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HIGH SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 16, 2012



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VOLUME 108, NUMBER 53

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Indictments: Murder, manslaughter

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

STANTON — A Lamesa man currently believed to be on the run in Mexico was indicted on a single count of murder Thursday by a Martin County grand jury, one of more than a dozen true bills handed down by the jury.

Jose Americo Garcia, 37,

formerly of Lamesa, was indicted on a charge of murder (first-degree felony) for the Aug. 21, 2011, shooting of 32-year-old Anau Rodriguez Villagrana, also of Lamesa.

According to law enforcement officials, the shooting was reported during the morning hours when a local resident called 911 to report

someone had been shot at their residence in the 3100 block of County Road D 3600 in central Martin County.

Deputies with the Martin County Sheriff's Office arrived on the scene to find 32-year-old Anau Rodriguez Villagrana of Lamesa suffering from a single gunshot wound to the head.

According to MCSO Chief Deputy Ernest Wakefield, Villagrana was still breathing when emergency responders transported him to Midland Memorial Hospital. However, the Lamesa man was pronounced dead just before noon by Justice of the Peace Joe Matlock.

A region-wide manhunt was

launched, as law enforcement officials speculated Garcia — who was believed at the time to be traveling with his wife, Rosalinda Garcia, and their children, a 5-year-old girl and a 4-year-old son — would attempt to cross into Mexico.

Rosalina Garcia was taken

See **INDICTED**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Members of the local Cossacks Motorcycle Club prepare to head out on their 21st annual Bikes for Tykes Toy Run Saturday morning. A dozen needy families and more than 30 children received Christmas gifts during the event.

Cossacks make Christmas run for needy youngsters

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

There were Harleys in place of reindeer, the low-pitched rumble of motorcycles instead of the high-pitched jingle of sleigh bells and with Santa Claus otherwise engaged, Jeremy Klaus donned the famous red suit and became Santa "Klaus."

But make no mistake — Christmas came to a dozen Big Spring families Saturday.

For the 21st year, members of the local Cossack Motorcycle Club hopped on their Hogs and spread holiday cheer to needy

children and their families as part of their Bikes for Tykes Toy Run.

Dozens of riders escorted trucks and a trailer packed to the rim with food and toys, forming a caravan guaranteed to make this an unforgettable Christmas for the families involved.

But as special as the day undoubtedly was for the children receiving toys, it was equally so for the club members.

"Seeing the kids jumping up and down when we deliver the toys is what I enjoy most about

See **COSSACKS**, Page 3A

Public hearing to focus on relief route access

A public hearing at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday will focus on design changes for the proposed truck relief route around Big Spring.

The changes would make the roadway an uncontrolled access highway rather than a controlled access highway. A controlled access highway allows entry and exit only at designated points along the roadway.

The public is invited to view exhibits and maps of the proposed route from 5 p.m. until the meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. Registration opens at 5:30 p.m. at Dora Roberts Community Center.

Area educators saddened, horrified over Friday's tragedy in Newtown

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Like just about everybody else, area educators reacted with shock and horror at the news of the shooting at a Newtown, Conn. elementary school that left six adults and 20 children dead.

Police say a 20-year-old man entered Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown



"As an administrator, it brings all kinds of horrible scenarios to mind. It's something you hope you never, ever have to deal with."

—Randy Johnson, Forsan ISD superintendent

early Friday and began firing. The gunman also died in the incident, although it wasn't disclosed whether he took his own life.

Howard County educators said they were shocked and saddened by the news.

"It's just an unfathomable horror, as both an ed-

ucator and a parent," Coahoma ISD Superintendent Amy Jabos said. "I don't think there are words to express the pain the victims' families must be going through right now."

Forsan Superintendent Randy Johnson said the news made him sick to his stomach.

"As an administrator,

See **SHOOTING**, Page 3A

Misinformation clouds fatal traffic accident

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Officials with the Texas Department of Public Safety Regional Office in Midland confirmed Friday afternoon they provided erroneous information to news media following a tragic triple fatality Thursday

morning on U.S. Highway 87.

The original report indicated a Chevrolet Suburban traveling on FM 846 collided with a pumper truck on N. U.S. Highway 87, killing all three occupants of the SUV.

According to DPS officials, the information should have read:

The three victims were traveling north on U.S. Highway 87 in a Chevrolet Suburban when a large oilfield pumper truck, traveling east on FM 846,

See **FATAL**, Page 3A



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Obituaries

Gloria Jean Watson



Gloria Jean Watson, 61, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012, at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 17, 2012, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Eddy Pitchford officiating. Interment will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Gloria was born Aug. 9, 1951, in Loraine, Texas, and married Dennis Watson Nov. 10, 1971, in Snyder. She graduated from Snyder High School and moved to Big Spring in 1991 and worked as coordinating supervisor for West Texas Centers. She loved to read and crochet.

Survivors include husband, Dennis Watson of Big Spring; two sons, Michael Watson and wife Jacquelyn of Big Spring and Steven Watson and wife Rhonda of Midland; four brothers, Terry Smith and wife Billie of Lubbock, Charles Smith and wife Jean of Carlsbad, N.M., Curtis Smith and wife Marilyn of Fort Worth, and Tommy Smith and wife Lisa of Snyder; one sister, JoAnn Mitchell and husband Tim of Weatherford; six grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur and Virginia (Brunkhurst) Smith; and one infant brother.

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

Sergio Hernandez Gonzalez



Sergio Hernandez Gonzalez, 32, of Forsan died Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012, in Big Spring. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 17, 2012, at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

A vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Sergio was born Oct. 7, 1980, in Mexico, and married Melissa Daniels on March 22, 2008, in Big Spring. He came here at the age of 9 and attended

Big Spring schools. He was working for Robinson Drilling as a derrick hand.

Survivors include his wife, Melissa Gonzalez of Forsan; four sons, Jordyn, Adrian, Cristian and Andrew Gonzalez; his mother, Abundia Gonzalez of Big Spring; four brothers, Jose Gonzalez, Juan Gonzalez, and Gonzalo Gonzalez, all of Big Spring, and Enrique Gonzalez of Dallas; and two sisters, Maria Chavez and Josephina Gonzalez, both of Big Spring.

He was preceded in death by one son, Sergio Gonzalez; and his father, Jose Gonzalez.

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

Dennis Richardson



Dennis Richardson, 59, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012, in Big Spring. Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Gary Plew officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 17, 2012, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Dennis was born Jan. 4, 1953, in Big Spring and graduated from Big Spring High School. He then graduated from TSTI in Sweetwa-

ter. He has worked in the oilfield all his life and was a great Dad and "Paw Paw."

Survivors include one daughter, Desiree Richardson of Big Spring; one son, Dennis Richardson II of Big Spring; three grandsons; and three sisters, Sylvia Hale and husband Charles of Tarzan, Delores Grover and husband LaFayette, of Nevada, and Wanda Nelson and husband Wayne of Waco,

He was preceded in death by one son, Nicholas Richardson; his parents, Sid and Beryl Richardson; and one brother, Gary Richardson.

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

Frank 'Porky' Overton

Frank "Porky" Overton, 28, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012, in Big Spring. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2012, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Derek Looney, pastor of Spring Creek Fellowship, officiating. Burial will follow in Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Frank was born Feb. 5, 1984, in Big Spring, Texas, to Hassona and Donald Max Overton. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. He was a driller for Robinson Drilling at the time of his death.

He is survived by his "Old Lady," Catisha Cook of Big Spring; two step-children, Branne' Cook

and Jeremy Minter, both of Big Spring; his mother, Hassona Overton of Big Spring; five brothers, James Overton of Lubbock, Jerry Overton, Tim Overton, Shawn Overton and John Overton, all of Big Spring; three sisters, Shawna Overton, Danelle Overton and Jamela Overton, all of Big Spring; several aunts, uncles and cousins and 13 nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Donald Overton; one nephew; and his grandparents, Smokey and Margaret Rigdon.

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

Opal Dee Anglin

Opal Dee Anglin, 92, of Odessa died Friday, Dec. 14, 2012, at Parks Methodist Retirement Village in Odessa. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

William King

William King, 92, of Coahoma died Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012 at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

John J. 'Jerry' White

John J. "Jerry" White, 92 of Big Spring died Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012, at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Louise I. Terry,

Louise I. Terry, 92, of Lubbock, formerly of Big Spring died Friday, Dec. 14, 2012, in Lubbock. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take Note

• Don't forget to visit the Comanche Trail Festival of Lights in Big Spring, on display nightly from Saturday through Dec. 31. More displays, more lights, and more fun — and admission is free. However, donations are gratefully accepted. Questions? Call 263-4607.

• 118th Judicial District Court jury duty scheduled for Monday has been cancelled. Call 264-2225 for more information.

• The public is invited to a Texas Nationalist Movement meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday at 421 S. Main St. in Big Spring. For more information, call 432-270-8456.

• Big Spring State Hospital patients are in need of

warm clothing.

Clean items should be taken to the Community Relations Office near the south entrance of the hospital, 1901 N. U.S. Highway 87. Clothing that cannot be used by the patients will be taken to the hospital's Chalet Resale Shop for sale to raise money for patient needs. Men's clothing and larger-sized clothing are always in need. For more information, call Melissa Adams, BSSH program coordinator, at 432 268-7730.

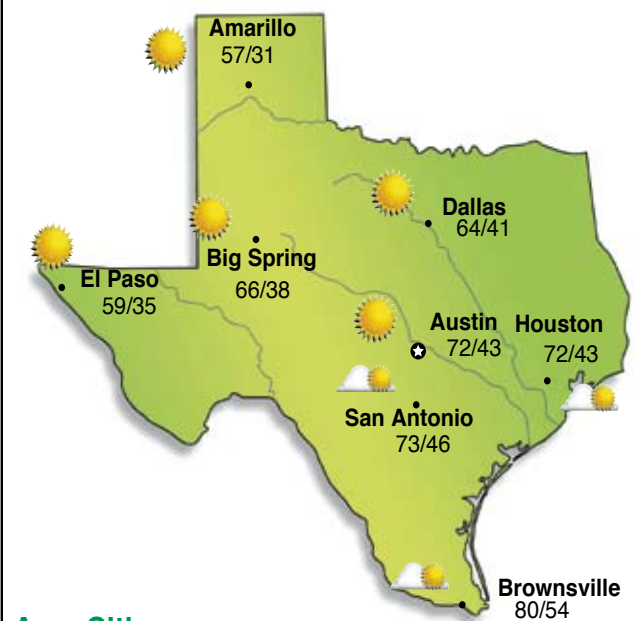
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Mon 12/17	Tue 12/18	Wed 12/19	Thu 12/20	Fri 12/21
66/38 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	71/44 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 40s.	74/35 Plenty of sun. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 30s.	54/31 Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s.	61/35 Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.
Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 5:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 5:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 5:45 PM	Sunrise: 7:43 AM Sunset: 5:45 PM	Sunrise: 7:43 AM Sunset: 5:46 PM



Texas At A Glance



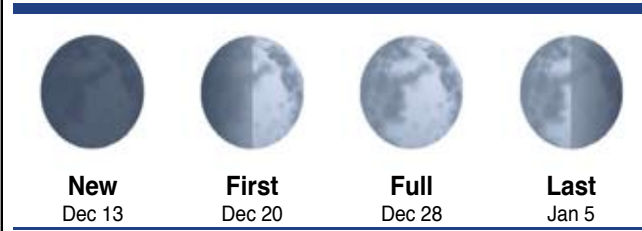
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Ablene	64	42	sunny	Kingsville	81	50	pt sunny
Amarillo	57	31	sunny	Livingston	70	39	sunny
Austin	72	43	sunny	Longview	65	40	sunny
Beaumont	72	43	pt sunny	Lubbock	61	33	sunny
Brownsville	80	54	pt sunny	Lufkin	69	42	sunny
Brownwood	68	41	sunny	Midland	66	40	sunny
Corpus Christi	78	51	pt sunny	Raymondville	79	52	pt sunny
Corsicana	64	40	sunny	Rosenberg	72	43	pt sunny
Dallas	64	41	sunny	San Antonio	73	46	pt sunny
Del Rio	74	44	sunny	San Marcos	73	43	sunny
El Paso	59	35	sunny	Sulphur Springs	63	40	sunny
Fort Stockton	67	43	sunny	Sweetwater	65	41	sunny
Gainesville	61	37	sunny	Tyler	65	42	sunny
Greenville	62	39	mst sunny	Weatherford	63	39	sunny
Houston	72	43	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	62	35	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	65	43	t-storm	Minneapolis	23	20	pt sunny
Boston	44	43	rain	New York	48	48	rain
Chicago	40	27	cloudy	Phoenix	62	42	sunny
Dallas	64	41	sunny	San Francisco	59	48	rain
Denver	49	30	pt sunny	Seattle	45	37	rain
Houston	72	43	pt sunny	St. Louis	45	32	pt sunny
Los Angeles	61	53	pt sunny	Washington, DC	55	52	rain
Miami	83	65	pt sunny				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Mon 12/17	Tue 12/18	Wed 12/19	Thu 12/20	Fri 12/21
3	3	3	3	3
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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

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.

• 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. For more information, please call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Santa waves from a trailer carrying toys for more than 30 needy children as he and members of the Cossacks Motorcycle club head out on their annual Bikes for Tykes Toy Run Saturday morning.

COSSACKS

Continued from Page 1

this, — that, and seeing some of these big ol' tough biker tear up in the process.”

Young said the toy run began in 1991.

“We decided to do something for the community and this is what we came up with,” he said. “That first year, we helped one or two families; this year, we’ll deliver gifts and food to 12 families and 36 kids.”

Young said preparation for the toy run went on all year. The club distributed applications to area schools and other organizations, received a list of needy families, then set about collecting enough toys and other items to fill the wish list.

“All year long, we do

benefits and we have sponsors and individuals who donate items, as well,” club member Kenny Bearden said.

Each one of the selected families will receive toys for the children and a complete turkey dinner.

Young said Saturday’s run wasn’t the end of the club spreading holiday cheer this season.

“Every year, there’ll be a family or two that will come to our attention (after the run), and we’ll have some extra stuff we’ll take to them,” he said. “They’re just as needy as everybody else we help. This is all about making sure kids who otherwise wouldn’t have a Christmas will.”

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

INDICTED

Continued from Page 1A

into custody by investigators with the Texas Rangers Sept. 14, 2011, in Lamesa, nearly a month after fleeing the United States to Mexico. According to law enforcement officials, the whereabouts of the children is unknown.

If convicted, Garcia could face five to 99 years to life in prison. However, the Lamesa man hasn’t yet been arrested and is believed to still be in Mexico, according to law enforcement officials.

Also indicted Thursday was Crystal Calderon, 30, of 1811 Mittel in Big Spring, on a charge of intoxication manslaughter with a vehicle (second-degree felony) for the July 2009 death of Rosie Hernandez.

Calderon is alleged to have been intoxicated July 12, 2009, when the vehicle she was driving was involved in an accident on Interstate Highway 20 in Martin County. According to DPS reports, Hernandez was a passenger in the vehicle Calderon was driving and was killed as a result of injuries received in the accident.

Hernandez was a native and long-time resident of Big Spring who was living in Midland at the time of her death. Calderon was arrested Oct. 4 by a Department of Public Safety trooper in Big Spring and booked into the Howard County Detention Cen-

ter, where she was later freed on \$75,000 bond.

If convicted, the Big Spring woman could face a sentence ranging from two to 10 years in a state prison.

Also indicted was Jacob Jay Aguirre, 31, of 425 S. Oak in Stanton, on a charge of intoxication manslaughter with a vehicle (first-degree felony, enhanced) for the Aug. 25 death of James Henry Franklin, 27, of Thornton, Texas.

The one-vehicle accident was reported just after 9 p.m. on Interstate Highway 20, approximately three miles west of Stanton. Aguirre was driving east on the south service road of Interstate 20, but when the vehicle exited the road it overturned, officials with DPS said. Franklin was pronounced dead at the scene.

Aguirre was transported in stable condition with head injuries to Midland Memorial Hospital. A second Thornton man was a passenger in the vehicle — William Wedgman, according to accident reports — but suffered only minor injuries in the crash.

None of the three men were wearing seat belts at the time of the accident, according to DPS reports.

If convicted, Aguirre could face five to 99 years to life in prison.

Also indicted Thursday were:

- Pedro Rivera Aponte, 53, of 1305 Nolan, theft — more than \$1,500 and less than \$20,000 (state jail felony).

- Rigoberto Arreguin, 43, of Amherst, Texas, driving while intoxicated (third-degree felony).

- Michael L. Dickson, 30, of Clovis, N.M., failure to stop and render aid — manslaughter (second-degree felony) and failure to stop and render aid — manslaughter (third-degree felony).

- Moses Gonzales, 37, currently in the custody of the Martin County Jail, burglary of a habitation (second-degree felony).

- Elena Reyes Gonzalez, 42, of Roby, Texas, possession of a controlled substance (third-degree felony).

- Jonathon Alejandro Hinojosa, 21, of 601 N. College St. in Stanton, forgery (state jail felony).

- Elisabeth Klassen, 38, of Canada, theft — more than \$1,500 and less than \$20,000 (state jail felony).

- Lance Land, 23, of 1606 Settles, Big Spring, fraudulent use or possession of identifying information (state jail felony).

- Richard Breck Robertson, 32, of 2209 Runnels, Big Spring, assault causing serious bodily injury (second-degree felony).

- Corey Glenn Rodgers, 43, of Midland, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon (two counts, both second-degree felonies).

- Jordon Jamar Salgado, 18, of 304 S. St. Theresa, Stanton, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon (second-degree felony).

- Rick Alan Waddell, 53, of Midland, evading arrest (third-degree felony).

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

Foster families needed

Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children’s Protective Services office at 263-9669.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Martin Diaz, 59, died Tuesday. Funeral service were at 1 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt Olive Memorial Park.

Adrian Garcia, 63, died Thursday. Visitation and Viewing will be 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. today. Vigil Services will be 7 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel. Committal Services will be Wednesday at Coahoma Cemetery.

Joe Gomez, 52, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Frank Overton, 28, died Thursday. Funeral Service will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Louise Terry, 92, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

John J. “Jerry” White, 92, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

SHOOTING

Continued from Page 1A

it brings all kinds of horrible scenarios to mind,” he added. “It’s something you hope you never, ever have to deal with.”

Danny Ferrell, assistant superintendent at Big Spring ISD, said Friday was a “sad day.”

“We always put student safety as our number-one concern,” Ferrell said. “It’s a sad day when anyone loses their life, much less small children.”

News of the shooting prompted a veritable blizzard of e-mails be-

tween local educators Friday, officials said, but there has been little formal communication with students beyond the classroom level.

“We want the kids to have this discussion with their parents,” Johnson said. “It’s not that we aren’t doing things behind the scenes ... but we feel this is something that parents need to talk to their children about.”

Student safety doesn’t take a back seat to any other issue facing educators, Jacobs said.

“We’re here to educate our kids,” she said. “But our No. 1 priority is and always will be student

safety. We have procedures in place that have been communicated out so people will know what to do in a certain situation.”

Student security was one of the major design factors during the construction of four new elementary campuses in Big Spring. In the new schools, all exterior doors except the main entrance are locked down when the school day begins. Visitors must first enter the main office, then be cleared by personnel before being allowed to enter any classroom area.

Forsan officials plan to incorporate many of

those security features into a new elementary campus they hope meets voter approval in 2013.

“I applaud Big Spring ISD for making things much safer for students and staff at their new elementaries,” Johnson said. “And we are looking at several of the steps they took as we design our new campus.”

All three administrators said security measures will continue to be studied and updated, but the real fear, Ferrell said, is that there are some situations which defy preparation.

“You always try to anticipate what might happen,” he said. “But

how do you prepare for someone (like the Connecticut gunman) who is known by the school staff and does something like that? It’s hard to expect the unexpected.”

Flags at BSISD campuses will fly at half-mast through Tuesday in memory of the shooting victims, Ferrell added.

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

FATAL

Continued from Page 1A

disregarded a stop sign and slammed into the SUV.

The actions of the driver of the pumper truck — Joseph Kimbrell Jr. of Rhome, Texas — directly contributed to the accident, according to officials with the DPS communications department.

The crash was reported at 5:18 a.m., approximately 10 miles north of Big Spring.

Killed in the accident were Francis “Frank” Overton, 28, of Big Spring; Dennis Richardson, 59, of Big Spring; and Sergio Gonzales, 32, of Forsan. All three men were employees of Big Spring-based Robinson Drilling, according to reports.

According to officials with Robinson Drilling, the men were traveling to an oil rig they worked on near Seminole at the time the accident occurred.

All three men were pronounced dead at the scene at 7:58 a.m. by Howard County Justice of the Peace Bennie Green.

Rhyme, the driver of the oilfield pumper truck, was listed in fair condition following the accident. No criminal charges have been filed against him at this time and drugs and alcohol are not believed to have played a role in the crash, according to the investigating trooper’s

report.

The Herald apologizes for any hardship caused by the erroneous information provided by DPS.

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

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Sun: 12:00 7:10
Digital 3:35 10:45

Rise of the Guardians (G)
Sun: 2:30 7:20
Digital 4:55 8:45

Twilight Saga Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG-13) (Digital)
Sun: 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

Playing For Keeps (Digital) PG-13
Sun: 2:25 5:00 7:35 10:10

Active Listening and Captioning System Avail

Devotion To Saint Jude

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, loved, preserved & glorified throughout the world now and forever. The sacred heart of Jesus, pray for us, St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us, St. Jude, Helper of the Hopeless, pray for us. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ for the help of your servant St. Jude in listening to my prayers. Say this prayer nine times for nine days. By the end of the eighth, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you Sacred Heart of Jesus & St. Jude for prayers answered.

DV & MV 235341

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Bill McClellan Managing Editor
Glenn Stifflemire Publisher
Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Brian McCormack Sports Editor
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YOUR VIEWS

Yes, Virginia

TO THE EDITOR:

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus! He lives in a big white house in a place called Washington, D.C., not at the North Pole, because of the climate change. He has over 300 dwarfs to help him dispense with the goodies. Of course he has an income of only \$450,000 per year for the rest of his life. That is not near enough to buy "gifts" for all the "good little boys and girls" who only want free gifts, so he takes money from those dumb "bad boys and girls" who work to pay for these gifts.

There was a time when Dec. 25 was celebrated as the birthday of a baby boy, born in a manger. He grew up and gave people guidance of how they should live. Some of the people did not like his teachings so they nailed him to a cross, gashed his side and celebrated as he bled out. Many historians agree that no one person has had as much influence on the human race as the man called Jesus. Many of our country's laws are based on what was called the Ten Commandments (Example: thou shalt not kill).

Now the president of the United States has declared to the world that we are no longer a Christian nation. Nativity scenes cannot adorn public property as it might offend someone. Congress no longer takes

a Christmas holiday — yet they take what they call the "holiday observance."

Since it is the peak of the annual sales curve, merchants start their sales pitch a month ahead of the holiday. I understand that many stores in other places in the U.S. do not even use the word "Christmas" during this time of the year and it is difficult to find cards that say "Merry Christmas" as so many simply say "happy holidays."

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus, but aside from the glitz, the sales, etc., the birth of Jesus, is still celebrated by Christians worldwide on Dec. 25!

Merry Christmas to all!

CAD WINGERT
BIG SPRING

Overwhelmed

TO THE EDITOR,

My name is Jan Sims and I am a local volunteer for Make a Wish out of the Midland area. We recently held a send off party for a child whose wish was to attend the Dallas Cowboys game.

A week before the party I went to Big Spring High School and asked Coach Philip Ritchey if he could send two Steers players to the bowling alley to bowl with this little boy before he left. He assured me he could take care of that. I also went to the *Herald* to

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- 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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We are in peak condition, Lord, walking with You by our side.

Amen

Soaring spirits in singing siblings

Others intuitively sense potential in their children that may be oblivious to practically everyone else on the planet. When their offspring's musical talent is validated by Bill Gaither, however, the world quickly falls in line.

Such marks the lives of the Martins, a trio of siblings who had little choice but to harmonize, initially from the farthest corners of their 800-square foot home near Hamburg, AR. Joyce, 8, Jonathan, 6 and Judy, 5, drew in closer, and soon their mother, Wylma, pronounced them ready to sing for others.

The "Martin kids" became well known in the area, vocalizing at churches, homecomings and numerous other events before two of 'em had started to school.

By the end of the 1980s, the Martins had performed thousands of times throughout the nation, getting "from here to there" in cars, vans and buses. They logged more than 1.5 million miles, the kids singing and mom in tow to provide "road schooling" between engagements. (Dad J. W., a crop duster, accompanied them when he could.)

In 1991, some Bill Gaither "regulars," Mark Lowery and Michael English, prevailed on Gloria Gaither to prevail on hubby Bill, the world's gospel music icon, to give the Martins a shot. He did, and they've skyrocketed to prominence and now are themselves "regulars" on the videos. They've also sung in Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, the Grand Ole Opry, the White

House and at Billy Graham Crusades.

Life was good, but it also became complicated. They chose to go solo in 2002, but half a dozen years later, they were reunited — picking up where they left off.

A trio again, they no longer reside in "LA," Jonathan's initials for "lower Arkansas." He lives in Iowa, Joyce in Tennessee and Judy in Georgia. They maintain rigorous concert schedules, and likewise try to keep family life as normal as possible in their respective homes, where spouses and an even dozen children reside.

Included among Jonathan's half-dozen are twins Michael and Taylor. Now 16, the boys were born prematurely at 30 weeks on New Year's Eve, 1995. Michael was born with only one eye fully developed, and Taylor with cerebral palsy.

By age two, Michael was fitted with a prosthetic eye. "He's had a terrible time keeping up with it, and we've made a game of innumerable searches for his eye in the early years," Jonathan said....

The family well remembers a delayed departure for church one Sunday morning when Michael was four. His prosthesis was nowhere to be found, and the search was on.

Halea, then 6, found it in her room — one "off limits" to Michael and Taylor. It was in her Barbie doll house — even further "off limits."

All eyes turned to Michael, who meekly explained he thought it was important to "keep an eye on the Barbie dolls."

Taylor is a piece of work, too, refusing to surrender to cerebral palsy. Since his earliest memory, he's wanted to become a fireman. No one in the family

dared to dash his dream.

Some years ago, he was spending hours perusing the phone book. His folks couldn't imagine why.

Quizzed about it, Taylor answered, "I'm memorizing names, phone numbers and addresses." That should really help me out if I decide to be a fire dispatcher."

On balance, the talented Martins lead remarkably normal lives. They are determined to do so. They remain unaffected by their fame, possessing that rare ability to "walk with kings" and doggedly retain the common touch.

They've won multiple Dove awards, received several Grammy nominations and tons of other recognitions. Humility still reigns.

Still, they understand "smallness." Jonathan swears their church was so tiny, there wasn't even room for an unspoken request.

Now, they live in a vast world, masterfully singing praises to the "King of Kings and the Lord of Lords." They've traveled most of life's roads — some with unforeseen bumps and some that rise up to meet them.

But the Martins show up singing, each of them exemplifying as well as any folks I've ever met a firm belief that the ground at the foot of the cross is exceedingly level.

I'm mighty glad Bill Gaither quickly recognizes talent when it's beyond exceptional, and that Wylma made sure her kids learned to harmonize.

Dr. Don 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.

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Tales of Christmas past in Texas

"We just got up on Christmas morning... and we'd usually have an apple and orange in our stockings. That was about the only time we ever had oranges. I can smell an orange to this day, and it always makes me think of Christmas. We didn't get many toys. We got necessities."

This was a Christmas memory of Zuliaka O'Daniel, who was born in 1911 and was raised on a farm southwest of Hart, Texas. Zuliaka's Christmas mornings were much the same for many other Texas children in the early 1900s. While the settings were simple and the gifts limited, Christmas inspired the same anticipation and excitement then that it does for children today.

Elora Riddle, who lived on a farm to the west of Kress, Texas, recalled that her older siblings traveled into town by buggy to purchase surprise Christmas gifts one year for the younger children in the family. "Lucindy and Elbert went to town and it snowed and they couldn't get back on Christmas Eve. We hung our stockings on Christmas Eve and Papa and Mama put an orange and an apple, nuts and candy in, so we had that for Christmas and we thought that was all we were going to get." The morning after Christmas, Elora went to the

breakfast table to find a "celluloid doll" at her place at the table. "We were so happy that Santa came back," she said.

In 1920, a third-grader by the name of Mill Boyd of Dumas, Texas, attended a community Christmas celebration at her schoolhouse.

Instead of individual Christmas celebrations at home, the entire community would gather at the schoolhouse and Santa would visit all of Dumas' children at once.

Mill left that year's gathering in delight, carting home with her a "wicker doll buggy and a Schoenhut doll." According to Mill, the Schoenhut dolls were hand-carved, German-made dolls who were "jointed and had real hair."

In addition to the doll and buggy, Mill also received two boxes of chocolates from her "little boyfriend" that year. Her mother was not pleased and told Mill she was too young to receive the chocolates and would have to return them. Mill's father, however, interjected, "Leave her alone now. I'm gonna eat that candy."

An even earlier Christmas recollection in 1863 by the daughter of former Texas Governor E.M. Pease, Julia, included a description of the family Christmas tree.

"Not tall and stately as the German Tannenbaum, but just a common cedar."

Julia recalled that the ladies of the household spent the weeks leading up to Christmas preparing the trimmings for the tree, including stringing popcorn. Julia noted that because of the

Civil War, goods had been blocked from the North and all food and clothing that year had to be made at home.

In the 1890s, Mrs. W.H. Thaxton of Onion Creek, Texas, told the *Austin American-Statesman* that "real" eggnog was served in "liberal portions" among her family and the neighbors at Christmas. She also noted that "all laws, short of murder and arson, were suspended for the time, and many were the mutual misunderstandings that were settled at Christmastime."

At the end of Christmas day, "dancing was engaged in, and the nights were enlivened by the merry strains of the fiddle (not violin), and the calls of the prompter as merrily the dance went on far into the night."

Today, as many of us find ourselves caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, there is something to be said about the simplicity of Christmas past in Texas.

May we all take the time to enjoy the small things, the time together with family and friends, and the real meaning of the season. From my family to yours: Merry Christmas, happy holidays and best wishes for a safe and prosperous New Year.

Senator Cornyn serves on the Finance, Judiciary, Armed Services and Budget Committees. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee's Immigration, Refugees and Border Security subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge.



Courtesy photo

Big Spring State Hospital Director of Activity Therapies Josh Preston and Superintendent Ed Moughon greet Mr. and Mrs. Claus Thursday night at the patient Christmas party. The Volunteer Services Council raises money throughout the year to provide gifts and a festive holiday time for the 200 patients. Thursday's party featured caroling, Christmas refreshments and a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

Boy Scouts announce new Buffalo Trail Council executive

Special to the Herald

MIDLAND, Texas — The Buffalo Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America has selected a new Scout executive. David Chapman, Williamsburg, Va., has accepted the position as the 13th Scout executive to lead the Buffalo Trail Council.

Chapman is currently the assistant Scout executive with the Colonial Virginia Council in Newport News, Va. Prior to his position at the

Colonial Virginia Council, Chapman served in Fort Worth and San Angelo, Texas, Tulsa, Okla., and Dallas and Sherman, Texas.

“David’s expertise in multiple facets of the Scouting program is going to be paramount in the growth of the Scouting movement in West Texas,” said Council President Deana Savage. “We are thrilled to have him on board.”

Chapman brings with him a broad range of experience in council

operations, program development, fund raising and staff development. He has also served as camp director in five different councils where he has served, which blends well with the Buffalo Trail Council operations.

The council is home of the Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch, a Scout summer camp designation in the Davis Mountains that serves roughly 3,500 campers each year. Chapman’s past experience with running sum-

mer camps will help bring a fresh perspective and ideas on ways to utilize the camp property.

Chapman is married with two grown sons. He and his wife are planning to move to West Texas before Jan. 15, 2013.

The council’s previous Scout executive, Lyman Gifford, assumed a new position with a council in Alaska earlier this fall.

LETTERS

Continued from Page 1A

see if I could obtain coverage for this event.

On the Monday following Thanksgiving, when I arrived at the bowling alley, there were not two, but seven Big Spring Steers as well as Coach Ritchey, who came to bowl. I was overwhelmed that these seven young men, as well as their coach, would give up an evening to help us have a going away party for a child they did not even know.

I would like to commend Philip Ritchey, Aric Rutledge, Tate Kennedy, Brett Borman, Matt Beall, Drake Worthan, Tony Solis and Nick Gonzalez for giving up an evening to make a perfect night for a child with a threatening illness. I would also like to commend the parents of these young men for instilling in them a desire to help others.

Not only did they come, they used their own money to play video games with the youngster. I finally had to tell them the party was over and they could go.

Too often, we fail to recognize the good our young people do, and I did not want to let this go unnoticed.

To end our evening, when I went to pay, an anonymous donor had paid the entire bill at Bowl-a-Rama.

We often have Wish kids in Howard County and I would like to thank H-E-B bakery for donating cupcakes, Faye’s Flowers for airing balloons for free and several local donors who wish to remain anonymous. I would also like to express my appreciation to Bowl-a-Rama for the discounted rate, which made it possible to have this party locally.

Without help from these sources, we would be unable to complete the package for these children and their families.

JAN SIMS
BIG SPRING

Gouging

TO THE EDITOR:

I had to be in Lubbock today, Thursday, Dec. 13, and put gas in my car for \$2.95 per gallon. It was at a convenience store, not a Sam’s Club or discount place. I saw a number of places advertising \$2.95. Yet in Big Spring, the lowest price is \$3.22 and up. Seems our local “Friends” are going to do us for all they can. Seems to me that 27 cents per gallon is gouging.

CLEM JONES
BIG SPRING

A Very Special Thank You!

To: Jr. Jimenez, Billy Pineda & Ralph Jimenez, Shelly Marquez, Kristen Marquez, Max Hernandez and everyone that participated in the Benefit Golf Tournament and donated their money.

*God Bless You All,
Benny Marquez Sr.*

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► News in brief

Egyptians vote on Islamist-backed constitution that has polarized their nation

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptians were voting Saturday on a proposed constitution that has polarized their nation, with President Mohammed Morsi and his Islamist supporters backing the charter, while liberals, secular Muslims and Christians oppose it.

With the nation divided by a political crisis defined by mass protests and deadly violence, the vote has turned into a dispute over whether Egypt should move toward a religious state under Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood and an ultraconservative Salafi bloc, or one that retains secular traditions and an Islamic character.

"The times of silence are over," said bank employee Essam el-Guindy as he waited to cast his ballot in Cairo's upscale Zamalek district. "I am not OK with the constitution. Morsi should not have let the country split like this."

El-Guindy was one of about 20 standing in a line for men waiting to vote. A separate women's line had twice as many people. Elsewhere in Cairo, hundreds of voters began queuing outside polling stations nearly two hours before the voting started at 8 a.m.

"I read parts of the constitution and saw no reason to vote against it," said Rania Wafik as she held her newborn baby while waiting in line. "We need to move on and I just see no reason to vote against the constitution."

President's marijuana comments prompt calls for review of federal enforcement policy

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — President Barack Obama says he won't go after pot users in Colorado and Washington, two states that just legalized the drug for recreational use. But advocates argue the president said the same thing about medical marijuana — and yet U.S. attorneys continue to force the closure of dispensaries across the U.S.

Welcome to the confusing and often conflicting

policy on pot in the U.S., where medical marijuana is legal in many states, but it is increasingly difficult to grow, distribute or sell it. And at the federal level, at least officially, it is still an illegal drug everywhere.

Obama's statement Friday provided little clarity in a world where marijuana is inching ever so carefully toward legitimacy.

That conflict is perhaps the greatest in California, where the state's four U.S. Attorneys criminally prosecuted large growers and launched a coordinated crackdown on the state's medical marijuana industry last year by threatening landlords with property forfeiture actions. Hundreds of pot shops went out of business.

Steve DeAngelo, executive director of an Oakland, Calif., dispensary that claims to be the nation's largest, called for a federal policy that treats recreational and medical uses of the drug equally.

As year ends, U.S. commanders offering glowing assessments of 2012 Afghanistan efforts

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — U.S. commanders are offering glowing reviews of their 2012 war campaign, upbeat assessments that could be interpreted as leeway for President Barack Obama to order another round of troop withdrawals next summer.

Obama faces a tension between calls by Democrats and even some Republicans to wind down the war more quickly and the military's desire to avoid a too-fast pullout that might squander hard-won sacrifices.

U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has not yet recommended to Obama a specific pace of withdrawals for 2013. But during the Pentagon chief's two-day visit to the war zone this past week, commanders suggested that things are going better than is generally believed by an American public weary of war after 11 years.

Maj. Gen. Robert Abrams, for example, cited "astounding" progress in the Zaray district of Kandahar province, where the Taliban once held sway. He said Afghan forces are now "dominating" in

that district. Abrams is the top coalition commander in southern Afghanistan.

Abrams told reporters he foresees a smaller coalition force by next summer, but he was not recommending or predicting any U.S. reductions. He was arguing that Afghan forces are performing so well that they should be able to hold their ground in 2013 with less coalition combat power.

2 dead in plane crash in Amarillo

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — Authorities say a small plane crash in Amarillo killed two people after plummeting into a field shortly after takeoff.

The crash happened Friday night during high winds in the Texas Panhandle. The Texas Department of Public Safety says the plane went down only 20 miles from the Amarillo airport where pilot Kelly O'Neal stopped to pick up 79-year-old passenger Robert O'Neal.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

Authorities say the pilot was from Colorado Springs, Colo. Robert O'Neal was from Amarillo.

NY officials: Flooded car lot may hurt wildlife

CALVERTON, N.Y. (AP) — New York environmental officials have ordered a Texas company to relocate thousands of flood-damaged vehicles from an industrial park on Long Island because they may pose a hazard for two endangered species.

Since Superstorm Sandy, an auto salvage business, Copart USA, has been storing huge numbers of wrecked vehicles in Calverton.

Newsday reports the Department of Environmental Conservation gave a formal notice to the Dallas company Monday that the autos had to be moved because they were within 1,000 feet of a breeding pond for the endangered tiger salamander.

Officials say the autos are also within the foraging habitat of the northern harrier bird of prey.

The newspaper says there was no immediate comment from Copart or the company that owns the industrial park.

Judge to discuss trial delay for BP rig employees

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A federal judge has scheduled a status conference to discuss a request to postpone the trial of two BP rig supervisors charged with manslaughter in the April 2010 deaths of 11 workers on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig.

U.S. District Judge Stanwood Duval Jr. didn't immediately rule on Tuesday's request for a trial delay by attorneys for BP well site leaders Robert Kaluza and Donald Vidrine. Instead, Duval is scheduled to discuss the matter with defense attorneys and prosecutors during a telephone call Monday.

Their trial is set to begin Feb. 5, but the defense lawyers say they need more time to prepare.

An indictment accuses Kaluza and Vidrine of disregarding high pressure readings that should have been glaring indications of trouble before BP's well blowout.

ND company touting new sunflower plant in Texas

HORACE, N.D. (AP) — The head of a new North Dakota-based sunflower business says he believes the company's new plant in Lubbock, Texas, is the most technologically advanced sunflower seed roasting facility in North America.

SunGold Foods CEO Bob Majkrzak presided over a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday at the facility, which will produce in-shell sunflower seeds to be sold as snack food.

Majkrzak says the plant has unique equipment that controls moisture and monitors salt levels for specific products. The technology was developed at the company's North Dakota facilities.

The plant has 40 employees. Majkrzak says there are plans to hire 65 more workers in five years.

SunGold Foods is based in Horace. It is a subsidiary of Fargo-based Red River Commodities Inc., which also has a bird food plant in Lubbock.

Ocean Beauty recalls 2 types of smoked salmon

SEATTLE (AP) — Ocean Beauty Seafoods has announced a precautionary recall of two cold-smoked salmon products because of possible *Listeria* contamination. The products were distributed in 12 states.

The products are the 3-ounce Nathan's Brand Cold Smoked Atlantic Salmon and the 4-ounce Lascco Cold Smoked Nova Atlantic Salmon. The products were distributed to retailers and distribution centers in Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, Texas, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey and New York.

The Lascco salmon has a universal product code, or UPC, of 0 72840 01751 7. The Nathan's salmon has a UPC of 0 73030 80368 2. The products are vacuum-packed in a plastic pouch on a foil board. The pack code 285 is printed on the back panel.

No illnesses have been reported. *Listeria* can lead to severe illness for women who are pregnant or people who have a weakened immune system.

Ocean Beauty says internal testing by the company revealed the presence of *Listeria* in samples of the specific packages noted above.

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How to talk to your kids about school shooting

By MICHELLE R. SMITH

Associated Press

The killings at a Connecticut elementary school left parents struggling to figure out what, if anything, to tell their children.

President Barack Obama said he and his wife, Michelle, would tell their daughters that they love them and hug them a little tighter. Experts say that's a good example to follow. Parents also should allow children to talk about their feelings in the coming days while sheltering them from the 24/7 media coverage of the event, they say.

A man gunned down more than two dozen people Friday, most of them kids at a Newtown, Conn., elementary school. The shooter was among the 28 people left dead, apparently from a self-inflicted wound.

Whitney Finucane wasn't sure how and when she would talk with her son, Nico, about the shooting. She kissed and hugged him when he came out from kindergarten at Dr. Martin Luther King Elementary in Providence,

R.I., on Friday.

"I don't know how to explain insanity and evil to a 5-year-old," she said. "I don't know that he can really grasp it."

Even the youngest schoolchildren are likely to hear about it, said Glenn Saxe, chairman of the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at NYU Langone Medical Center.

"It's really important, especially at this time, for parents to check in with their kids, to be attuned to how they're feeling, how they're doing, and to answer questions honestly and straightforwardly," he said. "For any other kid in school, this has meaning. Parents need to understand that even in surprising ways, this can affect their kids."

Parents can start by asking their children what they've already heard and what questions they have, said Dr. David Schonfeld, a pediatrician and director of the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. If they ask why someone would

do something like this, it's OK to say you don't know.

"I wouldn't provide false reassurance or dismiss legitimate concerns," he said. "We don't help children by telling them they shouldn't be afraid of things that are frightening."

Parents can tell their kids, "What is most important is that you're safe and you're going to be safe," said Dr. Louis Kraus, chief of child and adolescent psychiatry at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

Above all, parents need to try to help their children feel safe, he said. Helping kids return to or maintain normal routines can help minimize their anxiety, Kraus said.

Some children may ask the same questions over and over as a way to seek reassurance, and parents shouldn't dismiss them, said Dr. David Fassler, a child and adolescent psychiatrist in Burlington, Vt.

"Acknowledge and validate the child's thoughts, feelings, and reactions. Let them

know that you think their questions and concerns are important and appropriate," he said.

Parents of young children should keep their children from hearing reports on TV, radio, and social media and to closely monitor exposure to media for all children, several experts said. Children who show persistent signs of anxiety and stress, including recurring nightmares or sleep problems and fears about leaving home, should see their pediatrician or a mental health expert, Kraus said.

While parents might feel the need to teach their children what to do in such an emergency, the next few days is not the time to develop or bring up your family's disaster preparedness or to teach your young children to dial 911, Saxe said.

"Right now, kids' sense of safety and security is shattered," Saxe said. "It's very good parenting practice, in general, to have a kid know what to do in times of emergency, but it undermines the immedi-

ate message that you're trying to convey."

Schonfeld said if children bring it up themselves, you can talk about what's being done to keep them safe.

As students head back to their classrooms on Monday, parents and children should know that school shootings are rare and schools still are among the safest places, said William Lassiter of the Center for the Prevention of School Violence. Parents can ask their principal or parent-teacher group for a copy of their school crisis plan.

Notice whether schools stick to their own security plans, he said. Do people have to check in at the door and

sign in at the front office, for example?

"A lot of times, the parents are the ones who need to remind the school," he said.

Schools should have an emergency plan that is available to parents that explains what the school will do in various emergencies, such as a fire, hazardous materials spill, lockdown or evacuation. It should also say how the school will communicate with the parents: for example on its Twitter feed, Facebook page, website, or by email or automated phone call, said Kitty Porterfield, a spokeswoman for the American Association of School Administrators.

Police find 'good' evidence on gunman

NEWTOWN, Conn.

(AP) — The massacre of 26 children and adults at a Connecticut elementary school elicited horror and soul-searching around the world even as it raised more basic questions about why the gunman, a 20-year-old described as brilliant but remote, was driven to such a crime and how he chose his victims.

Investigators were trying to learn more about Adam Lanza and questioned his older brother, who was not believed to have been involved in the rampage at Sandy Hook Elementary.

Police shed no light on the motive for the second-deadliest school shooting in U.S. history.

In tight-knit Newtown on Friday night, hundreds of people packed St. Rose of Lima Church and stood outside in a vigil for the 28 dead — 20 children and six adults at the school, the gunman's mother at home, and the gunman himself, who committed suicide.

People held hands, lit candles and sang "Silent Night."

"These 20 children were just beautiful, beautiful children," Monsignor Robert Weiss said. "These 20 children lit up this community better than all these Christmas lights we have. ... There are a lot brighter stars up there tonight because of these kids."

Lanza is believed to have suffered from a personality disorder and lived with his mother, said a law enforcement official who was briefed on the investigation.

Asked at a news conference whether Lanza had left any emails or other writings that might explain the rampage, state police Lt. Paul Vance said investigators had found "very good evidence" and hoped it would answer questions about the gunman's motives. Vance would not

elaborate.

The tragedy plunged the picturesque New England town of 27,000 people into mourning.

"People in my neighborhood are feeling guilty about it being Christmas. They are taking down decorations," said Jeannie Pasacreta, a psychologist who volunteered her services and was advising parents struggling with how to talk to their children.

Lanza shot his mother, Nancy Lanza, drove to the school in her car with at least three of her guns, and opened fire in two classrooms around 9:30 a.m. Friday, law enforcement officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A custodian ran through the halls, warning of a gunman, and someone switched on the intercom, perhaps saving many lives by letting them hear the chaos in the school office, a teacher said.

Teachers locked their doors and ordered children to huddle in a corner, duck under their desks or hide in closets as shots reverberated through the building.

The well-liked principal, Dawn Hochsprung, was believed to be among the dead. A woman who worked at the school was wounded.


Maryann Jacob, a clerk in the school library, was in there with 18 fourth-graders when they heard a commo-

tion and gunfire outside the room. She had the youngsters crawl into a storage room, and they locked the door and barricaded it with a file cabinet. There happened to be materials for coloring, "so we set them up with paper and crayons."

After what she guessed was about an hour, officers came to the door and knocked, but those inside couldn't be sure it was the police.

"One of them slid his badge under the door, and they called and said, 'It's OK, it's the police,'" she said.

Contract Bridge



By Steve Becker

I Think, Therefore I Am

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BSHS squads pick up home wins against Stanton Buffs

By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Sports Editor

Big Spring Boys

BIG SPRING — The Steers (5-8) put on a thrilling performance Friday in front of a home crowd, going down to the wire in overtime to edge the Stanton Buffaloes (11-2) 44-43.

Big Spring started off strong, scoring 13 unanswered points in the first period, but Stanton's offense started to click during the second quarter and pulled within five points at the half.

"We're trying to incorporate a new offense," BSBS Head Boy's Basketball Coach Cliff Thompson said. "We looked good early and we got not-so-good in the middle, but really, that had a lot to do with Stanton. It would have been easy at 20-3 for those kids to fold it in and quit, but they played their rears off, shot the ball well and they did everything they could to win. Luckily, we made a couple shots when we needed it."

The victory marked the third overtime win in as many OT appearances for the Steers.

"That's what I told them to start overtime," Thompson added. "We've been here before, play hard, but play calm — do the things we did in the first quarter — get some turnovers, score in transition and we'll be fine."

Thompson was pleased with his team's poise. "You never know how high school kids are going to re-

spond when you are up, but then lose the lead. (Stanton) had all the momentum for a while, but for our kids to step up when we needed to and get the rebounds when we needed to — all those little things — I couldn't be happier with how they responded in that situation."

The Steers will be traveling to Lamesa on Tuesday. Game time is slated for 8 p.m.

Girls

BIG SPRING — It didn't come down to the wire for the Lady Steers (9-7) who defeated Stanton handily Friday at home, 49-30.

Big Spring fell behind early and trailed the Lady Buffaloes 19-18 at halftime. The Lady Steers came out swinging in the second half, outscoring Stanton 31-11.

"We started off slowly," BSBS Head Coach Mike Warren said. "Our defense kept us in the game until our offense woke up in the third and fourth quarters. Our guards did a really good job — Logan (Yarbar), Julianna (Rodriguez), Dyrshae (Vanderbilt) and Ashley (Ambris) — they all played well. Yaneira (Tuitt) got hot in the second half — that helped open up the outside for our guards. It was a good win for us."

Yaneira Tuitt led BSBS in scoring with 16 points, Logan Yarbar chipped in 13 and Julianna Rodriguez added eight.

Next up for the Lady Steers will be a home game against

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HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Tavaris Walker puts up two points on a layup during Friday's game against Stanton at Steer Gym. The Steers won 44-43 in overtime. BSBS will play Lamesa on the road Tuesday.

NFL Week 15 has a playoff feel

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

This might be even better than the playoffs.

Week 15 sure looks like a playoff round with so many matchups between contenders. From Foxborough to Baltimore to Atlanta, from Chicago to Houston to Dallas. Maybe even throw in St. Louis. It feels like the postseason because of the importance of those games for all involved.

"I think for us it's an important football game because we've got a lot of stuff in front of us that we want to finish off with this season," said Atlanta quarterback Matt Ryan, who could have been speaking for every team still in the playoff races.

And especially for those facing opponents in the same position this weekend, including Ryan's Falcons against the NFC East-leading New York Giants.

Also San Francisco is at AFC East winner New England, AFC West champion Denver

at AFC North leader Baltimore, NFC North leader Green Bay at Chicago, Indianapolis at AFC South leader Houston, Pittsburgh at Dallas, and Minnesota at St. Louis.

Elsewhere Sunday, it's Seattle against Buffalo in Toronto; Washington at Cleveland, Tampa Bay at New Orleans; Jacksonville at Miami; Carolina at San Diego; Detroit at Arizona; and Kansas City at Oakland.

On Monday night, the New York Jets are at Tennessee.

The action began on Thursday night when the Bengals won 34-13 at the Philadelphia Eagles (4-10). Andy Dalton threw a touchdown pass and ran for another score for Cincinnati (8-6).

San Francisco (9-3-1) at New England (10-3)

Six days after exposing the Texans in a prime-time rout, the Patriots take on another likely division winner with Super Bowl aspirations. Should New England, which has won 20 in a row at home in De-

ember and has not lost in the second half of the schedule in 21 games, do the same to the 49ers on Sunday night, well, nobody will doubt the Patriots have earned the favorite's role.

The Patriots, winners of seven in a row, tend to live up to such challenges.

"This week it's the 49ers," said Tom Brady, who threw for four touchdowns against Houston. "It's not the weather, it's not the rest, it's not the crowd — it's the 49ers. I think as long as you stay focused on them and you focus on what you need to do against them, then you let those other things really take care of themselves. The more you waste energy worrying about a plane flight or weather conditions, it's really a waste of time. You've got to focus on your opponent because whatever you're dealing with, they're dealing with the same stuff."

Even with the No. 2 defense in the league, the 49ers are dealing with some special stuff as

the Patriots take aim on several NFL offensive records.

"Multiple strengths: a really good scheme, really good play calling and then great individual effort at each position, the great ability they have to play as a team," 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh said of the Patriots. "You could talk for hours about how good they are."

Denver (10-3) at Baltimore (9-4)

The AFC West champion Broncos have won eight straight as their defense has become staunch. That gives them an edge in that area over the sputtering Ravens, which says a lot in itself considering how good Baltimore's defense usually is.

Then there's the comfort level Peyton Manning has gained with his playmates on offense. In contrast, the Ravens fired offensive coordinator Cam Cameron this week, replacing him with Jim Caldwell — coincidentally, Manning's

See **PLAYOFF**, Page 12A

Texans hope to rebound with win over Colts

KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — The Indianapolis Colts dominated the AFC South for most of its first nine years. When they fell apart without an injured Peyton Manning, the Houston Texans finally won their first division title last season.

The Texans (11-2) haven't forgotten their years of being manhandled by the Colts. They would like nothing more than to clinch another division crown Sunday against their longtime nemesis.

"All of our goals are ahead of us," Houston linebacker Connor Barwin said. "But to do it here at home against the Colts would kind of be perfect."

Houston secured a playoff berth two weeks ago, but stumbled in a 42-14 loss to New

England on Monday night. That loss, combined with the Colts (9-4) winning their third straight, left the open possibility for Indianapolis to win the division with two games against Houston remaining.

The Colts would clinch a playoff spot with a victory Sunday and become just the second team in NFL history to win at least 10 games the year after losing 14 or more.

"The Colts used to own this division for many years, so it's time to go ahead and get that thing back," Indianapolis defensive end Cory Redding said.

The Texans, who have the AFC's best record despite Monday's loss, are eager to get back on the field after coming up very small in what many thought

See **TEXANS**, Page 11A

Yankees hit with \$18.9 million luxury tax

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Yankees were hit with an \$18.9 million luxury tax by Major League Baseball, the 10th consecutive year they will pay a penalty for their spending.

The team finished with a \$222.5 million payroll for purposes of the tax, according to figures sent to teams Thursday and obtained by The Associated Press.

Following its payroll-shedding trade with the Los Angeles Dodgers last

summer, Boston finished just \$47,177 under the \$178 million threshold. The Los Angeles Angels wound up at \$176.7 million and Philadelphia at \$174.5 million.

Figures include average annual values of contracts for players on 40-man rosters, earned bonuses and escalators, adjustments for cash in trades and \$10.8 million per team in benefits.

New York has run up a luxury tax bill of \$224.2 million over the past de-

cade, with the fee increasing from \$13.9 million last year.

The Yankees finished at a record \$223.3 million, their 14th consecutive year as the biggest spender and topping their previous mark of \$222.5 million in 2008.

However, the Dodgers could break that mark next year following a summer and autumn of acquisitions.

Los Angeles currently is at \$207.9 million for 21 signed players.

TEXANS

Continued from Page 10A

was a benchmark game in the AFC. None of them seems worried that Monday night's struggles will seep into this week.

"I have no doubt on how we will respond on Sunday. Period," Andre Johnson said tersely. "You guys can say what you want, think what you want, just watch us on Sunday and see what happens."

There's reason to believe Johnson, who leads the team with 1,209 yards receiving. A week after their only other loss this season, a 42-24 defeat by the Packers, the Texans responded with a resounding 43-13 win over the Ravens.

The loss to the Patriots left Houston with plenty to work on this week. The top priorities are improving an inconsistent running game and eliminating costly mistakes on defense.

There's plenty of disappointment about what happened Monday, but the Texans are comforted by still controlling their fate when it comes to getting a first-round bye and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

"We're still on top of the AFC," defensive end J.J. Watt said. "We can go clinch the division this weekend, which is a big goal of ours, and then we'll move on to the next

goal."

A homecoming is ahead for Indianapolis rookie quarterback Andrew Luck, the top overall pick in this year's draft who grew up in Houston and whose father, Oliver, was a quarterback for the Oilers. He expects a group of friends and family at the game, but is much more worried about how he'll perform against Houston than how big his personal cheering section will be.

"It is a business trip and that's where our focus needs to be," he said.

Luck has led the Colts' remarkable turnaround with a solid season and needs 260 yards passing to break Cam Newton's NFL rookie record of 4,051 yards. Luck has had his share of rookie mistakes, throwing an AFC-high 18 interceptions. But he has a knack for making plays with the game on the line, leading the Colts to six wins on drives in the fourth quarter or overtime, the most by a rookie since 1970.

Interim coach Bruce Arians, in charge of the team with Chuck Pagano on an indefinite leave after being diagnosed with leukemia, has been impressed by Luck. But he's quick to point out that another key to their improvement has been the leadership of veterans such as Dwight Freeney, Robert Mathis and Reggie Wayne.

"All those guys, they have one losing season in their careers," Arians

said. "They weren't used to it. It was an aberration to them. It's a credit to them to grab these young guys and mold them as fast as they have."

The Indianapolis offense has been hit hard by injuries, and the Colts placed running backs Donald Brown and Robert Hughes on injured reserve this week. There are questions on the offensive line with right tackle Winston Justice (biceps) and center Samson Satele (ankle) both missing practice this week because of injuries.

Arians said he is concerned about pass protection every week. The Colts can't be happy about the possibility of using a makeshift line against one of the most dominant defensive fronts in the NFL.

Houston defensive end J.J. Watt leads the AFC with and has the most sacks in a season in franchise history with 16½. Whitney Mercilus has tied the team's rookie sacks mark with six despite starting just two games.

Luck is well aware of the challenge he'll face against Watt.

"He's a monster," Luck said. "He gets sacks. If he's not sacking the quarterback he's hitting the running back behind the line of scrimmage. If he's not doing that he's battling balls down, so he's definitely a premier player in this league."

WINS

Continued from Page 10A

San Angelo Lake View on Tuesday. Tip off is set for 6:30 p.m. for varsity, junior varsity will play at 5 p.m. — both at Steer Gym — ninth grade will play at the junior high at 5 p.m.

Coahoma Boys

COAHOMA — The Bulldogs improved to 8-5 on the season as they defeated Hermligh in convincing fashion Friday, outscoring the Cardinals in all four quarters. Alex Hill contributed 22 points in the 62-29 victory. Braxton Iden put up 12 points, Tanner Ruiz added nine and Shanen Warneke had four points and 11 rebound.

Coahoma will meet Howard County rival Forsan at home Tuesday. Game time is scheduled for 8 p.m.

Girls

COAHOMA — Hermligh's Lady Cardinals also had a rough outing at Coahoma on Friday as the Bulldogettes notched their fifth win of the season with a 66-26 blowout victory over the Lady Cards.

Julia Castilaw led Coahoma with 12 points

while Devine Martin and Kaeli Yeager each chipped in 11. Savannah Neff and Kyla Clanton put up eight points apiece.

The Bulldogettes will face the Lady Buffs of Forsan at home Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Forsan Boys

ROSCOE — In Tuesday's 65-55 loss against Garden City, Forsan Head Basketball Coach Gary Huckabee said his team looked "flat." The opposite was true Friday as the Buffaloes traveled to Roscoe and defeated the Plowboys 58-37. Kade Fannin turned in a dominating performance, racking up 25 points and 14 rebounds. Aric Hernandez added 124 points and 8 rebounds. The Buffs now boast a 7-4 record.

"We played really well as a team," Huckabee said. "There were a lot of good assists. Everyone seemed to be in the right position at the right times. It was a more cohesive effort than we had against Garden City. The kids played a great game."

Forsan will travel to Coahoma to meet the rival Bulldogs on Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Girls

The Forsan Lady Buf-

faloes defeated Roscoe on the road Friday, 36-23. Brittney Hergert was Forsan's leading scorer with 12 points. Jahnia Willard added 9 and Reagan Haggard put up eight.

Forsan will play Coahoma on the road Friday at 6:30 p.m.

Other scores:

Grady (Boys) (7-2), lost to Water Valley, 66-50.

Grady (Girls) (10-4), defeated Borden County, 66-40.

Garden City (Boys) (7-4), defeated Irion County, 81-50.

Garden City (Girls) (12-3), defeated Blackwell, 70-9.

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

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Julianna Rodriguez goes for a layup during Friday's home victory over Stanton. The Lady Steers downed the Lady Buffs 49-30.

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- H-E-B Breakfast Sausage 16 oz., assorted varieties

- H-E-B Fully Loaded True Grits, 8 oz.

- H-E-B Texas Style Rice Mix 10.3 - 10.7 oz. assorted varieties

- Central Market Cranberry Orange Chutney 12 oz.



PLAYOFF

Continued from Page 10A

last coach in Indianapolis before the four-time MVP headed to Denver.

"Jim Caldwell had a tremendous influence on me as my quarterbacks coach," Manning said. "He was very organized, very detail-oriented, which I'm a fan of that philosophy ... I really felt he took my game to another level. He's also been a tremendous friend to me and mentor. I miss being around him every day and I miss his friendship every day. That's how I feel about Jim."

New York Giants (8-5) at Atlanta (11-2)

Although the Falcons own the NFC South and have the best record in the conference, they've looked vulnerable for more than a month. One of two undefeated teams at home — Seattle is the other — Atlanta needs to re-establish some momentum after a weak performance in a loss at Carolina.

What better way than against the Super Bowl champions?

"When you set out at the beginning of the year, you want to win every game that you play," Ryan said. "You can't worry about what everybody else is doing and what that means in terms of your playoff picture. I think we just played poorly last week and that's something we can't do again this week."

The Giants also have been up and down and have only a one-game lead in the NFC East, where Dallas and Washington have better divi-

sional records.

Green Bay (9-4) at Chicago (8-5)

A Packers victory ends the suspense in the NFC North, and the way Chicago is hurting, the Bears might need to start worrying about just getting into the postseason if they fall at Soldier Field.

The latest injury is to kicker Robbie Gould's left calf, and he is done for the season; veteran Olindo Mare was signed this week. Defensive leader Brian Urlacher (hamstring) and outstanding cornerback Tim Jennings (shoulder) also have missed time, and QB Jay Cutler hurt his neck in last week's loss to the Vikings, but expects to go.

Green Bay is beginning to show some balance on both sides of the ball, yet Aaron Rodgers has not had a huge game in a while. That could be coming against the limping Bears in the 186th match of the NFL's longest series.

Indianapolis (9-4) at Houston (11-2)

The division race is over if the Texans win, and they also are very aware that another loss could force them to return to Foxborough in the playoffs.

Indianapolis has put together quite a story, going from the NFL's worst in 2012 to a victory of at least an AFC wild-card spot. Win out and the Colts, led by top overall draft choice QB Andrew Luck, take the South crown. Win here and they are in the playoffs.

Houston needs to re-discover the defensive power and stinginess that helped it surge to the top of the standings. Indy is 3-3 on the road,

but the victims weren't in the Texans' class: the Titans, Jaguars and Lions.

Pittsburgh (7-6) at Dallas (7-6)

Both clubs are alive in division races, but more realistic might be pursuing a wild card. The loser here will be at a big disadvantage in that chase — unless the other contenders also lose, which is highly possible in this wide-open scramble.

For the Steelers, a more comfortable Ben Roethlisberger in his second game back from shoulder and rib problems is a must. Pittsburgh failed at home against San Diego for the first time in the regular season last Sunday, but got help from Dallas when it rallied to knock off Cincinnati.

The Cowboys showed against the Bengals the kind of fortitude many have said they lack. They'll need more of it Sunday, and they're hardly unbeatable at their palace, going 3-3 this year.

Minnesota (7-6) at St. Louis (6-6-1)

Adrian Peterson has his eyes on more than reaching 2,000 yards rushing in his comeback from major left knee surgery 11 months ago. He's thinking about Eric Dickerson's league record of 2,105 set in 1984.

Considering how unproductive Minnesota's passing attack has been with struggling second-year quarterback Christian Ponder — and without star receiver Percy Harvin — expect the Rams to load up against the run.

"I take that as a challenge and I love to see it," said Peterson, who ran through and around a better defense last week in a win over Chicago, gaining 154 yards and scoring twice.

The Rams have won three in a row and this is the first of three games against other wild-card chasers; they finish at Tampa Bay and Seattle.

Seattle (8-5) vs. Buffalo (5-8) at Toronto

Coming off its biggest road win two weeks ago at Chicago, the Seahawks should have no fear of visiting the Bills and dealing with the Western New York elements ... oh, wait.

Not much home-field advantage in the Toronto dome for the Bills, who are just 3-3 at Orchard Park, anyway.

Seattle still has a shot at taking the NFC West, but needs help to catch San Francisco.

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Holiday House Treat, Crispy Cheese Crackers, Eggnog Hot Chocolate, Salted Caramel Bacon Cordial Cups, Fire Roasted Jalapeño Onion Dip, Gingerpops Cookie Kit

Holiday House Treat

Makes about 12 servings

- 6 cups cinnamon-flavored toasted oats cereal
- 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) butter
- 1 bag (10 ounces) mini marshmallows
- 1-1/2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Assorted Tube Icing, Decorating Gel, Sprinkles, Colored Sugars, Icing Decorations and other favorite candy

Prepare Wilton Stand-Up House Pan with vegetable pan spray.

Place cereal in large bowl. In large saucepan, melt butter; add marshmallows, ginger and cinnamon. Cook and stir constantly until melted. Pour over cereal and mix well. Spread cereal mixture into prepared pan. When cool to touch, remove from pan; secure to foil-wrapped cake board with icing. Decorate as desired with icing, sprinkles, sugars, icing decorations and candy.

Crispy Cheese Crackers

Makes 16 to 20 crackers

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup (about 2 ounces) finely grated Asiago cheese
- 1 ounce (about 1/4 cup) toasted pine nuts, finely chopped
- 1-1/2 teaspoons minced fresh rosemary
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour

Preheat oven to 350°F. Prepare Holiday Cookie Pan with vegetable pan spray.

In medium bowl, beat butter, cheese, pine nuts, rosemary, garlic powder, salt and pepper with electric mixer until creamy and well combined. Add flour; beat until mixture looks sandy and holds together when squeezed in your hand. Press into prepared pan, filling cavities 1/2 full.

Bake 13 to 15 minutes or until edges are light golden brown. Cool in pan 5 minutes. Remove from pan and cool completely.

Happy Holiday

ENTERTAINING

FAMILY FEATURES

Host a holiday party that's simple and festive with a combination of pre-made and homemade delights from the celebration experts at Wilton.

For starters, a cookie pan does double duty for holiday-shaped homemade Crispy Cheese Crackers. Serve these aromatic rosemary treats, made into Christmas trees, snowmen and stockings, alongside a colorful assortment of fresh vegetables and made-from-scratch fire-roasted jalapeño dip.

"Guests will think you spent hours baking in the kitchen when you wow them with a seasonal selection of hand-decorated gingerbreads," says Nancy Siler, vice president of consumer affairs at Wilton.

Easy to assemble with all the trimmings included, there's a ready-to-decorate gingerbread kit to fit any yuletide gathering. Complete with pre-baked gingerbread, each kit contains decorating accessories like candies and icings to personalize your own mini village, Christmas tree, gingerpop cookies and more.

For another fun twist on a traditional gingerbread house, Siler recommends getting the kids involved. They'll love the marshmallow-y Holiday House Treat made of cinnamon toasted oats cereal. Once the house is built, watch the kids decorate their yummy creation with a variety of gumdrops, licorice, icings and candies.

To cater to a more sophisticated palate, Siler suggests Salted Caramel Bacon Cordial Cups. A lavish blend of vanilla pudding, crisp-cooked bacon and whipped cream is flavored with caramel ice cream topping and piped into edible, dark cocoa Candy Melt cordial cups. They're bite-sized holiday bliss.

Don't forget eggnog. This year, give your favorite prepared eggnog a chocolate kick and serve Eggnog Hot Chocolate garnished with peppermint Candy Curls.

For more holiday recipe project and decorating ideas, or to purchase gingerbread kits, visit www.wilton.com.

Eggnog Hot Chocolate

Makes about 4 servings

- 2 cups milk
- 2 cups prepared eggnog
- 1 cup Dark Cocoa Candy Melts Candy
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Whipped cream
- Candy Curls

In large saucepan, cook milk and eggnog on medium heat until the mixture is hot; turn off heat. Whisk in Candy Melts candy and vanilla extract. Continue whisking until candy is melted and mixture is smooth.

Pour into mugs; garnish with Candy Curls.

Fire Roasted Jalapeño Onion Dip

Makes about 1-3/4 cups dip

- 4 jalapeño peppers
- 1 package (5.7 ounces) onion soup mix
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise

Preheat broiler.

Place peppers on non-stick cookie pan; broil, turning at least once, 6 to 7 minutes or until blackened. Let stand 10 minutes. Remove stem and seeds; coarsely chop.

In large bowl, stir together onion soup mix, sour cream and mayonnaise. Fold in peppers. Refrigerate at least 2 hours.

Serve with cucumber and zucchini slices, celery, carrot sticks, sliced bell peppers and other favorite vegetables.

Note: For spicier dip, include seeds from peppers.

Salted Caramel Bacon Cordial Cups

Makes about 24 filled cordial cups

- 1-1/2 cups Dark Cocoa Candy Melts Candy
- 3 containers (3.2 ounces each) vanilla prepared pudding
- 1/2 cup finely chopped crisp-cooked bacon
- 1 tablespoon caramel ice cream topping plus additional for drizzling
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream, whipped
- Sea salt

Fill cordial cup candy mold 1/3 full with melted candy. Using a decorator brush, paint the candy up the sides of each mold to the top edge. Coat mold so that no light can be seen through the shell. Refrigerate until firm, about 5 minutes. Repeat if needed. Carefully remove shells from mold.

In medium bowl, combine pudding, bacon and 1 tablespoon ice cream topping; mix until thoroughly combined. Fold in whipped cream. Refrigerate at least 1 hour.

Using tip #33, pipe filling into candy cordial cups. Drizzle with additional ice cream topping and sprinkle with sea salt.



Deluxe Gingerbread Kit, Gingerbread Tree Kit, Gingerbread Boy Cookie Decorating Kit, Gingerbread Mini Village Kit, Gingerpops Cookie Kit

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- Gingerbread Tree Kit
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Members of the Big Spring Junior High Cheerleading squad and the Student Council stayed after school to wrap nearly 200 presents for Big Spring State Hospital patients. The gifts were handed out Thursday at the hospital's Annual Patient Christmas party.

Courtesy photo

Births

Bailee Maria Rizo

Bailee Maria Rizo, a girl, was born Nov. 26, 2012, at Midland Memorial Hospital in Midland, weighing 7 pounds, 6.6 ounces. She was 19.5 inches long.

She is the daughter of Salvador and Crystal Rizo of Midland.

She is the granddaughter of James and Angie Worley and Juan Rizo and the late Maria Rizo, all of Big Spring.

She was welcomed into the world by brother Kingston Maddox Rizo.



Military

Airman Thomas Baggett graduated from U.S. Air Force Basic Training School at Lackland AFB, Texas, on Sept. 7, 2012.



Baggett

Mary and Michael Baggett of Coahoma, graduated from Coahoma High School in 2009 and worked as a fitness trainer at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center before enlisting into the Air Force in May.

Upon graduation from basic training, he received orders to attend

Supply Chain Management technical school at Barksdale AFB, La.

Menus

Big Spring Senior Center

- Monday — Chicken fajitas, corn tortillas, refried beans, spanish rice, lettuce/tomato/cheese, fruit and milk.
- Tuesday — Cheeseburger, baked potato chips, carrot coin salad, tropical fruit and milk.
- Wednesday — meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, apple crisp, rolls and milk.

- Thursday — steak with peppers and onions, baked potatoes with sour cream, peas and carrots, tapioca pudding, rolls and milk.
- Friday — chicken patty on bun, corn nuggets, lettuce and tomato slices, mandarin orange and milk.

Big Spring ISD

- Monday — Breakfast: Frosted Flakes, 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 fin-

gers, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, apricots, roll and milk.

- Wednesday — Breakfast: breakfast pizza, assorted fruit juice and milk; Lunch: spaghetti, pears, salad with ranch dressing, green peas, roll and milk.
- Thursday — Breakfast: peanut butter and jelly uncrustable, assorted fruit juice and milk; Lunch: bean and cheese chalupas with lettuce/tomato toppings, french fries, baby carrots with ranch dressing, sliced apples and milk.
- Friday — Breakfast: cinnamon french toast, assorted fruit juice and milk; Lunch: ham and

cheese sandwich, sweet potato sticks, sliced cucumbers with ranch dressing, banana and milk.

Forsan ISD

Breakfast (all campuses)

- Monday — Pop Tart, cereal, juice and milk.
- Tuesday — Cinnamon Tastry, cereal, juice and milk.
- Wednesday — french toast, cereal, juice and milk.

Elementary and junior high lunch

- Monday — ultimate taco salad, seasoned corn, fresh fruit and milk.
- Tuesday — steak fingers, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, apple-pineapple D'Lite, milk.
- Wednesday — turkey salad sandwich, baked potato chips, baby carrots with ranch dressing, fruit choice and milk.

High school lunch

- Monday — ultimate taco salad, seasoned corn, Spanish rice, fresh fruit, lime sherbet and milk.
- Tuesday — steak fingers, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, apple-pineapple D'Lite, roll, fresh fruit, fruit juice and milk.
- Wednesday — turkey salad sandwich, baked potato chips, baby carrots with ranch dressing, fruit choice and milk.

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Juan Rodriguez, center, of the Settles Hotel Development Co. presented a \$6,000 check to Big Spring Independent School District Superintendent Steven Saldivar, left, and School Board President Irene Rodriguez Thursday evening. The donation will help pay for a new scoreboard at the BSISD Softball Complex.

U.S. manufacturing output rises slightly in November

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. factories rebounded in November from Superstorm Sandy, boosting production of cars, equipment and appliances. But after factoring out the impact from the storm, the broader trend in manufacturing remained weak.

The Federal Reserve said Friday that factory output increased 1.1 percent in November from October. That offset a 1 percent decline in the previous, which was blamed on the storm.

Auto production jumped 4.5 percent last month, the first increase since July. Production of primary metals, wood products, electrical equipment and appliances all showed gains.

Total industrial output at factories, mines and utilities rose also rose 1.1 percent last month, after a 0.7 percent decline in October.

Still, economists cautioned

that the rebound in manufacturing was almost entirely related to Sandy.

Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, noted that when averaging data over October and November, industrial output and manufacturing both were up just 2.1 percent over the past year — less than half the growth rate from the start of the year.

“Looking beyond Sandy’s impact, U.S. manufacturers continue to plod ahead,” Guatieri said.

Many companies have delayed purchases of machinery and equipment this year because of uncertainty surrounding taxes and government spending. They are also worried about a slowdown in global growth that has weighed on U.S. exports.

“The global slowdown will prevent a strong recovery” in manufacturing, predicted Paul Dales, senior economist at Capi-

tal Economics.

U.S. manufacturing activity shrank in November to the slowest pace since July 2009, according to a closely watched index of manufacturing activity compiled by the Institute for Supply Management.

China’s manufacturing activity rose to a 14-month high in December, adding to signs the world’s second-largest economy is recovering, a survey showed Friday. But export orders weakened.

Economists say the U.S. economy is growing in the current October-December quarter at an annual rate below 2 percent. That would be slower than the 2.7 percent growth rate in the July-September quarter and too weak to rapidly lower the unemployment rate.

The job market is making steady gains. Employers added 146,000 jobs in November.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

From left, Big Spring Walmart Supercenter Co-Manager Tito Drummond presents a check for \$1,000 to Isaiah 58 Food Pantry officials Frank Sickles, Joe McCright, Patricia Smith and Paul Smith at the store Thursday.

Energy Watch



Bhupen Agrawal is branch manager and a managing director — investments for the Wells Fargo Advisors Midland office.

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



Feelings can be very fickle things. One day, the sky is blue and everyone is happy. Then, suddenly, without much seemingly changing, clouds appear in their optimism. On a consumer level, overall sentiment has steadily improved this year. Not so in the business world. According to a post-election Wells Fargo/Gallup survey, small business optimism is at its lowest level in more than two years.

While consumer sentiment is still below levels normally associated with a “good” economy, both the Conference Board (consumer confidence survey) and the University of Michigan (consumer sentiment survey) are telling us that Americans are feeling better now than at any time over the last five years. This is despite the fact that unemployment and under-employment remain high and gas prices have been elevated all year. In fact, apparently confident consumers stormed the shopping malls over the Black Friday weekend and racked up a record-breaking \$52 billion in sales to kick off the holiday season.

But businesses are not ready to pop open any champagne bottles just yet. The head of Small Business for Wells Fargo described the tumble in optimism reflected in the survey as “eye-opening” and illustrative of “the level of caution that exists among small business owners today.” The major concerns bothering business owners are not new. Businesses are uncertain about the sustainability of the economic expansion, especially in light of the battle over the “fiscal cliff” in Washington. Tax and regulatory changes also have made these job creators cautious. According to the survey, 20% of small businesses plan to decrease hiring in the coming year, while one-third of them intend to trim capital spending — not good.

With consumers feeling better but business optimism fading, what can be done to get these two factions on the same page? Certainly, this divergence in sentiment will not last forever. Either consumers are overly optimistic, or businesses are too pessimistic. Our analysis tells us to expect an improving economy and higher consumer and business confidence in the year ahead. We view business optimism as the foundation on which consumer confidence is built. When businesses are optimistic, they tend to do more hiring and pay better wages. As a result, consumer confidence typically improves.

It would be nice to get some help from Washington. Right now, our elected officials appear to be locked in an ideological battle. One side says the solution to our fiscal problems is to raise taxes on top wage earners. The other side thinks the solution lies in cuts to spending. The final decision will likely be somewhere in the middle. Given the size of our longer-term fiscal issues, we suspect nearly all Americans will pay higher taxes over time. In addition, over time, we think the vast

Narrow ‘fiscal cliff’ bargain gains traction

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hopes dimming for a wide-ranging bargain, the White House and many congressional Republicans are setting their sights on a more modest deal that would extend current tax rates for most Americans, raise rates for top earners and leave other, vexing issues for the new year.

President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner met late Thursday for less than an hour at the White House, but there were few signs of progress. Both sides agreed to describe the talks as “frank,” a less than optimistic assessment that suggested the president and the speaker stuck to their opposing positions.

Boehner was sticking with his plans to leave for his home state of Ohio on Friday, limiting opportunities for further in-person talks in the coming days.

While Boehner took the lead in negotiations,

“We cannot play this game, because while it might be satisfying to those with highly partisan and ideological agendas, it’s not satisfying to the American people and is punishing to the American economy.”

Jay Carney
White House spokesman

a growing number of Senate Republicans were calling on their House colleagues to yield on their opposition to letting top tax rates increase on income over \$250,000 for couples, while extending Bush-era tax cuts for everyone else.

Such a step would require capitulating to Obama’s demands, but it would leave other fiscal issues unsolved until 2013, including an increase in the nation’s borrowing limit. Republicans have insisted that the debt cap is a key piece of leverage to

extract spending cuts from the Obama administration.

“I think it’s time to end the debate on rates,” Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., said. “It’s exactly what both parties are for. We’re for extending the middle-class rates. We can debate the upper-end rates and what they are when we get into tax reform.”

“He’s got a full house and we’re trying to draw an inside straight,” Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., said. When it was observed that making a straight would still be a losing hand, Isakson

said: “Yeah, I know.”

White House spokesman Jay Carney conceded that “one aspect of a way to deal with this at the very least would be to pass the tax cuts for 98 percent of the American people. That would deal with a chunk of the so-called fiscal cliff.”

But he said Obama remained committed to a broad deal that combined existing spending cuts and reduced the deficit significantly. “He doesn’t want to pass up that opportunity,” Carney said.

A narrow deal, involving only an increase in top marginal rates for top income earners would guarantee a second round of negotiations and brinkmanship over the debt ceiling.

Carney took a hard line on using the debt ceiling as leverage.

“We cannot play this game, because while it might be satisfying to those with highly partisan and ideological

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See **REPORT**, Page 4B

Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

Sherrri 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
Josepy James Eckert, 1123 Newhaven Trail, Pearland
Maria Luisa Elizondo, 603 S. Second, Meador
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
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Roxanne Deanda Gonzales, 539 Westover Apt.

211, Big Spring
Eunice Torres Gonzalez, 7311 Westmoor, Odessa
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Robert Earl Green II, 2512 Fairchild, Big Spring
Kimberly Hargrove, PO Box 1985, Big Spring
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Ruby G. Hernandez, 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 48, Big Spring
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Bradley Ryan Horton, 601 Linda Lane, Big Spring
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Brian Ivanchan, 1208 Mulberry, Big Spring
Mandy Diane Jenkins, 8707 E. Highway 350, Big Spring
Lonnie Malcolm Johnson, 1211 Ridgeroad, Big Spring
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James Elijah Marlow, 2001 Runnels, Big Spring
Daniel Marrujo, 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 Connelly, Big Spring
Melissa Nieto, 615 Tulane, Big Spring
John Randall O'Harrow, 107 S. Main, 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

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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
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Alonzo Vasquez, 306 W. Seventh St., Iraan
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Charles Watson, 804 W. I-20 Apt. 127, Big Spring
Thomas Weeks, P.O. Box 110891, Anchorage,

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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

District Court Filings:
The 118th District Clerks Office reported no case filings during the corresponding week.

Marriage Licenses:
Miguel A. Munoz, 25, and Brenda L. Luera, 22, both of Big Spring.
Zachary A. Montelongo, 20, and Bricedia Tayee Ramirez, 19, both of Big Spring.
Cody Ryan Dixon, 22, and Heather Michelle Hotz, 29, both of Big Spring.
Garland Grady Gilbert, 26, and Stephanie Renee Scott, 33, both of Big Spring.
Cecil Douglas Hoard, 58, and Cynthia Vanderbeck Hoard, 59, both of Big Spring.

FISCAL

Continued from Page 3B

agendas, it's not satisfying to the American people and is punishing to the American economy," he said. "We cannot do it."

Thursday evening's meeting came shortly after Obama suggested that the sluggish pace of deficit-cutting talks between the administration and congressional Republicans was a result of a "contentious caucus" of GOP law-

makers who were making it difficult for Boehner to negotiate.

Boehner saw it differently. "Unfortunately, the White House is so unserious about cutting spending that it appears willing to slow-walk any agreement and walk our economy right up to the fiscal cliff," he said earlier in the day.

Thursday night's meeting was the two men's second face-to-face encounter in five days as they seek to find an agreement that avoids major tax increases and across-the-board spend-

ing cuts scheduled to kick in in January.

Boehner remains caught between a tea party faction and more pragmatic Republicans advising a tactical retreat. He dodged two questions on whether he would allow Obama's proposal for higher tax rates for upper earners to proceed despite GOP opposition to the idea. Such an approach was employed by then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., when funding military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan when Democrats

controlled Congress but President George W. Bush occupied the White House.

Obama, in an interview during the day with WCCO-TV in Minneapolis, said that the notion of not raising taxes "has become sort of a religion for a lot of members of the Republican Party. I think Speaker Boehner has a contentious caucus, as his caucus is tough on him sometimes so he doesn't want to look like he's giving in to me somehow because that might hurt him in his

own caucus."

While the impasse over the president's demand for higher tax rates continues to be a main obstacle in negotiations, Boehner complains that the president refuses to offer spending cuts to popular benefit programs like Medicare whose costs are rapidly rising.

The White House has pointed out that it has offered about \$600 billion in specific savings over the next decade, including about \$350 billion in spending reductions in health care programs

such as Medicare.

Particularly noteworthy were comments by Sen. John Cornyn of Texas to Politico.com, in which Cornyn, soon to be the No. 2 Senate Republican, said, "I believe we're going to pass the \$250,000 and below sooner or later, and we really don't have much leverage" because those rates are going to expire anyway on Dec. 31.

Cornyn is a top confidant of Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who keeps a tight rein on the Senate GOP caucus.

REPORT

Continued from Page 3B

majority of our citizens will be affected by cuts in spending and entitlements.

Increasing confidence will be the key to moving the economy and the stock market ahead in the coming year. We need to get both consumers and businesses on the same page of rising optimism as soon as

possible.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. This article was produced on Dec. 5 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.

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Best Buy shares fall on bid extension

NEW YORK (AP) — Best Buy shares fell on Friday after the struggling electronics retailer said it extended the window for co-founder Richard Schulze to make a buyout bid until after the holiday season.

Shares fell \$2.16, or 15.3 percent, to \$11.96 in midday trading Friday.

That erased most of the gains made Thursday when Best Buy shares jumped 16 percent on a report in the Minneapolis Star Tribune that

Schulze would make a bid by the end of the week. The report cited unidentified sources.

But on Friday, Best Buy said Schulze can make his offer between Feb. 1, 2013 and Feb. 28, 2013.

The original proposal deadline was this Sunday, 60 days after the due diligence period started.

The Minneapolis company said the extension is in the best interest of shareholders and gives

Schulze and his investor partners time to review Best Buy's full-year financial results.

Citi Investment Research analyst Kate McShane, who has a "Neutral" rating on Best Buy, said the probability of a deal appears "slim."

"We believe today's news shows that Mr. Schulze may be having difficulty finding financial backing from private equity firms," she wrote in a note to investors.

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MAINTENANCE TECHS needed for property in Big Spring. Both full and part time positions available. Applicants must have strong organizational skills and enjoy working outdoors. Fax resume to (432)264-1761 or apply in person at Knollwood Heights 1900 Martin Luther King Blvd.

NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

PARKVIEW NURSING and Rehabilitation is now hiring:
*Full Time-Certified Med Aide 2pm-10pm and split shifts
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Competitive Pay & Insurance
*Laundry Aid/Housekeeper Experience a plus.
You may apply on-line at www.parkviewnursing.com or in person at 3200 Parkway.

Help Wanted

NOW ACCEPTING Resumes For Plant Operator @ Natural Gas Processing Plant NE of Big Spring, TX. Excellent Salary, Paid Vacation, Medical Insurance, and 401k. Please Send Resume To: Plant Supervisor 11703 E. FM 846 Coahoma, TX 79511 Or Fax (432)399-4290 Or Email carcher@wtggas.com

PART-TIME KITCHEN Help needed for Christian Pre-School. Apply in person at 118 Ceder Rd. No Phone Calls Please.

PATIENT COORDINATOR/ Accounts Receivable. Must be detailed oriented, self starter. Experience Preferred. Bring resume to 710 S. Main Street.

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

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NOW HIRING WAIT STAFF. MUST HAVE SUPER STAR PERSONALITY AND GREAT WORK ETHICS. MUST BE AVAILABLE TO WORK DAYS, NIGHTS, AND WEEKENDS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG.

Help Wanted

POSITION OPENINGS
Coahoma ISD is accepting applications for the following two positions: Cafeteria Manager and Custodian. Applications are available at the Administration Office, 600 North Main St, Coahoma TX or at coahomaisd.com Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Coahoma ISD is an equal opportunity employer.



RECOVER HOME Therapy is seeking a **certified Physical Therapist** and **Occupational Therapist** to serve in the **Big Spring** area. Please contact **Steven Sanchez** @ 432-889-3916.

Help Wanted

ROLLING PLAINS Physicians Office in Sweetwater has a position for a full-time X-Ray Technician ARRT certified. Schedule M-F, no call. Benefit package includes PTO, Holiday Pay, 401k, Health Insurance. Interested parties may fax resume to (325)235-5925 or contact TWC for application.

RUSTY'S OILFIELD Service In Stanton has immediate openings for Mechanic, CDL Driver, Roustabout Pushers and Helpers. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person at 3327 W 120 in Stanton. 432-756-2821.

SECURITY OFFICERS Needed Full & Part Time Call (432)520-1573

SHOP/FIELD MECHANICS Basin Engine and Pump Shop and Field Mechanics needed for Industrial Oilfield Shop. Tools, Uniforms provided. Benefits package. Pay DOE. Please submit resume by fax to 432-570-1115 or email to shawn@basinengine.com Office 432-570-1114. Applications may be filled out at 1914 South County Road. 1083-Midland, TX.

Help Wanted



PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANTS

Seeking caring and dependable people to work in the homes of elderly and disabled clients. Will assist with preparing meals, shopping, personal care, errands, light housekeeping, and other assigned duties. We offer flexible day, evening, and weekend shifts. Must be at least 18 yrs of age with a clean criminal background. MUST have reliable transportation. No certifications or prior experience required.

Fax Resume to (432)332-1640
For an application, call (432)332-4025
Apply online at www.girling.com
Or apply in-person at 619 North Grant, Suite #110 Odessa, Texas 79761 E.O.E / M/F/D/V

SHOP HAND NEEDED- Must be able to read a tape measure. Monday thru Friday 6:00am-4:30pm. Call (432)267-4700.

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

- Certified Nurse Aide
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We offer competitive wages and benefits available. If you are a person committed to providing quality care please apply in person or fax resume to:

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1100 West Broadway • Stanton, TX 79782
Phone: 432-756-2841
Fax: 432-756-2190

For other job opportunities please visit:
www.daybreakventure.com
EOE



The Colorado River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following positions in the Big Spring Area.

Financial Accountant – Assist with the maintenance of the district's financial records, accounting systems and processes necessary to manage the district's business. Including billing of accounts receivable, maintain district banking and reconciliations. Maintain fixed assets. Strong computer skills required including Microsoft Word and Excel. Accounting degree preferred or 3-5 yrs experience in related field.

CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave.

Applications are required and are available at the District's office, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, by calling (432) 267-6341, or our website www.crmwd.org

Home Health Agency Hiring!

HealthSouth Home Care Agency of Midland/Odessa
1800 Heritage Boulevard, Midland, TX 79707

We have currently expanded our service area into Howard County and we have the following positions open:

- Home Health PT - PRN (Big Spring Area)
- Home Health PTA - PRN (Big Spring Area)
- Home Health RN - PRN (Big Spring Area)
- Home Health OT - PRN (Big Spring Area)

We offer competitive salaries and a great working environment!

For immediate consideration, please e-mail your resume directly to:

Tina Parker
Director of Human Resources
E-mail: tina.m.parker@healthsouth.com
Phone: 432-520-1607 Fax: 432-520-1704

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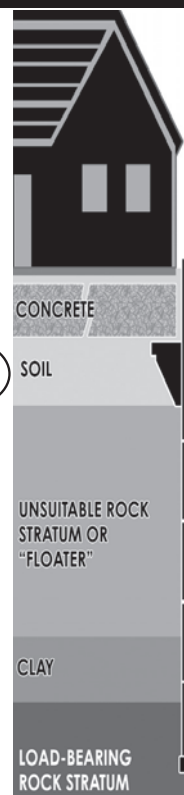
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SUBSTITUTES AND part-time caregivers needed for busy Christian preschool. Apply in person at New Hope Christina School 118 Cedar Rd.



VAN DRIVER 3:00pm-4:30pm, Mon. through Fri. Apply at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.

West Texas Gas, Inc. has an immediate opening for a natural gas liquids (NGL) Pipeline Operator for the Big Spring/Midland area. Primary responsibilities require experience in pipeline operations including measurement, regulation, pump stations, line locates, routine maintenance, computer skills and cathodic protection systems. Duties also include pipeline regulatory compliance responsibilities. Benefits include group health insurance & 401K Plan. Salary DOE. Interested applicant can forward resume to West Texas Gas, Inc., 211 North Colorado Midland, Tx 79701 or e-mail to employment@westtexasgas.com

WORLD ACCEPTANCE Corp
Assistant Manager /
Manager Trainee

The Big Spring, TX branch of World Finance is now accepting applications for a motivated individual looking for a career with a company that offers room for advancement. Promotion to Manager possible within 15 months. Interested applicants should be self motivated, possess the ability to learn rapidly, have great people skills and be goal oriented. Management experience helpful but not necessary. Complete training provided. High school diploma, dependable vehicle and clean background check required. Competitive entry level starting salary along with full benefit package.
Please apply in person at:
121 E. 3rd St
Big Spring, TX 79720

Instructional

MEDICAL CAREERS begin here - Train ONLINE for Allied Health and Medical Management. Job placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. SCHEV certified. Call 877-692-9599 www.CenturaOnline.com

Items for Sale



FOR SALE: Lighted Christmas Poinsettias, Cactus, Trees and more decorations. All sizes. Call for more information (432)935-5307 or (432)264-6117. Come by 1433 Hilltop Rd.

SEASONED MESQUITE Firewood for Sale: \$165.00 for half cord. Call Terry Jenkins at 432-270-3122.

Miscellaneous

BOY'S BEDROOM Furniture- 4 piece- Tan w/blue trim. TV armoire, 5 drawer pc, 2 twin beds w/storage and mattress- \$500.00. Call (432)213-3207.

ATTENTION

THE BIG SPRING HERALD APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS

Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

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5509 OPAL Lane, Clean 3 bdrm, 2 bath Mobil home. Appliances includes, CH/A. \$700. Month, \$600. deposit. Forsan ISD. MUST have Rental Reference. Call (432)270-7179.

COMMERCIAL or RESIDENTIAL 1700 Scurry- 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Hardwood floors, wood blinds. Non-Smoking/Pets. References required. \$1500 month, \$1500 deposit. Call (432)213-2319.

DOWNTOWN LOFT for Lease 1700 plus sq. feet. Jacuzzi tub, extra large closets. \$1050 month plus deposit. 1 Year lease required. No pets/smoker and no children please. Call (432)263-6514 Owner/Broker.

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Applications available at 409 Runnels or www.wtcmhmr.org or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769.EOE 235061

West Texas Centers
Reimbursement Support Clerk is responsible for filing patient financials with insurance information in client charts, filing of end of month posting and all other reports. Duties would also include processing and mailing paper claims and appeals. This position would be responsible for folding and mailing statements monthly, mailing copies of records to insurance companies, phone appeals and purging old records. Monday - Friday. Salary \$8.20-\$8.75 hr DOE. GED or High School Diploma required. Will be required to take Excel test.
Applications available at 409 Runnels or www.wtcmhmr.org or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769.EOE 235335

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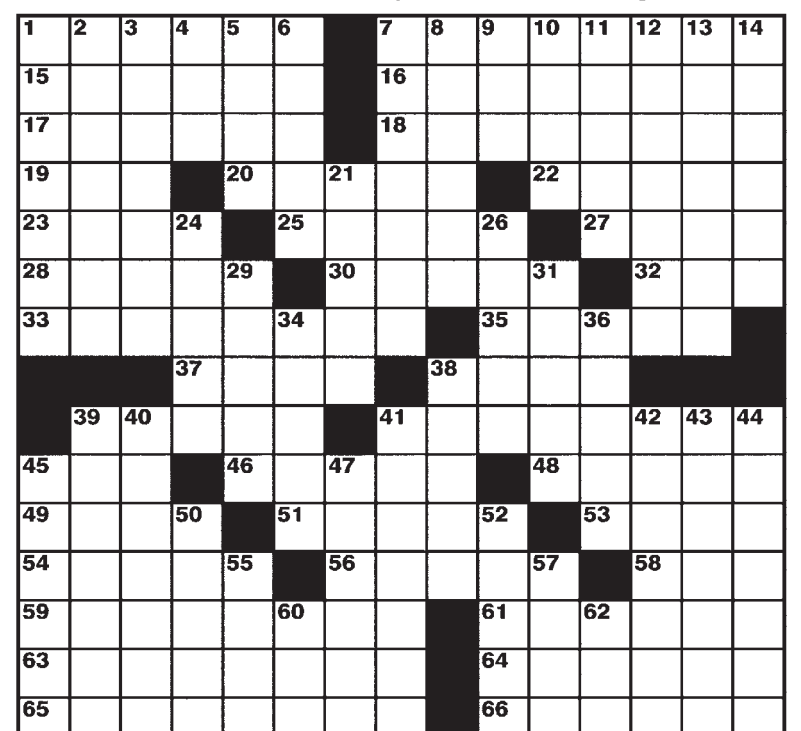
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Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Barry C. Silk
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>ACROSS
1 TV debut of '02
7 General at Chickamauga
15 Poo-hsticks player
16 Form of Charles
17 Cougar's coat
18 Some Foreign Service officers
19 Taking after
20 Accelerator creation
22 Nettle
23 Olive branch setting
25 <i>Getting A Grip</i> memoirist
27 Pressing
28 Surfer's info source
30 Purport
32 Started out
33 Deposit of a sort
35 Digital display
37 2010 Rock Hall inductee
38 Obligate
39 Distance measure on hand-drawn maps
41 Interpersonal skill
45 What the French call "game of words"
46 Schedule E declaration
48 Namesake of a San Diego stadium
49 Literally, "indivisible"
51 May or June, to Daisy Duck
53 "Grin __, and I will think thou smilest": <i>King John</i>
54 Splitter in 2011 headlines</p> | <p>56 Flings
58 Law conclusion
59 <i>The Charm School</i>, for one
61 John Wayne film of '62
63 Leapfrogged
64 Resistant
65 Number on the \$5 Gold Eagle
66 Requisite

DOWN
1 Pretty long time
2 Net
3 Vegas' Luxor Hotel, e.g.
4 __-to
5 Syrian Desert sharer
6 US Senior Open sponsor
7 Flagrantly offensive
8 Lend an ear</p> | <p>9 Major span
10 Commencement outfit
11 <i>Troilus and Cressida</i> source, in part
12 Extract
13 Brightest star in Scorpius
14 Fit together
21 Fortune 100 company
24 "Giant Brain" of the '40s
26 "America's Drive-In"
29 "Campfire for your iPhone" app
31 Subcontinental royalty of yore
34 Temple's dancing partner in <i>Captain January</i></p> | <p>36 Union member since 1890
38 They have long, tapering necks
39 Treated unfairly
40 Source of relief
41 Jaguar asset
42 Key holder
43 Steep
44 Expressed doubt about
45 One way to get two bills
47 Tops in delicacy
50 Legion of Honor recipient of 1881
52 Uma ex
55 "Forget it!"
57 Set aside
60 Cargo carrier
62 Three-way hardware linkage</p> |
|---|---|--|--|



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Legals

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 Addn., 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 Addn, 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 Addn., 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 all of those taxing units above named who may intervene 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

Legals

NOTICE is hereby given that Laredo Petroleum, Inc., Operator 486610, has filed with the Texas Railroad Commission the following: P-17 application for the exception to SWR 26 and/or 27 to surface commingle production, allocate production and for off-lease storage, from oil and gas leases on E/245 acres of Section 15, Block 33, T5S, T&P RR Co. Survey and Section 14, Block 33, T5S, T&P RR Co. Survey, all in Glasscock County, Texas under other leases. Any affected mineral interest owners who have not received written notification are advised to contact Van Rodgers of Laredo Petroleum, Inc., in Midland, Texas at 508 W. Wall, Suite 600, Midland, Texas, (432)684-9955 by January 7, 2013. #7605 December 16, 23 and 30, 2012 and January 6, 2013

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 all of those taxing units above named who may intervene 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

Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of E. Byron Range, Deceased, were issued on November 29, 2012, under Docket No. 14,111, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to Diane Murphy. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

Diane Murphy
Estate of E. Byron Range,
Deceased
C/O Walter L. Shipman,
Attorney at Law
309 South Main St., Suite 5
Big Spring, TX 79720

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated: December 12, 2012
Walter L. Shipman,
Attorney at Law
By /s/ Walter L. Shipman
309 South Main St., Suite 5
Big Spring, TX 79720
(432)264-6660 (telephone)
(432)264-9599 (facsimile)
Attorney for Diane Murphy,
Independent Executor
State Bar No. 18269900
#7603 December 16, 2012

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 all of those taxing units above named who may intervene 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

AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION AT THE BIG SPRING ANIMAL SHELTER



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White, Brown Mask

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

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Jackson

Domestic Medium Hair
Small, Young Male
Black and White

This sweet boy is about 8 months old. He is very curious and playful. He has a beautiful tuxedo coat

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Lost a Pet?

visit www.bigspringpd.net and click onto the Animal Control gallery to see if you pet has been found by Animal Control.

Visit petfinder to see these animals in color.

Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of NENA GRENON, Deceased, were issued on December 10, 2012, in Cause No. P-141267, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to: DYKES JOANNA.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: DYKES JOANNA
1407 Young St.
Big Spring, Texas 79720
DATED the 10th day of December, 2012.
GLYNNA MOUTON
Attorney for
DYKES JOANNA
State Bar No.: 14606500
MOUTON & MOUTON, PC
200 West Third Street
Big Spring, TX 79720
Telephone: (432)263-8397
Facsimile: (432)263-8686
#7602 December 16, 2012

Legals

ADVERTISEMENT

Sealed proposals addressed to the Honorable Mayor and City Council will be received at the Office of the Director of Public Works, 310 Nolan Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720 until January 15, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. for City of Big Spring 2012 Bond Project Water Treatment Plant Improvements Contract A.

Immediately following the closing time for receipt of bids, proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud at City Hall. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened. Bids will be tabulated and presented to the Mayor and City Council for action at a later date.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 310 Nolan Street on January 9, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. local time. Attendance by prospective Bidders is not mandatory. Information for bidders, proposal forms, specifications and plans are on file at the Office of the Director of Public Works and the office of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., Consulting Engineers, 4222 85th Street, Lubbock, Texas, 79423. Copies of the plans, specifications and contract documents may be secured at the office of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., Consulting Engineers, 4222 85th Street, Lubbock Texas, 79423 (Phone 806-473-2200) as follows:

1. Download documents (.pdf file extension format) from PSC's Info Exchange web site after registering as a plan holder with issuing PSC office. **There is no cost or deposit required for this option.**
 2. One set of paper copies for a non-refundable deposit of \$50.00.
 3. A digital copy (.pdf file extension format) upon a non-refundable deposit of \$20.00 per each CD.
- Deposit shall be Company check or cashiers' check made payable to Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc. No partial sets will be issued.
#7601 December 16 & 23, 2012

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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

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

ConocoPhillips Company, 3300 North A Street, Building 6, Midland, Texas 79705 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Gorieta formation, Settles, W.R. 89D. The proposed injection well is located 11 miles in a Southeasterly direction from Big Spring, Texas in the Howard Glasscock (Consolidated) Field in Howard County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into the subsurface depth interval from 3050 feet to 3950 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711. (Telephone (512)463-6792).
#7604 December 16, 2012

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For healthier pets, watch their weight



(Family Features) — Obesity and being overweight are human health problems that get a lot of attention from doctors and the media. What hasn't gotten as much attention is the fact that many pets are suffering from the very same problems. The Association for Pet Obesity Prevention estimates that 88.4 million U.S. dogs and cats - 54 percent - are overweight or obese. And that can lead to health problems such as arthritis, diabetes, heart disease and even some cancers. Many pet owners aren't aware that their pets are over-

weight. A study from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine found that 22 percent of dog owners and 15 percent of cat owners described their pets as being normal weight, when they were actually overweight or obese. What's a little extra weight for your pet? A lot more than it is for you:
• Just two pounds of extra weight on a Chihuahua would be equivalent to more than 60 additional pounds on an adult human.
• Even just four pounds too many on a 10-pound Siamese

cat would be equivalent to almost 40 extra pounds on a human.
Signs Your Cat is Overweight:
• Is it difficult to feel her ribs or spine?
• Is it difficult to see your cat's waist?
• Is her abdomen sagging?

Does your cat:
• Often appear tired and lazy?
• Hesitate when jumping onto furniture?
• Have difficulty grooming properly?

What You Can Do
Adjust some of your feeding habits to help your dog or cat lose weight or maintain a healthy weight.
• Avoid feeding table scraps and snacks.
• Stick to the recommended daily feeding guide. You may want to weigh out the amount at the beginning of the day, to avoid accidental overfeeding.
• Divide the daily allowance into several meals for the most efficient weight loss.
• Keep your pet in another room when preparing or eating your own meals.
• If you have several pets,

feed them separately.
• Don't leave any food lying around.

You also need to make sure your pet is getting adequate exercise.
Talk to Your Vet
It's important that you discuss your pet's weight and nutrition with your vet. Ask questions such as:
• What is the target weight for my pet?
• What are the health risks if my pet is overweight?
• What exercise program should I follow to help my pet reach target weight?
• Is there a therapeutic food you can recommend for my pet's health?
• How much and how often should I feed my pet?
• What appropriate treats are recommended for my pet?
• How many treats can I give?
• Can you provide written instructions or a booklet for weight management?
• What can I do to help my pet get more exercise?

For more tips and tools to help keep your pets at a healthy weight, visit www.petfit.com.

Contact
The Big Spring
Herald
at 263-7331

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Moon Inspires Philanthropy
Under the Sagittarius sun and the Aquarius moon, we think of those whose needs are more basic, urgent or pronounced than our own. As one 19th-century Sagittarian journalist and abolitionist suggested, "Never respect men merely for their riches, but rather for their philanthropy; we do not value the sun for its height, but for its use." — *Gamaliel Bailey*
ARIES (March 21-April 19). Many will offer help, opinions, ways for you to spend your money. Get away and listen to your own inner guidance. You won't regret the decisions you make independently.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have lofty aims. Human failings must be accounted for, too. Knowing it's not going to be easy, you'll go after your goals with the fortitude required to meet them. Otherwise, what's the point?
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be drawn to mysterious types — those who seem like they're hiding something good. Can you be discreet? People sense whether or not you can keep a secret.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll pose impor-



HOLIDAY MATHIS

tant questions. How can you judge the worthiness of a pursuit? What is a worthwhile use of your time? The answers will start a lifestyle change.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your day will be filled with pleasures to savor, like the taste of your favorite drink, the iridescent thrill of an unpredictable sky and the dulcet sound of a loved one's voice.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The best part of your day includes a harmonious assemblage of personalities. Look around and appreciate the people you've attracted in your life. You fit together.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You feel so strongly about your loved ones that you know you'll do all you can to be there whenever they need you. If you could sum up your emotions in one word, that word would be "always."
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The joy of life is dancing under your skin. You'll share your taste, zest and spring. You may even be able to get a smile out of that depressed person you know.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Organization and happiness go hand in hand. Sometimes there's a natural order, and life falls into an easy groove. Other times, order is an ideal that requires effort to maintain.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll encounter people far more reserved than you. Don't take it personally. You may be willing to take social and

financial chances that others simply can't afford to take at this time.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your social savvy will come in handy. Stay aware of the subtle cues. If someone wants to give you a gift, let it happen. Accepting graciously is an act of generosity.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Something surprising will be revealed. You could learn of intriguing relationship developments or get wind of the sordid details of someone's past.
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 12). You'll feel connected to loved ones and will be able to share openly. This helps you have confidence in other areas of life. You'll make a mound of money in January and May. 2013 brings an interesting and meaningful new relationship. You'll finally be able to focus on taking care of yourself in February. Pisces and Aries people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 50, 3, 26, 1 and 16.
FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: According to Greek mythology, Venus, like many attractive young females, likes to travel with an entourage. The grouping might include a winged Zephyr to blow her hair with gentle breezes, a maiden to carry a high-fashion garment for her or a muse to perfume the air around her with sweet music. But the most constant member of her entourage is Cupid, the winged baby armed with a bow and a quiver of arrows, ready to target whomever Venus chooses to pierce with the acute sickness of desire. This week, Venus transits into Sagittarius. Cupid will draw the bow.
In Sagittarius, Venus will invigorate love lives everywhere with spicy variation, excitement, culture and a snappy sense of timing. Singles will feel emboldened to cast a wider net and mix in different circles. New and surprising social configurations will emerge. There's an openness and a curiosity about how romance is played in other parts of the world. In some cases, blinders will be lifted. In other cases, passion ignites. Infatuation starts its slow, devouring burn.
Neptune offers a warning in the form of a squared aspect: Take the ride of romance, but don't mistake the illusion for reality. Remember that most magic can be accomplished with smoke and mirrors.
CELEBRITY PROFILES: Krysten Ritter currently stars in the television comedy series "Don't Trust the B—in Apartment 23" and, unlike her character, has a real-life reputation for being bubbly, outgoing, charming and compassionate. Her sun, Mercury, Uranus and Neptune in Sagittarius served her well as an international model, as these influences indicate sophistication and a love of travel. Venus and Mars are well positioned for luck in musical, political and philanthropic ventures

Howard County Humane Society

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267-7832

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If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

Israel's Women of the Wall pray for equality

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli security guards at the Western Wall on Friday searched women worshippers arriving at the holiest place where Jews can pray for a seemingly inoffensive object — the Jewish prayer shawl, which under the Orthodox tradition can be worn only by men.

Once the shawls were found, dozens of women had to deposit them before proceeding to pray in the section reserved for women. A few, who managed to sneak the shawls in under their coats and wrapped them around their shoulders, were promptly evicted or detained.

Similar scenes have played out almost a dozen times every year since the group known as Women of the Wall was first established nearly 25 years ago.

Its members have endured arrests, heckling and legal battles in a struggle to attain what they consider their in-

alienable right — to pray and worship at the Western Wall like men do.

Under Israel's predominantly Orthodox Jewish tradition, only men may wear a prayer shawl, a skullcap and phylacteries. Liberal Reform Judaism, marginal in Israel but the largest denomination in the United States, allows women to practice the same way as men do in Orthodox Judaism: they may be ordained as rabbis, read from the Torah, the Jewish holy book, and wear prayer shawls.

The multi-denominational Women of the Wall adheres to that liberal stream. Since 1988, its members have come to the holy site 11 times a year to pray on the first day of the new Jewish month, except on the New Year.

The police know they are coming and are on the lookout. The group's members have been repeatedly detained, as soon as they are perceived to

be offending Orthodox sensibilities — such as carrying a Torah scroll or if they try to drape themselves in the shawls. They are usually released after a few hours.

They have never been charged — evidence, the women say, that what they are doing is not illegal.

"We want to have the ability to pray out loud, to wear a prayer shawl, to read the Torah. And we want to do it without fear at the Western Wall," said Anat Hoffman, the group's chairwoman.

Opponents see the Jerusalem-based group, which has hundreds of members and supporters, as provocateurs or kooky agitators. Supporters say they are civil rights activists working to achieve equality. Angry worshippers have hurled plastic chairs at them while others have yelled and taunted them.

Hoffman, who has been detained several times in the past, was held in 2010 for sev-

eral hours after she brought a Torah scroll to the Western Wall — another violation for Orthodox Jews, who do not allow women to hold the Torah.

A video of the event shows police attempting to pry the scroll away from her as she shouts back: "It's mine." Hoffman also spent a night in jail in October, when she was banished by a court from the Wall for 30 days.

She says a lack of religious pluralism in Israel has prevented the group from achieving its goals.

While most Israelis are secular, Judaism has a formal place in the country's affairs and Orthodox rabbis strictly govern religious events such as weddings, divorces, and burials for the Jewish population. Also, the ultra-Orthodox are perennial kingmakers in Israeli coalition politics, though they make up only about 10 percent of the country's population.

Israel's Orthodox establishment was also granted responsibility for the Western Wall and seeks to ensure its traditions are followed there.

"We try to follow the customs that our grandfathers did, what was done 100 years ago, 200 years ago, and we try to keep extremism away," said the Western Wall rabbi, Shmuel Rabinowitz.

The Women of the Wall "insist on coming here just to stoke the flames, to cause a provocation," he said, adding that if other customs were permitted, "there would be chaos."

The police say they are enforcing a Supreme Court decision from 2003, which ruled that allowing the group to pray with the shawls at the Western Wall constituted a danger to public safety. The women have been offered an alternative place nearby where they can don the shawls, wear phylacteries and read from the Torah.

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

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_____	Klassic Kleaners
_____	My Favorite Place
_____	Walmart

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS _____
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Why people put up nativity scenes

By I.V. ANDERSON
Slate.com

It's nearly impossible to go through December without seeing at least one nativity scene, whether it's a set of ceramic figurines in a private home, a life-size tableau in front of a church, or a cast of actors in a children's pageant. And rarely does a year go by that these representations of Jesus, Joseph, Mary, the three wise men, some shepherds, and miscellaneous barn animals go unmolested by vandals or unchallenged by lawsuits. Why do people put up creches at Christmastime, anyway?

Blame St. Francis of Assisi, who is credited with staging the first nativity scene in 1223. The only historical account

we have of Francis' nativity scene comes from "The Life of St. Francis of Assisi," by St. Bonaventure, a Franciscan monk who was born five years before Francis' death. According to Bonaventure's biography, St. Francis got permission from Pope Honorius III to set up a manger with hay and two live animals — an ox and a donkey — in a cave in the Italian village of Greccio. He then invited the villagers to come gaze upon the scene while he preached about "the babe of Bethlehem." (Francis was supposedly so overcome by emotion that he couldn't say "Jesus.") Bonaventure also claims that the hay used by Francis miraculously acquired the power to cure local cattle diseases and pestilences.



While this part of Bonaventure's story is dubious, it's clear that nativity scenes had enormous popular appeal. Francis' display came in the middle of

a period when mystery or miracle plays were a popular form of entertainment and education for European laypeople. These plays, originally performed in churches and later performed

in town squares, re-enacted Bible stories in vernacular languages. Since church services at the time were performed only in Latin, which few understood, miracle plays were the only way for laypeople to learn scripture. Francis' nativity scene used the same method of visual display to help locals understand and emotionally engage with Christianity.

Within a couple centuries of Francis' inaugural display, nativity scenes had spread throughout Europe. It's unclear from Bonaventure's account whether Francis used people or figures to stand in for Jesus, Mary and Joseph, or if the spectators just used their imagination, but later nativity scenes included both tableaux vivants and dioramas, and the cast of characters gradually expanded to include not only the happy couple and the infant, but sometimes entire villages. The familiar cast of characters we see today — the three wise men and the shepherds — aren't biblically accurate. Of the four gospels in the New Testament, only Matthew and Luke describe Jesus' birth, the former focusing on the story of the wise men's trek to see the infant king, the latter recounting the shepherds' visit to the manger where Jesus was born. Nowhere in the Bible do the shepherds and wise men appear together, and nowhere in the Bible are donkeys, oxen, cattle

or other domesticated animals mentioned in conjunction with Jesus' birth. But early nativity scenes took their cues more from religious art than from scripture.

After the reformation, creches became more associated with southern Europe (where Catholicism was still prevalent), while Christmas trees were the northern European decoration of choice (since Protestantism — and evergreens — thrived there). As nativity scenes spread, different regions began to take on different artistic features and characters. For example, the "santon" figurines manufactured in Provence in France are made of terracotta and include a wide range of villagers. In 20th- and 21st-century America, nativity figurines became associated with kitsch rather than piety, with nonreligious figures like snowmen and rubber ducks sometimes occupying the main roles.

What about those nativity plays that children often perform at Christmastime? They are an obvious outgrowth of the miracle plays of the Middle Ages, but the reason children (rather than adults) perform in them isn't clear. However, it's possible the tradition stems from the Victorian Era, when Christmas was recast in America and England as a child-friendly, family-centered holiday, instead of the rowdy celebration it had been in years past.

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A Holly Jolly Big Spring

a supplement to the Big Spring Herald



With music, parade, pageantry — and, of course, Santa Claus — the Crossroads area ushered in the Christmas season in style. On the following pages are just a few of the sights from this past weekend.



Photos by Andreia Medlin, Steve Reagan and Tony Claxton

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