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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**MONDAY**

JANUARY 30, 2012



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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 92

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HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Kelley Howell sets up her chili station during Saturday morning's chili cook-off at the Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge. Several entries were submitted with the proceeds from the annual event going toward benefit of the West Texas Centers Children in Need fund.

## Debate team holds tradition one more time

Special to the Herald

For the ninth time in a row, the Big Spring High School Debate team brought home the University Interscholastic League District Cross-Examination Debate crown. Bringing home the gold was the team of Seth Trevino and Caleb Gonzales. "Winning district and going to the UIL CX State Meet is awesome, but I'm also glad that I could continue the tradition of district champions here at BSHS," Trevi-

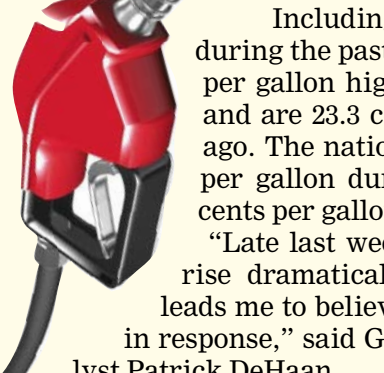
no said. Joining Trevino and Gonzales at the state meet will be the team of Forrest McJunkin and Shiloh Creswell. This will be Creswell's second year attending the meet. "Now that I know what is going to happen there, I hope to be ready and do good things at state," Creswell said. Placing fourth behind a very good Brownwood team was the Big Spring team of first-year debaters Aaron Rios and Kaegan. See **DEBATE**, Page 3

## Gasoline takes major hike

Special to the Herald

Average retail gasoline prices in Texas have risen 7.5 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.31/g Sunday.

This compares with the national average that has increased 4.5 cents per gallon in the last week to \$3.39/g, according to gasoline price website TexasGasPrices.com.



Including the change in gas prices in Texas during the past week, prices Sunday were 41.5 cents per gallon higher than the same day one year ago and are 23.3 cents per gallon higher than a month ago. The national average has increased 13.5 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 30.4 cents per gallon higher than this day one year ago. "Late last week we saw wholesale gasoline prices rise dramatically on some refinery issues, which leads me to believe that retail gasoline prices will rise in response," said GasBuddy.com Senior Petroleum Analyst Patrick DeHaan. "We continue to also watch how Iran responds to EU sanctions — there are some concerns that they may cut oil to the European region before the sanctions are to take effect to cause these countries hardship when they can't find new sources of oil quickly enough. That in itself could draw crude oil prices higher quickly at a moments notice," DeHaan said.

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## 3 Democrats vying for U.S. Senate have a tough road ahead of them

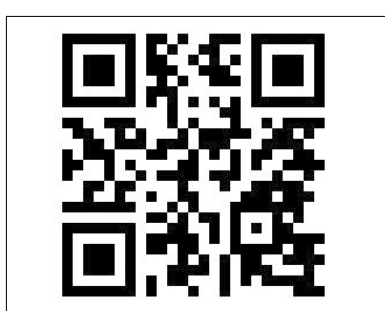
**CHRIS TOMLINSON**  
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Democrats have three top candidates to choose from in the primary race for the U.S. Senate, but their ultimate choice

will probably say more about the party's future in Texas than who goes to Washington next year. Every candidate says they are running to win the general election, but the odds are long. Former state Rep. Paul Sadler, party activist Sean Hubbard and trial lawyer Jason Gibson all insist they have a fighting chance to replace Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison this November. Those who believe President Barack Obama will win re-election speculate he could carry many down-ballot Democrats

on his coattails, even in the red state of Texas. But Democrats currently hold no statewide office in Texas and polls say that is unlikely to change this year. In the nine statewide races this election cycle, Democrats are only running in three: U.S. Senate, Railroad Commission Place One and chief judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals. Democrats know they have a long way to go to regaining relevance in statewide races, and Sadler said this race is the first step back to multi-

party politics in Texas. "The Texas Democratic Party was the majority party in this state for 160 years; we are the party that built all of our highways, built our educational institutions, the health care system; we are the party that built this state," Sadler said. "The independent voter has voted more Republican in recent years, but I don't think that's necessarily true every year, and I don't think that's true this year." Sadler won election five



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## Thomas Abbott Decell



Thomas Abbott Decell went peacefully home to his Lord and Savior Friday, Jan. 27, 2012, at 6:21 p.m. He was born Oct. 30, 1932, in Brookhaven, Miss., to Thomas and Mary Lee (Abbott) Decell.

Thomas proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force, during both the Korean and Vietnam War. He retired as a chief master sergeant after 27 years of service, making Austin, Texas, his new home. He returned to college, earning a master's degree in public administration from Texas State University. He continued his career as the director of public works for the city of Temple, Texas, and the city of Big Spring, Texas. He ultimately retired to Granbury, Texas, until 2008, when he moved to Cedar Park.

He shared his spiritual gifts as a Eucharistic minister, serving communion to the homebound and sick at The St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church in Granbury. He exemplified his wedding vows of love and honor, in sickness and health while he cared for his wife Katherine during her illness until her death in 2009.

He is preceded in death by his beloved wife of 51 years, Katherine Jeanette (April 14, 2009); his son, James (1969); his parents, Thomas (1937) and Mary Lee (1967); and his brother, Louis Lee (2010).

He is survived by his children, Mary K. Decell of Dollard Des Ormeaux, Quebec, Canada, Thomas J. Decell of Tampa, Fla., Catherine and Abderazzak Mabrou of Abilene, Patricia and Joe Ward of Cedar Park, Therese G. and Jeffery D. Dixon of Bellevue, Neb., and Caroline L. Clifton of Granbury. He also is survived by 10 grandchildren, Lauren, Mary, Jon Mychal, Leanne, Steven, Ryan, Daniel, Stephanie, Kyle and Katie; and two great-grandchildren, Evelyn Gabriella and Elia Anne.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012, at Beck Funeral Home of Cedar Park, 512-259-1610.

Thomas led his family with pride and love. He will be greatly missed by his children and grandchildren.

*Paid obituary*

## Omega Hernandez



Omega Hernandez, 80, of Big Spring died Friday, Jan. 27, 2012, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

She was born June 13, 1931, in Rotan to Epifania Alcalá Galán and Felix Galán. She attended schools in Roby and graduated in 1949. She attended Hardin Simmons University in Abilene and graduated from Draughton's Business College in Abilene in 1954.

After coming to Big Spring she graduated from Howard County Junior College as a licensed vocational nurse in 1979. She then worked in the Big Spring nursing homes. She later graduated as a medical office assistant, and later as a medical claims and billing specialists. She served 39 years as a voting judge for Precinct I and assisted with income tax preparation for the Hispanic community.

She was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church. She married Miguel "Mike" Hernandez on July 9, 1963, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death on March 20, 2005.

She is survived by one daughter, Cynthia Morelion of Big Spring; one son, Michael R. Hernandez of Big Spring; four grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by four brothers, Alonzo, Adam, Alvaro and Felix; and four sisters, Argentina, Aurora, Angelina and Pola.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersand-smith.com](http://www.myersand-smith.com)

Visit the HERALD online at [www.bigspringherald.com](http://www.bigspringherald.com)

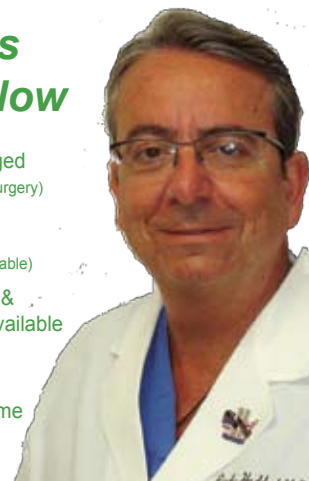
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## Obituaries

### Donald Herff McGonagill



Donald Herff McGonagill, 84, of Big Spring died Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012, in San Angelo. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2012, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Mark Lindsey and the Rev. Mike Couch of First Baptist Church officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Don was born Feb. 16, 1927, in Melvin, Texas, to Herff and Floy (Farnsworth) McGonagill.

Don graduated from San Angelo Senior High School in 1944 and attended San Angelo Junior College. He joined the U.S. Naval Reserve in February 1945 and was honorably discharged July 28, 1946. He graduated from Northern Illinois College of Optometry in 1950 as a doctor of optometry.

He practiced optometry in San Angelo and Dallas before moving to Big Spring in 1957. He closed his office and The House of Frames in July 2011 but continued to do eye examinations at FCI Big Spring until his passing.

He was a deacon at First Baptist Church. He was a member of Kiwanis from 1972 and a Life Member since 1980. During the years, he served as director, secretary, vice president and president of the Big Spring Kiwanis Club. He also served as team optometrist for Howard College athletics.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy McGonagill; sons, Dennis McGonagill and wife Oliva of Corpus Christi, and Barry McGonagill and wife Deana of McKinney; daughter, Karen Porter and husband Tommy of Moses Lake, Wash.; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; stepdaughter, Sandy Lawlis and husband Steve of Midland; and two step-grandsons.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife of 44 years, LaVerne; his sisters, Wilene Luckett and Alice Brancel; and a granddaughter.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Heart Association, 10900-B Stonelake Blvd., Suite 320, Austin, Texas 78759; or First Baptist Church, 705 W. FM 700, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences may be made at: [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com)

### Fred Ramos Terrazas Sr.

Fred Ramos Terrazas Sr., 85, died Thursday, Jan. 26, 2012, at a local hospice unit in Midland. He is survived by his children, Fred "Lucky" Terrazas Jr, Nicholas Terrazas, Albert Terrazas, Yolanda Martinez, Joann Perez, and Linda Flores; brothers, Felix Terrazas and Manuel Terrazas; sisters, Rosa Espinoza and Mary Vargas; 19 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren.

A Rosary will be held tonight at 7 p.m. at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Chapel. Funeral mass will take place Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2012, at 10 a.m. at San Miguel Archangel Catholic Church. He will come to rest at Serenity Memorial Gardens.

Funeral mass is under the direction of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home. Family messages and condolences may be emailed to: [pipkin@nts-online.net](mailto:pipkin@nts-online.net).

## Police blotter

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

- DERRICK DAMOND WILBERT, 31, of 404 Circle St., was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid - no insurance.
- DAVID ORTIZ GONZALES JR., 32, of 4617 Ash St., was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ROBERT GARDNER LYNCH JR., 51, of 300 Veterans Blvd., was arrested Sunday on charges of resisting arrest, search or transportation and public intoxication.

See **POLICE**, Page 3

## Lowell E. Holland



Lowell E. Holland went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Jan. 27, 2012.

Lowell was born March 6, 1928, to Ernest E. and Myrtle Holland in Loraine, Texas. On March 3, 1950, Lowell married Wanda June Patton in Big Spring, Texas. They were married for 61 years before June passed away March 7, 2011.

Lowell served in the United States Marine Corps, receiving the Purple Heart for his service in the Korean War, where he lost his eyesight in frontline combat. After recovering from his injuries, Lowell attended Bethany Nazarene College, Oklahoma University and Texas Tech University, receiving degrees in social science, educational counseling and guidance and rehabilitation.

Lowell worked for the state of Kansas for more than 30 years, serving as an administrator of the Kansas Rehabilitation Center for the Blind in Topeka, Kan. After his retirement, Lowell and June traveled extensively in their RV, and devoted time to work and witness trips in Casa Robles, Calif., and Kenya, Africa.

Lowell devoted his whole life to serving the Lord and others through his service in rehabilitating the blind, as well as serving in the Nazarene Church. He was a member of Fairlawn Church of the Nazarene while in Topeka, and most recently of Bethany First Church of the Nazarene in Bethany Oklahoma. He received both the Outstanding Alumni Award and the "B" Award from Southern Nazarene University.

In his spare time, he enjoyed wood working and creating lamps, furniture and other items the family now treasures. Lowell left behind a legacy of Christian faith to his daughter, Cyndi Lackey and husband Lyndel, from Oklahoma, City; his three grandchildren, Jonathan, Juliana and Jace; as well as many family members and friends who were touched by the positive, strong spirit he portrayed in his life.

Visitation will be from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 30, 2012, at Mercer-Adams Funeral Service. A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2012, in the chapel of Mercer-Adams with interment at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens, Oklahoma City, Okla.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Southern Nazarene University Scholarship fund.

To share a memory or condolence, visit [www.mercer-adams.com](http://www.mercer-adams.com)

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## DEBATE

Continued from Page 1

Baucum. Narrowly missing the semi-finals was the team of Kendra Cook and Belle Guillory. Coach Jennifer Adams had nothing but positive things to say about her teams.

"We are so excited about all of our teams. We have some great experience going to the state meet and we also have a group of great kids returning that should compete for Big Spring's 10th cross-examination district championship in a row."

The run of nine cross-examination district championships started in 2003 with the team of Logan Churchwell and Camilla Painter and has extended across two classifications (4A and 3A).

The state meet will be held May 21-22 in Austin.

## 3 die in accident involving SUV and bicycle

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Three people have died after an accident involving a bicycle and an SUV.

The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal reports that the crash happened about 1 a.m. Sunday near Texas Tech University, killing two people in the SUV and the bicyclist. Another person in the SUV was hospitalized.

Investigators believe the SUV was traveling south when it went over a center median curb and collided with a bicycle that may have been crossing the street.

The SUV hit a fire hydrant before rolling over.

## Man arrested in home invasion

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A 21-year-old man wanted in a home invasion and robbery that included an exchange of gunfire has been arrested by a fugitive task force in El Paso.

The U.S. Marshals Service said in a news release Sunday that Reese Pearis is in an El Paso Jail, awaiting extradition to San Antonio after being arrested without incident last week.

Pearis is accused of taking part in the home invasion with two unidenti-

fied suspects at a San Antonio apartment complex.

Shots were exchanged with the apartment's occupants.

The Lone Star Fugitive Task Force, which involves several law-enforcement agencies, developed information that Pearis had fled to El Paso and located him there.

## Harlingen assisted living resident accused, 3 hurt

HARLINGEN, Texas (AP) — Police say a man armed with metal bar or pipe has been accused of attacking three fellow residents at a South Texas assisted living facility.

The Cameron County Sheriff's Department says 28-year-old Brandon Schmitt of Harlingen was in custody Monday on three counts of burglary of a habitation. Bond has been set at \$150,000.

Jail records did not list an attorney for Schmitt, who was arrested Friday at Villa Residential Care in Harlingen. Details on why he lives at the facility weren't released.

KRGV-TV reports all three victims are women.

Police say the victims were transported to a hospital. Further details on their conditions were not immediately available.

## RACE

Continued from Page 1

times in State House District 8 to represent the East Texas counties of Harrison, Rusk and Panola between 1992 and 2002. He chaired the public education committee and was considered one of the Legislature's top experts on schools. Sadler lost a special election to fill an empty seat in the Texas Senate and has worked and lobbied in Austin ever since. But he says he's ready to serve again.

"I served on the Legislative Budget Board, was named one of the 10 best legislators four sessions in a row and no one else has that kind of experience," Sadler said. "This is the U.S. Senate, it is the highest legislative office in the country, and I think that kind of background and experience level is not only important, but it's crucial."

Jason Gibson has not held elected office, but he has won more than \$80 million in settlements and verdicts representing injured workers and consumers. He says he is proud to come from a pro-union, working-class family and for fighting corporations and insurance companies on behalf of average citizens, experiences that many Republicans openly ridicule.

"You've got Republicans out there that are really Democrats, they just don't know it yet," Gibson said. "You have a lot of people out there whose ears are closed and they aren't listening. I can get people to open their ears, and at least that's a start."

Pushing a more progressive, or liberal, message is Sean Hubbard, a young-looking 31-year-old who helped the Obama Dallas campaign and has worked in small business ever since. He's been shaking hands at party events and pushing for a starker contrast with Republican candidates.

"I'm neither a lawyer nor a lobbyist ... so I can relate better to your average working Texan," Hubbard said. "We've allowed the Republicans here in Texas to define us as gun-takers and baby-killers and what we have to do is get back to reminding folks what

being a progressive means, and what being a Democrat is. We're the party of Social Security and Medicare; we're the party that fights for civil rights."

On that point all of the candidates agree. The reason why the party doesn't do better in Texas is because the Democratic brand is weak and lacks a statewide leader who can rally support. That is perhaps the most important aspect of the Senate primary and the general election, even if recent polls give these candidates little hope of winning.

Hubbard says he is building a statewide campaign organization that will persist after the election on behalf of the party. Gibson, a tall, good-looking fitness buff, said he can spark a party resurgence. Sadler says he knows the history and has the experience.

"The Democratic Party is still here, and we have a great heritage in this state ... and I'm not going to run from that and I'm not going to apologize for it. I'm going to remind people of it," Sadler said. "I think some people will come home (to the party) because of that."

The primary election will give Democrats the chance to vote for who they think can succeed, not only in the election, but in revitalizing the party.

## POLICE

Continued from Page 2

• RODOLFO VELA, 24, of 2202 Williams Rd., was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1400 block of Tucson.

• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported: In the 1500 block of Lincoln Avenue. In the 2400 block of Main Street.

## Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 73 inmates at the time of this report.

• CHRISTOPHER HUGH SIMPSON, 43, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• CHRISTOPHER RYAN COLEGROVE, 19, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of disorderly conduct — fighting and municipal warrants for failure to appear (two counts), no seat belt — passenger and violation of a promise to appear.

• LARRY HERNANDEZ, 51, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for theft by check.

• CHANCE PATRICK NEWTON, 21, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of disorderly conduct — fighting.

• SHANE ALAN KNOWLTON, 25, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of disorderly conduct — fighting.

• ANTHONY ROBERT SANCHEZ JR., 25, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of no driver's license.

• ROBERT KYLE HESS, 23, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• TIFFANY NICOLE TORRES, 25, was booked into the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for no driver's license, displaying an expired registration, failure to maintain financial responsibility and violation of a promise to appear.

• YOEL DIAZ TORRES, 31, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of theft of property — more than \$20,000 and less than \$100,000.

• ISMAEL DIAZ, 25, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of theft of property — more than \$20,000 and less than \$100,000.

• VICTOR REYES GONZALES, 39, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of theft of property — more than \$20,000 and less than \$100,000.

• MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ, 26, was booked into the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of failure to identify and failure to appear.

• JIMMY DALE BAKER, 55, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• DERRICK DAMOND WILBERT, 31, was booked into the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• KENDRA LYNN HARRISON, 40, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on charges of possession of a controlled substance and attempting to bring a prohibited substance into a correctional facility.

• DAVID ORTIZ GOZALES, 32, was booked into the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• GERARDO MIGUEL ROJAS, 31, was arrested Sunday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated and driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• DAVID RAY ROJAS, 33, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.

• RODOLFO VELA, 24, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• ROBERT GARONER LYNCH JR., was booked into the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of public intoxication and resisting arrest, search or transportation.

## Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2700 block of Lynn. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of E. 24th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of Veterans Blvd. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Lexington. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported near the intersection of 16th Street and Gregg. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the VAMC. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Harvard. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of E. Third Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 900 block of E. Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.

• STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 400 block of Lancaster.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 400 block of N. Moss Lake Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of Lockhart. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Martin Luther King Blvd. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Owens. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Runnels. One person was transported to SMMC.

• AUTOMOBILE FIRE was reported in the 200 block of W. Marcy.

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### Sports Calendar

#### TODAY

**Women's basketball**  
Howard College at South Plains College, Levelland, 5:45 p.m.

**Men's basketball**  
Howard College at South Plains College, Levelland, 7:45 p.m.

#### TUESDAY

**Girl's basketball**  
Sweetwater at Big Spring, 6 p.m.  
Coahoma at Slaton, 6:30 p.m.  
Denver City at Forsan, 6:30 p.m.

**Boy's basketball**  
Sweetwater at Big Spring, 7:30 p.m.  
Coahoma at Slaton, 8 p.m.  
Denver City at Forsan, 8 p.m.

**Softball**  
Howard College at Ranger College (DH), 1 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY

**Softball**  
Howard College at Weatherford College (DH), 1 p.m.

#### THURSDAY

**Baseball**  
Frank Phillips College at Howard College (DH), noon.

**Women's basketball**  
New Mexico JC at Howard College, 5:45 p.m.

**Men's basketball**  
New Mexico JC at Howard College, 7:45 p.m.

To submit a calendar item, please call 263-7331, ext. 235, or e-mail reporter@bigspringherald.com



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Howard College third baseman Jazzmin Arrant slugs a home run during the Hawks' 8-0 season opening win against Cisco Junior College Saturday at Foundation Field.

## Pats arrive for Super Bowl

**BARRY WILNER**

AP Pro Football Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Even the usually dour Bill Belichick was joking around as the New England Patriots arrived in Indianapolis for Super Bowl week.

At his opening news conference Sunday night, Belichick was asked if he expected some Hoosier hospitality.

"I never had too much hospitality here," he said, noting that the Patriots aren't exactly popular in Colts country, "until I went for it on fourth-and-2."

His gamble on that play at the New England 28 with 2:08 to go failed and led to the Colts' winning field goal in a 2009 regular-season game.

"Fans greeted us lots more and were awfully friendly"

after that, he added.

All-Pro receiver Wes Welker wasn't familiar with the term when asked the same question.

"What is Hoosier hospitality? What does that consist of?" Welker asked to laughs before getting a full explanation from a local television reporter. "I think it will be a little strange practicing at the Colts' facility. I don't know how many people like that, but we'll be calm and polite and not try to rub it in, so I hope everyone is appreciative of it."

Belichick, dressed in a suit — no hoodie for the coach this time — also said All-Pro tight end Rob Gronkowski is "day to day" with a high left ankle sprain for next Sunday's NFL title game against the New York Giants. Gronkowski has

been wearing a walking boot since being injured in the AFC title game.

"You've got to prepare for every one of these situations that come up," quarterback Tom Brady said of the possibility Gronkowski will be limited or sidelined. "You always have to have some contingency plans."

Brady knows the Giants will bring lots of heat with their pass rush, but for now he was more comforted by not having to face a local rival who frequently has put Brady on his back.

"I see Dwight Freeney's picture up there (on the stadium)," Brady said. "When you come to Indy and don't have to play him, we are very fortunate for that."

The Patriots drew about 25,000 fans to Gillette Stadium earlier Sunday for what

Brady termed "a pep rally." Team owner Robert Kraft, who has had an emotional year, was thrilled by the turnout.

"We had 25,000 people come to our stadium today to send the team off," Kraft said. "At the stadium today it was so special, the time we are in now, to have 25,000 of our fans cheer our team is a very emotional experience."

This is Kraft's sixth Super Bowl as owner, and he vividly recalled the days when the team was lucky to draw 25,000 for a game.

"I sat with those crowds. I sat in the stands for 34 years and we had one home playoff game, in 1978, which we lost to Houston," Kraft said. "And last Sunday, we were privileged to host our 15th playoff game."

## Djokovic wins Aussie Open in longest final

**By JOHN PYE**

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — Novak Djokovic ripped off his shirt and let out a primal scream, flexing his torso the way a prize fighter would after a desperate, last-round knockout.

This was the final act in Djokovic's 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 7-5 victory over Rafael Nadal in the Australian Open final — a sweat-drenched, sneaker-squeaking 5 hour, 53-minute endurance contest that ended at 1:37 a.m. Monday morning in Melbourne.

Djokovic overcame a break in the fifth set to win his fifth Grand Slam tournament and third in a row. None, though, quite like this. This one involved tears, sweat and, yes, even a little blood. It was the longest Grand Slam singles final in the history of pro tennis and it came against Nadal, the player who built a career on his tenacity — on outlasting opponents in matches like these.

"It was obvious on the court for everybody who has watched the match that both of us, physically, we took the last drop of energy that we had from our bodies," Djokovic said. "We made history tonight and unfortunately there couldn't be two winners."

When the drama was finally over at Rod Laver Arena, the 24-year-old Djokovic joined Laver, Pete Sampras, Roger Federer and Nadal as the

only men who have won three consecutive majors since the Open Era began in 1968. Nadal was his vanquished opponent in all three.

Djokovic will go for the "Nole Slam" at Roland Garros in May.

As the players waited for the trophy presentation, Nadal leaned on the net, while Djokovic sat on his haunches. Eventually, a nearby official took pity and they were given chairs and bottles of water.

Nadal held his composure during the formalities, and even opened his speech with a lighthearted one-liner.

"Good morning, everybody," he said.

A few minutes earlier, after hugging Nadal at the net, Djokovic tore off his sweat-soaked black shirt and headed toward his players' box, pumping his arms repeatedly as he roared. He walked over to his girlfriend, his coach and the rest of his support team and banged on the advertising signs at the side of the court.

"I think it was just the matter of maybe luck in some moments and matter of wanting this more than maybe other player in the certain point," Djokovic said. "It's just incredible effort. You're in pain, you're suffer(ing). You're trying to activate your legs. You're going through so

See **OPEN**, Page 9

## Terry scores 34 points as Mavs outlast Spurs

**By STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — Jason Terry scored a season-high 34 points, including four in the last 42 seconds of overtime, as the Dallas Mavericks rebounded against San Antonio for a 101-100 victory Sunday night.

Terry put Dallas back in the lead to stay when he took a pass from Dirk Nowitzki for a 12-foot baseline jumper with 42 seconds left. After Shawn Marion stole the ball from Gary Neal, Terry had two free throws with 17 seconds left to make it 101-98.

Neal, who finish with 19 points, then drove for a layup and was fouled by Shawn Marion. But Neal missed a potential tying free throw that was rebounded by Ian Mahinmi, who then missed two free throw attempts.

After Neal got the rebound and the Spurs called timeout, Vince Carter knocked the ball

loose. Danny Green grabbed it and threw up a shot that ricocheted off the front of the rim as the game ended.

Green and the Spurs thought he had a game-winner at the end of regulation, but his 14-footer was disallowed when replay clearly showed that shot didn't get out of his hands before the buzzer sounded.

Dallas led by as many as 18 points in the third quarter before San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich decided to go with his reserves. The Spurs' last 51 points after that came from bench players, and they went ahead by as many as nine in the fourth quarter with the help of a flurry of 3-pointers.

The Mavericks got even at 91 when Terry hit a 15-footer with a half-second left.

That was set up after Rodrigue Beaubois, starting for injured Jason Kidd, drove for a layup with 30 seconds left and then had a blocked shot on a drive

by Neal.

San Antonio had one more shot, and Green swished a 14-footer off the inbound pass. But officials looked at the replay before ruling it didn't count and sending the game to overtime.

Carter had 21 points, his most with the Mavericks, while Beaubois had had 14. Nowitzki, playing for the first time after a four-game hiatus to strengthen his sore right knee and do conditioning work, had 10 points on 5-of-14 shooting with 13 rebounds.

Richard Jefferson, Tim Duncan and Green each had 12 points for the Spurs.

Dallas (13-8) took over the Southwest Division lead, ahead of Houston (12-8) and the Spurs (12-9).

The Mavericks had a 67-49 lead after Terry's basket with 3:48 left in the third quarter. That's when San Antonio's reserves took over.

There were seven con-

See **MAVS**, Page 9



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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Taurus moon is a hungry bull grazing the day away. Appetites will be strong and not just for food. You may also rumble inside in want of excitement, beauty, sensual indulgences and love. However you focus your hunger, go for quality instead of quantity. You'll find you can be fully satisfied by less. Your heart and mood will feel lighter, too.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You know when you're clicking with someone, and it's also quite apparent when you aren't. In the latter case, keep things brief so you can both move on to a better fit.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You know you love someone when you actually look forward to having him or her annoy you in some way. There's something for you in even the most irritating interactions with this person.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You'll work hard and demand the same of those close to you. Know when to let up. And if you can't keep yourself from giving your all, just be careful what you ask of others. If you're going to pull a muscle, make sure it's yours.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Minor problems may



HOLIDAY MATHIS

be exaggerated in your mind. You may think you need a new perspective on life, when you probably just need a glass of water, a nutritious meal and a nap.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You still don't have a place for some of the things in your life, and if you don't find one today, you are destined to let clutter ruin the perfectly centered and powerful state of mind you could achieve tonight.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's much to be shared now, so don't be shy. Open up and loosen up. As you do, you give others permission to follow suit. People will feel comfortable to be themselves around you.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's an excellent day to do a technology cleanse. Wherever possible, seek real stimulus over virtual input. Once you unplug a few devices, you'll see more opportunity for interaction.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Be careful not to be so enamored with past triumphs that you don't strive to stay strong. It was hard work that got you here, and that's what will keep you in good standing.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A brief time of happiness does not make a person happy all of the time. Seeking happiness is a full-time job. But every time you find a reason and a way to joy, it

makes it a little easier to find another and another.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Hold out hope that you will finally get word on some of your unanswered prayers. But also, know that in the end it's your answered prayers that will cause you the most trouble.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The day lies before you like a grand piano waiting to be played. Position yourself to push the keys that please you best and repeat in the rhythm that suits your mood.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You're clever and bright, so get out in the world and make people smile. Express yourself often. Your ideas are needed. You'll solve problems and ease tension wherever you go.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Jan. 30). You stand out in a crowd and are wonderfully entertaining. You'll be in demand and popular; you can cash in on this in March. April brings good news to your family. Loved ones will depend on you and this brings everyone closer. A special friend leads to adventure in June. July brings a windfall. Pisces and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 9, 4, 17 and 12.

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"Classic" Ann Landers®: How to deal with ex's lying wife

*Editor's Note: Hundreds of Ann Landers' loyal readers have requested that newspapers continue to publish her columns. These letters originally appeared in 1999.*

Timmy is doing in school.

She says he has reading problems and is in remedial classes, which is absolutely untrue. Timmy is a bright little boy and is doing very well.

She encourages him to keep secrets from us and tells him we are not nice people and that he doesn't have to do what we tell him.

Ann, Timmy loves his father and is trying to develop a good relationship with his stepmother. We do not want to make him unhappy, but I think all this deception is taking its toll.

I don't want to prevent Timmy from seeing his father, but my ex-husband refuses to do anything to help.

He lets his wife handle everything concerning Timmy, and as you can see, she does not have his best interests at heart.

I don't want to see my son hurt, but I don't know what to do to make things better. I am angry and upset and worried. Please advise. — *A Mom in Ohio*

**Dear Ohio Mom:** You must meet with your former husband and an experienced counselor, who will spell out for him exactly what is happening. The child is the

victim here, and your ex-husband can and should save him.

Unfortunately, your ex-husband's new wife appears to be vindictive and destructive.

If there is a chance that you can change the visitation and custody arrangements without going through messy court proceedings, you should consider it.

If your former hus-

band is willing to do this for the boy's sake, it might be an excellent solution to the problem.

Good luck, dear. I hope you succeed. If you do, everybody wins.

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

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By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ J 8  
♥ K 10 5  
♦ A Q 9 5  
♣ 10 7 4 3

**WEST**  
♠ A K 5 4  
♥ J 3  
♦ 8 6 3  
♣ A Q 8 5

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

**SOUTH**  
♠ 7  
♥ A 9 7 6 4 2  
♦ K J 7 2  
♣ K J

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♥ Dble Redble 3♠  
4♦ 4♣ 5♦

Opening lead — ?

This deal occurred in a national team championship in 1977. At the first table, the bidding went as shown, and South got to five diamonds. East's three-spade bid, in response to partner's takeout double, was strictly pre-emptive and was an attempt to cramp the opponents' bidding space. It indicated a long spade suit in an otherwise worthless hand.

West was Peter Nagy, playing

with Eric Kokish, both well-known Canadian stars. It did not seem to Nagy that he would defeat the contract by making the routine opening lead of the king of spades. In fact, had he done so, South would have made five diamonds easily, scoring four diamonds, six hearts and a spade ruff for 11 tricks.

Instead, Nagy made the imaginative and highly unorthodox opening lead of the four of spades! Kokish won dummy's eight with the nine, and it did not take him long to figure out why his partner had underled the A-K of spades. He shifted to a club, and Nagy cashed the Q-A of clubs to put the contract down one faster than declarer could say "Good play."

The hand is an excellent illustration of the principle that a player should not allow himself to fall into the habit of making so-called automatic or routine plays. In the vast majority of deals, the king (or ace) of spades would be the normal opening lead, and no one would give even a moment's thought to any other lead.

But here, as Nagy demonstrated so well, he not only thought of the four of spades as a possible opening lead, but had the courage of his convictions to lead it. His reward was a gain of 700 points.

Tomorrow: It doesn't hurt to try.

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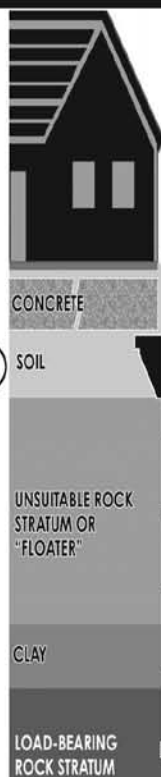
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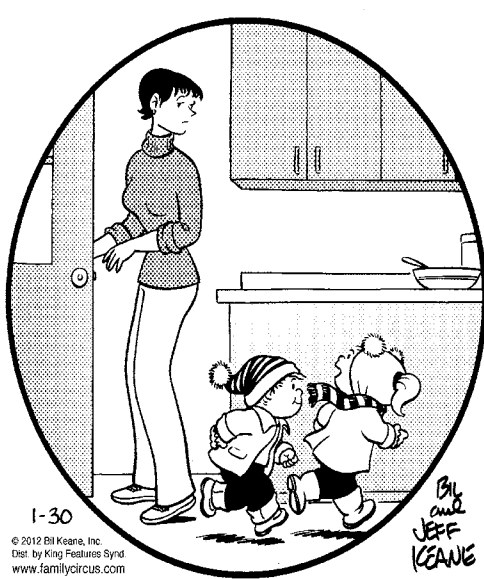
TV schedule grid with columns for station (e.g., KMID, UNI, KPEJ) and time slots (e.g., 5:30 PM, 6:00 PM).

DENNIS THE MENACE



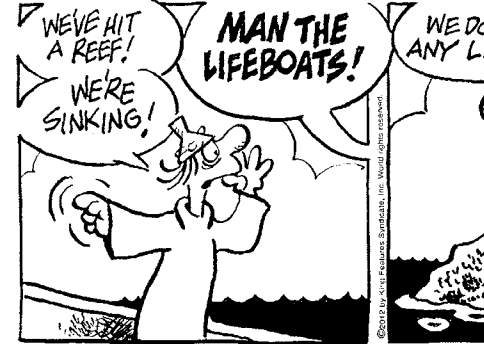
"I THOUGHT I'D GIVE MOM SOME HELP. SHE GAVE ME THE IDEA."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

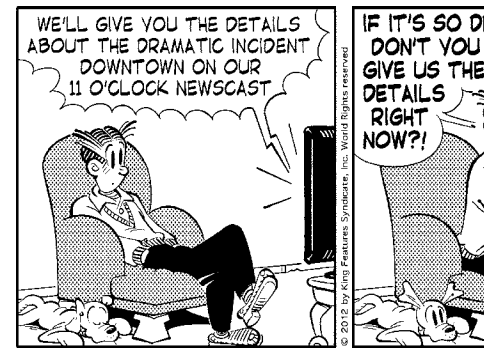


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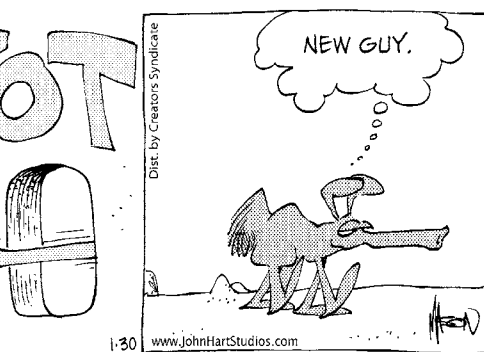
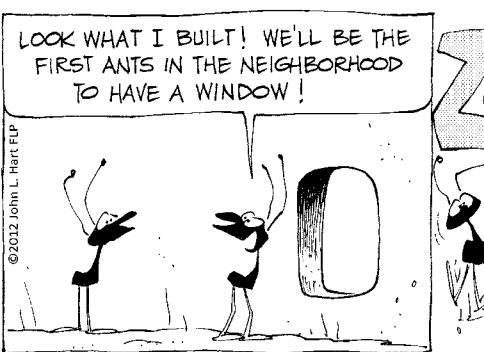
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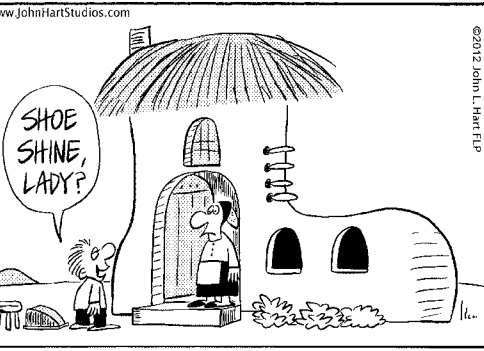
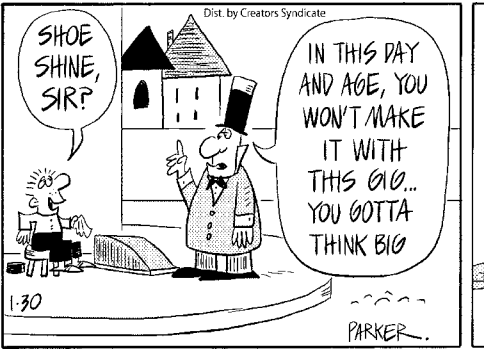
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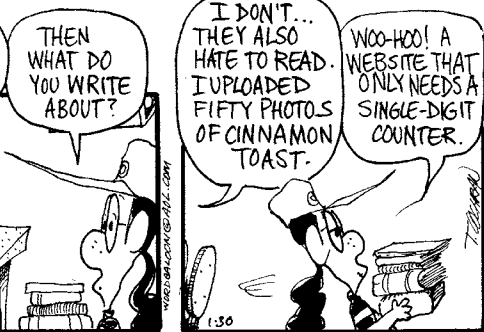
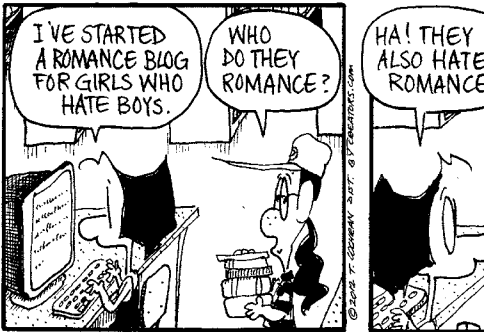
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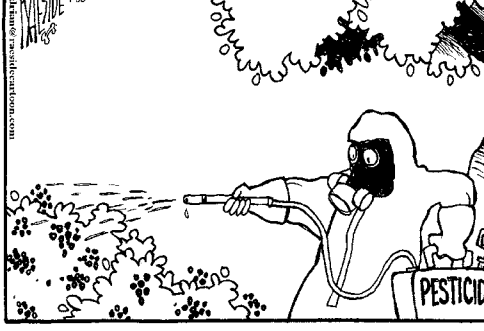
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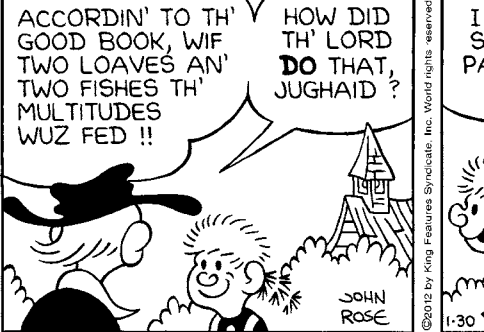
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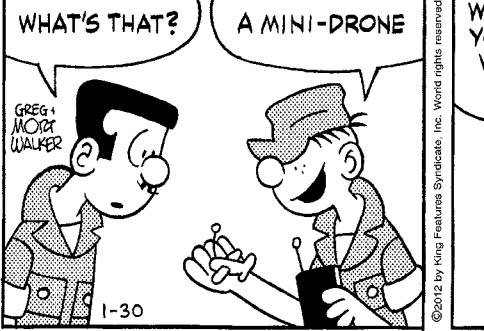
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This Date In History

Today is Monday, Jan. 30, the 30th day of 2012. There are 336 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 30, 1962, two members of "The Flying Wallendas" high-wire act were killed when their seven-person pyramid collapsed during a performance at the State Fair Coliseum in Detroit.

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS 1 Aroma 5 Slugger's stat. Abbr. 8 Hockey disks 13 Little rodents 14 Actor Penn 15 G sharp equivalent 16 Scored 100% on 17 Camper's shelter 18 "\_\_\_ kidding, deep?" 19 Right-rooted kindness 22 Crunchy-sandwich letters 23 Equally close 24 Put on a scale 26 Inflict, as havoc 29 Use a towel 32 Escalates 35 One-on-one teacher 37 More factual 38 Drinks slowly 40 Capital of France 42 Capital of Norway 43 Gingery cookies 45 Jeans fabric 47 With 68 Across, stately shade source 48 Tire type 50 Speak without notes 52 Bitter-\_\_\_ (die-hard) 54 Go by, as time 58 Woodcutting tool 60 Gift for a new fiancée

SUITABLE by Billie Truitt

63 Fairy-tale villain 65 Bath powder 66 Rip 67 Causing goose bumps 68 See 47 Across 69 Land unit 70 Creates 71 "I agree" 72 Red vegetable

7 Being pulled along 8 Profitable discovery 9 Flying saucer: Abbr. 10 Golf-course restaurant site 11 Revolutionary author Marx 12 Editor's "leave it in" 14 Accumulate 20 Sour-tasting 21 Was out in front 25 Greek sandwich 27 Just slightly 28 Seoul, South \_\_\_ 30 Took a tumble 31 Gift-tag word 32 Former Russian nation: Abbr.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE grid with words like GILTEDGED, NAIACP, ONIMPULSE, etc.

Crossword grid with numbers 1-72 indicating starting positions for clues.

Crossword grid with numbers 1-72 indicating starting positions for clues.



# Tiger falters at Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Tiger Woods talked all week about his improved ball control — then it let him down when he needed it most.

Woods resembled the Tiger of old over the first three rounds at the Abu Dhabi Championship, stringing together a trio of rounds below par before shooting an even 72 in Sunday's finale to finish in a tie for third place behind winner Robert Rock and U.S. Open champion Rory McIlroy.

The 117th-ranked Rock shot 70 for an overall 275 to beat McIlroy (69) by a shot. Woods was a further shot back with Thomas Bjorn (68) and Graeme McDowell (68). The 18-year-old Italian Matteo Manassero (69) and George Coetzee (70) of South Africa were another shot back.

"Today I just didn't give myself enough looks at it," Woods said. "Most of my putts were lag putts. I didn't drive the ball in as many fairways as I should have ... It was a day I was just a touch off the tee and consequently I couldn't get

the ball close enough." It marked the second straight time Woods hasn't won with at least a share of the lead after 54 holes. He failed to win the Chevron World Challenge in 2010 after going into the final round with a four-shot lead over McDowell.

The 14-time major winner appears to have recovered from a two-year victory drought in which he was sidelined by injuries and personal turmoil. But Woods must now face the fact that, at age 36, there are plenty of players — known and unknown — who can potentially beat him.

Woods, though, was looking for the silver lining out of his third-place finish. He insisted he has been steadily improving — hitting a high percentage of fairways and greens until Sunday and putting much better.

"There's plenty of big events to go, but I'm pleased at the progress I've made so far," said Woods, who won the Chevron World Challenge last month to end his drought. "I just need to keep building, keep getting

more consistent, and today was a day where I putted beautifully. Just didn't give myself enough looks."

Coming into Sunday, Woods was tied for the lead with the unheralded Rock and was the clear favorite to win. Rock had only one victory under his belt compared to 83 for Woods worldwide, but it was Rock — battling his nerves over playing alongside one of his golfing idols — who held it together down the stretch.

"It's pretty hard to believe that I managed to win today. Very surprised," the Englishman said. "I played good. So I guess I had a chance from early on, a couple of birdies made the day feel a little bit easier."

"But it's difficult playing with Tiger. You expect almost every shot to threaten to go in. It felt a lot of pressure and couldn't afford any lapses in concentration at all."

Woods started strong and it looked as though he might pull away from Rock, sinking a 40-footer on No. 2 for birdie and chipping to within a foot of the cup for a second birdie on the 3rd.

But Rock didn't blink, making birdie on two of the first three holes to keep pace.

Then Woods began to unravel.

He started spraying his drives into the thick rough and fairway bunkers, resulting in bogeys on Nos. 4 and 5. When Woods wasn't missing the fairways, he was scrambling to save par as he did on 11 after overshooting the green. As he approached his shot in deep rough just off the 11th green, he sighed heavily and let out a stream of obscenities under his breath.

Woods managed to save par by sinking a 12-footer and Rock just missed a birdie putt. Woods pumped his fist and appeared to be regaining momentum as he pulled within one shot of Rock on No. 13 when the Englishman had one of his three bogeys. But the 34-year-old Rock birdied two of the next three holes to regain control.

Rock wobbled on the 18th when his drive landed in a pile of rocks near the water — forcing him to take a drop — but he recovered beautifully.

## MAVS

Continued from Page 4

secutive points to cut the gap, that capped by Matt Bonner's 3-pointer that helped ignite a frenzy of 3-pointers.

San Antonio opened the fourth quarter with a 17-2 surge that included five 3-pointers. Bonner's trey from the right wing with 8:24 left in regulation put the Spurs up 75-71.

That was from about the same spot that Green had hit before a missed shot by Nowitzki.

San Antonio, which made seven 3s in the fourth quarter, led 84-75 with 5½ minutes left when Neal stole the ball from Terry and had a fast-break jumper. It was still 89-81 only 2 minutes later when Neal made a 3-pointer.

*Notes: Kidd has a right calf strain, and is expected to miss at least five games. ... San Antonio finished with 12 3s, which was four less than they made when the teams first played 3½ weeks ago when the Spurs won 93-72 at home. ... Manu Ginobili (broken left hand) missed his 16th consecutive game for the Spurs, while T.J. Ford (torn left hamstring) has missed 11 in a row. ... When former Mavericks owner Don Carter and his wife were showing on the video board during a timeout in the first quarter, both flashed their 2011 NBA championship rings. ... Brendan Haywood had a season-high five blocked shots for Dallas.*

## OPEN

Continued from Page 4

much suffering your toes are bleeding. Everything is just outrageous, but you're still enjoying that pain."

The match was full of long rallies and amazing gets. Djokovic finished with 57 winners, along with 69 unforced errors. Nadal had 44 winners against 71 unforced errors.

Laver was part of the 15,000-strong crowd when the players walked on at 7:30 p.m. Sunday to flip the coin and start the warmup. He was still there, along with most of the crowd, after 2 a.m. for the trophy presentations.

Djokovic called it the most special of his five Grand Slam wins.

"This one I think comes out on the top because just the fact that we played almost six hours is incredible, incredible," he said. "I think it's probably the longest finals in the history of all Grand Slams, and just to hear that fact is making me cry, really."

"I'm very proud just to be part of this history."

It went so long because Nadal refused to yield. He was trying to avoid becoming the first man to lose three consecutive Grand Slam finals — and seeing his losing streak in finals stretch to seven against Djokovic, who beat him for the Wimbledon and U.S. Open titles and took his No. 1 ranking last year.

After a grueling four-set loss to Djokovic at Flushing Meadows last year, Nadal said that,

indeed, he may have found a slight opening — a glimmer of hope for next time against the player who dominated the 2011 season and had dismantled him time and again over the year.

This one was, in fact, closer, though not necessarily because of any strategic changes, but rather, because Rafa summoned up the heart to take this one the distance.

Nadal stayed in the contest for almost every point, sprinting from one side of the court to the other, chasing down balls and making Djokovic work extra time for the victory. But in the end, the same man was holding the trophy.

Nadal thought his win in the 2008 final against Federer was the best match he's played, but gave Sunday's match a top place in his personal rankings nonetheless.

"This one was very special," he said. "But I really understand that was a really special match, and probably a match that's going to be in my mind not because I lost, no, because the way that we played."

Djokovic had his off moments during this two-week tournament Down Under. He appeared to struggle for breath in his quarterfinal win over No. 5 David Ferrer and again during his five-set semifinal win over No. 4 Andy Murray. He blamed it on allergies, and he managed to control it better against Nadal.

Yet, at times in the final, he looked as if he couldn't go on.

When Nadal fended off three break points at 4-4

in the fourth set to win the game, spectators jumped to their feet and chanted "Rafa, Rafa, Rafa, Rafa!" Djokovic had lost the momentum. Play was stopped moments later when rain started to fall and a suddenly animated Nadal threw his arms up in disbelief and walked slowly back to his chair. The stadium roof was then closed.

Djokovic picked up his game after a 10-minute break and his pockets of supporters waved their Serbian flags again and started their own competing chant of "Nole, Nole, Nole" — inserting Djokovic's nickname where "Ole" belongs in the tune and rhythm of the Spanish soccer chant.

It wasn't enough to get him through the tiebreaker in the fourth set, though, when Nadal won the last four points to finish it in 88 minutes. Nadal dropped to his knees on the baseline and pumped his arms at that point, celebrating as if he'd won the final. All he'd done was prolong it. This pair had never gone to five sets.

Just as he did during the first set, Djokovic took off a white shirt and replaced it with a black one.

It didn't seem to help immediately as he went down a break and a defeat loomed.

The match clock hit 5 hours with the score 2-2 in the fifth. Nadal won the next point and Djokovic started to stumble slightly, unsteady on his feet.

Nadal held that game without losing a point and then broke Djok-

ovic for a 4-2 lead.

The turning point came in the next game, when Nadal had an open court but knocked a backhand volley wide down the line. He challenged the call, but the ball was clearly out. Instead of being up 40-15 and one point from a 5-2 lead, the game score became 30-30.

Djokovic found energy again and got a break point with a backhand that forced an error from Nadal. He pounced on a Nadal second serve to convert the break as the match clock ticked to 5:15, confirming it as the longest match in the history of the Australian Open. Nadal had that record, at 5:14, in his five-set semifinal win over fellow Spaniard Fernando Verdasco in 2009.

This match had already long surpassed Mats Wilander's win over Ivan Lendl at the 1988 U.S. Open, in 4:54, as the longest final in the terms of duration.

Djokovic started to look better physically and Nadal started to make some unforced errors, giving the Serbian some extra seconds between points to get his heavy breathing under control. After getting back on serve at 4-4, Djokovic kissed the crucifix around his neck twice.

With Nadal serving, the pair engaged in a 31-shot rally that Nadal finally won when Djokovic committed a back-

hand error. The Serb fell flat on his back on the court, fully stretched out, arms over his head, while Nadal doubled over on his side of the court, hands perched on his knees.

It appeared Djokovic was ready to throw in the towel, but he said he never thought about staying down.

"At that point I was just thinking of getting some air and trying to recover for next point," he said. "Thousand thoughts going through the mind. Trying to separate the right from wrong. Trying to prioritize the next point. I'm playing against one

of the best players ever — the player that is so mentally strong. He was going for everything or nothing."

When Djokovic got the break to go up 5-4, the Serbian fans jumped up with their flags and screamed while the rest of the crowd sat in stony silence.

After kissing the crucifix around his neck repeatedly in the later games, Djokovic openly prayed out loud and looked upward as he got within points of sealing his victory.

"I was trying find every possible help and energy that I possibly can," he said.

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# CONNECTIONS

Supplement To The Big Spring Herald  
Monday, January 30, 2012



**Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce**

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# We're empowered with Pride

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**E** – Educate yourself on all that is going-on in your community — it is your community and you need to get to know what it is all about and how it runs.

A very special thank you goes to outgoing president Terri Johansen, for the tremendous support and knowledge she has bestowed on me. The Focus on the Positive was her idea and the response from the community was awesome. Thanks to everyone who responded. Thank you to my outgoing board member Jimmy Crosby. I am sure we will see each other down the road on other community events and projects.

To the Board of Directors who have agreed to continue to serve and support the Chamber, I thank you. Our goal every year is to acquire more members, to help retain members and to promote Big Spring — Howard County — as a whole! Thank you to all the Chamber members who contributed their time and money toward all of our

projects in 2011 for example, Quarterly Community Series Breakfast and Lunch, Health Fair, Business Before and After Hours, job fair, golf tournament, Ag Appreciation Day, Leadership Big Spring, ribbon cuttings, open houses, Member to Member Mailer, email blasts and more. Because of you we did it.

I cannot say enough about my staff, Nancy Davenport and Vicki Stewart. Where would I be without them by my side? You are two very special ladies to me — not only co-workers but true friends. I thank you! I thank God for giving me some great people to work with, not only my members but the entire staff of the 215 W. Third building — Terry, Teresa, Matty, Sandy, Devoun and my Debbie sister. We make a great team.

To my entire family for always being there for me, God has blessed me well. To my husband Larry, thank you. I look forward to working with incoming president Jan Foresyth and the entire Board of Directors in 2012. To our incoming directors, Jerry

Duenes, Atmos Energy; the Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris, St. Mary's Episcopal Church; Manny Negron, Walmart; and Tessa Reid, Back in Motion Chiropractic; thank you for agreeing to come on board, it will be a learning, but fun experience.

The Chamber always focuses on its members. We try to come up with more incentives for our new members and more ways of helping to promote your business. We continue to ask that you take action and get involved with your Chamber of Commerce as well as other organizations in your community.

As I always say — It's not what your Chamber can do for you; it is what can my business and the Chamber do together to better my business and our community. Now to start my 21<sup>st</sup> year — Let's All Get on Board with Hometown Pride and make things happen!

Debbye ValVerde, IOM Executive Director  
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## Chamber focus: Quality of life

Having been in operation since 1919, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's mission statement is "to advance the civic, cultural and social betterment and interest of the people of Howard County."

Information about the city, various civic groups and businesses can be obtained at the office, located at 215 W. Third.

The Chamber currently boasts a membership of 362 local businesses and groups, and with the help of its board of directors and many different committees, strives to improve the quality of life

and business climate in the Big Spring area.

The staff consists of Debbye ValVerde, executive director, Nancy Davenport, executive assistant and receptionist Vicki Stewart.

The Chamber of Commerce sponsors many different activities and events throughout the year, including the Business Before Hours and Business After Hours programs, designed to bring local merchants together for socializing and networking at different locations.

Annually, the Chamber hosts a banquet designed

to recognize its members for their hard work throughout the year and presentation of the Man and Woman of the Year awards.

The Chamber also sponsors such events as the annual Pops In The Park, Health Fair and the West Texas Ag Luncheon.

Leadership Big Spring, Junior Leadership and Senior Leadership are also sponsored and hosted through the Chamber of Commerce.

For information on any of the Chamber's activities or services, call 263-7641.



HERALD file photo  
Sandy Stewart, United Way executive director, and Gloria McDonald, chamber ex-officio, visited during the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce open house. During the open house community members were able to come in and meet the representatives of each of the agencies located in the buildings, including Big Spring Economic Development, Visitors and Conventions Bureau, Dora Roberts Community Center and Leading EDG.



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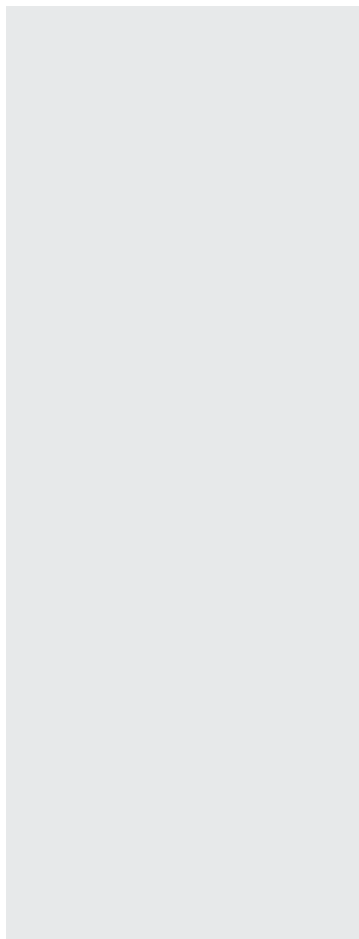
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**Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce!**

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# My promise in 2012

On behalf of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, I want to wish each of you a very Happy New Year and hope 2012 brings health and happiness to you and your families.

The chamber staff and I look forward to serving the community and maintaining the "All Aboard with Home Town Pride" theme created by this year's banquet committee.

I am humbled in knowing those who came before us have made such significant contributions in building an incredible community we call home.

I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to raise my family here and I want us all to focus on our continued growth as we create a community in which our future generations plant their own roots.

My goal for 2012 is to continue the positive direction and spirit in our community and to work with great vigor to take the chamber message to the outlying areas of our county.

Several years ago, the Chamber

name was changed to Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and it is our responsibility to take our message to the "Area" communities.

We need to continue the path of improvements our citizens paved this past year. Our friends in Coahoma have stepped to the plate and are making great strides to improve their community and make it a better place to live and work.



The Chamber will support this community effort to a brighter future.

My promise is simple and straight forward. I will give our community every ounce of positive energy I can muster.

I will work with our citizens in an open and

engaging manner because at the end of the day, we all aspire to a stronger, progressive, more vibrant and united community.

This is my promise to you in 2012.

Warmest regards,  
Jan Foresyth  
President  
Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce

## CHAMBER PRESIDENTS

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1919 John E. Mundell    | 1968 Dr. M.W. Talbort Jr. |
| 1923 W.W. Rox           | 1969 M.R. Koger           |
| 1924 M.H. Morrison      | 1970 Paul Meek            |
| 1925 R.L. Price         | 1971 Paul Meek            |
| 1926 B. Reagan          | 1972 R.H. Weaver          |
| 1927 S.R. Weaver        | 1973 George McAlister     |
| 1928 Shine Philips      | 1974 Ralph McLaughlin     |
| 1929 Edwin A. Kelly     | 1975 Ken Perry            |
| 1930 Dr. E.O. Ellington | 1976 J.D. Nelson          |
| 1931 Joe Edwards        | 1977 Roger D. Brown       |
| 1932 T.W. Ashley        | 1978 Ray Don Williams     |
| 1933 Wendell Bedichek   | 1979 Johnnie Lou Avery    |
| 1934 D.W. Webber        | 1980 Jimmy Taylor         |
| 1935 George White       | 1981 Winston Wrinkle      |
| 1936 G.C. Dunham        | 1982 Sidney T. Clark      |
| 1937 R.F. Schermerhorn  | 1983 Bill E. Read         |
| 1938 Dr. P.W. Malone    | 1984 Paul L. Shaffer      |
| 1939 Calvin Boykin      | 1985 Granville Hahn       |
| 1940 Ted O. Grobel      | 1986 John Arrick          |
| 1941 R.W. Whipkey       | 1987 Troy Fraser          |
| 1942 B.L. LeFever       | 1988 Clyde McMahon Jr.    |
| 1943 Willard Sullivan   | 1989 Hooper Sanders       |
| 1944 A.S. Darby         | 1990 Don Reynolds         |
| 1945 R.T. Piner         | 1991 Steve Fraser         |
| 1946 Joe Pickle         | 1992 James Welch          |
| 1947 K.H. McGibbon      | 1993 Ben Bancroft         |
| 1948 Elmo Wasson        | 1994 Jeff Morris          |
| 1949 Douglas Orme       | 1995 Jim Weaver           |
| 1950 Adolf Swartz       | 1996 Frances Wheat        |
| 1951 Dr. M.H. Bennett   | 1997 Curt Millins         |
| 1952 Truman Jones       | 1998 Ray Kennedy          |
| 1953 Dr. R.B.G. Cowper  | 1999 Chuck Williams       |
| 1954 Champ Rainwater    | 2000 Jim Purcell          |
| 1955 Marvin Miller      | 2001 John Freeman         |
| 1956 Ira L. Thurman     | 2002 Cheryl Sparks        |
| 1957 Jimmie Beale       | 2003 Terry McDaniel       |
| 1958 Dr. J.E. Hogan     | 2004 John Weeks           |
| 1959 Clyde McMahon Sr.  | 2005 Joe Concienne        |
| 1960 Cliff Fisher       | 2006 Virginia Belew       |
| 1961 Horace Garrett     | 2007 Lee George           |
| 1962 Roy B. Reeder      | 2008 Lynda Elrod          |
| 1963 Dr. Carl Marcum    | 2009 Steve Herren         |
| 1964 John L. Taylor     | 2010 David Justice        |
| 1965 Ike Robb           | 2011 Terri Johansen       |
| 1966 John A. Currie     | 2012 Jan Foresyth         |
| 1967 Dr. Lee Rogers     |                           |



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# So what is the Chamber, anyway?

## What is a chamber of commerce?

Your chamber of commerce is a voluntary organization of citizens who are investing their time and money in a community development program — working together to improve the economic, civic, and cultural well-being of the area.

There are two primary functions of a chamber of commerce: 1) it acts as a spokesman for the business and professional community and translates into action the group thinking of its members; and 2) it renders specific services of a type that can be most effectively rendered by a community organization both to its members and to the area as a whole.

## How does it function?

Your chamber functions through the working committees of the organization. Money, planning, inspiration, and guidance are useless unless the members work vigorously on the committee of their

choice.

The goal of the program of work is always to create more dollars for more people and to improve the economic welfare of the community.

Every member has a voice in determining the policies and projects and every member is needed to work on active committees to get the job done.

## Who is the chamber?

**Members** — Businesses, organizations, professionals and individuals working together for the betterment of the community.

**Board of directors** — Elected by the membership, these individuals are charged with determining the policies which direct the affairs of the chamber. Directors do not implement policy; they employ an administrator to carry out board decisions.

**Officers** — The executive committee ordinarily includes the president of the board, president elect, one or more vice presidents, treasurer and past president. The

officers provide direction and leadership to the board.

**Staff** — The executive vice president is hired by the board to be responsible for the daily management of the chamber and for employing and managing the staff.

**Committees** — The organization's objectives are best achieved by small groups of the membership engaged in common effort.

## What are the benefits?

— Refers businesses to visitors and callers.

— Helps promote a business of the chamber.

— Maintains awareness of key issues at the local, state and federal level by coordinating with the Texas Chamber and U.S. Chamber.

— Provides businesses with education through seminars and increases awareness of the importance of buying locally.

— Hosts quarterly luncheons, Ag Expo and Health Fair to provide programs, business information and

networking.

— Offers support and awareness of all areas of art.

— Works to increase growth of tourism in Howard County and supports local attractions and events.

— Advertises businesses in the membership directory.

— Works with city, county, Big Spring EDC and other entities for the betterment of the community.

— Publishes a monthly newsletter to keep the community aware of happenings.

— Offers promotion and links to business through a website.

## Membership investment

Membership investment for small businesses is \$250 per year with an additional \$30 processing fee the first year.

## For more information

The chamber office is located at 215 W. Third. Or, contact Debbye ValVerde at 432-263-7641 or write P.O. Box 1319, Big Spring 79721.

# Chamber boasts structure

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce works on a democratic system, with board of directors members selected for three-year terms.

President-elect is selected by the current and past president. That recommendation is presented to the board of directors, who then vote on approval of the incoming president.

Officers for each division of the chamber are selected by the president and incoming president, who make their recommendations to the executive committee. An affirmative vote brings the recommendations to the board of directors, who then also vote their approval of the officers.

Each year, new members are selected through a nominating process that allows the general membership population to submit nominations. These nominations are then voted on by all chamber mem-



HERALD file photo  
The Chamber boasts a highly structured, energetic board of officers to work hard for businesses such as State Farm, above.

bers and new members are selected.

Annually, five new board members are placed on the chamber board and five members retire.

Once a vice president has been selected, it is that officer's responsibility to form

a committee comprised of chamber of commerce members.

The chamber of commerce leadership structure is divided into officers, vice presidents, retiring directors, ex-officio directors and directors who are grouped into three-

year increments.

Vice presidents are responsible for such programs as business development, governmental affairs, membership development, cultural development and community development.

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD**



Jan Foresyth President  
Terri Johansen Past President  
Mark Morgan Treasurer



Jim Clements President Elect  
Terri Blackshear Business Development  
Sherri Key Membership Development



Debbie Wegman Cultural/Tourism Development  
Sherri Hodnett Community Development

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



Terri Blackshear 2010-2012  
Sherri Key 2010-2012  
Kathy Sheppard 2010-2012  
Sherry Hodnett 2011-2013

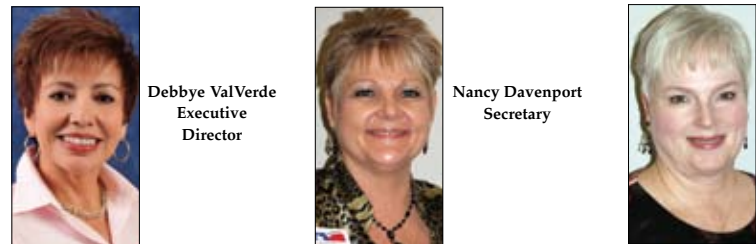


Mike Knowles 2011-2013  
Gail Lampier 2011-2013  
Bruce Schooler 2011-2013



Tessa Reid 2012-2014  
Manny Negron 2012-2014  
Barbara Kirk-Norris 2012-2014  
Jerry Duenes 2012-2014

**CHAMBER STAFF**



Debbye Valverde Executive Director  
Nancy Davenport Secretary  
Vicki Stewart Front Desk

**HOW TO CONTACT US**

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 1391  
Big Spring, TX 79721  
Phone: 432-263-7641  
Fax: 432-264-9111  
chamber@bigspringchamber.com

**EX-OFFICIO**



Dr. Cheri Sparks  
Amy Jacobs  
Mark Barr



Gloria McDonald  
Dan Marsh



Randy Johnson  
Steven Saldivar



Sylvia Miramontes  
Terry Wegman



**MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR**



HERALD file photos  
Businessman and former mayor Russ McEwen and longtime Big Spring Refinery employee Verna Davis were named Man and Woman of the Year for 2010. Presenting them their awards were previous Man and Woman of the Year winners Drew Mouton, right, and Jeanne Knocke, left.

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