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H BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 14, 2012



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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Robbery probe ongoing

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Law enforcement officials say the investigation into a recent robbery at the local Chicken Express restaurant is still ongoing, with interviews with witnesses still under way.

Officers were dispatched to the local eatery Oct. 1 after a masked suspect attacked an employee and made away with an undisclosed amount of cash, according to police reports.

"We're still in the process of interviewing possible witnesses. The case is moving ahead slowly, but it is moving ahead."

Sgt. Tony Everett
Big Spring Police Department

"We're still in the process of interviewing possible witnesses," Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer for the Big Spring Police Department, said. "The case is moving ahead slowly, but it is moving ahead."

The robbery was reported to police shortly after 11 p.m. Monday, Oct. 1, at the Chicken Express restaurant, located at 2000 E. FM 700. According to Everett, an employee working in the restaurant's office was attacked from behind.

"The restaurant had closed at 10 p.m. and the employees were going about cleaning up and closing the business for the night," Everett said. "One of the employees was in the office counting money. The back door had been left unlocked while the employees were cleaning and the suspect entered

See **PROBE**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Carl Condray, foreground, and Lloyd Claxton participate in a woodcarving demonstration in front of the Wal-Mart Supercenter Saturday morning. The Mustang Draw Woodcarver's Club will hold its annual show and sale Monday through Saturday at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Give a gift to our troops

Local group to begin Christmas effort Monday

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Area residents will have a chance to give U.S. military personnel stationed overseas a bit of holiday cheer again this year.

Beginning Monday, Adopt a Military Hero: Howard County's Christmas for Our Troops will collect donations and gifts to send to military personnel who will spend

the holiday season far away from home.

For the past few years, the effort has been done under the auspices of the Midland-based Christmas for Our Troops, but local organizer Debbie Burrow said she wanted to do something a little different this year.

"We just wanted to do our thing," Burrow said. "(The Midland orga-

nization) have their own very strict guidelines, and that's all fine and good, but we wanted to do things a little differently."

The main difference between the two efforts is that Burrow's group will accept a larger variety of gifts to send overseas, with the caveat that all items must be able to fit

See **TROOPS**, Page 3A

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HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

Tobi Robinson, shown with her father, Patric, was crowned Coahoma High School's 2012 Homecoming Queen during festivities Friday night.

HC music department to present a 'progressive' concert Tuesday

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Howard College's Music Department promises an evening of entertainment — and a little bit of exercise, too — Tuesday evening.

The department will present "A Progressive Fall Concert" beginning at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Hall Center for the Arts on the HC campus. And by progressive, organizers mean the concert will be very mobile.

The concert will begin in the Hall Center lobby with an a cappella performance by the college choir, then move into the auditorium, where the band will play. The evening finishes at the center's outdoor amphitheater with a presentation by Hawk Jam, the department's contemporary music ensemble.

For his students' first concert of

What: "A Progressive Fall Concert."
Where: Hall Center for the Arts, Howard College.
When: 6 p.m. Tuesday.

the college year, Department Director Eddie Vandewalker said he wanted to put a slightly different twist on the typical concert-going experience.

"We decided this would be kind of fun," Vandewalker said "It was kind of a collaborative process ... and this is where it led to."

Admission is free to the event. For more information, contact Vandewalker at 264-5145 or by e-mail evandenwalker@howardcollege.edu

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Obituaries

Clovis Bodine



Clovis Bodine, 94, of Ackerly, Texas, went to be with the Lord on Oct. 11, 2012. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Oct. 15, 2012, at the First Baptist Church of Ackerly with Dr. Stan Blevins and Derrick Looney officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Visitation will be from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 14, 2012, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Clovis was born Jan. 11, 1918, to Howard and Ballie Wright in the Five-Mile Community south of Lamesa. Her fond memories included riding her "Old Paint" horse three miles to school. She graduated from Lamesa High School in 1936.

She married Leon Bodine of Ackerly on June 26, 1942, and they were married for 58 years. Preceding her in death were her husband, a brother and a sister.

Survivors include her daughters, Wanda Jean Marten of Lamesa, Rheba Herman and husband Dwayne of Lubbock and Zeldia Bilbo and husband Bob of Ackerly; one son, Steve Bodine and wife Brenda of Big Spring; nine grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

Clovis was a member of the First Baptist Church for 70 years. Her love for children was seen in her serving in the church nursery for many years. Clovis was a talented seamstress, sewing for her girls and members of the community. Having lived on a farm in Dawson County all her life, she enjoyed working hand-in-hand with her husband and son in the fields.

The family gratefully acknowledges her caregivers, Janie Quintanilla, Lonnie Cantu, BG Baltazar, MGA and TJ Quintanilla.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to First Baptist Church of Ackerly, P.O. Box 205, Ackerly, Texas 79713; and Charles Stanley's In Touch Ministries, P.O. Box 7900, Atlanta, Ga. 30357.

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

Paid obituary

Robert L. Crain



Robert L. Crain, 79, of Big Spring died Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012, at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez State Veterans Home. Private memorial services will be at a later date.

He was born Aug. 10, 1933, in Buleadean, N.C. He grew up in Mars Hill, N.C. He retired from the Air Force after 24 years and was a Vietnam veteran. He lived in Big Spring for two years, coming from

Del Rio. He was a member of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou Crain of Big Spring; two sons, Robert Crain Jr. of Paradise, Calif., and Russell Michael Crain of Big Spring; one brother, Ralph Crain of Mars Hill, N.C.; one sister, Ruby Shook of Mars Hill, N.C.; and four grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one grandson.

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

Police blotter

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

• JOHN MANUEL SOLIS, 26, of 1905 Wasson Rd. Apt. 24, was arrested Friday on a warrant for possession of drug paraphernalia.

• PAUL EUGENE CLINE, 38, of 200 Lockhart St., was arrested Friday on a warrant from another agency.

• NICHOLAS DEWAYNE HOWELL, 19, of Odessa, was arrested Friday on a charge of no driver's license - when unlicensed.

• JUAN JOSE OLIVAREZ, 29, of 104 Lockhart, was arrested Friday on warrants for no driver's license - when unlicensed and failure to appear.

• ANGELA DIANE SMITH, 41, of 3606 Piper Rd., was arrested Friday on a warrant for theft - more than \$50 and less than \$500.

• ROBERT ALLEN PASQUALE, 28, of Odessa, was arrested Friday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• MASON DAVONTE NOOKS, 20, of Carrolton, was arrested Saturday on a charge of criminal trespass of a habitation/shelter.

• THEFT was reported:
In the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.
In the 200 block of N. Nolan.

Visit the HERALD online at
www.bigspringherald.com

Take Note

• The Yellow Rose Café, located inside Scenic Mountain Medical Center, is the featured Dine Out Day sponsor for United Way through Oct. 21. The café is open from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. As a Dine Out Day sponsor, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County 2013 campaign.

• The Big Spring Area Retired Teachers Association will meet at 11:30 a.m. Monday in the Cactus Room, Howard College. Members will share a Dutch treat meal followed by the meeting. Craig Bailey, Chairman, Howard County Republican Party, and Walter Shipman, Howard County Democratic Party Chairman, will speak at noon. After their presentations there will be a question and answer opportunity. Membership in the Big Spring Area Retired Teachers Association is open to any retired person who is eligible for the Teacher Retirement System. The RTA meetings are always open to any interested person, and the programs are generally applicable to any retired individual.

• Church Women United will meet from 11 a.m. to noon Oct. 20 at First United Methodist Church, 400 Scurry St. Kay Crites will present a program on Big Brothers and Big Sisters. For more information, call 432-267-2844.

• An account has been set up at Western Bank for Kristen Lasater and family, who lost their home to a house fire Monday afternoon. The account number, for those wanting to make a donation, is 1004597.

• Jo Anna Bailey, an aide for many years at Washington Elementary School, has been diagnosed with cancer. A medical donation account has been established for her at the Big Spring Education Credit Union, located at 1110 Benton. Your generosity will enable her to have much-needed tests and treatment.

• Compass Hospice is in need of your help. If you would be interested in offering your love and God's comfort to those who are suffering, or to their families, contact Michelle Coutermarsh at 263-5999 or come by 602 S. Main. Volunteers are needed in many categories including patient care. You may give as much or as little time as you wish. Any amount of time is greatly appreciated. Training is offered free of charge.

• An account has been established at Big Spring Community Federal Credit Union in the name of Glenda Berger, who was recently diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer. Donations will be used to help defer medical costs and mounting bills. All donations are greatly appreciated. Call Big Spring Community Federal Credit Union at 800-299-6761.

• The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council needs assistance in The Chalet Resale Shoppe, 115 East Second St. The Chalet Resale Shoppe is a fast-paced retail shop specializing in gently worn clothing and small household appliance. Volunteers are needed to sort, price, check out and stock donated items. Volunteer hours are flexible. The Chalet is open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, contact Jamey Stegall at james.stegall@dshs.state.tx.us or 432 268-7535.

• Every Friday night from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. is dance night at the Senior Citizen Center. The cost is \$8 per person.

• 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.

• Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you can donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings. It's a great way to work off community service and get help, too. Be there at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and get two for one plus a rehab meeting.

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

In Memory of Edna Hughes

The Family of Edna Hughes wishes to thank members of the extended family and many friends, who helped and gave support during our lost.

Special appreciation is also extended to members of Full Gospel Fellowship, Nalley-Pickle and Welch and Spring Tabernacle. We sincerely thank you all and are forever grateful.

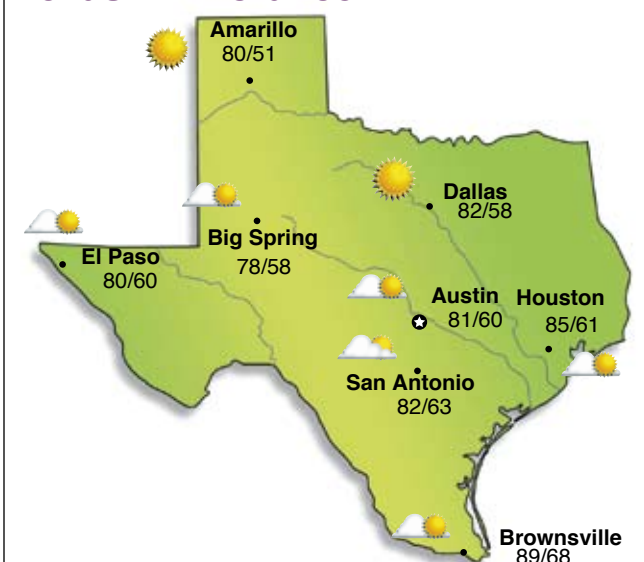
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Mon 10/15	Tue 10/16	Wed 10/17	Thu 10/18	Fri 10/19
78/58 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 50s.	76/56 More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 50s.	82/55 Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 50s.	81/56 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 50s.	80/54 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 50s.
Sunrise: 7:50 AM Sunset: 7:13 PM	Sunrise: 7:51 AM Sunset: 7:12 PM	Sunrise: 7:52 AM Sunset: 7:10 PM	Sunrise: 7:52 AM Sunset: 7:09 PM	Sunrise: 7:53 AM Sunset: 7:08 PM

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Texas At A Glance



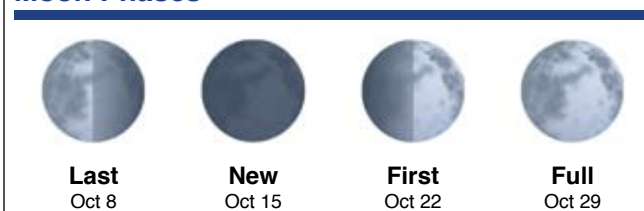
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	80	58	pt sunny	Kingsville	88	68	t-storm
Amarillo	80	51	sunny	Livingston	85	55	mst sunny
Austin	81	60	pt sunny	Longview	82	55	sunny
Beaumont	85	59	pt sunny	Lubbock	78	52	mst sunny
Brownsville	89	68	pt sunny	Lufkin	84	57	mst sunny
Brownwood	83	57	pt sunny	Midland	78	60	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	86	69	t-storm	Raymondville	90	67	t-storm
Corsicana	81	56	sunny	Rosenberg	85	60	pt sunny
Dallas	82	58	sunny	San Antonio	82	63	cloudy
Del Rio	83	69	cloudy	San Marcos	82	59	pt sunny
El Paso	80	60	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	82	56	sunny
Fort Stockton	76	59	cloudy	Sweetwater	80	57	pt sunny
Gainesville	82	55	sunny	Tyler	81	56	sunny
Greenville	81	54	sunny	Weatherford	80	55	sunny
Houston	85	61	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	81	55	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	75	47	rain	Minneapolis	67	50	pt sunny
Boston	72	51	t-storm	New York	71	54	t-storm
Chicago	59	42	mst sunny	Phoenix	92	64	sunny
Dallas	82	58	sunny	San Francisco	72	61	pt sunny
Denver	74	47	sunny	Seattle	60	53	rain
Houston	85	61	pt sunny	St. Louis	67	48	sunny
Los Angeles	88	63	sunny	Washington, DC	71	52	t-storm
Miami	85	72	t-storm				

Moon Phases



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

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

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

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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 parents, 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.
- VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7-8 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.
- Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) TX 0021 meets at First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad, in the dining hall on the east side of the building. Weigh-in starts at 5 p.m. and meeting starts at 5:30 p.m. We have a different program each week. For more information, please call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
- Circle of Hope, a Celebrate Recovery group, meets at 6:30-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship, located in the College Park Shopping Center. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program dealing with life's hang-ups, hurts and habits, covering many areas. Circle of Hope group is a ministry of Spring Creek Fellowship. For further information, contact Dale at 432-270-8462.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring and Snyder 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 all Parkinson's disease patients, spouses and caregivers. For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.
- Special Parents for Special Children support group meets the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Elbow Elementary. Contact Kerri Rosenbaum at 432-816-3320 or kerriroosenbaum9488@msn.com
- VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; closed discussion

meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at the Gold Rush Tobacco Shop, 800 E. Third Street. Open meeting at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.
- Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.
- Circle of Hope, a Celebrate Recovery group, meets at 6:30-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship, located in the College Park Shopping Center. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program dealing with life's hang-ups, hurts and habits, covering many areas. Circle of Hope group is a ministry of Spring Creek Fellowship. For further information, contact Dale at 432-270-8462.
- Visual Awareness Support Group (VASG) is open to the public but specifically aimed for people who suffer from vision problems and their caregivers. For more information, call 263-2501.

FRIDAY

- Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program, is held at Cornerstone Covenant Church, 706 E. 12th St. at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call at 264-0015 or visit www.cccbigspring.org

Tight race and big debate ahead with 3 weeks to go

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — It's either candidate's race to win as President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney prepare for their second debate Tuesday night, with just three weeks to go until the election and voting well under way in many states.

The Republican challenger had trailed the Democratic incumbent in national polls for weeks, but now has drawn even, benefiting from a boost of enthusiasm following a strong first debate performance 10 days ago. While Romney's standing has improved in some states, Obama retains an edge in the hunt for the 270 electoral votes needed to take the White House. The president also has far more ways than Romney to reach that magic number.

But that's not enough to calm nervous Democrats, even as they revel in Vice President Joe Biden's pull-no-punches turn on the debate stage Thursday night against GOP vice presidential nominee Paul Ryan. They are looking for an equally aggressive Obama to show up for the prime-time town-hall style debate.

Steve Schmidt, the chief Republican strategist four years ago for GOP nominee John McCain, acknowledged Obama's edge but said it could be erased if the president comes off as defensive or dismissive in the second debate as he did in the first. "If he has another debate performance anywhere near that vicinity, it's going to go south for him," Schmidt said.

Last week's feisty confrontation between

Biden and Ryan set the stage for Tuesday's presidential debate and gave Republicans an opening to intensify their criticism about Obama's foreign policy. Romney has jumped on Biden's assertion that "we weren't told" of an official request for more security at a consulate in Libya that was attacked by terrorists who killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans. The White House spent the bulk of Friday trying to explain what Biden meant.

As the debate looms large as one of the final opportunities to affect the trajectory of the race, both campaigns are working feverishly in the nine most competitive states — Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin — to get their core supporters to vote early and persuade undecided voters to back their candidate.

TV ads are a near constant presence, mailboxes are filled with campaign brochures and door-step visits by volunteers are picking up. Obama, Romney, their running mates, families and high-profile Democrats and Republicans are near constant presences in those states, working to tip the balance in a tight race where any factor could make a difference.

Romney's biggest challenge remains Ohio, where polls show Obama with a consistent, slight lead.

Without Ohio's 18 electoral votes, Romney would have to win nearly all the other contested states, most of which

are either too close to project a winner or are leaning Obama's way, some solidly.

Given the stakes, Romney spent the past week bearing down on Ohio, campaigning there four of five days last week and boosting his television advertising, according to ad-spending reports provided to The Associated Press. Both Romney and Ryan scheduled events in the state Saturday.

Ohio is proving to be tricky for Romney. The state has an unemployment rate higher than the national average and a revived energy sector built on natural gas. Also, Obama's auto industry bailout is popular.

In the aftermath of Romney's debate performance, Republicans have grown more enthusiastic, which is a critical development in the homestretch. A Pew Research Center poll last week found energy levels even for the first time, with 68 percent of registered voters who say they back Obama strongly supporting him and 67 percent of Romney voters strongly behind him.

A Washington Post-ABC News poll on voters favorability toward the candidates conducted after the first debate showed Romney viewed as "strongly favorable" by 62 percent of Republicans.

Republicans are working to harness that enthusiasm to counter Obama's tested early-voting program, which in 2008 made the difference when Obama carried Colorado, Florida, Iowa and North Carolina.

TROOPS

Continued from Page 1A

inside a standard-sized U.S. Postal Service flat rate box (12 inches by 12 inches by 55 inches). "Our main focus is for people to take the Adopt

a Military Hero box and fill it with items on our suggestion list or whatever you want to give and have it back to by Nov. 21," Burrow said. The group aims to have about \$50 worth of gifts in each box. People can either buy the items

or simply donate money to AMH, she added. "If they want to donate the money, we'll buy the gifts and fill the boxes for you," Burrow said. Boxes can be picked up at AMH headquarters, 1606 E. Third and either returned there or at

various drop-off points around Big Spring. In addition, an account has been established at Wells Fargo Bank for people wanting to make cash donations. The group's goal is to fill up to 500 boxes by the time they are shipped

on Dec. 2; recipients don't have to be Howard County natives, Burrow said. For more information, call 270-8554. Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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Robert L. Crain, 79, died Thursday. Private memorial services will be at a later date.

PROBE

Continued from Page 1A

the building and attacked the employee in the office from behind. "The victim said they were hit behind the ear, either with a fist or an object. At that time, while they were reeling from the blow, the suspect grabbed some of the money off the desk where they had been counting and ran. The employee chased after

them and upon making it outside the building, saw the suspect meet up with a second suspect, at which time they fled into the wooded area south of the restaurant." Everett said the suspect is described as a black male, approximately 5-feet 10-inches in height, wearing all

black clothing and a red bandana covering his face. The second suspect believed to be waiting outside was described as a black male simply wearing all black clothing. The Chicken Express employee who was attacked sustained only minor injuries as a result of the attack and re-

fused medical treatment at the scene, according to police reports. No arrests have been made at this time, according to Everett. Anyone with information regarding this or any other crime is encouraged to contact the Big Spring Police Department at 264-2550 or Big Spring Area

Crimestoppers at 264-TIPS (8477). Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspring-herald.com

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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

Steve Reagan
Staff Writer

Brian McCormack
Sports Editor

Thomas Jenkins
Staff Writer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The kindness of strangers

To the editor:

To the person who found my credit card clip, a very heart-felt "thank you." I want to express my admiration for your apparent belief that honesty is its own reward.

Jack McGlawn Snyder

Vote for 4B option

To the editor:

Type A or Type B? I have lived in Big Spring all my life and we have had an A type EDC since it began in 1991.

I don't see any great improvements, considering all the money given out. I think we should open the door to be able to use the money to benefit all the citizens of Big Spring by voting for the Type B proposition.

Poncho Narbaiz Big Spring

Vote out the 'good ole boys'

To the editor:

I have heard some mumbling about citizens not getting to vote on projects if we have a Type B Economic Development Corp.

Well, guess what? In the the last 22 years since we first started an EDC, they have never identified a Type B project and allowed us to vote on it. That leads me to believe if this proposition fails, we will never see any of those tax dollars spent on anything other than gifts to those people the "good ole boys" deem worthy.

I am for a change that opens new doors. I will vote for the Type B EDC.

Rodney Carr Big Spring

Clean water should be everyone's goal

To the editor:

Clean water is a bipartisan issue with a long history of bipartisan support. Congress passed the Clean Water Act in 1972 with the broad bipartisan support of two-thirds of Congress. The goal of the Clean Water Act was to end the use of our nation's waters for discharge of pollutants by 1985.

Clearly we have missed that goal by a long shot, though we have made great progress in cleaning up our waterways. Industrial pollution, toxic dumping, sewage overflows, extreme energy extraction and many more problems continue to threaten the waters on which our families and communities rely.

We must call upon our elected officials to renew our nation's commitment to the goal of ending the use of our nation's waters for the discharge of pollutants and to work to make all our waters swimmable, fishable and drinkable. These fundamental goals of the Clean Water Act should have overwhelming bipartisan support because they are crucial to public health, well-being and local economies all across the nation.

Dr. Lea Faulks Big Spring

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- 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.

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

Another 100th birthday

Looking back on his 100th birthday in July, my Uncle Mort admits it could have been doubly sweet had he known of another 100th anniversary observation this year.

"If I had known I shared a birthday year with Dallas' Adolphus Hotel, I might have swung a deal to have my party there," he lamented.

Had there been that "dual party," it would have been a study in contrasts—one sedate, the other garish; a melodious Steinway vs. barn dance fiddles; fine china in lieu of Styrofoam, and silk stockings vs. flip/flops....

"My daddy was forever talking about the Adolphus," Mort said, claiming it was the first hotel that didn't have "and livery" in its name. "Staying there was beyond our dreams, but we walked through the lobby and picked up left-behind newspapers during our rare trips to Big 'D'."

Named and financed by St. Louis beer baron Adolphus Busch, the magnificent 22-story hotel set new hostelry standards. Greats and near-greats from around the globe have enjoyed old-world hospitality in a hotel known for 18th century design—inside and out.

If walls could talk, floors and ceilings couldn't get words in edgewise. There'd be happy afterglow chatter about the Glenn Miller Orchestra; serious talk of two world wars, the Roaring 20's and the Great Depression; seventh-floor political discourse at Texas' campaign center for

FDR's 1944 presidential run and gambling whispers on Texas-Oklahoma football games....

Constructed at a cost of \$1.5 million, it rose at the city's epicenter, the corner of Commerce and Akard. Never mind the nearly-new Dallas City Hall occupied the address. Busch wrote a \$240,000 check for it and ordered horse-powered 'dozers. City Hall could be someplace else.

Grandeur was worth it. After all, Texans thrive on bragging rights that come with a 1,250-room hotel that later was first in the US with air conditioning.

After Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941, a siren was installed atop the Adolphus to warn citizens in the event of air raids....

"Maud and I had been married several years when we first paid money for a place to sleep," Mort laughed.

"We tried to land on relatives when we traveled, on pallets if need be. One time we showed up unannounced at my grandparents' house in Houston. They weren't home, and the key usually hidden under a brick in the flower bed wasn't there. So, we went to a tourist court."

He called it a "more than modest" accommodation, setting him back \$1.75-\$1.85 with a dime left for the maid. Actually, it totaled \$2.00—there was a 15-cent charge for the window pane broken when he stuck the door key in too far....

Adolphus guests feel caught in a time warp. They're still treated by warm, down-home hospitality common there since culture reached puberty. Finery in every respect remains.

Their "operators" are never busy serving other customers.



DR. DON NEWBURY

Hailey and Hayley:

A tale of two daughters

It's hard to believe it's been nearly two years since Colorado City teen Hailey Dunn was reported missing. It's even harder to believe there hasn't been a single credible development in the case in well more than a year.

Now, before anyone jumps up in arms in regards to this column, understand ... I'm not going to launch into some diatribe about how effective law enforcement has been in the case. I'm also not going to delve into all of the finger-pointing and name calling that has ensued since the young girl disappeared.

No, what rests quite heavily on my mind — especially during this time of the year — is the fate Dunn has likely met and what it means to her family and friends.

If you've never had a loved one ripped out of your life without warning, count yourself among the blessed. It leaves you feeling isolated, violated and trying to cope with a sense of anger you've most likely never experienced before.

The reason I know this is because my daughter, who is set to turn 13 years old in less than a week, was torn out of my life for approximately a month when she was about 6 years old.

Granted, my experience isn't nearly as harrowing as the Dunn case. Her mother, who I had been estranged from for some time, had decided to run away with my Hayley Bird, taking her to Midland for about a month.

The tough part to handle, however, was the vast darkness of the unknown. I had no idea where my daughter was, who she was with — other than her mother, who was known to have some rather unsavory friends — or even if she was OK. For 30

days and nights, my daughter, who had been the biggest part of my life everyday since she was born, was gone.

It was, without a doubt, the most trying experience in my life.

I immediately ran through all of the normal channels and reported my daughter missing to law enforcement. Unfortunately, because she was believed to be with her mother, their hands were all but tied. I hired an attorney and filed the necessary legal papers to take action, but there were no guarantees. There wasn't any way to know, for sure, if I'd see my little girl again.

In the days that followed, I tried my best to bear the weight of it all, but it was more than I could handle.

Days ran into nights, nights ran into days ... I missed time from work and withdrew from my friends and family. After all, what can you really say to someone who has never felt that sort of pain or loss?

I can remember sitting in my house at night with every single light in the house on. Sometimes I would sit in my daughter's room and just look around helplessly. After a week with no word, no contact with my daughter, my mind began to turn in on itself, the darkness quickly closing in.

Since the day my daughter was born, she had been the cornerstone of my life. I chose her name — Hayley — because in Gaelic it means "hero." And that's exactly what she's been, my hero, giving me the strength to do more than I ever thought possible, both as a single dad and as a man.

However, with that stripped away, I was lost in a way I hadn't felt in many years. In short, that 30 days nearly killed me.

Luckily, I played my cards right and went through the court systems. It was a frightening

From "check-in to check-out," guests are royalty—a little less than angels but much more than kinfolks.

Leave wake-up calls, and a "live" person interrupts slumber, warm and friendly the first time, but a bit more "mother-like" if a second call is required. (During one long-ago stay at a property akin to Uncle Mort's "tourist court," I requested a wake-up call. The gruff clerk said, "We ain't got phones," and tossed me a wind-up alarm clock.)

Even the walls are silent about some goings-on. Rumor has it, though, that one of the funniest vignettes occurred years ago during an OU-UT weekend. An Okie checked in on Friday afternoon, his first-ever time for the shoot-out.

Hours were beyond wee when revelry finally gave way to slumber and his throbbing head hit the pillow.

When he woke, he called room service for a pot of stiff black coffee, bacon and eggs and a Saturday morning paper.

Almost an hour later, he called to ask if they had to kill the hog and gather the eggs. "No problem with the food," the server said, "But it takes a while to find a Saturday paper on Sunday morning."

The Adolphus has rolled with nearly all the kinds of punches a century can unleash, but it is now for sale. Nearly everything Mort owns has a price tag, too....

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prospect, with stories of loss and trepidation abounding, however, the truth shined through in the end. I won custody of my daughter and the very next day she was in my arms once again.

I'll never forget that moment when I saw her again. The light in her eyes wiped away all the hurt I'd endured during that month. All of those sleepless night and zombie-like days were washed away with just one hug, one kiss on the cheek.

And it's that moment that pains me so much in the Hailey Dunn case. I can't help but think Dunn's friends and family might never get to experience that feeling, that sense of relief. It breaks my heart to think they will endure that sense of loss, that empty place in their hearts, for the rest of their lives.

My story had a happy ending. My daughter has grown so much since that time, and we only speak of it briefly, from time to time. I doubt she has any idea how much pain I endured, or the darkness I was forced to overcome. In all honesty, I hope she never has to know. Ever.

My daughter went with me to Colorado City on a couple of occasions, helping to search the fields and other structures for clues to Hailey Dunn's disappearance. She wanted more than anything to help the teenage girl, even though she'd never met her.

Help us remember Dunn this holiday season. Light a candle, hang up some missing person flyers or just hug the ones you love a little bit tighter. It's up to us to make sure she isn't forgotten.

Note — Hailey Dunn has light brown hair, green eyes, stands 5 feet and weighs approximately 115 pounds. According to information provided by Hope for Hailey, a non-profit group cur-

See **JENKINS**, Page 5A



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Members of the junior class team celebrate their victory in the recent Big Spring High School Powder Puff football game at Blankenship Field.

FDA's regulation of pharmacies has knotty history

WASHINGTON (AP) — The deadly meningitis outbreak linked to contaminated pain injections has prompted calls for tighter federal regulation of compounding pharmacies, which have periodically been blamed for crippling and sometimes fatal injuries. But this isn't the first time Congress has pushed for more authority over the industry.

Such efforts stretch back to the 1990s, and after vigorous pushback by compounding pharmacists, they have left a patchwork of incomplete, overlapping laws, contradictory court rulings and overall uncertainty about how much the Food and Drug Administration has to regulate compounders.

And with a gridlocked Congress at its most unproductive in decades, experts don't expect to see new laws passed anytime soon.

The issue flared up in the past several days after the New England Compounding Center of Framingham, Mass., came under suspicion as the source of the tainted steroid shots that have sickened at least 184 people in 12 states, causing 14 deaths.

Several members of Congress this week promised to introduce legislation giving the

FDA greater authority to oversee the specialty pharmacies, which custom-mix drugs for patients for everything from menopause symptoms to cancer. The compounding industry in the U.S. has grown into a \$3 billion business with 7,500 pharmacies, according to its trade group.

"It's incredibly complicated to explain what our authority is and is not, and the nuances of that," Deborah Autor, FDA's deputy regulatory commissioner, said Thursday. She suggested the FDA would support new laws to oversee the industry.

"The world has changed a lot since the days of mortar and pestle, and this is the time for pharmacists, for lawmakers, for regulators and for doctors to sit down to grapple with this new model of pharmacy compounding," Autor said.

Compounding pharmacies are critical for patients who need solutions, creams and other medicines customized for, say, smaller dosages or to remove ingredients that cause allergies. Unlike drugs that are manufactured for mass-market distribution, these products are not subject to premarket review by the FDA.

Body encased in concrete identified

DECATUR, Ga. (AP) — Authorities on Friday identified the body of a man who was found entombed in concrete in the backyard of a northeast Georgia home.

The man has been identified as Sean Dugas, 30, according to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation medical examiner's office. The body was found Monday encased in a plastic storage container filled with concrete.

Authorities this week charged

twin brothers Christopher and William Cormier, 31, with murder in the death of Dugas, a former newspaper reporter in Pensacola, Fla. The Cormier brothers are also charged with concealing death.

"It's a little hard to wrap your head around it," said Kris Wernowsky, who worked at the Pensacola News Journal, where he sat next to Dugas for about three years. "I've worked there for so many years and covered many

things in Florida. You never would have thought you would go to a website and click on a story about someone you know. ... It's heartbreaking."

Dugas' dreadlocks and bushy long beard helped him stand out easily in the Pensacola area on the Florida Panhandle, Wernowsky said. Dugas had covered a wide variety of topics, including breaking news and entertainment, the newspaper said on its website.

JENKINS

Continued from Page 4A

Currently assisting in the search, the girl has a scar on the right side of her forehead and right side of her lip. She was last seen wearing dark blue sweat pants, a light-colored T-shirt and flip-flops.

Anyone with information concerning the girl's whereabouts or circumstances concerning her disappearance are asked to call authorities at 325-728-5294 or 325-728-3161. A reward is being offered for information in the case.

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

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News in brief

Mom gets 99 years in prison for gluing tot's hands

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas woman who beat her 2-year-old daughter and glued the toddler's hands to a wall was sentenced Friday to 99 years in prison by a judge who described his decision as a necessary punishment for a brutal, shocking attack.

Elizabeth Escalona did not immediately react as State District Judge Larry Mitchell pronounced the sentence at the end of a five-day hearing. Prosecutor Eren Price, who originally offered Escalona a plea deal for 45 years, had argued that she now thought the 23-year-old mother deserved life.

Mitchell said his decision came down to one thing.

"On Sept. 7, 2011, you savagely beat your child to the edge of death," Mitchell said. "For this you must be punished."

The beating left Jocelyn Cedillo in a coma for a couple of days.

Escalona's other children told authorities their mother attacked Jocelyn due to potty training problems. Police say she kicked her daughter in the stomach, beat her with a milk jug, then stuck her hands to an apartment wall with an adhesive commonly known as Super Glue.

Jocelyn suffered bleeding in her brain, a fractured rib, multiple bruises and bite marks, a doctor testified. Some skin had been torn off her hands, where doctors also found glue residue and white paint chips from the apartment wall.

Escalona pleaded guilty in July to one count of felony injury to a child.

Price said Escalona would be eligible to apply for parole in 30 years.

7 advisers resign at embattled Texas cancer agency

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — At least seven scientists resigned in protest this week from Texas' embattled \$3 billion cancer-fighting program, claiming the agency created with the backing of the governor and cancer survivor Lance Armstrong is charting a new "politically-driven" path that puts commercial interests before science.

The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas has awarded nearly \$700 million in grants since 2009, making Texas home to the nation's biggest pot of cancer-research dollars behind only the federal National Institutes of Health. But how the state agency picks projects has fallen under intensifying scrutiny, beginning in May when its chief scientific officer resigned in protest after it approved — without scientific review — a \$20 million commercialization project.

Nobel laureate Dr. Phillip Sharp was among those stepping down this week, writing in his resignation letter that the CPRI is making funding decisions that carry a "suspicion of favoritism" in how the state is handing out taxpayer dollars. Dr. Bryan Dynlacht, another reviewer who's leaving, warned that the agency was headed down a path of systematic abuses.

"You may find that it was not worth subverting the entire scientific enterprise — and my understanding was that the intended goal of CPRIT was to fund the best cancer research in Texas — on account of this ostensibly new, politically driven, commercialization-based mission," Dynlacht wrote in his letter.

Commercialization projects focus on turning research into drugs or other sellable products rather than funding the research itself.

The letters were obtained by The Associated Press through an open records request. Sharp is profes-

sor at the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, while Dynlacht is at the New York University School of Medicine.

In a statement, CPRIT executive director Bill Gimson called the accusations false and misinformed.

CPRIT was created though an ambitious bond measure approved by Texas voters in 2007. The agency has scientists across the country who help review proposals and choose projects to fund.

Feds approve plan to identify source of Gulf sheen

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Federal officials said late Friday they have approved a joint plan from BP and Transocean to identify the source of a sheen in the Gulf Of Mexico associated with the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Officials said in a news release that the federal on-site coordinator approved the joint plan on Thursday. Coast Guard Capt. Duke Walker had required the plan, and federal officials informed BP and Transocean they might be held responsible for the costs of identifying the source and the cleanup.

Federal scientists and BP say oil appears to have leaked last month from the drilling wreckage lying at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico near where a BP well blew out in 2010, causing the nation's worst offshore spill.

A probe started after a sheen was discovered Sept. 16 in the waters near the site indicates the oil may have seeped from a mile-long metal tube, called the riser, which connected the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig to the Macondo well.

The plan calls for "satellite observations and mobilizing remotely operated vehicles to examine the original Macondo well area including the wreckage, debris and the riser on the sea floor," according to the news release.

The Coast Guard will oversee the remote vehicle mobilization Sunday, with operations taking place early next week, logistics and weather permitting.

The well itself, capped after more than 200 million gallons of oil spewed, is not believed to be leaking, officials said. The oil sheen posed no environmental threat because it was a small amount of oil and was far from land, federal officials said.

Mexican customs agents seize \$560,000 from car

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican customs agents seized \$560,000 in cash hidden in the door panels of a vehicle entering Mexico at Matamoros, across the border from Brownsville, Texas.

The Tax Administration Service said in a statement Friday that the driver drove into the "nothing to declare" lane. But when the driver hit the button that doles out random searches, he got a "red light" — meaning he had to be searched. Agents then found 35 packages of cash hidden inside the rear door panels.

The Tax Administration Service oversees customs agents, who have seized more than \$50 million at border crossings since late 2006.

Drug cartels frequently smuggle the cash proceeds of U.S. drug sales back into Mexico, often to pay suppliers.

Southwest changes tune, raises fares

DALLAS (AP) — Southwest Airlines is making a 180-degree turn and raising fares on many routes by up to \$10 per round trip.

The self-proclaimed low-fare airline declined to match a \$10 increase by United Airlines earlier this week, helping force United to roll back prices.

But on Friday, Southwest raised fares \$2 each way for trips under 501 miles, \$3 each way for 501 to 1,000 miles, and \$5 each way for longer trips.

Brad Hawkins, a spokesman for Dallas-based Southwest Airlines Co., says the reason is simple: The airline's costs are rising.

J.P. Morgan analyst Jamie Baker says Southwest started by raising prices on a limited number of flights, then broadened the increase and included flights by its AirTran Airways subsidiary. He expects most other airlines will match it by Saturday.

1 killed, 2 hurt as car smashes pizzeria

ANNA, Texas (AP) — A car driven by an 80-year-old woman smashed into a North Texas pizzeria, killing one diner and injuring two others.

The accident happened about 2 p.m. Friday in Anna, about 40 miles north of Dallas. Police Chief Kenny Jenks says the driver lost control of her car and crashed through the front windows of Mama Mia's pizza, hitting three people eating inside.

Police Sgt. Jeff Camponera says the three diners were an 82-year-old woman, her daughter and a grandson.

The three were taken to Medical Center McKinney, where Jenks says 82-year-old Kathryn Thornhill Hamlin of Anna died. There was no word on the conditions of the other two family members but their injuries weren't thought to be life-threatening.

The driver also was taken to a hospital for examination.

Texas official sends ultimatum to El Paso schools

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Texas' top education official warned the El Paso Independent School District that it will face harsh sanction if it fails to find and punish those who helped the former superintendent carry out a scheme to improve the district's high-stakes tests scores by removing low-performing students from classrooms.

"I want to see aggressive and immediate action" by the district to find and punish those responsible, said Texas Education Commissioner Michael Williams, who initially shared his warning for the district earlier this week in an interview with the El Paso Times.

The move comes after the district's former superintendent, Lorenzo Garcia, was sentenced last week to more than three years in prison for his participating in the conspiracy. He had pleaded guilty in June to two counts of fraud.

Williams called for the district to identify wrongdoers and conduct an "entire inquiry into the district, to know why this happened, who was involved and the consequences for students and teachers."

Stronger sanctions could include a conservator to oversee the district. That person would have more power than the monitor already put in place by the agency. Also, a board of managers could take over some of the functions of the board of trustees or even install a new school board.

"There is no tool that is off the table," Williams said in an interview Thursday night.

Former state Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, who spearheaded the effort to investigate the cheating scandal, says a network of school officials received raises and bonuses in exchange for their participation in the scheme. Those teachers and officials who pushed back faced retaliation by Garcia and other school district officials close to him.

La. sinkhole, bubbling gas linked to Texas company

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A collapsed wall of an abandoned underground salt cavern where a Texas company had operated is being blamed with causing a sinkhole and contaminating an aquifer in a sparsely populated area of swampland west of New Orleans.

The Louisiana Office of Conservation said new data shows that a series of problems — natural gas bubbling up in local bayous and a growing sinkhole that's swallowed about 4 acres of swamp forest — are linked to the collapse of a side wall of an underground salt cavern that Houston-based Texas Brine Co. LLC operated. The company extracted brine and piped it to nearby petrochemical facilities.

Late Thursday, Conservation Commissioner James H. Welsh ordered Texas Brine to make sure the collapsed cavern does not worsen and to do more testing, monitoring and analysis to understand what is happening underground.

"We have a sense of what happened, now we're trying to figure out what is still happening," said Patrick Courreges, a spokesman for the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

In August, the sinkhole opened up near a community along Bayou Corne in Assumption Parish, about 60 miles west of New Orleans. Residents in the area had reported strange bubbling in their waterways and tremors before the sinkhole opened up. Officials then issued a voluntary evacuation order to about 350 people living near the sinkhole.

Extracting brine from salt domes is a common practice in Louisiana, where there are 75 active brine wells. Brine is used to make chlorine, an important building block for petrochemical and plastics manufacturers.

Sonny Cranch, a Texas Brine spokesman, said the company has not finished its own analysis of what happened but that it would comply with the Office of Conservation's order.

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News in brief

Ahead of debate, Romney works in prep time and politicking in Ohio while Obama looks to Va.

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney is preparing for his second debate with President Barack Obama but taking time to tell voters in Ohio that enthusiasm for him is surging both in this critical state and across the country.

Obama is prepping for their matchup by hunkering down Saturday in another battleground state, Virginia.

Romney is concluding a week of campaign rallies that saw him drawing larger, more excited crowds than he has through the fall campaign. More than 10,000 people turned out to several rallies, with the campaign saying that more people were signing up to attend events since Romney's strong debate performance last week in Nevada.

"I've had the fun of going back and forth across Ohio, and this week I was also in Florida and Iowa, I was in North Carolina and Virginia. And you know what? There is a growing crescendo of enthusiasm," Romney told a crowd of thousands at a sunset rally Friday in Lancaster, south of Columbus, where he and running mate Paul Ryan appeared together. "There's more energy and passion. People are getting behind this campaign. We are taking back this country."

Saturday will be the fourth of the last five days Romney will spend campaigning in this industrial, Midwestern state — with 18 electoral votes, it's critical to his hopes of winning the White House. His campaign swing comes as he and Republicans criticize Obama for the handling of the terrorist attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya.

Leaked video tarnishes moderate reputation of Tunisian Islamist party

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Leaked conversations mentioning alcohol bans and the imposition of religious law have raised fears that Tunisia's new government may not be as moderate as it appears, especially in the context of mob attacks on the U.S. Embassy that coincided with the killing of the American ambassador in neighboring Libya.

The leaks, however, may also just be attempts by the secular opposition or religious conservatives to embarrass the moderate Islamist Ennahda Party before next year's elections.

Tunisia's social media sites were flooded Wednesday by first a video, then a phone recording showing Rachid Ghannouchi, the founder of the once-banned Ennahda Party that dominated recent elections, appearing to discuss how to gradually Islamize society and triumph over secularism.

Ennahda said in a statement the video, from February, was heavily edited to make Ghannouchi appear to be more extreme than the party's actual positions.

"A number of sentences and sections were taken out of context and edited in such a way as to misrepresent their meaning in a deplorable return to the old methods of vilification used by the former regime," party official Ameer Larayedh said in a statement.

With few options, Palestinian crowds line up in hopes of jobs in Israel

BEIT EL, West Bank (AP) — For Palestinians, the Israeli military coordination office on the outskirts of Jerusalem is a symbol of Israel's decades-long control over their lives. Now it has also become an unlikely source of hope for employment.

In response to an economic crisis gripping the West Bank, Israel has increased the number of permits for Palestinians to work in Israel. This has drawn large crowds of desperate men to the gray edifice each morning in chaotic scenes of long lines, frustrated faces and heated arguments as they try to secure a coveted permit.

At a time of double-digit unemployment in the West Bank, Palestinian workers, particularly people working in manual jobs like furniture moving, gardening and maintenance work, have few other options.

"It's a dream to get a permit and work in Israel," said Kayed Ashkar, 45, who is unemployed and a frequent visitor to the Israeli Civil Administration office. "I used to work there. I used to earn enough money for my family," said the former waiter, whose wife's modest salary in a local wedding hall supports their five children.

Israeli authorities have granted an additional 10,000 permits this year to work in Israel, raising the total number to 40,000. It's still well below the peak level of 200,000 in the 1990s, but the most since a violent Palestinian uprising erupted in late 2000. The uprising was characterized by suicide bomb-

ings and other attacks carried out by West Bank Palestinians, prompting Israel to revoke most permits.

IMF ends annual meet with call for effective action to safeguard growth, deliver on reforms

TOKYO (AP) — Global financial ministers called Saturday for quick and effective action to safeguard faltering economic growth and rebuild shaken confidence as they ended an annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund.

"Global growth has decelerated and substantial uncertainties and downside risks remain," an IMF advisory committee said in a communique. It exhorted advanced economies to carry through with needed structural reforms and "credible fiscal plans."

Decisive action is needed to "break negative feedback loops and restore the global economy to a path of strong, sustainable and balanced growth," it said.

It also urged emerging economies to adapt their own policies to help counter slowing growth in Europe and the United States.

The annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank, convened in Tokyo this year, has highlighted frustrations among many countries over drag on growth from the lingering debt crisis in Europe, plus alarm over a possible blow to the world's largest economy if the U.S. fails to resolve an impasse over its budget deficit.

Space shuttle Endeavour surmounts key obstacle, heads through LA streets to museum home

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Slowly surmounting a key obstacle, the shuttle Endeavour maintained a heading Saturday through the streets of Los Angeles toward its retirement home at a museum.

Endeavour's final mission began when it departed from the Los Angeles International Airport before dawn Friday, rolling on a 160-wheeled carrier past diamond-shaped "Shuttle Xing" signs.

Friday evening it stopped as crews spent hours transferring the shuttle to a special, lighter towing dolly. Then around midnight, it traveled over a bridge across Interstate 405, an especially tricky part of the complicated journey because of the size of the space craft and width of the bridge.

The shuttle was pulled across the Manchester Boulevard bridge by a Toyota Tundra pickup, and the car company filmed the event for a commercial after paying for a permit, turning then entire scene into a movie set complete with special lighting, sound and staging.

Police stopped traffic on the freeway below for the duration of the traverse, which took about three minutes.

Predator at large: Search on for suspect who abducted, killed Colorado girl

WESTMINSTER, Colo. (AP) — The weeklong search for a 10-year-old Colorado girl became a murder investigation after authorities identified a body found in a suburban Denver park as that of fifth-grader Jessica Ridgeway.

"Our focus has changed from the search for Jessica to a mission of justice for Jessica," Westminster Police Chief Lee Birk said Friday. "We recognize there is a predator at large in our community."

Anxious parents kept close watch over their children. Fueling the frustration: The FBI again urged residents to report any suspicious activity by people they know.

"We want you to look for changes of habits, patterns, peculiar absences of those around you and report it to law enforcement," said Jim Yacone, FBI special agent in charge in Denver.

The U.S. Marshals Service, immigration officials and state Department of Corrections were reviewing registered sex offenders in the area.

Canadian teen found dead weeks after posting YouTube video detailing bullying

TORONTO (AP) — Canada was in uproar Friday over a 15-year-old schoolgirl who was found dead, an apparent suicide, five weeks after she uploaded a video to YouTube describing years of bullying that drove her to drugs and alcohol.

Coroner Barb McLintock said Thursday night that preliminary indications suggest the British Columbia girl, Amanda Todd, killed herself. Her school district's spokeswoman, Cheryl Quinton, confirmed the girl in the video was her.

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Steers fall to Wylie 42-24

Red-hot Big Spring cooled in 4-3A opener by No. 2 ranked Bulldogs

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**

Sports Editor

It didn't come easy, but No. 2 ranked Abilene Wylie earned a 4-3A District-opening victory over Big Spring on Friday at Memorial Stadium.

After falling behind 21-0 in the first quarter, the Steers rallied back, outscoring the Bulldogs 24-21 for the remainder of the game, but the early deficit was too much to overcome and Wylie handed BSHS its first loss of the season, outscoring the Steers 42-24.

Big Spring's opening play from the line of scrimmage turned into a defensive touchdown for the Bulldogs when safety Hayden Lewis picked off Tobyn Tannehill — who passed for 147 yards and rushed for 125 — and ran 25 yards to the end zone. Wylie couldn't convert for two points, but with only 17 seconds off the clock, the Bulldogs were up 6-0.

It looked like it may have been a collapse on the part of the Big Spring defense when Wylie scored a touchdown on each of its next two possessions.

With only one period in the books, the Steers found themselves in unfamiliar territory — down by 21 points — the most they had trailed all season.

The Steers came out swinging in the second quarter.

Tannehill found receiver Tate Kennedy and connected for a 14-yard score to put Big Spring on the board. On its next offensive possession, it was Devin Roberson who made a gem of a catch, scoring on a 29-yard pass from Tannehill.

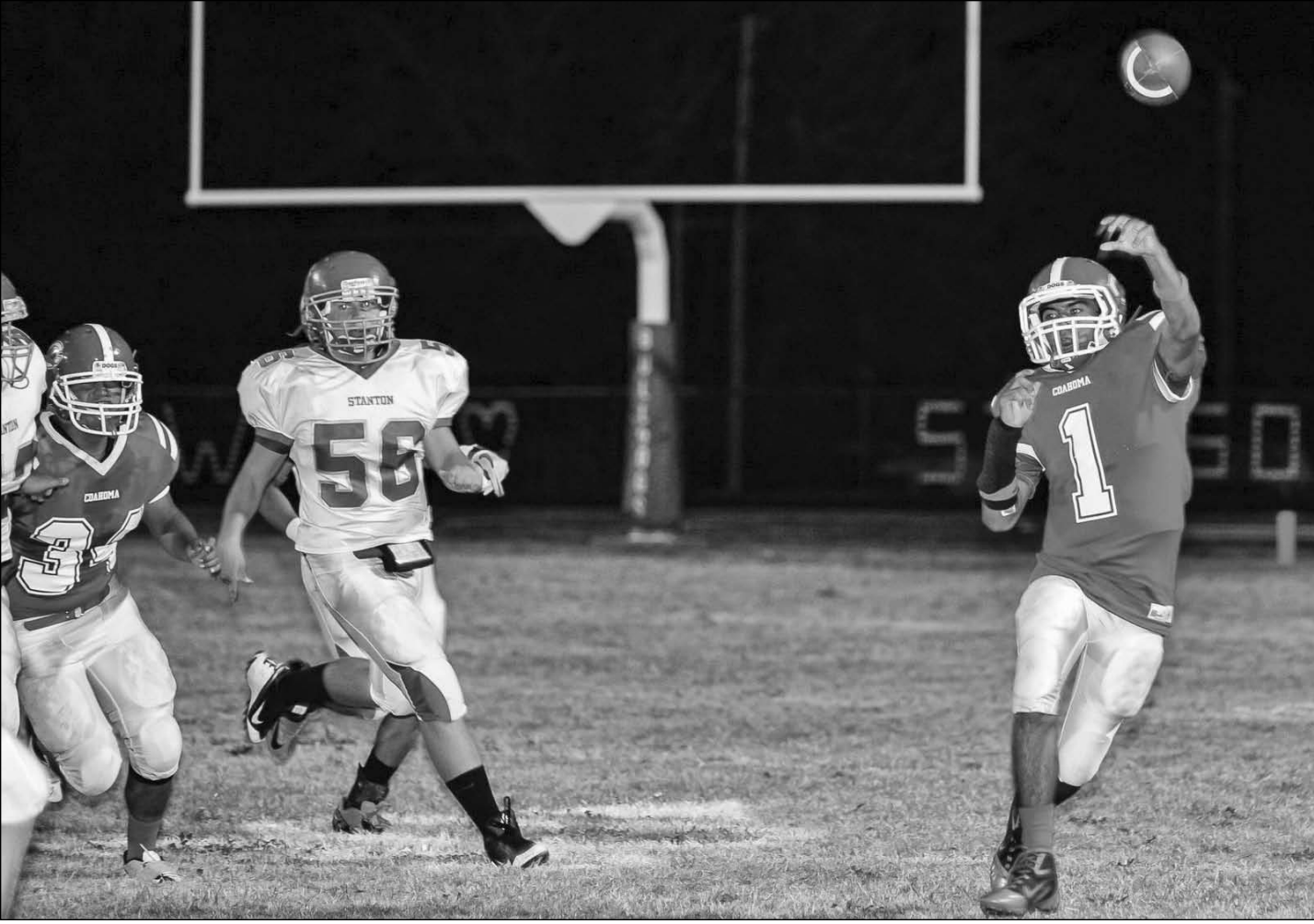
BSHS Head Coach Phillip Ritchey cited



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Wylie running back Garrett Martin is tackled by Big Spring's Tyler Wigington (22) and Devin Roberson (10) as Diamond Bailey (62) and Ronnie Bell (51) look on during Friday's district opener against the Bulldogs. The Steers rallied, but couldn't fend off the No. 2 team in the state and lost 42-24.

See **STEERS**, Page 10A



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

Coahoma quarterback Tanner Ruiz launches the ball during Friday's 26-24 loss to rival Stanton Buffaloes. Ruiz, like many other Bulldogs, has been playing through injuries. Coahoma fell to 5-1 on the season while Stanton improved to 3-3.

Coahoma barely beaten by Buffs, Forsan wins opener on road

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**

Sports Editor

HASKELL — After losing two straight games against perennial playoff squads Crane and Sundown, the Forsan Buffaloes edged the Haskell Indians 14-7 on the road to open District 4-1A action with a win and improving their record to 5-2 on the season.

Haskell scored early on a touchdown pass to Warren Flye from quarterback Brett Shelton.

Senior running back Brendan Roman returned after being sidelined with a rib injury and racked up 127 yards on the ground and scored a Forsan touchdown in the first quarter of play.

In the second period, Garrett Kligora picked off Shelton for the final score of the game and after a 98-yard run followed by a valid point after kick the Buffs took a one-touchdown lead that wouldn't be relinquished for the rest of the outing.

See **AREA TEAMS**, Page 9A

Statewide football scores

<p>Class 5A A&M Consolidated 54, Bryan 7 Abilene 31, Midland Lee 17 Abilene Cooper 41, Midland 0 Aldine 23, Alief Hastings 13 Allen 56, Plano East 0 Amarillo Tascosa 33, San Angelo Central 14 Arlington 42, Weatherford 14 Arlington Bowie 42, North Crowley 0 Arlington Lamar 66, Arlington Houston 27 Austin Bowie 38, Austin High 21 Austin Westlake 47, Austin Anderson 3 Baytown Sterling 28, Channelview 21, OT Brownsville Memorial 65, Brownsville Lopez 42 Cedar Hill 55, South Grand Prairie 37 Cibolo Steele 54, CC King 14 Clear Brook 38, Clear Falls 10 Colleyville Heritage 56, Irving MacArthur 47 Converse Judson 30, SA Wagner 0</p>	<p>Coppell 29, Lewisville Hebron 3 Cypress Falls 38, Cypress Ridge 31 Cypress Ranch 52, Cypress Lakes 7 Dallas Jesuit 59, Dallas White 7 Dallas Skyline 57, Richardson Pearce 14 Deer Park 58, Beaumont West Brook 28 Del Rio 35, Laredo United South 21 Denton Ryan 18, Lewisville Marcus 6 DeSoto 61, Mansfield Timberdon 7 Donna 55, Edinburg Vela 0 Duncanville 41, Grand Prairie 26 EP Americas 38, EP Montwood 35 Fort Bend Austin 31, Fort Bend Bush 14 Galena Park North Shore 31, Port Arthur Memorial 24 Garland Sachse 23, Garland Rowlett 20 Harlingen South 44, Brownsville Hanna 0 Hewitt Midway 42, Copperas Cove 32</p>	<p>Houston Memorial 52, Katy Morton Ranch 28 Hurst Bell 77, Carrollton Turner 0 Irving 27, Grapevine 24 Justin Northwest 24, Haltom City 21 Katy 56, Katy Taylor 7 Keller Central 14, Keller Timber Creek 7 Killeen 38, Killeen Shoemaker 6 Killeen Harker Heights 25, Killeen Ellison 22 Klein 42, Klein Forest 14 La Joya Juarez-Lincoln 35, La Joya 0 Lake Travis 59, Austin Akins 14 Laredo Alexander 51, Eagle Pass Winn 17 League City Clear Creek 48, Dickinson 41 Lewisville Flower Mound 34, Lewisville 33 Longview 52, Rockwall-Heath 27 Lubbock Coronado 21, Odessa 9 Mansfield 49, Midlothian 35 Manvel 48, Pasadena Dobie 0 McAllen Memorial 31, McAl-</p>	<p>len Rowe 28 McKinney Boyd 55, Plano West 28 Mesquite 56, Mesquite Horn 41 Mission Sharyland 58, Edinburg 7 New Braunfels 30, New Braunfels Canyon 27 Northside Brandeis 44, Northside Clark 24 Northside Marshall 20, Northside Stevens 7 Pasadena Memorial 56, Pasadena 28 Pearland 35, Alvin 14 Pflugerville 40, Round Rock McNeil 10 Pflugerville Hendrickson 20, Round Rock Westwood 10 Plano 38, McKinney 21 PSJA North 24, Weslaco 6 Richardson Berkner 50, Dallas Sunset 0 Richardson Lake Highlands 41, Richardson 0 Rockwall 49, North Mesquite 29 Round Rock Cedar Ridge 40, Round Rock Stony Point 30 SA Churchill 33, SA Johnson 20 SA Roosevelt 27, SA MacAr-</p>	<p>thur 22 SA Southwest 49, SA South San Antonio 2 South Garland 27, Garland Lakeview Centennial 17 Southlake Carroll 63, N. Richland Hills 7 Spring Westfield 55, Spring 35 Temple 50, Belton 44 The Woodlands 49, Lufkin 21 The Woodlands College Park 28, Conroe 23 Weslaco East 14, San Benito 9 Class 4A Aledo 45, FW Wyatt 9 Amarillo 31, Amarillo Palo Duro 0 Austin LBJ 17, Austin Reagan 7 Austin McCallum 35, Austin Crockett 7 Azle 36, FW Brewer 29 Barbers Hill 55, New Caney Porter 0 Bastrop 72, Bastrop Cedar Creek 7 Beaumont Central 56, Port Neches-Groves 50 Brenham 23, Montgomery 7 Buda Hays 56, Lockhart 6</p>	<p>Burleson Centennial 63, Joshua 28 Canutillo 45, San Elizario 14 Canyon Randall 23, Canyon 13 Carrollton Smith 49, Terrell 20 Castroville Medina Valley 41, SA Southside 29 CC Calallen 42, CC Tulosomidway 14 CC Flour Bluff 56, CC Miller 14 CC Ray 43, Alice 28 Cedar Park Vista Ridge 24, Dripping Springs 17 Cleburne 55, Burleson 20 Clint Horizon 21, EP Riverside 13 Crowley 35, Waco 29 Denison 34, Royce City 21 Denton 28, Wichita Falls 19 Edecouch-Elsa 61, Mission Memorial 0 El Paso 27, EP Jefferson 7 Ennis 28, Red Oak 27 EP Andress 7, EP Bowie 0 EP Burges 40, EP Irvin 14 EP Del Valle 22, EP Hanks 7 Everman 31, Waco University 28</p>
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Continued on Page 9A

STEERS

Continued from Page 8A

Roberson as playing a vital role in keeping the Steers within striking distance of one the state's best teams.

"I think he is one of the most versatile players in this part of the state," Ritchey said. "I think he had one of the best games he has played here in Big Spring and made some of the best catches we've ever seen."

Roberson also contributed by kicking three extra points and with only nine seconds remaining in the second stanza, Roberson booted a 33-yard field goal to make it a 28-17 game headed into the half.

Wylie and Big Spring each scored a touchdown in the third.

First it was the Bulldogs when Lewis struck again — this time offensively — with a three-yard run.

Answering was BSHS running back Michael Oliva with a seven-yard run to keep the Steers within reach.

Just over four minutes into the fourth quarter, Wylie added seven more points when Lewis ran once again for a two-yard touchdown which sealed the game for the Bulldogs.

It may have ended the Steers surprising win streak, but Ritchey was

pleased with the way his squad handled the heavily favored Bulldogs.

"After the first quarter, it was a well-played game," Ritchey said. "It's hard to spot a team 21 points and come back. I am proud of the way they competed. You can't ask for any more of the kids. To get back in the game like we did — that doesn't happen to Wylie."

On defense, the Steers may have been out-matched, but Ritchey thought it was a good showing.

"We played as well as we could," Ritchey said. "I have been watching a lot of college games the past two years and physically (Wylie) looked like some of the offensive lines I have seen on college teams. Their running back was fast and the quarterback threw the ball well."

Ritchey is ready to learn from the loss and get back on the winning track Friday against Snyder on the road.

"We have a four-game season," Ritchey added. "We have to win three-out-of-four games to get in the playoffs."

Contact Sports Editor Brian McCormack at 263-7331 ext. 237 or by e-mail at sports@bigspringherald.com



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Kelsie Guinn hits the ball during Friday's hard-fought, three-set loss to No. 1 ranked Abilene Wylie. Wylie took the first set 25-12, but the Lady Steers made it difficult from that point on, losing 28-26 and 25-18 in the final two sets. Big Spring boasts a 24-13 record overall and a 5-2 district record, having lost only to the Lady Bulldogs in both meetings. They will host the Lady Mustangs of Sweetater at home Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

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*** Official Entry Form ***

YES! Enter my recipe(s) in the 13th Annual Holiday Cookbook Contest.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Please type or print your recipe legibly and submit it with this form

*Finalist will be required to cook entry and drop off at the Big Spring Herald on the day of judging
Winners will be notified and empty containers may be picked up the day after judging of the contest.

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A bushel of events mark beginning of Fall Activities

Festivals, symphonies, Go-Pink rallies, blessing of animals and disc-golf tourneys — the Crossroads area was abound in activities this week.



Soprano Ava Pine, Guest Conductor John Giordano
Big Spring Symphony, Oct. 6



Sophie
St. Mary's Blessing of the Animals, Oct. 7



St. Mary's Blessing of the Animals, Oct. 7



St. Mary's Blessing of the Animals, Oct. 7



Tom and Rosa Rickabaugh, dogs Rusty, Angel and Bandito and the Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris
St. Mary's Blessing of the Animals, Oct. 7



Patti Nabors and cat Arthur, the Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris
St. Mary's Blessing of the Animals, Oct. 7



Judy Terelesky and gang, Sarah, Gabby, Gypsy and Miracle
St. Mary's Blessing of the Animals, Oct. 7



20th Annual DiscOver Big Spring disc golf tournament, Oct. 7



Elbow Elementary School with Brutus
Forsan ISD Go Pink Rally, Oct. 10



Forsan Junior/Senior High Eighth Grade Battle Cry
Forsan ISD Go Pink Rally, Oct. 10

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Courtesy photo

Mike Tarpley, recent recipient of the Patriot of the Year Award, was presented with a Texas flag which had flown over the capital after a recent Howard County Republican meeting. The flag and certificate of authenticity was a gift from State Representative Jim Landtroop. Presenting the flag to Tarpley is Susan Haney, local representative for Rep. Landtroop.

► Births

Joby Darden
Joby Darden, a boy, was born Oct. 4, 2012. He weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces and was 20 inches in length.

He is the son of Tabitha Turner and Shelby Darden of Big Spring. His grandparents are Allen and Sherry Darden of Big Spring and Aubrey Ford of Fairfield, Texas.

► Menus

Sands ISD
Monday: Breakfast: hot pocket, juice and milk. Lunch: hamburger, lettuce-tomato, pickles, tater tots, diced pears and milk.
Tuesday: Breakfast: muffin, juice and milk. Lunch: tangerine chicken, brown rice, baby carrots, steamed broccoli, snowball salad and milk.
Wednesday: Breakfast: breakfast on a stick, juice and milk. Lunch: Tex-Mex stack, Spanish rice, refried beans, salad, salsa, cinnamon apple, milk.
Thursday: Breakfast: biscuit and sausage, juice and milk. Lunch: stuffed baked potato, baby carrots, crackers, fresh fruit and milk.
Friday: no menu was provided

Forsan ISD
Monday: Breakfast: cinnamon roll, cereal, juice, milk. Lunch: corn dog, baked beans, tomato-cucumber, salad, apple-pineapple D'lite, milk.
Tuesday: Breakfast: pancake wrap, cereal, juice, milk. Lunch: nachos grande, refried beans, garden salad, orange smiles and milk.
Wednesday: Breakfast: biscuit and sausage, cereal, juice, milk. Lunch: grilled chicken sandwich, oven fries, fresh veggie cup, fruity jello, milk.
Thursday: Breakfast: breakfast pocket, cereal, juice, milk. Lunch: beefy macaroni, garden salad, baby carrots, fresh grapes, cornbread, milk.
Friday: Breakfast: ce-

real, toast, juice, milk.
Lunch: pepperoni pizza, crunchy broccoli salad, seasoned corn, fresh fruit bowl, milk.

Senior Center
Monday: ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, rolls, cherry crisp, milk.
Tuesday: chopped steak and onions, mashed potatoes, brussel sprouts, salad, oranges, rolls/milk.
Wednesday: chicken enchiladas, refried beans, salad, tortilla chips/salsa, tapioca pudding, milk.
Thursday: chicken fried steak, potatoes, baby carrots, rolls, fruit cocktail, milk.
Friday: hot dog with chili, baked beans, potato chips, lemon pie, V8 juice/milk.

► Church news

Forsan Baptist Church
This Sunday evening, Pastor Darren Weaver will attend the annual Crossroads Baptist Association Meeting at Midway Baptist Church. Sunday services will continue as scheduled, but the Revelation study will be suspended for this Sunday evening, to resume this coming

Wednesday.
We are continuing an in-depth study of the Book of Revelation. We are able to provide CD copies of Bible study times, as well as our Sunday morning services to any who may be interested.
Our Fellowship Hall expansion is almost complete, with phase two to begin shortly. Phase two will encompass expansion of our sanctuary with the addition of a choir loft. Check out our Facebook page for pictures of the progress.

Our church is located at 201 Main in Forsan. Sunday School begins at 9:50 a.m., with worship services at 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Wednesday youth activities have resumed and will continue throughout the school year. We will provide a meal and refreshments for these activities.
Wednesday services begin at 6 p.m.
Rides for all youth activities are available if arranged ahead of time. Call the church at 432-457-2342 or Pastor Weaver at 432-213-2348.

sudoku

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

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

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Wendy's updating logo

NEW YORK (AP) — Wendy's pigtails are getting a tweak.
For the first time since 1983, the Dublin, Ohio-based fast food company is updating its logo in a move intended to signal its ongoing transformation into a higher-end hamburger chain.
Instead of the boxy, old-fashioned lettering against a red-and-yellow backdrop, the pared down new look features the chain's name in a casual red font against a clean white backdrop. An image of the smiling, cartoon girl in red pig-tails floats above.
In an interview with The Associated Press,

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South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A K 9
♥ J 10 6 5
♦ K J 4
♣ 8 4 2

EAST
♠ Q J 4 3
♥ 4 2
♦ 9 8 5
♣ J 10 9 7

WEST
♠ 10 6 5 2
♥ 8 7
♦ A 10 7 3
♣ A Q 3

SOUTH
♠ 8 7
♥ A K Q 9 3
♦ Q 6 2
♣ K 6 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 3♥ Pass
4♥

Opening lead — seven of hearts.

home safely even if West has the ace.
In line with this, you lead a low diamond at trick two, playing the king from dummy after West follows low. When the king wins, you play a trump to the ace and lead another low diamond.
Let's say West plays low again, hoping his partner has the queen and figuring that his play otherwise makes no difference. West soon finds out he's wrong. After dummy's jack wins, you become certain of the contract, no matter who has the ace of clubs.
You next cash the A-K of spades and ruff the nine, then exit with the queen of diamonds. West takes the ace but must hand you a 10th trick, whether he returns a spade, a diamond or a club.
Some players might consider this a tainted accomplishment, since West could have stopped you from making the contract by taking his ace of diamonds earlier. In that case, you would eventually have lost three club tricks and gone down one.
But it would be wrong to criticize the recommended approach on that ground. Part of the skill in bridge consists of creating pitfalls for your opponent to fall into, and that is what you did here by leading a low diamond twice toward dummy's K-J-x.

Assume you're in four hearts and West leads a trump. You win with the nine and observe that the outcome seems to depend entirely on who has the ace of clubs. If East has it, you have 10 tricks; if West has it, you have only nine tricks.
However, you should not allow the contract to hinge solely on a favorable position of the ace of clubs. Perhaps the opponents can be induced to make a mistake that will let you get

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.
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Rates on 30-year mortgage rises to 3.39 pct.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Average U.S. rates on fixed mortgages ticked up from record lows last week. Cheaper mortgages are fueling a modest housing recovery that could help the broader economy.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday that the rate on the 30-year loan increased to 3.39 percent from 3.36 percent. The previous week's rate was the lowest since long-term mortgages began in the 1950s.

The average on the 15-year fixed mortgage edged up to 2.70 percent, from last week's record low of 2.69 percent.

The average rate on the 30-year fixed mortgage has been below 4 percent all year. And rates have fallen even further since the Federal Reserve started buying mortgage bonds in September to encourage more borrowing and spending.

The Fed said it will

continue buying bonds until the job market shows substantial improvement. When home prices rise, people tend to feel wealthier and spend more freely. Consumer spending drives nearly 70 percent of economic activity.

Stronger housing markets helped boost economic growth at the end of the summer in nearly every region of the United States, according to a Fed survey released Wednesday. The survey follows other reports that show marked improvement in the housing market five years after the bubble burst.

Home sales are up from last year and home prices are rising more consistently in most areas. Builders are more confident and starting more homes. Lower rates have also persuaded more people to refinance. That typically leads to lower monthly mortgage payments and more spending.

Still, the housing market has a long way to full recovery. And many people are unable to take advantage of the low rates, either because they can't qualify for stricter lending rules or they lack the money to meet larger down payment requirements.

To calculate average rates, Freddie Mac surveys lenders across the country on Monday through Wednesday of each week.

The average does not include extra fees, known as points, which most borrowers must pay to get the lowest

rates. One point equals 1 percent of the loan amount.

The average fee for 30-year loans was 0.7 point, up from 0.6 point last week. The fee for 15-year loans rose to 0.6 point from 0.5.

The average rate on one-year adjustable-rate

mortgages increased to 2.59 percent from 2.57 percent. The fee for one-year adjustable rate loans was unchanged at 0.4 point.

The average rate on five-year adjustable-rate mortgages edged up to 2.73 percent from 2.72 percent.

U.S. jobless claims fall to 339,000, fewest in four years

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans seeking unemployment aid plummeted last week to seasonally adjusted 339,000, the lowest level in more than four years. The sharp drop, if sustained, could signal a stronger job market.

The Labor Department said Thursday that weekly applications fell by 30,000 to the fewest since February 2008. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, dropped by 11,500 to 364,000, a six-month low.

The positive figures follow a report last week that said the unemployment rate fell in September to 7.8 percent. It was the first time since January 2009 that the rate dropped below 8 percent.

A Labor Department spokesman cautioned that the weekly unemployment aid applications can be volatile, particularly at the start of a quarter. And the spokesman said one large state accounted for much of the decline. The spokesman did not name the state.

Unemployment benefit applications are a proxy for layoffs. When they consistently drop below 375,000, it suggests that hiring is strong enough to lower the unemployment rate.

Some economists said they want to see more data before suggesting the job market is turning around.

"Should this level hold for another week, it would flag a meaningful improvement in October" hiring, said Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, in a note to clients.

Dan Greenhaus, chief market strategist at BTIG LLC, is also reserving judgment. "Are things that much better all of a sudden? Perhaps. We're going to wait for some corroborating data."

The total number of people receiving unem-

ployment benefits also fell, the Labor Department said. A little more than 5 million Americans received benefits in the week ending Sept. 22, the latest data available. That's down about 44,000 from the previous week.

Last week's report noted that the unemployment rate declined to 7.8 percent in September from 8.1 percent in August because a government survey of households found that 873,000 more people had jobs. It was the biggest jump in nearly 10 years, although it was largely because of an increase in part-time employment.

A separate survey of businesses showed that employers added only 114,000 jobs in September.

That's generally enough to keep pace with population growth but not enough to rapidly bring relief to more than 12 million who are unemployed.

Hiring over the summer was stronger than previously estimated. The economy gained an average of 146,000 jobs a month in the July-September quarter.

That's more than double the monthly pace in the April-June quarter, officials said.

Another report Wednesday suggested hiring will likely remain modest.

Employers posted slightly fewer open jobs in August compared with July, the Labor Department said. It was the second straight monthly drop and the fewest openings since April.

A key problem is the economy is not growing fast enough to generate much hiring. Growth slowed to a tepid annual rate of 1.3 percent in the April-June quarter, down from 2 percent in the previous quarter. Most economists see growth staying at or below 2 percent in the second half of the year.

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Castillo-Ditto

Magali Castillo of Abilene and Justin Ditto of Big Spring announce their engagement and approaching marriage.

The bride-elect is the daughter of of Rogelio and Elva Castillo of Abilene.

She is the granddaughter of Juan Antonio Castillo and Aurora Alvarez Castillo, and Severo Hernandez and the late Diamantina Hernandez.

The prospective groom is the son of Joe and Patty Ditto of Coahoma.

He is the grandson of the late Jimmy Dale Ditto and Thelma Ditto and the late Marc Luttrell and Rose Speaker of Big Spring.

The couple plan to exchange wedding vows at 4 p.m. Dec. 8, 2012, at the Family Faith Center.



Magali Castillo and Justin Ditto

\$1M pair of watches tops Neiman gift list

DALLAS (AP) — Neiman Marcus rolled out its annual Christmas catalog Tuesday, offering a set of "his and hers" watches paired with a trip to Paris and Geneva for just over \$1 million to shoppers who aren't worried about a holiday budget.

The Dallas-based luxury retailer is known for featuring expensive and often outrageous "fantasy gifts" in its Christmas Book. The 86th edition also includes a \$354,000 red, special edition McLaren 12C Spider sports car, a \$250,000 dinner for 10 featuring four famous chefs and a \$100,000 hen house inspired by a French chateau.

Those looking for something a little less pricey might be interested in a walk-on role in Broadway's "Annie: The Musical," which goes for \$30,000.

The watches from Van Cleef & Arpels are the most expensive item in

the catalog and depict scenes from a love story. One face shows a woman on the observation deck of the Eiffel Tower, gazing toward Notre Dame. The other watch features a man on top of Notre Dame looking toward the Eiffel Tower.

"It's a classic love story. Boy meets girl, a romance is sparked, but fate has intervened and they are separated, but both are left longing to find one another," said Marisa Neira, watch product manager for Van Cleef & Arpels.

Figures on both watches move, and the faces are surrounded by diamonds. The woman's watch strap is silk, the men's is alligator.

Each watch is "a little work of art," Neiman Marcus spokeswoman Ginger Reeder said.

The accompanying trip takes buyers to Paris, where they can see the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame themselves, and Geneva, where they

can tour the Van Cleef & Arpels watchmaking workshops.

While the watches and trip cost \$1,090,000, those with smaller budgets can take heart. Almost 40 percent of the items in the catalog cost less than \$250. The least expensive item is a \$19 monogrammed mug.

Reeder said the nine "fantasy gifts" that highlight the catalog are a nod to the spirit of the holiday season and the fantasies children have about Christmas gifts.

"All we've done is notched up what's on the list or what's available to be on your list," Reeder said.

The other fantasy gifts include a \$150,000 wood-paneled trailer designed for tailgating with a sound system and bar stocked with bourbon and rye; a \$99,500 water-propelled jetpack; a \$90,000 gaming machine; and a \$70,000 video portrait of an owl by artist Robert Wilson.

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Trump's back with 14 'apprentices'

NEW YORK (AP) — If at first you don't succeed ...

NBC's "The Celebrity Apprentice" is bringing back 13 players fired from past "Apprentice" contests, plus one notable winner, in the first-ever "All-Star Celebrity Apprentice."

"We wouldn't have done the 'All-Star' concept unless we were able to get the right contestants back," said Donald Trump, the host and boardroom boss who once again will be pronouncing each contestant's fate.

The series, which starts shooting this new season on Monday for a March 2013 premiere, announced its slate of 14 contenders Friday morning.

They include:
— country music star Trace Adkins.
— actor Stephen Baldwin.

— actor Gary Busey.
— magician and illusionist Penn Jillette.
— DJ artist and rapper Lil Jon.

— NBA Hall-of-Famer

The upcoming season will be the 13th for the overall "Apprentice" franchise, a track record that amazes Trump.

Dennis Rodman.

— Twisted Sister frontman Dee Snider.

— actress and author Marilu Henner.

— singer La Toya Jackson.

— TV personality and actress Claudia Jordan.

— reality star Omarosa, who competed in the first, pre-celebrity edition of "The Apprentice."

— actress and author Lisa Rinna.

— Playboy Playmate of the Year Brande Roderrick.

— plus Poison frontman Bret Michaels, who in 2010 emerged as the winner despite life-threatening ailments that included a brain hemorrhage and hospitalization for what doctors called a warning stroke.

"They're all very smart, and I think they learned a lot from their last go-around," Trump told The Associated Press. "This time, some of them will change their game to fool their rivals — some for better, some for worse."

The winner, as usual, will collect \$250,000 to

donate to his or her chosen charity.

Trump was asked whether, beneath the tough manner he displays for each contender in the boardroom, he has secret favorites in the race.

"Absolutely, I do," he replied. "Some people I like much more than others. I'm a human being, so I have my likes and my dislikes. But I don't let that cloud my judgment. If I like somebody but somebody deserves to be fired, I'll always fire them, as opposed to somebody that I don't like if they don't deserve it. I would lose total credibility if I did otherwise."

The upcoming season will be the 13th for the overall "Apprentice" franchise, a track record that amazes Trump.

"Who would have thought?" he marveled. "When we first signed for it, they didn't even take an option (for more seasons). No one thought it would go any further."

It did, catching on with its debut in winter 2004, as Trump in-

troduced "You're fired" to the treasury of TV catchphrases.

Since then, he said, it's been lucrative and fun.

"My business is real estate, but the show has been an amazing experience," he said, "good in every way."

It's also been, in some fashion, a learning experience.

The main thing he's learned?

"You can never predict," he replied. "I'll see a contestant come out, and you would say they're going to win, on the first day. And then they're the first one fired."

But there's been one other thing he's discovered: the impact of his exposure on TV.

"I was very well-known before the show," he said, "but, frankly, I used to be able to walk outside. I can't even walk outside now! Overall I think the show's great, but there are times when you'd like to have a little bit of privacy."

Then Trump laughed at a reporter's facetious suggestion that he consider donning a disguise.

"I could put on a real wig," Trump joked. "A lot of people say, 'He wears a wig.' I don't. But maybe I should wear one: a big black sucker!"

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Big Spring, TX**

www.facebook.com/KittyGaloreVintageStore



*Leslie
Elrod*
Bride Elect Of
*Justin
Hobbs*

Shower:
October 20 & 21
Wedding:
November 10

241031

Our Featured Couple of the week has selected from our extensive line of Pottery, China, Crystal, Flatware, Serving Pieces, Furniture, and Home Decor.

Included Below Are Our Other Registrars:

- ♥ Callie Dartee & Austin Roeder
- ♥ Linzee Yarbar & Dillon Phernetton
- ♥ Andrea Torres & Zac Phinney
- ♥ Jordan Chesworth & Ricky Crawford
- ♥ Katie Singleton & Garrett Fulton
- ♥ Leslie Elrod & Justin Hobbs
- ♥ Angela Pace & Blake Lance

Elrod's Accents
Inside Elrod's Furniture

2309 Scurry 432-267-8491

**Dr. Sai Gundlapalli**

Board Certified Anesthesiologist And
Pain Management Specialist

Comprehensive Pain Management For:

Acute And Chronic Back/Neck Pain
Auto And Work Related Pain
Pinched Nerve/Neuropathic Pain
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Big Spring, TX 79720
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