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SUNDAY

MARCH 4, 2012



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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 119

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Coahoma student arrested

*Allegedly hit
15-year-old
girl multiple
times with
brass knuckles*

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

COAHOMA — A Coahoma High School student was taken into custody late Friday afternoon following an alleged assault that led to the lock down of the campus and a search of the area that included support from the Texas Department of Public Safety Aircraft Division.

Law enforcement officials spent much of Friday afternoon searching the area in and around Coahoma High School for the teenage student who, according to witnesses, attacked a female student before fleeing the campus on foot.

The teen was taken into custody at the old Coahoma Motel — located on the N. Service Road of Interstate Highway 20, south of the high school — at approximately 3:50 p.m.,



Officers with the Big Spring Police Department stand watch outside Coahoma High School Friday afternoon following an assault that led to a lock down of the campus much of the day.

HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

said Howard County Sheriff Stan Parker.

According to law enforcement officials, the juvenile suspect — who is not being identified at this time because of his age — possessed a knife and a pair of brass knuckles

at the time of his arrest.

“Through further investigation, that was unknown at the time of the assault, it was determined that the brass knuckles were used in the commission of the assault,” Parker said Friday, following

the youth’s arrest. “The juvenile suspect is being charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and is currently being held at the Juvenile Detention Center in Midland. The victim in the assault has been taken to a lo-

cal hospital for treatment and was found to be in satisfactory condition.”

The altercation between the two students was reported at approximately 7:45 a.m.

See **CHS**, Page 3A

Project updates focus for Howard College trustees Monday night

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
Managing Editor

A new time, indeed, but familiar topics will greet Howard College’s board of trustees Monday.

Expansion is the focus as trustees and college officials will convene at 6:30 p.m. to discuss growth at the San Angelo and SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf campuses. The board nor-

mally meets at noon, but the time was pushed back this week to give staff more time to prepare.

Howard College is considering constructing two buildings at its San Angelo campus, located at the West Texas Training Center.

“We’ve simply run out of room,” explained Dr. Cheryl Sparks, Howard College president. “The population growth has been significant on our San Angelo campus. We’re serving close to 3,000 students a semester.”

One of the two



Dianne Vangelder of Tehlequah, Okla., prepares to be fitted for a bracelet by Roy Finley of Claude, Texas. Roy owns Roy’s Rock Shop and Museum and is just one of many vendors participating in the 43rd Annual Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Big Spring Prospector’s Club. The show continues Sunday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Howard County Fairbarn.

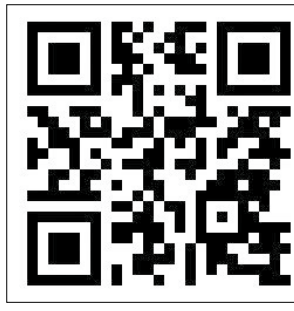
HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

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Don’t forget, tax-aid program still going

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

While most Crossroads residents will head back to their regular jobs early

Monday morning, volunteers with the annual AARP Tax-Aide program will be looking to lend a helping hand.

Wading through a sea of 1099s and W-2 forms, the vol-

unteers — led by program coordinator Ray Alexander — will once again be helping area residents file their tax

See **TAXES**, Page 3A

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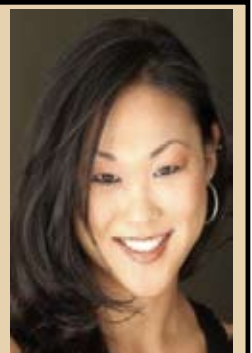
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Jessica Thomas - 432-853-9453

J. Rutledge Realty would like to welcome our new Sales Associate, Jessica Thomas.

Jessica grew in up Midland, Texas and graduated from UTPB with a bachelor's degree in Communication. She has since worked in radio selling advertising and as an on-air personality. Jessica also writes a column for the Midland Reporter Telegram. New opportunities working in real estate have brought her to Big Spring, TX. She looks forward to becoming more involved in the community.



Obituaries

Travis A. Lillard



Travis Albert Lillard, of Midland, passed away Thursday, March 1, 2012, in Levelland, Texas. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday, March 6, 2012, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Big Spring. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Wednesday, March 7, 2012, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring.

A native Texan, Travis was the youngest of three born to William "Glen" and Beulah Lillard on March 31, 1939, in Ackerly. He was a graduate of Flower Grove School and had attended Howard College. Wanderlust struck him at an early age and he couldn't wait to "get off the farm and see the world."

He was blessed with an announcer's voice and got a job as a DJ with the radio station in Lamesa in the late 1950s. From there, he moved into network news and his travels began. Besides Texas, he had lived in Illinois, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

While pursuing his secular career, a higher calling needed to be answered. He was ordained as an Assemblies of God minister and had churches in Seminole, Texas, Las Cruces, N.M., and Lamesa, Texas. The Rev. Lillard was also a pastoral counselor while living in Oklahoma City. His greatest satisfaction came from knowing that his words had been a comfort or provided guidance to someone.

He also made sure that the open road was always available by obtaining his CDL and driving for several trucking companies. Prior to retirement in 2007, Travis was the maintenance records supervisor for Dawson Geophysical.

Travis was a kind hearted, hard-working man who inspired and was loved by those who knew him. He will be missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Ernest, and brother-in-law, Bill Schafer.

Travis is survived by his wife Heather Lillard of Midland, Texas; sons, Van Lillard and Danny Lillard and daughter and son-in-law, Janice and David Carr, all of Oklahoma City; a sister, Audrey Schafer of El Paso, Texas; a sister-in-law, Dolores Lillard of Big Spring, Texas; nine grandchildren, one great-grandchild; step-sons, Stephen Larin of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and Philip Larin of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Also surviving are three nieces and one nephew, numerous cousins and extended family.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland and Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Paid obituary

Alma Shafer

Alma Shafer, 78, of Vincent died Friday, March 2, 2012, at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Monday, March 5, 2012, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Ben Neel officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sunday, March 4, 2012, at the funeral home.

She was born Dec. 20, 1933, in Big Spring, Texas, and married LaRoy Shafer on Nov. 7, 1953, in Big Spring, Texas. He preceded her in death on June 30, 1994.

Alma was a life-long resident of Howard County, was a homemaker and was a member of Vincent Baptist Church.

Survivors include two sons, Terry Shafer and wife Tanya of Gail and Tony Shafer of Vincent; one daughter, Tami Hill and husband Ray of Snyder; seven grandsons, Caleb Shafer and wife Chelsea of Lubbock, Cole Shafer of Vincent, Logan Hill of Lubbock, Gil Shafer of Odessa, R.T. Shafer of San Angelo, and Quint Shafer and Kurt Shafer, both of Gail; four granddaughters, Segan Shafer and Natalie Blair and husband Beau, all of Lubbock, Camry Hill of Eastland and Clair Shafer of Gail; three great-grandsons, Hunter Blair, Max Blair and Ethan Thornton, all of Lubbock; one great-granddaughter, Scarlett Shafer of Keller; two sisters, Dot Gay of Albany, Ga., and Inez Shivers of Big Spring; and three brothers, James Crittenden of Roswell, N.M., George Crittenden of Denver City and Donny Crittenden of Big Spring.

She was also preceded in death by four brothers, Curtis, Eugene, Morris and Robert Crittenden; and two sisters, Eunice Winn and Charlene Shipp.

The family suggests memorials be made to Compass Hospice, 1003 East FM 700, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Paid obituary

Judy Tucker

Judy Tucker, 56, of Midland County, formerly of Big Spring died Wednesday, Feb. 29, 2012, at her residence. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel, with Chaplain Lynn Robertson, Compass Hospice, officiating.

She was born Aug. 10, 1955, in Odessa, Texas, to Martha and Eugene Hasha. She grew up in Midland and lived most of her life there. She lived in Big Spring for four years. She was a veteran of the United States Army.

She is survived by one son, Robert Jacob Buck of Greenwood; one granddaughter; her mother: Martha Galyean of Birmingham, Ala.; brothers, Stephen Hasha of Birmingham, Ala., and Michael Hasha of Florida; and several nieces and nephews.

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

Powwow coming

As the 8th annual Powwow is coming near, organizers are seeking people interested in native American culture. The group is a family oriented organization that is looking to expand. You do not have to be native American to join. For comments, questions and answers, call Richard "Indio" Lesser at 432-935-0125 or Connie Lesser at 432-816-6772.

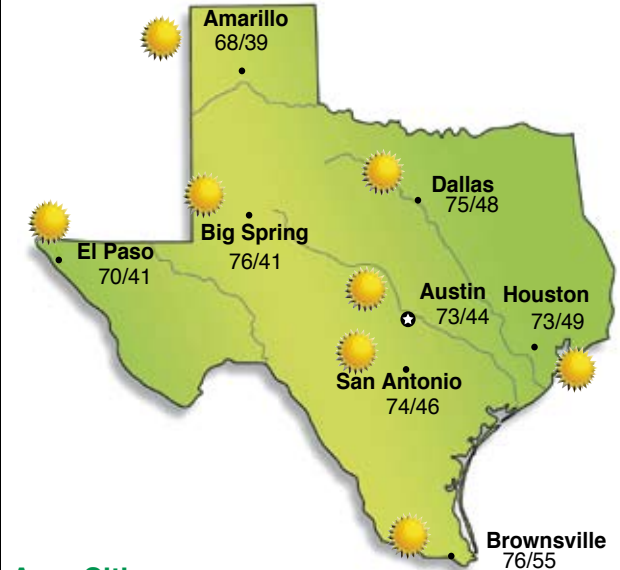
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sun 3/4	Mon 3/5	Tue 3/6	Wed 3/7	Thu 3/8
76/41 Sunny skies. High 76F. Winds SW at 5 to 10 mph.	78/50 Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 50s.	75/53 Partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 50s.	74/46 Windy with times of sun and clouds.	70/40 Slight chance of a thunderstorm.
Sunrise: 7:09 AM Sunset: 6:46 PM	Sunrise: 7:08 AM Sunset: 6:47 PM	Sunrise: 7:07 AM Sunset: 6:48 PM	Sunrise: 7:06 AM Sunset: 6:49 PM	Sunrise: 7:04 AM Sunset: 6:49 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	76	46	sunny	Kingsville	77	52	sunny
Amarillo	68	39	sunny	Livingston	72	44	sunny
Austin	73	44	sunny	Longview	73	46	sunny
Beaumont	72	50	sunny	Lubbock	72	38	sunny
Brownsville	76	55	sunny	Lufkin	73	46	sunny
Brownwood	78	47	sunny	Midland	75	43	sunny
Corpus Christi	75	54	sunny	Raymondville	76	52	sunny
Corsicana	72	47	sunny	Rosenberg	73	48	sunny
Dallas	75	48	sunny	San Antonio	74	46	sunny
Del Rio	76	45	sunny	San Marcos	74	44	sunny
El Paso	70	41	sunny	Sulphur Springs	71	47	sunny
Fort Stockton	76	44	sunny	Sweetwater	75	44	sunny
Gainesville	73	44	sunny	Tyler	72	49	sunny
Greenville	71	44	sunny	Weatherford	74	45	sunny
Houston	73	49	sunny	Wichita Falls	74	43	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	55	40	mst sunny	Minneapolis	29	18	sn shower
Boston	46	25	cloudy	New York	48	30	pt sunny
Chicago	34	20	sn shower	Phoenix	80	50	sunny
Dallas	75	48	sunny	San Francisco	72	49	sunny
Denver	57	34	sunny	Seattle	54	43	pt sunny
Houston	73	49	sunny	St. Louis	50	32	rain
Los Angeles	82	53	sunny	Washington, DC	50	33	pt sunny
Miami	81	51	t-storm				

Take Note

• Benefit for the oldest Harley shop in Texas, Walker family, to be held March 17 at Xiled Clubhouse. There will be food, fun and games with special auction. Gates open at noon and charge is \$10 at the door. Contact 432-270-1212 for more information.

• An account has been established at American State Bank to help defray medical expense for Brad "Ghost" Ugstad, a local resident who was severely injured in a motorcycle accident. All donations will be appreciated.

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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 midland-parkinsons@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 kerrirosenbaum9488@msn.com
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

CHS

Continued from Page 1A

Friday and set off a chain of events that caused school officials to lock down the campus, Parker said.

"A 15-year-old male student assaulted a 15-year-old female student by striking her in the face and head four to five times," Parker said. "Following the attack, the suspect took a backpack into the restroom and changed into camouflaged clothing and boots and exited the school property to an unknown location. Upon the initial investigation, law enforcement personnel determined reason for concern for the safety of the students.

"A decision was made by law enforcement and school officials that it was in the best interest of the students to place the school on lockdown status. Once the perimeter was secure and officers believed there was no threat inside the school property, it was then determined to be in the best interest for students and family that school be let out early."

Students were dismissed shortly after 2 p.m., according to school officials.

Deputies with the HCSO, along with officers with the Big Spring Police Department and officials with the Glasscock County Sheriff's Department, were posted through-

out the campus while students were being dismissed. Parker also confirmed the Texas Department of Public Safety Aircraft Division was also called in to assist with the investigation.

"Given everything that has happened in schools lately, I think it's safe to say everyone is on edge," Parker said, referring to the shooting Monday in Chardon, Ohio, that claimed the lives of three students. "We wanted to make sure we took every precaution.

"We brought the DPS helicopter in to help us look for the male student who fled, but we mainly called it in to help us keep an eye on things so we could get all of the students off the campus safely. It's the same reason we welcomed the help from the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office when they offered their assistance. There was a tremendous amount of ground to cover."

Parker said the helicopter searches were called off shortly after it was confirmed all students had safely left the campus or had been bussed away.

"We're very thankful for the hard work and resources from the area law enforcement agencies that assisted us in this investigation," Parker said.

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

HC

Continued from Page 1A

proposed buildings, which will be adjacent to the training center and paid for through student fees, would contain classroom space. The other would house a library and student services.

Closer to "home," an increase in SWCID students has led to a need for more accommodations.

"In the fall we brought in four FEMA trailers and were granted a five-year (zoning) variance from the city. We are now in the process of putting together something called SWCID Village to help offset our housing needs," said Sparks.

SWCID Village will consist of up to 15 bungalows (apartments), paid for through grants and private donations, and make the transition from temporary (FEMA trailers) to permanent

housing. Meanwhile, trustees should get good news Monday concerning Phase 2 of the G.C. Broughton Ag Complex, which is the show barn, and will learn more about Phase 3, the ag center's education building. Funds for the entire project have been made available through the Broughton Foundation.

Also, the board will be updated on Title 5 grants through the federal government. One, in its

second year, focuses on preparing students for college. The second grant focuses on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), which is another program designed to make the transition to college easier.

Trustees will also learn that despite an overall growth during the past 10 years, the Howard College district has dropped in the number of students from 5,111 in the spring of 2011 to 4,846 this spring

— down 5 percent overall.

Other items on the agenda include investment reports, catalog and handbook changes, interlocal agreements and an order for the May 12 board election.

Trustees will convene in the Tumbleweed Room of the Student Union Building. The public is welcome.

Bill McClellan can be contacted at 432-263-7331, ext. 230 or by email at editor@bigspringherald.com

ald.com

TAXES

Continued from Page 1A

returns, part of AARP's annual effort to reach those who might not otherwise be able to wade through the red tape.

"The AARP program provides free federal tax preparation assistance to people who cannot afford professional tax help, such as seniors, people with disabilities, those who don't speak English and people with low-to-moderate income," Alexander said. "AARP volunteers explain many special tax credits and deductions and how people may claim them on their tax returns. These volunteers help people complete their returns, right down to any refunds that may be due

them."

Alexander said the process is easy; filers just need to be sure to bring a few vital pieces or information with them.

"People need to be sure to bring all of the pertinent information with them, including W-2 forms and 1099 forms," Alexander said. "They also need to bring any forms that show their 2011 earnings and their 2010 tax returns. We also need a social security card for every person named on the return and a photo ID for the person filing."

As for the men and women who volunteer their time each Monday to make the program possible, Alexander said there are things in the world more valuable than a paycheck.

"The people who vol-

unteer each year with the AARP program are good people. They want to help their neighbors," Alexander said. "It can get nerve wracking, sure. But you don't do this because it's easy. You do it to help and to be a positive impact on the community."

Taxpayers will have until Tuesday, April 17 to file their 2011 tax returns and pay any tax due.

The program, which began in late January, will continue each Monday through April 16 at

the Big Spring Senior Citizen Center — located at 1901 Simler Dr. in the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark — from 8 a.m. until noon. For more information, contact Alexander at 263-4992.

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

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Deidra Whatley, 84, died Monday. Funeral services were at 10 a.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Victoria "Mommy" Escovedo, 71, died Wednesday. Funeral services were at noon today at Holy Trinity Catholic Parish with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Ann Baker, 76, died Wednesday. Funeral services will be at 2:30 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Coahoma Cemetery.

Judy Tucker, 56, died Wednesday. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

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Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) 3D Sun: 12:45 3:00 5:15	

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The Family of **Santiago "Jimmy" Munoz** wish to sincerely thank all the kind friends, neighbors and relatives for the many courtesies, expressions of sympathy and beautiful floral tributes that were given during our recent bereavement.

231935

Charles Myers
 Attorney At Law
 Family Law And Criminal Law
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Gloria Baldomino

Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation would like to congratulate Gloria Baldomino for earning Employee of Month. Gloria has been with us since May 2004 and does a wonderful job as a L.V.N.

The residents, families, and employees of Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation appreciate all that you do!

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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

YOUR VIEWS

Vote

To the Editor:

This year will be a very important year for everyone to vote for their choice for president.

In the last election a lot of people didn't vote, because their choice for president didn't make it on the ballot. Well McCain wasn't my candidate of choice either. However, by choosing not to vote, you cast a vote for Obama. Don't make that mistake this year. If you are not registered to vote, do so now.

This president hates America and all it stands for, in my opinion. His actions say it loud and clear almost every day. No real American would ever bow down to anybody. Nor would he insult our friends. Israel and England come to mind.

In the scriptures it says they who fight against Israel will be destroyed and those who stand with Israel will not be defeated.

Do you really want four more years of this guy in the White House? I sure don't.

LILLIE HENDRICKS
BIG SPRING

Thank you

To the Editor:

Having any kind of surgery is scary and a few weeks ago, when I needed day surgery my doctor sent me to another doctor and I was worried.

When I saw a sign at the new doctor's office I knew I was where I needed to be and I would be OK because the sign said Doctor Hoffman will pray with you.

I believe in the power of prayer and I would like to thank Dr. Ladd Hoffman, Dr. C. Kuprianowiz, nurses Stephanie, Charleta, Shelly and the staff at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for their kindness and caring. I truly was touched by their sweet smiles and hugs, kind words and prayers.

I pray our heavenly father will bless each one of them today and always.

LANA ANGUIANO
BIG SPRING

SMMC cares

To the Editor:

My sincerest thank you to the entire staff, Becky and Callie at SMMC for the amazing care and service they provided to my mother during her ER and ICU stays.

There are no words to describe how grateful we are for their professionalism and dedication to the patients of their wonderful hospital.

I also wish to thank the staff of Parkview Nursing Home for my mother's care while there for physical rehabilitation. Thank you does not seem like enough to either of these wonderful medical facilities.

I also wish to apologize to the owner and the merchants of the Big Spring Mall for my immediate departure. She needs 24/7 attention that I am fortunately able to give her. Thank you for welcoming me when you did. It's an amazing feeling to be able to give back to your parents, especially for me with my mother. After all, family does always come first. Much love and sincerity,

PAMELA LEFLER
BIG SPRING

Great experience

To the Editor:

From time to time, negative words describing Big Spring fly through the hot sand-filled breezes. May these words quell ugly venomous thoughts before they take root.

What an amazing adventure I've had here in our little town on the windswept prairie. In the last weeks of February, I have been surrounded by wonderful people, businesses and institutions. For their gracious hospitality and publicity, I am appreciative.

Nancy Raney, Tammy Schreengost and Cheryl Joy, the history preserving ladies of the Heritage Museum, started the ball rolling as they sent out a press release regarding a book signing for my book "God, Guns and Texas." I understand Debbye ValVerde, Jan Foresyth and the Chamber of Commerce board gave that ball a swift kick with their notable email list. The Big Spring Herald snagged it, handing the scoop to staff writer Amanda Moreno, who ran with momentum, scoring two front pages — first as an article, then three days later a photo. James Kendall, executive director of Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home, whisked me out to speak to a group of our country's finest men to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. A signed copy

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

Real estate: Five things to avoid

By **WARREN IVEY**

Guest Columnist

You've heard that everything is negotiable when it comes to real estate. Price, closing date, who pays for new carpet in the bedrooms, whether the patio furniture comes with the house ... any of these can be part of the deal. Just remember that whether you think negotiating in a real estate transaction is exciting or terrifying, you won't get the things you don't ask for. If there is something special you want, speak up. Your REALTOR® is an expert at hashing out contracts so both parties are content.

Whatever your opinion of the process of reaching consensus may be, here are five mistakes to avoid when negotiating a deal.

Forgetting that it's not about you

Too many people let emotion dictate their negotiations. Don't get angry when a buyer presents a low offer for your home. He's not insulting you, and he doesn't think your house is a poorly maintained shack. The buyer needs to start the negotiation somewhere. He may be testing the waters to see how low you'll go. Or his negotiation tactics



WARREN IVEY

could have been formed in a country where negotiating is handled differently.

Whatever the case, if you see the offer as an insult and choose not to counter, you may be cutting off the process that would have resulted in a sale.

On the buying side, don't get bent out of shape if a seller rejects your offer or counters with his original asking price. You may have determined that you presented a very fair price for the house. Good for you. Try again or move on. It's not personal.

Putting yourself second

Keeping emotions out of a deal also means maintaining a business relationship and not feeling sorry for the other side. If the seller rejects your fair offer based on "needing more money for my retirement fund," ask for a reason that's relevant to the property sale. On the other hand, if a buyer says they can't afford your asking price, but you believe you're asking fair market value, stick to your guns. Maybe yours just isn't the house for them.

Exceeding your limits

What's the lowest price you'll accept for your home? What concessions, if any, will you make? Answer these questions before you put your home on the market and revisit them if your home isn't seeing the activity

you hoped for. And for buyers, what's the absolute most you can afford? How close are you willing to come to that number? Whether you're buying or selling, be sure to share this info with your REALTOR® so they know your priorities.

Meeting in the middle

Splitting the difference doesn't mean that both parties get a fair deal. If a buyer offered \$70,000 for your \$100,000 home, you countered with \$90,000, and the buyer offered to split the difference at \$80,000, would you feel like you both won? Whether you're buying or selling, don't allow an extreme offer to affect your counter.

Losing sight of the goal

Are you willing to jeopardize the sale of your house because the buyer wants the entryway mirror to convey? As a buyer, how will your monthly payments really be affected if the seller won't drop the price another \$5,000? Sometimes you have to take a step back to make sure you're not overemphasizing one detail that is standing between you and your objective.

Your REALTOR® can help you analyze the current market and identify an appropriate buying or selling strategy for you.

Warren Ivey is president of the Permian Basin Board of Realtors Inc.

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

also be e-mailed to newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

Words then and words now

Warren Buffett, the "oracle of Omaha," has a punched ticket for succinct and clever word usage, whether spoken or written. People hang on 'em, often investing accordingly.

A 19-year-old when he graduated at the University of Nebraska, he wrote short Burma-Shave poems, thus helping with expenses and gaining experience early-on for both brevity and humor.

Recently, he pointed to frequent investment errors. But with a personal fortune of \$44 billion, the good-natured philanthropist glides past the positive purchases that solidify his renown in financial circles. Admitting his housing investment timing was premature, he quipped, "Basic biology makes it unavoidable that the country will need more houses. People may postpone 'hitching up' during uncertain times, but eventually, hormones take over. And while 'doubling up' may be the initial reaction of some during a recession, living with in-laws can quickly lose its allure."

Until the early 1960s, the printed word on simple Burma-Shave signs tacked to fence posts produced smiles. For almost four decades, travelers kept eyes out for the ditties, usually 15 words, two or three on each of six sign boards.

Public safety and common sense were promoted — along with the brushless shaving cream.

An example: "Car in Ditch/Driver in Tree/Moon was Full/And so/Was He/Burma-Shave."

Such signs wouldn't stand a

chance in today's "varoom/varoom" culture. Too many people going too fast engaged in too much.

I still watch for clever local ads, low budget jobs not to be compared with Super Bowl spiels that lambast like two pirate ships after the same bullion. The former make us smile; the latter make us numb.

Some local efforts are borne of enlightened self-interest.

I spotted one on the back of a sewage removal vehicle, probably a "fleet" of one. The truck, several years old, had a new paint job, maybe the pride of the owner-driver.

Block letters on the back provided fair warning: "BACK OFF. WE AIN'T HAULING WHIPPED CREAM."

I wonder what message might have been on the sides to alert others at intersections.

Here's a bumper sticker gem: "Genealogist — I collect dead relatives." In smaller type, the second line reads: "I live in the past lane."

What people say today, orally or on paper, has short shelf life. What little is quoted fades fast.

Billy Crystal delivered multiple chuckles during the 84th Academy Awards, but I'm hard-pressed to remember specifics.

Most clever quotes surviving time's test are attributed to deceased individuals. And sometimes, even the "originals" turn out to be re-treads.

How's about these favorites?

"He had delusions of adequacy." — Walter Kerr.

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." — Winston Churchill.

"He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." — William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway).

"I feel so miserable without

you; it's almost like having you here." — Stephen Bishop.

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." — Irvin S. Cobb.

"He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others." — Samuel Johnson.

Also, "He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up." — Paul Keating.

"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him." — Forrest Tucker.

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" — Mark Twain.

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." — Mae West.

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." — Oscar Wilde.

"He uses statistics as a drunken man uses light posts — for support rather than illumination." — Andrew Lang. "I've had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it." — Groucho Marx.

For many decades, the Abilene Reporter-News ran a Lord Byron quote under its name on page one. It read: "Without or with offense to friends or foes, we sketch your world exactly as it goes."

It was a worthy goal with noble intent. What with social media bloating our cornucopia of news sources, the bar is lowered. How about "approximate sketches?"

Sometimes, though, clearest messages are conveyed without words. Silence is golden in *The Artist*, a black and white film that won five academy awards, almost totally without dialog.

Dr. Don Newbury is a speaker in the Metroplex. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com.

N.M. agrees to protect habitat in Permian Basin

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — New Mexico on Friday signed a conservation agreement with the federal government to protect more than 387 square miles of habitat for two species that have been the focus of a bitter battle among environmentalists, politicians and oil and gas developers in New Mexico and West Texas.

New Mexico Land Commissioner Ray Powell said the agreement represents a "monumental step" toward finding a way to protect the lesser prairie-chicken and dunes sagebrush lizard while allowing for oil and gas development to continue in the Permian Basin.

"We've had enough of the circular firing squads," Powell

said during a signing ceremony attended by biologists, project managers and others from state and federal agencies who have worked for nearly a decade to line up conservation agreements with oil companies, ranchers and private land owners.

With New Mexico signing on, nearly 248,000 acres are being added to the conservation effort. Officials with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said that is the largest area to be set aside by a single state as part of a conservation agreement.

In all, 29 oil and gas companies and 39 ranchers have enrolled in the effort in New Mexico to cover more than 2.5 million acres.

Fish and Wildlife Service

Southwest Deputy Director Joy Nicholopoulos said the agency recently approved a similar program in West Texas and landowners are starting to sign up.

"We believe these agreements are producing real results," she said.

Having more people on the ground monitoring the two species has also helped give the agencies and landowners a better idea of how many prairie-chickens and lizards are out there and which areas include the best habitat.

The agency is expected to decide this summer whether to list the lizard as an endangered species. The prairie-chicken has been on the waiting list since 1998.

With conservation agree-

ments, Nicholopoulos said energy developers and landowners take voluntary steps to protect habitat for the two species. In exchange, the agency agrees not to require more conservation efforts if the species were to be added to the federal list.

Nicholopoulos said saving the prairie-chicken and lizard are important because the two are indicator species that can signal changes in the environment. Learning more about those changes and how to adapt will ensure future generations can continue to benefit from the region's resources, she said.

The listing of the lizard has been a hot button issue for U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce, R-N.M., and some elected of-

ficials in Texas. They're concerned a listing would mean curtailed development and job losses across the Permian Basin, which makes up a large chunk of New Mexico's oil and gas industry and accounts for more than two-thirds of Texas' total oil production.

Nearly one-third of the basin's 8.1 million acres is made up of New Mexico trust land. State officials said there are more than 6,000 oil and gas leases in this area.

As part of the agreement, the state land office is classifying about 66,000 acres as off-limits to development to protect the species.

Pearce said Friday he looks forward to reviewing the details of the agreement.

► News briefs

Violent storms spawn twisters in several states, killing 29

HENRYVILLE, Ind. (AP) — A string of violent storms scratched away small towns in Indiana and cut off rural communities in Kentucky as an early-season tornado outbreak killed nearly 30 people, and authorities feared the already ugly death toll would rise as daylight broke on Saturday's search for survivors.

Massive thunderstorms, predicted by forecasters for days, threw off dozens of tornadoes as they raced Friday from the Gulf Coast to the Great Lakes. Twisters that crushed entire blocks of homes knocked out cellphones and landlines alike, ripped power lines from broken poles and tossed cars, school buses and tractor-trailers onto roadways made impassable by debris.

Weather that put millions of people at risk Friday killed 29, but both the scale of the devastation and the breadth of the storms made an immediate assessment of the havoc's full extent all but impossible.

In Kentucky, the National Guard and state police headed out to search wreckage for an unknown number of missing. In Indiana, authorities searched dark county roads connecting rural communities that officials said "are completely gone."

"We won't know what's going on before daybreak," cautioned Sheriff's Maj. Chuck Adams of the Clark County, Ind., where one person was known to have died in hard-hit Henryville. "Right now, we're getting by through the night as best we can."

Gulf oil spill settlement leaves unanswered questions

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — BP's settlement of lawsuits filed by more than 100,000 victims of the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history goes a long way to-

ward resolving pending claims. But the question remains, will Americans who live along the Gulf of Mexico go for it?

BP expects to pay out \$7.8 billion and anticipates that a separate claims fund run by Ken Feinberg will cease at some point.

New vehicles will be set up and supervised by the court to pay claims as part of Friday's settlement.

People waiting for money from Feinberg's Gulf Coast Claims Facility can take what the settlement vehicles offer them or opt out and make a claim directly to a BP-run entity.

If they don't like what they get from that entity, they can sue.

And many just might.

Obama joins criticism of Limbaugh after radio host's slur of student; some sponsors pull ads

NEW YORK (AP) — Ever eager to provoke, Rush Limbaugh has now succeeded into drawing the White House into a skirmish. The spark: Limbaugh telling his talk show fans that a law student was a "slut" for her testimony to Congress about the need for birth control coverage.

On Friday, two days after Limbaugh's tirade, President Barack Obama called student Sandra Fluke to commend her willingness to speak out and share her dismay over the slur.

The White House termed Limbaugh's remarks "reprehensible," and the criticism was echoed by Democratic members of Congress, women's groups, and the administration and faculty at Georgetown University, the Roman Catholic school in Washington that Fluke attends.

Calls for Limbaugh's sponsors to pull their ads from his show rocketed through cyberspace, and several companies, including Quicken Loans, LegalZoom online legal document service, and

bedding retailers Sleep Train and Sleep Number, bowed to the pressure.

For Obama, it was an emphatic plunge into the latest flare-up on social issues. Democratic officeholders and liberal advocacy have accused Republicans of waging a "war on women" because of GOP stances on contraception and abortion rights, and Limbaugh's disparaging remarks were seen as an escalation.

The family of **Juanita Moreno Marquez** would like to take this opportunity to give thanks to all who offered condolences in the loss of our beloved **Mama** by sending flowers and cards and lifting her up in prayers.

Thank you to the staff at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, the staff at Myers and Smith Funeral Home, Pastor Socorro Rios and staff for the prayer service, Reverend Bill Ivins for the church service, the wonderful First United Methodist Staff that prepared our meal.

Bobby and Dianne Marquez and family
Manuel and Adelinda Marquez and family
Raul and Mary Ann Marquez and family
Jesse and Rosalinda Marquez and family
Tony and Lena Marquez and family
Larry and Linda Marquez and family

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LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

of the book for their library honors them. Not to be outdone, KBST's Bill Norris with his down-home, come sit a spell, comfortable style, talked me though family stories of my ancestors for his early morning audience.

The well-spread word of the book signing and reception was most successful. Saturday afternoon, Feb. 25, a fine ole barn raising spirit swelled in that tomb of historical artifacts. It was a party of family, friends and citizens. Those who came mingled and renewed friendships with good words and warm hugs all around.

For those who purchased the book as you read, I hope you howl with laughter. I hope you are moved to tears. I hope you have a renewed appreciation for the history of our country, our

state and our town.

Most of all, I hope you understand the place and importance of your family. I hope you remember your heritage, honor your family and love them with all your heart, for family is the only thing of great worth, now and forever.

Thank you, everyone, for the outpouring of love, support, congratulations, compliments and friendship. Thank you for honoring me, my parents, grandparents and great-grandparents who laid a portion of Big Spring's early foundations. We are a part of the community family. Big Spring truly is the city beneath a big sky with a big heart.

God bless us everyone,

JANIE HARRISON
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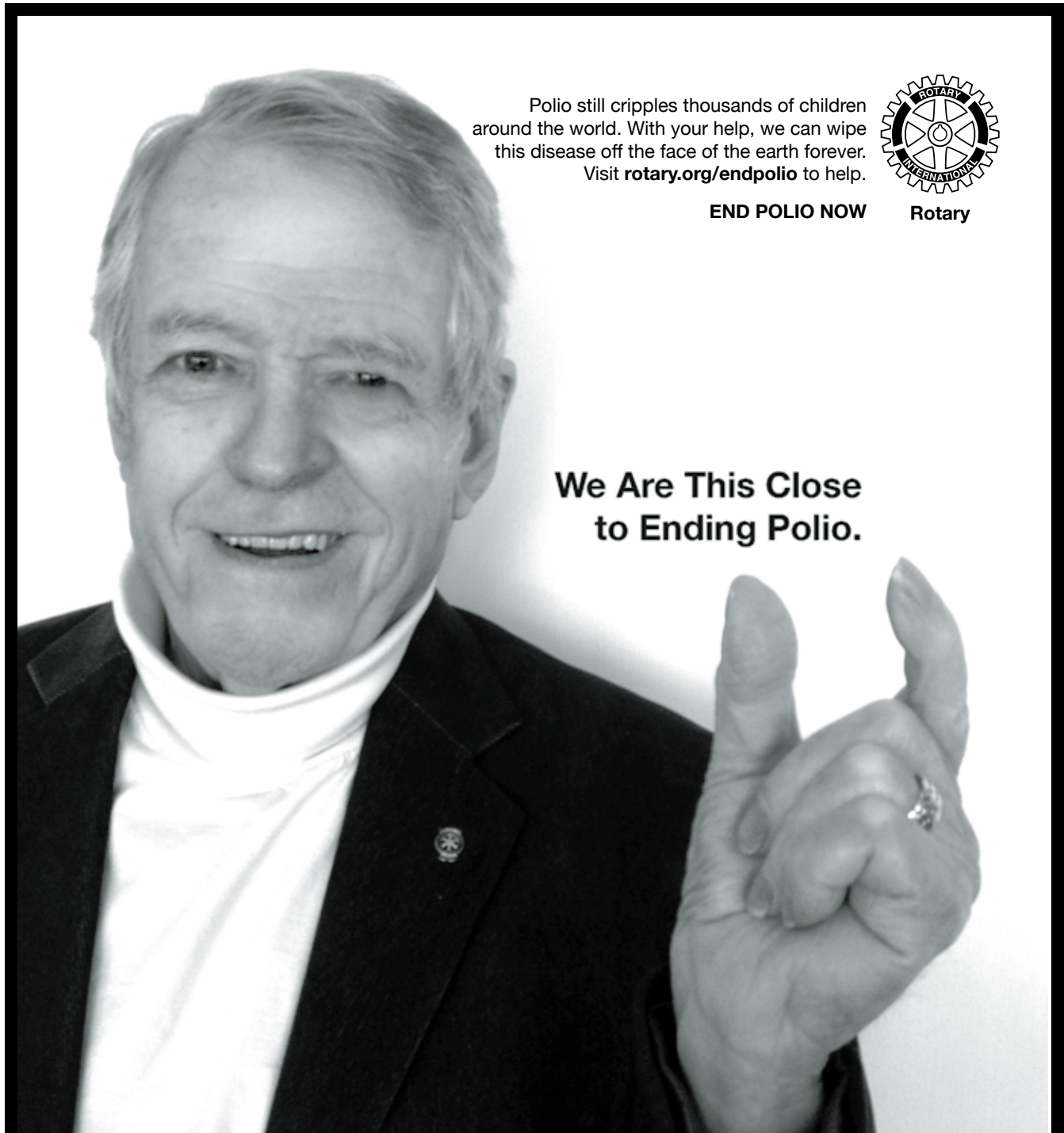
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Sands, Grady vie for state berth

Garden City boys fall to Graford in regional semifinals

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

The Sands Mustangs and Grady Wildcats have played plenty of big games over the years, but none will be bigger than Saturday's basketball contest between the two schools.

The Mustangs and Wildcats were scheduled to play at 2 p.m. Saturday in the championship game of the Region I-1A Div. II Tournament at South Plains College in Levelland. And the stakes — a spot in the state basketball tournament for the winner — couldn't be bigger.

The longtime district rivals

set up the high-stakes showdown with convincing semifinal wins Friday — Grady stormed past Nazareth 7-50, while Sands dominated Texline, 68-38.

A third area team wasn't as fortunate in regional action Friday as the Garden City Bearkats lost to Graford in

the semifinals of the Region II-1A Div. II tournament in Abilene.

Grady and Sands have met twice already this season, with Grady taking both contests — 59-49 Dec. 20 in Leno and 52-50 Jan. 24 in Ack-

erly. The Mustangs (28-7) earned

their spot in the regional final with a dominating performance against Texline, while Grady (29-5) was equally impressive in downing traditional Class 1A power Nazareth.

The Wildcats used def-

See SANDS, Page 7A

BSHS girls claim title at Canyon Reef meet

Steers finish second behind host Snyder

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

SNYDER — Big Spring High School track and field athletes brought home plenty of gold from Friday's Canyon Reef Relays at Snyder High School.

Big Spring finished first in the girl's division and second in boy's competition at the meet. The Lady Steers scored 236 points to easily out-distance runner-up Abilene Wylie (188) for the girl's team title, while Snyder edged out Big Spring 161 points to 148, for the boy's team championship.

The Lady Steers dominated the sprints and the relays in fashioning their team championship, including a 1-2-3 finish in the 100 meter dash — April Turner won in a time of 12.59 seconds, while Donisha McGree (12.78) was second and Autumn Minter (12.91) was third.

Medals in individual competition, taking first place in the 200 meter dash in a time of 25.03, then taking top honors in the long jump with a leap of 18 feet, 6 inches and the triple jump (24-10.5). Turner was second in the 200 dash in a time of 26.01.

Morgan Seaton also had a productive meet, taking first place in the 800 meter run (2:29.58) and the high jump (4 feet, 10 inches), while finishing second in the 1,600 meter run (5:56.93).

Also claiming individual gold for the Lady Steers was Cerbi Ritchey in the discus (111-07.5).

Ambra Hill twice medaled in the hur-

See TRACK, Page 7A



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Forsan's Ali Knight raps a pitch for a hit during the Lady Buffaloes' game against Monahans at the Tournament At The Crossroads softball event held at Roy Anderson Complex Friday. Forsan and Big Spring continued play Saturday.

In brief

Hawks open WJCAC play with sweep of OC

ODESSA — The Howard College baseball team opened Western Junior College Athletic Conference play in convincing fashion, sweeping Odessa College, 3-2 and 12-3, at the OC diamond Friday afternoon.

In Friday's first game, Reed Seely broke a 1-1 tie with a two-run single with two outs in the top of the ninth inning to give the Hawks the lead for good.

Logan Ehlers, a sophomore left-hander from Nebraska City, Neb., struck out nine and walked three while liming Odessa to five hits in six and two-thirds innings of work to pick up the win, while Rob Tasin earned the save for Howard.

Howard needed no late-inning heroics in the night-

cap, as the Hawks jumped out to an early 4-0 lead and cruised to the victory.

The Hawks raked Odessa pitching for 15 hits during the game. Levi Scott and Paul Hendrix combined to drive in five runs, while Jordan Allen and Todd Ritchey each recorded two hits for Howard.

The only area of concern for the Hawks came when starter Dalton Brown had to leave the game with a muscle strain. The injury is not considered serious, however, and Brown's status will be evaluated during the week, HC Head Coach Britt Smith said.

The Hawks improved to 12-2 overall with Friday's wins.

The two teams continued their series Saturday with

See BRIEFS, Page 7A



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

YMCA youth basketball was recognized during Thursday night's women's and men's basketball games against Frank Phillips college. More than 500 youth took part in the program this year, which was under the direction of Dathan Jones.

United Way scramble scheduled for March 24

By AMANDA MORENO
Staff Writer

Ready ... set ... bang. The third annual Big Spring Country United Way three-man scramble is set to begin with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 24 and Sunday, March 25.

The tournament will take place at the Big Spring Country Club and the entry fee will be \$70 per person plus the cost of the golf cart. Private carts are allowed.

"For those who want to get out there a day early and have a practice round they can do so Friday, March 23," said Sandy Stewart, United Way executive director.

The golf tournament has been a successful contribution to the campaign the past three years and

is one the board members thought should continue.

"The golf tournament is another way people in the community can get involved and show their support for the United Way and the 15 local agencies," said Debbie Wegman, board president.

Stewart added, "We wanted to continue a tradition of not only raising money, but showing support for these agencies."

Persons interested in participated can enter by calling the country club, until March 23. The registration fee includes the two days of golf in the tournament, barbecue served on the course Saturday at noon and party on the patio on the 19th

See SCRAMBLE, Page 7A

Hornets surprise Mavericks, 97-92

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Jarrett Jack blamed himself for the New Orleans Hornets' loss to Toronto on Wednesday, saying he failed to take over down the stretch.

He did not have to wait long to make a correction.

Jack scored six straight points in the final 1:09 and hit an 11-foot shot in traffic with 17.9 seconds left to secure the Hornets' 97-92 win against the slumping Dallas Mavericks on Friday night.

"We were up two and Coach (Monty Williams) called a timeout," he said. "I went up to him and told him I am ready and just give it to me. I don't know if he heard it, but I had the confidence in myself to knock down the shot."

Chris Kaman had 20 points and 13 rebounds for his fourth consecutive double-double for the Hornets, who dressed nine players.

Xavier Henry added a season-high 19 points off the bench, and Jack, who started for the first time in seven games, finished with 15 points and six assists.

Dirk Nowitzki added 19 points, but was only 7 of 19 from the floor and did not shoot a free throw as Dallas lost a season-high fourth in a row.

Rodrigue Beaubois had a season-high 25 points for Dallas, making 11 of 17 shots after starting for the first time in 13 games.

Jason Terry was one of nine from the field, and Jason Kidd had only one field goal.

"We have to fight our way out of this," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said. "They played a great game. All 48 minutes, they just played harder than us."

The Hornets led for the entire second half, but needed Jack's plays at the end to hold on for the win.

His fadeaway jumper with 1:07 left gave them a 91-84 lead.

After Nowitzki hit a 3-pointer and threw a long pass to Beaubois for a layup, cutting the deficit to 91-89, Jack responded with his big shot. He then made two free throws to make the score 95-89 after Vince Carter missed a step-back 3-pointer.



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Vicki Sotelo makes contact with a pitch during the Lady Steers' 10-3 victory over Colorado City at the Tournament At The Crossroads softball event at Roy Anderson Complex Friday afternoon. Big Spring opened Gold Bracket play Saturday with a 6-5 extra-inning loss to Odessa Permian, and was scheduled to meet Midland High School's junior varsity at 2:30 p.m.

Sports Calendar

SATURDAY

Baseball

Big Spring at Snyder tournament, TBA.
Coahoma at Crane tournament, TBA.
Odessa College at Howard College (DH), noon.

Softball

Big Spring and Forsan at Big Spring tournament, TBA.

Tennis

Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan at regional team meets.

Golf

Big Spring boys at Andrews tournament.
Big Spring girls at Midland tournament.

Rodeo

Howard College at Weatherford Rodeo.

Powerlifting

Coahoma at Monahans meet.

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

SANDS

Continued from Page 6A

ensive pressure to key the win, forcing 25 Nazareth turnovers. That pressure allowed Grady to take a 32-23 lead at halftime, and the Swifts never seriously

threatened after that.

As they have all season, the senior duo of Zeke Clay and Branson Richards led Grady Friday — Clay scored 22 points, while Richards added 17.

In Abilene, Garden City raced to an early advantage, but a cold third quarter doomed

their chances at making the state tournament.

The Bearkats, who finished their season with a 23-12 record, led 26-22 at halftime, but scored only three five points in the decisive third quarter. Graford, meanwhile, took the lead for good with a little more than three minutes re-

maining in the third and gradually pulled away from Garden City for the win.

Corbin Davis scored 11 points and Michael

Lopez added 10 to lead the Bearkats.

Graford (26-8) faced Lipan for the regional championship Saturday afternoon.

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

TRACK

Continued from Page 7A

dles, taking second place in the 110-meter race in a time of 15.97, while placing third in the 300-meter event with a time of 50.34.

The Lady Steers won two of the three relays, taking gold in the 400-meter and 800-meter events and placing second behind Wylie in the 1,600-meter relay.

The BSHS boys also collected several medals in individual competition.

Randal King-Thomas and Gustavo Lugo finished 1-2 in the 800-meter run, with King-Thomas winning in a time of 2:06.42, then flipped that finish in the 1,600 meter race — Lugo took top honors in the event with a time of 4:40.9.

Devin Robinson also took home gold and silver, winning the 110 meter hurdles in a time of 17.03, while placing second in the 300 meter hurdles in a time of 41.25.

Elias Biehl placed second in both the 200 meter and 400 meter races, while BSHS took silver

in the 1,600 meter relay.

In the field events, Diamond Bailey won the shot put with a throw of 39 feet, 4 inches (Chazzell Robinson finished second), while Chris Nunez edged out Bailey to take gold in the discus with a toss of 127-8.

The Steers and Lady Steers will return to action Friday when they host the Big Spring Invitational at Blankenship Field.

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

BRIEF

Continued from Page 6A

a doubleheader at Jack Barber Field on the Howard campus. First pitch was scheduled for noon.

Lady Steers down C-City

The Big Spring Lady Steers were ungracious hosts during second-day action at the Tournament At The Crossroads softball tourney, downing

Colorado City, 10-3, at Roy Anderson Complex Friday.

Tiffany Gonzales picked up the win for Big Spring, which improved to 6-5 with the victory.

"The girls, all through the roster, made good plays," BSHS Coach John Sparks said. "There wasn't just one standout — everybody was just focused in and made plays."

The Lady Steers advanced in the Gold Bracket of the tournament to face Odessa Permian at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, then faced either Lubbock Cooper or Midland High School's junior varsity at 2 p.m.

SCRAMBLE

Continued from Page 6A

hole at 6 p.m. Saturday. During the 19th hole party, Justin Kaczyk will be playing and snacks and beverages will be provided.

"This is a great way to enjoy a round of playing golf and during that process, you can be helping 15 agencies that serve a vital part in our community," Stewart said.

During the 19th hole party, one per-

son will be going home with a new Yamaha golf cart. To find out more information about how to take the golf cart home, contact any United Way board member.

To find out more information about the United Way or how to become a hole sponsor for the tournament, contact Stewart at 267-5201. To register for the tournament, call the pro shop at 267-5354.

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

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NFL: Saints violated 'bounty rule'

NEW YORK (AP) — Encouraging defensive players to be aggressive, hit hard and not back down is standard procedure in pro football. Paying them to injure the opposition is not.

New Orleans Saints players and at least one assistant coach, defensive coordinator Gregg Williams, maintained a bounty pool of up to \$50,000 the last three seasons, the NFL said Friday. Payoffs came for inflicting game-ending injuries.

Among the targets were Brett Favre and Kurt Warner, with "knockouts" worth \$1,500 and "cart-offs" \$1,000. Payments doubled or tripled for the playoffs, and, according to an investigation by NFL security, pool amounts reached their height in 2009 — the year the Saints won the Super Bowl.

"It was a terrible mistake, and we knew it was wrong while we were doing it," Wil-

liams said after the league said between 22 and 27 defensive players were involved in the program he administered, with the knowledge of coach Sean Payton.

"Instead of getting caught up in it, I should have stopped it. I take full responsibility for my role," added Williams, now the defensive coordinator in St. Louis. "I am truly sorry. I have learned a hard lesson and I guarantee that I will never participate in or allow this kind of activity to happen again."

Williams, the Saints organization and the players involved face hefty fines and possible suspensions. The team could lose draft picks when NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell hands out punishment.

"It is our responsibility to protect player safety and the integrity of our game, and this type of conduct will not be tolerated," Goodell said.

"We have made significant progress in changing the culture with respect to player safety and we are not going to relent. We have more work to do and we will do it."

The NFL said its findings were corroborated by multiple, independent sources. Asked about potential criminal charges, NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said:

"We believe that any violation of league rules should and will be handled by the commissioner."

All payouts for specific performances in a game, including interceptions or causing fumbles, are against NFL rules.

The NFL also warns teams against such practices before each season.

Saints players contributed cash to the pool, at times large amounts, and in some cases the money pledged was directed against a specific person, the NFL said.

"The payments here are particularly troubling because they involved not just payments for 'performance,' but also for injuring opposing players," Goodell said in a statement.

"The bounty rule promotes two key elements of NFL football: player safety and competitive integrity."

"Cart-offs" are defined by the NFL as a player being carried off the field; "knockouts" as when a player cannot return to the game.

The league absolved Saints owner Tom Benson of any blame, but said the investigation showed Payton and general manager Mickey Loomis knew about the "pay for performance" program.

"Although head coach Sean Payton was not a direct participant in the funding or administration of the program, he was aware of the allegations, did not make any detailed inquiry or otherwise

seek to learn the facts, and failed to stop the bounty program. He never instructed his assistant coaches or players that a bounty program was improper and could not continue," the NFL said.

When informed about it earlier this year, the NFL said Benson directed Loomis to "ensure that any bounty program be discontinued immediately." However, the NFL's report said evidence showed Loomis didn't carry out Benson's directions and that in 2010 Loomis denied any knowledge of a bounty program.

"There is no evidence that Mr. Loomis took any effective action to stop these practices," the NFL said.

The NFL found no evidence of similar bounty programs within the league, but several Redskins told The Washington Post that Williams had a similar system as defensive coordinator for the team.

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MLB extends playoff format

NEW YORK (AP) — With less than a month to go before opening day, baseball at last decided who's in and who's out come October.

Now, even a third-place team can win the World Series.

Major League Baseball made it official Friday, expanding the playoff format to 10 teams by adding a wild-card club to each league.

"I hope we get that extra spot," said new Houston Astros general manager Jeff Luhnow, whose team is coming off a 56-106 finish that was the worst in the majors. "I think it's great any time you have more markets involved."

Who knows, maybe a rookie such as Bryce Harper will get that shot this year.

"Cool," the 19-year-old Washington sensation said after a game against college kids. "It's great. Hopefully, we're that playoff team."

Boston and Atlanta sure could've used this setup last year. They went through awful collapses in September that eventually cost them playoff spots on the final day of the season.

"I think the more, the merrier," new Red Sox manager Bobby Valentine said. "I think for the fans, the players, the energy at the end of the season, I don't mind. What would it be, a third of the teams? I think it'll be good."

This is the first switch in MLB's postseason format since the 1995

season, when wild cards were first added. The move creates a new one-game, wild-card round in the AL and NL between the teams with the best records who are not division winners.

"It's a good thing for baseball. That seems to be what the people want," Detroit manager Jim Leyland said.

"There are a lot of mixed emotions but as long as the playoffs don't get watered down, it's fine, but that won't happen in baseball," he said.

The additions mean 10 of the 30 MLB teams will get into the playoffs. That's still fewer than in the other pro leagues — 12 of 32 make it in the NFL, and 16 of 30 advance in the NBA and NHL.

The long-expected decision was announced less than an hour before Seattle and Oakland started the exhibition season. On March 28, the Mariners and Athletics will play the big league opener in Tokyo.

"This change increases the rewards of a division championship and allows two additional markets to experience playoff baseball each year," Commissioner Bud Selig said.

Also, a tweak: For the 2012 postseason, the five-game division series will begin with two home games for lower seeds, followed by home games for the higher seed. After that, it will return to the 2-2-1 format previously used.



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Available for Adoption at the Big Spring Animal Control Shelter

Keeper



Keeper is a small, young, male Chihuahua. He will be available for adoption until March 14.

Chester



Chester is a small, young, male Chihuahua. He will be available for adoption until March 16.

Coco



Coco, a small, adult, male Chihuahua. He is about three or four years old. He will be available for adoption until March 14.

Skipper



Skipper is a small, young, male Chihuahua. He would make a good lap dog. He will be available for adoption until March 14.

Shasta



Shasta is a medium, young, female Shepherd/Collie mix. She is about six months old and crate trained. She is energetic. Shasta will be available for adoption until March 14.

For more information on how to bring one of these furry friends home, contact the Big Spring Animal Control Shelter at 432-264-2372. or visit Petfinder.com

Cuddles



Cuddles is a small, young, female pug mix. She is very sweet and playful. She will be available for adoption until March 16.

Kibbles



Kibbles is a small, young, male Chihuahua. He will be available until March 14.

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Keaton Kirk Hughes and Carissa Briann Jensen

Jensen and Hughes

Carissa Briann Jensen of Forsan and Keaton Kirk Hughes of Big Spring announce their engagement.

Carissa is the daughter of Archie and Marlene Riffe of Forsan and Brian and Debbie Jensen of Big Spring. Her grandparents are Joe and Melva Swinney of Rising Star and DJ and Helen Jensen of Baker, Mont.

Keaton is the son of Mike and Cindy Hughes of Big Spring. He is the grandson of Cleta and the late Eddie Hughes of Lamesa and Thane and Eva Mae Cornett of Seagraves.

The couple will exchange wedding vows March 11, 2012, at The Courtyard in Big Spring.

Blocker and Dunn

Kaitlyn Blocker of Stanton and Rance Dunn of Ira, announce their engagement.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Koy and Tammy Blocker of Stanton. She is a 2009 Grady High School graduate. She is pursuing a masters of occupational therapy at Texas Tech University. She is employed part time at Texas Cardiac Center of Lubbock.

The prospective groom is the son of Dirk and Jodi Dunn of Ira. He is a 2009 graduate of Ira High School. He is studying management information system with an expected graduation date of December 2012 from Texas Tech University.

The couple will exchange vows at Circle Six Ranch in Stanton on May 18, 2012.



Kaitlyn Blocker and Rance Dunn



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Births



Elana Patricia Granados

Caroline Moskoe of Lamesa and Mariano Granados III of Washington State, announce the birth of their daughter Elana Patricia Granados.

Elana was born Feb. 11, 2012, at 6:12 a.m. She weighed 6 pounds and measured 19 inches.

Her maternal grandparents are the late Patricia Gutierrez of Big Spring and Sammy Gonzales of Lamesa.

Her paternal grandparents are Oralia Granados and Arnulfo Granados.

She was welcomed home by her brother Salvador and her sister Brianna.

Reader's Corner

Beautiful

She has many names
Daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, great
grandmother, as well as friend
Some call her Kay; I call her beautiful
for she truly is beautiful as an angel
because she loves others with her heart and not
her eyes.
She's touched many lives with her kindness and
sweet smile
Beautiful is what I call her ...
Written to honor Kay Moore my beautiful friend
Happy Birthday
Lana F. Anguiano

The perfect personality

You've been an inspiration in my life, a
companion that can't be ignored.
The guidance you bring to your family
is stronger than ever before.
Our enemies laugh they stalk and try
to intervene in our lives.
Throughout all of these years you've been the per-
fect person in my life.
You love me for me and stayed down
for me in my times of need.
Without judging my flaws or imperfections
without conflicts between us ...
We laughed through the joy, cried through the
pain.
As the sunshine turned to rain, you've been some-
one
I could confide in.
Without gossip or debate, nor guilt
you've been the perfect friend
"With that in mind,"
We come to love not by finding
the perfect person
But by learning to see an
imperfect person perfectly
Tony Watters

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Tyler Murphy



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Date:
March 24

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- ♥ Ambrie Schaffner & Justin Witte
- ♥ Shanna Rempe & Beau Niewoehner
- ♥ Megan Tunstall & Jackie "Trey" Thomas
- ♥ Kallie Dixon & Jacob Nichols
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- ♥ Krista Blagrove & Clay John Anderson

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Menus

Senior Center
 Monday: chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, rolls, ambrosia, milk.
 Tuesday: soft beef tacos, Spanish rice, lettuce and tomatoes, salsa, apricots, milk.
 Wednesday: beef and macaroni casserole, green beans, salad, cherry pink cloud, cookies, milk.
 Thursday: pork tenderloin patty, black eyed peas, sweet potatoes, broccoli and cauliflower salad, apple crisp, milk.
 Friday: barbecue chicken, pinto beans, yellow zucchini squash, cornbread, strawberries and bananas, milk.

BIG SPRING ISD
 Monday: Breakfast: apple jacks, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: barbecue rib sandwich, baked doritos, baby carrots, ranch dressing, peaches, orange smiles, milk.
 Tuesday: Breakfast: sausage roll, assorted

fruit juice, milk. Lunch: turkey and dressing, broccoli, mandarin oranges, roll, milk.
 Wednesday: Breakfast: baked cheese sticks, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans, sliced apples, roll, milk.
 Thursday: Breakfast: blueberry muffin top, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: chicken fajitas, tortilla, ranch beans, corn, pineapple chunks, lettuce/tomato topping, salsa, milk.
 Friday: Breakfast: pancake on stick, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: cheeseburger, sweet potato fries, lettuce, tomato, pickles, pears, banana, milk.

Coahoma ISD
 Monday: Breakfast: pancake sausage on a stick, syrup, apple juice, milk. Lunch: roasted chicken, macaroni/cheese, baked beans, bread, milk. Burritos.
 Tuesday: Breakfast: donuts, sausage, applesauce cups, milk. Lunch: chicken patty

on bun, salad trays, chips, oranges, milk. McRibs, bread, pickle spears.
 Wednesday: Breakfast: pop tarts, ham, applesauce, milk. Lunch: green enchiladas, salad, apples, milk. Barbecue beef on a bun.
 Thursday: Breakfast: pancakes, syrup, sausage, orange juice, milk. Lunch: homemade burritos, chips, baby carrots with ranch dressing, peaches, milk. Corn dogs.
 Friday: Breakfast: biscuits, jelly gravy, sausage, grape juice, milk. Lunch: tacos, pinto bean, salad, pineapple cups, milk.

Sands ISD
 Monday: Breakfast: biscuit and gravy, juice and milk. Lunch: popcorn chicken, broccoli-rice and cheese, tossed salad, cornbread, pears and milk.
 Tuesday: Breakfast: cinnamon roll, juice and milk. Lunch: sloppy joes, pickle spears, corn cobbett, apple, baked chips and milk.
 Wednesday: Breakfast: hot pocket, juice and milk. Lunch: steak fingers, mashed potatoes with gravy, english peas, frozen cherry bar, hot roll and milk.
 Thursday: Breakfast: turnovers, juice and milk. Lunch: lasagna, tossed salad, Texas

toast, pineapple tidbits and milk.
 Friday: Breakfast: breakfast pizza, juice and milk. Lunch: peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, cheese sticks, carrots with ranch, apple, cookie and milk.

Forsan ISD
 Monday: Breakfast: poptart, juice, milk. Alt. Cereal. Lunch: corn dog, western beans, celery and carrot dippers, sparkly apple, chocolate pudding cup, milk.
 Tuesday: Breakfast: cheese omelet, toast, juice, milk. Alt. Cereal. Lunch: ravioli, savory green beans, garlic toast, mandarin oranges, milk.
 Wednesday: Breakfast: french toast, sausage, juice, milk. Alt. Cereal. Lunch: pizza, crunchy broccoli salad, corn cobbette, rosie applesauce, milk.
 Thursday: Breakfast: breakfast pizza, juice, milk. Alt. Cereal. Lunch: nachos grande, Spanish rice, lettuce and tomatoes, orange smiles, milk.
 Friday: Breakfast: cereal, cinnamon toast, juice, milk. Lunch: chili macaroni, savory green beans, whole wheat roll, frozen cherry fruit bar, milk.

Annie's Mailbox



KATHY MITCHELL
 MARCY SUGAR

accepted into a prestigious magnet school for gifted kids. The problem is, although his tuition is paid for, there is a bill for room and board. When I brought this up with my ex, I was treated to a lecture about how the father of one of his wife's children doesn't pay child support, so he has been supporting him since she quit her job to be a stay-at-home mom. This is his excuse for not helping with our son's schooling.

Annie, am I wrong to think he should be thinking first of his own child? Mind you, he still takes beachfront vacations with his wife and her kids. Why am I the one who makes all the sacrifices? He pays regular child support, and I am grateful, but it doesn't cover everything. Our son is extremely gifted, and I fear his gift won't be nurtured in the local public high school, which has a terrible reputation. Even my ex agrees.

I finally got a raise, and I worry that my ex will try to have his support payments reduced. I have applied for financial aid for the school bill. Am I wrong to ask my ex for help, or

am I just being a bitter ex-wife? — *Worn-Out Mom*

Dear Worn Out: Your son is lucky to have such a loving mother as his advocate. There is a difference between the basics of what parents are obligated to do and the extra benefits that come from doing more. It would be wonderful if your husband would help with the school bill, but unfortunately, he doesn't have to. Your best approach would be to ask him sweetly, focusing on how this school could create a better future for his son. But we hope the financial aid package comes through.

Dear Annie: If a person is recovering from a back injury and has constant pain and trouble walking, standing and sitting, is it OK to skip the funeral of a relative? If so, how much explaining do I have to do when family members inquire judgmentally? — *N.Y., N.Y.*

Dear N.Y.: If it's a fifth cousin twice removed whom you haven't seen in 20 years, you don't have to attend, and you don't need to say why. If it's your grandmother, you

need to apologize, explain the circumstances and tell the family you would have crawled on your knees to attend if it had been physically possible. We recommend you send a card of condolence with a handwritten note saying how important this relative was in your life, and perhaps a donation to the deceased's favorite charity.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Somewhere in Oregon," who was upset that her husband wanted to put up his late wife's old Christmas decorations. You gave her good advice, but I think you let her off too easily. Her behavior was selfish, and her insecurities are showing.

Our histories make us who we are. The holidays can be a tough time, and it's not a stretch to think he may

have been missing his first wife. If "Somewhere" can't deal with that, maybe she could divorce and marry a 12-year-old. He should come with a pretty clean slate. — *Shaking My Head*

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your

questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Dear Annie: Six years ago, I divorced my alcoholic, workaholic husband and became a single parent. My ex has regular visitation, but I am the one who handles all the sick days, school conferences, injuries, etc. He never bothers. Shortly after the divorce, I had to take a job at a much lower salary. There were times when I wondered how we would eat and stay warm.

When my ex married his third wife, he decided my son didn't need a bedroom at his place. His wife's kids have three of the four bedrooms in their home, and my son sleeps on the couch when he visits.

Our son is an amazing boy. He recently was

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 Supper Club, "Spanish Inn", 5:30 p.m.
- March 7** - Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
 Movie, 1:00 p.m., "Rango"
- March 8** - Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
 Just Peachy Café, 10:00 a.m.
 Games, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- March 9** - Kiwani's Pancake Supper, 6:00 p.m.
- March 10** - Set Your Clocks forward before you go to bed.
- March 11** - Red, White & Blue "TUNA", MCT, 1:00 p.m.
- March 12** - Games, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- March 13** - Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
 Supper Club "Pizza Inn", 5:30 p.m.
- March 14** - Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
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- March 15** - Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
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229848

United absorbs much of Continental this weekend

JOSHUA FREED

AP Airlines Writer

The last Continental flight took off Friday, and the airline that was once one of the nation's biggest has all but disappeared into United Airlines.

United and Continental merged in 2010, but until this weekend, passengers almost could have missed it. The big change occurred early Saturday when United combines passenger reservation data from both airlines into one massive computer system. That means one frequent-flier program and one website. Tickets will be issued under United's name only.

The switch is a huge undertaking that has its risks. Any hiccups could mean delays throughout the airline's system. That's why United conducted four dress rehearsals with executives staying overnight at headquarters to make sure things went well.

Here are the changes:

CONTINENTAL'S LAST FLIGHT

Continental flight 1267 departed from Phoenix at 11:59 p.m. PST Friday.

The airline will stop using Continental's "CO" code. That means no more Continental Airlines tickets, or flights — even though the Continental name is still painted on some planes.

AT THE AIRPORT

The names of both airlines have been on signs at gates at its 10 hubs. This weekend, it's aiming to take down the "Continental" signs at all 372 airports it serves.

Until now, each airline issued its own tickets, and passengers had to use separate ticket counters. Now, it will no longer matter which ticket counter travelers go to. Gate agents should be able to book travelers on flights across the combined airline, which will be a big improvement any time a blizzard or thunderstorm snarls travel.

The change will also mean that airline workers can send planes from either airline to any of their gates. Previously, gate computers had been connected to separate reservation systems and they couldn't handle planes from the other airline.

FREQUENT FLIERS

The systems are combining under the name of United's MileagePlus frequent-flier program. Travelers who have accounts at both airlines will essentially be credited for their Continental OnePass miles in their combined



MileagePlus account. But their MileagePlus account numbers will be those from OnePass.

As for passwords, PIN numbers and addresses — some of those will transfer and some won't. United has emailed frequent fliers about the details.

WEBSITE

United.com becomes the website for the combined airline. But its look and feel is the old Continental.com. Passengers will be able to use it to check in, regardless of which airline issued their ticket.

WHAT CAN GO WRONG

Plenty. There's a reason United held those dress rehearsals. Five years ago, US Airways Group's reservations system merger with America West went haywire. Hundreds of check-in kiosks didn't work, forcing passengers to use ticket counters. The snafu delayed flights around the US Airways system for days.

Virgin America's switch to a new reservation system in October caused problems that lingered for months.

"This transition is extremely complex and there is a strong likelihood for significant flight delays and cancellations," the head of the Air Line Pilots Association's United unit in San Francisco warned pilots in an email.

Jay Pierce, the head of the ALPA unit at Continental, said in an interview that the airline "actually has done a fairly decent job of advising all the employees that there's a potential for disruptions and possible problems." The company has asked employees not to use their discounted travel benefit over the weekend, to help keep volume low, he said.

The airline moves an average of 264,000 passengers per day. It picked a Saturday for the switch because traffic is as much as 15

WHAT'S HAPPENING: United Airlines is combining passenger data with Continental Airlines. The change means Continental is going away as a separate airline.

WHY IT MATTERS: The change should mean that passengers no longer have to worry about which airline issued their ticket when they walk up to a ticket counter or manage their frequent flier miles.

WHAT'S NEXT: United.com will become the airline's only website, the frequent flier accounts will be combined, and its passenger reservations will all be on one computer system.

percent lighter than on weekdays. It further reduced the number of United flights because those are the flights that are switching to Continental computers.

"We have tested an incredible amount of scenarios across the enterprise and I feel very, very comfortable we will be able to service customers better starting this weekend," said Martin Hand, United's senior vice president for passenger experience.

BEHIND THE SCENES

United must still schedule flight crews from each airline separately because it doesn't yet have union contracts to cover the combined groups. US Airways has been operating that way since its 2005 America West merger.

Pilots from both United and Continental have already been using the "United" radio handle with air traffic controllers, and flight attendants have been announcing flights onboard as United flights, even if passengers walked past a "Continental" sign to get on the plane.

The parent company's name, United Continental Holdings Inc., stays the same.

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.



The stock market is on a roll. The S&P 500 has had the best start to any year since 1997, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average looks set to move back above 13,000 for the first time since May 2008.

Fears about some sort of Lehman-style financial panic in Europe are waning. While problems in the Middle East persist, this is nothing new. Moreover, analysts and investors are increasingly focused on reports that show improvement in the US economy. The Fed has not been able to justify QE3.

Maybe the best news is that investors are looking deeper into economic data, not just trading on headlines. Last week's retail sales and industrial production reports were both lower than the consensus expected, but each came with a convincing alibi.

In the case of retail sales, the Census Bureau estimated a drop in auto sales even though reports on sales by automakers themselves, were up strongly. The markets believed the automakers.

Industrial production came in with a big fat zero for January, but a steep drop in output at utilities and mines masked a strong 0.7 percent increase in manufacturing, driven largely by automakers, who, even after a recent production surge are still running well behind demand, leaving dealer inventories unusually thin.

Meanwhile, regional manufacturing surveys — the Empire State index and Philadelphia Fed index — both beat consensus expectations for February and reported better employment conditions. On cue, new claims for jobless benefits hit the lowest level since early 2008. In addition, housing starts climbed, more proof that the trend in home building is now consistently upward.

The rise in equities so far this year is not just a "sugar high." The Fed has done nothing new, while Keynesian pump-priming is on the wane. Federal spending peaked at 25.3 percent of GDP back in 2009. It's still way too high, but has fallen to 23.7 percent. Meanwhile, despite she-nigans like the temporary payroll tax cut, federal revenue has risen from 15.1 percent of GDP to 15.4 percent in the past year. Spending is down and taxes are up. From a Keynesian perspective, fiscal policy is contractionary.

Yes, the Fed is loose and is holding interest rates down artificially. But even if we assume more normal interest rates and stable profits (with implies declining margins), stocks are very cheap. Cheap enough in our view to take us to 14,500 on the Dow and 1475 on the S&P 500 by year end 2012.

Using a capitalized-profits approach, we divide corporate profits by the current 10-year Treasury yield of 2 percent and then compare the current level of this index from each quarter for the past 60 years. Hold on to your hats...this method estimates a fair-value for the Dow at 46,000. But, this extremely bullish result is largely due to artificially low interest rates. Current levels on inflation are above the 10-year Treasury yield and we believe that once the Fed normalizes its policy stance interest rates will climb to much higher levels.

If we use a more realistic discount rate of 5 percent for the 10-year Treasury, we get a fair value of 18,800 on the Dow and 1,975 for the S&P 500.

Another potential problem is that profits have been an unusually large share of GDP — currently almost 13 percent. If profits revert to a historical norm of about 9.5 percent of GDP at the same time the 10-year Treasury yield is 5 percent, fair value would be 13,900 for the Dow and 1460 for the S&P 500. Just to be clear, that would be in a world where profits fall roughly 25 percent and interest rates more than double from their current levels. In other words, this doesn't look like a dead cat bounce to us.

Valuations are robust and with the economic recovery re-accelerating, the bull market that started in March 2009 has much further to run.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. This article was written by Brian S. Westbury, chief economist for First Trust Advisors L.P., on Feb. 21 and provided courtesy of Bhupen Agrawal, branch manager in Midland at 432-684-7335. 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. Wells Fargo Advisors LLC, member SIPC is a registered broker dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

The tax man cometh

Is it crazy not to participate in a 401k?

401k is one of the good things that along with the IRA and other tax savings vehicles can help you reduce your taxes and build wealth at the same time. Basically, you take the amount that you pay into those plans out of your income and you report what is left. People who take those things seriously and annually contribute will end up with millions of dollars at retirement,

assuming that they start early. They force us to save and at the same time reduce the tax bite. Also, the money inside those vehicles grows without being reduced by tax on the income earned in those plans.

An IRA you can do on your own. You go to the bank and you open it and that is the end of it. A 401k plan, however, is a plan of savings provided by your employer. If your employer has a 401k and you have the money, let them deduct from your check the amount you want to contribute to the 401k.

It is particularly foolish not to participate in a 401k if you have the money and your employer matches your contribution. Those employers who match usually match up to 50 per cent of your contribution.

So, assuming that you are able to contribute the maximum of

\$16,500 and the employer matches just up to \$5,000, you have wasted \$5,000 a year because you did not contribute when you could. The matching alone could be millions of dollars at retirement. That is why it may be crazy not to do it.

The \$2 million question is: Do I have the money? The answer is what cannot be had in totality should not be abandoned in totality: contribute what you can, even a hundred dollars a month. It will take you a long way at retirement, especially if your employer matches the amount.

Dean Alexander has more than 30 years experience as a CPA and tax consultant and he is currently on two radio shows. He is the managing director of National Financial Advisors (NFA Tax Help), a national firm headquartered in Houston.



DEAN ALEXANDER

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 Cammelia 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
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 Spurgeon, 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 Wrightsill, 2816 Ridge Rd., Fort Worth
Lorenzo Ferrera Yanez, 211 Channing St., Big Spring
Dennis Anthony Zaragoza, 4534 Sinclair, Big Spring

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
Rickly 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
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Dennis Anthony Zaragoza, 4534 Sinclair, Big Spring

County Court Decisions:

Judgment and Sentence: Daniel Esquivel Govea, theft of property - more than \$500 and less than \$1,500, \$750 fine, \$278 court costs, 90 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Ruben Curtis Ingram, bail jumping - failure to appear, \$500 fine, \$332 court costs, 30 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Stacy Lynn Pendleton, resisting arrest, search, or transportation, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 180 days in jail.
Probated Judgment: Victor Zamora, theft of property - more than \$50 and less than \$500, \$750 fine, \$282 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Daniel Esquivel Govea, violation of bond or protective order, \$750 fine, \$282 court costs, 90 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Juan Gonzalez Martinez, criminal mischief impair/interrupt public service, \$500 fine, \$332 court costs, 30 days in jail.
Probated Judgment: Merrill Clayton Campbell, driving while intoxicated, \$750 fine, \$457 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 6 months probation).
Probated Judgment: Ericka Krystle Gonzalez, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, \$500 fine, \$342 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Monica Janelle McGruder, stealing/receiving stolen check, \$500 fine, \$332 court costs, 60 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Megan Rynell Armstrong, theft - more than \$50 and less than \$500, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 30 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Clint Rankin Elliott, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 20 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: David Ortiz, driving while intoxicated - second offense, \$100 fine, \$457 court costs, 30 days in jail.
Probated Judgment: Cassandra D. Sanchez, resisting arrest, search or transportation, \$750 fine, \$282 court costs, 365 days in jail (jail time suspended, 24 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Edward

Lopez, driving while intoxicated - open container, \$500 fine, \$457 court costs, 30 days in jail.
Probated Judgment: James Randle Gonzalez, driving while intoxicated, \$750 fine, \$457 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 24 months probation).
Probated Judgment: Ramon Fierro, assault causing bodily injury, \$2,000 fine, \$282 court costs, 365 days in jail (jail time suspended, 24 months probation).
Probated Judgment: Sonny Carrillo, resisting arrest, search or transportation, \$1,500 fine, \$282 court costs, 365 days in jail (jail time suspended, 24 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Lonnie Gray, bail jumping - failure to appear, \$500 fine, \$332 court costs, 90 days in jail.
Probated Judgment: James Odell Perry, possession of a controlled substance, \$500 fine, \$342 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Probated Judgment: Armando Jose Cervantes, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Probated Judgment: Arianda Rosales Smith, silent/abusive calls to 911 service, \$200 fine, \$282 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Isaac Nathan Rios, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 30 days in jail.
Probated Judgment: Eloy Escobar Leal, driving while intoxicated, \$750 fine, \$457 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Marilyn Marie Mendez, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, \$500 fine, \$342 court costs, 43 days in jail.
Probated Judgment: Anthony Robert Sanchez Jr., driving while intoxicated - second offense, \$3,000 fine, \$457 court costs, 365 days in jail (jail time suspended, 6 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Johnny Ray Payne Jr., driving while intoxicated, \$250 fine, \$457 court costs, 60 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Ronnie Johnson, terroristic threat, \$450 fine, \$332 court costs, 30 days in jail.
Probated Judgment: Shawn Michael Overton, failure to identify - giving false information, \$450 fine, \$282 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Probated Judgment: Alex Franklin Minter, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, \$750 fine, \$342 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: John Michael Wilkinson, theft by check - more than \$20 and less than \$500, \$750 fine, \$332 court costs, 120 days in jail.
Probated Judgment: Kody Jackson, possession of marijuana in a drug free zone - two ounces or less, \$450 fine, \$392 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Craig B. Reynolds, driving while intoxicated - second offense, \$750 fine, \$457 court costs, 90 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Craig B. Reynolds, driving while intoxicated - second offense, \$750 fine, \$457 court costs, 90 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Megan Rynell Armstrong, bail jumping - failure to appear, \$500 fine, \$332 court costs, 30 days in jail.
Probated Judgment: Tory Pete Martinez, assault causing bodily injury, \$2,000 fine, \$282 court costs, 365 days in jail (jail time suspended, 24 months probation).

Property: Lot 2, Block 5, Hathcock Heights
Date: Jan. 27, 2012
Grantor: Chris Olson
Grantee: Loten LLC
Property: Lot 7, Block 10, Monticello Addition
Date: Jan. 27, 2012
Grantor: Chris Olson
Grantee: Loten LLC
Property: Lot 1, Block 15, McDowell Heights
Date: Jan. 27, 2012
Grantor: Chris Olson
Grantee: Loten LLC
Property: Lot 1, Block 7, Avion
Date: Jan. 27, 2012
Grantor: Chris Olson

Grantee: Loten LLC
Property: Lot 4, Block 4, Cedar Crest
Date: Jan. 27, 2012
Grantor: Chris Olson
Grantee: Loten LLC
Property: The E/60 feet of Lot 1 and the E/60 feet of the N/48 feet of Lot 2, Block 1, Stripling
Date: Jan. 27, 2012
Grantor: Chris Olson
Grantee: Loten LLC
Property: Lot 21, Block 3, Stanford Park
Date: Jan. 27, 2012
Grantor: Chris Olson
Grantee: Loten LLC
Property: Lot 19, Block 3, Stanford Park
Date: Jan. 27, 2012
Grantor: Chris Olson
Grantee: Loten LLC
Property: Lot 7, Block 3B, Belvue
Date: Jan. 27, 2012

Grantor: Chris Olson
Grantee: Loten LLC
Property: Lot 13, Block 2B, Belvue
Date: Jan. 27, 2012
Grantor: Chris Olson
Grantee: Loten LLC
Property: Lot 8, Block 3B, Belvue
Date: Jan. 27, 2012
Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien:
Grantor: Horace E. Tubb
Grantee: Rick Hernandez
Property: A 10-acre tract out of Section 105, Block 29, W&NW RR Co. Survey
Date: Jan. 26, 2012
Grantor: Horace E. Tubb
Grantee: Joel Estrella and Maria Estrella
Property: A 2-acre tract out of Section 46, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Jan. 26, 2012



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno
Stellar Automation had its official Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting Friday morning. The office is located at 1309 Gregg St.



Courtesy photo
Kody Wood of Colorado City was awarded the San Antonio Livestock Show & Rodeo Reserve Grand Champion light weight with his whether, "Bean." Wood, 17, is an active member of Mitchell County 4-H. He enjoys participating in 4-H activities and plans to attend Texas Tech University and major in marketing. He was awarded an \$8,000 scholarship. Grand Champion light weight honors went to Ashley Garrett of Early and her whether, "Percules."

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- Background in high CO2 plant/reinjection experience
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- High school diploma or equivalent
- 2-3 years experience in engine, compressor mechanics, production equipment and gas compression, preferred
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- Must be able to provide own hand tools up to 1 1/4"
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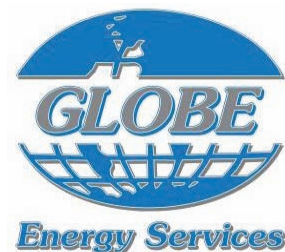


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DELIVERY, ASSEMBLY, clean-up, etc. Must have valid driver's license & good driving record. Apply at Branham Furniture, 2004 West 4th.

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A	R	I	A	I	S	E	E	L	X	O	R	
P	I	C	T	A	P	A	R	T	A	M	E	B
A	D	H	E	R	E	S	A	T	I	R	E	S
A	Q	U	A	S	N	A	P	E				
C	U	R	L	S	S	L	U	N	G	P	A	L
M	I	S	T	O	P	P	O	R	T	U	N	I
E	T	A	B	L	O	N	D	M	A	S	O	N
A	P	P	L	E	T	D	E	E	D			
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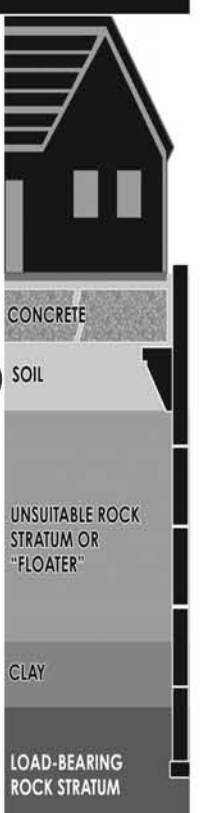
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sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats.

Sudoku grid table with some numbers pre-filled in a 9x9 grid.

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Fall of a Monarch

- West dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: J6, 95, 8542, 7532. WEST: 874, K, KJ963, AKJ8. EAST: Q10953, 7642, Q7, Q9. SOUTH: AK2, AQJ1083, A10, 104.

The bidding: West North East South. 1 Pass 1 Pass 2 Pass 2 Dble. Opening lead — king of clubs.

It's not difficult to make four hearts on this deal with all four hands in view.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand. ©2012 King Features Syndicate Inc.

opposing cards, you might very well go down one after losing a heart finesse to the singleton king.

There is a very good reason for arriving at this conclusion. First you take West's bidding into account.

At trick seven, when you lead the nine of hearts from dummy, you know that West — who must have had at least four diamonds and four clubs for his bids.

It follows that you cannot gain by taking a trump finesse. Even if the finesse won, you'd still have to lose a trump trick later to East's K-x-x or K-x-x-x.

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by S.N.

Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Like Gershwin's orchestral works, 14 Patisserie purchase, 16 Reuben's cousin, 17 Streak, 18 Normal shape for economic recessions, 19 Asian bread, 20 '___ like the passage of an angel's tear': Keats, 21 Archive hosted by Google Groups, 23 Shake up, 24 Encourages, perhaps, 25 Bold type, 26 Age, informally, 27 Supplement, 28 Wagner heroine, 29 World Series participant, 31 Hot, 32 Chicken, 36 Fly-by-nighter, typically, 40 Vivid quality, 41 Restraining order, 42 Pro who coached Lendl and Federer, 43 No, for example, 44 Jacket-back material, 45 Alaska's ___ Highway, 46 ___ blood, 47 Appetite, 48 White Christmas setting, 49 Jury's conclusion, 50 Fannie Hurst novel, 54 Source of casual fare, 55 Obviously.

13x13 crossword puzzle grid with numbered starting points for words.

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'Disaster junkies' form backbone of U.S. safety net

JAY REEVES

Associated Press
TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Taking a break from laying sod in a tornado-torn neighborhood, volunteer David Elliott cocked his head to the left. He was trying to remember all the trips he's made to help rebuild after disasters.

Elliott went to New Orleans seven times after Hurricane Katrina swamped the city in 2005, or was it eight? He was in Nashville, Tenn., after floodwaters inundated the city in 2010. He's been to Alabama three times since tornadoes killed about 250 people statewide in April. Wait: that was just last year?

"I've lost track," said Elliott, of Sacramento, Calif.

Rebuilding after storms is becoming a growth industry as the United States is slammed by more natural disasters, and leaders of the response efforts say the nation's recovery network functions as well as it does because of a backbone of volunteers nicknamed "disaster junkies." The small group of people like Elliott travel from tragedy to tragedy shoveling mud out of flooded houses and rebuilding neighborhoods laid waste by busted levees, tornadoes and wildfires. Often, they bring more helpers with them.

On Friday severe storms slammed parts of the South and Midwest creating even more work opportunities for volunteers.

No one knows exactly how many disaster junkies are active in the United States, but the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster says a core group of around 300 people travel the country at least six months out of each year performing such work. Based in Arlington, Va., the non-profit group estimates several thousand more people are like Elliott and make several trips each year helping out after disasters.

Often associated with churches or other religious groups and traveling at their own expense, these volunteers sleep in churches or mobile homes and frequently eat food provided by other volunteers.

While volunteers and others provided labor worth some \$147 million and donated another \$200 million toward re-

lief aid in 2008, the last year for which figures are available, some recovery projects still can't get off the ground because of the sheer number of disasters that struck the country in recent months, said James McGowan, associate executive director with National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

"After all these disasters across the country our resources have really been stretched," said McGowan, whose organization includes 51 nonprofits. "We've been struggling with it."

Thousands of people volunteer regularly without approaching "junkie" status. The American Red Cross, which is part of McGowan's organization, said 24,236 of its volunteers helped out after 137 disasters in 46 states last year, but most went to only one or two sites.

Dan Burton, a Samaritan's Purse project manager who has worked on disaster recoveries from Atlanta to Alaska, said the "junkies" provide a knowledge base and experience level that many less-experienced volunteers lack. Major disaster assistance work would be much more difficult without them, he said.

"There's an array of jobs to do, and they're just willing to do whatever it is that we have to do," said Burton, overseeing the rebuilding of a home that was destroyed by a tornado in Alabama last year.

With the spring severe weather season drawing near — and as



AP photo

David Elliott can't remember how many disasters he has helped clean up after.

severe storms this week slammed Alabama, roughed up the country music resort city of Branson, Mo., and devastated a small town in Kansas — volunteers are still cleaning up and rebuilding from 2011, when the United States had a record 12 weather disasters that caused at least \$1 billion in damage. That's more major disasters than occurred all through the 1980s, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Aside from the dozens of tornadoes that damaged or destroyed about 24,000 homes in Alabama on April 27, there was the mega-twister that pummeled Joplin, Mo.; flooding in the Northeast from Hurricane Irene in August; wildfires in Texas and other parts of the Southwest; and flooding along the Mississippi River. And recovery work continues along the Gulf Coast from Katrina, the disas-

ter that many people say spurred them to service in the first place.

The devastation of Katrina compelled Julie Davis to help more than six years ago, and she and her husband Ken have been repeat volunteers ever since. They once were "snowbirds," or retirees who visited the South in search of warm weather each year, but now they spend weeks at a time each winter performing volunteer work in disaster-torn areas like Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Chatting with displaced homeowner Deloris Mack as her husband worked on the woman's rebuilt house, Davis said volunteering is addictive.

"We are definitely junkies because you get it in your blood and just can't quit," said Davis, of Girard, Penn. "(It's) just the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping someone, that they aren't expecting anything and you just

come up."

Mack said such volunteers aren't just random people who help out — she believes they are sent by God.

"To me they're angels. Only a God-sent person would come out and build a home for free," Mack said. "So many homes were destroyed. People were lost and didn't know where to go and, like me, don't have the money and the resources to do anything."

An estimated 44 percent of Americans claim to perform volunteer work. A study published by the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues in 2004 said volunteering typically is a "long-term behavior" that people repeat over an extended period once they've tried it the first time. The study said the "vast majority" of volunteers get involved through service or religious organizations, with the latter being the most common.

That's what happened

to Elliott, who takes vacation time off work in California to volunteer for Samaritan's Purse, a Christian organization based in Boone, N.C. His first volunteer experience was after Katrina, and he's been on at least 10 more trips since then.

Experiencing the aftermath of a disaster was intriguing and adventurous, he said, but the work mainly gave him a way to live out his Christian faith with others. At times, Elliott said, volunteering is a stunning experience, such as when he first arrived in Tuscaloosa last year to begin helping with the cleanup.

"I was floored. You can see disaster on television ... but unless you're actually walking in it, it really doesn't hit home," said Elliott. "The experience of being here and seeing the devastation was just ... I was awestruck at the amount of sheer power that caused the devastation here."

Burton, who supervised a tornado rebuilding project where Elliott helped, said the repeat volunteers break down into different categories.

"We do the disaster relief operations, which is the initial people that come in. There's a group that just does that. That's what they love, cleaning up or mucking out after floods. Then there's another group that loves to do the rebuild process. They're kind of the rebuild junkies. They just keep coming wherever we are in the states," he said.

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HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Workers are making progress on "Italian Joe's Restaurant and Pizza," which will open in the former Schlotzsky's/Sky's on FM 700.

Auction date set for abandoned French village

PARIS (AP) — An auction to sell an abandoned French village has been set for May 21.

The hamlet of Courbefy, about 280 miles (450 kilometers) southwest of Paris, fell into the hands of bank Credit Agricole earlier this month after its owners stopped paying their mortgage.

The village of rustic buildings, a horse stable, tennis court and swimming pool was previously a luxury hotel and restaurant.

Paul Gerardin, a lawyer for the bank, said Friday that since one buyer — a U.S.-based company — officially expressed interest, an auction will be held. His office has received more than 100 calls, including from places as far flung as China and Qatar.

Interested buyers can still participate, but must hand over a security deposit for the asking price of \$440,000.



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