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SUNDAY

DECEMBER 9, 2012



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Tree planting honors former mayor McEwen

By AMANDA DUFORAT
Special to the Herald

A memory will live on in Comanche Trail Park through a recently planted live oak tree.

Keep Big Spring Beautiful held a tree dedication in memory of former Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen.

McEwen, an advocate of Keep Big Spring Beautiful, passed away Oct. 21.

"As mayor, McEwen was the driving force in revitalizing downtown and many other projects, which is why this kind of memorial seemed fitting," said Teresa Darden, Keep Big Spring Beautiful secretary.



"Because he had such a vision of growth, KBSB wanted to honor him by planting a live oak tree in the Comanche Trail Park."

The tree, which was McEwen's favorite according to members of KBSB, is located at the intersection in front of the Big Spring Family Aquatic Center. The aquatic center was one of his many accomplishments.

In addition to the planting of the live oak, the aquatic center was recently renamed Russ McEwen Family Aquatic Center.

During the dedication, McEwen's wife Laura McEwen, and son, Drew McEwen, were in attendance in addition to his mother-in-law Doraine Parks and members of KBSB.



Laura McEwen, left, and Drew McEwen ceremoniously turn some earth during a tree-planting ceremony honoring former Mayor Russ McEwen at the City Aquatic Center. McEwen died earlier this year.

County to consider computer software upgrades

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Software will be on the minds of Howard County commissioners Monday morning, as the court meets to discuss a number of items, including a possible upgrade to the programs used by county departments at the courthouse.

Commissioners are expected to discuss — and possibly take action — regarding a proposed upgrade to the com-

puter systems utilized by a number of different county offices. According to county officials, the upgrade would help bring the systems more up-to-date, as well as allow different departments to better share information and data.

Also during Monday's meeting, commissioners are expected to consider:

- Presentation of appreciation for Precinct 1 Commissioner Emma Puga Brown,

who will be leaving office after nearly two decades of service at the end of 2012.

- Make an appointment to the County Historical Commission.
- Consider a partnership agreement between the county and Greater Opportunities of the Permian Basin Inc. Head Star program.
- Consider a contract with the Texas State Trapper.
- Review payment for the lease of land pertaining to the

county's radio tower.

- Hold an executive session to consider real estate options.

Commissioners are expected to meet with County Auditor Jackie Olson during the meeting to discuss invoices, purchase requests, proposed budget amendments and presentation of monthly financial reports.

County Treasurer Teresa Thomas is also expected to meet with the court to pres-

ent personnel considerations and a payroll report, while County Clerk Donna Wright is slated to present her department's monthly report.

County Road and Bridge Administrator Brian Klinksiek will also meet with the court to provide it with an update on county road maintenance and pipeline crossings.

The meeting will get underway at 10 a.m. on the third floor of the county courthouse.

INDEX

Business 3-4B
Classified 5-10B
Life 1-2, 12B
Obituaries 2A
Opinion 4A
Sports 10-12A




0 54414 179721 6

FISD eyes field house renovations

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

FORSAN — School trustees here hope to hire a contractor to oversee renovation of the high school field house when they hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Monday in the administration wing board room.

Forsan Independent School District officials included \$1 million in this year's budget to pay for the renovation, which is expected to begin sometime next spring.

"We have substantial water leakage issues in the field house," FISD Superintendent Randy Johnson said. "We're talking about gutting and redesigning the interior and building an addition which would allow for an officials' dressing room and locker space for our sub-varsity teams."

School officials also are discussing the possibility of adding an entrance

and ticket booth to the football stadium, which is adjacent to the field house.

No firm timetable has been set for the project, Johnson noted.

"If all goes well, we may start on the renovation in either March or April," he said. "The work will probably continue into the new school year. Hopefully, by November, it will be completed."

Also Monday, trustees will meet with representatives of the investment banking company First Southwest to discuss possible bond issue scenarios.

FISD is moving toward calling for a bond election next year to finance construction of a new campus to replace Elbow Elementary, which was built in 1930 and renovated several times in subsequent years. The new school would be located to property adjacent to the junior high/high school campus.

In other business Monday, trustees will consider:

- Appointment of a school health advisory committee.

• A school board operating procedures manual.

• Reports from campus principals and district business manager.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235.



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Obituaries

Juana Louise Osborn



Juana Louise Osborn, 92, of Big Spring went home to be with her Lord, Friday, Dec. 7, 2012. Her services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10, 2012, at the Nalley, Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Ken McMeans, pastor of College Baptist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012, at the

funeral home.

She was born Dec. 25, 1919 in Hamby, Texas. She married D.M. (Dock) Osborn Na. 17, 1938 in Albano, Texas. He preceded her in death on November 8, 1982.

Juana was a receiving clerk for Montgomery Ward from 1965 to its closing in 1985. She and Dock came to Big Spring in 1943 and operated a grocery store and service station on West Highway 80 for 45 years.

She was a longtime member and Sunday School teacher at Airport Baptist Church and more recently at the First Church of the Nazarene. She was a devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmoth-

er. She loved baseball and the Texas Longhorns.

Survivors include a daughter, Beverly Norman and husband James of Big Spring, and a son, Ronnie Osborn and wife Glenna, also of Big Spring. Juana had seven grandchildren: Leslie Harris and husband, Albert of San Angelo, Larrie Estes and husband, Greg of San Angelo, Craig Norman of Big Spring, Renea English and husband, Charles of Nashville, Tenn., Dusty Osborn of Big Spring, Ronna Robbins and husband, Brian of Austin, and Cody Osborn and wife, Taylor of Big Spring. She also had seven great-grandchildren, Makynsa and Karleigh Norman of Big Spring, Paisley Osborn of Big Spring, Brittni Coates of San Marcos, Garrett Coates of San Angelo, Haley Coates of San Angelo and Dylan English of Nashville, Tenn.

She was also preceded in death by a daughter Shirley Ezell of Big Spring; an infant grandson, Robert Craig Norman; her parents; and all of her siblings.

The family suggests memorials be made to Samaritan's Purse, P.O. Box 3000, Boone, N.C. 28607-3000.

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

Stephen 'Steve' Johnson



Stephen "Steve" Johnson, 51, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 6, 2012, at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa. A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012, at Myers & Smith Chapel with Dr. Doug Shelley, pastor of Eastside Baptist Church, officiating.

He was born Dec. 4, 1961, in France to Muriel and Charles Johnson. He worked most of his life in the oilfield. He also worked for B&E Roustabout and Robert Wash. He lived most of his life in Howard County and was a Bap-

tist.

He is survived by his wife, Tracy of Forsan; two daughters, Kami Saucedo and her husband Henry, and Kori Johnson Schumpert and her husband James, all of Big Spring; one son, Steven Johnson and his wife Jayme of Big Spring; three brothers, Eddie Johnson of Robert Lee, Shawn Anderson of Lubbock and Shane Anderson of Big Spring; one sister, Lafawn Johnson of Big Spring; and seven grandchildren, Brett, Micheala, Bradlee, Dylan, Kayden, Kyliegh and Toby.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Muriel Johnson; and one brother, Carl Johnson.

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

Paid obituary

Jose Chavez

Jose Chavez, 30, of Garden City, Texas, was killed in an automobile accident Nov. 29, 2012.

He was born Feb. 24, 1982 in Rio Verde, San Luis Potosi, Mexico, to Jose Jesus Chavez and the late Maria Del Rosario Torres de Chavez.

He began working at Eco-Drip Irrigation as a warehouse helper eventually became warehouse manager. He enjoyed hunting, dancing and barbecuing.

He is survived by his wife, Myra Chavez Salcedo of Garden City; sons, Cesar Alejandro Chavez Villalareal and Jesus Chavez Villalareal of Garden City; daughter, Genesis Chavez Salcedo of Garden City; father, Jose Jesus Chavez of Stanton; brother, Jose Guadalupe Chavez Torres and wife, Angelica Chavez of Garden City; sister, Maria Concepcion

Chavez de Mateo and husband, Tomas Mateo Cruz of Acuna, Mexico; paternal grandparents, Pablo Chavez and Bartola Rodriguez of Acuna, Mexico; and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Maria Del Rosario Torres de Chavez; and an uncle Jose Guadalupe Chavez Rodriguez.

Viewing was held at Stanton Memorial Funeral Home, 408 St. Peter St., on Thursday, Dec. 5. Funeral were Friday, Dec. 7, 2012, at St. Lawrence Church, with interment following at the Garden City Cemetery in Garden City.

In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to be sent to either or both of the accounts that have been set up for the family at Garden City Bank, P.O. Box 90, Garden City, Texas 79739.

Allison Tamara Waddell



Allison Tamara Waddell, 28, passed away Nov. 29, 2012, in her sleep at her home in Big Spring.

Allison is survived by her mother, Alice Lewis; siblings, Janet Jackson and husband Joe and their children, Brittany, Cassidy and Ethan, Trudy Harris and her children, Sky Ann and Ryan, Karl Jones and wife Heather and their children, Ella Rose and Collen,

Trey Fairmen and son, James Robert; sister-in-law, J.C., mother of Logan, Skylar and Bralley Wilson; honorary sister, Kacie Carson; God children, Myda, Aaron, Jonathan, Tater and Jacob; grandmother, Henrietta Lewis; and various aunts and uncles and friends.

She was preceded in death by her brother, James Wilson; and grandfather, W.W. Lewis.

A celebration of life service will be held at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012, at First Baptist Church in Big Spring.

Paid obituary

Take Note

• There will be a Christmas Sale from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at My Redeemer Church, 1008 Birdwell Lane. A wide variety of gifts for people of all ages will be available, most for between \$1 and \$5.

• Whiting Oil and Gas Big Spring employees are organizing a food drive to help families in need throughout the community. The drive will be held through Dec. 20. Food donations (non-perishable) can be dropped off at the Whiting Big Spring Field Office, 5306 South Service Road. For more information, call the local office at 432-264-0004 and ask for Cindy Klaus, Vickie Reynolds or Mark Strickland.

• An account for Bill Griffen has been established at the Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union, 1110 Benton. Griffen, a Big Spring resident, recently passed away and the family is in need of funds for funeral arrangements.

• 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.

• An account has been set up at Citizen's Credit Union for Emma Leos, who was recently diagnosed with colon cancer.

• Jo Anna Bailey, an aide for many years at Wash-

ington 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.

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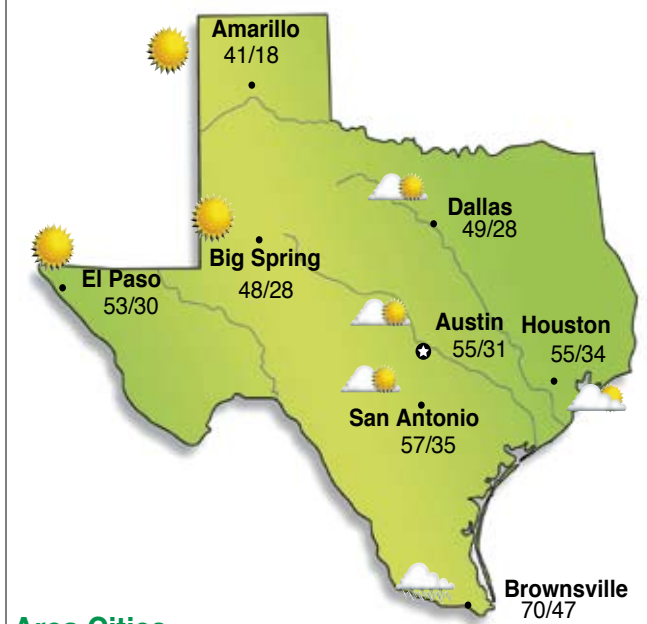
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Mon 12/10	Tue 12/11	Wed 12/12	Thu 12/13	Fri 12/14
48/28 Sunshine. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the upper 20s.	56/30 Sunny. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s.	60/35 Sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	66/43 More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 40s.	68/36 Clouds giving way to sun. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the mid 30s.
Sunrise: 7:37 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:37 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:38 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:39 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:39 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM

American Profile We Celebrate Hometown Life
Stories for and about hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

Texas At A Glance



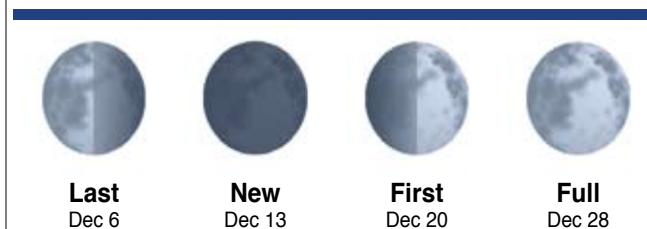
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	45	27	pt sunny	Kingsville	61	41	windy
Amarillo	41	18	sunny	Livingston	52	30	cloudy
Austin	55	31	pt sunny	Longview	49	30	cloudy
Beaumont	56	35	t-storm	Lubbock	45	21	sunny
Brownsville	70	47	rain	Lufkin	52	33	cloudy
Brownwood	50	27	windy	Midland	50	30	sunny
Corpus Christi	59	41	windy	Raymondville	63	43	rain
Corsicana	49	27	pt sunny	Rosenberg	54	33	cloudy
Dallas	49	28	pt sunny	San Antonio	57	35	pt sunny
Del Rio	59	38	windy	San Marcos	56	31	pt sunny
El Paso	53	30	sunny	Sulphur Springs	49	27	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	48	32	sunny	Sweetwater	46	28	pt sunny
Gainesville	45	22	pt sunny	Tyler	51	31	pt sunny
Greenville	47	24	pt sunny	Weatherford	46	23	pt sunny
Houston	55	34	cloudy	Wichita Falls	45	23	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	67	46	rain	Minneapolis	17	15	mst sunny
Boston	59	39	rain	New York	60	43	rain
Chicago	32	21	pt sunny	Phoenix	64	40	sunny
Dallas	49	28	pt sunny	San Francisco	67	50	sunny
Denver	36	19	cloudy	Seattle	47	44	pt sunny
Houston	55	34	cloudy	St. Louis	35	25	pt sunny
Los Angeles	73	50	sunny	Washington, DC	68	46	rain
Miami	82	71	pt sunny				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Mon 12/10	Tue 12/11	Wed 12/12	Thu 12/13	Fri 12/14
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Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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A traffic accident near the 2000 block of W. Fourth Street sent two people to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center Friday at approximately 4 p.m. According to law enforcement officers at the scene, the driver of the blue sedan — a young woman — was traveling east on W. Fourth Street when the male driver of the black Nissan ran the stop sign at the intersection and hit the sedan, sending it into a roll. According to witnesses, the sedan rolled approximately three times before precariously coming to rest mere inches at the top of a nearby drainage ravine.

HERALD photo/
Thomas Jenkins



Texas news in brief

Officials won't say why Texas driver isn't charged

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Officials in a West Texas city where four wounded veterans died when a train hit their parade float wouldn't say Friday why they won't pursue criminal charges against the driver.

City spokeswoman Sara Higgins said the police report isn't finished but investigators "wanted to get it out" that Midland resident Dale Andrew Hayden, 50, won't be charged.

She said the reasons against filing charges would be explained in the completed report, which is expected to be done within the next week. The report will then go to the district attorney, Higgins said.

Hayden was driving a flatbed truck carrying wounded veterans and their wives in a Nov. 15 parade when it was hit by a Union Pacific train traveling 62 mph. The National Transportation Safety Board says Hayden ventured onto the track after the warning signals started flashing and before the arms had descended.

The NTSB said the device was activated within 20 seconds of the train's arrival, the minimum standard required by federal regulations. However, Texas Department of Transportation documents made public last month indicate that the device was designed to activate at 30 seconds.

Midland County prosecutor Steve Stallings said the district attorney's office would review the report and a decision on potential charges would come afterward.

1 dead, 3 wounded at teen's party

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — One person is dead and three more wounded after gunfire erupted at a teenager's birthday party south of San Antonio in Bexar County. Sheriff's deputies

tell the San Antonio Express-News (bit.ly/TRTu9E1) the shootings occurred after 3 a.m. Saturday as a man tried to break a fight involving two women. Another man who may be the boyfriend of one of the women a gun and fatally shot the man trying to break up the fight.

Bexar Sheriff's Sgt. Raymond Pollard says the gunman fired again toward the house, hitting a 13-year-old girl in the head and person another in the shoulder. The third injured person was hit in the head with the weapon.

Names of the people involved were not immediately released.

The gunman fled and is being sought.

13 bodies found in vehicles in northern Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Police found the mutilated bodies of 13 people inside two vehicles abandoned in separate towns of the northern border state of Tamaulipas, an official said Friday.

Authorities first found the cut-up bodies of two women and three men late Thursday in a potato chip delivery truck abandoned in the parking lot of a supermarket in the town of El Mante, a Tamaulipas state official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not allowed to talk about the case.

The official said police also found a threatening message allegedly signed by the Gulf drug cartel.

An hour later, police found eight bodies in the

town of Soto la Marina along with a message alleging the victims were members of the Gulf cartel.

Northeastern Mexico along the border with Texas has been a war zone of shootouts and gruesome mass killings as the Zetas and Gulf drug cartels battle each other in the states of Coahuila, Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas — a region that is home to cattle ranches, sorghum fields and the industrial city of Monterrey.

The Zetas were hit men for the Gulf cartel until they split in 2010, unleashing their bloody war.

In Coahuila on Friday, police found the bodies of four men hanging from a highway overpass in the capital city of Saltillo.

Coahuila state security spokesman Sergio Sisbeles said the victims had been tortured and had their feet and hands bound with duct tape. None had been shot and authorities were still trying to determine the cause of death, he said.

Straus promises \$2B in extra public-school funding

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas House Speaker Joe Straus said Friday he's committed to

pumping billions of dollars back into the state's public schools, even though the Legislature approved historically deep cuts just last year.

In an interview with The Associated Press, the San Antonio Republican said "we will fund enrollment growth going forward," which he estimated will be a \$2 billion item when lawmakers head back to work Jan. 8.

"The good news is we're dedicated to doing that, committed to doing that," Straus said.

Texas' booming population means its current 5 million-plus public school enrollment increases by as much as 80,000 every year.

But the 2011 legislative session failed to provide enough new funding to keep up with enrollment, instead passing \$5.4 billion in overall cuts to public education and classroom grant programs for things such as pre-kindergarten programs — sparking the state's first decrease in per-student spending since World War II.

Straus wouldn't say he will push to find the additional \$5.4 billion necessary to roll back all of those funding cuts.

He did say, though, that since Texas' economy has weathered the recession and is strong again, lawmakers have

more options.

Newborn found dead in Walmart restroom

KILLEEN, Texas (AP) — Police have ordered an autopsy on a newly born infant found dead in a restroom at a Central Texas department store near Fort Hood.

A Killeen police statement says an employee at a Walmart Superstore in Killeen found the newly born child not breathing in a women's

restroom at the store Friday afternoon.

Bell County Justice of the Peace Bill Cooke pronounced the child dead shortly after 2 p.m. Friday. Police spokeswoman Carroll Smith gave no information on the child's gender or other description of the infant's condition.

However, she said police are appealing for the mother to seek medical attention immediately or contact police, who will help in getting her medical attention.

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Stephen "Steve" Johnson, 51, died Thursday. A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

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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.

Glenn Stiffemire
Publisher

Bill McClellan
Managing Editor

Steve Reagan
Staff Writer

Thomas Jenkins
Staff Writer

OTHER VIEWS

Cancer agency needs cure, too

When is tone deafness scarier than cancer? When medical ethicists and respected independent researchers refer to the abysmal failure of the state cancer agency to recognize the need to remove tumorous politics and cronyism from its handling of multi-million-dollar grants.

The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas is a veritable Venn diagram of conflicts of interest. Last summer it had to rescind a \$20 million grant to a group led by the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center after challenges to the integrity of its review process. Earlier this week, it admitted it approved an \$11 million grant in 2010 without review.

A board of politically and commercially connected appointees of Gov. Rick Perry is running roughshod over the agency's scientists, to the usual self-serving rah-rahs of the ex-yell leader in the governor's mansion. The interference has been so blatant that the chief science advisers, two Nobel laureates, and more than 30 of the top-rank out-of-state researchers who served on its review panels have quit in disgust.

This agency, authorized in 2007 by voters to issue and spend up to \$3 billion in bonds, has about \$2 billion of that to go. It simply cannot be permitted to continue its wanton cupidity and high-handedness under the guise of fighting cancer.

The real cancer here is the agenda of the politically appointed oversight committee. Legislators convening in January should conduct a head-to-toe examination of the agency's actions. They should follow up with a clear set of workable rules that put science and the public trust first and protect the agency's important determinations from reproach.

— *Beaumont Enterprise*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for giving

To the editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to say, "Thank you" to everyone who helped make the first Adopt a Military Hero-Howard County's Christmas for the Troops program a huge success. The outpouring of donations and volunteers was just incredible.

With the help of our many volunteers, we gathered, sorted, counted and packed boxes for more than 400 of our deployed military this year.

I'm so proud to be from a community which gives back so generously. Thank you, Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan, Gail, Garden City and everywhere in between for your help. We even had volunteers from Knoxville, Tenn. and Guffey, Colo.!

God bless you all and have a wonderful Christmas with friends and family, knowing you have helped make the Christmas season a little brighter for more than 400 men and women in uniform.

Debbie Burrow
Big Spring

Howard County's Christmas for the Troops

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 a return address will not be considered.

- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

They can also be e-mailed to newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

All I want for Christmas is ...

Like most of the great ideas at our house, my wife birthed it — treating kids and grandkids to a short cruise in lieu of gifts for Christmas. The affirming vote was unanimous. Beholding the wide-eyed wonderment of a half-dozen grandchildren, ages 5-11, taking on first-time experiences was priceless. Initially a "bucket list" item, it now is a gift we'd like to re-open again — at least for as long as loved ones want to go.



DR.
DON
NEWBURY

Like much of life, the outing is memorable for a few big things and a multitude of small ones. (The youngsters were transfixed by Galveston's massive Mardi Gras arch stretching across Ship's Mechanic Row, in front of the historic Tremont House hotel. Erected initially to signal the beginning of Mardi Gras, it is now lighted nightly throughout the year. Galveston's 102nd such event — the largest in Texas — is scheduled Feb. 1-12, 2013, with more than a quarter-million visitors expected.)

Inside the hotel, children's eyes locked on the gingerbread replica of the storied Tremont House....

The trip was not without trauma, however brief. Addison, a kindergarten, was on the edge of panic when her first loose tooth wobbled, more "out than in." Surrounding dinner guests cheered when her dad gently removed it, turning tears into a big smile seconds later.

Strains of "All I Want for Christmas" erupted — lyrics were changed, of course, to "one front tooth."

Tooth fairy questions abounded, with Carnival personnel assuring her that the fluttering

fairies always are welcome on board. There was no shortage of well-wishers wanting to supply coins, and they had to get her a bigger pillow....

Meal times were most special—for more than the obvious reasons. We found ourselves stealing peeks at the children who had migrated to "their table," adjacent to ours.

Ben and Jonah inhaled cheeseburgers and shrimp cocktail at almost every meal. (Jonah expressed amazement that they can "give us all of this for free!") Most of the "grands" passed on fancy dishes, opting for burgers, pizzas and grilled cheese sandwiches instead. Fruit Loops — not eggs benedict — was their breakfast choice. (An exception was youngest grandson Kedren, who ordered mostly adult dishes, including "alligator fritters.")

Juliana, always with EpiPen nearby to counter nut allergy reactions, was most impressed that the waitperson always guided her toward "safe" menu choices and always knew her name....

They went different directions during Carnival Triumph's day-long docking in Cozumel. Some snorkeled in the crystal-clear waters; others "kissed" — and rode — dolphins.

All three grandgirls returned to the ship with braids in hair. (Eliminate braiding in Cozumel, and the tourist trade tumbles.)

One granddaughter said her "braider" has "the fastest fingers in the West," then asked, "Are we still in the West?" ...

Our final night on ship, we gathered on the outdoor pool deck to watch the Dallas Cowboys eke out a win over the Philadelphia Eagles. A giant full moon loomed large above the giant screen.

The ship bobbed gently, and

the screen sometimes blotted out the moon.

"How do they make the moon bounce like that?" Kedren wanted to know....

The children, marveling at the courteous conduct of crew members, were in awe of their dedication to supporting spouses and children "back home."

Such teaching moments about human kindness abounded.

Cell phones were abandoned; "eye to eye" contact was common. Questions were freely expressed and warmly answered....

Upon debarkation, we drove around Galveston one last time—for this visit, anyway. Few cities abound in more history, and no cruise port more warrants tying on a few more days, fore or aft.

It was a beautiful December day. The sun-splashed beach seemed to beg—as the children put it—"for just one more hour." We caved. Brittin got to build her sandcastle, and to utter a classic twist-of-tongue: "I got toes between my sand." Other "grands" swam in the surf—albeit a bit nippy—doable for them and unthinkable for us.

The children also wanted another look at the huge Sam Houston statue, adjacent to I-45 near Huntsville....

Such a family outing provides bonding at its best.

Memories are locked in, relationships strengthened, understanding heightened and curiosities satisfied.

Maybe this should be a "barrel list" item, always rotating back to the top.

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Speaking inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Twitter: @donnewbury. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com.

We need to reform the tax system

Pundits, economists, politicians and Americans from every walk of life have been discussing the rapidly approaching fiscal cliff that the country is poised to go over on Jan. 1. People are understandably both scared and frustrated.

Recently, I wrote about the effects of higher tax rates on the small businesses we depend on to create new jobs. Raising tax rates

on these job creators would be bad for our ailing economy and depressing news for the more than 20 million Americans who are seeking full-time work.

Fortunately there's a better way.

It has been proven time and again that lowering taxes for everyone results in higher revenues. If we enact lower, flatter tax rates for everyone, we would accomplish the goal of a fairer, simpler tax system, which would be a catalyst for faster economic growth. Small businesses have historically invested in their companies and grown their businesses — resulting in increased hiring.

The facts about the effects of lower tax rates on economic growth seem to have been forgotten during the past four years. In fact, every major tax reduction program since the Kennedy Administration's tax cuts has been followed by a substantial increase in revenue and solid economic growth.

During the Reagan administration, when income tax and capital gains tax rates were reduced dramatically, not only did our economy grow rapidly (more than double the rate of the previous four years), federal tax revenues increased by 60 percent. At the same time, the share



KAY
BAILEY
HUTCHISON

Four years after the start of the worst economic meltdown since the Great Depression, we are teetering on the verge of returning to recession, and the threat of higher taxes is partly to blame. Survey after survey of business owners and managers in the past year revealed that they are holding back on expansion and new hiring because they don't know what to expect from Washington and they're afraid that much higher taxes are what's coming.

of federal taxes paid by the top 10 percent of incomes increased.

Likewise, the 2003 Bush tax cuts were followed by 52 consecutive months of healthy economic growth and generated a massive increase in federal tax revenue. From 2004 to 2007, federal tax revenue increased by \$780 billion (44 percent), the largest four-year increase in American history.

Four years after the start of the worst economic meltdown since the Great Depression, we are teetering on the verge of returning to recession, and the threat of higher taxes is partly to blame. Survey after survey of business owners and managers in the past year revealed that they are holding back on expansion and new hiring because they don't know what to expect from Washington and they're afraid that much higher taxes are what's coming. Nevertheless, President

Obama's plan is to increase taxes by \$1.6 trillion over the next decade, with much of this new revenue to be taken from smaller businesses.

The president says he's willing to talk about fundamental tax reforms ... later.

But he is insisting on immediate tax increases on small businesses and those who make more than \$200,000 (\$250,000 for joint filers).

Most Americans understand that raising taxes is bad for economic growth.

Members of Congress understand this, too.

Earlier this year, Congress considered President Obama's 2013 budget plan which was (no surprise) based on raising taxes by about \$1.6 trillion. The surprise was that not a single Member of Congress in either political party voted for the president's budget.

The president is now trying to force a false choice on Congress and our country. Either Congress votes to raise taxes right away on those making more than \$200,000 — including small businesses — or he will allow higher taxes to take effect for everyone on Jan. 1. This would help to lock in historically high levels of federal spending for years to come. Unfortunately, it would also be a major setback for our real critical national priorities — the economy and out-of-control deficits.

There's still time for the president and congressional leaders to avoid taking the country over a financial cliff.

This is also the right moment for a fundamental restructuring of our tax system that will energize our economy. But the window of opportunity for boosting economic growth is closing quickly.

Kay Bailey Hutchison, a Republican, is the senior U.S. senator from Texas.

Club news

Keep Big Spring Beautiful

Keep Big Spring Beautiful met Monday in the Cactus Room at Howard College. President Jan Hansen called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Revised by-laws were presented and minor changes were approved, the new by-laws were accepted and committee reports were given.

Johnny Womack and Bobby McDonald chaired our e-waste project at the landfill with great results. We especially thank the Howard College Diplomats for their help in packing the donations. Kudos to the community for a super response to help de-clutter our town and save space in our landfill — 15 tons of e-waste was collected.

Sandra Rhodes-Bartlett and Tammy DePauw reported on the "Doing Your Part" project. It was agreed to streamline the program in January. A training session is set at the Chamber of Commerce office this week. Hansen said we need to plan fundraising efforts soon after the new year.

The meeting then adjourned to the City Aquatic Center, where we met the family of Russ McEwen and dedicated a newly planted tree in the former mayor's honor. A memorial bench will soon be located by the tree. We remember Russ as a devoted advocate of KBSB.

Our next meeting will be held at noon Jan. 7, 2013, in the Cactus Room. Come start off the new year with our group. Volunteers are always welcome.

Big Spring Area Retired Teachers Association

The Big Spring Area Retired Teachers Association will meet a week earlier than usual because of the Christmas holiday. This month's meeting will be at 11:30 a.m. Monday in the Cactus Room at Howard College.

Lon Sitton, director of the church choir at East Fourth Street Baptist Church, will present a program of Christmas music. Despite being unable to see, Mr. Sitton is extraordinarily gifted musically.

Any interested persons in the Big Spring area are welcome to attend the association's meetings. After a Dutch treat meal at 11:30 a.m., the meeting and program will begin at noon.

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.

Silver Anniversary



Courtesy photos

At top, Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Kathy Salazar greets friends outside The Chalet Resale Shop prior to the 25th anniversary and ribbon cutting held recently to honor The Chalet's 25 years of service to the Big Spring community and to the hospital's patients. At bottom, JoBeth Corwin, left, and Ruth Nanny, cut the ribbon to kick off the festivities.

The shop, located at 115 E. Second St., sells secondhand clothing and household items. Proceeds benefit BSSH residents and volunteer services.

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Retirement Reception

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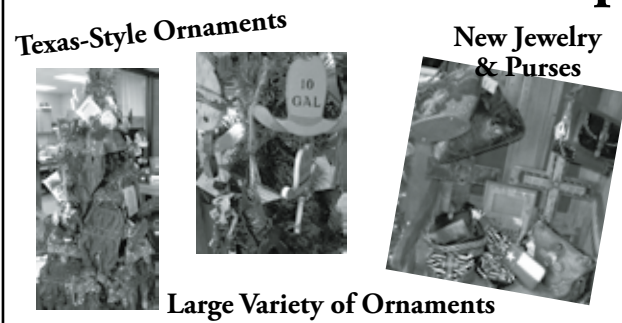
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News in world

Supreme Court will review Calif. ban on same-sex marriage, federal law targeting gay couples

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is taking a potentially historic look at same-sex marriage by agreeing to hear two cases that challenge governments' different treatment of gay Americans.

The focus in one case is California's constitutional amendment that forbids same-sex marriage. The other case deals with a federal law that denies to those who can marry legally the right to obtain federal benefits that are available to heterosexual married couples.

Supreme Court cases often take twists and turns that limit the scope of the eventual decision. But the justices' action on Friday gives them the chance to say whether gay Americans have the same constitutional right to marry as heterosexuals.

The court is embarked on what could be its most significant term involving civil rights in decades. In the area of racial discrimination, the justices already have agreed to decide cases on affirmative action in admission to college and a key part of the Voting Rights Act. The gay marriage cases probably will be argued in March and decisions in all the court's cases are likely by the end of June.

The order from the court extends a dizzying pace of change regarding gay marriage that includes rapid shifts in public opinion, President Barack Obama's endorsement in May and votes in Maine, Maryland and Washington in November to allow gay couples to marry. Same-sex couples in Washington began picking up marriage licenses on Thursday.

Obama's request for \$60.4 billion in Superstorm Sandy aid could face congressional hurdles

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's proposal for \$60.4 billion in federal aid for states hit by Superstorm Sandy adds a huge new item to an end-of-year congressional agenda already packed with controversy.

The president's request to Congress on Friday followed weeks of discussions with lawmakers and officials from New York, New Jersey and other affected states who requested significantly more money, but generally praised the president's request as they urged Congress to adopt it without delay.

"It's not everything we wanted, but it's close enough," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

Pushing the request through Congress in the few weeks left before lawmakers adjourn at the end of the year will be no easy task. Washington's attention is focused on the looming fiscal cliff of expiring Bush-era tax cuts and automatic spending cuts to the Pentagon and domestic programs set to begin at the end of the year. And tea party House Republicans are likely to press for budget cuts elsewhere

to offset some or even all disaster costs.

Those complications raised the prospects that the measure will be delayed in whole or in part until next year, although Schumer said the goal is to get it done by Dec. 31.

U.S. tells U.N. it has detained over 200 teens in Afghan prison for about a year at a time

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. military has detained more than 200 Afghan teenagers who were captured in the war for about a year at a time at a military prison next to Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan, the United States has told the United Nations.

The U.S. State Department characterized the detainees held since 2008 as "enemy combatants" in a report sent every four years to the United Nations in Geneva updating U.S. compliance with the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The U.S. military had held them "to prevent a combatant from returning to the battlefield," the report said.

A few are still confined at the Detention Facility in Parwan, which will be turned over to the Afghan government, it said. "Many of them have been released or transferred to the Afghan government," said the report, distributed this week.

Most of the juvenile Afghan detainees were about 16 years old, but their age was not usually determined until after capture, the U.S. report said.

Ex-Fla. Gov. Charlie Crist tweets he's 'proud and honored to join the Democratic Party'

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Former Florida Gov. Charlie Crist, who was elected the state's chief executive as a Republican and then ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate as an independent, announced on Twitter that he's switching to the Democratic Party.

The announcement Friday night fanned speculation that Crist would seek to regain his old job from Republican Gov. Rick Scott in 2014.

Crist sent out a tweet that said, "Proud and honored to join the Democratic Party in the home of President (at)Barack Obama!"

The tweet included a photo of a smiling Crist and his wife Carole as he held up a Florida voter registration application. The Tampa Bay Times reports that Crist signed the papers changing his affiliation from independent to Democrat at a Christmas reception at the White House. President Barack Obama greeted the news with a fist bump.

"I've had friends for years tell me, 'You know Charlie, you're a Democrat and you don't know it,'" Crist told the newspaper Friday night.

Ariz. man claims half of Powerball pot; lottery says fiscal cliff prompts quick collection

PHOENIX (AP) — Fallout from the looming fiscal cliff has drifted into the Powerball arena.

A man who lottery officials announced Friday has claimed his half of the \$587.5 million Powerball jackpot, decided to collect the winnings now and not next year because of the financial uncertainty posed by the nation's ongoing financial impasse.

The man, who is in his 30s from a wealthy Phoenix suburb, decided to remain anonymous after he bought \$10 worth of tickets and kept the winning slip in the visor of his car overnight before realizing he was a multimillionaire.

He gave \$20 to the cashier of a Fountain Hills convenience store, and the clerk nudged him to spend the entire amount on tickets. He declined the offer.

After the man and his wife learned of their good fortune, the husband pulled together a team of financial advisers and decided to take all of his share this month to avoid potentially higher taxes in 2013, said Karen Bach, a lottery official.

Authorities who interviewed Alaska serial killer say he murdered people for fun

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Confessed serial

killer Israel Keyes admitted he enjoyed killing people, but couldn't or wouldn't give investigators a more meaningful answer when quizzed why he did it.

"There were just times, a couple of times, where we would try to get a why," said Anchorage Police officer Jeff Bell, who helped interrogate Keyes for hours.

"He would have this term, he would say, 'A lot of people ask why, and I would be, like, why not?'" Bell said.

Keyes confessed to killing eight people across the United States, but alluded to additional murders, FBI Special Agent Jolene Goeden and Bell told The Associated Press.

"Based on some of the things he told us, and some of the conversations we had with him, we believe the number is less than 12," Goeden said. "We don't know for sure. He's the only one who could have ultimately answered that."

China's Xi matching breezy style with popular campaign against pomp, waste

BEIJING (AP) — New communist leader Xi Jinping is on a mission to soften the image of Chinese officialdom, winning kudos for his breezy personal style and ordering leaders to take a knife to the pomp, formality and waste that have alienated many among the public.

With his silky baritone, glamorous wife and daughter at Harvard, Xi cuts a very different figure from the staid, hyper-private leaders of the past. Even his posture, more like that of a slouchy college professor than a stiff party cadre, has won him plaudits.

Xi took the new informality a step further at a Tuesday meeting of the 25-member Politburo, ordering that arrangements for leaders' visits and the trappings of power be drastically pared back. Elaborate welcoming ceremonies will be eliminated, traffic disruptions avoided, and staid, often worthless reporting on the doings of the leadership dispensed with. Even red carpets are to go.

And according to Hong Kong media that is what happened on Xi's first trip outside Beijing since he took over as party leader. When Xi arrived in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen on Friday there were no welcome banners, and the red carpet was gone when he laid a wreath to the statue of the former Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping on Saturday, according to footage by Hong Kong-based Phoenix Television.

It's still unclear whether the tonal change will boost transparency and bring meaningful administrative reforms that many say are needed to sustain China's economic and social development. The son of a communist elder, Xi has also gained a reputation as a nationalist hardliner with earlier comments blasting foreigners for criticizing China's human rights record.

IBM move to annual lump-sum 401(k) matching contributions could be sign of things to come

IBM is making changes to its employee benefits that may cause other large corporations to follow suit. The technology company will begin making contributions to employees' 401(k) accounts in lump-sum annual payments, rather than at the time of each paycheck. It's a move that will help the company cut retirement plan expenses.

Employees were notified this week that matching contributions will be made just once annually, on Dec. 31, beginning next year. "This change reflects our continuing commitment to invest in our employee 401(k) plans while maintaining business competitiveness in a challenging economic environment," IBM spokesman Doug Shelton said.

The end-of-the-year 401(k) match won't be unique to IBM, but experts say the company's move could lead other major employers to consider making less frequent contributions.

"IBM is one of the world's most influential plan sponsors," said Mike Alfred, CEO of BrightScope Inc., which rates corporate 401(k) plans. It places IBM's among the top 30 plans at large employers. "Everyone in the benefits industry will pay close attention to whatever IBM does."

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Lye attack victim writes of blessings, forgiveness

By LISA RATHKE

Associated Press

MONTPELIER, Vt. — While Carmen Tarleton lay in a hospital bed, burned, beaten and disfigured by her estranged husband with injuries that doctors called “the most horrific injury a human being could suffer,” she had vivid dreams.

In one of the most memorable, dozens of doors stretched around her. “Life is a choice,” a voice said. And then the words appeared one at a time in white across a dark movie screen: LIFE IS A CHOICE.

Tarleton carried that lesson with her through her ongoing, daunting and remarkable recovery after her ex broke into her Theftord home five years ago, beat her with a baseball bat and poured industrial-strength lye on her, burning most of her body.

Tarleton, who at age 44 continues to undergo surgeries and awaits a possible face transplant, has written a book that will be published in March called “Overcome: Burned, Blinded and Blessed.” She hopes it will speak to abuse victims and others.

“I think I can help a whole bunch of people, not just domestic violence people,” she said in a recent interview with *The Associated Press*. “I think I can help a whole bunch of people wherever you are in your life.”

Despite her suffering, she says she’s in a better place than she was before the attack.

“I’m so much more blessed than I was then,” she said.

The book starts with Tarleton’s decision at 28 to move across the country from her native Vermont to Los Angeles, with her two children in

tow, to work as a nurse at a UCLA hospital. There she met Herb Rodgers, whom she eventually married. The family moved back to Thetford, where her marriage started to unravel — in part over Rodgers’ dishonesty, Tarleton said.

Tarleton recalls what she now says was a premonition. One evening when she was about to leave for her night shift at the hospital, her 12-year-old daughter was sobbing in bedroom. When she asked what was wrong, her daughter said, “Something really, really bad is going to happen to you.”

Eight months later, it did. Rodgers is serving a minimum of 30 years in prison for the June 2007 attack.

When she set out to write the book three years later with only limited vision in one eye, she stalled when it came time to explain what Rodgers had done to her that night. She had to



coach herself through it.

“Alone at my magnifying machine, I felt physically ill with what I was doing,” she wrote. “The experience of reliving that night, trying to capture every detail as vividly as I remembered it, was sickening. Halfway through, I let my pen drop and rushed to my bedroom, the edges of my limited vision blackening.”

It took her two days to write it. It was scary, but it was what she wanted to do,

she said.

She talked out the rest of the book and recorded it. She hired Writers of the Round Table Press to write it all down, including dialogue she had recalled.

“I was paying attention, because some of it I couldn’t forget if I wanted to,” she said.

She writes about facing Rodgers in court, how she dealt with being blind and disfigured, her pain, the help she has received from her community, family and friends, and how she came to forgive the man who maimed her

so she could get on with her own life.

“That’s where I feel people get stuck because we don’t have a segment of our society that says just because this terrible thing happened to you it doesn’t have to ruin the rest of your life,” she said. “And I want to be the example of that because it doesn’t.”

Publishing the book was a no-brainer for Writers of the Round Table Press, which helped Tarleton write it, said vice president David Cohen.

“Taking that kind of experience and turning that energy into something positive and wanting to go out there and effect change with as much as she had to overcome, to me was just striking,” Cohen said.

As she awaits approval for a procedure that could help her get a face transplant, she looks forward to feeling well enough to speak publicly again about her ordeal to help others. She has had several recent surgeries to install a catheter in her chest and was sick last winter with hyperthyroidism.

She has plans to write other books. She has also started a blog on the book’s website. She says she’s trying to develop ways to verbalize her positive attitude.

If she had a choice to go back to a year before the attack and to take her life in a different direction, she would not.

“When life gives you a big negative situation like I’d been through, if you can get through that, you can really find all of the blessings and all of the positive things that can come out of that,” she said. “And I found so much that I would not go back.”

Online: www.overcomebook.com

London’s Dickens Museum reopens after makeover

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON — Charles Dickens’ London home has gone from “Bleak House” to “Great Expectations.”

For years, the four-story brick row house where the author lived with his young family was a dusty and slightly neglected museum, a mecca for Dickens scholars but overlooked by most visitors to London.

Now, after a 3 million pound (\$4.8 million) makeover, it has been restored to bring the writer’s world to life. The house reopens next week, and its director says it aims to look “as if Dickens had just stepped out.”

“The Dickens Museum felt for many years a bit like Miss Havisham, covered in dust,” said museum director Florian Schweizer, who slips references to Dickens’ work seamlessly into his speech. Miss Havisham is the reclusive character central to the plot of “Great Expectations.”

Now, after a revamp code-named — inevitably — “Great Expectations,” the house is transformed.

Or, Schweizer said Wednesday, quoting that novel: “I have been bent and broken, but — I hope — into a better shape.”

Few authors remain as widely quoted, read and adapted as Dickens is 200 years after his birth. Characters such

as Ebenezer Scrooge and Tiny Tim, Pip and Miss Havisham, Fagin and Oliver Twist, are known to millions around the world.

And no writer is more closely associated with London than Dickens, whose accounts of Victorian workhouses, debtors’ prisons and the urban poor embarrassed the establishment into acting to alleviate poverty.

He lived all over the city in his impoverished youth and increasingly affluent adulthood, but the house at 48 Doughty St. in the Bloomsbury area of London is his only home in the city to survive.

Dickens lived in the house between 1837 and 1839, a short but fruitful period that saw the birth of his first two children. It’s the site where he wrote “Nicholas Nickleby” and “Oliver Twist,” going in the process from jobbing journalist to rising author whose serialized stories were gobbled up by a growing fan base.

Dickens leased the simple but elegant Georgian house, built in 1807, for 80 pounds a year.

The restored museum has all the modern trappings, including audio-guides, a “learning center” and a cafe. There also is a temporary exhibition of costumes from Mike Newell’s new film adaptation of “Great Expectations,” starring Helena Bonham Carter and Ralph Fiennes.

But at its heart it is a house — the home of a proud young family man. Visitors can see the blue-walled dining room where Dickens entertained his friends, complete with original sideboard and a portrait of the 25-year-old author looking, it has to be said, pretty pleased with himself.

“It’s rather Byronic,” Schweizer said. “Not the Victorian sage with a beard that we think of.”

Upstairs are the drawing room where Dickens moved guests to laughter and tears with readings from his works — visitors can hear actor Simon Callow do the honors on recordings — and the bedroom where his sister-in-law Mary died at the age of 17, a tragedy that may have influenced the many death scenes in Dickens’ novels.

The rooms are furnished with Dickens’ own possessions — his writing desk and chair, his wardrobe and shaving kit, copies of his books annotated in his cramped handwriting.

“We’re trying to make it feel like a home,” Schweizer said. “As if Dickens had just stepped out.”

The museum does not skip over the darker periods of Dickens’ life.

On the top floor, the former servants’ quarters hold a set of bars from Marshalsea prison, where Dickens’ father was imprisoned for his debts, and jars

from the boot-polish factory where 12-year-old Charles was sent to work.

The experience of financial insecurity marked Dickens for life, and drove his workaholic quest for success. He wrote more than 20 books, had 10 children, traveled the world on lecture tours and campaigned for social change until his death from a stroke in 1870 at the age of 58.

The museum’s directors have been criticized for shutting the facility

during most of the bicentenary of Dickens’ birth — and during the tourism bonanza that accompanied the London Olympics.

It reopens Monday, just in time for a Dickensian Christmas, complete with readings, performances of “A Christmas Carol,” mulled wine and mince pies.

The museum hopes to draw 45,000 visitors a year, a 50 percent rise on pre-refurbishment levels. Schweizer thinks Dickens’ future has

never been rosier.

“There has always been interest. I think the bicentenary has taken it to a whole new level,” Schweizer said. “There is a great hunger of Dickens, especially in these times” of economic austerity and uncertainty.

As evidence, he held up a London newspaper proclaiming news of the Duchess of Cambridge’s pregnancy under the headline “Kate Expectations.”

“People still get all the references,” he said.

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Hawk men embarrass Brookhaven 110-53, women pound Lubbock Christian J.V. 71-44



By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**
Sports Editor

Howard College Men

Head Men's Basketball Coach Mark Adams said a wide margin of victory over Division III Brookhaven College on Friday was likely, but the final score of 110-53 exceeded even his expectations.

"We have a team — as far as scoring goes — we score easily," Adams, who has a NJCAA national championship title on his resume, said.

"We can make plays and score points. It was

a good win for us."

The Bears never had a chance, as the Hawks quickly won 9-0 before Brookhaven managed to put two points on the board.

That tempo remained the same throughout the affair, with the Hawks leading by as many as 57 points at one time.

Howard College is now 11-0 and will be traveling to Mesa, Ariz. for a three-day tournament with Western Junior College Athletic Conference play beginning Jan. 7 against Midland College at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum at the Howard College campus.

Women

LUBBOCK — The Lady Hawks extended their win streak to seven games Friday with a 71-44 win over Lubbock Christian University's J.V. Squad.

Howard College (9-3) will make a trek to Victoria on Jan. 2 to take on Victoria College.

Big Spring Boys

MONAHANS — After winning two straight, the Steers ran into problems as they opened the Monahans Sandhills Tournament on Friday with a 62-43 loss.

Big Spring played Midland Greenwood Saturday. Details will be in Monday's edition of the *Herald*.

Girls

MONAHANS — The Lady Steers opened the Sandhills tourney with a 39-24 win over Kermit, but didn't fare as well in Game Two, as BSHS fell to Seminole 38-24. The Lady Steers played Monahans on Saturday. Details will be in Monday's edition

of the *Herald*.

Coahoma Boys

STANTON — The Bulldogs were defeated by Tahoka in their first game at the Stanton Hooptown Tournament on Thursday, but redeemed the loss with a 72-66 overtime win against the Sweetwater Mustangs on Friday. Tanner Ruiz had a game-high 29 points while Braxton Iden added 14 and Alex Hill 10.

Coahoma played Midland Greenwood in the consolation final Saturday. Results will be in Monday's edition of the *Herald*.

Girls

STANTON — Bulldogettes Head Coach Paul Hartman was pleased to get a win over Midland Greenwood J.V. On Friday after falling to Sweetwater in the tournament opener Thursday.

Coahoma's Julia Castilaw put up 13 points and Kaeli Yeager added 12 in the 68-21 rout. The Bulldogettes

will met Lamesa in the consolation final Saturday. Details will be in Monday's edition of the *Herald*.

Forsan Boys

GAIL — The Buffaloes three-game win streak came to an end Friday as Forsan lost to Lubbock Christian 61-55 at the Borden County Tournament.

Dillon Bagnall had 13 points, Tyler Evans and J.T. Breyman each added 12, Aric Kandeze put up 10, Kane Fannin chipped in six points and got 11 rebounds and Jerol Womack contributed two points.

Grady Boys

WATER VALLEY — The Wildcats have won three consecutive games at the Water Valley Classic Tournament. The first two came Thursday and the third Friday as Grady's Brandon Lucas scored a game-high 29 points, with Brett Glaze adding 20 and Taylor Polson 10

in a thrilling 65-64 win over Iraan.

The Wildcats met host team Water Valley on Saturday. Results will be printed in Monday's edition of the *Herald*.

Girls

WATER VALLEY — Midland High got the best of the surging Lady Wildcats on Friday, notching a 45-32 win despite Elynn Avery's 24 points. Grady (8-3) took on Lovington, N.M. on Saturday.

A game summary will be printed in Monday's edition of the *Herald*.

Other scores:

Garden City (boys) defeated Roscoe, 70-30. Fridday at the Highland Thomasser Classic. Thomasser, 24 points; Zant, 15 points.

Sands (boys) defeated Tahoka 56-28 at Stanton Hooptown Tournament.

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

Texans, Pats look to strengthen their postseason seeding

HOWARD ULMAN

AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Huge games in December — or January and February, for that matter — are nothing new for the New England Patriots.

For the Houston Texans, they are rare.

The Monday night matchup should be quite a show.

"It's the biggest game in the history of this franchise," Texans wide receiver Andre Johnson said. "As long as we keep winning, every game is going to be bigger."

They each hold playoff reservations in the AFC. They're the highest scoring teams in

the NFL. Both have six-game winning streaks.

The implications for the postseason add even more luster — the winner moving a step closer to a first-round bye and home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs.

The Patriots have played many bigger games and are downplaying its significance. They've won three Super Bowls, although the last was for the 2004 season, while the Texans reached the playoffs for the first time since they began playing in 2002.

"Once we get in December, games become more and more

See **SEEDING**, Page 11A



Houston's Arian Foster greets fans after the Texans clinched their second straight playoff berth with a win over the Tennessee Titans last week. The Texans will face the new England Patriots on Monday.

AP photo

Cowboys, Bengals to meet in pivotal game

JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

CINCINNATI — A lot of Andy Dalton's friends and family are flying in for a game that has big interest back in his home state.

"I guess being from Texas, everybody's excited about this one," said the Bengals quarterback, who grew up in suburban Houston.

They're headed this way for a game that's pivotal to both teams' playoff chances.

The Cowboys (6-6) have gotten into the NFC wild card race by winning three of their last four games. The Bengals (7-5) have run off four straight wins to get in position for an AFC wild card and, perhaps, a division title. Neither can afford a loss at this stage.

"It's kind of a prelude to the playoffs," Bengals left tackle Andrew Whitworth said. "Teams are going to turn it on and try

their best to get into the (postseason) show, so you're going to get everybody's best every week."

A sign of the game's importance: Paul Brown Stadium will be sold out for the first time in the last three home games. A lot of those fans will be cheering for the Cowboys, who have made it exciting lately by putting up a lot of points. Dallas has scored 38, 23, 38 and 38 points in the last four games.

The Cowboys are one of four teams in the NFC tied at 6-6, one game behind Seattle for the last wild-card spot. Like the Bengals, the Cowboys started 3-5 and have recovered by putting together their best stretch of the season. They're one game behind the New York Giants for the NFC East lead, tied with Washington for second place.

The Cowboys finish the season at Washington.

"When you think about the

East, it's always been down to the wire," linebacker DeMarcus Ware said.

"It's always been close. It's a brutal NFC East, grind 'em conference, division. It's going to come down to the wire.

"We just need to keep playing well, think about a game at a time and eventually hoping we get to the end."

That's the same approach the Bengals have taken while digging out of their 3-5 start. One difference: Cincinnati's defense has been much better over that span. The Bengals have scored 31, 28, 34 and 20 points during their four wins while holding opponents to 13 points or less.

As a result, Cincinnati is tied with Pittsburgh for the final wild card spot, although the Steelers won their first game this season. Both trail Baltimore by two games in the AFC North with

See **COWBOYS**, Page 11A

Parker leads Spurs past Rockets 114-92

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — James Harden received a familiar welcome to San Antonio, but little else resembled his previous trip to the River City.

Tony Parker had 17 points and seven assists, and the San Antonio Spurs never trailed in a 114-92 victory over the Houston Rockets on Friday night.

The Spurs had six players score in double figures while matching their season high with 33 assists. San Antonio (16-4) led by as many as 33 points and never by less than 21 in the final quarter.

"They're a very good team," Harden said,

"especially at home. They did a good job at moving the ball and we knew they were going to pass the ball. It was just a matter of us locking down and trying to stay on one page defensively."

It was Harden's first game in San Antonio since helping the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Spurs last season in the Western Conference finals. Harden was traded by the Thunder to the Rockets before the start of this season.

San Antonio fans certainly remembered Harden, who was

See **SPURS**, Page 11A

Harbaugh chose to coach San Fran over Dolphins

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Two years ago, both the Miami Dolphins and San Francisco 49ers wooed Jim Harbaugh to be their next coach.

The Niners won that courting competition and landed their high-profile man, luring him away from nearby Stanford and giving him a \$25 million, five-year contract. And Harbaugh delivered immediately by taking his new team to the NFC championship game and oh-so-close to a Super Bowl as a rookie NFL coach.

Now, he has his 49ers (8-3-1) poised for another postseason run next month, with Miami (5-7) next up on the schedule come Sunday at Candlestick Park.

As rarely as these teams see each other being on opposite coasts and playing in different conferences, they certainly have pursued some of the same faces — most notably, of course, being Harbaugh.

Then, last spring, 49ers quarterback Alex Smith flew to South Florida for a visit with the Dolphins during a time when San Francisco's brass explored the possibility of signing Peyton Manning.

Manning wound up in Denver, Smith stayed

put on a new three-year deal, while Miami drafted Ryan Tannehill. Smith has since lost his starting job to Colin Kaepernick after suffering a concussion against the Rams on Nov. 11.

Dolphins coach Joe Philbin didn't want to get into the details regarding how far talks went with Smith before he ultimately re-signed with San Francisco.

"We had a great visit and I'll leave it at that," Philbin said. "Any relationship takes two sides to tango and I think you should certainly ask him about that, but I have nothing but good things to say about him. I really enjoyed our visit."

Miami's immediate future — and long-term success, too — is riding on Tannehill's ability to get a stagnant offense going down the stretch for a Dolphins team determined to finish strong and avoid a fourth consecutive losing season after overhauling the operation heading into 2012.

"You can't win games consistently only scoring 19 points," Tannehill said. "That's a big focus of ours, to find a way to get more points on the board whatever way it is. We have to find a

way." Both teams boast stingy, opportunistic defenses and mobile young quarterbacks still learning the ups and downs of the NFL through trial by fire.

The Dolphins' defense hopes to do its share of pressuring the quarterback, too.

"I'm always the spy. Every play I'm a spy," Dolphins defensive end Cameron Wake said. "That's my job title. Wherever the quarterback is, you've got to get there."

These Dolphins can relate to the 49ers' mistakes. They gave away 17 points because of a botched punt, roughing-the-punter penalty and a — then had a touchdown taken away for another penalty.

Yes, Miami is just as eager for a fresh start after a 23-16 home loss to New England for its fourth defeat in the last five games.

This one had a little extra sting watching Brady and Co. clinch the AFC East title on Miami's home field.

The 49ers, clinging to the No. 2 seed in the NFC playoff picture behind 11-1 Atlanta, realize they can't afford any slip ups the rest of the way.

playing very well regardless of where.

The Patriots lead the NFL with 35.8 points and 426.3 yards per game. Tom Brady went five straight games without throwing an interception before Miami broke that streak in the Patriots' 23-16 win last Sunday.

Wes Welker leads the NFL with 92 receptions and with eight catches can become the first player with five seasons of 100 receptions.

The Patriots have one of the best running games in Brady's 12 seasons as their starter, led by Stevan Ridley's 1,010 yards, seventh in the NFL.

The no-huddle offense, something Brady excels at to keep the opponent from resting and making substitutions, puts added pressure on the defense.

So the Texans prepare for it.

"That's something we do all the time, regardless of who we're playing. We pick up the tempo of our practice both offensively and defensively and try to work as if we're working on a much shorter clock all the time," Kubiak said. "They obviously play at a tremendous pace and you better be ready to get your calls in and get ready to go."

But the Patriots haven't faced a defense as tough as Houston's. The Texans are fifth in the league in sacks per pass play, led by J.J. Watt's AFC-best 16 1-2 overall.

"They certainly get after the football. They can rush the quarterback. They do a great job stopping the run," Brady said. "They get a lot of balls batted down at the line of scrimmage, interceptions, fumbles. They've won a lot of close games. They've won overtime games.

They've come from behind.

"I think our guys understand the challenge and we have to play our best game."

Houston is tied for fifth with 26 takeaways. New England is second with 33 and leads the NFL with a plus-24 turnover differential.

But the Texans have committed only 12 turnovers, including a league-low two fumbles.

With Matt Schaub throwing, AFC rushing leader Arian Foster running and Andre Johnson catching, the Patriots' defense has plenty to handle.

"They have a bunch of playmakers," defensive tackle Vince Wilfork said. "It shows every week."

So does the Patriots' ability to force turnovers. They've even returned two interceptions and two fumbles for touchdowns in their past three games.

"They're very aware of the football and trying to strip it," Schaub said, "whether it be the runners or receivers with the ball or the quarterback in the pocket."

The Texans do that, too, just another of the similarities between two of the NFL's best teams.

"They never get too high, never get too low," Wilfork said. "They stay poised. That's a lot of (what coach Bill Belichick) tries to teach us around here, just to stay poised when things are not going well; things are going well, just keep an even keel."

Even when the game could help determine home-field advantage in the playoffs.

"Every game is big here coming down the stretch," Kubiak said. "We're in position, just like the Patriots are, to kind of control our own destiny."

SPURS

Continued from Page 10A

booed heartily during pregame introductions and every time he shot a free throw.

While Harden had 29 points and five assists to lead Houston, he couldn't help the Rockets walk away with a win against the well-balanced Spurs.

Tiago Splitter added 15 points and Gary Neal, Manu Ginobili, Patty Mills and Tim Duncan each scored 12. Duncan also had a game-high 12 rebounds. Every active San Antonio player scored and played at

least 8 minutes.

"We weren't as consistent as we'd like to be, but we had a really good pace offensively and I got to play a lot of guys," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

Parker keyed a quick start, scoring eight points and picking up two assists as San Antonio took a 10-point lead in the first 5 minutes.

Jeremy Lin had difficulty keeping up with Parker, who raced by him for three layups in scoring eight of the Spurs' first 10 points. Parker also made a pair of free throws during the run after being fouled by Lin on a layup

attempt.

"You're not really going to take away everything just because something's got to give," Lin said. "They move the ball well. The speed in which they move their offense and the speed in which they make decisions makes it really hard (to defend)."

Lin finished with four points, four assists and two turnovers.

Harden kept the Rockets in contention early, scoring 13 points in the first quarter after being shut out in the opening 4 minutes. His 3-pointer pulled Houston to 14-13, but the Rockets never tied it.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 10A

four to play. Cincinnati ends the season at Pittsburgh and home against the Ravens.

"We've got to take care of our business and let everything else fall into place, but I think there's a chance," Dalton said. "Baltimore's in control of their destiny too. We'll see."

The defense has given up only one touchdown in the last three games and leads the NFL with 39 sacks. End Carlos Dunlap was the AFC's defensive player of the week for getting five tackles, two sacks and forcing two fumbles in a 20-13 win at San Diego. Tackle Geno Atkins leads all NFL interior linemen with 9½ sacks. End Michael Johnson has eight sacks.

"Everybody is getting to the quarterback," Dunlap said. "This week fortunately it was me. We're all just working in tandem. I feel like that's starting to pick up this season. We didn't start out the season the way we've wanted, but we've gotten better each week."

The Cowboys' biggest concern is stopping Cincinnati's running game. BenJarvus Green-Ellis has run for more than 100 yards in each

of the last three, and will be trying to become the first Bengal to do it four games in a row since Paul Robinson in Cincinnati's inaugural season of 1968.

The Bengals signed Green-Ellis as a free agent from New England to replace Cedric Benson. The running game struggled in the first half of the season, but has finally found its stride.

"Physically the line is good up front, but he just has a good feel for running," Cowboys coach Jason Garrett said. "I think anybody who's followed his career when he was in New England, he just seemed to make a lot of yards. He's certainly doing that in Cincinnati."

The Bengals have three links to the Cowboys, providing some interesting subplots. Defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer was the coordinator in Dallas from 2000-06. Cornerback Terence Newman played there from 2003-11 before being released. Cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones was traded to the Cowboys from Tennessee in 2008 and got waived in 2009.

Given the stakes, this one is more than personal.

"I want the game more because we need it," Jones said. "I don't want Dallas to win any game. I'm not a Dallas fan. I'm not cheering for no one. That's just how it is."

SEEDING

Continued from Page 10A

important (but) we also have to realize this game doesn't decide anything" about the playoffs, Patriots safety Devin McCourty said. "A lot can happen (before) then. Whoever wins this game doesn't guarantee anything later in the season."

Houston (11-1) has clinched a playoff berth and can take the AFC South with a win and a loss or tie by Indianapolis (8-4), or with a tie and an Indianapolis loss. Two of the Texans' last three games are against the Colts.

New England (9-3) locked up first place in the AFC East last Sunday. The top two seeded teams will get a week off to rest and prepare for their first postseason game before their own fans.

But the value of playing at home is debatable: Over the past five seasons, teams are 29-21 at home in the postseason.

The Patriots lost a divisional round game at home two seasons ago to the New York Jets, but are unbeaten in Gillette Stadium in December for nearly 10 years — a string of 19 wins since a 30-17 loss on Dec. 22, 2002 to the Jets.

But the Texans are the only team without a road loss this season, going 6-0.

"I've been with young teams that they go on the road and here comes the noise. All of a sudden, boy, you panic," Houston coach Gary Kubiak said. "This group, it doesn't matter. They'll go play anywhere. They know. I've preached to them for a period of time. It's about how you play. It's not where you play."

Both teams have been



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MLB average salary up 3.8 percent to \$3.2 million

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Baseball's average salary increased 3.8 percent this year to a record \$3.2 million.

According to final figures released Friday by the Major League Baseball Players Association, the rise was the steepest since 2007. The boost was helped by an increase in the minimum salary from \$414,000 to \$480,000.

The New York Yankees had the highest average for the 14th consecutive season at \$6.88 million, rising after consecutive declines from a peak of \$7.66 million when they won the World Series in 2009.

The Los Angeles Dodg-

ers boosted their average from 13th to second at \$5.55 million, followed by the Los Angeles Angels (\$5.48 million) and AL champion Detroit (\$4.95 million). Texas went up from 15th to fifth at \$4.89 million.

At \$684,940, Houston had the lowest average since the 2006 Florida Marlins at \$594,722.

The Boston Red Sox and Cubs had their lowest averages since at least 2000. Boston dropped from third to 12th at \$3.3 million and the Cubs seventh to 23rd at \$2.1 million.

World Series champion San Francisco remained eighth, averaging \$4.07 million. AL West champion Oakland was 28th at \$1.79 million.

Kansas City rose from last in 2011 to 26th at \$2.04 million, and Pittsburgh went up from 27th to 19th at \$2.47 million.

The Marlins increased

from 19th to 10th after adding free agents Jose Reyes, Mark Buehrle and Heath Bell but have traded them in the team's latest payroll slashes and will drop next year.

Among regulars at positions, first basemen took over from designated hitters as the highest average at \$8.6 million, followed by DHs at \$8.1 million. Third base was next at \$7.1 million, followed by starting pitchers at \$6.1 million, second basemen \$4.9 million, outfielders \$4.6 million, shortstops \$4.2 million, catchers \$3.4 million and relief pitchers \$1.8 million.

Figures are based on Aug. 31 rosters and disabled lists, with 944 players averaging \$3,213,479.

Major League Baseball has not yet computed its final averages, which usually differ slightly because of methods of calculation.



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FAMILY FEATURES

Whether you're looking to fill the family calendar with fun holiday activities or need a few ideas to make the season more meaningful, this guide to family holiday fun has you covered.

"Whether it's finding a great gingerbread cookie recipe and biting one arm off each one (like we do), or just making cards for the family, it's lovely to give your kids something uniquely their own to look forward to each year," said Liz Gumbinner of Cool Mom Picks.

Here are some A to Z ideas to get you started today:

A

- Start a calendar to build anticipation for all holiday celebrations. You can buy one or make one, and it can be as simple or as fancy as you like.
- Make angels — snow angels, construction paper angels, angel ornaments or even angel food cake.

B

- Make bird feeders out of empty milk jugs or small cardboard tubes rolled in peanut butter and birdseed.
- Host a book exchange with friends, where everyone trades books they own and have already read.

C

- Gather some friends and go caroling around the neighborhood or at a retirement center.
- Cook something new. You can find plenty of new dishes with Bing, which lets you quickly find full recipes and reviews right on the search page; and that lets you spend less time searching and more time cooking up some delicious fun with the whole family.

D

- Have a family dance party. Turn up the tunes or pop in the dance video game and cut loose together.
- Drive around town and take in the holiday lights and sights. Plan your route ahead of time, and end the trip with a special treat like hot cider at your favorite spot.

E

- "Elf" your neighbors. Put together small treat bags with gift tags that say "You've Been Elfed!" Then leave them as a secret surprise in their mailboxes or hanging from the front door.

F

- Make time for friends. The kids, especially teens, will appreciate getting to hang out with their buddies. If you're hosting, make sure you have plenty of fun snack foods.

G

- Have some fun with family game nights. Let everyone take turns picking their favorite board games, card games and video games to play together.
- Spice up the holidays with gingerbread. You can bake gingerbread cookies or gingerbread cake. Try your



Photos courtesy of Getty Images

the A to Z Family Guide to the Holidays



hand at building a gingerbread house — either with a kit or with graham crackers and frosting.

H

- Keep things cozy with hot chocolate. Set up a hot chocolate station with different flavors such as mint, caramel or raspberry, flavored marshmallows, and fun extras like chocolate sprinkles or cinnamon stir sticks.
- Take part in local holiday happenings. Go to a holiday concert; be a part of the local holiday tree lighting ceremony; visit Santa; or go to a seasonal sporting event. It's easy to find something to put you in the holiday spirit when you search with Bing, which gives you performance times, ticketing information, maps and more right within the search page.

I

- Go ice skating at a local rink. You can rent skates and take a spin on the ice together.

J

- Jingle some bells. Hang bells on your front door; make a video of the littlest ones singing Jingle Bells or Jingle Bell Rock. And don't forget the jingling Salvation Army bells. Not only can you donate, but many scout troops and church groups volunteer to ring those bells and collect donations, which is a great way for kids to help a good cause.

K

- Let the kids plan a Kids' Night In. They get to pick the menu and the activities, and be in charge of making the fun happen.
- Practice random acts of kindness. Encourage everyone to do something kind for someone else — it could be clearing snow off the sidewalk for a neighbor, doing a family member's chore for them, or buying a soda for the person behind you in line.

L

- "Learn about the holiday celebrations of other cultures," suggests Liz. "Kids love all kinds of celebrations, and it can be magical to find out how other children around the world spend their holiday time."

M

- Make gifts to give friends, neighbors, teachers or coaches. You can make ornaments, baked goods, photo books, candles or pet treats.
- Plan holiday movie nights so you can enjoy the classics. From the funny to the touching, there are lots of ways to enjoy the silver screen's many tributes to the season.

N

- Experience The Nutcracker ballet. If you can't go to a live performance, try a recorded version on DVD or via Netflix or Hulu.

O

- Enjoy the great outdoors, even if it's cold. Play in the back yard, go to the park, ride your bikes, build a snowman, have a snowball fight, play flag football, soccer or ring-around-the-rosies.

P

- Declare a "Pajama Day" and let everyone hang out in pjs and slippers, and serve breakfast for dinner.

Q

- Plan quiet time amid all the hustle and bustle of the season. Whether it's for naps, reading, unplugged time from all electronics, or just a day of not going anywhere, it's important to take time to recharge.

R

- If you leave cookies and milk for Santa, don't forget his reindeer. Carrots or homemade reindeer chow will give them energy for their long night's journey.
- Try a restaurant you've never been to before. If you're watching your budget, go at lunch time, when you can try smaller, lunch-size portions for less money.

S

- Keep track of Santa's journey around the world. "If you're a Santa fan," says Liz, "use resources like the NORAD Santa Tracker powered by Bing, available at NoradSanta.org, to follow his trip throughout the big day."

T

- Trim the tree together. Don't worry about the tree looking magazine perfect — the point is to have fun, and the results will be a tree you can all be proud of.

U

- Let everyone unwrap one gift that will help get them in the holiday spirit. It could be a milk and cookie plate set for Santa, new holiday pjs or socks, or a holiday-themed book or CD.

V

- Volunteer to help those in need. Some families like to serve meals in soup kitchens, sort clothing or food donations, or collect and pack items for shelters or soldiers.
- Have a video game marathon with games the whole family can play.

W

- Take a walk around the neighborhood. Make it a scavenger hunt and look for certain holiday decorations, animals, cars and parts of nature.

X

- X marks the spot. Plan a treasure hunt in and around the house. Write clues that lead players from one place to the next until they find a special, hidden gift.

Y

- Have some fun with yarn. Learn how to finger knit or crochet. Or make holiday decorations and crafts with yarn.

Z

- Take a holiday trip to the zoo. Many zoos have special holiday displays and programs that let you celebrate the season wild-style.

You can search for more family fun for the holidays at www.bing.com.

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Wedding

Schaffner-Witte

Ambrie Megan Schaffner and Richard Justin Witte were united in holy matrimony May 19, 2012, at 6 p.m. at The Courtyard in Big Spring, Texas.

The ceremony was officiated by Scott Prather of Waco, Texas, formally of Big Spring.

The bride was escorted by her father and given away by her parents, Shane and Cynthia Schaffner of Big Spring. The bride's grandparents are Bill and Corene Schaffner of Big Spring, Ron and Diane Mason of Odessa and Linda Lindell and the late Paul Lindell.

The groom is the son of Richard and Diana Witte of Odessa. He is the grandson of Richard and the late Mary Witte of Odessa and the late Olivia Howard of Odessa.

The bride wore a form

fitted, strapless, Vera Wang ivory taffeta mermaid gown with pleated layers at the knee, a bubble hem, a gross grain sash and a chapel length train. Hand-made crocheted fingerless gloves and a vintage birdcage veil — a gift from her maternal grandparents — complimented her attire.

Her accessories included her great-grandmother's pearls and a garter made from her mothers wedding dress. Her bouquet was an original creation by Alley Kat Designs, hand-tied with white peonies, maize rauniculas and artichokes.

The bride's wedding band was a one-off design by the Karat Patch. The bride's colors were maize, peacock blue and burlap complimenting the vintage venue.

Matron of honor was Lauren Prather of Waco

and Caitlin Carlisle of Lubbock was bridesmaid. They wore J. Crew fawn colored taffeta dresses of their choice.

The best man was Jordan Witte of Odessa and Josh Witte was groomsman.

Zach Angel and Braden Schaffner, brothers of the bride, served as ushers.

Summer Angel, sister-in-law of the bride, and Cheri Lindell, aunt of the bride, served during the reception.

Alex Lindell, uncle of the bride, created a whimsical, eclectic pre-wedding playlist for the guests' enjoyment.

A reception followed the ceremony, complete with dinner, dancing and a photo booth. The couple exited while surrounded by lit sparklers to a chauffeured convertible driven by the bride's brother.



Richard Justin and Ambrie Megan Witte

Ambrie graduated from Big Spring High School in 2009, University of Texas at the Permian Basin in 2011 and is currently in Social Work Graduate studies

at University of Texas-Arlington.

Justin graduated from Odessa Permian High School in 2001 and Odessa College in 2008. He is employed with

Monticello Diagnostic Imaging Center in Fort Worth.

After a honeymoon in Costa Rica, the couple made their home in Arlington, Texas.

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Menus

Big Spring Senior Center

• Monday — oven-fried chicken, cream gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, pears, carrot and celery sticks, rolls and milk.

• Tuesday — hamburger steak with gravy, rice pilaf, seasoned spinach, lemon pudding, rolls, V-8 juice and milk.

• Wednesday — beef stew, cornbread, cottage cheese salad, pineapple tidbits, angel cake and milk.

• Thursday — sliced ham, pinto beans, sea-

soned greens, biscuit, sliced onion and tomato, ambrosia and milk.

• Friday — turkey and dressing, green beans, Waldorf salad, pumpkin pie, rolls and milk.

Big Spring ISD

• Monday — Breakfast: apple jacks, assorted fruit juice and milk; Lunch: nacho grande, border beans, fruit cocktail, salsa, lettuce/tomato topping and milk.

• Tuesday — Breakfast: sausage roll, assorted fruit juice and milk; Lunch: steak fingers, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, apricots, roll and milk.

• Wednesday — Breakfast: baked cheese sticks, assorted fruit juice and milk; Lunch: chicken nuggets, mac and cheese, carrots, celery sticks, pears, orange smiles, ranch and milk.

• Thursday — Breakfast: blueberry waffle, assorted fruit juice and milk; Lunch: chicken enchiladas, salad, ranch, green beans, applesauce, grapes and milk.

• Friday — Breakfast: pancake on a stick, assorted fruit juice and milk; Lunch: chicken patty, lettuce, tomato, pickles,

broccoli, ranch, strawberries and bananas and milk.

Forsan ISD Breakfast

• Monday — cinnamon roll, cereal, juice and milk.

• Tuesday — scrambled eggs, cereal, juice and milk.

• Wednesday — biscuit and sausage, cereal, juice and milk.

• Thursday — pancake wrap, cereal, juice and milk.

• Friday — cereal, toast, juice and milk.

Elementary/Junior High Lunch

• Monday — toasted turkey ham and cheese sandwich, broccoli bites with ranch dressing, garden salad with ranch dressing, orange smiles, baked potato chips and milk.

• Tuesday — crispy tacos, salsa, garden salad with ranch dressing, charro beans, cinnamon applesauce and milk.

• Wednesday — chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrot coins, roll, strawberries and bananas, fresh fruit, fruit juice, ketchup and milk.

• Thursday — turkey

and cheese wrap, sweet potato rounds, cucumber dippers and milk.

• Friday — spaghetti and meatballs, garden salad with ranch dressing, savory green beans, sliced peaches and milk.

High School lunch

• Monday — toasted turkey, ham and cheese sandwich, broccoli bites with ranch dressing, garden salad with ranch dressing, orange smiles, baked potato chips, fresh fruit, fruit juice and milk.

• Tuesday — crispy tacos, charro beans, spanish rice, garden salad with ranch dressing, cinnamon applesauce, salsa, fresh fruit, fruit juice and milk.

• Wednesday — chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrot coins, roll, strawberries and bananas, fresh fruit, fruit juice, ketchup and milk.

• Thursday — turkey and cheese wrap, sweet potato rounds, cucumber dippers with ranch dressing, seasonal fruit, chocolate chip cookie, fruit juice and milk.

• Friday — spaghetti and meatballs, garden salad with ranch dressing, breadstick, savory green beans, juice and milk.



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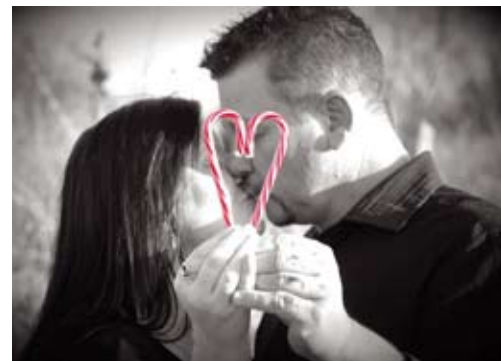
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Angela Pace

Bride Elect Of

Blake Lance



Wedding: December 15

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

Included Below Are Our Other Registries:

- ♥ Jordan Chesworth & Ricky Crawford
- ♥ Katie Singleton & Garrett Fulton
- ♥ Angela Pace & Blake Lance
- ♥ Kayla Smith & Bradan Ditchey
- ♥ Jill Johansen & Christopher Turner

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Courtesy photo

Scenic Mountain Medical Center presented a donation of more than \$30,000 to the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County. The money, raised from various events and employee contributions, will benefit the 16 supported agencies for the 2013 campaign.

Energy Watch



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

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



As always, Santa is going to find out who has been naughty and nice before he visits this holiday season. But given the record-breaking retail sales over the “Black Friday” weekend, even those who haven’t been so nice this year stand to see some great gifts under the tree when they wake up on Christmas morning.

Despite the current high rate of unemployment and under-employment, Americans hit the stores with gusto and spent more than \$52 billion during the Thanksgiving weekend. Part of that total also included record Internet sales.

In fact, according to the National Retail Federation, 226 million shoppers spent an average of nearly \$400 each over the four-day weekend period. We thought that was a misprint when the data was first published.

Clearly, American consumers were ready to open their wallets and spend some money, putting much of the purchases on credit cards that will be paid back over time. But look at some of the recent economic indicators: Consumer confidence is at a multi-year high and the housing market appears to have bottomed, as prices are going up modestly in many parts of the country.

In addition, gasoline prices have fallen dramatically in the past few months, which puts more cash into consumers’ pockets to spend on discretionary items. Finally, vehicle sales have continued to be a bright spot, as the average age of a car on the road in the U.S. is more ten years old and more and more cars need to be replaced.

Those factors have combined to help kick this holiday shopping season off to a great start. But after a record-breaking opening weekend, will the good times last? And how will the stock market react to a more free-spending consumer?

Is the stock market even paying attention to consumers right now, or are investors more focused on the “fiscal cliff” discussions and the resulting headlines coming out of Washington? All of these are legitimate questions that will be answered in the next few weeks.

Right now, it seems investors who would normally be paying attention to every scrap of data concerning holiday spending and retail sales results are sitting back and waiting for the next impromptu press statement by the Senate majority leader or the Speaker of the House.

The ebb and flow of the market over the next few weeks or even the next month or two will likely be determined by what our elected officials do – or don’t do – to address the fiscal cliff.

Our advice is to be jolly this holiday season and appreciate the gifts that have been bestowed on us all.

They include the gift of a market opportunity to buy stocks at reasonable valuations when the major indices have pulled back from their highs. ‘Tis the season to put at least a portion of sideline cash to work.

Past Performance is no guarantee of future results. This article was produced on Nov. 28, 2012 by Scott Wren, Wells Fargo Advisors Senior Equity Strategist, and provided courtesy of Bhupen Agrawal, Managing Director - Branch Manager of Wells Fargo Advisors’ Midland office, at (432) 684-7335. The material has been prepared or is distributed solely for informational purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy or sell any security, or instrumental to participate in any trading strategy.

Circle I Bank Group announces deal to purchase Western Bank

Special to the Herald

Circle I Bank Group Inc. today announced that a definitive agreement to acquire Western Bancshares Inc. and its subsidiary, Western Bank of Coahoma, Texas, has been approved by Western Bancshares’ shareholders and bank regulatory authorities.

The transaction is expected to close by the end of the year.

Western Bank currently operates branches in Lubbock, Big Spring, Abilene, Coahoma, Lorraine and Brownwood, Texas, and after the acquisition, the bank will continue to operate under the name of Western Bank at all existing locations.

“We believe that Western Bank is a great fit, and we look forward to working ... to continue to provide exceptional service to Western Bank’s customers.”

John S. Irwin
Circle I chairman

As of Sept. 30, 2012, Western Bank had total assets of \$184 million.

Circle I is a newly formed bank holding company that will own Western Bank as a wholly owned subsidiary.

The shareholders of Circle I include the Irwin family, who own and operate the Gruver State Bank in Gruver, Texas.

“Our family has been involved in commu-

nity banking for generations,” said John S. Irwin, chairman of Gruver State Bank and Circle I. “We have been looking for expansion opportunities that match the community banking philosophy and culture we have at Gruver State Bank.

“We believe that Western Bank is a great fit, and we look forward to working with Western Bank President and

CEO Jim Richmond and his team to continue to provide exceptional service to Western Bank’s customers,” added Irwin.

“In making this decision, we wanted to be certain that Western Bank’s long-standing commitment to the communities and customers we have served over the years is continued,” Richmond said.

“The Circle I group shares our mission and this transaction will enhance Western Bank’s ability to serve our customers. I’m excited about the future of Western Bank.”

Richmond will continue as President and CEO of Western Bank after the acquisition.

Remodeling to begin at SNB

Special to the Herald

State National Bank has announced plans for a renovation and remodel of the first floor of its main office located at 901 Main St. in Big Spring. The project, which also includes construction of a new front entrance, is planned to begin in January and is expected to be completed by mid-summer 2013.

State National Bank was chartered in 1909 and was originally located at 204 Main St. William B. Currie, one of the founding directors of the bank, later became president of the bank before relinquishing the reins to T.S. Currie.

T.S. Currie’s son, Robert W. Currie, succeeded his father as president from 1951 until 1974.

John Currie then served as president from 1974 until 1988. Jim R. Purcell took over as president and CEO at that time and served in that capacity until 2012, when he was named chairman of the board and CEO and Richard C. Steel was named president.

The Bank has always been located on Main Street, although at different locations. SNB was located at 204 Main St. from 1909 until 1934, when it moved to 124 Main St. and operated there until May 1979, when it moved to its current location.

During renovation, bank customers will see many changes, officials said.

“Some of the staff will be temporarily relocated to other areas during construction, so if you notice your favorite bank rep-

resentative has been displaced, please rest assured that he or she has merely been briefly relocated and is still there to serve you,” Senior Vice President Franklin Weber said in a statement.

This is a multi-phase construction project, which will occur during regular business hours and after hours, whenever possible.

“Management will strive for minimal disruption in meeting the needs of its customers,” Weber said. “The end result will be an updated banking facility, which will provide more convenience for bank customers.

“State National Bank wishes to thank the community in advance for their patience and understanding during this process,” he added.

Toy safety: Important information for Santa’s helpers

Better Business Bureau

Back in the day, lawn darts were the height of toy fashion. Now, parents gasp at the idea of giving their children a flying projectile with a sharp metal point. Safety has become paramount to both toy manufacturers and law makers.

A report recently released by the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated there were 193,200 toy-related injuries to children younger than 15 years of age in 2011. Of those estimated injuries, approximately 44 percent were

categorized as lacerations, contusions or abrasions of some kind. When it comes to toy-related injuries, the head and face area is the most commonly affected area of the body.

If your shopping list includes the names of a few good boys or girls, Better Business Bureau offers the following advice to ensure that the toys you give are safe:

Find out which toys have been recalled. Visit the Consumer Product Safety Commission’s website at www.recalls.gov. If the toy or product has been recalled, check

the guidelines for what to do next.

Make sure the toy is age-appropriate. Toy safety isn’t only about avoiding recalled products; you also need to make sure you’re buying appropriate toys for the age of the child. Read and follow the age recommendation listed on the package or toy.

Read labels. Look for age recommendations, such as “Not recommended for children under 3,” and for other safety labels including “Flame retardant” or “Flame resistant” on fabric products.

Be cautious of older toys or

hand-me-downs. While buying a gently used toy might be cost effective, they may not meet current safety standards and could be too worn from play that they break and become hazardous.

Be careful when shopping online.

Internet toy vendors may not be as vigilant as brick and mortar stores about pulling recalled products off the shelf or flagging bar codes.

Besides knowing how to purchase toys that are safe, it’s important to be aware of safety hazards once the toys have been opened. Once toys

are opened, CPSC suggests you:

Immediately discard plastic wrapping or other toy packaging before they become dangerous play things.

Keep toys appropriate for older children away from younger siblings.

Supervise all battery charging. Chargers and adapters can pose thermal burn hazards to young children. Pay attention to instructions and warnings on battery chargers.

Some chargers lack any mechanism to prevent over-charging.

Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:
Sherri Monique Aldridge, 1507 E. Sixth St., Big Spring
Carol J. Anderson, PO Box 1143, Stanton
Patricia Ann Bacon, 5700 Cedar Rd. Apt. 2, Big Spring
Amanda Nicole Bair, 1103 E. 15th St., Big Spring
Charles Howard Baker, 118 Shiloh, Victoria
Jessica Lynn Banks, CR 1200, Lubbock
Johnny Barraza, 429 Westover, Big Spring
Tommy Billalba Jr., 3614 Hamilton, Big Spring
Jennifer Leigh Black, 1405 E. Barton, Temple
William Riley Bounds, 1818 Corsicana, Dallas
Joe Ray Brown, 902 Hickory, Abilene
Vanessa Calderon, 1504 Kentucky, Big Spring
Emily Denise Carrillo, 2610 Albrook, Big Spring
Donald Cervantes, 1211 Lloyd, Big Spring
Trystan Taelor Cevallos, 3912 E. Hwy. 350, Big Spring
Joshua Adam Cisneros, 802 Culp, Coahoma
Melissa Cisneros, 1810 S. Benton, Big Spring
Christoval Corrales, 1105 N. Nolan, Big Spring
Melissa Crawford, 1207 Mulberry, Big Spring
Jennifer R. Crow, 1714 Fort Worth, Brownwood
Montie Dee Daniels, 2606 Chanute, Big Spring
Julie E. Davis, 5202 Bangor Ave. Apt. K301, Lubbock
Stefan Deal, 102 Casie Ln. Apt. 1, Fort Worth
Manuel Delosrios, 707 Lorilla, Big Spring
Teana Demeny-Roberts, 5601 N. Service Rd., Big Spring
Delores Dohnalik, 1500 Stones Throw, Horseshoe Bay
Michael Angelo Dorado, 2202 William Rd., Big Spring
Josephy James Eckert, 1123 Newhaven Trail, Pearland
Maria Luisa Elizondo, 603 S. Second, Meadow

Kristi L. Elliot, 603 E. 12th St., Big Spring
Alexandria Nicole Escanuela, 2521 Chanute, Big Spring
Brittany Vanessa Escanuela, 302 Circle, Big Spring
John Randall Evatt, 4301 W. 49th St. Apt. 329, Amarillo
Kristen Falcon, 2606 Fairchild, Big Spring
Amy Michelle Fields, 102 N. Fifth St., Coahoma
Sharlamarr Frink, 3723 Monclair, Odessa
Joey Lee Garcia, 3102 Ave. C, Snyder
Noel Garcia II, 1604 Robin, Big Spring
Pedro Garcia, 806 Johnson, Big Spring
Joe Nick Garfias Jr., of 1309 Runnels, Big Spring
Kay Lynn Garrett, 2609 Wasson Rd. Apt. 45, Big Spring
Rosa M. George, 509 W. Second, Stanton
Joseph Blake Gist, 3500 Cedar Run, Abilene
Nicholas Gonzales, 903 Creighton, Big Spring
Roxanne Deanda Gonzales, 539 Westover Apt. 211, Big Spring
Eunice Torres Gonzalez, 7311 Westmoor, Odessa
Whitney Marquez Gray, 2934 Old Anson Rd., Abilene
Robert Earl Green II, 2512 Fairchild, Big Spring
Kimberly Hargrove, PO Box 1985, Big Spring
Tracy Lenn Haynie, 503 Kylie Lane, Wylie
Bryan David Hernandez, 1500 Kentucky Way, Big Spring
Ruby G. Hernandez, 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 48, Big Spring
Ashley Rae Hodge, 3214 Drexel, Big Spring
Danny Holt, 125 Farney Rd., Lorena
April M. Horton, 1705 Charles, Portsmouth, Ohio
Bradley Ryan Horton, 601 Linda Lane, Big Spring
Dana Michelle Hudgins, P.O. Box 837, Coahoma
Ashley Nicole Islas, 1104 Wood, Big Spring
Brian Ivanchan, 1208 Mulberry, Big Spring
Mandy Diane Jenkins,

8707 E. Highway 350, Big Spring
Lonnie Malcolm Johnson, 1211 Ridgeroad, Big Spring
Christopher Shawn Jones, 112 McDonald Rd., Big Spring
Donald Jones, 3718 Ave. V, Snyder
Jason Earnest Key, 900 Abrams, Big Spring
Albert Leal, 2522 Albrook, Big Spring
Robert Lee Lopez, 503 E. 18th, Big Spring
Jenny Marie Hamilton Lyon, 4201 W. Highway 80 Apt. 6, Big Spring
Aaron Christopher Mack, 2134 Bonham, Odessa
James Elijah Marlow, 2001 Runnels, Big Spring
Daniel Marujo, 511 N. Concho, Roby
Todd Vincent Martin, 409 Woodcrest, Midland
Joe Martinez, 2525 Fairchild, Big Spring
Manuel Martinez Jr., 702 NE Iowa, Lamesa
Fidel M. Martinez, 705 N.W. Eighth St., Big Spring
Ronnie Trevino Martinez, 1109 E. 11th place, Big Spring
Norman James McNeese, 1098 LCR 317, Colorado City
Betty Jane McWilliams, 2511 Hunter, Big Spring
Cory James Michalewicz, 1106 Briscoe Cove, Hutto
Eddie Glen Mills, 5142 PDQ Rd., Colorado City
Nicholas Craig Mills, 3225 Cornell, Big Spring
Chelsea Kristyne Millspaugh, 7403 N. Service Road, Big Spring
Alicia Morales, 3307 E. 11th Place, Big Spring
Jose Munoz, 3804 Connally, Big Spring
Melissa Nieto, 615 Tulane, Big Spring
John Randall O'Harrow, 107 S. Main, Big Spring
Nancy Ortega, 1111 E. 14th, Big Spring
James Michael Perez, 626 Tulane, Big Spring
Fred Allen Perry, 1425 E. Sixth Apt. 107, Big Spring
Taylor James Perry, 2105 Sydney Baker Apt. 228, Kerrville
Joshua Plaia, 1401 E.

18th, Big Spring
Jarum Renee Pryor, 802 N. Plaza, Big Lake
Randy Randolph, 2514 Albrook, Big Spring
Michael Neal Roberts, 538 Westover, Apt. 103, Big Spring
Roberta Garza Rodriguez, 1103 Stanford, Big Spring
Lisa J. Rubio, 1303 Sycamore, Big Spring
Leza Lopez Ruiz, 1520 Tucson, Big Spring
Miguel Andres Sanchez, 64 McCaleb Rd., Montgomery
Anastasia Clarice Sanders, 1401 Culpepper Ave., Wilson
Brittany Nicole Savell, 425 E. Davis Rd., Big Spring
Warren Victor Schneider, 803 Atlantic, Coahoma
Jamie Serrato, 1401 N. Highway 87Apt. 203, Big Spring
Kennedra Wynell Shelton, 400 N. Fourth, Corsicana
Angela Gay Smith, 102 N. Ash, Coahoma
Charles Ray Smith, 2911 W. Highway 80, Apt. 155, Big Spring
Tiffany Katherine Stokes, 1407 E. 19th St., Big Spring
Timothy Donald Taylor, 4000 W. Highway 80 No. 18, Big Spring
David Wayne Turner, 3204 Irving, Snyder
Abram Unger, 503 NE Fourth, Seminole
Brittania Kay Upchurch, 4303 Princeton, Midland
Alonzo Vasquez, 306 W. Seventh St., Iraan
Timothy Shea Wargo, 624 State, Big Spring
Charles Watson, 804 W. I-20 Apt. 127, Big Spring
Thomas Weeks, P.O. Box 110891, Anchorage, Alaska
Michael Wade Welch, 700 S. Aylesford, Big Spring
Jamie Wiggins, 1905 Wasson Rd. Apt. 28, Big Spring
Byran Paul Williams, 1409 E. Main St., Round Rock
Calvin Williams, 1313 Mulberry, Big Spring
Kevin Lamont Williams,

1809 Nolan, Big Spring
Mary Lou Wilson, 610 N.E. Ninth, Big Spring
Frances Elena Yanez, 1610 Cardinal, Big Spring
James Edward Young, 3313 Auburn, Big Spring
Dennis Anthony Zaragoza, 4534 Sinclair, Big Spring
Mary Esther Zubiate, 1103 S. 11th Place, Big Spring

County Court Decisions:
Probated Judgment: Rageleo Hernandez, criminal mischief - more than \$50 and less than \$500, \$500 fine, \$332 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Probated Judgment: Isaiah Matthew James, duty on striking fixture or highway landscape - more than \$200, \$100 fine, \$282 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Mark Matthew Lindem, theft of property - more than \$500 and less than \$1,500, \$100 fine, \$282 court costs, 120 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Mark Matthew Lindem, theft of property - more than \$500 and less than \$1,500, \$100 fine, \$332 court costs, 120 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Ronald P. Casillas III, theft by check - more than \$20 and less than \$500, \$100 fine, \$332 court costs, 90 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Terrence A. Young, assault causing bodily injury, \$100 fine, \$282 court costs, 75 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: John Flores Jr., theft of property - more than \$50 and less than \$500, \$250 fine, \$282 court costs, 30 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Valerie Miramontes Garcia, failure to identify as a fugitive - giving false information, \$250 fine, \$282 court costs, 30 days in jail.

District Court Filings:
Robbie Kirk Tindol vs. Julie Anna Tindol, divorce.
Robinson Drilling vs. Mike Robinson, civil.
Michael Lee Urias vs. Grace Leann Urias, family.
Todd Everett Moland vs. Andrea Denise Moland, divorce.
Miguel Martinez vs. L.L. Bros. LLC, injury or damages with a motor vehicle.
Chase E. Ey vs. Whitney N. Ey, divorce.

Marriage Licenses:
William Arthur Reed III, 57, and Elizabeth Jean Campbell, 56, both of Big Spring.
Justin S. Ditto, 23, of Big Spring and Melissa M. Castillo, 25, of Abilene.

Warranty Deeds:
Grantor: Jarmco
Grantee: Jim F. Webb Inc.
Property: Lot 4, Block 1, McLaughlin Subdivision
Date: Oct. 31, 2012

Grantor: Michael Mauzey and Melissa Mauzey
Grantee: Laurence Wilson and Margaret Wilson
Property: A 1.624-acre tract out of out of Section 46, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Oct. 30, 2012

Grantor: Michael Mauzey and Melissa Mauzey
Grantee: Laurence Wilson and Margaret Wilson
Property: A3.08-tract out of Section 46, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey

Grantor: Manuel Martinez Jr.
Grantee: Gary Cunningham and Ester Cunningham
Property: A tract out of Section 47, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey

Grantor: Kristi Anne Taylor
Grantee: Lonnie J. Prater and husband Gary Prater
Property: Lot 7, Block 19, College Heights Addition

Pilots OK new deal with American Airlines

DALLAS (AP)—Pilots at American Airlines approved a new labor contract, which could clear the way for consideration of a merger with US Airways.
The pilots' union announced Friday that 74 percent of its members voted to ratify the contract. Pilots rejected a similar offer in August, but union leaders lobbied hard for passage the second time around.
Under the contract, pilots will get pay raises and own 13.5 percent of American Airlines' parent AMR Corp. after it emerges from bankruptcy protection.
Union officials and analysts say the vote gives AMR creditors certainty about the company's labor costs, making it easier for them to weigh which gives them more money — American on its own, or getting bigger through a merger with US Airways.
"This contract represents a bridge to a merger with US Airways," said union spokesman Dennis Tajer. He said the vote "should not in any way be viewed as support for the American stand-alone plan or for this current management team."
American also hailed

the vote as a key step in its turnaround after years of heavy losses.
The pilots' vote "gives us the certainty we need for American to successfully restructure," said AMR spokesman Bruce Hicks. He added that "the modernization of our company is well under way, and we remain focused on emerging as a competitive, world-class airline."
AMR and American filed for bankruptcy protection in November 2011.
With the pilots' deal in hand, the company could exit Chapter 11 early next year, a faster reorganization than those in the last decade at United Airlines and Delta Air Lines.
Friday's vote filled in the last unknown piece in AMR's labor-cost puzzle. It will help AMR creditors weigh the company's plan to emerge from bankruptcy protection on its own versus a merger that would leave US Airways' executives running the combined operation. US Airways has vowed that if it prevails, it will keep the American Airlines name and be based in American's hometown of Fort Worth, Texas.
American has about

7,500 active pilots plus a few hundred others on furlough.
The 6-year contract will raise pilots' pay by 4 percent on signing and 2 percent per year after that, with an adjustment in the third year to bring pay in line with that at other big airlines.
The union will get

13.5 percent of the stock in the new AMR when it emerges from bankruptcy, which analysts estimate would amount to at least \$100,000 per pilot.
In exchange, pilots will fly more hours and American will get more flexibility to outsource flying to other airlines.

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.

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

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Don't Take Anything for Granted

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A K Q 9
 ♥ 8 5 2
 ♦ Q 8 4
 ♣ 10 9 4

WEST
 ♠ J 10 4 3
 ♥ J
 ♦ J 10 9 5
 ♣ K J 6 5

EAST
 ♠ —
 ♥ 10 9 7 6 3
 ♦ A K 7
 ♣ Q 8 7 3 2

SOUTH
 ♠ 8 7 6 5 2
 ♥ A K Q 4
 ♦ 6 3 2
 ♣ A

The bidding:
 North Pass East Pass South 1♠ West Pass
 3♣ Pass 4♣

Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

When you're declarer in a contract that seems unbeatable, it's incumbent upon you to ask yourself whether any division of the adverse cards can defeat you. If you think along such lines, you will sometimes avert an unexpected defeat. Consider what happened to South in this deal where the defenders cashed three diamonds before shifting to a heart.

Declarer won with the ace and led a trump to dummy's queen, on which East showed out. A low club to the ace was followed by another trump, dummy winning West's ten

with the king. South now ruffed dummy's nine of clubs and led still another trump, finessing the nine after West followed low.

With only one trump left in each hand and the lead in dummy, declarer cashed the ace but had to lose a heart trick to East at the end and so went down one. However, he should have made the contract.

After declarer wins East's heart return at trick four, he should ask himself, "What can defeat me?" Obviously, the only danger is a 4-0 trump division. If East has the four trumps, the contract is hopeless, so declarer arbitrarily assigns them to West. As we've already seen, the contract fails if South immediately tackles trumps.

Instead, South should cash the ace of clubs before leading a trump to the queen. This might not have the earmarks of an earth-shattering play, but it has the great virtue of making the contract instead of losing it. It protects against West holding four trumps.

When East shows out on the queen of trumps, South ruffs a club and leads another trump, winning West's ten with the king. Another club ruff reduces South to one trump while West and dummy each have two. South now leads his last trump, trapping West's J-4 with dummy's A-9, and finishes by discarding his heart loser on dummy's last trump.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.
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3) Must have a bachelor's degree from accredited college university;
4) And have either:
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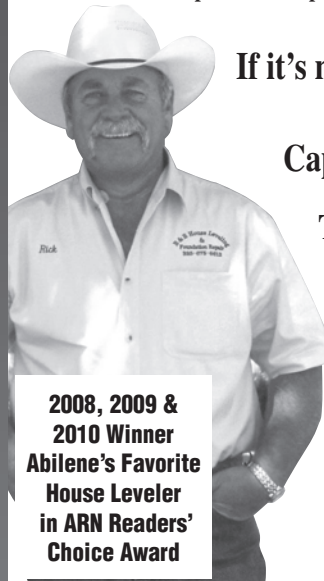
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Blame the Void-Of-Course Moon

The void-of-course Libra Moon of the early day has a suggestion: sleep in as long as possible. Your body can probably use the extra chance to repair itself from yesterday's wear and tear. Besides, you'll probably be only minimally productive if you let your to-do list run you around all morning. Afternoon brings clarity and sense of purpose.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You accept authority when it's clearly focused on what's good for the group. But a self-interested leader is intolerable to you, and you will rebel against such an abuse of power.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You won't be content to handle the practical aspects of a job while another person gets to add the creative touches. You want to be a part of the icing and the cake, too. Express your wishes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will work hard if the situation requires it. Right now, the situation is best enjoyed. By kicking back with a smile and beverage you pave the way for others to relax, too.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are many ways you show your maturity. For instance, you'll see through someone's half-truth, and you won't call it out. You'll observe guardedly, knowing where everyone stands.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You see indifference as a fault and you're right. Courageous people don't stand on the sidelines, they get involved. You'll rise above any fear or ego need that held you back and get into the mix.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). What some people don't realize is that being a good judge of character is a skill. You've picked up this ability through trial and error as well as by following the example of a wise someone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Here's a way to make sure that you're on the same page as the one you love: sync up your timelines. Feelings of closeness will grow when you eat, sleep, work and play the same time of day as each other.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are dealing in a system that is corrupt. But that doesn't mean you can't do your best. Admit it — in all fairness, nothing is fair. But everything can be improved with the right attitude.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't suffer from the same case of celebrity worship as those around you, which will make you the perfect one to talk to the glamorous people in a language they can relate to.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The needs of the collective, such as it is, are so large in your mind that you're not worried in the least about yourself. You value those who share your common purpose and work along side you toward this aim.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's in your nature to protect the ones you love. Someone who's been in your care is ready for independent experiences, and yet, you may struggle to let go.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Every person you meet has filters on his or her ears designed to capture necessary, relevant and pleasant information while letting the rest sift through. Knowing this will guide your message.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (DECEMBER 9). Your work and personal life harmonize well through the next three months. After that, you'll make a change in order to continue to create such harmony. The ones you train and teach will make you proud in January. You'll earn a bonus in March and another in

September. Love whisks you to foreign lands in July. Cancer and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 11, 49, 32, 14 and 30.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: The word "intelligence" is an umbrella covering so many areas that Webster's Dictionary includes seven different definitions, two of them being medical definitions, and none of them feeling complete. Because intelligence seems as intricate, mysterious and ever-changing as our expanding knowledge of the world itself. In short, what we know about how we know is limited. But the more we apply ourselves to becoming smarter, the smarter we become. Scientists may disagree on many things about the human brain, but most concur that our brains are different from those of our predecessors. On a biological level, humans are changing. And that is the theme this week as quick-witted Mercury heads into the expansive realm of Sagittarius. Venus follows later in the week. Where your intellect goes, so will your heart — just give it a few days.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Autonomy Even in Relationships

Dear Margo: I've been seeing "Chip" off and on for a year and a half. We've had lots of problems lately and broke up for three weeks. During that time, I was depressed and reconnected with old friends to boost my morale.



MARGO HOWARD

I ended up talking with an old friend who lives across the country. He mentioned he had an extra ticket to an event that was coming up and suggested I fly there to get out of town for a weekend. It sounded like a great time, so I said yes.

Fast-forward a couple of weeks. Chip and I are back together trying to work things out. As soon as we resumed, I told him about my plans. The event is coming up next weekend, and I still plan to go — except Chip is livid. (It doesn't help that he's always had trust issues, even though I've never cheated on him.)

He says if I care about his feelings, I won't go, and he assumes I am going to sleep with this

friend. He also thinks it's weird that I reconnected with an old friend he says I barely know.

I was very much looking forward to this trip and have no intention whatsoever of hooking up with this guy. I trust this old friend and don't view him as the stranger Chip is making him out to be.

I have money invested in a flight, plus I would feel horrible if I bailed on my friend, especially for a relationship that is off and on and has so many problems. What do you think? Should I still go on this trip, or abandon a fun time for a possibly sinking ship? — *Undecided in Florida*

Dear Un: I would go. You are a free agent, and capitulating would not send the right message. If he is so insecure that he thinks visiting a male friend indicates a fling, you need to establish that his lack of trust in you does not bode well. Jealousy, for no reason, is never a good sign. Let the chips fall where they may, no pun intended. — *Margo, self-sufficiently*

Interpreting Differing Opinions

Dear Margo: I was struck by the letter from the woman whose husband doesn't care

A fiery trine of Mercury and Uranus begins Sunday, lines up exactly on Friday and continues to have an effect into next week. In this cosmic arrangement, Mercury and Uranus sound off like triumphant battlefield trumpeters. What's different about this battle is that no one has to lose. We're all fighting the same fight and wanting the same things — to feel happy, safe and productive. The more we can help each other out, the better.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Happy birthday to Grammy Award winning Wallflower's frontman, Jakob Dylan (12/9/1969). Celebrating the recent release of their first album in seven years, the Wallflowers are rebooting their mission on an international tour. Dylan's natal Sun, Moon and Venus are all in Sagittarius, the sign of the traveling troubadour. Libran aspects reveal a true romantic who gathers strength and art in close relationships.

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Dear Margo

where they eat or what movies they see.

I have the reverse problem. I like documentaries, and my significant other likes escapism. I like spicy food; she likes bland. We alternate each week on who does which household chores. I like cleared and clean kitchen counters; she likes to defer washing dishes until we run out of clean ones.

I've learned that the movies I express interest in seeing somehow conflict with our schedules, while hers don't. The question becomes whether the situation is sufficiently good to justify sacrificing my values, or is it sufficiently demeaning to warrant abandoning ship?

The problem isn't not having an opinion; it is in having learned that it is the wrong one. — *Jay*

Dear Jay: Your problem is quite different from the good-natured guy with few preferences. What's going on in your life is that you are made to feel insignificant — or demeaned, in your words. Only you can decide whether how your S.O. makes you feel is a deal breaker.

My own opinion is that no one should have to sacrifice their values or

always be made to feel "wrong." Looking down at your relationship from my satellite of neutrality, I would say you two are not compatible in ways that really count. This woman sounds bossy and not at all concerned with your feelings. Over to you. — *Margo, interpretively*

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via the online form at www.creators.com/dearmargo. Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered. COPYRIGHT 2012 MARGO HOWARD DISTRIBUTED BY CREATORS.COM

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Newsday Crossword

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Edited by Stanley Newman
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ACROSS

1 Pretty soon
8 Engages fully
15 Rescue dog, for example
16 Place of privacy
17 The eyes may have it
18 Anagram of "gyrated"
19 Start of a Genesis query
20 Honey
22 Small, in brief
23 "Ah!"
25 Discordance
26 Knight at the movies
27 Will set one back
29 It may be fishing
30 Betting settings
31 Old-fashioned
33 Show contempt for
35 Ne'er-do-well
36 Exclude
37 Where Bing Crosby grew up
41 Studio stack
45 Word from the Latin for "is lacking"
46 Its disappearance aided bald eagles
48 Need somnoplasty, perhaps
49 Nth degree
50 Works together
52 Expression for the sheepish
53 Team
54 Author of a 50-million copy best seller
56 Caddy's holding
57 Place with a theater and bowling alley, maybe

DOWN

1 Third most-populous English-speaking American nation
2 *Born Free* author
3 Furthest from aloof
4 Bars on some boxes
5 Minimally
6 Screened over
7 The very beginning
8 Creative ones
9 Onetime Einstein home
10 Antlered animal
11 Part of UNESCO's address
12 Send back, in a way
13 Lead balloon, so to speak
14 Creative one
21 Rest, with "by"
24 Reservation proof
26 Discordant
28 Barbell exercise
30 Clamors
32 Thing with a foot and a neck
34 Comcast purchase of 2011
37 See 44 Down
38 Buddy
39 Seat of Orange County
40 Emmy winner as a *Roots* ship captain
41 Flashing lights
42 Forebode
43 City east-northeast of Venice
44 With 37 Down, Judiciary Committee member
47 Pistachio portion
50 Plain speaking
51 Recycling candidate
54 Earth
55 Ava, in *The Aviator*
58 Brand owned by Clorox
60 Contend

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

TO: Ella Lorene Wilson Barbara Jean Harter

if living, and if any or all of the above named Defendants be dead, the unknown heirs of such person if he should be deceased, and any and all other persons, including adverse claimants, owning or claiming or having any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the land described in Plaintiffs' petition on file in this cause; and the executors, administrators, guardians, legal representatives, legatees, devisees, trustees, officers, directors, stockholders, partners, managers or other governing persons of the above named persons or entities, who own or claim some interest in the land described in Plaintiffs' petition on file in this cause, to-wit:

Tract One: All of Lt 27, Bk 12, North Park Hill Adn., City of Big Spring, Howard County; Texas; SAVE & EXCEPT Tract 3: A part or portion of Lt 27, Bk 12, of the North Park Hill Adn, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas; described by metes and bounds on the attached exhibit.

Tract Two: A part of portion of Lt 26, Bk 12, North Park Hill Adn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, described by metes and bounds on the attached exhibit.

Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: \$3,977.36, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and cost thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL as Plaintiffs, against ELLA LORENE WILSON and others, as Defendant(s), by petition filed on May 29, 2012 in a certain suit styled HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. ELLA LORENE WILSON, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 6122 that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are NONE.

Plaintiffs and all other taxing units who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property hereinabove described, thereon up to and including the day of judgment herein, and the establishment and foreclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as provided by law.

All parties to this suit, including Plaintiffs, Defendant(s), and Intervenor, shall take notice that claims not only for any taxes which were delinquent on said property at the time this suit was filed but all taxes becoming delinquent thereon at any time thereafter up to the day of judgment, including all interest, penalties, and cost allowed by law thereon, may, upon request therefore, be recovered herein without further citation or notice to any parties herein, all said parties shall take notice of and plead and answer to all claims and pleadings now on file in said causes by all other parties herein and set up their respective tax claims against said property.

You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 14th day of January, 2012 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 29th day of November, A.D. 2012.

Jury Padron
Clerk of the District Court
Howard County, Texas,
118th Judicial District.
#7596 December 9 & 16, 2012

Public Notice
The Glasscock County Appraisal District Board of Directors is accepting bids for depository contracts of the Appraisal District funds. The bid should include all Appraisal District funds and trust funds for two years beginning January 2013, as provided by law. The Glasscock County Appraisal District Board of Directors will review the bids at its Regular 4th Quarter Meeting on December 20, 2012 at 8:00 AM. For more information, please contact Priscilla A. Shaffer, Chief Appraiser @ 432/354-2580.
#7589 December 2 & 9, 2012

Legals

Public Notice
The Glasscock County Appraisal District Board of Directors is accepting bids for depository contracts of the Appraisal District funds. The bid should include all Appraisal District funds and trust funds for two years beginning January 2013, as provided by law. The Glasscock County Appraisal District Board of Directors will review the bids at its Regular 4th Quarter Meeting on December 20, 2012 at 8:00 AM. For more information, please contact Priscilla A. Shaffer, Chief Appraiser @ 432/354-2580.
#7589 December 2 & 9, 2012

**"It Pays To Read
Big Spring Herald
Classifieds"**

Legals

CITATION BY PUBLICATION IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

TO: Lloyd McLeod

if living, and if any or all of the above named Defendants be dead, the unknown heirs of such person if he should be deceased, and any and all other persons, including adverse claimants, owning or claiming or having any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the land described in Plaintiffs' petition on file in this cause; and the executors, administrators, guardians, legal representatives, legatees, devisees, trustees, officers, directors, stockholders, partners, managers or other governing persons of the above named persons or entities, who own or claim some interest in the land described in Plaintiffs' petition on file in this cause, to-wit:

Lot 29, Blk 5, College Park Estates Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: \$5,388.85, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and cost thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL as Plaintiffs, against JON L. McLEOD AND JILL McLEOD and others, as Defendant(s), by petition filed on September 28, 2011 in a certain suit styled HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. JON L. McLEOD AND JILL McLEOD, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 6050 that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are NONE.

Plaintiffs and all other taxing units who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property hereinabove described, thereon up to and including the day of judgment herein, and the establishment and foreclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as provided by law.

All parties to this suit, including Plaintiffs, Defendant(s), and Intervenor, shall take notice that claims not only for any taxes which were delinquent on said property at the time this suit was filed but all taxes becoming delinquent thereon at any time thereafter up to the day of judgment, including all interest, penalties, and cost allowed by law thereon, may, upon request therefore, be recovered herein without further citation or notice to any parties herein, all said parties shall take notice of and plead and answer to all claims and pleadings now on file in said causes by all other parties herein and set up their respective tax claims against said property.

You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 14th day of January, 2012 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 29th day of November, A.D. 2012.

Jury Padron
Clerk of the District Court
Howard County, Texas,
118th Judicial District.
#7595 December 9 & 16, 2012

Legals

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS

The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive sealed proposals until 2:00 P.M., January 9, 2013, for the following area:

Extracurricular Student Drug Testing Services

Specifications and proposal documents may be secured from the school district's Business Office, 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648, phone number (432)264-3620. Proposal documents may also be obtained from the district's website at www.bigspringisd.net. Proposals will be received in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District until the above listed date and time. Proposals received after the above deadline will be returned unopened. Proposals will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on January 17, 2013, at 5:15 P.M. at their regularly scheduled board meeting. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.
#7598 December 9 & 16, 2012

**AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION
AT THE BIG SPRING ANIMAL SHELTER**

Caprice



**Border Collie Mix
Medium, Young, Female
Black & White**

This little puppy is about 8-weeks-old. She is a little shy, but she is sweet and very lovable.

Available for adoption until December 20

Snookie



**Boxer
Medium, Adult, Female
Tan**

Snookie is shy but a very sweet dog, and she has an adorable face.

Available for adoption until December 18

Legals

CITATION BY PUBLICATION IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

TO: David Young

if living, and if any or all of the above named Defendants be dead, the unknown heirs of such person if he should be deceased, and any and all other persons, including adverse claimants, owning or claiming or having any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the land described in Plaintiffs' petition on file in this cause; and the executors, administrators, guardians, legal representatives, legatees, devisees, trustees, officers, directors, stockholders, partners, managers or other governing persons of the above named persons or entities, who own or claim some interest in the land described in Plaintiffs' petition on file in this cause, to-wit:

Lt 4, Blk 112, Original Town of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: \$4,604.70, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and cost thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL as Plaintiffs, against DAVID YOUNG and others, as Defendant(s), by petition filed on March 27, 2007, in a certain suit styled HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. DAVID YOUNG, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 5343 that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are NONE.

Plaintiffs and all other taxing units who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property hereinabove described, thereon up to and including the day of judgment herein, and the establishment and foreclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as provided by law.

All parties to this suit, including Plaintiffs, Defendant(s), and Intervenor, shall take notice that claims not only for any taxes which were delinquent on said property at the time this suit was filed but all taxes becoming delinquent thereon at any time thereafter up to the day of judgment, including all interest, penalties, and cost allowed by law thereon, may, upon request therefore, be recovered herein without further citation or notice to any parties herein, all said parties shall take notice of and plead and answer to all claims and pleadings now on file in said causes by all other parties herein and set up their respective tax claims against said property.

You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 14th day of January, 2012 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 29th day of November, A.D. 2012.

Jury Padron
Clerk of the District Court
Howard County, Texas,
118th Judicial District.
#7597 December 9 & 16, 2012

Arthur

**Terrier Mix
Small, Young, Male
Black, Gray, Tan**

Arthur is about 8-weeks-old. He is sweet, playful and cuddly.

Available for adoption until December 20



Honey

**Pointer/Pit Bull Terrier
Large, Young, Male
White, Tan Mask**

Honey loves to play fetch. He is very playful and sweet.

Available for adoption until December 20



For more information, call 264-2372

View these animals on petfinder.com, type in the 79720 zip code

Annie's Mailbox



**KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR**

Dear Annie: My niece, "Susan," is 23 years old and in college. After four years, she still hasn't picked a major. She is quite intelligent, but lazy and immature. She is socially awkward and has lost friends because of her negative attitude.

My problem is, Susan wants to "hang out" with my 15-year-old daughter. She invites herself over whenever she likes. My daughter is a terrific, normal girl who excels in sports and school and has many friends.

She doesn't want to hang out with a 23-year-old cousin, and we don't want her to, either.

We try to make excuses, hoping Susan will eventually get the hint, to no avail. Her mother doesn't get hints, either.

It sometimes puts us in an awkward position because she is so persistent. I am tired of being expected to

accommodate Susan because she is family.

That shouldn't be a free pass for forcing my child to be around someone who is neither age appropriate nor a good influence. I don't want my daughter's "half-full" optimism to be drained by someone who always thinks the glass is half-empty. Suggestions? — *Annoyed Mom*

Dear Mom: What you call "lazy and immature" is much more complicated. When we hear that a young person is intelligent but socially awkward, it could be Asperger syndrome. The fact that Susan likes to hang around with your 15-year-old daughter indicates that she is uncomfortable with her peers. If her mother is the same way, it is likely to be an inherited trait and environmentally reinforced behavior.

Please stop hinting to people who don't get it. Talk to both Susan and her mother. Say that you think Susan is smart and you love her, but that she would benefit from finding more appropriate friends. Suggest they talk to Susan's physician about an evaluation.

Dear Annie: I hope you have room for one more letter about bridal couples who neglect to pay the pastor or the organist.

Our church solved the issue of wedding fees by

printing a booklet with prices and church policies. The booklet is given to couples who want to marry in our church. The fees for the pastor, organist and custodian must be paid at the rehearsal. — *Church Musician*

Dear Musician: We've heard from a great many church organists and pastors who have said that these fees should be mentioned at the time the couple inquires about holding the wedding, and that the money should be paid in advance.

Dear Readers: Tonight is The Compassionate Friends' Worldwide Candle Lighting for children who have died. Please light a candle this evening at 7 p.m., local time, and remember them with love.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Black boxes for autos raise privacy concerns

WASHINGTON (AP) — Many motorists don't know it, but it's likely that every time they get behind the wheel, there's a snitch along for the ride.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on Friday proposed long-delayed regulations requiring auto manufacturers to include event data recorders — better known as “black boxes” — in all new cars and light trucks beginning Sept. 1, 2014. But the agency is behind the curve. Automakers have been quietly tucking the devices, which automatically record the actions of drivers and the responses of their vehicles in a continuous information loop, into most new cars for years.

When a car is involved in a crash or when its airbags deploy, inputs from the vehicle's sensors during the 5 to 10 seconds before impact are automatically preserved. That's usually enough to record things like how fast the car was traveling and whether the driver applied the brake, was steering erratically or had a seat belt on.

The idea is to gather information that can help investigators determine the causes of accidents and lead to safer vehicles. But privacy advocates say government regulators and automakers are spreading an intrusive technology without first putting in place policies to prevent misuse of the information collected.

Data collected by the recorders is increasingly showing up in lawsuits, criminal cases and high-profile accidents. Massachusetts Lt. Gov. Timothy Murray initially said that he wasn't speeding and that he was wearing his seat belt when he crashed a government-owned car last year. But the Ford Crown Victoria's data recorder told a different story: It showed the car was traveling more than 100 mph and Murray wasn't belted in.

In 2007, then-New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine was seriously injured in the crash of an SUV driven by a state trooper. Corzine was a passenger. The SUV's recorder showed the vehicle was traveling 91 mph on a parkway where the

speed limit was 65 mph, and Corzine didn't have his seat belt on.

There's no opt-out. It's extremely difficult for car owners to disable the recorders. Although some vehicle models have had recorders since the early 1990s, a federal requirement that automakers disclose their existence in owner's manuals didn't go into effect until three months ago. Automakers that voluntarily put recorders in vehicles are also now required to gather a minimum of 15 types of data.

Besides the upcoming proposal to put recorders in all new vehicles, the traffic safety administration is also considering expanding the data requirement to include as many as 30 additional types of data such as whether the vehicle's electronic stability control was engaged, the driver's seat position or whether the front-seat passenger was belted in. Some manufacturers already are collecting the information. Engineers have identified more than 80 data points that might be useful.

Privacy complaints have gone unheeded so far. The traffic safety administration says it doesn't have the authority to impose limits on how the information can be used and other privacy protections. About a dozen states have some law regarding data recorders, but the rest do not.

“Right now we're in an environment where there are no rules, there are no limits, there are no consequences and there is no transparency,” said Lillie Coney, associate director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center, a privacy advocacy group. “Most people who are operating a motor vehicle have no idea this technology is integrated into their vehicle.”

Part of the concern is that the increasing computerization of cars and the growing communications to and from vehicles like GPS navigation and General Motors' OnStar system could lead to unintended uses of recorder data.

“Basically your car is a computer now, so it can record all kinds of information,” said Gloria Bergquist, vice president of the Alliance of

Automotive Manufacturers. “It's a lot of the same issues you have about your computer or your smartphone and whether Google or someone else has access to the data.”

The alliance opposes the government requiring recorders in all vehicles.

Data recorders “help our engineers understand how cars perform in the real world, and we already have put them on over 90 percent of (new) vehicles without any mandate being necessary,” Bergquist said.

Safety advocates, however, say requiring data recorders in all cars is the best way to gather a large enough body of reliable information to enable vehicle designers to make safer automobiles.

“The barn door is already open. It's a question of whether we use the information that's already out there,” said Henry Jasny, vice president of Advocates for Highway and Automotive Safety.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said that requiring recorders in all new cars “will give us the critical insight and information we need to save more lives.”

The National Transportation Safety Board has been pushing for recorders in all passenger vehicles since the board's investigation of a 2003 accident in which an elderly driver plowed through an open-air market in Santa Monica, Calif. Ten people were killed and 63 were injured. The driver refused to be interviewed and his 1992 Buick LeSabre didn't have a recorder.

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net



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Letters to Santa!

Deadline For Letters is
**Wednesday,
December 12, 2012**

Letters will be published in
the Letters to Santa Special on
**Sunday,
December 23, 2012**

432-263-7331

composing@bigspringherald.com



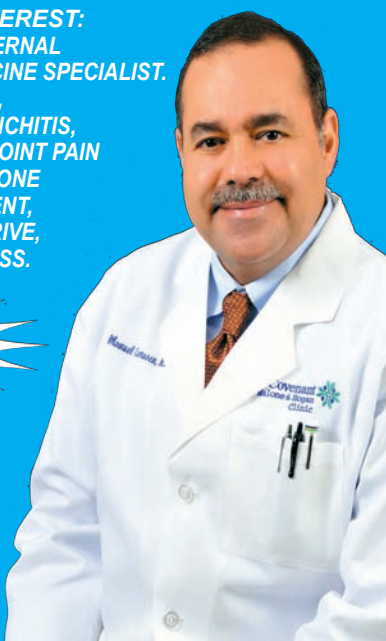
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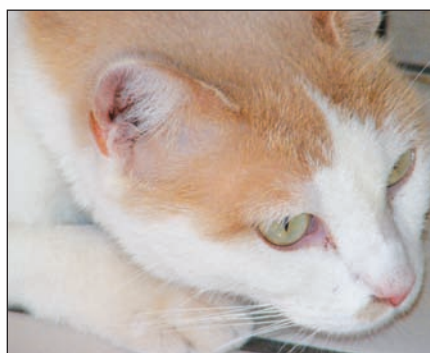
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Adoptable Pets

ANNIKA



Medium • Adult • Female
Domestic Short Hair

Pretty orange-white Annika is about a year and
half old. She is spayed.

Adoption Fee: \$40
(Includes shots)

FRANCIS



Medium • Adult • Female
Lab Mix

This beautiful white lab mix is little more
than a year old. She is spayed.

Adoption Fee: \$65
(includes shots)

267-7832

W IH 20 Service Road (past the Airport)

Engagements

sponsored by Blum's Jewelers,
Big Spring Mall



Kaylee Sway Wauhob, Jarett Paul Wilson and Caleb Grant Wilson announce the wedding of their parents, Caree' Leigh Wauhob and Justin Paul Wilson, on Dec. 14, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship. Wilson is the son of Joyce and Jim Wilson of Big Spring, Texas, and Wauhob is the daughter of Rae and Evan Wauhob of Midland, Texas.



The 1953 Hyperion Club held its annual Christmas meeting Wednesday at Heritage Museum. Club members are, from left, Dorothy Downey, Ethel Guthrie, Lora Warren, Joycee Davis, Janell Davis, Edna Young, Rita Fort, Shirley Burgess, Delma Hickam, Carol Scott, Sandra Huston, Sherry Lindsey, Barbara Lu Ratliff, Tootsie Grantham, Clovie Shannon, Eulaine McIntosh, Janet Middleton and Dorothy Wheeler.

Courtesy photo

MATCH THE SANTA TO HIS WORKSHOP!!



This entry form must be received by Monday, December 17 at 12 p.m. Drop off your form at the Big Spring Herald at 710 Scurry St. The winner will be the one who correctly matches the most Santas to his business/workshop. There will be 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners. Gift certificates will be given away to use at the participating businesses. Winners will be announced in the Wednesday, December 19th Edition of the Big Spring Herald!

All decisions are final at the discretion of the Big Spring Herald

Don't Miss Your Chance To Win Multiple Gift Cards!

Santa No.	Business
_____	Blum's Jewelers
_____	Elrod's Furniture
_____	Faye's Flowers
_____	Higginbotham-Bartlett Co.
_____	Jake Witzel Gifts & Interiors
_____	Klassic Kleaners
_____	My Favorite Place
_____	Walmart
NAME: _____	
ADDRESS _____	
CITY: _____	
PHONE: _____	

Play For Your Chance To Win Gift Certificates Provided By The Following Merchants

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jake witzel GIFTS & INTERIORS
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