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SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 6, 2012



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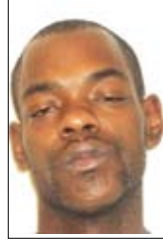
20 indicted by grand jury

Felon charged with aggravated assault, possession of firearm

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A Big Spring man was indicted Thursday by a Howard County grand jury on numerous charges stemming from the Aug. 22 chase and attempted shooting of local man that led to the invasion of a family's home in the 500 block of State Street.

Brian Christopher Lewis, 27, currently being held at the Howard County Detention Center, was indicted on charges of deadly conduct (two counts, both enhanced first-degree felonies), unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon (two counts, both enhanced first-degree felonies) and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon (first-degree felony, enhanced).



Lewis

Lewis was apprehended Dec. 14 at a residence in the 500 block of Young Street during a drug sweep carried out through Big Spring by local, state and federal law enforcement officers and arrested on a charge of delivery of a controlled substance.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring

Police Department, the altercation began when Lewis and another individual began chasing 32-year-old Lonnie Ray Gray Jr. — who was also indicted by the grand jury Thursday on unrelated charges — because of a domestic dispute.

"Officers responded to a residence in the 500 block of State in reference to a report of shots fired," Everett said. "On arrival, officers found that a family had been inside their home when Gray banged on the door and then forced his way inside, begging the family to hide him from Lewis and the other male subject."

"As Gray ran through the house, Lewis and the second male subject came through the door chasing him. Lewis was armed with a handgun and fired two shots at Gray. Lewis and the second subject then fled the scene in a vehicle. No one was hit by the gunfire and Gray fled the scene down an alleyway."

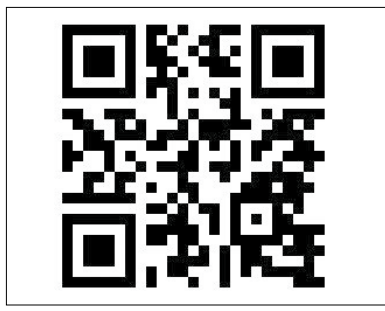
Everett said the second male subject, who was not armed,

Pecos gives preliminary OK to plastic bag ban

PECOS, Texas (AP) — A West Texas city council has given preliminary approval to a ban on single-use plastic bags in the town.

The Pecos City Council will take a final vote on the ban Thursday. Pecos Mayor Venetta Seals says the city will require the use of biodegradable and multi-use bags that will cost owners up to 40 cents each. The single-use bags cost about 2 cents each.

Businesses will be given six months to exhaust their present stock of single-use bags and switch to new bags or paper bags. Violators could be fined \$500. The mayor says Pecos got the idea from Fort Stockton, another city in the Trans-Pecos region of West Texas that banned single-use plastic bags Sept. 1.



has not been charged in connection with the incident.

If convicted, Lewis could face between 5 to 99 years to life in prison on each charge, as well as a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

Also true-billed by Thursday's grand jury were:

- Megan Rynell Armstrong, 21, of 821 W. Eighth St., possession of a controlled substance (third-degree felony).

- Byron Anthony Miller, 28, of 528 Signal Hill Ct. in Fort Worth, possession of a controlled substance (state jail felony).

- Alfredo Campos, 54, of 1209 Mesa, possession of a controlled substance (state jail felony).

- Lonnie Ray Gray Jr., 32, currently being held at the Howard County Detention Center, burglary of a building (state jail felony) and delivery

of a controlled substance (enhanced first-degree felony).

- Ronald Stanley Hasleby, 61, currently being held at the Howard County Detention Center, forgery (state jail felony).

- Tedric Lamar McCalister, 35, currently being held at the Howard County Detention Center, delivery of a

See **INDICTED**, Page 3A

PUBLIC INVITED TO RECEPTION



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Nancy Raney, Heritage Museum director, works on a display which is part of the Vintage Valentine exhibit. The museum will host an all-day, come and go reception on Valentine's Day.

Heritage Museum to share a vintage Valentine's Day

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

Heritage Museum will be showing its romantic side on Valentine's Day.

In recognition of Valentine's Day and the new Vintage Valentine exhibit, which will run through March 3, the museum will host an all-day reception.

"We are showing our romantic side at the Heritage Museum with this vintage exhibit," Museum Director Nancy Raney said.

Part of the exhibit will show how wedding dresses have changed over the past hundred years. On display will be a wedding dress from 1894 and a dress from 1994.

There will also be vintage valentines on display which belonged to MGM movie star Jean Porter. Porter lived in Big Spring for several years before moving to California. According to Museum Curator Tammy Schreengost, she considers Big Spring as her hometown and wanted to donate them (valentine's cards) to the museum.

"This is a great opportunity to see how valentine's have changed," Schreengost said. "Now they are marketed more accordingly to the trend at the time and back then they were more personalized and ... well, different."

Other items in the exhibit include Bebe McCasland's lace collection. Several of the items in the collection are from the 1880s, including a buffet runner.

"It is really neat to see all these little pieces of vintage lace," Schreengost said.

To find out more about the exhibit call the museum at 267-8255. Heritage Museum is located at 510 Scurry St.

Admission to the museum is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students and seniors. Operating hours are Tuesday through Friday 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

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

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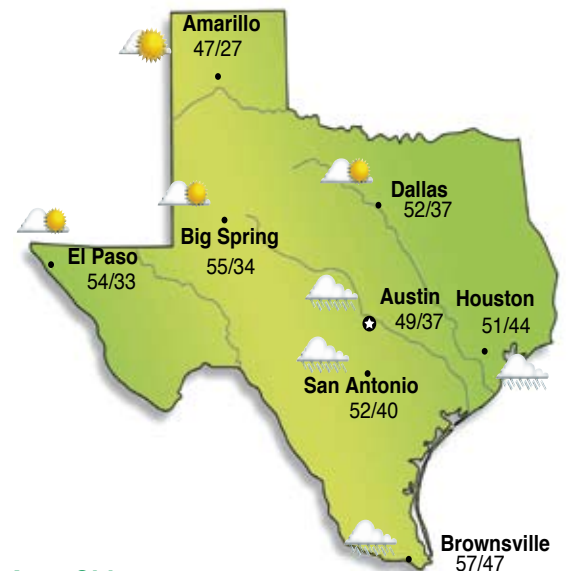
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sun 2/5	Mon 2/6	Tue 2/7	Wed 2/8	Thu 2/9
55/34 Partly cloudy. High near 55F. Winds NNE at 10 to 20 mph.	57/36 Times of sun and clouds. High in the upper 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	52/35 Mix of sun and clouds. High in the low 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	59/41 More clouds than sun. High in the upper 50s and lows in the low 40s.	63/37 Times of sun and clouds. High in the low 60s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise: 7:37 AM Sunset: 6:23 PM	Sunrise: 7:37 AM Sunset: 6:24 PM	Sunrise: 7:36 AM Sunset: 6:25 PM	Sunrise: 7:35 AM Sunset: 6:26 PM	Sunrise: 7:34 AM Sunset: 6:27 PM



Texas At A Glance



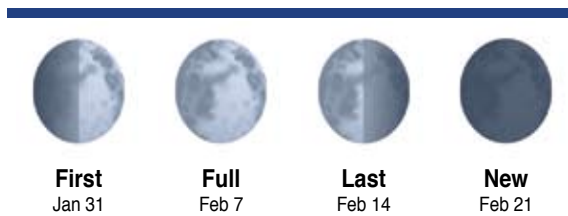
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	53	34	pt sunny	Kingsville	53	45	rain
Amarillo	47	27	mst sunny	Livingston	54	39	rain
Austin	49	37	rain	Longview	54	37	pt sunny
Beaumont	56	45	rain	Lubbock	51	26	mst sunny
Brownsville	57	47	rain	Lufkin	56	39	rain
Brownwood	55	36	pt sunny	Midland	55	36	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	52	46	rain	Raymondville	54	46	rain
Corsicana	51	36	pt sunny	Rosenberg	51	43	rain
Dallas	52	37	pt sunny	San Antonio	52	40	rain
Del Rio	55	41	rain	San Marcos	49	37	rain
El Paso	54	33	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	52	36	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	52	35	pt sunny	Sweetwater	53	33	pt sunny
Gainesville	50	32	pt sunny	Tyler	52	35	pt sunny
Greenville	51	33	pt sunny	Weatherford	51	33	pt sunny
Houston	51	44	rain	Wichita Falls	52	32	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	67	40	rain	Minneapolis	38	28	pt sunny
Boston	35	26	mst sunny	New York	43	32	pt sunny
Chicago	40	30	pt sunny	Phoenix	70	45	mst sunny
Dallas	52	37	pt sunny	San Francisco	66	45	mst sunny
Denver	38	19	pt sunny	Seattle	55	35	pt sunny
Houston	51	44	rain	St. Louis	49	34	rain
Los Angeles	75	46	sunny	Washington, DC	49	28	mixed
Miami	81	68	t-storm				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Sun 2/5	Mon 2/6	Tue 2/7	Wed 2/8	Thu 2/9
5	5	5	4	5
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

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Support Groups

- MONDAY**
- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, noon-1 p.m., 615 Settles.
 - PEP — Parent Education Program for CPS participating and non-participating parnts, single parent, grandparents, adoptive or fostering parents. Every first and fourth Monday of the month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Northside Community Center. Classes are free. For information, call 263-2673.
 - Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting, 8-9 p.m., fourth floor, VA Medical Center.
 - Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
- TUESDAY**
- Big Spring Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. This is a group for those with Parkinson's Disease, Young Onset Parkinson's, caregivers, and those interested in learning more about the illness. There is time for socializing and information. For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jody at 432-699-6640 or midlandparkinsons@yahoo.com or Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-2732.
 - Special Parents for Special Children support group meets the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Elbow Elementary. Contact Kerri Rosenbaum at 432-816-3320 or kerriroosenbaum9488@msn.com
 - Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 - Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY**
- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.
 - Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- THURSDAY**
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.
 - Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

Police blotter

- The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Thursday and 7 a.m. Saturday:
- JOSEPH JUSTIN LAROCQUE, 33, of 1406 Runnels St., was arrested Thursday on warrants for theft of less than \$50/shoplifting, failure to obtain Texas driver's license within 90 days and failure to appear (three counts).
 - PAULA ISABEL LEOS, 30, of 1803 S. Owens St., was arrested Thursday on a charge of theft more than \$50 and less than \$500/shoplifting.
 - MERRITA CHAMBERS, 59, of 511 NW Eighth St., was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
 - BRADY BALDWIN, 31, of 1414 44th St. in Lubbock, was arrested Friday on a warrant for failure to maintain financial responsibility.
 - DEANGELO DEPAUL GRAY, 27, of 2002 S. Johnson St., was arrested Friday on a warrant for driving while license invalid.
 - ANASTASIA LEONICIA LOZANO, 25, of 700 S. Lancaster St., was arrested Friday on charges of resisting arrest, search or transport, assault/aggravated by public servant, harassment of public servant, safety belt child under 17, no drivers license when unlicensed, failure to appear (two counts), assault by contact and driving while license invalid.
 - BRANDON LEE SHOOK, 19, of 914 Baylor, was arrested Friday on a charge of possession of a dangerous drug.
 - IRMA GARZA LOZANO, 59, of 700 S. Lancaster St., was arrested Friday on a warrant for backing so as to interfere or without safety.
 - GINA RENE NORRED, 54, of 105 W. Eighth St. A, was arrested Friday on charges of unauthorized use of motor vehicle and failure to display drivers license.
 - SETH SLAYTON, 18, of 506 N. Second St. in Coahoma, was arrested Friday on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.
 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson Road.
 - THEFT was reported: In the 200 block of W FM 700. In the 200 block of W FM 700. In the 200 block of W FM 700.
 - BURGLARY OF HABITATION was reported in the 100 block of Merrick Road.

Jury Notice

The jury called for Monday, Feb. 6, 2012, at 9 a.m. in 118th District Court has been cancelled. Anyone receiving a jury summons for this date and time can disregard it. For more information, call 432-264-2225.

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State briefs

Nebraska court rejects Texan's death case appeal

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Supreme Court has rejected appeals filed by a Texas man on Nebraska's death row for killing two Grand Island men in 2007.

Marco Torres Jr., formerly of Pasadena, Texas, was convicted of first-degree murder and other charges for killing Timothy Donohue and Edward Hall.

Torres claimed some evidence shouldn't have been allowed at his trial and that the sentencing process shouldn't have resulted in a death sentence.

The court says in a split decision Friday that jury instructions about some evidence amounted to harmless errors. The court acknowledged the sentencing panel should not have considered mental suffering by one the victims, but that didn't affect the determination that aggravating circumstances existed for the death penalty.

Attorney General Jon Bruning says the decision is "one more step toward justice."

CBP officers make drug seizures

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in New Mexico have seized more than 1,120 pounds of marijuana at the Santa Teresa and Columbus ports of entry.

Officers at the Columbus port seized 605 pounds of marijuana Thursday morning after a pickup truck entered from Mexico.

They selected the truck for a secondary examination during which an X-ray scan revealed anomalies in the vehicle's appearance. Officers removed 370 marijuana-filled bricks from the floor, quarter panels, back wall and bed of the truck.

CBP officers at the Santa Teresa port seized 519 pounds of marijuana from a semi-truck towing a flatbed trailer out of Mexico.

They drilled into the fifth-wheel area of the trailer and found nine metal boxes from a secret compartment. The boxes contained 519 pounds of tightly

compressed marijuana.

Dallas woman sentenced to 27 months for tax fraud

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP) — A Dallas woman who owned a Shreveport tax preparing service and pleaded guilty to filing fraudulent claims for federal income tax refunds has been sentenced to 27 months in prison.

Letitia C. Scott was sentenced Friday. Federal prosecutors say she must also serve three years of supervised release and was ordered to pay \$69,590 in restitution.

In September 2010, a grand jury handed up a 29-count indictment against Scott, who owned and operated "Tetia's Timely Tax."

The 41-year-old woman was accused of preparing and electronically filing 29 fraudulent returns for the 2006 tax year that resulted in a loss to the IRS of \$91,000. Prosecutors said each return included false wages, resulting in a false or inflated earned income tax credit.

Police clear City Hall of Occupy Austin campers

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Austin police began clearing the City Hall grounds downtown of Occupy Austin demonstrators who have camped on the square for nearly four months.

The Austin American-Statement reports police, about 10 p.m. Friday, began enforcing a new city policy that bans overnighters from the public building. Witnesses say the operation was peaceful as Wall Street protesters began gathering up their personal effects and leaving.

City officials had begun to express concern over the rising police overtime costs and maintaining cleanliness as 30 to 40 people slept on the square for weeks. Police officials said constant police patrols were costing \$110,000 to \$115,000 every two weeks. City officials estimated the movement had cost city taxpayers about \$800,000.

Standoff with stabbing suspect ends with him dead

HOUSTON (AP) — Police say a man sought as a suspect in the stabbing of a 4-year-old girl led Houston police on a 30-minute chase before holding them at bay for two hours, then apparently shooting himself fatally.

Houston police spokeswoman Jodi Silva says Decorory Montriel Pruitt held offices at bay at his southwest Houston home before shooting himself just after noon Friday.

Silva says Pruitt and the girl's mother apparently argued at the woman's home Friday morning. The girl was witnessed the argument and was cut on the throat. Silva says the child, Simone Taylor, was taken to Children's Memorial Hospital with a severe throat wound but was expected to survive.

Silva says police called about the incident intercepted and pursued Pruitt to his home, where the standoff ended with him dead.

FBI probing death in border reserve

HAVANA, Texas (AP) — The FBI is investigating the death of one man and wounding of another after Border Patrol agents found them in a federal wildlife refuge along the Rio Grande.

FBI spokesman Erik Vasys says one man was declared dead at the scene Thursday evening and another was transported to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Three others are in custody. The Lower Rio Grande National Wildlife Refuge is in the area.

Agents are investigating a reported altercation on the Mexican side.

Tamaulipas state Interior Secretary Morelos Canseco Gomez said that there was a confrontation between law enforcement and suspects in the area with no one wounded or detained.

INDICTED

Continued from Page 1A

controlled substance (state jail felony) and delivery of a controlled substance (enhanced first-degree felony).

- Ivan Montanez, 35, of 3326 Jerome St. in Dallas, driving while intoxicated with a child passenger (state jail felony).

- Johnny Valverde Rangel Jr., 45, currently being held at the Howard County Detention Center, delivery of a controlled substance (enhanced second-degree felony).

- Deandre Tyrelle Walton, 31, currently being held at the Howard County Detention Center, delivery of a controlled substance (state jail felony).

- Albert Trevino Carrillo, 34, of 1500 Mesa, aggravated sexual assault of a child (first-degree felony) and indecency with a child (three counts, all sec-

ond-degree felonies).

- Marcus Lamon Cole, 25, of 1102 S. Lancaster, delivery of marijuana (state jail felony).

- Roxanna Cox, 36, of 1504 Tucson, delivery of a controlled substance (state jail felony).

- David Arnulfo Garza, 48, of 1900 Martin Luther King Blvd. Apt. 201, driving while intoxicated (enhanced second-degree felony).

- Jon Ray Hernandez, 40, of 707 N. San Antonio, burglary of a habitation with intent to commit assault (second-degree felony), violation of a protective order (state jail felony) and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon (second-degree felony).

- Chelsea Lee Holmes (aka Chelsea Lee Richardson), 29, of 1400 Park, evading arrest (enhanced third-degree felony).

- Holley Denise Jennings, 26, of 1405 Tucson, theft less than \$1,500 with two or more convictions (three

counts, all state jail felonies), possession of a controlled substance (two counts, both state jail felonies).

- Elgin Niles Moreno, 23, of 1602 Indian Hills, possession of a controlled substance (third-degree felony).

- Arthur Moreno Ortega, 48, of 8980 Elroy Rd. in De Valle, evading arrest (state jail felony).

- Raul Ortiz Jr., 34, of 119 Collins Rd., delivery of a controlled substance (first-degree felony).

- Bryan Heath Pear-

son, 25, of 203 Gang Dr. in Sand Spring, possession of marijuana (state jail felony).

- Albert Ramirez, 19, of 4004 Connally, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (state jail felony).

- Raul Jesus Ramirez, 25, of 1111 Cherry Lane in Midland, evading arrest (state jail felony).

- Fidencio Rodriguez, 66, of 5010 Wasson Rd., driving while intoxicated (third-degree felony).

- Roland Keith Thacker, 44, of 25 Head Acres

in Woodville, driving while intoxicated (enhanced second-degree felony).

Editor's Note: Grand jury indictments are handed down Thursday and made available to the press Friday afternoon by the district clerk.

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

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The Grey (R)
Sun. 1:30 4:30 7:10

Man on a Ledge (PG-13)
Sun. 1:20 4:20 6:45

Underworld: Awakening (R) 3D
Sun. 1:10 4:10 6:30

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On behalf of the Gomez Family we would like to thank all those who were with us during our loss of **Jesus "Chuy" Gomez**. Thank you for the flowers, food and words of comfort. A special thanks to: Myers and Smith Funeral Home, Hospice, Hernandez Family, David & Connie Zant, Rex & Patsy Zant, Martin Nichols, Ackerly community, and the Ackerly Baptist Church.

231195

From the family of Jimmy Bailey
Thank you to all of our friends and family for all the food, flowers, love and kindness that has been shown to our family in this time of loss. Your kindness has lifted us up in this hard time and you will forever be in our hearts.

Diana Bailey, James Bailey, Bryan and Tasha Bailey, Kim and Jesse Rios and the grandchildren.

231196

A Note Of Thanks From Daniel Paul Breyman's Mother and Family

Daniel was born on August 26, 1977
He passed through to heaven on January 21, 2012

Where did we find the Love of God?
*In your cards, letters, flowers, and plants on your Facebook page
In your phone calls and text messages
In your food, drinks, and paper goods you brought
In your hugs and tears
In your presence at the viewing
In your signature on the Memory Book page
In your willingness to take care of Daniel's body
In your visits to our home
When you washed our dirty dishes
In your attendance at the funeral
In your prayers and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ*

We are forever grateful for your neighborly love and kindness.
I will never walk in fear again because my greatest fear of laying a child to rest before myself has been conquered by the Love of God.

Cynthia Barnes Breyman (January 26, 2012)

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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

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

Prime season for tax scam to take place

With the arrival of February, many Texas taxpayers have started receiving W2 forms from their employers and thinking about the upcoming tax season. All taxpayers should be on the lookout for tax scams that seek to steal their money and identities.

Tax season can be a particularly active time for identity thieves, because tax returns contain all the information they need — Social Security numbers, names, addresses, employer information, investment account numbers — to open fraudulent accounts in a taxpayer's name or steal a taxpayer's income tax refund. Fortunately, taxpayers can avoid becoming identity theft victims by staying informed and avoiding common tax schemes.

Avoid phishing scams. Phishing refers to fraudulent emails and websites that identity thieves create in an effort to trick victims into providing sensitive personally identifying information. The scam usually begins with a misleading email that appears to come from a financial institution, tax preparation firm or government agency. The email typically claims that highly sensitive personal information such as a Social Security number or account number is needed to ensure that a taxpayer's income tax return can be processed.

Taxpayers should be particularly wary of emails that claim to come from the IRS. The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information — so taxpayers should never respond to emails that appear to be seeking information for the IRS.

Taxpayers should also delete scam emails that claim to come from the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS), a legitimate tax payment system that allows individuals and businesses to pay federal taxes electronically. According to the IRS, the scam email claims that tax payments made by the taxpayer through EFTPS have been rejected. The email directs the taxpayer to a bogus website that downloads malicious software onto the taxpayer's computer. The malware is designed to retrieve personal and financial information already stored on the taxpayer's computer — and scammers use the information to commit identity theft.

Safeguard computers, mobile devices. Securing computers and mobile phones is crucial to thwarting identity thieves. Taxpayers should password-protect their computer and update their computer's anti-virus software.

Scammers may also send bogus text messages that claim to be from the IRS. By sending unsolicited tax-related text messages, identity thieves are attempting to exploit taxpayers who believe that only a legitimate contact — like an IRS agent — would have their mobile phone number. Unfortunately, this false sense of security makes taxpayers more likely to click on a link in the bogus text message.

Taxpayers should remember that the IRS does not use email or text messages to contact taxpayers about issues related to their accounts. Official taxpayer contact usually includes a letter on IRS stationery in an IRS envelope. IRS letters also contain a contact phone number.

Research tax preparation services. Before providing personal and financial information to a tax return preparation professional, taxpayers should take four important steps: 1) ask for the tax preparer's credentials; 2) check with the Better Business Bureau for complaints against the tax preparer; 3) verify whether the tax preparer is a certified public accountant; and 4) confirm that the business is open year-round in the event taxpayers need to ask follow-up questions about their income tax returns.

As with any contractual agreement, Texans should carefully read the fine print before entering into a financial transaction involving their income taxes. Taxpayers who understand the nature of these agreements are more likely to make informed decisions that just might save some of their hard-earned money.

See **SCAM**, Page 5A

For example, Texans should always avoid tax preparation services that "guarantee" the larg-

Maxed-out excesses with us

To be sure, excesses — like the poor — are with us always. Though the scent may grow faint at times among life's many aromas, it has always been there, dating back to the Garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve chowed down on fruit from the wrong tree.

My first documented excess came at birth on September 7, 1937, when I "weighed in" at 10 pounds. (Yes, I've been overweight most of my adult life, but at least I didn't start out like Dan Blocker of TV's "Bonanza" fame. They say he weighed 14 pounds, and his birth dates were December 10-11-12, 1928.)

For the longest time, we've given passes to excesses, even when their maintenance meant we had to rely on the Peter-robbing/Paul-paying routine to stay afloat. Then, dad-blame-it, Peter went and declared bankruptcy....

Sadly, the year of my birth marked the beginning of another excess — one that clearly supports the "camel nose under the tent" theory. The University of Texas Board of Regents, eager to hire the best coach around to turn their football program right-side up, decided that Dana X. Bible was the man for the job.

Bible, a Tennessean, was a sports star at little Carson-Newman College, where his father was employed. He graduated there 100 years ago this spring, then set out on a brilliant coaching career. He won big-time at Texas A&M, where



DR.
DON
NEWBURY

he introduced the "12th Man" tradition during 11 years there. Then came a half-dozen Big Six titles during eight seasons at Nebraska. The UT Regents lured him away, offering a 20-year contract at \$15,000 per. (This annual figure translates to \$234,000 in today's dollars.)

Stunned taxpayers across the state had conniption fits. Such a figure for coaching was unheard of, exceeding salaries of the Governor of Texas AND the UT President. And it was five times greater than the average professional salary, for crying out loud....

Sensing unrest, the Legislature intervened. That body "upped" the prexy's pay, and no doubt figured out a way to sweeten the governor's deal as well.

Bible opened with a couple of rocky seasons, winning a total of three games, before achieving legendary status during the next eight seasons.

Then, as per contract, the World War I fighter pilot settled in as full-time athletic director for the next decade.

Alas, Bible was born a half-century too soon. Mack Brown, a fellow Tennessean born a couple of hours down the road from Bible, just got a far better deal to extend his football coaching empire at UT. His contract is for \$5.2 million per year, with annual raises of \$100,000, guaranteed through the year 2020.

UT fans probably call this "20-20 foresight"; others call it ridiculous. The regents have taken absurdity so far up the pole it needs blinking red lights to warn pilots. They've taken "higher education" to a new dimension.

There are a number of other institutions whose leaders have

lost sight of what higher education is about, as well as the role of athletics. Were it 1937, there'd be torch light parades of protest. With so much to feel poorly about in 2012, most discontent is reduced to "tsk-tsk-tsk." Few seem to realize that the goose laying golden eggs died several years ago and is buried on bankrupted Peter's place.

Some professional athletes march to mighty drumbeats, too. Prince Fielder is the latest example.

He has opted to sign a nine-year deal to play baseball for the Detroit Tigers.

His total pay? \$214 million.

Other major "players" on the spiraling staircase of excesses are spouses of same—particularly when they come to a parting of ways.

Vanessa Bryant, former wife of NBA basketball star Kobe Bryant, did right well in the couple's divorce settlement.

Included in her \$75 million "take" were three mansions valued at almost \$20 million....

Someone said she was singing an old-time Southern Gospel tune upon leaving the courtroom.

"Course, I think she was paraphrasing," the observer noted.

Her lyrics were sung thusly: "I've got three mansions just over the hilltop."

Finally, a closing serious note.

Our culture, from the White House to our house, must submit to a "pay as you go" philosophy, perhaps closely akin to 1937.

It may take some conniptions to gain rightful attention. Absurd excesses must end.

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Metroplex. Send email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Website: www.speakerdoc.com.

YOUR VIEWS

water lines also would help with economic development.

We need the Big Spring EDC and the city to work together to tackle the issues the city is facing. Without a good infrastructure, water utilities, etc, it is hard for the EDC to bring in new businesses, growth and jobs. Without the EDC's help the city cannot hold tax and water rates down to make it economical for businesses to relocate here. It is a catch 22 situation. United we stand for the betterment of Big Spring or we all lose.

A. CHARLES SMITH JR.
BIG SPRING

Gas prices

To the Editor:

Well once again Big Spring leads the area in gas prices. As of the writing of this letter gasoline was going for between \$3.03 to \$3.18 in Lubbock. Gas at the truck stop in Stanton is \$3.55. Midland is paying from \$3.28 to \$3.49 per gallon. Abilene is \$3.29 to \$3.39. San Angelo is \$3.17 to \$3.49. Big Springers are paying from \$3.34 at Walmart to \$3.59 out on the interstate. Can you spell price gouging? Some may say that it isn't so, but it sure looks that way to many of us out here.

PAUL TOWNSEND
BIG SPRING

Special person

TO THE EDITOR:

Some people we meet are easily forgotten, but I know it will take a long time before I forget Lisa.

When I felt sad at my lot in life I would see Lisa and I would feel ashamed because I was blessed with a strong body and I can walk anywhere I want to go.

Lisa's body wasn't strong and the only way she could go anywhere was her wheelchair, but that didn't keep Lisa from enjoying life.

I've seen her raise her face to the sky and smile as if to thank God for the gift of sunshine shining down on her.

Lisa loved life, but life wasn't always kind to her. But, she almost always had a smile on her sweet face. Lisa inspired me to find the beauty and blessings in each day.

God took Lisa, Elisa Ann Hart

Jannamon, home Jan. 10, 2012.

And this world won't be as beautiful without her because she truly was a special person.

Lana Anguiano
Big Spring

Pit bull problem

TO THE EDITOR:

He's dead!

That's what I thought when a pit bull got out of his backyard and attacked my dog and I while we were walking not too far from our house. As I tried to pick my dog up, the pit pulled me down to the asphalt and I sustained injuries to my knees and left hand. The dog got hold of my pug and would not let go. If it were not for my son, my dog would be dead and no telling how much worse I would have been.

After calling 911, the only one who showed up 30 minutes later was animal control. Nothing could be done because he did not witness the incident. Animal control said he would give the owners a warning. Since that time a pit bull has appeared twice and animal control has been called and not shown up once, but let my poodle or my neighbors chihuahua go to a person's house and animal control and the police show up in a flash.

If a warning is all these people who own these vicious dogs get, how safe is our community? I even got a trap in my yard to help out animal control because they keep telling me they are short handed. I just want everyone to be careful when walking or walking their dogs because this could happen to anyone.

You hear in the news or read it in the paper all the time. On an end-note I would like to encourage everyone to vote so we can get people who are willing to do something about these pit bull attacks and hire more help to protect our city and our citizens.

ELIZABETH GARCIA
BIG SPRING

Festival of Lights

TO THE EDITOR:

Another year, another successful Festival of Lights. I think this was our best yet. Our beautiful military display was done to

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

to honor our veterans, and honor the memory of George H. O'Brien Jr., our Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.

We did not reach the goal I had set, but we had 21,413 visitors coming from 35 states and 13 countries. Now that is remarkable for Big Spring, the "Lighted Poinsettia capital of Texas," don't you think?

This was the 15th year for the "Festival of Lights" and do you think I can make another 15 to the century mark? I asked Howard if he would stick with me for 15 more years, and he said "yes." Wow, I hope this can happen.

This just goes to show you what a dedicated person he is and words are inadequate to express my appreciation to him. I say again, I have never known of a man who would take vacation time to do hard work and not get paid for it. His wife, Vicki, serves as secretary to the committee. She is not only that, she works alongside Howard and is instrumental in various displays applying her artistic skills. The city is always there being very supportive with vehicles and manpower.

Georgie Newsom, our treasurer, is vital to the operation of the Festival of Lights; she works year around. She has been with

me from the start, "I thank the Lord for her."

An area we were not successful in completing was the 150-foot poinsettia to be located at the McMahon Wrinkle Air Park on the northwest corner. There were some unexpected obstacles, however, we will have it up this year along with three 50-foot poinsettias. We were able to get the three poinsettias back on Scenic Mountain making several residence below very happy.

Volunteers are the wheels that turn this event into action, without them it would be impossible to succeed. A surprise came from John Robis, manager of Avis Lube, he is new and wanted to get the company involved in community activity and so they did. We have Jeremy Blount a committee member, his second year with us, and he recruited his parents, Gary and Janice Blount, brother, Bryan Blount and friends Jim Smith, Daniel Turney, Stacy Patterson and T. J. Lipham. Our sincere thanks!

Greeters recruited — headed up by Debbie Wegman, she is responsible for recruiting greeters to work nightly from the 15th of December through the 31st. This is a vital part of the life of the Festival, in that we receive donations and record our out of town visitors. This is where we find out where our visitors come from, those from other states and

countries. Another vital part of this operation is donations, this is necessary to our success each year. We say "thanks" to the ones who not only donated at the booth, but donated in other areas. They are B & R Septic who provided two port pots, Freecom, FCI — three trustees, GEO Group, Elizabeth Shoemaker, Lee's Rental, Jim Clements, Ron Alton, Matt Warren and Nelda Callarman. We also had six business' sponsoring Christmas music on Fuse 94.3 for the Festival of Lights; Back in Motion, Franklin & Son, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Wal Mart, Just Peachy Café and Life Church. Adopt A Spot is necessary to aid in the operation of the Festival. We have 37 Adopt A Spots, some large, some small. If you are interested in adopting a spot, contact me. We added five new commercial Christmas cards this year, Karat Patch, Sid Richardson, MHMR, RV Park and Spring Creek Fellowship. Anyone interested in purchasing a card may call me for information. This year we should have a different display which we are excited about and will be a wonderful historic attraction. To all our volunteers we say, "Thanks."

PAT SIMMONS
FOUNDER/CHAIRMAN
BIG SPRING

SCAM

Continued from Page 4A

For example, Texans should always avoid tax preparation services that "guarantee" the largest possible tax return. Under federal law, any deductions tax preparers make for their clients must be accurate and legally permissible. Tax preparers that submit false information in order to obtain larger refunds for a client (and higher fees for the preparer) put their clients in legal jeopardy. Competent, legitimate tax preparers will not hesitate to sign their clients' tax return.

Know the truth about frivolous tax arguments. Although many prefer not to pay their taxes, it is well settled law that federal income taxes are NOT voluntary. United States courts have repeatedly rejected some of the more common false "legal" arguments made by those who oppose compliance with federal income tax laws, including contentions that taxpayers can refuse to pay income taxes on religious or moral grounds by invoking the First Amendment; that only federal government employees are subject to federal income taxes; and that only foreign-source income is taxable.

NOTICE OF AVAILABLE EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Those eligible to apply for a Sid Richardson Memorial Fund scholarship are direct descendants (children or grandchildren) of persons who qualified for Early Retirement, Normal Retirement, Disability Retirement, or Death Benefits from The Bass Retirement Plan (formerly The Retirement Plan For Employees of Bass Enterprises Production Co.), Retirement Plan for Employees of Barbnat / San Jose Cattle, Retirement Plan for Employees of City Center Development Co., City Club Retirement Plan, Retirement Plan for Employees of Richardson Aviation, G.P., Retirement Plan for Employees of Sid W. Richardson Foundation, or Retirement Plan for Employees of Sundance Square. Those eligible also include direct descendants (children or grandchildren) of persons presently employed with a minimum of three years' full-time service with any of the following employers: Barbnat Investment Co. (tax ID #75-2033355), BEPCO, L.P. (tax ID #75-1076930), BOPCO, L.P. (tax ID #37-1483123), City Club of Ft. Worth (tax ID #75-2035506), Richardson Aviation (tax ID #75-2125310), San Jose Cattle Co. (tax ID #75-1018369), Sid Richardson Carbon Co. (SRCE, L.P.) (tax ID #75-2468081), Sid W. Richardson Foundation (tax ID #75-6015828), and Sundance Square Management, L.P. (tax ID #20-1942332). Limited funds are available to assist in defraying the cost of college education or of vocational training. These scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis according to academic achievement and financial need. Eligible candidates for the 2012-2013 academic year must return completed applications postmarked no later than March 31, 2012.

Direct a written request for an application to Peggy Laskoski, Sid Richardson Memorial Fund, 309 Main Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102 or plaskoski@sidrichardson.org. The request may also be faxed to 817-332-2176. Include student name and address, qualifying employee name, Social Security number of employee, qualifying company name, and dates of employment.

Find forms for Letters to the Editor by visiting
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Surprises about Planned Parenthood cancer testing

MARILYNN MARCHIONE

AP Chief Medical Writer

To many people, breast cancer screening means a mammogram. But for millions of poor, mostly young women who visit Planned Parenthood, it is usually just a physical exam by the only health professional they may ever see.

Those clinical breast exams are controversial — government advisers don't endorse them. Yet for some, this simple exam has helped spot breast cancer. And Susan G. Komen for the Cure isn't the only group paying Planned Parenthood to do them — the government does, too. Komen actually funds relatively few.

Surprises like these are emerging about both groups in the dustup over Komen's decision to bar Planned Parenthood from future grants because of a probe spurred by anti-abortion groups. The decision was reversed on Friday after a huge backlash, with critics saying Komen was hurting the very women it aims to serve.

They are women such as Tina Love,

an independent filmmaker in Santa Barbara, Calif., whose sister-in-law is famed breast surgeon Dr. Susan Love. Four years ago, when she was 41, Tina Love went to a Planned Parenthood clinic in Santa Barbara.

"I had a lump and I didn't have health insurance," she explained. The agency sent her for a free mammogram, which led to her cancer being diagnosed and treated.

It's not known exactly how many cancers Planned Parenthood has found. But just last June, Komen said screenings it paid for caught 177 cancers over the last five years.

Some things you may not know about Planned Parenthood:

— Most of its services — 71 percent — are for birth control and testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases. Abortions made up 3 percent of its services in 2010. Cancer screening accounted for about 15 percent.

— Most of Planned Parenthood's clients are too young for breast cancer screening under most guidelines, although they are prime age for cer-

vical cancer screening. About 80 percent are under 35.

— Planned Parenthood doesn't follow the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force guidelines, which do not endorse clinical breast exams and recommend mammograms only every other year starting at age 50. Instead, Planned Parenthood does a physical breast exam on any woman of any age as part of a regular physical, and refers for mammograms any women 40 and older.

— Komen paid for just 170,000 of the more than 4 million clinical breast exams Planned Parenthood performed nationwide over the last five years, and just 6,400 of Planned Parenthood's 70,000 mammography referrals in that time.

— The government has long paid Planned Parenthood for services related to cancer and sexually transmitted diseases. The group gets federal and state money for breast cancer screening service through a program for poor and uninsured women.

Dr. Vanessa Cullins, a vice presi-

dent with Planned Parenthood Federation of America, defended its use of clinical breast exams. The exam, in which a doctor feels the breast for lumps, is "a good tool" when followed with mammograms and other tests as needed, she said.

In women who may not see other doctors, "we are encouraging breast self-awareness" so that if a lump is found, they'll seek help, she said.

It worked for Michele Azzaro, 45, of Dallas, who first went to Planned Parenthood when she found a lump back in her 20s. It turned out not to be cancerous, and a mammogram provided through Planned Parenthood ruled out cancer again last year.

Azzaro is unemployed and has no insurance, and has relied on Planned Parenthood for cholesterol tests and pretty much all her medical needs for more than two decades.

"Without having their services, I honestly don't know what I would do," she said. "I'm grateful they've been there for me and millions of other women like me."

Pfizer announces recall of 1 million birth control packs after mix-up

TOM MURPHY

AP Business Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Birth control pills are known to be nearly 100 percent effective when taken properly, but a recall of the drugs could send a shudder through women of childbearing age.

A manufacturing mix-up by Pfizer Inc., the world's largest drug maker, led to some packets being distributed with the pills out of order. That means a patient could have unknowingly skipped a dose and raised her risk of an accidental pregnancy.

Pfizer has recalled about 1 million packets of Lo/Ovral-28 and its generic equivalent, but the company estimates that only about 30 packets were flawed. The pills were made and shipped last year.

Each packet contains 28 days' worth of the prescription, with 21 pills containing the active ingredient that prevents pregnancy and seven placebo pills. The pills are normally color-coded to note the difference.

Women are supposed to take the pills in order and not mix the placebos with the active pills. Doctors say tak-

ing three placebos or more in a row negates the pregnancy protection.

"Women who are potentially on this particular product need to be aware of (the recall) and take this quite seriously," said Dr. Steven R. Goldstein, a New York University professor of obstetrics and gynecology.

The packaging mistake worries Kendra Mifflin even though she takes a different brand of the pill.

"You take it for a reason, and if that gets messed up... it could change your life," she said. "It has a big impact, just a simple mistake like that."

The student at Butler University in Indianapolis said her pills change color as she gets closer to the placebo. Mifflin, who has been taking them for about six months, said she thinks she would notice if the color were out of order, but she'll probably pay closer attention now.

The drug is not among the more commonly prescribed brands of birth control. The brand Lo/Ovral ranked 64th in U.S. birth control sales last year. The generic version, called norgestrel and ethinyl estradiol, ranked 30th, according to data firm IMS Health.

Doctors and pharmacists say Lo/Ovral is an older version of the pill that is not as widely prescribed anymore. They do not expect many panicked calls about the mix-up.

"Patients are pretty savvy," said Dr. Adam R. Jacobs, division director of family planning at Mount Sinai Medical Center. He said most women taking the pill would notice that the colors are out of order.

Company spokeswoman Kristen Neese said the drug maker learned about the problem when a customer called late last year to report finding a pink placebo tablet in the middle of her white birth control pills. The company found a manufacturing problem and fixed it immediately.

It issued a nationwide recall in late December asking pharmacies to pull the affected lots from their shelves. The recall includes 14 lots of Lo/Ovral-28 tablets and 14 lots of the generic version. Both products are

manufactured by Pfizer and sold in the U.S. by Akrimax Rx Products. A lot is a product batch or production run, made at one time and place and can include tens of thousands of individual packages, each with the same identification code for tracking.

Pfizer said the packets are pink with the drug's brand name or generic name on it, along with the Akrimax name. Pfizer's logo does not appear on it.

Patients who received a packet from one of the affected lots should call their doctors immediately, Jacobs said. If they have had unprotected sex in the past five days while on one of those pill packets, they may want to consider emergency contraception.

The affected packets have expiration dates ranging between July 31, 2013, and March 31, 2014. Lot numbers are available at <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm289770.htm>.

Avastin may fight early breast cancers

MARILYNN MARCHIONE

AP Chief Medical Writer

Surprising results from two new studies may reopen debate about the value of Avastin for breast cancer. The drug helped make tumors disappear in certain women with early-stage disease, researchers found.

Avastin recently lost approval for treating advanced breast cancer, but the new studies suggest it might help women whose disease has not spread so widely. These were the first big tests of the drug for early breast

cancer, and doctors were cautiously excited that it showed potential to help.

In one study, just over one third of women given Avastin plus chemotherapy for a few months before surgery had no sign of cancer in their breasts when doctors went to operate, versus 28 percent of women given chemo alone. In the other study, more than 18 percent on Avastin plus chemo had no cancer in their breasts or lymph nodes at surgery versus 15 percent of those on chemo alone.

Thank You!!

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce wishes to thank the following for another successful banquet:

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Special Thanks to:

John Weeks, Master of Ceremonies ~ Great Western Dining, Inc ~ Howard College & SWCID ~ Diplomats & Student Government Assoc. ~ Howard College Coliseum Staff ~ Big Spring High School Girls Softball Team ~ Music Entertainment: - Eddie Vandewalker & the cast from "Nonsense" ~ ~ Big Spring Police Dept. Honor Guard ~

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Something special's happening in the Circle.

February 2012 Activities

- Feb. 6** – Games, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 7** – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
Coffee @ Parkplace, 10:00 a.m.
Supper Club, "Carlo's", 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 8** – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
Movie, 1:00 p.m., "Black Stallion"
- Feb. 9** – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
Coffee @ Just Peachy Café, 10:00 a.m.
Games 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 13** – Games, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 14** – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
Supper Club, "Al's Bar-b-que", 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 15** – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
Movie, 1:00 p.m., "Bride Maids"
- Feb. 16** – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
Coffee @ Just Peachy's, 10:00 a.m.
Games, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
"Bunko", 4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 17** – Valentine's Pot Luck & Bingo, 11:30 a.m.

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World Briefs

Syrian regime unleashes new assault on Homs, killing more than 200 people, activists say

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian forces unleashed a barrage of mortars and artillery on the battered city of Homs on Saturday, killing more than 200 people in what appears to be the bloodiest episode in the nearly 11-month-old uprising, activists said.

The government denied the assault, saying the reports are part of a “hysterical campaign” of incitement by armed groups against Syria, meant to be exploited at the Security Council as it prepares to vote on a draft resolution backing an Arab call for President Bashar Assad to give up power.

With the violence in Syria growing increasingly chaotic, diplomatic efforts to find a solution to the crisis have gained pace. But Russia, a strong ally of Syria, signaled Saturday it would oppose any resolution calling for a political transition in the country and had submitted its own amendments to the Western-backed draft.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov warned Washington that any attempt to put a resolution to vote without taking Russia’s opinion into account will only lead to “another scandal” at the Security Council. He spoke in an interview broadcast Saturday on Russian state television Rossiya.

Meanwhile, telephone calls to Khaldiyeh, the hardest hit district in Homs, were not going through, but residents of nearby areas described a hellish night of ceaseless shelling.

Romney and Gingrich expect Romney to win Nevada caucuses, look at next set of contests

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A confident Mitt Romney is looking past his GOP opponents and Nevada’s caucuses the day the state votes. Chief rival Newt Gingrich is bracing for defeat in a state the former Massachusetts governor won in 2008.

Romney was scheduled to fly to Colorado Saturday morning for a campaign rally before returning to Las Vegas for a party with supporters at a casino a few miles from the Las Vegas Strip. In a sign that he expects to lose, Gingrich planned a simple statement instead of an event.

Romney cruised to victory in Florida last Tuesday, handily won this state four years ago and is heavily favored to win Saturday’s contest. Gingrich, Texas Rep. Ron Paul and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum also are on the ballot. But Romney, a Mormon, has an existing network of support from his 2008 race and likely will again benefit from the support of members of his church, many of whom live in Nevada.

Gingrich is still struggling after losing to Romney in Florida. He’s facing a month of contests that favor Romney and only one scheduled debate, opportunities that have helped him in the past.

Gingrich acknowledged Romney’s likely victory and cast the vote in Nevada as a fight for second place.

UN: 2011 was deadliest year on record for Afghan civilians as Taliban change tactics

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Last year was the deadliest on record for civilians in the Afghan war, with 3,021 killed as insurgents ratcheted up violence with suicide attacks and roadside bombs, the United Nations said Saturday.

Taliban-affiliated militants were responsible for more than three-quarters of the civilian deaths in 2011, the fifth year in a row in which the death toll went up, the U.N. said.

The figures were a grim testament to the violence the Taliban and allied Islamist militants can still unleash in Afghanistan, even as NATO begins to map out plans for international troops to draw down and give Afghan security forces the main responsibility for fighting insurgents by the end of 2014.

“A decade after the war began, the human cost of it is still rising,” said Georgette Gagnon, director for human rights for the U.N. mission in Afghanistan. The number of civilian deaths was up 8 percent over the previous year.

Ben Gazzara, method actor known for intense film, Broadway, TV performances, dies in NY at 81

NEW YORK (AP) — Ben Gazzara, whose powerful dramatic performances brought an intensity to a variety of roles and made him a memorable presence in such iconic productions over the decades as the original “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof” on Broadway and the film “The Big Lebowski,” has died at age 81.

Longtime family friend Suzanne Mados said Gazzara died Friday in Manhattan.

Deaths in suicide bombings jumped dramatically to 450, an 80 percent increase over the previous year. While the number of suicide attacks remained about the same, they killed more civilians. On Dec. 6, a bomber detonated his explosives-filled vest at the entrance of a mosque in Kabul, the capital, killing 56 worshippers during the Shiite Muslim rituals of Ashoura. It was the single deadliest suicide attack since 2008.

U.S. seeks deeper European cooperation to confront tyrants, reassures Europe on security

MUNICH (AP) — The Obama administration on Saturday called for stepped up U.S.-European cooperation to isolate tyrannies like the Assad regime in Syria, promote democracy in the Arab World and beyond and repair damage from the global financial crisis.

And, as America shifts its primary strategic focus to Asia and reduces its military presence in Europe, President Barack Obama’s top two national security aides — attending an international security conference here together in a demonstration of Washington’s resolve — reassured the continent that it remains deeply relevant to U.S. interests as well as its partner of “first resort” in dealing with global hotspots.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Americans and Europeans must send a clear and common message to tyrants that they must respect the rights of their people. She spoke as violence flared anew in Syria ahead of an expected vote on a U.N. Security Council resolution on the matter later Saturday.

“As a tyrant in Damascus brutalizes his own people, America and Europe stand shoulder to shoulder,” she said, referring to Syrian President Bashar Assad.

“We are united, alongside the Arab League, in demanding an end to the bloodshed and a democratic future for Syria. And we are hopeful that at 10 a.m. Eastern Standard Time in New York the Security Council will express the will of the international community,” she said.

Powerful winter storm heads east after dropping up to 6 feet of snow on Colorado

DENVER (AP) — The most powerful storm of the winter season pounded Colorado with up to 6 feet of snow in the Rocky Mountain foothills and forced the cancellation of more than 600 flights in Denver before heading east toward the central plains.

Blizzard conditions hit the eastern Colorado plains, with 5-foot drifts in parts of Elbert County. Snow was still falling Friday night, with another 2 to 4 inches expected in Denver and northeastern Colorado.

Snow was expected to taper off Saturday as the storm moved east.

Near-zero visibility forced officials to close all 160 miles of westbound Interstate 70 between the Kansas state line and Denver. A 70-mile stretch of eastbound I-70 from Denver to the plains town of Limon (LYE-min) also was closed. Highway officials said the freeway would likely remain closed overnight Friday.

Agate, a small town on the closed section of I-70, reported more than 2 feet of snow by Friday night and winds gusting to 25 mph. Other towns in eastern Colorado reported more than a foot of snow and similar wind speeds.

Death toll in Egypt clashes between police, protesters angry over soccer riot climbs to 8

CAIRO (AP) — The number of people killed in clashes with Egyptian security forces in the wake of a deadly soccer riot rose to eight Saturday, a security official said, as demonstrators in Cairo kept up their calls for an end to military rule and retribution for those killed in the post-soccer game violence.

Several hundred protested in the capital’s Tahrir Square and near the Interior Ministry on Saturday

morning, demanding police reforms. Others chanted for the execution of Egypt’s military ruler who has been accused of mismanaging the country’s transition to democracy.

The protesters are also angry with the police, accusing security forces of failing to prevent an attack and stampede after Wednesday’s soccer game in the Mediterranean city of Port Said that killed 74 people. It was Egypt’s deadliest soccer riot and the world’s worst soccer violence in 15 years.

It also highlighted the inability, and some say unwillingness, of Egypt’s security forces to prevent such attacks in the year since former President Hosni Mubarak’s ouster.

On Friday, security forces in the port city of Suez opened fire on a crowd of several thousand outside the police headquarters. A total of five people were killed, a police official said Saturday. Egypt’s state-new agency MENA reported the victims ranged in age between 18 and 21 years-old, and that the most recent victim died of a gunshot wound Saturday that he sustained the previous day.

Iran begins new military exercises after threat to close strategic Strait of Hormuz

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran’s powerful Revolutionary Guard began military exercises Saturday in the country’s south, the latest show of force after threats to close the strategic Strait of Hormuz in retaliation for tougher Western sanctions.

Plans for new Iranian naval games in the Persian Gulf off the country’s southern coast have been in the works for weeks. State media announced new maneuvers in southern Iran involving ground forces, but it was not immediately clear whether they were part of the planned naval training missions scheduled for this month or a separate operation.

The latest military maneuvers got under way following stern warnings by Iran’s Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, about any possible U.S. or Israeli attacks against Tehran’s nuclear facilities. It also comes after Western forces boosted their naval presence in the Gulf led by the American aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln.

Iran officials and lawmakers have repeatedly said that their country would close the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Persian Gulf in retaliation for sanctions that affect Iran’s oil exports. They have as yet made no attempts to disrupt shipping through the waterway, the route for one-fifth of the world’s crude oil, and the U.S. and allies have said they would respond swiftly to any attempts at a blockade.

Last month, Iran’s navy wrapped up 10 days of exercises in the Gulf, but the Revolutionary Guard — which is directly under control of the supreme leader — represents a significantly stronger military force and controls key programs.

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Lions sweep BSHS

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

BROWNWOOD — The playoff picture is settled for the Big Spring Lady Steers and increasingly more muddy for the BSHS boys.

The Lady Steers will have to be content with the third and final playoff spot from District 5-3A after dropping a 40-26 decision against the No. 7-ranked Brownwood Lady Lions Friday night.

The Steers, on the other hand, find themselves in a dogfight for that third playoff spot after losing to Brownwood, 51-46.

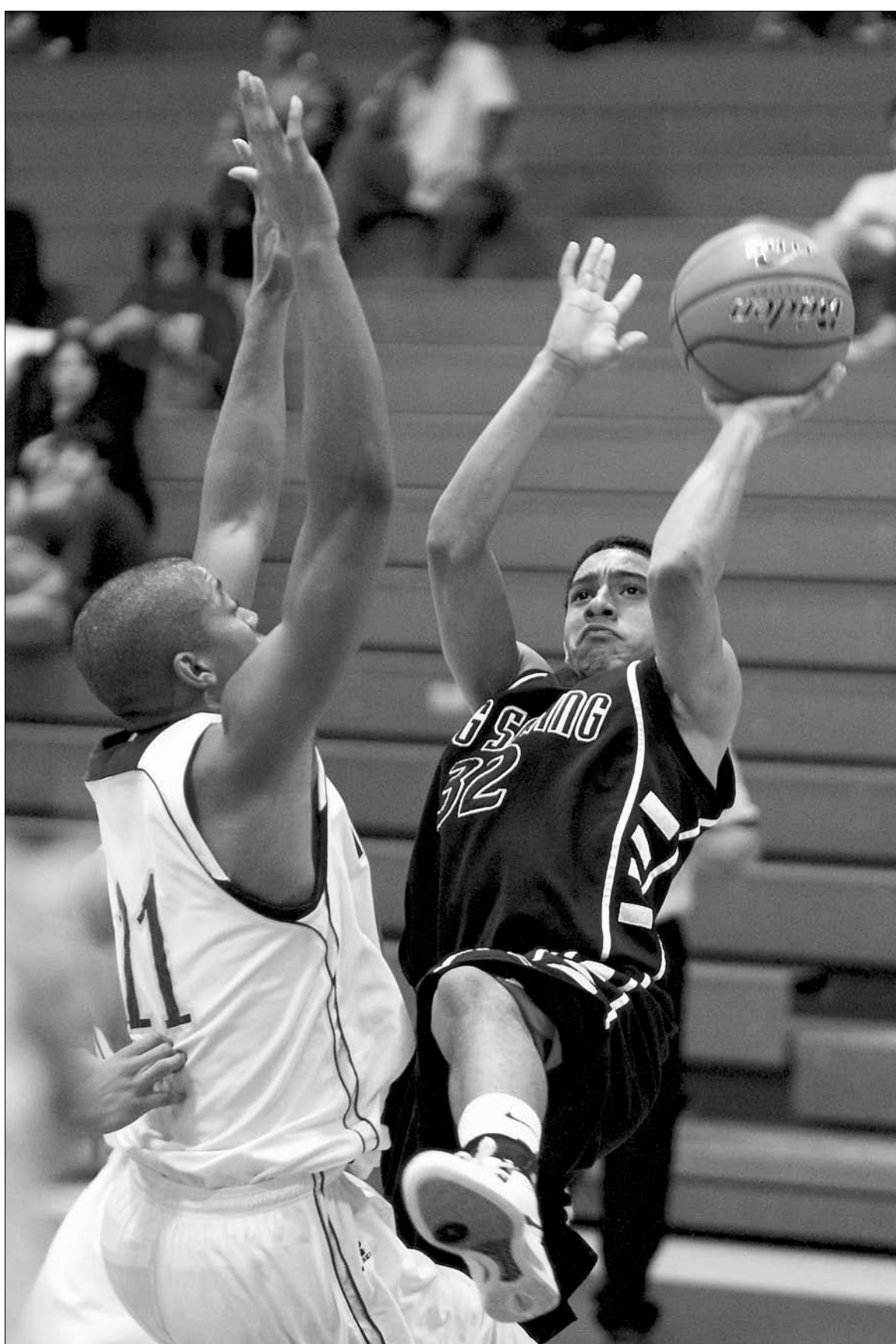
The Lady Steers are now 20-9 overall and 3-4 in district play, while the BSHS boys fell to 13-17 and 3-3 with the loss.

Girls' game

The Lady Steers entered Friday's game hoping to tie Brownwood for second place in District 5-3A, but never got any offensive traction going against the state-ranked Lady Lions, who held Big Spring to single digits in all four quarters.

Despite the offensive blackout, Big Spring entered the final quarter trailing by only five points. However, the Lady Steers were outscored 15-6 in the final eight minutes.

As they did when the teams met earlier this season in Big Spring, the Lady Lions' zone defense concentrated on shutting down the Lady Steers'



Big Spring's Richard Lewis (32) shoots a fall-away jumper during the Steers' game with Brownwood Friday night.

HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Sports Calendar

MONDAY

Women's basketball

Howard College at Frank Phillips College, 5:45 p.m.

Men's basketball

Howard College at Frank Phillips College, 7:45 p.m..

TUESDAY

Girls' basketball

Snyder at Big Spring, 6 p.m.
Coahoma at Colorado City, 6:30 p.m.
Forsan at Slaton, 6:30 p.m.

Boys' basketball

Snyder at Big Spring, 7:30 p.m.
Coahoma at Colorado City, 8 p.m.
Forsan at Slaton, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Softball

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

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

Area basketball roundup

BOYS

Coahoma 59

Roosevelt 56

COAHOMA — The Coahoma Bulldogs may be out of postseason contention, but that doesn't mean they won't still be a king-maker or king-breaker in District 3-2A.

The Bulldogs raced out to a 30-22 lead after one half, then held on to take a 59-56 win over Lubbock Roosevelt Friday night.

Alex Hill scored 14 points and Jacob Echavarria added 10 for the Bulldogs,

who improved to 11-16 overall and 2-9 in league standings.

"We're playing our best basketball of the season at the right time," Coahoma Coach Kim Nichols said. "We're out of the playoff picture, but we can have a say who does make the playoffs."

Roosevelt	13	9	13	21	— 56
Coahoma	15	15	10	19	— 59

Stanton 61

Forsan 42

FORSAN — A big first quarter proved to be the difference for the

Stanton Buffalos Friday as they took a 61-42 win over Forsan in District 3-2A action.

Stanton outscored Forsan 16-5 in the first quarter and were able to gradually expand their advantage the rest of the game.

Forsan was led by Tyler Evans, who scored 16 points.

Forsan	5	11	14	12	— 42
Stanton	16	16	15	14	— 61

Garden City 40

Bronte 26

GARDEN CITY — The Garden City

Bearkats went into lock-down mode on defense in the second half to take a 40-26 win over Bronte in District 12-1A Div. II action Friday.

The Bearkats limited Bronte to only 9 points in the final two quarters to take the win, which improved their record to 18-10 overall and 9-2 in league play.

Sam Miller scored 14 points and Corbin Davis added 10 for Garden City, which returns to action Tuesday at Water Valley. Game time is 8 p.m.

Bronte	6	11	5	4	— 26
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See **AREA**, Page 9A



Courtesy photo

Big Spring High School's Sawyer Roberts is shown signing a letter of intent to play football for Hardin-Simmons University at the BSHS Athletic Training Center earlier this week.

HC squads remain undefeated

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

The nationally ranked Howard College softball and baseball teams kept their records spotless with a couple of doubleheader sweeps Friday afternoon.

At Jack Barber Field, the No. 1-ranked Howard baseball team closed out a four-game series sweep of Frank Phillips College by downing the Plainsmen 9-4 and 13-7, while the No. 6-ranked HC softball squad took an 8-0, 15-7 doubleheader sweep vs. Lamar College.

Baseball

Head Coach Britt Smith got to look at a lot of players during the season-opening series vs. Frank Phillips, and, for the most part, he liked what he saw.

"Offensively, we showed signs of being really good," Smith said, "but we have room to improve on both sides ...

See **HOWARD**, Page 9A

Prosecutors close Armstrong investigation

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lance Armstrong is used to winning, but his most recent victory was unlike any he had experienced before.

Federal prosecutors dropped their investigation of the seven-time Tour de France champion Friday, ending a nearly two-year effort to determine whether the world's most famous cyclist and his teammates joined in a doping program during his greatest years.

Armstrong steadfastly denied he doped during his unparalleled career, but the possibility of criminal charges threatened to stain not only his accomplishments, but his cancer charity work as well. Instead, another attempt to prove a star athlete used performance-enhancing drugs has fallen short, despite years of evidence gathering across two continents.

"I am gratified to learn that the U.S. Attorney's Office is closing its investigation," Armstrong said in a statement. "It is the right decision and I commend them for reaching it."

The probe, anchored in Los Angeles where a grand jury was presented evidence by

federal prosecutors and heard testimony from Armstrong's former teammates and associates, began with a separate investigation of Rock Racing, a cycling team owned by fashion entrepreneur Michael Ball.

U.S. Attorney Andre Birotte Jr. announced in a press release that his office "is closing an investigation into allegations of federal criminal conduct by members and associates of a professional bicycle racing team owned in part by Lance Armstrong."

He didn't disclose the reason for the decision, though Birotte has used discretion in pursuing high-profile criminal cases before.

Last February, his office closed an investigation of mortgage giant Countrywide Financial Corp.

Investigators looked at whether a doping program was established for Armstrong's team while, at least part of the time, it received government sponsorship from the U.S. Postal Service. Authorities also examined whether Armstrong encouraged or facilitated doping on the team. He won the Tour de France every year from 1999-

2005.

The pronouncement comes after a pair of less-than-successful cases against top sports figures accused of doping. Home run king Barry Bonds was found guilty of obstruction of justice and sentenced in December to 30 days' home detention — a conviction he's appealing — but prosecutors were unable to convince a jury he lied about using steroids. Roger Clemens' steroid trial is slated for April 17 after a judge declared a mistrial last summer when prosecutors showed jurors inadmissible evidence.

The hurdle for prosecutors wasn't so much to prove whether any particular cyclist used drugs, but to determine if Armstrong and other team members violated federal conspiracy, fraud or racketeering charges. Unlike Bonds and Clemens, who testified before a federal grand jury and Congress, respectively, and were accused of lying under oath, Armstrong was not questioned in front of the grand jury.

Betsy Andreu, who with her husband and former Armstrong teammate, Frank, accused the cycling champion

of doping, said the "legal system failed us."

Led by federal agent Jeff Novitzky, who also investigated Bonds and Clemens, U.S. authorities sought assistance overseas, requesting urine samples of U.S. Postal riders from France's anti-doping agency and also meeting with officials from Belgium, Spain and Italy.

Prosecutors also subpoenaed Armstrong supporters and ex-teammates to testify in Los Angeles. Among them were Ukrainian cyclist Yaroslav Popovych, who rode on three Armstrong teams dating back to 2005; Allen Lim, an exercise physiologist for Team Radioshack; and long-time Armstrong friend Stephanie McIlvain.

The investigation began after Novitzky was told about a cache of PEDs found by a landlord in the vacated apartment of Kyle Leogrande, a cyclist who rode for Rock Racing and had a doping ban, according to several people familiar with the case.

The case also was spurred by disgraced cyclist Floyd Landis, who claims Armstrong had a long-running doping system in place while

they were teammates. Landis, who was stripped of the 2006 Tour de France title for drug use, acknowledged in 2010 he used performance-enhancing drugs after years of denying he cheated.

One of the most serious accusations came during a "60 Minutes" interview last May when former teammate Tyler Hamilton said he saw Armstrong use EPO during the 1999 Tour de France and in preparation for the 2000 and 2001 tours.

U.S. anti-doping officials said Friday they will not be dissuaded by the government's decision to close the Armstrong probe and will continue their investigation into doping in professional cycling.

As the investigation progressed, Armstrong assembled a legal team, hired a spokesman and briefly created a website to address any of the allegations reported by the media.

Frustrated by a slew of news articles about the investigation, Armstrong's attorneys filed a motion in July, asking a judge to order federal agents to testify about their contacts with reporters.

HOWARD

Continued from Page 8A

Overall, I thought it was good. We got to play a lot of different guys at a lot of different spots, and we got to use a lot of our pitchers, too."

In the first game, sophomore infielder Hector Lorenzana broke open a close game with a three-run double in the fourth inning to give the Hawks some breathing

room. Jordan Allen also shined at the plate for the Hawks, going 2-for-3 with a home run, single and stolen base

On the mound, three Howard pitchers — including Reid Scoggins, who missed more than a year after undergoing Tommy John elbow surgery — held Frank Phillips in check for most of the game.

Howard's bats again proved to be the difference in Friday's nightcap — Allen contribut-

ed two more home runs and Paul Hendrix added a grand slam and a two-run single.

The Hawks (4-0) return to action Thursday when they play Vernon College in Abilene, then return home for a four-game series against Northeast Texas Community College Friday and Saturday. First pitch is scheduled for noon both days.

Softball

Everyone who fol-

lows the Hawks knows sophomore shortstop Olive Naotala can hit the ball, but she's been other-worldly so far this young season.

Naotala continued her early season tear with a pair of home runs (giving her eight in eight HC games) to help lead the Hawks to a sweep over Lamar.

"People are going to have to start pitching around her," Howard Coach Kelly Raines said. "That's all there is to it."

The star of the first

game, however, was sophomore pitcher Sandra Serna, who pitched a five-inning shutout to claim the win.

The second game was a bit more competitive, but home runs from Naotala and Mallory Mitchiner proved to be decisive. Mitchiner's hom run, a grand slam blast in the sixth inning, ended the game on the eight-run mercy rule.

Raines was understandably pleased with how her 8-0 team has played so far this season.

"I thought we played really well," she said. "I thought we did a good job looking for pitches to hit (Friday). Overall, I'm happy with where we're at right now."

The Hawks return to action Wednesday with a doubleheader at home against Ranger College. The first game begins at 1 p.m. at Foundation Field.

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

AREA

Continued from Page 8A

G-City 12 9 13 6 — 40

GIRLS

Bronte 35 Garden City 33

GARDEN CITY — The No. 9-ranked Garden City Lady Bearkats were bitten by the upset bug Friday as they dropped a 35-33 decision to Bronte in District 12-1A Div. II action.

The Lady 'Kats battled back from an early 10-point deficit to tie the game at 25-all, heading into the final quarter, but were outscored 10-8 in the final eight minutes to fall to 25-5 overall and 12-1 in district play.

Lexie Shaefer was the leading scorer for Garden City with 9 points.

The Lady Bearkats return to action Tuesday at Water Valley. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

Bronte 14 0 11 10 — 35
 G-City 4 7 14 8 — 33

Grady 44 Loop 17

LOOP — The Grady Lady Wildcats raced out to a 15-point lead at half-time, then cruised to a 44-17 win over Loop in District 8-1A Div. II action Friday.

Grady led 19-4 at intermission and things only got worse for Loop, which managed only 6 points in the first three quarters.

Charmynee Arnold scored 16 points to lead the Lady Wilcats, who improved to 21-13 overall and 10-3 in the district standings.

Grady returns to action at home vs. Borden County Tuesday. Game time is 6:30

Grady 9 10 12 13 — 44
 Loop 1 3 2 11 — 17

Other scores

Lubbock Roosevelt 73, Coahoma 33

Big Spring 9 7 4 6 — 26
 Brownwood 10 10 5 15 — 40

Boys' game

The Steers' game with Brownwood had a depressingly familiar ring to it. When the two teams met earlier this season, Big Spring led for most of the game, only to watch Brownwood rally in the fourth quarter to take the win.

The same thing happened Friday. The Steers held a two-point advantage after three quarters, but were outscored 12-5 down the stretch.

Guards Marc Segundo and Ty'ral Menefield were the offensive bright spots for Big Spring, scoring 13 and 10 points, respectively.

The Steers, who hold an edge over Sweetwater and Snyder in the battle for the final playoff spot from District 5-3A, return to action Tuesday at home against Snyder. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Big Spring 13 15 13 5 — 46
 Brownwood 11 11 17 12 — 51

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BSHS

Continued from Page 8A

inside game and the results were, for the most part, successful. Post player Diamond Mayes, returning to action after a brief illness, scored 13 points to lead the Lady Steers, but Cerbi Ritchey, BSHS' leading scorer this season, was held to only two points.

BSHS Coach Mike Warren said Ritchey was battling both an illness and foul trouble, which kept her on the bench for long stretches of Friday's game.

"On defense, we followed the plan and held their two leading scorers to 12 points each," Warren said. "But we just couldn't score enough to win. We weren't attacking the basket inside and we weren't hitting our outside shots.

The Lady Steers conclude regular season action Tuesday when they host Snyder for a 6 p.m. game in Steer Gym. Seniors on the team will be recognized immediately following the game.

Pats-Giants: Super matchups everywhere

By **BARRY WILNER**

AP Pro Football Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — MVP quarterbacks on marquee franchises. A rematch of a nail-biter from four years ago, featuring many of the same key characters. Madonna and plenty of Manning — Eli, and Peyton, too.

This Super Bowl certainly has all the makings of another thriller, the perfect finish to a season that began in turmoil and wound up the most successful in league history.

The NFL couldn't have planned it any better.

"It's actually been a very fun week here," said Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, seeking his fourth Super Bowl ring in 11 seasons, and doing it in the city where archrival Peyton Manning has worked for 13 years — if not for much longer, given his health issues and disagreements with Colts management. "It's a bit surreal to be playing in Indy's home stadium and to be practicing at their facility."

It's been even weirder for Eli Manning to have led the Giants here, only to find his superb season and chase for a second championship overshadowed by big brother.

The most popular storyline this week has been Peyton's pain in his neck.

Or, rather, his status following three neck surgeries

in 19 months; whether the Colts will keep him around, at the cost of a \$28 million roster bonus due in March; and whether he's truly feuding with owner Jim Irsay's rebuilding organization.

Eli, who will surpass his brother for NFL titles with a victory Sunday at Lucas Oil Stadium — yes, Peyton's Place — claims his sibling's issues are irrelevant to this game, in which New York (12-7) is a 3-point underdog.

"I'm proud of Peyton. I've talked to him this week. None of that comes up," Eli said. "When I talk to Peyton, he does a great job of trying to keep me relaxed. (We) talk a little football and talk about New England some. He's supported me this week. I know he's just working hard trying to get healthy and I'm going to support him on that."

While Eli would own two championships with a victory, to one for Peyton, Brady could tie his childhood quarterbacking hero, Joe Montana, and Terry Bradshaw with four.

Coach Bill Belichick would equal Chuck Noll with the same number.

To get it, the Patriots (15-3) must protect their crown jewel. Four years ago, Brady was banged around so much by New York that it turned the Super Bowl in the Giants' favor.

Yes, they needed David Tyree's miracle pin-the-ball-against-the-helmet catch, then Plaxico Burress' touchdown reception to shatter New England's perfect season. But that victory was built on the relentless pressure applied to Brady.

The formula hasn't changed.

"We feel that we certainly have a very strong group of men in the front," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said. "It's just the way we play and prefer to play. It's a pressure group, and we have played better in the back end as well, probably as a result of the ball having to come out faster than it has at certain times during the year."

Brady certainly remembers the pain, physically and emotionally, from the beating he took on the field and the scoreboard.

"Any time you lose, it's a tough thing," Brady said. "We've lost one Super Bowl. I remember waking up in Arizona the next morning after an hour of sleep thinking, 'That was a nightmare, that didn't happen.' After time, you learn to move on and get over it."

The Giants got all over Brady again during their regular season 24-20 win at Foxborough, the last time the Patriots lost. That victory preceded a four-game slide, and New

York eventually slipped to 7-7 before turning it around.

Adding to the juicy potential of a down-to-the-wire reprise of 2008, both teams barely made it to Indy. The Patriots needed backup cornerback Sterling Moore stripping the ball from Baltimore receiver Lee Evans in the end zone in the final seconds, then for Billy Cundiff to miss a 32-yard field goal that would have forced overtime.

The Giants went into overtime in San Francisco, using two botched punt returns by the 49ers to advance.

"We feel very fortunate to be here, and I'm pretty sure they do, too," Patriots Pro Bowl nose tackle Vince Wilfork. "But we also know we deserve to be here, and they know they deserve it. We are two very good and very confident teams."

Teams owned by two of the key figures in solving the 4 ½-month lockout of the players last year. New England's Robert Kraft shuttled back and forth from the meetings to his dying wife's bedside late in the negotiating process. Myra Kraft passed away days before the lockout was resolved.

His players wore a patch with her initials MHK on the left side of their jerseys this season.

"The fact that she was so dear to me and all of our play-

ers are wearing her initials above their heart is an endearing thing," Kraft said. "What she represented is important and I hope that special sense of spirit comes through."

Giants owner John Mara played an equally important role in the labor negotiations, and when both teams reached the Super Bowl, Kraft mentioned "a certain karma" about the matchup.

"I'm not necessarily happy to be playing Bill Belichick and Tom Brady, I'll tell you that," Mara joked. "But yeah, I'm very happy for Bob because he put his heart and soul into those negotiations during a very difficult time for him and his family, so I think the success they've had is well-deserved."

When they finally kicked off Sunday, the two biggest stars will be Brady and Manning — yes, Eli. Not halftime performer Madonna, but the quarterbacks on whose arms, wits and leadership this Super Bowl will turn.

"They are both leaders on the field," Wilfork said. "I think that position you have to be smart, you have to be intelligent. I think you have to understand what's going on around you. I think both those guys have that."

On Sunday, we'll see which one adds to his championship legacy with another Super Bowl ring.

Brady, Manning vie to prove who's 'elite' now

By **JIM LITKE**

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)

— He was always being compared to someone. That's what happens when you're the youngest son of a great quarterback and the baby brother of an even better one. It wasn't until he compared himself to Tom Brady, though, that people began taking Eli Manning seriously.

That was in August, when Manning was asked whether he considered himself an "elite" quarterback like Brady. Manning said simply that he belonged

"in that class." But in New York, where blowing things out of proportion is practically a civic duty, even most Giants fans regarded it as heresy at the time. By Sunday night, it could be fact.

So ready or not, it's time for the "other" Manning vs. Brady, Part II. Both are back in Sunday's Super Bowl, four years after they first clashed, each with plenty still to prove.

"It's not my job to list quarterbacks," Manning said this week. "He's obviously a future Hall of Famer."

Yet Brady has looked like anything but that in his last 11 postseason games, posting a 6-5 mark, including a 2008 Super Bowl loss to Manning and the Giants. For most of those, he's been knocked around a lot, picked off more than usual and tagged with a quarterback rating that wouldn't qualify as a low-grade fever. Measured against the nearly impossible standard that Brady set at the start of his career — 10 straight postseason wins and three Super Bowl titles — merely average would be a more accurate description.

Perception still lags behind that reality, in no small part because everything else about Brady still screams "winner." Now 34, he is still boyishly handsome, still as charming as ever, still the most sought-after endorser and the one athlete even his peers would kill to be. He returns home every night with two sons to look after — and a supermodel wife.

Yet those who know Brady have long marveled at how well he hides a competitive streak even Michael Jordan would admire. And despite outward appearances, they wonder how Brady is managing it now, coming up short of his ultimate goal every season since 2005, after winning three in four years. Patriots backup quarterback Brian Hoyer ticked off a laundry list of things he's been studying in the three seasons he's sat behind Brady: mechanics, poise, and attention to detail, even the tone of voice he uses to command respect in a huddle.

But the one thing Hoyer worries will never rub off is Brady's raw desire.

"At the end of just about every practice, I run out there and try

to get the last few reps with the first team," Hoyer said. "And just about every practice, whether it's a steamy day in training camp or a short walk-through after watching film, he runs out there, grabs me and says something like, 'Get the hell out of here!' — only it's not always even that nice. ..."

"Everybody outside this team looks at him and thinks 'pretty-boy QB.' But Tom doesn't try hiding it from us," Hoyer said. "He's a killer."

Manning, too, shares that trait and has been honing it for nearly as long. Like Brady, he was the baby of the family and quickly learned he could get his way by being demanding one moment and wheedling the next. Like his father, Archie, the longtime Saints quarterback, and older brother Peyton, who almost single-handedly vaulted the Colts to the top of the NFL heap, Eli burned to win all the time, too. But he wasn't above playing the trump card — his mother, Olivia.

"He would pin me down," Eli, now 31, recalled growing up with Peyton, "and take his knuckles and knock on my chest and make me name the 12 schools in the SEC. I didn't know them all at the time, but I quickly learned them. ... I don't suggest anyone else try it out, but it definitely made me learn the schools of the SEC. Once I figured those out, he moved on."

"There were 28 teams in the NFL at that point, so all teams in the NFL. I had to get my studying on for that. Then once I figured that out, the one I never got was the 10 brands of cigarettes. When he really wanted to torture me and knew I had no shot of ever getting it," he added,

"that's when I just started screaming for

my mom or dad to come save me."

Contrast that with the story Brady told about growing up with three older sisters.

"I didn't have to share clothes. I didn't have to fight over the bathroom. They were pretty easy on me. They dressed me up a few times in their clothes and painted my nails once, but it was nice," Brady said without a shred of embarrassment. "They'd bring all of their girlfriends over to the house. It was pretty cool."

Brady is as smooth on the field as away from it. He had success almost from the moment he slipped into the starting lineup in New England in the second game of the 2001, an opportunity that came after frontliner Drew Bledsoe suffered a sheared blood vessel in his chest following a hit from the Jets' Mo Lewis. In a sense, Brady was still seething about being platooned with Drew Henson during his final season at Michigan and falling all the way to the sixth round — No. 199 — in the 2000 NFL draft. Once he got the job, Brady wasn't going to let go.

Manning, on the other hand, was drafted No. 1 overall in 2004 by the Chargers. They promptly traded him to the Giants for quarterback Philip Rivers, the No. 4 pick, a swap that rumor had it was engineered by Archie. Either way, Manning arrived to much fanfare and not a little resentment.

Kurt Warner, a Super Bowl winner in St. Louis a few years earlier, was New York's starter at the time, but even he didn't envy Manning the situation he walked into.

"He's got the name to live up to, the way he wound up there, and he's in New York, where you can be the best

thing since sliced bread the first quarter, and the worst thing to ever walk the earth by the second," said Warner, who started that season 5-4 before giving way to Manning. "He won maybe once the rest of the way, but you couldn't tell that by looking at him after any one game."

"What you did see was his resolve, his consistency and that didn't change," Warner said. "I can't say from a football standpoint I saw a whole lot else."

Asked this week why the Giants stuck with Manning through a rough start, owner John Mara explained the organization prided itself on taking the long view. Then someone asked Mara if he remembered the scouting report then-general manager Ernie Accorsi filed on Manning.

"Just that he has something that very few players have: the ability to put a team on his shoulders and carry them," he recalled. "The one line I remember from the report is, 'He can't really run with the football. It's just not in them unless it comes from Olivia and I never timed her.'"

That patience paid off with an improbable win in the 2008 Super Bowl. The signature play from that game serves as a kind of tableau. The Patriots came with yet another kitchen-sink blitz and linebacker Adalius Thomas got hold of Manning's shirt and tried to throw him to the ground. Instead, Manning ducked down, used the momentum to spin away, then set his feet and fired a high strike 32 yards down the field, where David Tyree made a spectacular grab by pinning the ball against his helmet as he fell to the ground.

Manning has been less spectacular, but more efficient, since.

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Grilled Chicken Wings with Roquefort Dip

Serves 6-8 people

3 lbs. chicken wings, cleaned and trimmed
 Select wings of roughly equal size for evenness of cooking.

Ingredients

- Marinade:**
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
 - 1 clove garlic, minced
 - 1/4 teaspoon cayenne
 - 1 teaspoon chili powder
 - 1 teaspoon oregano
 - 1 teaspoon kosher salt
 - 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar

Blue Cheese Dip

- 1/2 cup Mayonnaise
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon onion, grated
- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme, chopped
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 1/3 cup blue cheese, crumbled



Directions

Preheat the barbecue on high.

Cut each wing at the joint to make two pieces, and discard wing tip if still attached. In a large re-sealable bag, whisk together vegetable oil, garlic, spices and vinegar. Add chicken wings and toss to coat.

If using rotisserie basket, spray or brush lightly with vegetable oil to prevent sticking. Place chicken wings on bottom of basket, cover with the top part, and fasten on tightest setting to secure the wings in place. Cooking grids will need to be removed, and a drip pan placed beneath. If using rear rotisserie burner, set to high. If using lower burners, set to medium. Place the basket on spit and in the rotisserie and start the motor. Cook until golden brown and crisp, about 45 minutes to an hour.

If cooking directly on well oiled cooking grids, turn heat to low, and cook, turning frequently until golden brown and crisp, 30 - 45 minutes. Use an instant-read thermometer to ensure that all wings are cooked through and ready to eat.

Stir together all the dip ingredients. May be made ahead of time and chilled until ready to serve with chicken wings, celery and carrots.

More information on grilling and great recipe ideas is available at www.broilkingbbq.com.

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Stepping back in time

1953 Hyperion Club gets an inside look at Settles Hotel renovations



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E.O.E.



Courtesy photos
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renovations of the his-
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to be completed and
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FAMILY FEATURES

Chef Mary Ann Esposito, host of the PBS television show “Ciao Italia,” knows all about the joys and benefits of cooking with olive oil. Olive oil is 100 percent natural, contains no cholesterol, trans fats, sodium or sugar. It adds a delicious splash of flavor to any recipe. As a rule of thumb, she says, substitute an equal amount of olive oil for other cooking oils.

Here are some more of her tips for eating deliciously with Filippo Berio Olive Oil:

■ **Extra Virgin Olive Oil:** Has a rich, full flavor, fragrant aroma, low acidity and deep greenish-gold color. It's ideal for salad dressings, marinades, sauces, roasting potatoes and dipping bread. Drizzle it over air-popped popcorn for a healthier snack, and use it in Chef Mary Ann's recipe for Marinated Carrot, Caper and Sweet Red Pepper Salad.

■ **Olive Oil:** Has a rich golden color; perfectly balanced with a mild flavor. It's ideal as a base for sauces and for sautéing meat, poultry, fish or vegetables. Try it in Chef Mary Ann's recipe for Eggplant Rolls.

■ **Extra Light Olive Oil:** Has a subtle taste and light bouquet, which allows natural flavors of food to come through. It has a high smoke point, which makes it perfect for frying, stir-frying and baking. For a great breakfast, use it to scramble eggs. For dinner, try it in Chef Mary Ann's recipe for Devilish Chicken.

Visit www.filippoerio.com and www.ciaoitalia.com for more healthy, delicious recipes from Chef Mary Ann.



Chef Mary Ann Esposito is an accomplished cookbook author and the creator and host of “Ciao Italia,” the longest-running cooking series on television.



Devilish Chicken

Serves 4

- 1 3 1/2 to 4-pound free-range, organic chicken, butterflied
- 1/4 cup Filippo Berio Extra Light Olive Oil
- Fine sea salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Cayenne pepper or dried hot red pepper flakes
- 1 cup dry white wine
- Lemon wedges

To butterfly chicken, place it on a plastic cutting board, breast side down. With kitchen shears or a boning knife, cut along both sides of backbone and remove and discard the bone or save for stock. Turn chicken over skin side up and flatten it by pressing down with hands or a meat pounder.

Coat chicken completely with olive oil, then season with salt, pepper and cayenne to taste. Transfer chicken to a dish, cover, and marinate for several hours. This step can be done the day before.

Preheat grill. When coals are white or a gas grill temperature reaches 500°F, place chicken on grill, breast side down. Cook, turning frequently, and keeping the fire under control so as not to burn the chicken.

About 10 minutes into grilling, begin basting chicken with wine. Continue basting every 10 minutes. The chicken is cooked when a meat thermometer inserted into the thighbone registers between 175°F and 180°F.

Transfer chicken to a cutting board, and cut into serving pieces. Serve hot with lemon wedges and a squirt of lemon juice. Use your fingers, not a fork, to eat.



Marinated Carrot, Caper and Sweet Red Pepper Salad

Serves 4

Marinade

- 1/3 cup Filippo Berio Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 1 1/4 teaspoons salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons salt-packed capers, well rinsed

Salad

- 4 large carrots, peeled and cut into 2-inch-long matchstick pieces
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 2 large sweet red bell peppers cut into thin, 2-inch-long strips
- 1 cup thinly sliced fennel bulb
- 1/4 cup minced flat leaf parsley
- 2 tablespoons minced mint

Combine all marinade ingredients in a 12 x 9-inch rectangular glass or ceramic dish. Mix well. Set aside.

Fill a 12- to 14-inch sauté pan three-quarters full with water. Add carrots and salt. Bring to a boil and cook until a knife tip easily pierces carrots. Drain in colander and transfer to dish with marinade. Toss well.

Add peppers and fennel and toss again. Let stand at room temperature for at least 1 hour, tossing occasionally to meld the flavors. Just before serving, toss parsley and mint into salad.

Serve at room temperature.

Eggplant Rolls

Serves 8

- 1 large eggplant (7 to 8 inches long), stem removed, cut into 8 1/4-inch-thick lengthwise slices
- 2 tablespoons Filippo Berio Olive Oil
- 2/3 cup minced fresh oregano or mint
- 1 teaspoon fine sea salt
- 1/2 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup pine nuts
- 1 1/2 cups tomato sauce
- 1 cup toasted bread crumbs, made from stale bread

Chef's Secret: Purchase eggplants that are very shiny, have intact stem tops, show no bruising or soft spots and feel heavy.

Preheat oven to 350°F, or fire up the grill. Brush eggplant slices on both sides with olive oil and place in single layers on slightly oiled rimmed baking sheets. Bake for about 10 minutes, or just until soft. Set aside to cool. Alternatively, grill eggplant slices on both sides until they soften and grill marks appear.

Mix oregano (or mint), salt, pepper and pine nuts together in a bowl. Spread a couple of tablespoons of the mixture along length of each eggplant slice, and then roll slices into bundles.

Spread 1/2 cup tomato sauce in the base of a 12 x 9-inch casserole dish. Place eggplant bundles in rows in the dish and spread remaining sauce evenly over top.

Cover dish with aluminum foil and bake for 30 minutes. Uncover, and bake 5 minutes longer.

Serve hot and sprinkle bread crumbs on top.

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Sometimes life hurts us
and when I use to get hurt
I would run away trying to escape from the pain and sorrow
I even ran away from the one who loved me so much
that he gave up his life for me
But I'm older now and know that running away
from life's hurts and sorrows
won't make them go away but that if you run to Jesus he will help make the
hurts and sorrow easier to bear.

The Lord is my shelter
a refuge in times
of trouble
Psalm 9:9

Lana Anguiano

Engagements Blum's Jewelry

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Blagrave and Anderson

Krista LaDawn Blagrave of Ackerly, Texas, and Clayton John Anderson of Gail, Texas, announce their engagement.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Stan and Carla Blagrave of Ackerly, Texas. The prospective groom is the son of John and Kevva Anderson of Gail, Texas.

She is a 2004 graduate of Sands High School and a 2009 graduate of Texas Tech University.

He is a 2004 graduate of Borden County High School and a 2008 graduate of Texas A&M University. He is employed as an assistant ranch manager for the Muleshoe Ranch.

The couple will exchange vows April 13, 2012 at Green Lawn Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas.



Krista LaDawn Blagrave and Clayton John Anderson

Sides and Murphy

Amber Leight Sides and Kevin Lance Murphy, both of Big Spring, announce their engagement.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Jackie Lujan of Big Spring and Ricky Sides of Big Spring. Her step-father is Ismael Lujan of Big Spring.

Her grandparents are the late Merle and Mary Vandeweerd of Las Vegas, Nev. and Patty Sides of Big Spring.



Amber Leight Sides and Kevin Lance Murphy

The prospective groom is the son of Kevin and Shirley Murphy of Big Spring. His grandparents are Kay Claveran and the late Rudy Claveran of Oracle, Ariz.; J.O. Murphy and the late Donna Murphy of Big Spring and Wade and Dorothy Shanks of Big Spring.

Amber is a 2009 graduate of Big Spring High School and attended Howard College after graduation.

Kevin is a 2006 graduate of Big Spring High School and also attended Howard College. He is employed at Alon USA.

Birth



Braelynn Marcela Rivera

Braelynn Marcela Rivera, daughter of Maria and Bobby Rivera of Big Spring, was born Jan. 26, 2012. She weighed 5 pounds 15 ounces and measured 19 inches long.

Her maternal grandparents are Geronimo and Susana Diaz of Big Spring. Her paternal grandparent is the late Marcela Rivera.

Braelynn was welcomed home by her siblings, Aaliyah, Angel and Briana.



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Births



Colbi Jo Atkins

Tripp Atkins would like to announce the birth of his sister, Colbi Jo Atkins. She was born to Timmy and Brooke Atkins of Big Spring on Jan. 6, 2012, at 10:28 a.m.

She weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Paternal grandparents are Tim and Julie Atkins of Coahoma. Maternal grandparents are Linda Smith of Port Aransas and Wesley Smith of Fresno.

Great-grandparents are Addie Smith of Colorado City, Merle and Jimmie Looper of Port Aransas and Patricia Atkins of Breckenridge, Texas.

Mariah Nicole Leos

Mariah Nicole Leos, daughter of Adam and Miranda Leos, was born Jan. 26, 2012, at 2:50 p.m.

She weighed 6 pounds 5 ounces and measured 19 inches long.

Her maternal grandparents are Jennifer Castro of Big Spring and Kelly Cassidy of Grant, N.M.

Her paternal grandparents are Carlos and Eva Leos of Big Spring.

She was welcomed home by her brother, Adam Trysten Leos.



Menus

Forsan ISD

Monday: Breakfast: honeybun, juice, milk. Cereal. Lunch: beef and bean burrito, Spanish rice, seasoned corn, sparkly apple, brownie, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast: scrambled eggs, toast, juice, milk. Cereal. Lunch: cheeseburger, lettuce, tomatoe and pickles, tater tots, baby carrot dip-pers, orange smiles, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: biscuit, sausage, juice, milk. Cereal. Lunch: golden fish strips, mac and cheese, garden salad, hushpuppies, fishes in the sea, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast: breakfast pocket, juice, milk. 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.

Sands ISD

Monday: Breakfast: biscuit and gravy, juice and milk. Lunch: toasted ham and cheese sandwich, carrots with ranch, baked chips, orange, cookie and milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast: toast, bacon and egg, juice and milk. Lunch: crispy tacos, lettuce and tomatoes, Spanish rice, pinto beans, fancy gelatin and milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: breakfast on a stick, juice and milk. Lunch: pop corn chicken, broccoli-rice-cheese, tossed salad, pears, cornbread and milk.

Thursday: Breakfast: cinnamon roll, juice and milk. Lunch: spaghetti with meat sauce, tossed salad, green beans, french bread stick, apple and milk.

Friday: Breakfast: breakfast pizza, juice and milk. Lunch: chicken patty sandwich, oven fries, baked beans, pudding and milk.

Big Spring ISD

Monday: Breakfast: cocoa krispies, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: barbecue rib on hoagie, baked doritos, baby carrots, ranch dressing, peaches, orange smiles, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast: sausage and gravy pizza, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: asian teriyaki chicken, brown rice pilaf, broccoli, mandarin oranges, egg roll, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: breakfast burrito, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans, sliced apples, roll, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast: mini maple pancakes, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: chicken fajitas, whole wheat

tortilla, ranch beans, corn, pineapple chunks, lettuce/tomato toping, salsa, milk.

Friday: Breakfast: breakfast quesadilla, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: cheese burger, sweet potato fries, lettuce, tomato, pickles, pears, banana, milk.

Coahoma ISD

Monday: Breakfast: oatmeal, sausage, apple juice, milk. Lunch: smothered steak, creamed potatoes, peaches, bread, milk. McRib.

Tuesday: Breakfast: biscuits, gravy, sausage, grape juice, milk. Lunch: hamburgers, salad trays, chips, oranges, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: pancake sausage on stick, syrup, apple juice, milk. Lunch: cheeseburger pockets, baked beans, pineapple cups, milk. Hot Pockets.

Thursday: Breakfast: pop tarts, sausage, applesauce, milk. Lunch: homemade burritos, potato salad, apples, milk. Corndogs.

Friday: Breakfast: french toast, syrup, sausage, orange juice, milk. Lunch: taco beef pie, ranch beans, baby carrots, jell-o with fruit, milk. Burritos.

Stanton ISD

Monday: Breakfast: waffles. Lunch: grilled ham and cheese sandwich, corn coblette, garden salad, strawberry cup, milk, pretzel.

Tuesday: Breakfast: oatmeal. Lunch: pizza, mixed vegetables, garden salad, pears, milk, ranch dressing.

Wednesday: Breakfast: biscuit, sausage and gravy. Lunch: roasted chicken, stuffing, green beans, peach cup, wheat rolls, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast: pizza. Lunch: tacos, pinto beans, lettuce/tomato, pineapple, cornbread, milk.

Friday: Breakfast: burrito. Lunch: sloppy joes, tator tots, pickle spears, apple, milk.

Senior Center

Monday: hamburger, sweet potato french fries, lettuce and tomatoes, onion and pickles, peaches, milk.

Tuesday: hamburger steak, mushroom gravy, baked potatoes, corn and limas with red peppers, rolls, apple cobbler, milk.

Wednesday: green chili stew, Spanish rice, cornbread, salad, fruit with citrus, milk.

Thursday: baked chicken, buttered red potatoes, peas and pearl onions, rolls, fruited gelatin, milk.

Friday: lasagna, California blend vegetables, garlic bread, salad, tapioca pudding, milk.

~ Dear Molly ~

What's wrong with my wife?

Dear Molly,
I'm writing because I need a woman's point of view. I'm 47 and married to a wonderful woman who is 48. We've been married since college and have had our share of ups and downs but it seems like over the last few years things have settled into a sort of calm. That is until now. I should say we have two sons who are 18 and 20.



MOLLY MASON

My wife has recently become someone I don't recognize. She's wearing revealing clothing, is angry a lot and is really sensitive over stupid

stuff. Another concern is she's started to drink wine almost every night. She's not going out or disappearing so I don't think there's another guy in the picture.

What do you think could be going on? When I talk to her she yells and then we fight, which seems like all she wants to do anyway.

What do you think is going on with her?

Lost in confusion

Dear lost,

You have asked for my opinion and I'll give it to you, but know I'm not a medical professional. Your wife is at the age where it's quite possible this is hormonally driven behavior.

The first thing I would do is to sit down with her and open up a conversation. I would tell her you expect the two of you are capable of an adult exchange whereby no one yells and no one cuts the other off.

If she is receptive to this then start with the positives, how much you love her and you are talking to her out of concern.

Don't place blame, but think of this as a way to get more information. She may be drinking to reduce the anxiety and fear she's feeling which in turn can play into the anger when it doesn't help.

There are so many alternatives to help her if hormones are the problem. The fact she's not going out and you haven't mentioned any other odd behavior such as phone calls in the night etc, I'm led to think its hormones. The most important thing right now for her to hear is she's not alone and together you seek to make things better.

The next logical step is to see her doctor, get a physical and discuss the results of her tests.

I know this is a challenge for you, but you did the right thing in reaching out.

Good luck!

~Molly

Readers, any advice? Does it sound like a hormonal imbalance to you?

Molly is a writer and business professional with years of experience in finance, business development and management.

Her lifelong passion and learning has been focused on the understanding and complexity of relationships as well as effective communication. Originally from Texas she has lived in many cities including St Louis and Portland finally settling in Boston where she raised her family and received her education in Business Administration.

She is now living in Texas with her family and is excited to be home. Catch her daily relationship and advice column "Molly Mason- Let's Talk Love" on www.austin.com and "Straight Talk" in print.

You can contact Molly at mollymasonst@gmail.com



Employee of the Month

Danielle Overton

Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation would like to congratulate Danielle Overton for earning Employee of the Month. Danielle has been with us since October 2011 and does a wonderful job in Housekeeping. The residents, families and employees of Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation appreciate all that you do!

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

231076

Life forms can be found at www.bigspringherald.com

February Special

New Hope Christian School LOVES Children!

During the month of February, you can enroll your child at NHCS and pay NO registration fee! That's a huge savings of \$75.00 and applies to all students previously *not* enrolled at New Hope Christian School.

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Making downtown a little more unique

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

Downtown Big Spring is slowly growing, with the newest edition being Jake Witzel Gifts and Interiors.

The shop, aimed at providing one-of-a-kind, unique gift ideas is located in the old Good Music store located at 223 S. Main St.

"When we moved here I noticed there weren't a whole lot of places for bridal and baby registry. I noticed a need that wasn't being met and I wanted to open up a shop that would help meet that need," said Jonna Morgan, owner of Jake Witzel Gifts and Interiors.

Upon relocating to Big Spring Morgan had two options, go out and find an 8-to-5 job or open her own business and be her own boss.

"I figured I could bring new business and downtown was the perfect spot," Morgan said. "The location was phenomenal and downtown will be booming again, especially once the Settles is completed, so it was a great option."

Of course, being a first-time business owner, Morgan had some questions that needed to be answered before she could fully delve into her journey, which is where Matty McLain and Leading EDG came in.

"You can't just go out on a whim and open up a business. You actually have to have a plan and Matty helped me see that," Morgan said. "He gave me a starting point and brought to my attention all the little details. He made me think of XYZ, which I probably wouldn't have thought of otherwise."

Leading EDG, previously known as Entrepreneur Alliance, is a free service supported by the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation.



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Jonna Morgan, owner of Jake Witzel Gifts and Interiors, sets up her inventory as she continues to prepare for her official grand opening set for Feb. 11. Now open, Jake Witzel Gifts and Interiors' business hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. The store is located at 223 S. Main St.

McLain said, "This is what they (BSEDC) pay us for. For those people who hit road bumps along the way or just have questions about how to get started or how to make their existing business work. This is the goal of all of it."

Despite the questions that popped up, Morgan knew she

wanted to focus on providing something unique to the community.

After doing some research, she was able to select an inventory which offered items that can't be found anywhere else in Big Spring.

See **GIFTS**, Page 5B

Energy Watch



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



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

There are three types of people involved in the prognostication business these days. The "end of the world" types, the "it's a slower, post-apocalypse world" types, and the "everything is going to be OK" types.

For a long time now, we have been saying that the "end of the world" types are over-doing it. This is actually a dangerous stance for us to take because the "end of the world" types can be very nasty to people who disagree with them. The "it's a slower world" types are more cerebral and less nasty, but equally adamant. We, obviously, fall in the third camp.

No matter how we make our argument, and no matter how consistently the economy grows, the doubt and fear and disbelief just won't go away. We noticed this recently, when conventional wisdom started to say that investors were being "complacent" these days.

In other words, when the equity markets go down, investors are "living in reality" and "accepting" that the economy and financial markets just aren't in great shape. But when the equity markets go up, they are being schizophrenic, overly optimistic, and now some are saying "complacent."

We couldn't disagree more. Private sector payrolls have grown 160,000 per month in the past year. The unemployment rate is down almost a full percentage point from a year ago, while the size of the labor force is up (just like it was up in 2010, too). Over the past four weeks, unemployment claims have averaged 10 percent lower than the same period a year ago.

Retail sales are up 6.5 percent from a year ago, orders for long-lasting durable goods are up 12.1 percent, and auto sales are up 8.4 percent.

Perhaps most importantly, the long-awaited recovery in the housing sector has finally started. Housing starts in the fourth quarter hit the highest level since late 2008 and were up at a 32 percent annual rate compared to Q2. This was not all apartment buildings; single-family housing was up at a 13 percent annual rate in the second half of 2011.

Meanwhile, even after a recent rally, US equities remain incredibly cheap. Based on trailing after-tax earnings, the price-to-earnings ratio on stocks in the S&P 500 is roughly 13.5. On future earnings it's even cheaper.

Flipping this over, so earnings are on top and price is on bottom, the "earnings yield" on stocks is 7.4 percent, compared to a 10-year Treasury yield of only 2 percent. This suggests that stocks are cheap relative to bonds.

In other words, rather than being the result of complacency, craziness or stupidity, the recent rally has a much more straightforward explanation. The economy is growing, it's very likely to continue to grow, and if that is the case then stocks are grossly undervalued relative to bonds.

And the good news continues. With about 15 percent of the S&P 500 companies having reported earnings for the fourth quarter of 2011, 60 plus percent have beaten street estimates.

Notice how none of this has anything to do with a third round of quantitative easing by the Federal Reserve. The last round of quantitative easing was essentially useless, with banks boosting their excess reserves from \$1 trillion to \$1.6 trillion.

Nonetheless, bank lending is picking up and accelerated after QE2 ended. This has helped boost the M2 measure of money (Milton Friedman's favorite gauge), which has also been growing faster since the end of QE2 than during it.

So far in 2012, the S&P 500 has had 11 up days versus only two down days. That ratio probably won't continue for the full year, but the idea that it is unwarranted, crazy or complacent is a point of view that is supported by a decidedly bearish set of assumptions.

Rather, it appears that the stock market is finally (or once again) beginning to realize that the world is not ending and that the recovery is not so fragile that it cannot last. We remain optimistic. We continue to believe that things are getting better and we don't feel complacent at all.

You are cautioned that such forward-looking statements are subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and actual results could be materially different. There are no guarantees associated with any forecast and the opinions stated here are subject to change at any time and are the opinion of the individual strategist. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. This article was written by Brian S. Wesbury, chief economist for First Trust Advisors L.P., on Jan. 23 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. Information is available upon request 432-684-7335.

Passing the gavel



Foresyth takes over as chamber president

HERALD photos/Amanda Moreno

At top, Terri Johansen, outgoing Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce president, hands over the reigns to Jan Foresyth by handing over the gavel, during the recent 2012 annual chamber banquet.

Right: Foresyth, new chamber president for 2012, takes the podium and recognizes the outgoing president during Tuesday night's annual chamber banquet.



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 Lutrell, 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
Lisa D. Smith, 2010 Sierra Dr., League City
Andrew Sommers, 3110 W. Kansas Ave., Midland
Janie Spurgeion, 1212 Wadley, Midland
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

Marriage Licenses:
Adan Arellano, 25, and Griselda Elizabeth Morales, 21, both of Big Spring.
Michael Wade Welch, 31, of Midland, and Michael Robin Velinda Welch, 29, of Big Spring.
Joe David Digby, 45, of Sweetwater, and Angie Diane Skaggs, 43, of Big Spring.
Pete D. Acosta III, 19, and Hali Jo Wells, 19, both of Big Spring.
Charles W. Helm, 44, and Christina E. Berry, 28, both of Big Spring.
Michael M. Hernandez, 35, and Kristie M. Munoz, 35, both of Big Spring.
Joshua Nathaniel Miller, 35, and Pamela Kay Garner, 43, both of Big Spring.

District Court Filings:
FTSI International Services LLC vs. Richland Resources Corporation, civil.
Equable Ascent Financial LLC vs. Hazel C. Bammers, accounts, notes and contracts.
In Re Isaiah Ray Cervantes, family.
In Re Kyleigh Taetum Porter, family.
Wind Energy Transmissions Texas LLC vs. Tommy Morris (trustee), civil.
Connie Strickland vs. Enid Amber Stonerook, civil.
Felipe L. Villa vs. Estrella Villa, divorce.
Matthew Jirasek vs. Marybeth Jirasek, divorce.
Bobby Lee Edmondson vs. Rhonda Kay Edmondson, divorce.
Brian Lewis and Kori Lewis vs. Debra Fletcher Dodson, injury or damages involving a motor vehicle.

Warranty Deeds:
Grantor: ACTT Properties LLC
Grantee: Michael Nairn Property: Lot 14, Block 3, Muir Heights Addition
Date: Dec. 7, 2011
Grantor: Sandra G. Cox and Hubert Cox
Grantee: Gerald Hall and Frances Hall
Property: Lot 14 Block 1, Hillcrest Terrace
Date: Dec. 7, 2011
Grantor: Charlene Land and Mary Frances Walker
Grantee: Kerr Manage Property: Lot 10, Block 1, College Park Estates
Date: Dec. 7, 2011
Grantor: Catarina Franco
Grantee: Henry T. Franco
Property: Lot 4, Block 10, McDowell Heights Addition
Date: Dec. 7, 2011
Grantor: Eugenia Phillips and Connie Strickland
Grantee: Brenda Edwards
Property: Lot L, Village at the Springs, Section 2
Date: Dec. 6, 2011

Texas Wildlife Association to host a wide array of webinars

Special to the Herald

Texas Wildlife Association has teamed with Texas AgriLife Extension to host a series of webinars covering a wide array of wildlife and land management topics.

These free online webinars are held during the lunch hour (noon to 1 p.m., CST) so anyone interested may tune in during the work day. The webinar series provides sound, science-based wildlife management information delivered by experts to you in the comfort of your own home or office.

The next webinar, "Wild Pigs in Texas: Control Options for Landowners," will be held Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012. The webinar will be presented by Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Texas AgriLife Extension Fisheries and Wildlife Specialist. This webinar will concentrate on the control methods available to Texas landowners to efficiently reduce damage caused by

wild pigs. Special emphasis will be placed on best management practices of trapping — considered to be the removal method that is the first line of defense for most Texas landowners. Current research efforts will also be discussed.

How to sign on:

Point your browser to <https://texas-wildlife.webex.com> on the day of the webinar and click to join the Wildlife for Lunch webinar. Each web-based seminar is fully interactive and allows you to engage the experts, make comments and ask questions during the course of the presentation.

If you cannot make the live webinar:

Each webinar is archived and available for viewing following the initial air date at the Texas Wildlife Association website: www.texas-wildlife.org

For more information, contact Texas Wildlife Association's Courtney Brittain at cbrittain@texas-wildlife.org or 1-800-839-9453

GIFTS

Continued from Page 4B

"I wanted to provide what nobody else in town had. I decided on this kind of shop because of the diversity," Morgan said. "It allows me to provide more choices for people. It's the best of all worlds and you can have it all under one roof."

Jake Witzel Gifts and Interior's inventory includes items for bridal registry, including linens, wall décor, small rugs and more. It also provides a selection of baby items for those looking for special, one-of-a-kind gift ideas for children.

"When it comes to bridal registry items such as linens and pots and pans, most people go to big name box stores, which is why I plan on getting heavier into the sheets, pots and pans, in order to offer the diversity of the box store items, while providing

items that bring more individuality into a home."

She continued, "I want to be able to provide items that are uniquely yours. I know I would rather have something that tells a story."

On top of offering bridal and baby registries and several unique home décor ideas, Morgan will be offering homemade, fresh fudge beginning next week.

Jake Witzel Gifts and Interiors can be found at 223 S. Main St. Business hours are 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday.

"I wanted to provide hours that allow people to shop after they get off work," Morgan said.

For more information, call Morgan at 432-517-4569 or visit the store's Facebook page for steals and deals.

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

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Apply in person at Bent Tree
Apartments, 1 Courtney Place.

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MATURE CHRISTIAN person who is energetic and loves children. The right person will possess a good driving record and be able to drive a 15 passenger van and work well with children ages 5-12 years. Must be available to work Monday-Friday from 15-25 hours each week. Apply in person at 118 Cedar Rd.

NABORS WELL SERVICES

Now Hiring Night Dispatcher. Must have good office/clerical skills. Also looking for Vacuum Truck Drivers for night shift and Pump Truck Driver. We offer Competitive Salary & Benefits: Please apply in person at 2900 Hwy. 87 N Big Spring, Tx No Phone Calls Please

NEED A professional house cleaner to clean Apts. & Houses and make ready to rent when people move out. Call (432)466-9177.

Need **CASHIER** plus **STOCKER**. Starting pay \$8.00 per hour. Apply at Fast Stop, 1500 E. 4th St.

NEED CDL Driver- Home Nightly, Local Run, Full-time. Call (432)267-4700.

TOP JOBS

RUSSELL CELLULAR in Big Spring Texas is hiring a Store Manager and Wireless Sales Representative. Interested candidates are asked to apply at www.careerbuilder.com Keyword Search: Russell Cellular

Help Wanted

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY Big Spring Area Routes Midland Reporter-Telegram The Midland Reporter-Telegram has delivery positions available in the Big Spring Area for both Home Delivery and Retail Outlet distribution. Good organization for customer tracking, a reliable vehicle and a dependable commitment to early morning deliveries ranging from 2:00am-6:00 am. If interested please call Linda McCumber 432-967-4150

PART TIME MERCHANDISER Lawrence Merchandising needs a representative in BIG SPRING. Flexible scheduling that fits your availability. Maintain product displays at WALMART & other local retailers. Retail exp preferred; must have email/internet access. Please call 1-800-328-3967 x743. To learn more visit: www.LMSVC.com

PART-TIME HOUSEKEEPER/ Caregiver needed. References & drivers license required. Call (432)270-0741.

PART-TIME MAINT Tech needed for property in Big Spring. Applicant must have strong organizational skills and enjoy working outdoors. 20 hrs/week plus vacation. Fax resume to (432)264-1761.

PIZZA INN NOW HIRING COOKS. MUST BE AVAILABLE DAYS, NIGHTS, AND WEEKENDS. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG.

TEXASTONE QUARRIES Is hiring full time laborers to work in the plant and also in the quarry. Benefits available. Apply in person: 1400 Sherrrod Rd., Garden City or call (432)354-2569.

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.

THE COLORADO River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following position in the Big Spring Area. **Operations Maintenance Technician** - Responsible for maintaining the District's raw water pipelines, pump stations, and wells in the Big Spring Area. Entry to Intermediate level position. CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave. Applications are required and are available at the District's office, 400 E. 24TH Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, by calling (432)267-6341 or our website www.crmwd.org

TOP JOBS

POWER RESOURCES LTD., operated by Falcon Power Operating Company, an indirect subsidiary of CalEnergy Generation is seeking a skilled Instrument/Electrical Technician for our Big Spring, Texas facility. Duties include skilled electrical and process instrumentation work, including installing, maintaining, repairing, precision/process control instrumentation systems, AC and DC electrical systems to include low, medium and high voltage distribution systems. Employment is contingent upon passing physical and drug screening and business unit requirements. For complete job descriptions and to apply online, go to the career page at www.calenergy.com and search "Available Positions". An Equal Opportunity Employer committed to diversity.

WATER TRANSFER Hands needed, CDL a plus, call 940-736-8694.

Help Wanted

QUINN PUMPS Inc. has an opening for a full-time Pump Tech.. Experience preferred but not required. Salary DOE. Benefits included. Apply at 3313 East FM 700 Big Spring.

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 I20 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.

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Seeking Enthusiastic attendants to assist clients in the home with personal care, meal prep. and light housekeeping. P-T E.O.E. Call Sulema or Bonnie @ 1-800-458-3257.

TEXASTONE QUARRIES **NEED MECHANIC** and/or machine maintenance person with hydraulic, gasoline, diesel and electric engine experience. Competitive salary & benefits. Fax resume to (432)354-2669.

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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

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\$500 REWARD- white Pit Bull mixed black patch over left eye, black halter. Lost Friday 27th in the area of Douglas and 14th Street. Call 870-405-0802.

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1802 EAST 11th Across from College, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, CH/A, \$750. Month, \$600. deposit. No Pets. Prefer Non Smoker. Call for appt. (432)816-3042.

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Applicants must pass a background check, USDOT physical; possess a clean MVR, **dependability a must!**

Post confidential resume at careers@hardies.com or fax (214) 421-1105 ref Class A Driver Big Spring.

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#7251 February 5, 2012

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT
CrownQuest Operating, LLC., c/o Box 953, Midland, TX 79702
Is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a disposal permit to dispose of produced formation water/fluid into a formation that is productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to dispose of fluids into the San Andres formation, their Wilkinson 1A SWD, located in Section 2, Block 34 T-1-N, T&P RR Co., Martin County, Texas. The proposed injection well is located in the Spraberry (Trend Area) field, in Martin County, Texas, 12.6 miles NE from Stanton, Texas. Fluid will be disposed into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3200-4308 ft.
Legal Authority: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the State-wide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.
Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Underground Injection Control, Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, TX 78711-2967 (512) 463-6815.
#7256 February 5, 2012

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGES IN ELECTION PRECINCTS
Pursuant to §42.035, Texas Election Code, the Commissioners Court of Glasscock County, Texas herein provides notice of changes in County political boundaries as adopted by the Commissioners Court, and as precleared by the United States Department of Justice on the 15th day of December, 2011.
Interested individuals may review the adopted changes in the office of the County Clerk during regular business hours.
The changes in county election precincts were necessitated by re-districting of County Commissioners Court precincts in compliance with the United States Constitution and 42 U.S.C. §1973, also known as the Voting Rights Act, following the release of 2010 census data. Changes in county election precincts were designed to achieve numerical balance between the four commissioners court precincts, and to insure the voting rights of all citizens of Glasscock County, Texas.
Rebecca Bath
Glasscock County Clerk

AVISO PUBLICO DE CAMBIOS EN ELECCION RECINTOS
Conforme a §42.035, Tejas Eleccion Codigo, la Corte de Comisario, Condado Glasscock, Tejas, avisa cambio en las fronteras politicas de condados segun se adopto por las corte de comisario y aprobado por Estado Unidos Ministerio Justicia el 15th de diciembre 2011.
Los individuos interesados pueden repasar los cambios adoptados en la oficina del oficial Condado durante horas de ofician regulares. Los cambios en recintos de la eleccion del condado fueron hechos necesario por cambios de los recintos de comisiones del condado en conformidad con la constitucion de Estados Unidos y 42 U.S.C. §1973, tambien sabido como Derechos Al Voto, despues del desbloquear de los datos 2000 de censo. Cambios en eleccion recintos del condado fueron disenados para alcanzar el equilibrio numerico entre los cuatro recintos de la corte de las comisioners, y para asegurar los derechos al voto de todos los ciudadanos del condado Glasscock de Tejas.
Rebecca Bath
Glasscock County Clerk
#7240 January 22, 29 and February 5, 2012

Legals

INVITATION TO BID
The Colorado Municipal Water District and Garney Companies are soliciting General Contractor, Subcontractor and supplier participation including those that qualify as SWMBE's for the following: **Bid Package 6 Above Slab Work for the Ward County Water Supply Expansion Project.** Bid Deadline is March 1, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. Bid will be received at GRMWD 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, TX 79721-0869. For more information contact Marcus Grace at (816)536-6485 or email mgrace@garney.com Garney Companies, Inc is an Employment/Opportunity Employer.
#7254 February 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 2012

Legals

Notice is hereby given that Laredo Petroleum, Inc., Operator 486610, has filed with the Texas Railroad Commission the following: P-17 application for the exception to SWR 26 and/or 27 to surface commingle production, allocate production and for off-lease storage. From an oil and gas lease on the NE/4 of Section 20, Block 34, T2S, T&P RR Co. Survey; and the NW/4 of Section 20, Block 34, T2S, T&P RR Co. Survey; all with production from the SE/Quarter of Section 14, Block 34, T2S, T&P RR Co. Survey; all in Glasscock County, Texas under other leases. Any affected mineral interest owners who have not received written notification are advised to contact Daniel Temple of Laredo Petroleum, Inc., in Midland, Texas at 508 W. Wall, Suite 600, Midland, Texas 79701, (432)684-9955 by March 3, 2012.
#7244 January 22, 29, 2012 and February 5, & 12, 2012

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Coahoma Independent School District will accept sealed bids to replace the roofs on the high school science room and the administration office. The bids shall be in the Superintendent's office at 500 N. Main in Coahoma, no later than 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2012. A walk-through conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at the Coahoma ISD Administration Building. The Proposal forms and specifications may be obtained at the walk-through conference or at the Coahoma ISD Administration Building located at 500 N. Main, Coahoma, TX 79511. The bids will be presented to the school board at their regular meeting on Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Coahoma ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in the best interest of the Coahoma ISD.
#7245 January 29, 2012 and February 5, 2012.

Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Norma Geneva Wheeler, Deceased were issued on the January 23, 2012, in Cause No. **P-14040**, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to: Ronald Joe Wheeler.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: **Ronald Joe Wheeler**
P.O. Box 3190
Big Spring, Texas 79720
DATED the 2nd day of February, 2012.
Robert D. Miller
Attorney for
State Bar No.: 14108500
608 Scurry
Big Spring, Tx 79720
Telephone: (432)267-7449
Facsimile: (432)267-1043
#7260 February 5, 2012

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT
ConocoPhillips Company, 3300 North A Street, Building 6, Midland, Texas 79705 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation, Roberts, Dora 36. The proposed injection well is located 15 miles South of Big Spring, Texas in the Howard Glasscock Field in Howard County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into the subsurface depth interval from 1535 to 1888 feet.
LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.
Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711. (Telephone (512)463-6792).
#7250 February 5, 2012

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT
ConocoPhillips Company, P.O. Box 358, Borger, Texas 79008-0358 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation, Settles, W.R. -A- No. 38. The proposed injection well is 6 miles East of Forsan located in teh Howard Glascock Field, in Howard County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into the subsurface depth interval from 1533 to 1980 feet.
LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.
Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711. (Telephone (512)463-6792).
#7249 February 5, 2012

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!

VOTE!

Legals

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS
Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.
CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)
Dist/Div: Odessa
Contract 6235-17-001 for ROAD-SIDE MOWING in MARTIN County, etc will be opened on March 13, 2012 at 2:00 pm at the District Office for an estimate of \$105,468.00.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a

project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 39142

State Office

Const./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540
Dist/Div Office(s)

Odessa District
District Engineer
3901 E. U.S. Hwy 80
Odessa, Texas 79761
Phone: 432-332-0501

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.
#7257 February 5 & 12, 2012

Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of WILLIAM HENDRY COX, Deceased, were issued on December 21, 2011, in Cause No. P-14016, pending in the County Court of HOWARD County, Texas, to: William Jeffrey Cox.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: **C.E. (Mike) Thomas III**
Attorney at Law
501 Gregg Street
P.O. Drawer 2117
Big Spring, Texas 79721
DATED the 2nd day of January, 2012.
C.E. (Mike) Thomas III
Attorney for William Jeffrey Cox
State Bar No.: 19845200
501 Gregg Street
P.O. Drawer 2117
Big Spring, Texas 79721
Telephone: (432)263-4142
Facsimile: (432)267-2763
#7259 February 5, 2012

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ACROSS

1 Canvas holders
6 Conclusive procedures
15 Fan site
16 "10-4"
17 City east of Delft
18 Longfellow lover
19 It may be underfoot
21 Marked, in a way
22 Olivier Award winner of 1981
23 They're essential to a Dairy Queen "Blizzard"
25 Divide
26 "Start Here" sloganeer
27 Beloved Hollywood nickname
29 Put down
30 Didn't go together
32 Put over
34 Pulitzer winner for *The Good War*
35 Evidence of some accents
39 Athlete's jitters
41 Surpassed
42 GM news of 2010
45 Prime time for oysters
47 Shell filling
48 Union election agcy.
50 Show fear, perhaps
51 Something to rattle
52 Possible results of raptness
54 Source of fast-acting carbs

DOWN

1 Vaudeville staple
2 Venial
3 Certain racer
4 Astronomical study
5 Jeremy Irons in *The Lion King*
6 Carrying mail
7 Went around in circles
8 Of volcanic origin
9 Hiding place
10 Memorable King Kong opponent
11 Heavens
12 Not hot, perhaps
13 Greek bread spread
14 Won't change
20 "And that's the truth!"
24 Caricaturist
27 *Finest Hour* (Churchill book)
28 Mel Brooks' Robin Hood
31 Heavens
33 Nipper

36 Willing to consider
37 *Barrack-Room Ballads* verse
38 Spanish patron
40 A VIP
41 Listens carefully
42 Eat
43 River followed by the Pony Express
44 Unfunded, as a research project
46 Refusal of assistance
49 Overcomes
51 Space starter
53 Presumptuous person
55 Festive
57 Cedar Rapids school

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Baby on the way?

Make time to prepare your pet

By **SUE MANNING**

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Parents have months to get ready for a baby. Experts say the countdown should include prep time for pets too.

A baby changes everything for a pet — from how its home looks, smells and sounds to what the rules are.

Low energy, friendly, social dogs are the most adaptable pets, while independent, excitable, high maintenance, busybody dogs are the least adaptable, said San Francisco veterinarian and animal behaviorist Sophia Yin.

"Little dogs can be more jealous and more snippy," said Lynn Sullivan, community health program manager for The BirthPlace at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital.

When Saya Barrett learned she and husband Jack were going to have a baby, she worried that their 15-pound, 5-year-old poodle, Latte, would be jealous.

Instead, Barrett said, Latte "was curious. He could hear her little noises from the crib but had no idea what they were or where they were coming from. He figured it out pretty soon though. He did what any other confused dog would do — looked around, sniffed, then soon found her in her crib."

Almost immediately, she said, they knew "Latte would be a good big brother" to baby Aila, now 4 months old: "Latte is very good to her. He will lick her hands and feet if we are sitting on the couch together."

While Latte adjusted easily, Yin said making some changes before the baby arrives can help a pet and ease new parent anxieties.

Maybe your dog needs to learn some basic commands like sit, down or stay, she said. If your dog is used to jumping in your lap or up onto furniture, new boundaries should be set before the baby comes home. Maybe you have to move the cat's litter box to make way for a crib.

If your dog is uncomfortable around visitors, add some social activities like trips to the dog park.

You can buy CDs or find online recordings of baby sounds, including rattles and cries, Yin said. Pairing noises with treats will make the newness easier to accept.

Use baby powder, shampoo and lotions before the baby is born. While the baby is still at the hospital, take a shirt or blanket the baby has used and let your pet get familiar with the scent, Sullivan said.

A trip to the vet will assure that pets don't have fleas, parasites or other problems, but cat owners who are pregnant must also guard against toxoplasmosis, Sullivan said. The parasite that causes it is most often found in cat feces, so use gloves or get someone else to change litter boxes.

Cats can be an ideal pet for new parents because they often ignore the baby, but they are also curious and can jump and crawl, Sullivan said, recalling an incident when her son, now grown, was an infant and her cat wouldn't stay out of the crib. "When she scratched the baby, that was it," Sullivan said. She immediately found a new home for the cat.

"Infants are helpless," Sullivan said. "No matter how good-natured a pet is, never leave any pet alone with a baby."

Yin said when she talks about cats and babies, the same question always

comes up — can a cat suck the life out of a baby while trying to lick milk off the infant's face?

Not true, she says: "Cats will not suck the air from a newborn, but they do like to snuggle up to a warm body."

Cats don't like sticky surfaces, so to keep cats away from a crib, cover the outside with sticky paper or double-sided tape.

When babies start moving and crawling, that poses new challenges for pets, especially fearful dogs.

"Their first response is to get away," said Yin. "As long as they can do that, it's OK. But when the object keeps coming after them and corners them, they might become defensive."

Most dogs will accept their new roles as pal and protector, Yin said, but there might be reasons they can't, don't or won't.

Maybe you have an older dog with arthritis. Getting pounced on by a young child could hurt, causing the dog to snap. Dogs may also lash out in response to rough or even mean-spirited behavior from children, like spitting or wrestling. If a dog pants for no reason or won't lean into a child for a hug, that could be a sign that the dog feels stressed by the child's presence, Yin said. "Some children are very aggressive with animals and they need to learn early how to treat animals," she said.

New mothers might also consider a dog walker or even doggie daycare to give everyone a break, Yin said.

Finally, don't take on a baby and a puppy at the same time. "That," said Yin, "would be like having twins."

Available for Adoption



Bella Trix

Bella Trix is a young, female Border Collie mix.

She is sweet and energetic and good with children. She is mostly housebroken and is kennel trained. It is recommended that Bella Trix be an outside dog and the only dog in the household. For more information, contact Samantha at 432-254-3837.



Lotti

Lotti is a large, adult, female German Short-haired Pointer mix. She will be available until Feb. 15.

For more information on how you can adopt one of these animals, contact the Big Spring Animal Control Shelter at 432-264-2372.



Sheldon

Sheldon is a very young, medium, male Shetland Sheepdog mix.

He is about 4 months old and is very playful. He will be available until Feb. 15.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Venus uses her feminine wiles to ease the tension between Mercury (word) and Mars (deed). For those who put their foot in their mouth yesterday, today brings forgiveness. And if harsh words were exchanged, the conflict can now be made right with heartfelt apologies. In any case, it's good to have the truth out in the open.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Good living becomes a rather simple and straightforward process today.

You'll help others get what they need when they need it, and then you'll appreciate the smiles and happiness that follow.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The ones who say you are only as strong as your weakest attribute are being unrealistic and pessimistic. No one can be good at everything. Use your strengths, and let the rest work itself out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You enjoy comfortable, warm spaces. But to really feel at home in a space, it also must afford you a good deal of privacy. Alone time is necessary to your health and well-being, so guard it like it's sacred.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are feeling spiritually open, which will attract goodness to you, but also will make you vulnerable to negative attachments. Your best protection is to think happy, high-minded thoughts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's a fog of poetic energy that settles around you. Use it! The poet Lord Byron said, "Poetry is a distinct faculty — it won't come when called. You may as well whistle for a wind."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have to be able to feel a person's intentions in order to deem them trustworthy in your book. Unpredictable and complicated people will warrant further observation. Take your time.



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Many times you follow through with an action simply because you want to know what will happen next. Your motive will be simple, and that is precisely why it works so well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). For you, it's not enough to merely show up and do what you're supposed to do. You will dedicate yourself to taking things to the next level. You'll inspire others to do the same.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You will be affected by the decisions of someone very far away from you, but these decisions do not have to throw you off your path. There's a way to make it all work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). In games of "good cop, bad cop," you don't care which cop you play. It's the end result — getting compliance from the perpetrator — that matters most to you. You and a partner will work together toward an optimum end.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This may be a strangely emotional day for you. There may be very little difference in the structure of your day from the way it was last week, but you are different, and that's enough to change everything.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You know what you believe, and articulating it will help you know it even better. So make a record of where you stand on this very day. The action will give you a surge of personal power.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 5). January features exciting and unusual interactions. You have something to learn from those whose interests are diametrically opposed to your own. You'll accomplish far more than you even anticipated in April. You'll push through barriers to give your talent expression. June brings commercial opportunities. Cancer and Gemini people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 2, 31, 24 and 18.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Taurus who will be turning 45 this April, and I'm dreading

getting older. Maybe it's because I'm ruled by Venus, but I'm really afraid of losing my looks and attractiveness. I'm afraid of being alone and unhappy. I went to a plastic surgeon, but I'm not sure I can afford all that he wants to do. What do you think?"

Stop the surgeon! You could very well be on your way to the happiest and most beautiful stage of your life, no cutting necessary! In collecting figures on the emotional well-being of British citizens, the British government has statistics to suggest that after middle age, people get happier as they get older. Similar studies have been performed in China, Japan, Africa and the United States that point to the same conclusion. After age 46, people get happier. Earth signs Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn have particularly tenacious personalities, and this manifests in their physicality, as well. These signs become not only happier but more beautiful as they gain a stately presence, grow into their own style and let their inner beauty dictate choices instead of merely following along with society.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Walt Disney was born on this day in 1901. The icon of imagination who fathered The Walt Disney Company and changed the shape of the entertainment world forever was born under the independent-minded, curious, passionate and worldly influence of Sagittarius. Disney's natal moon was in Libra, the sign of art, beauty and relationships. Mars, Jupiter and Saturn were in ambitious Capricorn.

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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Dear Annie: My husband's sister is impossible. "Anabel" is bitter, nasty, venomal, snide and vicious. She can't wait two minutes before making a cruel remark.

Soon after my husband and I moved back to his hometown, he had a stroke at the age of 52. He's recovering, thankfully. The first person I notified was Anabel. She came to the hospital and put on a great show of support, but as soon as we were alone, she'd say charming things like, "You should rest -- oh, wait, you'd better not. I don't think I could pull your big butt out of the chair." After three days of being belittled and abused by her, I had a breakdown at the hospital. The nurses told Anabel to leave and not return unless another family member was with her.

She has tried to undermine everything regarding my husband's after-stroke care. She brought him a pizza while in rehab, and I went ballistic. But here's the kicker: When my husband and I arrived at his after-care

rehab appointment, we saw Anabel coming out of the training room using a walker. We had no idea she'd been ill.

While my husband had therapy, I talked to Anabel, and she finally confessed that she'd nearly died a year before. When I asked why she hadn't told anyone, she simply shrugged. I told her she would have been furious if I hadn't notified her of my husband's stroke. Later, she told the rest of the family I was a monster and had stopped my husband from coming to see her.

I no longer wish to have any contact with Anabel. My husband is cordial to her, and she thinks this gives her carte blanche to keep babbling about how horrible we are. Other than ignoring her and the rest of this miserable breed, can you think of any other way to deal with the situation? -- No Name, Please

Dear No Name: You had a slight opportunity to improve things by showing Anabel some sympathy about her condition, but we understand that you were too upset to do so. Her abusive personality and your anger make it unlikely that you two will find common ground. However, she is your husband's sister, and he apparently wants to maintain contact. Please allow him to do so, and remove yourself from the equation by staying away whenever possible.

Dear Annie: I've been with my boyfriend for a decade. We have children together and jointly own cars, a house

and a business. I've been pushing the issue of marriage for three years. So far, he won't budge. I've given him deadlines and ultimatums, and still nothing.

I love him dearly, and I know he loves me, too, but I'm at the end of my rope. What should I do? -- N.C.

Dear N.C.: Honey, you haven't given him deadlines and ultimatums. You've given him empty threats and let him off the hook. Either accept the situation as it is, or leave. Find out whether your 10-year union is protected legally under common-law marriage statutes. Talk to a lawyer about

child support and your business entanglements. When he knows you are truly serious about leaving, he may offer marriage, but don't count on it. You should act according to what you think is best for you, and not because you are trying to manipulate him.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to annies-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254.



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From shipwreck in Italy, a treasure now beckons

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Associated Press

ROME (AP) — In the chaotic evacuation of the Costa Concordia, passengers and crew abandoned almost everything on board the cruise ship: jewels, cash, champagne, antiques, 19th century Bohemian crystal glassware, thousands of art objects including 300-year-old woodblock prints by a Japanese master.

In other words, a veritable treasure now lies beneath the pristine Italian waters where the luxury liner ran aground last month.

Though some objects are bound to disintegrate, there is still hoard enough to tempt treasure seekers — just as the Titanic and countless shipwrecks before have lured seekers of gold, armaments and other riches for as far back as mankind can remember.

It may be just a matter of time before treasure hunters set their sights on the sunken spoils of the Costa Concordia, which had more than 4,200 people on board.

"As long as there are bodies in there, it's considered off base to everybody because it's a grave," said Robert Marx, a veteran diver and the author of numerous books on maritime history and underwater archaeology and treasure hunting. "But when all the bodies are out, there will be a mad dash for the valuables."

The Mafia, he said, even has underwater teams that specialize in going after sunken booty.

The Costa Concordia was essentially a floating luxury hotel and many of the passengers embarked on the ill-fated cruise with their finest clothes and jewels so they could parade them in casinos and at gala dinners beneath towering chandeliered ceilings.

On top of that was massive wealth belonging to the ship itself: elegant shops stocked with jewelry, more than 6,000 works of art decorating walls and a wellness spa containing a collection of 300-year-old woodblock prints by Katsushika Hokusai, a Japanese artist most famous for his work of a giant wave framing Mount Fuji in the distance.

"It's now a paradise for divers," said Hans Reinhardt, a German lawyer who represents 19 German passengers seeking compensation for their loss. He said some of his clients traveled with diamond-studded jewels and other heirlooms that had been in their families for generations.

"They lost lots of jewelry — watches, necklaces, whatever women wear when they want to get well dressed," Reinhardt said. "They wanted to show off what they have."

The massive cruise liner itself is worth €50 million (\$590), but that doesn't take into account the value of all other objects on board, said Costa Crociere, the Italian company that operated the Costa Concordia.

Among the sunken objects are furniture, the vast art collection, computers, wine, champagne, as well as whatever valuables were locked away in safes in private cabins, the Costa Crociere press office said. The company still legally owns the ship and the passengers own their sunken objects.

"Quantifying this is impossible because unfortunately the ship has sunk," Costa Crociere said. "Until the ship is recovered there's no way to know what can be saved and what can't."

The ship ran aground off the Tuscan island of Giglio after the captain, Francesco Schettino, veered from his approved course, apparently to move closer to entertain passengers with a closer view of the island — a common cruise ship practice. Schettino is now under house arrest, facing accusations of manslaughter, causing a shipwreck and abandoning ship before all passengers were evacuated. Seventeen people are confirmed killed in the Jan. 13 shipwreck, with 15 more still missing.

For now, the ship's wreckage has been impounded by authorities and is surrounded by rescue workers, cleanup crews and scientists monitoring its stability on the rocky perch where it ran aground. Civil Protection, the agency that is running the rescue effort, says there is so much activity surrounding it now that authorities don't see a risk of looting yet. It also says it plans to remove the wreckage before looters can reach it.

After the ship ran aground, authorities passed a decree preventing anyone from coming within a nautical mile of the wreck, a ruling that will be valid as long as the huge liner is still in place, the Coast Guard said.

"The ship is being guarded 24 hours a day. It's not possible to even get close," said Lt. Massimo Maccheroni, a Coast Guard official.

Civil Protection director Franco Gabrielli said recently that it could take seven to 10 months to remove the 950-foot-long (290-meter-long) ship once a contract is awarded for the job.

But Marx, whose 64 books include "Treasure Lost at Sea," says that divers inevitably make a dash for sunken loot, even at great risk, and that they treat shipwrecks as a free for all.

He estimates that it will take about four to six months before a real treasure hunt will start — in part because divers will want to avoid the rough winter sea. He said some divers will be put off because the ship is still shifting on the reef it collided into and is considered unstable.

But soon, treasure hunters will go.

"Bright-eyed divers will want to make a fortune," Marx said.

Even now, there are those trying to make a profit off the disaster. On eBay, all sorts of trinkets related to the shipwreck have already come up for sale, from coat hangers and medallions embossed with the cruise liner's name to a Costa Concordia desk plan.

Marx said that everything that is pulled up from this now-famous ship will have value, noting that even coal brought up from the Titanic, which sank 100 years ago, has found eager buyers.

"Even the dishes, the crockery inside that ship — that's going to be worth an absolute fortune," Marx said.

Reinhardt, the German lawyer, says his clients would love nothing more than to get back their cherished valuables, which often carry emotional value. But at this point they are merely counting on a cash settlement.

"They would prefer to get their original stuff," he said. "But they don't have hope."

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.

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► News in Brief

Michelle Obama to tour Little Rock Air Force Base

JACKSONVILLE, Ark. (AP) — The White House says first lady Michelle Obama will visit the Little Rock Air Force Base next week to promote the second anniversary of her "Let's Move!" initiative geared at reducing childhood obesity.

The first lady is expected to make an announcement about military efforts to serve more nutritious food on its military bases. The Little Rock base is part of a special pilot program that offers a greater variety of healthy foods.

Obama is expected to be briefed on the Air Force's healthy eating efforts, then tour a dining facility with cooks and airmen.

The event is set for 2:15 p.m. Thursday at the air base.

The first lady also plans stops in Iowa, Florida and Texas as part of a three-day tour.