my self-esteem, although I'm sure they would deny it if I were to say so. Instead, I remain silent, but I resent it.

Any advice on how to nip their criticisms in the bud without turning it into a confrontation? -- Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Dear Montreal: Some people talk about themselves in the third person as a way to deflect the seriousness of their worries, and it may have nothing to do with you. But if you truly believe your sister and friend are doing this deliberately to undermine your confidence, respond with total innocence, "Oh, no, dear, you don't look nearly as old as you think." That should take care of it.

Dear Annie: I, too, have gone through menopause and have no desire to be intimate with my husband.

If the sexual feelings are

gone, they cannot be replaced, and sex is boring. I have given in to my husband's desires, but it is no fun for me, and I feel used afterward.

There is more to a relationship than sex, such as good conversation, holding and understanding where a woman is in life. If this man needs sex so much, I say go find it. -- Understands in Nebraska

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Dear Margo

Dear Margo: I am a single mother to a special needs child. Not so

unusual, right? However, I am also a soldier in the U.S. Army. My ex-husband is also in the military, and we are both currently deployed overseas. He and I maintain an amicable relationship. It seems that when it comes to our daughter, we are on the same page (thankfully). While we are both deployed, my family has taken on the responsibility of caring for "Emma." My family, of

course, adores her, and my sister has done a wonderful job of raising her. During the time I've been away, my former mother-in-law has insisted on more and more visitation. Emma does not deal well with transition and functions better with a strict routine. Because of this, I've allowed Grandma one weekday visit and an overnight every other weekend (despite the fact that it takes Emma almost four days to get back to her schedule). Now she is demanding an overnight every single weekend! Does this woman not realize how hard it is for Emma to go back and forth for even one night? Now I want to restrict

all visitation with Grandma until her son comes home, and he has said he would even tell her as much. I would appreciate your opinion. -- Fed-Up Mom/Soldier

Dear Fed: Great good luck that your ex agrees with you about Emma and his mother. I would, indeed, let him deliver the message that the main consideration must be what is best for the child. A four-day readjustment is not worth one visit. Have your family suggest she come for an afternoon at "Emma's house" and bag the sleepovers. If

Grandma balks, have Emma's doctor write a note to remind the old girl that her grandchild is a special needs child. The strength of your position is that Emma's needs are special. -- Margo, concurring

of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via the online form at www.creators.com/dearmargo. Due to a high volume

of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.

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

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

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Luck Versus Skill

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 6 4 3
♥ J 10 7
♦ A Q 10 5
♣ A K 7

WEST EAST
♠ A Q J 8 5 ♠ 10 9
♥ 6 3 ♥ 8 4
♦ 9 2 ♦ K 8 7 6 3
♣ Q J 10 8 ♣ 9 5 4 2

SOUTH
♠ K 7 2
♥ A K Q 9 5 2
♦ J 4
♣ 6 3

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

Opening lead — queen of clubs.
Assume you're in four hearts and West leads the queen of clubs after having overcalled with one spade. You can see that the outcome is uncertain because if East has the king of diamonds, you might lose a diamond and three spades.

The obvious approach is to bank your chances on a diamond finesse, but if you try this and it fails, you are almost certain to go down. In situations of this type, where the fate of

the hand seems to depend on the location of a particular card, it is wise to look for an alternative method of play that reduces or eliminates the luck element.

In the present case, there is a line of play available that does not rely strictly on the location of the king of diamonds. The proper way to begin is to let West's queen of clubs hold the first trick!

This unusual play has much to recommend it. There is nothing West can do to harm you at trick two. His next play doesn't matter, but let's assume he leads another club.

You win with the king and cash the A-K of trumps. Next you lead a diamond to the ace and discard the diamond jack on the ace of clubs.

Now you play the queen of diamonds, planning to discard a spade if East follows low. You don't mind losing the queen to the king if West has it, because you can later discard another spade on the ten of diamonds.

If East happens to have the king of diamonds, you are on equally solid ground. You trump if East covers and discard if he doesn't. Either way you wind up with 10 tricks consisting of six hearts, two diamonds and two clubs.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.
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New law gives veterans' spouses tax relief

AUSTIN (AP) — Tens of thousands of spouses of totally disabled veterans in Texas will qualify for significant property tax relief under a new law taking effect Jan. 1.

Texas law already exempts veterans who are declared 100 percent disabled because of combat injuries or other service-related causes from paying property taxes on their home.

As of Jan. 1, that homestead exemption will also apply to their spouses after the veteran dies.

The change will help some of those spouses, many living on fixed incomes, to keep their homes, said John Burkhardt of the Austin chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart veterans group. "Some of our veterans have

owned their homes for many years and when they die, their spouse can get hit with huge bills," Burkhardt said.

The disabled veterans measure is one of a handful of laws taking effect in 2012. Another provides new protections for homeowners who are late paying dues or fines to aggressive neighborhood associations that may try to foreclose on their property.

Another law requiring Texas voters to show valid photo identification before casting a ballot is supposed to take effect in 2012.

It remains on hold, however, while under review by the Justice Department to ensure it would not violate minority voting rights under the Voting Rights Act.

The homestead exemption

for disabled veterans' spouses required an amendment to the state Constitution, which was approved by voters in November.

It won't come cheap. According to a Senate analysis, the exemption is estimated to cost state and local governments about \$25 million in property taxes by 2016.

Sen. Dan Patrick, R-Houston, one of the authors of the law, called that an insignificant budget impact when compared to the sacrifices made by the veterans and their families.

"When they came back from war 100 percent disabled, that's a very special class of soldiers," Patrick said. "We're not talking about people living in million dollar houses. For the most part, we're talk-

ing about people trying to get by on military benefits."

Texas has about 300,000 disabled veterans, and nearly 25,000 of them are designated as 100 percent service-related disabled, according to the Texas Veterans Commission. About 16,600 of those are between the ages of 55 and 75.

The homestead exemption applies to the veterans' primary residence and expires if the surviving spouse remarries.

The exemption moves with the surviving spouse to a new home if the home would be an equal or lesser dollar value compared to the old one.

The new restrictions on homeowner associations require them to give homeowners three to 18 months to pay off late dues or fines.

Homeowners also will be allowed to contact their association directly about their late payments, even if the association has retained an attorney or collection agent. The law also allows homeowners to prevent their association from using foreclosure if the ban is approved by two-thirds of its members.

Another provision requiring associations to get a court order before foreclosing took effect Sept. 1.

Homeowner advocates say they have been fighting for the protections for years.

"This is the first time we got protection that had real teeth," said Harvella Jones, president of the Richmond, Texas-based National Homeowners Advocate Group.

Abandoned train depot nears the end of the line

By JOHN

MacCORMACK

San Antonio Express-News

SANDERSON — With Chinese crews laying track from the west and mostly Irish working from the east, the two rail gangs met about 50 miles east of here in 1883, with a silver spike marking completion of the California-to-Louisiana line.

Shortly afterward, Sanderson, about 280 miles west of San Antonio, was established as the switching point for Southern Pacific train crews working between Del Rio and El Paso.

A large stone roundhouse and a modern station complete with cafe were built, and for the next century this was a bustling railroad town.

In the early days, train holdups always were a threat. In 1912, locals posed outside the station for photographs with the pale bodies of two failed train robbers, Ben Kilpatrick and Ole Hobek.

But the last of the Southern Pacific train crews left about 15 years back, triggering a long-term economic and population decline in Terrell County.

About all that remains

are the ruins of the once-magnificent depot with its 12-foot ceilings, where locals once dined with passengers.

Mostly abandoned by the Union Pacific, which took over the Southern Pacific, the old station now awaits demolition, despite sporadic local efforts over the past decade to save it.

"To me, this depot represents the heart of Sanderson, our beginnings. It represents the Wild West, where people carved an existence here out of nothing. They started coming here before the Indians moved out. There were still lodge poles and buffalo skulls on the ground," said Bill Smith, 63, a local historian who was born in nearby Marathon.

"It just amazes me that we have quite a few people in town who are in favor of not saving it. I do not understand that attitude," he added.

A spokesman for Union Pacific said demolition could come early next year, and that the contractor will work with preservationists to salvage important elements.

"We've worked for the possible donation of the depot over the past 10 years," Raquel Espinoza

"It's sad. It was here when I was born, in 1927. I remember when they had a restaurant there, the Brown News. There's about two or three of us left who remember it."

Mary Nell Hinkle
Sanderson resident

said.

"We've really tried to make this work, but unfortunately at this point, we have to move forward," she said.

No one faults the railroad, which about nine years ago was willing to give the depot to a local group that had secured a \$500,000 grant to create a railroad museum. That effort crashed on the rocks of local politics and uncertainty over the county's potential financial exposure.

More recently, the railroad has given Smith and other preservationists repeated extensions of demolition deadlines.

Another recent short-lived scheme, to save the depot by moving it 110 miles west to Marfa, died a quick death because of logistics.

"It's a moot issue. We tried every which way

to get it through Alpine. Cost-effectively, it can't be done," said Tex Toler, the Marfa director of tourism, who years ago worked in Sanderson and was involved with the failed museum plan.

And now, since fundraising efforts have fallen woefully short, Smith said the best the preservationists can hope for is to salvage some doors, windows and lumber from the wreckage to construct a smaller replica structure.

The plight of the Sanderson depot has come to the attention to Henry Bender, 74, of San Jose, Calif., who recently completed a book about Southern Pacific Railroad train stations.

"My thought is that \$100,000 would save it, and that is not a lot of money. Someone some-

where must have the wherewithal. It's finding that person," Bender said.

"I believe the Sanderson depot was built in Oakland in kit form, and shipped there. Of that particular style, with the lunch room, there were only five or six built," he added.

While structurally intact, the 180-foot-long building has been vandalized. The roof tin and paint are peeling, and windows are broken.

These days, the only occupants are occasional illegal immigrants, hiding out in hopes of jumping a passing train. In bad weather, the rare Amtrak passengers wait in the nearby post office.

Some in town would be glad to see it turned to ashes.

"Most people would say it's too bad someone hasn't gone by there with a match," remarked one prominent local resident who asked not to be identified.

"We don't have the money. There is no public support whatsoever to save it," the resident added.

Still, the station evokes fond sentiments among some old-timers.

"It's sad. It was here when I was born, in

1927. I remember when they had a restaurant there, the Brown News. There's about two or three of us left who remember it," said Mary Nell Hinkle. Blain Chriesman, 52, the local school business manager and tax appraiser, echoed what's probably the prevailing local sentiment.

"I've got mixed feelings. Yes, it's probably the cornerstone of this county and I'm gonna hate to see it go," he said.

"But I'm doubtful there will ever be enough support to save it. It was a very divisive thing when they got that big grant years ago," he said.

County Commissioner Ken Norris, who years ago favored accepting the \$500,000 grant, only to be out-voted, finds the attitude of the old railroaders to be odd.

"You'd think the old hands would step forward and say, 'Here's \$100 or \$200' but as far as I know, that hasn't happened," he said.

"Bill Smith has the most love in the world for this thing, and he did everything he possibly could have done, but in my opinion, the general public doesn't care either way," he added.

All of us at the Herald wish all of you a very happy New Year

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Tom Brady ready to take the field

FOXBOROUGH (AP) — Tom Brady participated in practice Thursday on a limited basis because of a left shoulder injury.

The New England Patriots quarterback had missed Wednesday's session, but the team said his absence was not injury-related.

Comcast SportsNet reported that same day that Brady had X-rays to check for a separated left shoulder and was told he was "all set."

Patriots spokesman Stacey James said Thursday: "If there was an injury then it would be on the injury report."

Brady was listed on Thursday's report as having participated on a limited basis with the shoulder injury.

He was one of 17 Patriots

listed as participating on a limited basis, meaning a player took part in fewer than 100 percent of his normal repetitions.

He loosened up and ran with his teammates at the start of the practice while reporters were allowed to watch.

Brady landed hard on his left shoulder with 1:40 left in the fourth quarter Saturday when he was tackled by Kevin Burnett on a scramble in a 27-24 win over the Miami Dolphins in which he also scored on two 1-yard sneaks.

The Patriots have one more practice on Friday before a walkthrough on Saturday for Sunday's regular-season finale against the Buffalo Bills (6-9).

The Patriots (12-3) have

clinched a first-round bye and can lock up home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs with a win or tie.

If they lose, they could still get home-field advantage with a loss or tie by both the Baltimore Ravens and Pittsburgh Steelers.

Brady has a chance for the fourth 5,000-yard passing season, needing just 103.

Drew Brees of the New Orleans Saints set the NFL record of 5,087 Monday night, 3 more than the mark set by Dan Marino of the Miami Dolphins in 1984.

The Saints, tied with the San Francisco 49ers for the second-best record in the NFC at 12-3 and with a chance to earn a bye, face the Carolina Panthers.



AP file photo
Tom Brady is back to practicing with the Patriots on a limited basis after his shoulder injury.

Briefs

Coahoma advances to championships

The Coahoma Bulldogs defeated Pecos in the Semi-finals round of the Mary Tatum basketball tournament in Big Lake.

Pecos: 8 - 5 - 8 - 8 — 29

Coahoma: 6 - 15 - 2 - 15 — 38

Coahoma's Sheigh Cravens had 16 points, Tanner Ruiz had eight points and Alex Hill had six points in the win.

The Bulldogs were set to face Bull Valley in the championship game Friday.

Due to early holiday publish times, the results from the championship game will be in Tuesday's edition of the Herald.

Chicano Golf meeting slated

Chicano Golf Association members will hold a meeting Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the Comanche Trail Club House.

Federer ousted at WTC

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Top-ranked Novak Djokovic swept aside Roger Federer 6-2, 6-1 Friday and will play David Ferrer in the final of the World Tennis Championship exhibition.

The fifth-ranked Ferrer defeated second-ranked Rafael Nadal 6-3, 6-2 in the other semifinal. Nadal, who won the tournament the past two years, was nursing a sore shoulder and never seriously challenged his fellow Spaniard.

Nadal said his shoulder "felt OK, not perfect" since injuring it in November, but he still planned to play at the season-opening ATP tournament in Doha next week. Nadal announced Thursday that after the Australian Open, he'll rest his shoulder for several weeks in February.

"I knew before coming here that I was not ready to win a match against David Ferrer, not to win a match against Djokovic or Federer," Nadal said. "But I am ready to spend hours on court without risk of injury. That is the most important thing. I need this transition, hours of practice. If I am here, I will probably have a better feeling for Doha."

University of Miami to return \$83,000 in Shapiro donations

Some investors to get money back

CORAL GABLES (AP) — The University of Miami is giving back \$83,000 it says it received "directly and indirectly" from Nevin Shapiro, the former Hurricanes booster and convicted Ponzi scheme architect whose claims of giving athletes and recruits extra benefits for nearly a decade sparked an NCAA investigation.

Court records show the agreement between the school and bankruptcy trustee Joel Tabas was filed last week. Once the agreement becomes finalized, Miami would have 14 days to make payment to Tabas, who is overseeing the effort to recoup money that Shapiro's investors lost.

"The agreement was the result of a lengthy negotiation process and brings closure to the University's obligations in the bankruptcy case," Miami's general counsel office said in

a statement, and Tabas affirmed that to be the case in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

The NCAA said in August that eight players would be suspended for either one, four or six games — most got only one-game bans — and that they and four others would have to pay back what they received from Shapiro, who claimed to give extra benefits to 72 players and football recruits during his time as a booster, along with contributions to the university's athletic department.

As a condition of the agreement, once it becomes final, the trustee "releases the University and the Athletes from any and all claims, counterclaims ... whether liability be direct or indirect." In short, that means the value of the gifts past and present players received from Shapiro will

likely not be pursued by the trustee.

"This amount includes payment of \$3,000 in penalties levied by the NCAA on 11 current student-athletes who received improper benefits from Mr. Shapiro," the university's statement said.

Shapiro said he gave athletes money, cars, yacht rides and other benefits from 2002 through 2010. He is serving a 20-year prison term for overseeing a \$930 million Ponzi scheme, and involuntary bankruptcy proceedings to recover at least some of the money his investors lost were initiated in 2009. When he was sentenced, federal officials said his grocery-distribution scam led to investor losses of at least \$80 million.

The NCAA is expected to levy sanctions against Miami when its inquiry into the school's compliance practices concludes. Mi-

ami's football team did not make itself eligible for selection to a bowl game this season, a self-imposed penalty related to the NCAA investigation.

Previous court records show that Miami agreed in July 2010 — more than a year before the full extent of Shapiro's claims were unveiled in a Yahoo Sports reports — to repay \$130,307 from debtors also involved in the bankruptcy proceedings.

According to the latest court documents, Tabas found "additional potential claims against the University and certain University prior and current athletes" after that settlement. The documents also show that the school and the trustee had some dispute about the new claims, but adds that the school believes resolving the matter is "in the best interests of all parties."

Panthers' success too little, too late

CHARLOTTE (AP) — The Panthers won four of their last five games. That has some wishing Carolina could keep playing and others looking to fast-forward to next season and a clean slate.

The Panthers may be 6-9 entering Sunday's season finale at New Orleans, but one thing is certain — there's plenty of optimism.

The team is buoyed by the thought of what sensational rookie quarterback Cam Newton might accomplish with a full offseason to work with coaches. What's more, 16 players are coming off injuries and the bulk of the roster is under contract.

"I don't think there's any question, everyone in this locker room is excited about next year," tight end Greg Olsen said.

Coach Ron Rivera said he was talking with his coaches this week about how nice it would be if this were a 20-game season given the momentum the team has built the last month.

"If we had just had a few more weeks, who knows?" Rivera said. "I wish we had a few more just to see, just

to see if we've reached that point where we've matured enough."

Newton, a leading candidate for NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year with 34 total touchdowns and a first alternate for the Pro Bowl, said he "absolutely" wishes the Panthers could keep playing.

He sees a completely different team now from the one earlier in the season. That one was tiptoeing toward an uncertain future; this one is surging, ready to bust up anything in its way.

"It's evident on film," Newton said. "But we can't get that back. You can't press rewind in life and you sure can't press fast-forward, so you've got to live for the present. I think going into next year we have to focus on what we can control."

"We have to learn from it. There are going to be mistakes made and things we had back, but we had ample opportunities that we could have bounced back from to make a bigger difference."

The Panthers enter the Saints game ranked fourth in total offense and third in

rushing, a dramatic turnaround from last season when the Panthers were last in the league in total offense.

They're as dangerous as any team in the league with Newton running the show and a talented running back duo in DeAngelo Williams and Jonathan Stewart behind him, as well as a super receiver in Steve Smith and proven tight ends in Olsen and Jeremy Shockey.

And don't forget, an underrated offensive line that may be as good as any in the league behind Pro Bowl center Ryan Kalil.

Middle linebacker Dan Connor is an unrestricted free agent in the offseason and is likely to go from starter to backup if Jon Beason returns. But Connor said he might be willing to pass up a starting role elsewhere if it means staying with the Panthers and being on a winner.

"We're going to get a lot of guys back (from injuries) and with what we've built this year I think we're going to be a top contender next year," Connor said.

Olsen said beating the

Saints would be a huge confidence boost.

"The way these last four or five weeks have gone there's just a real positive feeling heading into next year," Olsen said. "I think if you finish the season strong it gives a different kind of feel to the offseason program, a different sense of energy to the offseason."

The Saints (12-3) have clinched a playoff spot and at least one home game. They are playing for a first-round bye, and the Panthers can do their part in preventing that.

"You really want to come out and play them the best you can because of what we're trying to build and the attitude we're trying to have," Rivera said. "To lose now would be disappointing."

"I think our guys have done a nice job," he added. "They've practiced well. I'm pretty excited about that, especially going into the last game ... just trying to get them to understand we can make an impact in the playoffs. We may not be in but we can certainly impact them."

Penn State plans to replace Paterno soon

Coach contact period begins Wednesday

DALLAS (AP) — Penn State's search to replace fired coach Joe Paterno could be wrapped up in the next few weeks.

Acting athletic director David Joyner said Thursday he'd like the next coach to have time to interact with recruits before high school seniors can announce their college choices starting February 1.

A four-day contact period for coaches begins Wednesday — two days after the 24th-ranked Nittany Lions face No. 20 Houston in the TicketCity Bowl in Dallas. Another 16-day contact window starts Jan. 13.

"I'd like to get this finished so that whoever the head coach is, be it (interim coach Tom) Bradley or somebody else, has enough time to really interact with recruits and

to do the best they can do," Joyner said before a team dinner in Dallas.

"There's a three-week open period (before national signing day). That would be nice. I'm not going to let that dictate if there are a couple days one way or the other. But I think it would be very good for recruits."

Bradley took over Nov. 9 after Paterno was fired in the aftermath of child sex abuse charges against retired defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky.

Paterno, who testified before a grand jury investigating Sandusky, is not a target of the probe, the state attorney general's office has said. Sandusky is awaiting trial after pleading not guilty.

Joyner said the search is down to a "handful of people" though interviews were not

over. He also said the school was still being contacted by potential applicants.

Joyner didn't name potential candidates, nor did he reveal how many people have interviewed.

"No, I have not made a final decision yet. I haven't chosen to do that because we're evaluating them and I'm still looking at candidates right now," Joyner said.

Bradley and defensive line coach Larry Johnson are among those who have had interviews.

Among other rumored names, Tennessee Titans coach Mike Munchak on Wednesday denied he was interested in the job at his alma mater for the third time since his former coach Paterno was fired.

"They have not contacted me in any way or talked to

me about the possibility of working there," the first-year Titans coach said. "I have not reached out to them. I have a job that I enjoy quite a bit."

Also, Green Bay quarterbacks coach Tom Clements declined comment last week on whether he was interested in the job and would not confirm a report that he had interviewed.

Joyner and school president Rodney Erickson had initially indicated they had hoped to have Paterno's replacement selected by the bowl game.

Paterno won a Division I record 409 victories in a head coaching career that began in 1966 — 16 seasons after starting at Penn State as an assistant. He is recovering from a broken pelvis while also being treated for lung cancer.

"We're being purpose-

ful and deliberate," Joyner said. "This is the first coaching search with football that maybe we've ever done. I'm not sure how things worked in 1950 and 1966, but I imagine it was a lot different than we're doing now."

Also Thursday, backup quarterback Rob Bolden worked with the starters again with first-stringer Matt McGloin still being held out of practice. He hasn't taken the field since suffering a concussion and seizure Dec. 17 following a locker room altercation with receiver Curtis Drake.

Bolden began the season sharing time with McGloin, but hasn't started since Oct. 15.

"There's no doubt in my mind that I can go out there and do what I need to do," Bolden said.

Upcoming football bowl games:

Saturday, Dec. 31
Meineke Car Care Bowl
At Houston
Texas A&M (6-6) vs. Northwestern (6-6), Noon (ESPN)

Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Georgia Tech (8-4) vs. Utah (7-5), 2 p.m. (CBS)

Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Vanderbilt (6-6) vs. Cincinnati (9-3), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Fight Hunger Bowl
At San Francisco
UCLA (6-7) vs. Illinois (6-6), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Chick-fil-A Bowl
At Atlanta
Virginia (8-4) vs. Auburn (7-5), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 2
TicketCity Bowl
At Dallas
Penn State (9-3) vs. Houston (12-1), Noon (ESPNU)

Capital One Bowl

At Orlando, Fla.
Nebraska (9-3) vs. South Carolina (10-2), 1 p.m. (ESPN)

Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Georgia (10-3) vs. Michigan State (10-3), 1 p.m. (ABC)

Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Florida (6-6) vs. Ohio State (6-6), 1 p.m. (ESPN2)

Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Oregon (11-2) vs. Wisconsin (11-2), 5 p.m. (ESPN)

Fiesta Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
Stanford (11-1) vs. Oklahoma State (11-1), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Tuesday, Jan. 3
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans

Michigan (10-2) vs. Virginia Tech (11-2), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday, Jan. 4
Orange Bowl
At Miami
West Virginia (9-3) vs. Clemson (10-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Jan. 6
Cotton Bowl
At Arlington, Texas
Kansas State (10-2) vs. Arkansas (10-2), 8 p.m. (FOX)

Saturday, Jan. 7
BBVA Compass Bowl
At Birmingham, Ala.
Pittsburgh (6-6) vs. SMU (7-5), Noon (ESPN)

Sunday, Jan. 8
GoDaddy.com Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
Arkansas State (10-2) vs. Northern Illinois (10-3), 9

p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 9
BCS National Championship
At New Orleans
LSU (13-0) vs. Alabama (11-1), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 21
East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
East vs. West, 4 p.m., (NFLN)

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NBA scores and schedules

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	1	1	.500	—
Toronto	1	1	.500	—
New Jersey	1	2	.333	½
New York	1	2	.333	½
Boston	0	3	.000	1½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	3	0	1.000	—
Atlanta	2	0	1.000	½
Orlando	2	1	.667	1
Charlotte	1	1	.500	1½
Washington	0	2	.000	2½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	2	0	1.000	—
Chicago	2	1	.667	½
Cleveland	1	1	.500	1
Milwaukee	1	1	.500	1
Detroit	0	2	.000	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Orleans	2	0	1.000	—
San Ant	2	1	.667	½
Houston	1	1	.500	1
Memphis	0	2	.000	2
Dallas	0	3	.000	2½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Ok City	4	0	1.000	—
Portland	3	0	1.000	½
Denver	2	1	.667	1½
Minnesota	0	2	.000	3
Utah	0	2	.000	3

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	2	1	.667	—
L.A. Lakers	2	2	.500	½
L.A. Clippers	1	1	.500	½
Sacramento	1	2	.333	1
Phoenix	0	2	.000	1½

Thursday's games:

Orlando 94, New Jersey 78

Houston 105, San Antonio 85

Oklahoma City 104, Dallas 102

Chicago 108, Sacramento 98

Portland 111, Denver 102

L.A. Lakers 99, New York 82

Sunday's games:

New Jersey at Cleveland, 6 p.m.

Charlotte at Miami, 6 p.m.

Toronto at Orlando, 6 p.m.

Boston at Washington, 6 p.m.

Dallas at Minnesota, 7 p.m.

L.A. Lakers at Denver, 8 p.m.

Memphis at Chicago, 8 p.m.

New Orleans at Sacramento, 9 p.m.

Portland at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

WTC

From Page 9A

Djokovic showed plenty of the dominant play that helped him win three Grand Slam titles and amass a 70-6 record last season.

The 24-year-old Serb twice broke No. 3 Federer in the first set and ran off nine games in a row in a one-sided affair that lasted only 44 minutes.

"It is the perfect start to season. I played great," Djokovic said. "It's something that makes me very happy."

Djokovic said fans shouldn't read too much into his win over Federer, against whom he had a 4-1 record in 2011, including victories at the Australian Open and U.S. Open.

Djokovic attributed his win in Abu Dhabi to having a match under his belt — a win over Gael Monfils on Thursday — and a quick start that gave him momentum and prompted Federer to make several unforced errors.

"He has won over 15 matches at the end of 2011, so I'm sure he won't feel down after this loss here," Djokovic said. "His main goal here is to get a couple of matches under his belt, as it is for all of us."

Federer apologized to the crowd for disappointing them with his quick exit and promised to play better Saturday when faces Nadal for third place.

He said he felt "good overall" and "was moving well" but that he just was unable to chase down Djokovic's groundstrokes that repeatedly caught the corners.

"It's surprising when it goes quick and you are on the losing side. It's not so comfortable sometimes," Federer said.

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TREASURE HUNTERS PAYING CASH ON THE SPOT FOR ANTIQUES, GOLD JEWELRY, SILVER COINS AND MORE!

Got gold? Next week, visitors can cash in on antiques, collectibles, gold, silver, coins.

By Jason DeLong
STAFF WRITER

Clean out your attics, closets and lock boxes, because the "As seen on TV" **THR's Treasure Hunters Roadshow** is coming to **Big Spring**. Event specialists are in town examining antiques, collectibles, gold and silver.

While the event will accept anything that's old, they will be focusing on: gold and silver coins made before 1970, military items, toys and trains, musical instruments, pocket and wrist watches.

Scrap gold is expected to be a popular category this week due to soaring gold prices.

Buyers for the event have noticed a tremendous increase in the amount of gold coming in, and for good reason. Record gold prices have guests cashing in on broken or outdated jewelry with **fair and honest** purchase offers.

Event planners encourage anyone planning a visit to take a minute and examine their jewelry box or their lock box at the bank and gather anything that is gold. If a guest is not sure if something is gold, bring it in and the staff will test it for free. Other gold items of interest include gold coins, gold ounces, gold proof sets and dental gold.

Other types of items specialists hope to see include vintage guitars. Ryan Krushas, one of THR's instrument specialists, spoke about some of the top guitars getting great offers. "Gibsons and Fenders are in big demand right now as are vintage amps,"

CHECK IT OUT!

WHO THR'S TREASURE HUNTERS ROADSHOW

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Above—THR specialist, Mike DeLong, sits with a gentleman who is eagerly anticipating the assessment of his collectibles.

said Krushas. We also buy violins, mandolins, woodwinds—if it plays it pays! Timepiece specialist Jeff Ford adds, "Watches are hot! We recently paid over \$2,500 for an old Hamilton pocket watch. And we are buying all types of high-end wrist watches too. Brands like Rolex, Tiffany and Chopard are very desirable to collectors. And the finest Swiss timepiece in the world, Patek Philippe, just earned a happy seller \$42,000."

When specialist Tom Fuller was asked what he enjoyed most about working at the event, he was quick to answer, "Old coins and paper currency—for as long as I can remember, I have been fascinated with collecting coins. I would go through the change in my parents' grocery store, looking for rare dates and errors. Once, I found a silver quarter that I sold for \$300. Not bad for an 8 year old."

"U.S. COINS MADE BEFORE 1970 ARE THE MOST SOUGHT AFTER BY COLLECTORS. COINS MADE BEFORE 1965 ARE 90% SILVER, AND VALUABLE BECAUSE OF EITHER THE SILVER CONTENT OR EVEN MORE VALUABLE IF ONE HAPPENS TO BE A RARE DATE."

Fuller went on to explain that any U.S. coins made before 1970 are the most sought after by collectors. Coins made before 1965 are 90% silver, and valuable because of either the silver content or even more valuable if one happens to be a rare date. Fuller explained, "We help people sort through their coins for unique dates. We buy all types of coins at the event—from wheat pennies to buffalo nickels, and from single coins to entire truckloads."

THR's Treasure Hunters Roadshow is not affiliated with or related to the Antiques Roadshow television series, PBS or WGBH

WHAT WE BUY

COINS Any and all coins made before 1970: silver and gold coins, dollars, half dollars, quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies. All conditions wanted!

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JEWELRY Gold, silver, platinum, diamonds, rubies, sapphires, all types of stones and metals, rings, bracelets, necklaces (including broken jewelry). All costume jewelry wanted.



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TOYS, TRAINS, DOLLS All makers and types of toys made before 1965: Hot Wheels, Tonka, Buddy L, Smith Miller, Nylint, robots, battery toys, Mickey Mouse, train sets—Marklin, American Flyer, Lionel, Hafner, all other trains (all gauges, accessories, individual cars), Barbie dolls, GI Joe, Shirley Temple, German.



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New resolutions for 2012

For some, resolutions aren't just about losing weight or cutting out bad habits, but taking the time to focus on the little things



By **AMANDA MORENO**

Staff Writer

New Year's resolutions aren't exactly what they used to be.

As senior pastor of Grace Fellowship Church, Eddy Prince quoted "actions speak louder than words."

For many local residents their resolutions have nothing to do with losing weight or cutting out candy, instead they are focusing on more important things like family, friends and the things that really matter.

Local resident Kalea Robbins is tired of letting the little moments slip away and is resolving to change that for 2012.

"I am making it my resolution to take each day as it comes and enjoy every moment. I want to spend more time counting my blessings and less time counting the heartaches," Robbins said.

She encourages people to remember the small miracles are often more precious than the large disappointments.

"We need to cherish time with family, friends and loved ones. Focus on forgiveness instead of bitterness and above all treat each day, each hour, each moment as a gift of infinite value," Robbins said.

Prince understands resolutions aren't miracles and there is no magic potion to make them happen. He understands it takes serious commitment to see a resolution through.

"As I sail into the uncharted waters of 2012 I am resolving to focus on the things that matter the most and to com-

mit my time and energy to make every day count for something productive and significant, no matter what it requires of me," Prince said. "I am resolved to accept change as a healthy part of life and conducive to success."

He continued, "I want to grow in knowledge and wisdom and leave some foot-steps in the sand that others will desire to follow."

The focus on the importance of family seems to be a trend in resolutions for 2012. Keri Guthrie is looking forward to even more time with her family and friends in the upcoming year.

"Life is so short and I want to spend every moment I can with them," Guthrie said. "I am going to be the best mother and wife I can be."

She said she understands just how blessed she has been and she will continue to look forward to watching her sweet little girl grow.

Then again, there are those who have to realize New Year resolutions just don't work for them.

"We don't have New Year resolutions. I think you're setting yourself up for failure," Tina Mata, local resident, said. "However, I think it's possible to set realistic goals."

Instead of making resolutions, Mata and her family focus on things they would like to see happen in the upcoming year. In spite of her families busy schedule she said she wants to see more family time and vacations incorporated into their lives on top of other things.

"One thing I would like to see is some organization in our household, get rid of clutter," Mata said. "I will also develop a good plan to eat healthy for all of us."

Kicking out old habits and starting new is something Jeremy Renteria plans on doing as well. He said he plans on taking the bumps in the road as best he can while making his way closer to the "man upstairs."

"Some things will be a little tough, but that's life so of course there will be bumps in the road," Renteria said.

Building a stronger relationship with his family and future in-laws is one of the goals he has set for the upcoming year. With an upcoming wedding, he is focusing his energy on becoming the best husband to his soon-to-be wife as well as an ever better father his daughter and soon-to-be stepson.

"My daughter is a huge priority in my life, she's my whole world," Renteria said.

On top of building his life in a positive way, he wants to extend a helping hand to others as well.

"I want to lend a helping hand when needed and let people know I'm here to help with whatever they need,"

He continued, "I know people say 'Oh Im gonna do this, I'm gonna for that' or 'I'm changing this, or I'm changing that,' but how many actually follow through? As for me, its a promise to myself, God, my daughter, fiance', future son in law ... and most of all ... my family."

For others, the new year isn't necessarily about making a resolution but in find-

ing new hope and having faith that things will get better.

Layla Dunnam is entering 2012 with hope for a brighter future not only for herself and her family, but cancer patients in general.

"The biggest thing is I will continue to look forward to new cures and cancer treatments for people, including myself," Dunnam said.

Since she has been sick this past year, she has found herself drawing away from her family and friends, but it is one thing she plans on changing with the coming year.

"I want to get closer to my family again," Dunnam said.

That hope Dunnam is searching for isn't just one she holds, but one that several in the community share. Manny Negron, Howard/Glasscock County Relay for Life Chair for 2012, is one of those people sharing that hope and fighting for the cause.

"It is a joy to be able to bring hope to a person who hears the word cancer and making them feel better," Negron said. "I am looking forward to not only taking part in the Relay For Life 2012, but in chairing the event."

Relay For Life is not the only organization he is involved in. Community involvement is something he holds dear to heart.

"I am anticipating the many more opportunities I will have to help someone or organizations in Big Spring," Negron said. "This year I am choosing to be an influence in my community and in everything I do. I desire to inspire others with not only my words and actions, but also through my giving and sacrifices."

On top of all that, he is striving to find time to finish his education and graduate next summer.

2011 has shown everyone a little bit of trial and error, but a little bit of hope as well. Negron voices what most, if not all are thinking;

"It has been a busy 2011, but it has all been good and I'm ready for what 2012 will bring."

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



Robbins



Mata



Dunnam



Prince



Renteria



Negron



Guthrie

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Debbie Durham has been named State National Bank Employee of the Year. Pictured from left are John Currie, chairman; Durham; and Jim R. Purcell, president.

Courtesy photo

6 Michigan stores on Sears, Kmart closing list, none in Texas

BRIGHTON, Mich. (AP) — For those who are wondering whether Sears or Kmart will close in their town, there are no Texas communities on the list.

Michigan will lose Sears and Kmart stores in Brighton and five other communities as part of a nationwide set of closings announced by the retail chain.

Sears Holdings Corp. in Hoffman Estates, Ill., on Thursday released the location of 79 stores that are being closed. It said previously it would close 100 to 120 stores.

Along with the Sears store in Brighton, the Michigan closings include Sears stores in Adrian, Harper Woods and Monroe and Kmart stores in Macomb County's Chesterfield and Washington townships.

Florida is hardest hit with 11 closings. Ohio and Georgia have six each, and Minnesota, North Carolina and Tennessee four each.

The closings account for about 3 percent of the company's 3,560 U.S. Stores. Sears merged with the Troy-based Kmart in 2005.

Sears has 147 stores in Michigan, including 67 Sears and 80 Kmart outlets.

The Sears store at Eastland Center in Harper Woods opened in 2004 at the site of a former JCPenney store.

"Certainly losing any anchor would certainly be a hardship in a mall property," mall manager Brent Reetz told the Detroit Free Press. "They don't own the building, so I'm surprised they would close."

John Benton, general manager at the Adrian Mall in Adrian, said that Sears store employs about 70 people.

"We are disappointed to hear that the Sears store is going to close. Sears has been an important part of the Adrian Mall family since 1970," Benton said. "Of course, retail is an ever-changing world."

Durham named SNB top employee

Special to the Herald

Debbie Durham is the person customers of State National Bank go to when they have a problem.

"Some people come in very upset and after visiting with Debbie they leave with a smile on their faces," says one of Debbie's fellow workers. Other comments from her fellow employees include, "No job is too big or small for Debbie" and "She gives her all every day."

Debbie, just named the bank's employee of the year, has been with the bank for eight years. She worked at the First National Bank of O'Donnell before State National bought that bank in 2003. Debbie and her husband Jay moved to Big Spring in 2005. Jay

manages the body shop at Polard Chevrolet. Debbie and Jay have four children — Jacie is a sophomore at Texas Tech, studying speech pathology; Tucker is a sophomore at Big Spring High School who loves baseball; Brooklyn is a fourth grader at Kentwood elementary; and Zane is 4 years old. Before moving to Big Spring, the Durhams lived in a small place called Draw, 10 miles east of O'Donnell.

"I grew up in Lamesa and had never lived in the country," says Debbie. "It took some getting used to. When those storm clouds moved in with thunder and lightning and hail, you could see them real good."

The Durhams attend Trinity Baptist Church and love to vaca-

tion in New Mexico where they camp, fish and hike. Tucker and his dad love to hunt deer. They enjoy seeing birds, fox, raccoons and other wildlife around their home in Kentwood.

"I think Big Spring is beautiful," says Debbie. "It has trees, hills and water."

The family pet is a German Shepherd named BJ, which stands for Buster Junior.

"Our first dog was named Buster and this one looks a lot like Buster, so we just call him BJ," said Debbie.

Debbie loves working at the State National Bank and says it's like family. "When I first started working at the bank, there was no awkward feeling. Everybody made me feel at home," she said.

Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

Gregory Aguilar Jr., 1508 Sunset Ave., Big Spring
Irene Lopez Alaniz, 774 E. Highway 80, Abilene
Brian Layton Allison, 1100 College Circle, Ranger
Demetrio Alva, 11520 Arrow Rock, El Paso
Terica Alvarado, 1100 E. 61st St., Odessa
Anthony G. Anderson, 3401 Cammellia Dr., Temple
Daniel Antrim, 120 N. 22nd Pl., Lamesa
Nancy Ramirez Banuelos, 1515 A Sycamore, Big Spring
Christine Avalos Bara, of 1405 N. Sixth, Lamesa
Amy Barber, 2602 Ent, Big Spring
Samantha Ann Barrera, 606 Lamar, Sweetwater
Daniel B. Barron, 507 N. Ave. F, Lamesa
Tim Beck, 709 W. Seventh St., Big Spring
Amy Benavides, 3001 N. Midland Dr., Big Spring
Crystal Biles, 15885 S. Quartz, Odessa
Vern Black, 329 W. Tennessee, Floydada
Jeremy Bolton, 506 N. Ave. L, Lamesa
Edward Bourland, 229 Edgewood Dr., San Angelo
Alexis A. Bowie, 2811 Lawton, Amarillo
Dave Bracken, 2720 42nd St., Lubbock
Johnny William Brown, 507 E. Sixth, Big Spring
Wanda Heron Brown, 538 Westover Rd. Apt. 113, Big Spring
Melinda Burns, 2218 Carlton Way, San Angelo
Cristal Cabello, 1314 65th Drive Apt. C, Lubbock
Melissa Camargo, 2100 Ave. N, Tahoka
Latonya Campbell, 7549 Ashcroft Circle, Fort Worth
Antonia Castillo, 206 Fuller St., Hereford
Donald Cervantes, 1211 Lloyd, Big Spring
Weldon Montague Cheatham, 4502 Denison, Snyder
Jared Kendero Coby, 901 S. High Street # 802, Longview
Vanessa Conatser, 3218 Fordham, Big Spring
Wesley Wayne Crow,

2400 Robb Lane, Big Spring
Stephen Cruz, 1501 Hilltop Rd., Big Spring
Ramona Davila, 2143 Texas Ave, San Antonio
Julie E. Davis, 5202 Bangor Ave. Apt. K301, Lubbock
Clarissa Dean, 2516 Gunter, Big Spring
Brandee A. Eberhardt, 197 Briarwood Lane, Big Spring
Constance A. Elledge, 1709 Scotland Ave., Azle
Kristi L. Elliot, 603 E. 12th St., Big Spring
Alfredo Flores Jr., PO Box 272, Laredo
Irene Paredez Flores, 1000 E. 20th St., Big Spring
Kenneth L. Freeman, 1401 San Andres, Odessa
Danny Frias, 207 W. 17th St., Georgetown
Hilda Fuentes, 502 S. Seventh, Lamesa
Carlos Garcia, 1211 S. Third St., Brownfield
James Randal Gardner, P.O. Box 1490, Lyons, Colo.
Joe Nick Garfias Jr., of 1309 Runnels, Big Spring
Claudet Garza, 3106 E. Elm No. 10, Laredo
Joseph Garza Jr., 17811 Vail No. 18, Dallas
Misty Goldston, 2429 20th St., Lubbock
Benito Oscar Gonzales, 101 S. Reynolds, Coahoma
James E. Gonzalez, 604 Neff St., Sweetwater
Jeffrey Grams, 224 LeLon Lane, Springtown
Nora Gutierrez, 606 N. Eighth Street, Lamesa
Edna J. Hale, 510 Milton Ave., Brownwood
Sharon Marquis Hanson, 1201 E. Co. Rd. 34, Big Spring
Clifford Arvin Hart Jr., 3234 Drexel, Big Spring
Dana Havink, 600 Star Linda Ct., Arlington
Chris Henry, 3520 28th St., Lubbock
Isaul Hernandez, 523 W. Noble, Falfurrias
Veronica Cervantes Hernandez, 1005 N. 17th St., Lamesa
Gerald Hodges, 4312 Crane, Houston
Allen Hoey, 1401 N. Highway 87 No. 1502, Big Spring
Herman Hokes, 1303

Sycamore, Big Spring
Danny Holt, of 125 Farney Rd., Lorena
Bradley Ryan Horton, of Linda Lane, Big Spring
Shameka Houston, 1905 Wasson No. 49, Big Spring
Jeanie Renee Ivey, 5326 Old Highway 71, LaGrange
Brandy Johnson, 24327 Pleasonton, San Antonio
Rene M. Johnson, 9205 W. County Road 174, Midland
Steven Daniel Johnson, 1509 142nd St., Lubbock
Johnny Ray Jones, 501 E. 17th St., Big Spring
Katie Lynn Junkin, 1410 Lancaster, Big Spring
Paige Morgan Kenas, 1003-2 Lake County Rd. 175, Colorado City
Kimberly K. King, 1711 Young, Big Spring
Robert Michael Kleck, P.O. Box 35, Rotan
Lindsey Kay Lee, 1405 S. Benton, Big Spring
Patricia Luttrell, 2726 Redwood, Odessa
Jenny Marie Hamilton Lyon, 4201 W. Highway 80 Apt. 6, Big Spring
Joshua David Mackenstein, 414 Hickory/3417 N. Midland Drive, Midland
Christopher Max Martinez, 2870 S. Highway, Snyder
Jarrod Martinez, 61 E. Eighth St., San Angelo
Sandy Martinez, P.O. Box 43, Stanton
Thomas M. McKellen, 2010 Sierra, Kenah
Ebaline Mendoza, P.O. Box 291, Mertzon
Daniel Mercado Jr., 5611 Lancaster, Houston
Chad K. Merrill, 3300 Manor Rd. Apt. 174, Austin
Alicia Morales, 606 Holbert, Big Spring
Anna Marie Moreno, 4656 St. Frances Ave., Dallas
Jose Munoz III, 1425 E. Sixth St. Apt. 7, Big Spring
Michael Todd McClinton, 1003 S. Midkiff, Midland
Ricky L. Nava, 707 Willa, Big Spring
William Leslie Neal, 2100 Alabama, Big Spring
Pernell Earl Parker, 400 N.E. 12th St., Big Spring
Benson Nelson Payne, 1117 Toby Lane, San Angelo
Katherine Hardin Perez,

4908 Parkway, Big Spring
Joshua Plaia, 1401 E. 18th, Big Spring
Lisa M. Portillo, 1200 Stanford Ave, Big Spring
Richard Wayne Rains, 4501 Parkway, Big Spring
Patricia Ramos, 538 Westover Road #226, Big Spring
Anna D. Rich, PO Box 1321, Denver City
Jerrall Ray Richardson, 1481 Highway 81, Bowie
Alfredo Riojas Jr., 255, S. 11th St., Lubbock
Roberta Garza Rodriguez, 1103 Stanford, Big Spring
Robert Rosamond, 801 Lancaster, Big Spring
Thomas Ross, 1206 Lela St., Jasper
Thomas Castillo Ruiz, 1306 W. Tennessee, Midland
Rudy Andrew Salazar, PO Box 1275, Stanton
Nancy Carolina Sauseda, 1707 N. 11th St., Lamesa
Monica Serbine, 304 E. 20th, Big Spring
Harl Bradford Shaffer, 5603 Gail Hwy., Big Spring
Curtis W. Shelton, 3714 Millbrook Road, Big Spring
Brian Paul Siverson, 589c Stoddard, Odessa
Donna Smith, P.O. Box 716, Coahoma
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Shawn Spurgeon, 106 N. Adams, Denver City
Mickey Jermain Starnes, 402 Holly Oak Dr., Tyler
Misty D. Sternadel, 457 Seventh St., Scotland TX
Andrew Bernard Taylor, 5651 Flamingo, Houston
Tonya D. Conner Taylor, 1111 Moseley Circle, Hobb, N.M.
Ashley Lauren Teagarden, 6002 103rd St., Big Spring
Molly E. Turner, 1905 Wasson Rd., Big Spring
Paula Valdez, 2220 S. First, Lamesa
Jimmy Vasquez, 4000 W. Illinois No. 16, Midland
Tyler Voss, Fannin Co. Rd. 4925, Leonard
Michael Wagner, P.O. Box 428, Denver City

Irshaad A. Walee, 1306 S. Detroit, Lamesa
Marie Wells, 2507 Rebecca, Big Spring
Candida Lynn Whitehead, 1405 Runnels, Big Spring
Tina Diane Whitlow, 1407.5 Settles, Big Spring
Denise L. Williams, 1715 Hwy. 350, Big Spring
Calvin Williams, 1313 Mulberry, Big Spring
Mandy Shae Wilson, 210 10th St., Sterling City
Brandi Woodard, 642 Westview Dr., Abilene
Jerry Lee Wrightsil, 2816 Ridge Rd., Fort Worth
Lorenzo Ferrera Yanez, 211 Channing St., Big Spring
Dennis Anthony Zaragoza, 4534 Sinclair, Big Spring

District Court Filings:
In Re Aiden Lee Phillips, family.
Brooks Family Partnership vs. William E. Read Family Trust, civil.
Jamie Jo McShane Rainey vs. Jeremy Don Rainey, divorce.
Capital One Bank vs. Charles H. English, accounts, notes or contracts.
Darren Byrd vs. Dana Kohl Byrd, divorce.
American Express Centurion Bank vs. Eliazar Rodriguez, accounts, notes and contracts.
Ally Financial Inc. vs. Carla Clanton Wyrick, civil.
Debra Bogard vs. Stanley Chris Bogard, division of property.

Marriage Licenses:
Stephen Michael Shugrue, 55, and Grace Marie Shugrue, 55, of Florida.
Roberto Cisneros, 32, and Brandie Denise Boswell, 32, both of Big Spring.
Librado Canales IV, 34, and Maria T. Dolloff, 29, both of Big Spring.
Jimmy Joe Sanchez, 34, and Alana Dianne Zamora, 35, both of Big Spring.
Matthew D. Buske, 23, and Chelsea D. Cuttingham, 29, both of Big Spring.
Reymundo Valdez Martinez Jr., 20, and Haley Breann Ruiz, 18, both of Big Spring.

Warranty Deeds:
Grantor: Jamie D. Park
Grantee: Desert Tanks Property; Lot 17, Block 15, Kentwood Unit No. 2
Date: Nov. 10, 2011
Grantor: John M. Ryan and Laurie M. Ryan
Grantee: J.C. Wall and Dorothy Wall
Property: Lot 10, Block 2, Lahoma Addition
Date: Nov. 15, 2011
Grantor: Cynthia Anderson
Grantee: D.F. Stanley and LaRhonda Stanley
Property: Lots 13-16, Block 10, Original Town of Coahoma
Date: Nov. 15, 2011
Grantor: Marty A. Rice
Grantee: Deborah Rice
Property: Lot 6, Block 4, Park Hill Addition
Date: Nov. 15, 2011
Grantor: A.C. Cotton Mize
Grantee: Johnny Mize
Property: The W/40 feet of Lot 8 and the E/20 feet of Lot 9, Block 35, Cole & Strayhorn Addition
Date: Nov. 16, 2011
Grantor: Jordan Bernal and Tony Bernal
Grantee: Marcellous Weaver
Property: Lots 3-4, Block A, Forest Addition
Date: Dec. 19, 2011
Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien:
Grantor: Curtis W. White
Grantee: Denise White
Property: Lots 16-17, Original Town of Coahoma
Date: Nov. 16, 2011
Grantor: Jeffrey T. Elliot and Jacqueline Elliot
Grantee: Patricia Pfluger and Patricia Pfluger
Property: A 4.7-acre tract out of Section 105, Block 29, W&NW RR CO Survey
Date: Nov. 18, 2011
Grantor: Shari J. Beall
Grantee: Glenn C. Blaskey and Sarah Blaskey
Property: A tract out of Section 5, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Nov. 18, 2011

State revenue rises, but it will not offset cuts

MELINDA DESLATTÉ

Associated Press
BATON ROUGE, La. — College students clash with administrators over steeply rising tuition. Public employees shut down statehouses amid cuts to pay and retirement benefits. Teachers and social welfare advocates protest budget cuts. Lawmakers struggle to cope with sharp declines in tax revenue.

If government budgets were once an eye-glazing topic, they moved to the top of the public agenda in 2011 as state and local governments faced some of their most difficult decisions since the national recession began in late 2007.

A fourth year of declining tax revenue meant deep spending cuts and, in many states, a rethinking of the role of government and the scope of the services it should provide.

Budget experts expect last year's tumult to give way to somewhat steadier times in 2012, as tax revenue continues a slow rebound. But few budget planners are celebrating, as cautious optimism about an uneven economic recovery is leading to subdued expectations.

"There will be no restorations," said Eileen Klein, chief of staff for Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer. "I hope we can eliminate that word from the budget vernacular."

The end of a three-year state sales tax increase in 2013 and concerns about Medicaid expansion in 2014 driven by the federal health care overhaul has led the state's Republican governor and GOP lawmakers, who have a majority in the Legislature, to say they must hold the line against new spending.

The cautiousness in Arizona is an illustration of the continued budget turmoil expected in 2012 throughout much of the nation, even after four years of deep spending cuts.

States have closed budget gaps totaling more than \$500 billion since late 2007, with 48 states cutting programs and services. Louisiana, for example, recently trimmed subsidies that are provided to grandparents and other relatives taking care of children who are not their own, ended a program in 10 local jurisdictions to help people find jobs and sliced money for counseling services for at-risk children.

Republican Gov. Bobby Jindal cut public college funding another \$50 million this month to help close the latest budget shortfall. Rising

tuition has led to rallies on campuses across the country, including some protests that turned violent in California.

Adam Thongsavat, 22, expects the year ahead to be even more active on campuses. The student body president at the University of California, Davis, where campus police pepper-sprayed peaceful demonstrators last fall, said students are angry over rising tuition and a lack of job prospects once they graduate.

In his time as a student, he saw tuition and campus fees at the public university rise by nearly 68 percent, from about \$8,000 in 2007 to \$13,400 this year.

"I think 2012 will make even optimists pessimistic," said Thongsavat, who recently graduated with a double major in history and political science. "I think what you're going to see is a lot more unrest unless leaders in Sacramento, our regents and community leaders take active stances on improving student lives. We're going to see a lot more of the same, and it's going to get a lot worse."

Federal stimulus money approved by Congress when the Democrats were in control helped during the heart of the recession, delaying layoffs of teachers and police officers while moderating cuts to Medicaid and other public health programs. Some states raised taxes and fees and tapped their rainy-day funds.

But even with a trickle of good economic news recently, state officials say no one should expect robust government spending anytime soon. Commitments still exceed incoming tax revenue in many states.

"It's at a slow pace. But any improvement, no matter how small, is positive news," said Todd Haggerty, a research analyst at the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Arkansas is among those states expecting to see a slight bump in tax revenue for the fiscal year that begins July 1, but it will not be enough to significantly restore funding to slashed programs and services. Worries about the strength of the economic recovery linger, making state officials hesitant to spend, said Richard Weiss, head of the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration.

"There are a lot of clouds out there, and there's a lot of headwind out there that we're very concerned about," he said.

Twenty-nine states are

spending less from their general funds today than they did before the recession, according to a recent joint survey from the National Governors Association and the National Association of State Budget Officers.

More than 30 states have raised taxes since the recession began, but some of those increases were temporary and are expiring soon, as in Arizona. With the economy slowly reviving and unemployment rates dipping, many governors and lawmakers say they don't want to jeopardize the recovery by raising taxes again.

But tax revenue is not expected to grow enough to make up for the impact of four years of dismal economic times. Rainy-day funds, internal transfers and other one-time sources have largely been tapped, so governors and lawmakers must look for new places to cut spending.

"They've done the easy cuts and only a few have budget reserves left," said Elizabeth McNichol of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank. "There aren't really things that are sacrosanct any longer."

Changes to public employee retirement benefits and sweeping reforms to health care programs such as Medicaid are among the most likely targets.

At least 17 states project budget gaps for the next fiscal year, while a handful need to balance budgets in the remaining six months of the current budget year. The revenue of all 50 states combined remains \$21 billion below 2008 levels, according to the National Governors Association-NASBO report.

Budget gaps in states projecting shortfalls in the 2012-13 fiscal year are estimated to total \$40 billion. By comparison, California alone closed a deficit of \$42 billion in 2009, during the worst of recession.

The nation's most populous state is again facing budget troubles, but the problem appears more manageable than during the past few years.

Even so, Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown and state lawmakers have fewer options to close the \$13 billion shortfall that is projected over the next 18 months.

In December, Brown ordered \$1 billion in midyear spending reductions to public schools, universities and social services because tax revenue did

not meet projections. The state has given school districts the option of slicing another seven days from the current school year, now 175 days long. That already is five days shorter than before the recession.

Low-income seniors and the disabled will get less in-home care when the reductions start in January. School advocates warn that an estimated 1 million students will have trouble getting to class with a drop in home-to-school transportation funding.

"The cut to transportation is absolutely devastating," said Steve Henderson, a lobbyist for the California School Employees Association. "What that means is a lot of low-income and rural kids will not have the ability to get to school."

Brown has proposed a 2012 ballot initiative to raise \$7 billion annually through 2016 by boosting income taxes on individuals making \$250,000 or more a year and increasing the state sales tax by a half-cent. He also has submitted a plan to the Legislature to revamp public employee pensions.

Washington state is considering similar cuts to cope with its shortfall, including shortening its school year, eliminating medical programs for 55,000 low-income residents and letting some low- and moderate-risk offenders out of prison early.

Missouri is reducing funding for elementary and secondary education to close a mid-year budget deficit tied to tornado recovery. North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue, a Democrat, is warning of thousands of teacher layoffs next fall because federal aid to local school districts is running out.

In Colorado, Gov. John Hickenlooper has proposed deep cuts to K-12 funding and higher education, largely because of a spike in Medicaid enrollment.

"This doesn't make us happy," said Hickenlooper, a Democrat. "I don't see a way to get around it."

Energy Watch

This week's report is an executive summary of our 2012 economic and market outlook.

1. We believe the slow economic recovery is likely to continue in 2012 with inflation-adjusted gross domestic product (GDP) projected to increase an average 2.2 percent in 2012. Unfortunately, this is below the 2.7 percent average growth rate of GDP during the past 30 years.

2. The U.S. economy faces many problems and uncertainties, including the weak housing market, high unemployment, European debt crisis and the upcoming U.S. elections. Nevertheless, we believe that slow growth, not recession, is the most likely scenario and put the probability of recession at 35 percent.

3. In this slow-growth environment, we expect inflation to moderate to 2.5 percent in 2012. However, we continue to expect inflation to average 3.0 percent during the next 10-15 years.

4. Companies are adjusting to current conditions, and corporate profits are rising. Our equity strategy team looks for operating earnings of the companies that make up the S&P 500 to increase 5.1 percent in 2012.

5. Equity markets are likely to remain volatile in 2012, but slow economic growth and a modest increase in earnings are likely to support the equity market. Our 2012 year-end target for the S&P 500 is 1325-1375.

6. The Federal Reserve intends to keep short-term interest rates near zero percent until mid-2013 in order to boost economic growth. However, long-term interest rates could move modestly higher through 2012 as the economic expansion continues. Our fixed-income strategy team looks for the 10-year Treasury yield to increase to 3.0 percent by the end of 2012.

7. Our international strategy team believes that global economic performance is likely to diverge further in 2012 with emerging market economies doing better than high-debt developed economies, especially those in Europe.

8. Unfortunately, the European debt crisis is still ongoing, and the global economy remains at risk if policymakers cannot contain the crisis. However, we believe that the most likely scenario is slow and uneven progress addressing their debt problems. Our strategists believe that the worst-case scenario of widespread government defaults or a series of large bank failures is a low probability.

9. Policymakers are making progress addressing the European debt crisis and could eventually get ahead of the problem. In the meantime, investors should probably not take on too much risk. The storm is not over yet.

10. We believe that investors should maintain a balanced investment strategy while waiting for the storm clouds to clear. Specifically, in the equity markets, we recommend over weighting the cyclical industrial and material sectors along with the defensive utility and telecom sectors.

11. In the fixed income markets, we recommend over weighting short-term investment grade debt and under weighting long-term bonds. Within the debt categories we recommend overweighting corporate bonds and preferred securities and underweighting Treasury debt.

12. Internationally, we believe investors should maintain a core diversified portfolio of international investments supplemented with positions in areas offering better relative opportunities. Within the international equity markets we favor Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia and Mexico. In the currency market, our strategists look for the dollar to strengthen and the euro to weaken to \$1.23 dollars per euro by the end of 2012.

13. Looking into 2012, economic and market expectations are relatively low after a very difficult 2011. Therefore, investors could be more surprised by positive developments in 2012 than by negative events.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. This article was written by Gary Thayer, chief macro strategist, Wells Fargo Advisors on Dec. 19 and provided courtesy of Bhupen Agrawal, branch manager in Midland. The material has been prepared or is distributed solely for informational purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy any security or instrumental to participate in any trading strategy. Additional information is available upon request at 432-684-7335. Wells Fargo Advisors LLC, member SIPC is a registered broker dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

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Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for spray applicator driver. Class A- CDL license and farm experience helpful; but will consider training. Requires high school diploma or equivalent. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person: Helena Chemical Company 100 S. St. Peter Stanton, TX 79782 Pre-employment drug screen required. EOE M/F/V/H

ARE YOU interested in a Rewarding Nursing Career? Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation is now seeking a 10p-6a Charge Nurse that is motivated, caring and loves the elderly. Competitive pay, benefits and great family working environment. You may apply on-line at www.parkviewnursing.net or in person at 3200 Parkway.

COASTAL TRANSPORT is seeking **Owner-operators** with a Class A CDL. Must be 23 years, X endorsement with one year tractor trailer experience. **For More Information, Call 877-314-0700 between 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday.**

COCKTAIL WAITRESSES. Outgoing & Enthusiastic? No experience necessary. Must be 18 or older. Call 432-213-0946 for application, San Franciscan Bar & Grill.

Help Wanted

DANLIN CHEMICALS is Hiring for Truck Driver/ Delivery Driver with CDL with Tank & Hazmat Endorsement for Big Spring and surrounding areas. Good Family and Employee Health Benefits. Must be self motivated. Call (325)226-5209.

DON'S TIRE & Truck Service Inc.

S. Service Rd I-20 Exit 178 Big Spring, Tx 79720

Taking Applications:
Alignment Tech: with experience, Must be 21 or older. All applicants must have a valid Texas Drivers Lic.
Tire Tech: Must have valid Texas lic.

Apply in Person Only/ NO Phone Calls

DRIVERS NEEDED

Professional Transportation, Inc. is seeking local drivers for 7-passenger mini-vans in the Big Spring, TX area. Drug screen, driving record, and criminal background check required. 1-800-471-2440 www.professionaltransportationinc.com EOE

PHILLIPS CRANE & RIGGING

Looking for **CDL Driver** w/Tanker Endorsement & Exp. Operating a Winch Truck
No Experience Necessary. Must be able to work manual labor.
Starting Pay: \$15.00/hr Benefits, Holidays & Vacation 432-264-6600 1305 E. Airpark Drive

PART-TIME position available for Custodian. Apply at The Salvation Army, 811 West 5th.

Help Wanted

DRIVERS WANTED. Find out why our average length of driver employment is 9 years. Reagent Chemical, a family owned company is dedicated to providing great service to our customers and taking care of our employees, is currently hiring professional drivers in Stanton, Texas. Requirements include Class A CDL with Tank and Hazmat endorsements. Minimum of 2 years driving or 1 year tanker experience. Paid weekly by check or direct deposit. Benefits include family health & dental insurance with no premium contribution by the employee. 401K with company match plus profit sharing. Company paid life insurance, short and long term disability, additional life and disability is available thru group coverage. Up to 10 days vacation starting first year plus 10 paid holidays. Uniforms provided. Call 432-458-3446 or 432-661-4079.

FULL-TIME SECURITY Guard needed from 3pm-11pm. Must pass background & drug test. Call between 8am & 3pm leave message 432-816-4421.

Great Horn Carriers, Inc.

Tanker Driver Needed
REQUIRES:
Class A CDL with Haz-Mat 2 years Tanker/ Fuel Preferred Local Hauling, No Nights. Good Pay with Benefits \$500.00 Sign-On Bonus. FMI: (432)683-2868, (432)288-3761

HIRING EXPERIENCED CDL drivers. 1-2 yrs experience required, with clean driving record. Pay DOE. Health, vision, and dental insurance 100% paid! Apply in person: 9400 South Service Road., Coahoma, TX.

Help Wanted


Consider it done.
Job Fair!
Class A CDL Drivers Needed!
EagleOne is hosting a job fair on **January 9th, from 10am to 6pm:**
EagleOne District Office 208 West Florida Ave Midland 79701
We are currently hiring on-demand Class A CDL drivers with 2+ years experience (off-road and/or oil/gas industry is a plus!). Hazmat preferred. **\$3,000 Sign on Bonus,** competitive compensation, health/dental/vision insurance, pd vacation and more!
For more information, call 479-242-2532 or 432-685-1425. www.goeagleone.com

Join our professional cleaning team! \$10/Hrs. & advancement opportunities. We provide paid training, all necessary supplies & uniform. Must have own transportation & speak English. All cleaners are drug tested & background checked. Bonded and insured. Call **J. Williams Management at 432-699-2090 M-F 8-4.**

O/O'S \$5,000 Sign-On Bonus! Tons of warm, prosperous South TX runs! Frac Sand Hauling. Must have tractor, pneumatic trailer, blower. (800)397-2639.

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS needed for busy Christian preschool. Full time or part time available. Prefer at least 1 year experience in licensed child care facility. Must pass criminal history check and FBI fingerprint check. Apply in person at 118 Cedar Rd.

Help Wanted

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

PRICE CONSTRUCTION, Ltd.
We are currently hiring for experienced: Class "A" CDL drivers. We offer competitive wages, Health Insurance for full time employees after 90 days. After six months 401K participation with an employer matching percentage.
Equal Opportunity Employer. Salary will depend on experience, please come by Price Construction. 2701 Hwy. 350 (Snyder Highway) to pick up an application or email your resume to billie@priceconstruction.com

RUSTY'S OILFIELD Service In Stanton has immediate openings for Mechanic, CDL Driver, Roustabout Pushers and Helpers. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person at 3327 W 120 in Stanton. 432-756-2821.

SECURITY OFFICERS Needed for Hospital Federal Inmate Protection detail. All positions are Part-time and PRN.

Physical Requirements: Must be in general good health and vision must be correctable to 20/30 (SNELLEN) in one eye. The ability to distinguish basic colors is required. Emotional and mental stability is required.
Other Requirements: Must be able to pass State and Federal Backgrounds and Credit Checks.

Experience Requirements: One year (2040) hours of experience in the armed forces or coast guard which involved significant performance of guard duty of detainees or prisoners; or the equivalent experience in a federal, state, or local government, or private organization which involved protecting/police duties, or college level training in courses such as corrections or police science may be substituted for experience at the ratio of two hours of instructions for one hour of experience.
Apply at Workforce Center (1001 Birdwell Ln., Howard College- Charles Warren Bld. 106), KEYWORD: PARAGON. EOE.

Help Wanted

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


TEMPORARY PALACIOS Roofing and Home Improvements in Big Spring, TX. is seeking 3 Helpers-Roofers. 4/01/12 to 12/01/12. Workers typically perform a variety of tasks, which may include any combination of: To lift, carry and hold building materials, tools and supplies; cleans tools, equipment, materials and work areas. Transportation provided from office to job sites in Howard Midland and Martin Counties. Tools, supplies and equipment will be provided at no extra cost to employee. 8:00am to 5:00pm. \$9.03/hr. OT \$13.54/hr EOE, only persons with authorization to work in the U.S. need apply. All applicants should call for appointment to Alvaro Palacios: (432)263-5430 Job Order #TX 6177381.


TRUCK DRIVER


Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for an experienced truck driver. This position will make deliveries, load and unload product, utilize a forklift, and perform general warehouse duties. The position requires high school diploma or equivalent, CDL with HAZMAT endorsement. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person:


Helena Chemical Company
100 S. St. Peter,
Stanton, Texas
Pre-employment
drug screen required.
EOE M/F/V/H

"It Pays To Read Big Spring Herald Classifieds"


West Texas Centers
Looking for a rewarding career? Look no further. If this sounds like the opportunity for you the responsibilities would include working with a highly trained team to provide daily living skills training and supports to clients. West Texas Centers has part-time openings up to 32 hours weekly starting at \$9.30 an hour. Full time positions are also available with salary ranges of \$8.20-\$8.75 per hour plus benefits. Full time positions offer a full benefit package to include health insurance, dental, generous paid personal time off and a great retirement program.
Applications available at 409 Runnels or www.wtcmhm.org or by calling **JOBLINE 800-687-2769.EOE** 220636


West Texas Centers
Are you a Registered Nurse who is looking for something different. Do you love working with children? The Little Lives ECI program has an opportunity for a registered nurse to be a Family Service Coordinator in our program. This position functions in two capacities. One is as a licensed Registered Nurse performing assessments as outlined by the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services and the other for assisting families who are eligible for Early Childhood Intervention services. This person is the primary contact for each family assigned and must have considerable knowledge in the functioning of social services, medical treatment facilities, and community resources. This individual is a key professional who will participate with the child's interdisciplinary team to provide appropriate services and supports to the child and family. Position will involve some travel, but there is a great deal of flexibility in the work schedule, with telecommuting, four day work week, no on call and no weekends. Employee is required to use their personal vehicle and/or an agency/rental vehicle. All employees are required to have a personal vehicle available for work purposes and maintain current, valid vehicle liability on the personal vehicle. Determination regarding whether an employee utilizes a personal/agency or rental vehicle is at the discretion of the ECI program director. Personal vehicle usage is subject to Center authorized mileage reimbursement rates. Headquartered location, Midland, Odessa or Andrews. Salary range 35,000 to 50,000.
Applications available at 409 Runnels or www.wtcmhm.org or by calling **JOBLINE 800-687-2769.EOE** 230485


West Texas Centers
Case Manager for Mental Health: Assists individuals in gaining access to medical, social, vocational and educational services. Requires Bachelors degree in Social Work field or Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 24 hours in psychology, sociology or other human service hours. Base salary \$14.71-\$15.72 per hour (\$30,588.00-\$32,700.00 annually) DOE, plus excellent benefit package. Four day work week is possible. Flexible schedule offered. Crisis on-call rotation required. Applicants must live within 70-mile radius of duty site.
Applications available at 409 Runnels or www.wtcmhm.org or by calling **JOBLINE 800-687-2769.EOE** 230107


West Texas Centers
West Texas Centers is looking for an administrative specialist to join our team. Applicants with work experience demonstrating success in a high volume environment requiring extreme attention to detail, data/report development and excellent organizational skills will be considered. This position will be responsible for billing in a high volume, fast paced environment. Applicants with working knowledge of Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance billing, CPT codes, NPI, TPI requirements as well as other billing experience are preferred. Must enjoy working with details and handling multiple tasks. Must work and communicate well with others. West Texas Centers offers an outstanding benefit package with salary negotiable depending upon the education and level of experience of the applicant. Minimum requirements include graduation from an accredited high school with an associate or 2 years of college preferred. Basic Excel and Word tests required.
Applications available at 409 Runnels or www.wtcmhm.org or by calling **JOBLINE 800-687-2769.EOE** 230470

GARAGE SALES
Hidden treasures? Junk?
Recycle your unwanted items!
Call 263-7331 today. A Friendly Classified Consultant will help you create an ad that gets results!


MEDICAL ARTS HOSPITAL
Now hiring **Personal Attendants** for in-home patient care in Big Spring area. Must be trustworthy and dependable. Background checks will be conducted.
Inquiries may be directed to:
Medical Arts Hospital Home Care
2200 N. Bryan Ave. Lamesa, Texas 79331
806-872-7747 230607

BUSINESSES & SERVICES

\$55.60 Per Month
Call 263-7331 to place your ad today!!



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L.A. Welding Services

24/7 Service



- Rig Welding
- Pipe Welding
- Well Heads & More.

Lee Alvarado
(432) 816-4688

P.O. Box 1784
Big Spring, TX 79721

229083

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B&B House Leveling & Foundation Repair

LOCALLY OWNED & FAMILY OPERATED FOR 67 Years
Foundation Repair is Our Specialty & Only Work Our Company Does!



If it's not a deep driven steel pier,
it's not a steel pier.
Capable of 90 ft. in depth!



The Big Country's only provider
for non-corrosive Steel Piers

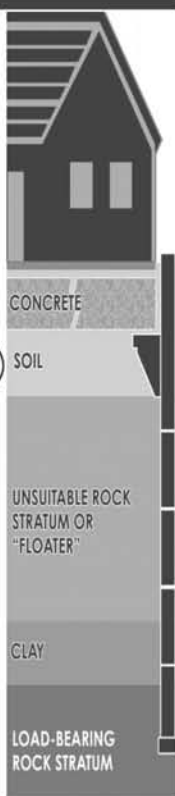
- Repairs on Solid Slab, Pier & Beam Foundations
- Void Filling & Mud Jacking
- Landscape Friendly

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Owner: Rick Burrow

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Insurance Claims Welcome • Free Inspections • Senior Citizens & Military Discounts



Help Wanted

WANTED JOURNEYMAN Electrician or Experienced Apprentice Electrician with a minimum of two years experience.
TESSCO
512 Industrial
Snyder Texas 79549
325-574-1100

WESTERN BANK is seeking An experienced **Executive Assistant**

Excellent customer service skills and a willingness to work extensively with the public is required. Must have experience handling legal and loan documents. Should be skilled in Word and Excel. Job duties will include loan processing, scheduling appointments, reviewing documents, and other secretarial duties. Legal Background preferred but not required. Salary is DOE. Western Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Please send resume to P.O. Box 2767, Big Spring, TX 79720 or email to hr@thebank.net.

Items for Sale

FOR SALE Mesquite Firewood. \$160.00 for half cord. 50 pound sacks-\$20.00. Call Terry Jenkins at 432-270-3122.

JENNY LYNN baby bed (no mattress), older baby changing table & used box spring and mattress (queen size). Call (432)213-1593 for more info.

SEASONED OAK Firewood. \$340.00 Full Cord & \$190.00 Half Cord. Delivered and Stacked. Call 325-648-2818 or 512-913-7406.

Miscellaneous

MOVING SALE: Big TV, bedroom suit and a whole lot more. 807 West Leatherwood Rd. Apt. B. Call 432-935-4322 to see.

On the Farm

TACK & SADDLE AUCTION

Tuesday Jan. 3rd
7:00pm
Over \$100,000 in beautiful hand made tack and saddles many custom ranch, roping, and silver saddles. Plus over 1,000 lots of horse equipment. Many one of a kind custom pieces.
American Legion
501 Veterans Airpark LN
Midland, TX
Auctioneer Mike Murphy
Lic#10151
10% Buyers Fee
Consignments Welcome
(512)943-6114

Pets

FREE/ ABANDONED Chihuahua's to good home- 1 mother dog and 2 male puppies. Call 432-264-8939.

Pets



This link www.petfinder.com connects people to pets up for adoption from the Big Spring Animal Control (432)264-2372.

Real Estate for Rent

Swimming Pool
Carports,
Most Utilities Paid,
Senior Citizen
Discounts
1 & 2 Bedrooms &
1 or 2 Baths
Unfurnished

KENTWOOD APARTMENTS

1904 East 25th Street
267-5444
263-5555

1011 W 4th. App. 3500 sq. Ft. building. Two overhead doors, large office, restroom, \$600 a month. \$600 deposit. 432-213-2319.

113 EAST 16th- Upstairs rear apartment, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. All furnished. \$330. Month, \$150. deposit. Water Paid. Call (417)276-8083, (432)263-2394.

1703 GREGG- \$1000 month. \$1000 deposit. 432-213-2319.

305 EAST 8th. Cute 1 Bdrm, 1 bath. \$400.00 Month, \$400.00 deposit. Electric included. Call 432-213-3757.

412 HILLSIDE 2 bdrm, 2 bath, hardwood floors, granite countertops, garage and carport. Very Nice. \$1250 month. \$1250 deposit. 432-213-2319.

BUY/ RENT 2 thru 6 bdrm Homes, 24Hr. maintenance, Central Heat/Air, Pool, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, Washer/dryer connections, also 1 & 2 bdrm Apts, available, (432)263-3461-Rosa.

NOW LEASING 1, 2 & 3 Bdrm Apts. Built in microwave, full-size Washer & Dryer included, private patio/balcony w/storage area, playground area, fitness center, and community center. Open Monday-Friday 9am-6pm. Call Knollwood Heights (432)264-1735.

OWNER FINANCE-144 Jonesboro. 3/1 Very large fenced yard, nice quite area, water well, out building and c/a. This one wont last long \$40,000 Call 325-277-4923.

Real Estate for Rent

PONDEROSA APARTMENT
Now Leasing
1 & 2 Bdrms
Pools & covered parking
No application fees
Senior Discounts
1425 East 6th Street
(432)263-6319

TANGLEWOOD GROVE APT.

Efficiency
1 & 2 Bedroom
AVAILABLE
PETS WELCOMED
3304 W. Hwy 80
(432)714-4840
*Varies Discounts
*HUD accepted

UNFURNISHED, 2 bdr/1bath, fenced backyard, near shopping and grocery store. Kentwood school district, \$500.00 month, \$300.00 deposit, call 432-264-0971.

Real Estate for Sale

1205 EAST 6th Street- 1/1 \$10,000. with \$1,000. Down. Approximately \$250 monthly for 6 years. Owner Financing Available. Call 210-828-3573.

3/2 PLUS Bonus Room. 2403 Carleton. Under Remodel. Owner will Finance. \$15,000.00 Down. WILL NOT RENT. Call (432)264-9907 or 517-0062.

A LOCAL INVESTOR
Total Cash Transaction
Quick Closing
Call Lisa
432-935-5409

BY OWNER 1202 Buena Vista. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, shop on 1 acre of land. Coahoma ISD. Call 432-466-1616, 413-7400.

BY OWNER: 1004 Baylor, 3 bdrm, 2 bath brick, attached garage, separate large 6 car garage. New AC & heating. No owner finance. (432)270-0851, (432)213-0741.

BY OWNER: 3/2, metal shop, 7.3 acres, city/country living, F.I.S.D.. Call (432)816-7806 for details.

NEW HOME- Near Completion 3216 Fenn. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath brick, 1601 sq. ft. No Owner Finance. Call (432)517-0528.

HERALD
16162

Didn't Get Your Paper?
Call 263-7335
Mon-Fri. 8am-7pm
Sun 8am-noon

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Do good in the world while guardian Neptune is still chaperoning Venus through the intellectual and altruistic realm of Aquarius. If you know how you'd like to make a difference in 2012, this is a stellar moment to head toward it. Aim yourself like you're about to shoot out of a cannon. The Aries moon will bring a bang-up start to the new year.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll defuse tension by telling someone that you have heard his or her complaint and you understand it. Acknowledging this person's reality might be all that's necessary to resolve a conflict.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A loved one may seem to take your attention for granted. You may notice that this person is willing to talk more than listen right now. Later, the pendulum will swing, and you'll be on the receiving end.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It takes courage to love. Sure, you've had relationships that didn't work out quite the way you thought they would. You should be proud that you were brave enough to enter into the relationship at all.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll solve problems and stretch the bounds of your creativity. You'll fit things together in such a surprising way that people won't be able to take their eyes off of your work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Enormous reserves of vital energy will be available to you when you commit to doing something just for you. Simple activities like walking, running and deep breathing reconnect you to your joy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are ready to be free of past frustrations and disappointments. It will be as though yesterday suddenly releases its hold on you and you can look hopefully into your future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Take a moment to imagine your day before it happens, and you'll prevent a snafu of some sort. There's something you can set right by simply having the forethought to prepare properly for the day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Sometimes you wonder how brave you really are. It's the kind of thing that can't be measured hypothetically. You'll jump at the chance to put your courage to the test.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have a message today, and it's one people will care about — or at least they should. Much will depend on your ability to get to the emotional heart of the matter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Avoid relying so heavily on technology now that you forget about the most magnificent computer on Earth inside your head. Common sense will lead you where

no robot can go.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be aware that your every move is painting a picture of you. How you are perceived will matter. Be careful not to talk too much about what you've already demonstrated. Your confidence will read loud and clear.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You may feel stuck in an unsatisfactory pattern and not quite ready to make a change. At least you're ready to start thinking about it. A symbolic ritual of transition will help you move forward.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 1). You will be presented with excellent financial opportunities, and you'll have a strong sense of how to make the most of them. A new friend comes into your life in March. Your professional life is a bit of a game this spring. Play with those who have just as much at stake, and the game becomes more interesting. Virgo and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 50, 32, 19, 5 and 11.

CELEBRITY PROFILES:

"The Catcher in the Rye" author J.D. Salinger was a New Year's baby who wrote the quintessential novel about youth that has resonated with every generation of young people since its release in 1951. Salinger's natal sun, moon and Venus in traditional Capricorn are juxtaposed to Mercury, the communication planet, in iconoclastic Sagittarius, and Mars and Uranus in futuristic Aquarius.

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

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Legals

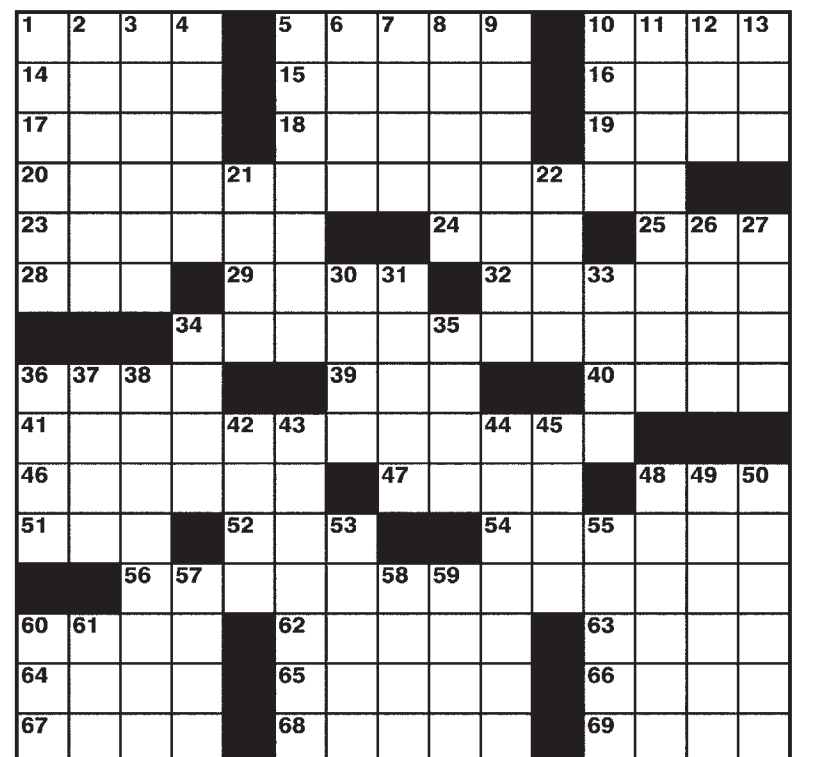
AMERICAN SELF STORAGE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, American Self Storage which is located at 3314 E. FM 700 Big Spring, TX 79720 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 11:00 o'clock A.M. on Saturday, January 21, 2012, at American Self Storage 3314 East F.M. 700 Big Spring, Texas. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property may be sold item by item or in batches, or by the space. All sales are subject to Texas State Sales Tax. Sale is on the contents of:
Tenant: Amy Castillo
Consisting of: tires, oven, fireplace, misc. H.H.G.
Tenant: Shelia Richardson
Consisting of: furniture, golf clubs, misc. H.H.G.
Tenant: Emilia Stolp
Consisting of: misc. H.H.G.
Tenant: David Yanez
Consisting of: misc. H.H. Goods
Tenant: Bobby Coleman
Consisting of: tools, sm. gun safe, H.H.G.
#7222 January 1 and 8, 2012

Newsday Crossword

A+ by Richard Silvestri
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Business brass | 1 Makes airtight |
| 5 Patrol areas | 2 Overseas |
| 10 Judo school | train-pass giant |
| 14 Reunion attendee, perhaps | 3 At one's post |
| 15 Assign | 4 Was really bad |
| 16 Say it is so | 5 Place for soaking |
| 17 Language of Pakistan | 6 Engineering specialty: Abbr. |
| 18 Aquarium fish | 7 Clarinet range |
| 19 Measure (out) | 8 Doughnut shape |
| 20 Cape Canaveral statistician? | 9 Rise |
| 23 Hershey brand | 10 Knight's equivalent |
| 24 Reagan mil. program | 11 Subsidiary meaning |
| 25 General on Chinese menus | 12 Write quickly |
| 28 Prone to scheming | 13 Be behind |
| 29 Plum pudding ingredient | 21 Mexican's residence |
| 32 Disentangles | 22 Turner of music |
| 34 Why Bugs Bunny's dieting? | 26 Religious group |
| 36 Jazz singer Laine | 27 Labor Dept. division |
| 39 Just like | 30 Israel's first UN delegate |
| 40 __ precedent | 31 Spanish squiggle |
| 41 What ghost chickens do? | 33 The edge of night |
| 46 Patisserie offering | 34 Author Jaffe |
| 47 Petro-Canada competitor | 35 A little night music |
| 48 PD alert | 36 "The Goddess of Pop" |
| 51 Citizen Kane studio | |
| 52 Enthusiasm | |
| 54 High-pitched | |
| 56 Well-washed goat-man? | |
| 60 Senate leadership post | |
| 62 Praise highly | |
| 63 Fails to be | |
| 37 Absence | |
| 38 Praise highly | |
| 42 Digital program recorder | |
| 43 Most dry | |
| 44 Multi-acre properties | |
| 45 Ethanol source | |
| 48 Humbled | |
| 49 Sudden fall | |
| 50 Painter who taught Pollock | |
| 53 DLVI doubled | |
| 55 Submit a paperless return | |
| 57 Start the business day | |
| 58 Laura Dern's actress/mom | |
| 59 Fashion mag | |
| 60 "What's her name?" | |
| 61 Lighthouse lover | |



THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

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DRIVERS

CDLTrainingNow.com is NOW Accepting Applications for Driver Trainees.

16-Day Company-Sponsored CDL Training Program.

NO Experience Required.
NO Credit Required.

GREAT PAY & BENEFITS!

CALL RIGHT NOW!
1-800-991-7531
Ad # 3120

www.CDLTrainingNow.com
(Not Valid in IL)

MISCELLANEOUS

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btwallace@cnhi.com

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www.cnhi-can.com

▶ **Menus**

Sands ISD

Monday: Happy New Year!
Tuesday: Breakfast: biscuit and gravy. Lunch: popcorn chicken, broccoli-cheese-rice, tossed salad, pears, cornbread and milk.
Wednesday: Breakfast: muffin, juice and milk. Lunch: sloppy joe, corn cob, pickle spear, baked chips, apple and milk.
Thursday: Breakfast: breakfast on a stick, juice and milk. Lunch: steak fingers, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, hot roll, frozen cherry bar and milk.
Friday: Breakfast: hot pockets, juice and milk. Lunch: chicken quesadilla, tossed salad, sea-

soned corn, cake and milk.

Forsan ISD

Monday: Student holiday.
Tuesday: Breakfast: scrambled eggs, toast, juice, milk. Alt. Cereal. Lunch: cheeseburger, lettuce, tomato, pickle, tater tots, baby carrot dippers, orange smiles, milk.
Wednesday: Breakfast: biscuit, sausage, juice, milk. Alt. Cereal. Lunch: golden fish strips, macaroni and cheese, garden salad, hushpuppies, fishies in the sea, milk.
Thursday: Breakfast: breakfast pocket, juice, milk. Alt. Cereal. Lunch: barbecue on a bun, quick baked potato, pickle spears,

pineapple cherry delight, milk.
Friday: Breakfast: cereal, toast, juice, milk. Lunch: chicken Alfredo, savory green beans, whole wheat roll, sliced peaches, milk.

Senior Center

Monday: Happy New Year!
Tuesday: beef tips, okra and tomatoes, rolls, tropical fruit, milk.
Wednesday: taco salad, fiesta corn, tortilla chips, guacamole, mandarin oranges, milk.
Thursday: smoked sausage, baked beans, sauerkraut, rolls, blushing pears, milk.
Friday: chicken spaghetti, mixed vegetables, salad, bread sticks, angel cake, milk.

▶ **Birth**

Braelyn Emma Peters, daughter of Sean and Valerie Peters of Big Spring, was born Nov. 7, 2011, at 10:34 p.m.
She was born at Midland Memorial Hospital. She weighed 8 pounds 8 ounces and measured 19 1/2 inches long.
Her maternal grandparents are Andrew and Sandra Martinez of Big Spring.
Paternal grandmother is Beth Peters.

60th Anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. Nile Cole

Nile and Barbara Cole celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Dec. 21, 2011.
Nile and Barbara were married in Big Spring Dec. 21, 1951. They both love being involved in their church and have for many years.

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Big Spring Travel Show Thursday, January 5 10:00 AM Dora Roberts Com. Center Comanche Trail Park 100 Whipkey Drive Big Spring, Texas	Abilene Travel Show Saturday, January 14 1:00 PM Southern Hills Church of Christ 3666 Buffalo Gap Road Abilene, Texas

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432-263-4142
501 Gregg St.
Big Spring, Tx.

Life Policies

The Big Spring Herald has instituted a 600 word limit for all wedding submissions.
All wedding articles will be edited to fit the above listed policy.

All submissions for Sunday's life section must be turned in by noon Wednesday to be published in Sunday's edition.
Submitting articles by the deadline does not guarantee publication in the Sunday Life Section.

The Herald attempts to publish articles in a timely manner but because of space limitations submissions may held until the following week.

For more information, call 263-7331

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