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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**SUNDAY**  
 DECEMBER 30, 2012



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# Rebirth of a landmark

## Settles reopens in blaze of lights

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

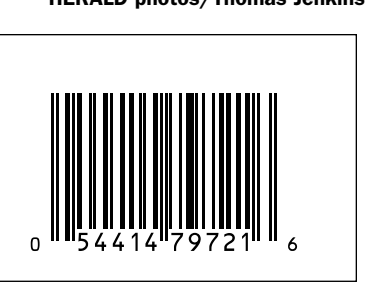
It may have taken six long years filled with skeptics and naysayers, but when the last few lights clicked on at the historic Hotel Settles during Friday night's opening ceremonies, Big Spring native Brint Ryan looked a lot like the cat who ate the canary.

Ryan — joined by his wife, five daughters and hundreds of friends, family and guests — hosted a private reception at the downtown landmark, including a lighting ceremony where onlookers got to see the hotel lit floor by floor, leading up to the large, red sign atop the building.

See **SETTLES**, Page 3A



Clockwise from top left, the Hotel Settles reopened Friday with a floor by floor lighting ceremony; Big Spring native Brint Ryan, who spearheaded the restoration project, and his family celebrate the opening; guests enjoy some time at the Pharmacy Bar and Parlor. The hotel, built in the 1930s, features rooms to rent, ballroom and mezzanine, an outdoor retreat with a pool and jacuzzi, spa and fitness studio.



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## Obituaries

## Faye Price



Faye Price, 87, of Austin and formerly of Big Spring, died Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012, in Austin. She fought a long, courageous battle with Alzheimer's. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31, 2012, at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel with Bill Ivins, pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating.

Faye was born June 22, 1925 in Bowie, Texas to Annie and W.G. (Bill) Simpson. She was married for 39 years to Jack S. Price until his death in 1987. She was known to

her friends as Faye and had spent the last nine years in Austin with family, but was a long-time resident of Big Spring, Texas. She was active in her church and her community and had many local friends.

Faye is survived by three children, Jerry Price of Edinburg, Terry Price of Austin and Shirley Hicks of Austin. She also leaves three grandchildren, Brandon Price, Darcie Hicks and Logan Hicks.

Her caring and gentle ways will be missed by all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersand-smith.com](http://www.myersand-smith.com)

*Paid obituary*

## Take Note

• Local resident Dale Pittman is planning a card crusade for the citizens of Newtown, Conn., who were devastated by the recent school shooting that took the lives of 26 people. No money is necessary, unless you want to help with postage. Just purchase and sign a card. "I wanted to be able to send them something ... and let them know that no matter how many miles may be between us, we still care and are thinking of and praying for them," said Pittman. Drop you card off at Big Spring Storage Zone, 23rd and Goliad. If no one is in the office, slide the card in the payment drop box. You may also drop them off at the visitors booth at Comanche Trail Festival of Lights. They will all be placed in a single box and mailed to Newtown.

• A medical fund has been established at Big Spring Education Employee's Federal Credit Union for Alicia R. Hernandez, daughter of Tony and Christy Hernandez. Alicia has been struggling with medical issues since February and will be going to Fort Worth's Cook Children's Medical Center in January for tests. Donations should be sent to: BSEEFUCU c/o Alicia Hernandez Medical, 1110 Benton St. Big Spring, Texas. 79720.

• Holy Trinity Youth Group is hosting its 2nd Annual "Warming up our Community" Project from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church Hall, 1009 Hearn Street. Donated items, such as jackets, blankets and various warm attire will be available for anyone in need. This is open to the community.

• A fund has been established at Myers & Smith Funeral Home to help pay funeral expenses for local resident Joe Gomez, who passed away on Dec. 12. Donations can sent to Myers and Smith Funeral Home at P.O. Box 2760 in Big Spring.

• 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.

• 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.

• The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council needs assistance in The Chalet Resale Shoppe, 115 East Second St.

The Chalet Resale Shoppe is a fast-paced retail shop specializing in gently worn clothing and small household appliance. Volunteers are needed to sort, price, check out and stock donated items. Volunteer hours are flexible. The Chalet is open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, contact Jamey Stegall at [james.stegall@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:james.stegall@dshs.state.tx.us) or 432 268-7535.

• Compass Hospice is in need of your help. If you would be interested in offering your love and God's comfort to those who are suffering, or to their families, contact Michelle Coutermarsh at 263-5999 or come by 602 S. Main.

Volunteers are needed in many categories including patient care. You may give as much or as little time as you wish. Any amount of time is greatly appreciated. Training is offered free of charge.

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

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

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

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

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

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

• The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop foreclosure and are in need of foreclosure help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now.

The Homeowner's HOPE hotline is a counseling service provided by HPF to work with you to find a solution to your problem. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Free free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit [www.BecomeaCASA.org](http://www.BecomeaCASA.org) or [www.casawtx.org](http://www.casawtx.org).

• Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month.

Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

• 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.

• Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call (877) 277-1618, the High Plains American Cancer Group Report Center. Anyone wishing to volunteer to drive in this program should call Sherry Hodnett, president of the Big Spring ACS Board, at 264-7599 at her office at Home Hospice.

• New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.

• The Pet Patrol helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

• Do you have a minute? An hour? How about making a difference in someone's life? Become a hospice volunteer.

One hour a month can make a difference. Whether it visiting a patient, or working in the office, or helping with a craft, you can make a difference. We can work around your schedule. If interested, please call Michelle Coutermarsh, at Compass Hospice, 263-5999 or apply in person at 602 S. Main in Big Spring.

## George G. Bass

George G. Bass, 87, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Dec. 29, 2012, at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Today's Weather

## Local 5-Day Forecast

Mon 12/31	Tue 1/1	Wed 1/2	Thu 1/3	Fri 1/4
<b>60/32</b> Windy, chance of showers. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 30s.	<b>48/26</b> Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the mid 20s.	<b>47/30</b> Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the low 30s.	<b>49/25</b> Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the mid 20s.	<b>54/31</b> Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:47 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:52 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:47 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:53 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:47 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:53 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:48 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:54 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:48 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 5:55 PM



## Texas At A Glance



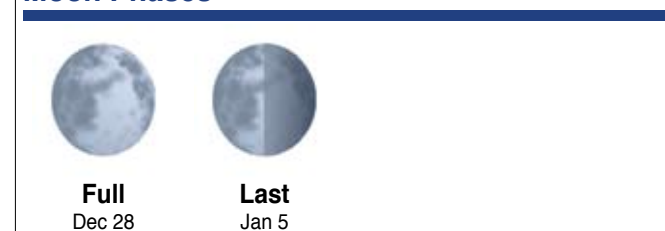
## Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	56	34	rain	Kingsville	78	61	t-storm
Amarillo	41	15	mixed	Livingston	61	48	rain
Austin	62	47	rain	Longview	49	43	rain
Beaumont	63	56	t-storm	Lubbock	52	19	rain
Brownsville	79	65	t-storm	Lufkin	59	49	rain
Brownwood	58	40	rain	Midland	60	33	rain
Corpus Christi	73	61	t-storm	Raymondville	80	63	t-storm
Corsicana	48	39	rain	Rosenberg	68	54	t-storm
Dallas	47	39	rain	San Antonio	65	52	rain
Del Rio	64	46	rain	San Marcos	63	48	rain
El Paso	52	31	rain	Sulphur Springs	44	39	rain
Fort Stockton	61	38	rain	Sweetwater	58	33	rain
Gainesville	43	33	rain	Tyler	48	43	rain
Greenville	43	36	rain	Weatherford	46	35	rain
Houston	68	55	t-storm	Wichita Falls	48	29	rain

## National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	53	42	pt sunny	Minneapolis	11	-1	pt sunny
Boston	32	26	cloudy	New York	34	33	cloudy
Chicago	33	15	cloudy	Phoenix	52	34	pt sunny
Dallas	47	39	rain	San Francisco	53	42	pt sunny
Denver	23	9	sn shower	Seattle	42	33	sunny
Houston	68	55	t-storm	St. Louis	38	24	sn shower
Los Angeles	59	43	sunny	Washington, DC	44	37	cloudy
Miami	73	65	cloudy				

## Moon Phases



## UV Index

Mon 12/31	Tue 1/1	Wed 1/2	Thu 1/3	Fri 1/4
<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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

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# SETTLES

Continued from Page 1A

And while the restoration and renovation of the Hotel Settles is certainly a business milestone for Ryan, it wasn't business or a bottom line driving the Big Spring native through the ceremony.

"I hope we've done well enough with this restoration that it's not just another old building brought back online, it's not just one more restoration project, but that it's a specimen, something so compelling that people will come from all over West Texas — probably all over Texas — just to see it," Ryan said proudly. "It's probably the restoration project in Texas of the year."

"My hope, however, is that it's a catalyst. If we can do what we've done here, if we can create this valuable asset, this renaissance of a trophy property that everyone said could not be done, making it successful from both a development point and a financial perspective, then tell me what project in Big Spring can not be done. Tell me what project is harder than this. I hope it's a catalyst for people to say, 'Wow, if they can do the Settles, then why can't we do the State National Bank building? Why can't we bring the Palmer Hotel back or bring any of these other terrific properties back online. I hope this project contains that element, as well.'"

Opening in October 1930 to great fanfare and support by the local community, Hotel Settles was often compared to the finest hotels of the day. The Hotel hosted notable guests including Elvis Presley, Law-



rence Welk and Herbert Hoover.

The present day project — originally estimated at \$12 million but is expected to round out construction and restoration above the \$30 million mark — has been a journey for Ryan and his brother, Kris Ryan, who served as the project's construction manager.

"Six years ago, when I first took a look at the Settles, I thought, simply, this is impossible. It was the biggest mess I had ever seen in my life," Ryan said. "At

that time, there wasn't a single aspect of this place that hadn't been destroyed. The vandals, elements and even the pigeons destroyed this place. However, I also saw it as an incredible challenge. It's sort of like a jigsaw puzzle with a bunch of the pieces missing and you're trying to put it back together.

"So, when I came in (Thursday) and saw the progress, it was moving. I come out about once a month for our project meetings, but this was the first time I had seen

the lobby restored, the furniture placed and it looks as good — or even better — than the renderings. I thought, 'Man, I've made this happen. We have done the impossible, we've breathed life back into something that had been destroyed.' That's very fulfilling. It's been fun."

According to Ryan, the skeptics and naysayers helped drive him on the project. However, if those who had negative things to say then are expecting a pat on the back now, they have an-

other thing coming. "You know, I've thought about that," Ryan said with a chuckle. "I told my wife that when I make my toast tonight, I'm going to thank the 99 percent of the people who really helped me, and they really did. Former mayor Russ McEwen, the city council, the economic development corporation and so many citizens who wrote letters and e-mails thanking us all along the way. I appreciate that support so much."

"I told my wife, however, for that 1 percent who didn't — the ones who called me a carpet-bagger looking to take advantage of the people and all of the other negative things — they can kiss my butt. And you can quote me on that. I remember, during the first year people calling me a scoundrel, that I was ripping off the city and taking advantage of it. I kind of take it with a grain of salt today. However, you'll notice tonight none of those folks are here. I think that's fitting."

The hotel opened to the public with light food service and cocktails at its bar, the Pharmacy Bar and Parlor, Saturday afternoon. Beginning Jan. 7, the Settles Grill will be available to everyone for breakfast and Jan. 9 lunch and dinner service will commence, according to Hotel Settles officials.

Nightly room rates start at \$179 for a Historic Queen Room and go up to \$1,000 for the Presidential Suite.

"I wanted to see this building put back to the way it was," Ryan said. "I'll admit, I had no idea at that time it was going to take this long, it was going to be this difficult or this expensive."

I just had no idea. Every aspect of it was a challenge, from the window restorations to the sign restoration, finding the pieces and parts for the lobby, the phone booths and chandeliers. Every bit of it was a challenge, and we enjoyed it.

"It was one of those things where so many people said, 'You can't do it. It can't be done. It can't be fixed and it can't be restored.' And we did it. We did it with every element. My view is we're already so far down this path, it has to be as close to perfect as we can make it in the human condition. That's what I'm hoping people see tonight."

Reservations can be made online at Hotel-Settles.com or by calling 432-267-7500.

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

## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Joe Martin Doporto, 55, died Tuesday. Funeral mass was at 11 a.m. today at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial was at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Augustine Cantu, 67, died Monday. He will lie in state from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Saturday. Vigil services will be held at 7:30 p.m. tonight at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Carol H. Lewis, 58, died Tuesday. Memorial services were at 2 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Rudy Hilario, 52, died Wednesday. Prayer services will be held at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Faye Price, 87, died Thursday. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, December 31, 2012 at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

JoAnn Howell-Mason, 66, died Thursday. Services will be held at 11:00 AM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Graveside services will be at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Resthaven North Cemetery in Midland.

Roland Gore, 60, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

George G. Bass, 87, of Big Spring, died Saturday, December 29, 2012 at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

# Cops turn spotlight on drunk drivers

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

Area motorists planning to celebrate the New Year holiday with a few drinks, beware: state and local law enforcement will be on the lookout for offenders and those who get caught shouldn't expect any holiday cheer.

"The officers on patrol this New Year Holiday will be looking specifically for these types of violations, and make no mistake about it, they are very good at spotting them," Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, said. "You may think you're fine, but there are a million different ways they can tell you've been drinking, and all it takes is for them to see one."

The BSPD won't be the only agency looking for drivers who have had one-too-many, as Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) troopers also will be stepping up enforcement efforts to ensure safety on the roadways and seek out impaired drivers during the holiday.

Additional troopers will be on the road targeting drunk drivers in locations where alcohol-related crashes are most likely to occur.

"Drinking and driving are always a concern during holidays, and there is no doubt that increased enforcement by DPS and other law enforcement will help save lives," DPS Director Steven McCraw said. "But the public must also do their part to help make sure all travelers on our roads have a safe and happy holiday season. Plan ahead. Designate a non-drinking driver or find alternative transportation if you plan to drink, and never get in a car with an intoxicated driver."

During the Christmas and New Year holiday enforcement effort last year, DPS troopers made more than 1,100 DWI arrests and approximately 350 were the direct result of the increased patrols. DPS enforcement also resulted in more than 15,000 speeding citations, 2,000 seat belt and child safety seat citations and 18,000 other citations. In addition, troopers made 1,020 fu-

gitive arrests and 623 felony arrests during routine patrol operations.

DPS offers the following tips to ensure safe travels:

- Don't drink and drive; designate a driver.
- Be aware of, and prepared for, changing weather conditions.
- Don't text and drive and keep cell phone chatter to a minimum. Just drive.
- Make sure everyone in the car is buckled up.
- Don't travel fatigued. Switch drivers or find a safe location and take a break.
- Drive courteously.
- Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained.

And, if you think a trooper or BSPD officer might give you a free pass if you get pulled over this holiday, Everett said think again.

"Our approach to drinking and driving is very simple: zero tolerance," Everett said. "That's not just during the New Year holiday. That's year round. So, if you've had a few drinks, don't chance it. Call a friend or a taxi. I promise you, whatever the cab fare might cost you is minor in comparison to what a DWI conviction will cost you."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-

7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

### sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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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.

<b>Bill McClellan</b> Managing Editor	<b>Glenn Stifflemire</b> Publisher	<b>Steve Reagan</b> Staff Writer
<b>Brian McCormack</b> Sports Editor	<b>Thomas Jenkins</b> Staff Writer	

## LETTERS

### Shameful reporting

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to your staff report Monday, Dec. 24, 2012, about Dr. Cox being reprimanded, I think it's shameful reporting. Instead of belittling Dr. Cox, why don't you report on the good things Dr. Cox has done over the last several years? Dr. Cox genuinely cares about his patients, to the extent that he made house calls to

the elderly, or bartered a payment of mowing the grass at the old Hall Bennett Hospital when a patient couldn't pay with money.

I know plenty of people whom he helped care for, rather than let them suffer because they didn't have a way to pay. Dr. Cox will be missed for the good things he's done for our community, not for the "reprimands" and old gossip.

**DEBBY MAAS**  
BIG SPRING

# Leadership jobs are open

Who wants a fantastic job? Unemployment is high, so there ought to be many candidates. The job is leader of the Republican Party.

As leader, you will be the spokesman for a philosophy of smaller government, more individual liberty, fiscal responsibility, free markets and budget cuts. You will speak up for the traditional family and strong community organizations.

On one hand, you stand for keeping taxes low on the very richest Americans. On the other, you're for cutting programs that are broadly popular. Congratulations. What are you for that Americans support? That's what is so great about this job. It requires creativity.

A sizable percentage of your caucus will balk at any increases in taxes ever on anyone — even on those earning more than \$1 million per year — as John Boehner just discovered. So you'll have to seek balanced budgets exclusively by cutting spending. This will further confirm the public image of you as Scrooge.

Your job is to worry not just about the fiscal cliff, but about the \$71.7 trillion in unfunded liabilities the federal government has amassed, the unchecked expansion of entitlements, such as Medicare, Medicaid, and now Obamacare, the waning percentage of Americans in the workforce (it's down to 63.6 now, compared with 67.2 in 2001), and the decline of traditional families which is, in turn, creating more and more Americans who become dependent on government programs.

Your opponents are the Democrats, who tell voters that they care and simply want to give them more and more. P.J.

O'Rourke memorably described the difference between the parties this way in "Parliament of Whores": "God is a Republican and Santa Claus is a Democrat."

God is an elderly or, at any rate, middle-aged mate, a stern fellow, patriarchal rather than paternal, and a great believer in rules and regulations. He holds men strictly accountable for their actions ... God is unsentimental. It is very hard to get into God's heavenly country club.

Santa Claus is another matter. He's cute. He's nonthreatening. He's always cheerful. He may know who's been naughty and who's been nice, but he never does anything about it.

He gives everyone everything they want without thought of a quid pro quo. Santa Claus is preferable to God in every way but one: There is no such thing as Santa Claus.

Why, you may ask, don't the Democrats have to worry about the structural problem of a ballooning public sector and a declining private sector that must pay for it? It's simple: Democrats engage in denial and the press lets them get away with it. President Obama ignored his deficit commission and paid no price. The only time you will hear a Democrat declare that we cannot afford something is when it's 1) a military expenditure or 2) a tax cut.

Do they deny the debt? Not in so many words. They pay it lip service and imply that increasing taxes on the top 2 percent of earners will solve the problem. So long as Republicans fight on this terrain — protecting the top earners from a tax rate increase — Democrats are handed a winning formula. Tax the rich guy — it doesn't hurt me, and it represents some kind of cosmic justice.

The spending cuts Republicans favor are hardly more popular. A Pew poll in October found that 75 percent of respondents oppose cutting federal support for education, 61 percent oppose cutting funding for college loans (inflat-

**The only time you will hear a Democrat declare that we cannot afford something is when it's 1) a military expenditure or 2) a tax cut.**

ing that higher ed bubble even further), 57 percent reject asking Medicare beneficiaries to pay a larger percentage of their costs, 56 percent oppose gradually raising the age of Social Security eligibility and 50 percent oppose reducing programs that help low income Americans. Fifty-eight percent, by contrast, favor limiting tax deductions for large corporations.

The fiscal cliff will come and go. It's a no win for the Republican Party. Longer term, the next generation of Republican leaders will have to consider some radical, image altering reforms. James Pethokoukis of the American Enterprise Institute recommends breaking up the big banks. It's simultaneously a blow against the too-big-to-fail folly that helped create the financial crisis and a rebuke of the Obama Administration's embrace of crony capitalism in Dodd/Frank.

Someone, sometime soon, is going to have to level with the American people that they've been getting more government than they've been willing to pay for. The Republicans have called for spending cuts and seen their approval ratings sink. Maybe they should just leave the unpalatable task to Santa Claus.

*To find out more about Mona Charen and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*

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## ADDRESSES

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**• RICK PERRY**  
Governor  
State Capitol, Room 2S.1  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, 78711  
Phone: (512) 463-2000

**• JIM LANDTROOP**  
State Representative  
Texas 85th District  
P.O. Box 1105  
Big Spring, 79721  
Phone: (432) 517-9894

**• KEL SELIGER**  
State Senator  
Texas 31st District  
401 Austin, Suite 101  
Big Spring, 79720  
Phone: (432) 268-9909

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**MARVIN BOYD** — 263-8800  
**CARMEN HARBOUR** — Work: 264-2401.

**MARCUS FERNANDEZ** —  
Mobile: 816-3923  
**GLEN CARRIGAN** — Home: 263-3207.

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**OSCAR GARCIA** — Home: 264-0026.

**DONNIE BAKER** — Home: 267-5325.

**JIMMIE LONG** — Home: 466-0793.

**JOHN CLINE** — Home: 263-7158.

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

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- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
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## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we remain fully focused on Your word, Lord.

Amen

# Doing a bit of remembering

As this is written, on the heels of the news that President George H.W. Bush, hospitalized in Houston since Nov. 23 for bronchitis, has been moved into an intensive care unit, comes word of the death of Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, who in 1991 became the U.S.'s most popular post-World War II military leader after commanding the U.S.-led coalition forces that smashed Iraq.

How popular was "Stormin' Norman" back home? He laughed while telling the late U.S. Rep. Jack Murtha, D-Pa. — himself, like Schwarzkopf, a decorated combat veteran of Vietnam — about attending the Kentucky Derby a few months after the Iraqi victory. The huge Churchill Downs crowd gave the general a standing ovation when he took his seat. After Schwarzkopf later got up to go to the men's room, the Derby crowd gave him another ovation, and still more cheers greeted his return to his seat.

He obviously enjoyed the fame and the fortune he received. But to his credit, Schwarzkopf refused being called a hero, with a statement that I urge those in positions of power and influence in Washington — currently beating the war drums on Iran — to heed: "It doesn't take a hero to order men into battle. It takes a hero to be one of those men who goes into battle."

Let us remember as well President George H.W. Bush, who — along with his resourceful secretary of state, James A

Baker — successfully assembled a coalition of some 32 nations, including France, Sweden, Pakistan and Morocco, to drive out of Kuwait the occupying Iraqi forces.

Bush won support, after serious and respectful debates in the Congress, for his policy from a House and Senate then controlled by Democrats. Earlier, a resolution adopted by the U.N. Security Council had authorized member nations to use "all necessary means" against Iraqi forces if they failed to withdraw from Kuwait by Jan. 15, 1991 (three days after the Senate voted to back Bush).

With the Gulf States and Germany and Japan picking up approximately three-quarters of the cost of the war, Commander in Chief George H.W. Bush won the first clear-cut American military victory since VJ-Day, Aug. 14, 1945.

More than three decades later, President Bush 41's leadership and judgment are recognized even by those who opposed him at the time.

In an exit interview after 32 years in the U.S. House with PBS's "NewsHour," the outspoken Massachusetts liberal Barney Frank was asked by interviewer Paul Solman about his "failures, regrets?" Frank's answer: "I should have voted for the first Iraq War. George Bush did that one very well."

One mistake President Bush did make in pressing his case for the U.S. going to war was his repeated comparing of Saddam Hussein to Adolf Hitler. The U.N. resolution and the multinational coalition had agreed only to drive Saddam out of Kuwait, not out of Baghdad. So when Saddam did eventually regroup

and resume his oppression of the Kurds, in particular, Bush was criticized for not having removed from power the man he had equated with the Nazi monster.

After the Gulf War triumph, President Bush's positive job-approval rating soared to 89 percent, which remains the highest ever registered in Gallup Poll history. Bush's sky-high numbers helped to persuade most leading Democratic presidential prospects — such as Sens. Albert Gore of Tennessee, Bill Bradley of New Jersey and Lloyd Bentsen of Texas, as well as Missouri Rep. Richard Gephardt and New York Gov. Mario Cuomo — that they individually "want to spend more time with my family," rather than to run in 1992 for the office most of them had semi-openly lusted after.

Those men's decisions not to run provided an unintended opening for a young, long-shot Southern governor who, barely 20 months after the incumbent chief executive had surpassed even Dwight Eisenhower and Ronald Reagan in voter approval polls, would defeat President Bush. He, Bill Clinton, would then, in 1996, become the first Democrat since FDR to win a second White House term.

Unless we remember, a wise man wrote, we cannot understand.

*To find out more about Mark Shields and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*

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MONA CHAREN



MARK SHIELDS

## Dewhurst aide didn't pay \$500K settlement

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst says hundreds of thousands of dollars were stolen from his political bankroll by his campaign manager, a prominent Republican consultant who faces the accusations just one month after defaulting on a \$506,000 settlement with a land developer that has been owed four times that amount for years, an attorney said Friday.

Dewhurst has accused Kenneth Barfield, who ran Dewhurst's unsuccessful U.S. Senate bid, of funneling money "for his personal benefit."

The allegations were made in newly revised state filings that show the Dewhurst campaign with \$700,000 less than originally reported.

The revelation came a month after Barfield failed to pay the latest in multiple defaulted settlements with S&K Development Company Inc., said Curtis Kurhajec, an attorney for the developer. A state district judge in 2009 awarded S&K Development a \$2.2 million judgment against Barfield and his defunct companies for not delivering on a loan, according to court records.

Neither Barfield, 56, nor his attorney, Brian Casey, immediately returned phone messages Friday.

Prosecutors also confirmed Friday they have opened an investigation surrounding

Barfield, who has not been charged.

The David Dewhurst Committee submitted an amended filing with the Texas Ethics Commission last week.

Whereas the political action committee originally reported about \$770,000 cash on hand in July, a revised copy of the same report now indicates less than \$7,300 in the PAC account.

"The misrepresentation of contribution balances was directly related to the misappropriation of committee funds to (Barfield's) own account, for his own personal benefit," the filing reads.

The allegations surrounding the missing funds were first reported by The Dallas Morning News.

S&K Development originally gave Barfield and his companies about \$1.7 million, which Kurhajec told The Associated Press was for a development project in Colorado that never broke ground. Kurhajec said Barfield again defaulted on the latest settlement — \$506,000 that was due Nov. 1.

During the three-year legal fight, the company accused Barfield in court filings of having a "history of failing to disclose all his bank accounts" and moving money around. That includes \$30,000 he was reportedly paid each month by the David Dewhurst Committee, according to court records.

## Hutchison leaves legacy of projects

DALLAS (AP) — Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison spent 19 years tending to the needs of Texas, hard work with tangible results for military installations, flood projects and highways, as well as many taxpayers.

Two years ago, in a bruising bid to become governor, her knack for bringing home the bacon and her deftness at setting aside party became liabilities. Concerns about red ink trumped demands for largesse, and fears of federal overreach fueled a hard right turn among Republican voters.

As the Hutchison era ends, her approach is giving way to much different expectations resting on successor Ted Cruz, a tea party darling with a national agenda and a markedly sharper ideology.

"We're going to miss her, and Ted Cruz and I have our work cut out for us to try to fill the gap that's going to be left by her departure," said Sen. John Cornyn, the party's deputy Senate leader and, beginning next week, Texas' senior senator.

Texas counties, researchers, road builders and rocket scientists may feel the impact. Hutchison advocated for a robust national defense. She looked after Texas veterans. She pressed for a fairer Texas slice of gasoline tax revenue. She championed tax-deferred retirement accounts for homemakers and easing

the so-called marriage penalty, and made sure that Texans, who pay no state income tax, could at least deduct state sales tax.

"I hope some of the priorities I have championed will continue," she said last week in her Senate farewell address.

Those priorities weren't always glamorous or controversial. More dogmatic colleagues commanded the spotlight on major debates over judicial nominees or health care policy, for instance.

"Some senators choose to focus solely on national issues. She chose early on to make fighting for Texas the highest of priorities. And she made a difference," said Chet Edwards, a former Democratic congressman from Waco.

Voters didn't always reward her. The tea party wave crested just as Hutchison took the plunge to run for governor two years ago. Party activists shunned her.

Gov. Rick Perry mocked her as an "earmark queen" and "Kay Bailout," for her support of the bank rescue package enacted at the height of the 2008 economic crisis.

Perry won their primary by 21 percentage points, a crushing rejection for a senator who had drawn more votes in 2000 than any statewide candidate in Texas history.

"It was a horrible experience," she told WFAA-TV (Channel 8) this month, voicing regret that her biggest ambi-

tion eluded her. "I love the Senate, but I always wanted to be governor."

In hindsight, she said, she should have challenged Perry in 2002, when he'd been on the job just two years, or four years later — the year he won another term with less than 40 percent of the vote in a four-way contest. But she kept bidding her time, citing a desire to promote party unity.

By 2010, her moment had passed.

"I just don't think she sensed the changing mood that was out there," said Dallas lawyer Tom Pauken, who chaired the state GOP in Hutchison's early years in the Senate. "You get into an insular atmosphere where you're talking to the lobbyists, you're talking to the insiders, and you begin to lose touch with the frustration at the grassroots level."

After the defeat, Hutchison got back to work, setting aside plans to retire early, win or lose.

With President Barack Obama's re-election suggesting a pendulum swing away from tea-party-style radicalism, her departure takes on an ironic poignancy.

"It's unfortunate. If she'd held on for another term, she might have been a player in the Senate in a way she hasn't been before," Buchanan said.

Through aides, Hutchison, 69, declined numerous interview requests over several months for this story.

Texas has seen any number of larger-than-life senators, from Sam Houston to Lyndon Johnson and John Tower — lawmakers who left a lasting mark on Texas history, the national discourse or both.

Stylistically, Hutchison's behind-the-scenes focus put her more in the mold of Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, a centrist Democrat, than that of Cornyn's predecessor, Phil Gramm, a Republican attention-magnet who put his stamp on banking and budgetary policy.

That made it a challenge for Hutchison to tamp down grumbling among social conservatives as their dominance grew within the Texas GOP.

She was booed at the party's 1996 convention, just three years after her election, and anti-abortion activists took the extraordinary step of trying to exclude her from Texas' delegation to the presidential nominating convention.

Her stance on abortion has long confounded activists on both sides. She has voted to affirm the ongoing validity of the landmark Roe vs. Wade ruling legalizing abortion.

She accepted funds from and served as an honorary board member of The Wish List, a group that helps GOP candidates who support abortion rights.

This summer, she began to describe herself as "pro-life," to the dismay of some anti-abortion crusaders.



Hutchison

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## News in brief

### Bovina residents file harassment suit against city

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — Nine people have filed a civil rights lawsuit against the city of Bovina, accusing a former police chief and other city officials of a pattern of harassment and extortion.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Amarillo on Friday alleges police officers and officials unlawfully arrested the residents in 2010 and 2011 to generate revenue for the city, located about 80 miles southwest of Amarillo.

The lawsuit says one man was arrested and paid a \$324 fine because a number was not painted on the curb in front of his home even though he didn't own the property.

The *Amarillo Globe-News* reports that that no one at Bovina City Hall was available to comment Friday. An attorney for the residents declined to comment on the case.

### Houston man accused of killing ex-girlfriend, teen

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston man faces capital murder charges in the killings of his former girlfriend and her teenage daughter who were found shot on Christmas Eve.

Curtis James Adams is accused of fatally shooting 35-year-old LaTasha Jones and 13-year-old Jakaela Newhouse.

The *Houston Chronicle* reports that Adams was charged earlier this year with indecency with a child for a January incident involving the daughter. Court records show Adams denied any inappropriate behavior when interviewed by police.

Investigators believe the 44-year-old Adams shot Jones and her daughter, then left with his 7-year-old son. Police say the boy saw one of the shootings. He's now living with family members.

Adams remains jailed in Fort Bend County on aggravated assault and firearm possession charges. An attorney has not been appointed to represent him.

### Off-duty Texas firefighter dies in home fire

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A Texas sheriff says an off-duty San Antonio firefighter has died after a fire engulfed his mobile home.

Medina County Sheriff Randy Brown told the *San Antonio Express-News* that 31-Matthew Whitley of the San Antonio Fire Department was found dead in his home early Friday.

Brown said the cause had not been determined, but speculated that it may have been a space heater. The home was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived shortly after midnight.

San Antonio Fire Department spokeswoman Deborah Foster said the 10-year department veteran's father is also a firefighter there.

### Police: Texas man kills wife at nonprofit agency

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Police say a Texas woman has died after her husband stabbed her at a local nonprofit agency.

Irving police say 47-year-old Roy Lee Gooden was booked into the Irving city jail Friday on a murder charge. They say Gooden attacked his wife, 55-year-old Sharon Gooden, Friday morning at Irving Cares. The organization's website says it offers a variety of social services, including a food pantry.

A police statement says the couple had arrived together Friday, but Roy Lee Gooden became an-

gry for an unknown reason and began stabbing his wife.

A security guard detained Gooden until police arrived. His wife died later at a local hospital.

The *Dallas Morning News* reports that Roy Lee Gooden is a convicted felon with convictions for burglary, aggravated assault and driving while intoxicated.

### Teen indicted in shootings of mother, sister

WEATHERFORD, Texas (AP) — A North Texas teen has been indicted in the October shooting deaths of his mother and 15-year-old sister.

The *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reports 17-year-old Jake Evans was indicted Friday by a Parker County grand jury on one count of capital murder and two counts of murder in the deaths at the home in Aledo, located about 20 miles west of Fort Worth.

Parker County Assistant District Attorney Jeff Swain says that if convicted of capital murder, Evans will not face the death penalty because he was under 18 at the time of the offense. The murder charges carry a punishment of up to life in prison.

According to the indictment, the grand jury charged Evans with capital murder because the two deaths were caused "during the same criminal transaction."

### 345 sharks found in illegal net in Gulf of Mexico

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — The U.S. Coast Guard has pulled 345 dead sharks from an illegal net found floating off the coast of South Texas.

The Coast Guard says a crew from South Padre Island found the 5-mile long net about four miles off the coast and 17 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border Monday.

Among the dead sharks were 225 black tip, 109 bonnet and 11 bull sharks.

Coast Guard Cmdr. Daniel Deptula said in a statement Wednesday that Mexican fisheries have been depleted by such fishing methods, which has led to more illegal fishing in U.S. waters. Use of such nets is illegal in Texas. Mexican fishermen often kill the sharks just for their fins.

### U.S. oil, gas exploration rigs drop this week by 11

HOUSTON (AP) — Oilfield services company Baker Hughes Inc. says the number of rigs actively exploring for oil and natural gas in the U.S. fell this week by 11, to 1,763.

Baker Hughes, based in Houston, said Friday that 1,327 rigs were exploring for oil and 431 were searching for gas. Five were listed as miscellaneous. A year ago, Baker Hughes counted 2,007 rigs.

Of the major oil- and gas-producing states, Alaska and West Virginia gained one rig each.

Texas declined by eight rigs and California and Louisiana each dropped two.

Arkansas, Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Wyoming were unchanged.

The rig count peaked at 4,530 in 1981 and bottomed at 488 in 1999.

### Planned Parenthood seeks order in health program

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Planned Parenthood asked a Texas court on Friday to order the state to continue funding the organization's preventive health care services for poor women until a trial can determine if the group's ban is legal.

Judge Gary Harger said he would issue a decision on a two-week restraining order Monday afternoon. Another hearing to head arguments on a longer injunction is scheduled for Jan. 11.

The Republican-controlled Legislature last year passed a law banning clinics affiliated with Planned Parenthood from participating in state-funded programs for poor women, even if all they provide is birth control and preventive health care. The law excludes anyone who advocates for abortion rights, which Planned Parenthood does, from receiving state funds. State law already bans state funding for abortions or clinics that provide abortions.

## sudoku

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

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### A Tale of Two Tables

West dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A Q 10 8 5  
♥ —  
♦ K 9 8 6 5 4  
♣ 5 2

**WEST**  
♠ 7  
♥ A K J 9 7 5 4 3  
♦ —  
♣ A 9 8 6

**EAST**  
♠ J 6 4  
♥ Q 10 8 2  
♦ Q 10 3 2  
♣ J 7

**SOUTH**  
♠ K 9 3 2  
♥ 6  
♦ A J 7  
♣ K Q 10 4 3

The bidding:  
West North East South  
2♥ 2NT Dble 3♣  
Dble 3♦ 4♥ 4♠  
5♠ 5♣ Pass Pass  
6♥ 6♣ Pass Pass  
Dble

Opening lead — king of hearts.

Theoretically, if both sides in a team-of-four match play well, most hands should end in a dead tie. But theory and practice are two entirely different animals, and relatively few deals produce identical results at the two tables.

For a good example of what can sometimes happen, consider this deal from the 1976 World Team Olympiad match between Poland and Denmark. The Poles bid and

made six spades doubled at one table for a score of 1,660 points, while their teammates defeated six diamonds doubled one trick at the other table to score another 200 points.

The bidding at the first table went as shown (North's two-notrump overcall indicated a two-suited hand), and South eventually wound up as declarer at six spades doubled. With South playing the hand, the slam could not be defeated. Had North become declarer at six spades, a diamond lead from East would have sunk the slam. Obviously, the sun shone brightly on the South Pole that day!

The bidding at the second table, with a Danish pair now holding the North-South cards, went:  
West North East South  
4♥ 4NT Pass 5♥  
Dble 6♦ Pass Pass  
Dble

East led a heart, ruffed by declarer, who would have made the slam had he led the diamond nine and played the seven from dummy after East followed low — not at all that far-fetched, considering the bidding.

But the Danish North cashed the king of diamonds at trick two, and this play proved fatal. He could no longer avoid losing a trump trick as well as the ace of clubs, and so went down one.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.  
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## News in brief

### Indian woman who was gang-raped and severely beaten on a bus dies in Singapore hospital

NEW DELHI (AP) — Shocked Indians on Saturday were mourning the death of a woman who was gang-raped and beaten on a bus in New Delhi nearly two weeks ago in an ordeal that galvanized people to demand greater protection for women from sexual violence.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said he was aware of the emotions the attack has stirred, adding it was up to all Indians to ensure that the young woman's death will not have been in vain.

The victim "passed away peacefully" early Saturday at Mount Elizabeth hospital in Singapore with her family and officials of the Indian Embassy by her side, Dr. Kevin Loh, the chief executive of the hospital, said in a statement.

After 10 days at a hospital in New Delhi, the Indian capital, the woman was brought Thursday to Mount Elizabeth, which specializes in multi-organ transplants. Loh said the woman had been in extremely critical condition since Thursday, and by late Friday her condition had taken a turn for the worse, with her vital signs deteriorating.

"Despite all efforts by a team of eight specialists in Mount Elizabeth hospital to keep her stable, her condition continued to deteriorate over these two days," Loh said. "She had suffered from severe organ failure following serious injuries to her body and brain. She was courageous in fighting for her life for so long against the odds, but the trauma to her body was too severe for her to overcome."

### Burden shifts to Senate party leaders to work out fiscal deal as deadline closes in

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate leaders rushed to assemble a last-ditch agreement to avoid middle-class tax increases and possibly delay steep spending cuts in an urgent attempt to find common ground after weeks of postelection gridlock.

An impatient President Barack Obama pressed top lawmakers to cut a deal before the year-end deadline, even one that falls short of the ambitions he and congressional leaders may once have harbored for a bigger deficit reduction package.

"The hour for immediate action is here. It is now," Obama declared.

Following a White House meeting Friday among Obama and congressional leaders, aides to Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., began racing against the clock for a bipartisan bargain.

The leaders could present legislation to senators as early as Sunday, with a vote possible on Sunday or Monday.

### Gay marriage law takes effect in Maine; couples tie the knot in the first hours of the new law

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Arriving in a limo, Donna Galluzzo and Lisa Gorney had all the trappings of a traditional wedding: Rings, flowers, wedding vows, an entourage and a friend to officiate.

With tears in their eyes, they were among the first gay couples to exchange wedding vows early Saturday morning after Maine's same-sex marriage law went into effect at midnight.

"We're paving the way for people to go after us. I think it's just amazing.

It's freeing. It's what's right," an emotionally drained Gorney said after their ceremony in front of City Hall.

After waiting years and seeing marriage rights nearly awarded and then retracted, gay couples in Maine's largest city didn't have to wait a moment longer than necessary to wed, with licenses issued at the stroke of midnight as the law went into effect.

Steven Bridges and Michael Snell were the first in line, and they received cheers from more than 200 people waiting outside after they wed in the clerk's office.

### Woman hit with federal, state charges connected to guns used in N.Y. firefighter slayings

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — William Spengler raised no alarms in prison for 17 years and for more than a decade afterward. Well-spoken, well-behaved and intelligent, his demeanor was praised by four straight parole boards that nevertheless denied him parole, worried that bludgeoning his 92-year-old grandmother with a hammer showed a violent streak that could explode again.

After his sentence was up in 1996, he stayed out of trouble until 2010, police said Friday. That's when Spengler went to a sporting goods store with a neighbor's daughter, picked out a Bushmaster semiautomatic rifle and a shotgun and had her buy the guns that the convicted felon couldn't legally possess. On Monday, he used the weapons to ambush firefighters lured to a blaze he set at his house in upstate Webster, killing two people and wounding three others before killing himself.

On Friday, state and federal authorities charged the woman who bought the guns, 24-year-old Dawn Nguyen, with lying on a form that said she would be the owner of the guns she bought for Spengler.

The charges involve the semiautomatic rifle and the 12-gauge shotgun that Spengler had with him Monday when volunteer firefighters Michael Chiapperini and Tomasz Kaczowka were gunned down. Three other people, including two other firefighters, were wounded before the 62-year-old Spengler killed himself. He also had a .38-caliber revolver, but Nguyen is not connected to that gun, police said.

### Contract extension averts dockworkers strike at East and Gulf coast ports

NEW YORK (AP) — Dockworkers along the East Coast and the Gulf of Mexico agreed Friday to extend their contract for more than a month, averting a weekend strike that could have crippled major ports from Boston to Houston and bottled up billions of dollars' worth of cargo.

Talks aimed at reaching a new contract covering the 14,500 longshoremen will continue during the extension, which runs through Feb. 6.

The dockworkers' union and an alliance of port operators and shipping lines agreed to the extension after resolving one of the stickier points in their negotiations, involving royalty payments to longshoremen for each container they unload. Details were not disclosed.

Federal mediator George Cohen said the agreement on royalties was "a major positive step forward."

### U.S. banks closing year with strong profits and fewest failures since 2008 financial crisis

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. banks are ending the year with their best profits since 2006 and fewer failures than at any time since the financial

crisis struck in 2008. They're helping support an economy slowed by high unemployment, flat pay, sluggish manufacturing and anxious consumers.

As the economy heals from the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, more people and businesses are taking out — and repaying — loans.

And for the first time since 2009, banks' earnings growth is being driven by higher revenue — a healthy trend. Banks had previously managed to boost earnings by putting aside less money for possible losses.

Signs of the industry's gains: — Banks are earning more. In the July-September quarter, the industry's earnings reached \$37.6 billion, up from \$35.3 billion a year earlier. It was the best showing since the July-September quarter of 2006, long before the financial meltdown. By contrast, at the depth of the Great Recession in the last quarter of 2008, the industry lost \$32 billion.

### Venezuela's vice president, others arrive in Havana to visit Chavez after cancer surgery

HAVANA (AP) — Venezuela's vice president arrived in Havana to visit President Hugo Chavez as he recovers from cancer surgery, Cuban official media said early Saturday.

Communist Party newspaper *Granma* published online a photo of Vice President Nicolas Maduro being greeted at the airport in the Cuban capital by the island's foreign minister, Bruno Rodriguez.

"From there, (Maduro) went directly to the hospital where President Hugo Chavez Frias is receiving treatment to greet his family members and Venezuelan Science and Technology Minister Jorge Arreaza Monserrat, and to discuss with doctors the adequate moment to visit the President the same day," the paper said.

Granma added that Maduro was accompanied by Venezuelan Attorney General Cilia Flores.

The previous night in Caracas, Venezuela, Maduro did not specify how long he would be away but said Energy Minister Hector Navarro would be in charge of government affairs in the meantime.

### NRA envisions armed volunteers, but experts say trained police are needed for school security

WASHINGTON (AP) — The student's attack began with a shotgun blast through the windows of a California high school. Rich Agundez, the

El Cajon policeman assigned to the school, felt his mind shift into overdrive.

People yelled at him amid the chaos but he didn't hear. He experienced "a tunnel vision of concentration."

While two teachers and three students were injured when the glass shattered in the 2001 attack on Granite Hills High School, Agundez confronted the assailant and wounded him before he could get inside the school and use his second weapon, a handgun.

The National Rifle Association's response to a Connecticut school massacre envisions, in part, having trained, armed volunteers in every school in America. But Agundez, school safety experts and school board members say there's a huge difference between a trained law enforcement officer who becomes part of the school family — and a guard with a gun.

The NRA's proposal has sparked a debate across the country as gun control rises once again as a national issue. President Barack Obama promised to present a plan in January to confront gun violence in the aftermath of the killing of 20 Sandy Hook Elementary School students and six teachers in Newtown, Conn.

### With Chavez out of sight, confused Venezuelans don't know what to believe about his health

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — He's getting better. He's getting worse. He's already dead. The whole thing is a conspiracy and he was never sick in the first place.

The obsessive, circular conversations about President Hugo Chavez's health dominate family dinners, plaza chit-chats and social media sites in this country on edge since its larger-than-life leader went to Cuba for emergency cancer surgery more than two weeks ago. The man whose booming voice once dominated the airwaves for hours at a time has not been seen or heard from since.

His lieutenants have consistently assured Venezuelans over the last week that Chavez is slowly on the mend and will be back at the helm of the country he has dominated for 14 years. But when will he be back? Will he be well enough to govern? What type of cancer does he have? Is it terminal? If so, how long does he have to live?

Government officials have not answered any of those questions, leaving Venezuelans to their own speculations. The wildest conspiracy theories run the gamut from those who say there is no proof Chavez is even still alive to those who believe his illness is a made-up play for sympathy.

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Movie, 1 p.m. "Tooth Fairy"
- Jan. 3 — Mall Walking, 8 a.m.  
Coffee Club, 10 a.m., Just Peachy Café  
Bunko, 4 p.m. (New Time)
- Jan. 4 — Lunch Bunch & Birthdays, 11:30 a.m.  
Just Peachy Café,
- Jan. 7 — Games, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- Jan. 8 — Mall Walking, 8 a.m.  
Coffee@Parkplace, 10 a.m.  
Supper Club, 5:30 p.m., Casa Blanca
- Jan. 9 — Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.  
Movie, 1 p.m. "The Lorax"
- Jan. 10 — Mall Walking, 8 a.m.  
Coffee Club, 10 a.m., Just Peachy Café
- Jan. 11 — Pot Luck & Bingo, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Jan. 14 — Games, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- Jan. 15 — Mall Walking, 8 a.m.  
Supper Club, 5:30 p.m., KC Steakhouse
- Jan. 16 — Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.  
Movie, 1 p.m. "Joyful Noise"
- Jan. 17 — Mall Walking, 8 a.m.  
Coffee Club, 10 a.m., Just Peachy Café
- Jan. 21 — Games, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- Jan. 22 — Mall Walking, 8 a.m.  
Supper Club, 5:30 p.m., "Hunan's"
- Jan. 23 — Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.  
No Movie Today!
- Jan. 24 — Mall Walking, 8 a.m.  
Coffee Club, 10 a.m., Just Peachy Café  
Healthy Woman, Four Fab Years, 4:30 - 7
- Jan. 28 — Games, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- Jan. 29 — Mall Walking, 8 a.m.  
Supper Club, 5:30 p.m., "Cowboy's"
- Jan. 30 — Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.  
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Coffee Club, 10 a.m., Just Peachy Café

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# Budget struggle raising anxiety for healthcare

WASHINGTON (AP) — Confused about the federal budget struggle? So are doctors, hospital administrators and other medical professionals who serve the 100 million Americans covered by Medicare and Medicaid.

Rarely has the government sent so many conflicting signals in so short a time about the bottom line for the health care industry.

Cuts are coming, says Washington, and some could be really big. Yet more government spending is also being promised as President Barack Obama's health care overhaul advances and millions of uninsured people move closer to getting government-subsidized coverage.

"Imagine a person being told they are going to get a raise, but their taxes are also going to go up and they are going to be paying more for gas," said Thornton Kirby, president of the South Carolina Hospital Association. "They don't know if they are going to be taking home more or less. That's the uncertainty when there are so many variables in play." Real money is at stake for

big hospitals and small medical practices alike. Government at all levels pays nearly half the nation's health care tab, with federal funds accounting for most of that.

It's widely assumed that a budget deal will mean cuts for Medicare service providers. But which ones? How much? And will Medicaid and subsidies to help people get coverage under the health care law also be cut?

As House Speaker John Boehner famously said: "God only knows." The Ohio Republican was referring to the overall chances of getting a budget deal, but the same can be said of how health care — one-sixth of the economy — will fare.

"There is no political consensus to do anything significant," said Dan Mendelson, president of Avalere Health, a market analysis firm. "There is a collective walking away from things that matter. All the stuff on the lists of options becomes impossible, because there is no give-and-take."

As if things weren't complicated enough, doctors keep facing their own recurring fiscal cliff, separate from the

bigger budget battle but embroiled in it nonetheless.

Come Jan. 1, doctors and certain other medical professionals face a 26.5 percent cut in their Medicare payments, the consequence of a 1990s deficit-reduction law gone awry. Lawmakers failed to repeal or replace that law even after it became obvious that it wasn't working. Instead, Congress usually passes a "doc fix" each year to waive the cuts.

This year, the fix got hung up in larger budget politics. Although a reprieve is expected sooner or later, doctors don't like being told to sit in the congressional waiting room.

"It seems like there is a presumption that physicians and patients can basically tolerate this kind of uncertainty while the Congress goes through whatever political machinations they are going through," said Dr. Jeremy Lazarus, president of the American Medical Association. "Our concern is that physician uncertainty and anxiety about being able to pay the bills will have an impact on taking care of patients."

A recent government survey indicates that Medicare beneficiaries are having more problems when trying to find a new primary care doctor, and Lazarus said that will only get worse.

Adding to their unease, doctors also face an additional reduction if automatic spending cuts go through. Those would be triggered if Obama and congressional leaders are unable to bridge partisan differences and strike a deal. They are part of the combination of tax increases and spending cuts dubbed the "fiscal cliff."

Medicare service providers would get hit with a 2 percent across-the-board cut, but Medicaid and subsidies for the uninsured under Obama's health care overhaul would be spared. The Medicare cut adds up to about \$120 billion over ten years, with 40 percent falling on hospitals, according to Avalere's analysis. Nursing homes, Medicare Advantage plans and home health agencies also get hit.

The American Hospital Association says that would lead to the loss of hundreds of thousands of hospital jobs

in a labor intensive industry that also generates employment for other businesses in local communities.

"It's very difficult to believe hospitals can absorb the kinds of numbers they are talking about without reducing service or workforce," said Kirby, the hospital association head. "You may decide that a service a hospital provides is not affordable — for example, obstetrics in a rural community — if you're making a little bit of money or losing a little bit of money by continuing to deliver babies in a rural community."

Independent analysts like Mendelson doubt that a 2 percent Medicare cut to hospitals would be catastrophic, but say it will cost jobs somewhere.

Even if there is a budget deal, the squeeze will be on.

The administration has proposed \$400 billion in health care cuts so far in the budget talks, coming mainly from Medicare spending. That's only a starting point as far as Republicans are concerned. They also want to pare back Medicaid and Obama's health care law.



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# Steers drop two, Lady Steers split in opening games at tourneys

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**

Sports Editor

**Big Spring Boys**

BRIDGEPORT — The Steers (5-12) met two larger schools Friday — Saginaw and Fort Worth Western Hills — and lost both outings as Big Spring dropped Game One to Saginaw 63-45 and Game Two to Western Hill 61-48.

Despite the mismatch in enrollment numbers, BSHS Head Coach Cliff Thompson cited a lack of consistency as the reason for the losses.

“We started off playing well against Saginaw, but then we had a terrible third quarter,” Thompson said. “We turned the ball over four or five times and (Saginaw) scored on all of them. We just didn’t play all four quarters.”

The second game was similar, except the Steers started slow and by the time they gained steam, it was too late to salvage a win.

Chazzell Robinson put up 12 points.

“We only scored 11 in the first half,” Thompson explained. “You can’t go a whole half without hitting a jump shot and expect to win. We have the talent to play with these teams, we just can’t put four quarters together right now.”

Charles Green registered 12 points in the Steers’ second loss, while Tyler Wigginton chipped in 10.

The Steers played again Saturday. Results will be in Monday’s edition of the *Herald*.

**Girls**

LUBBOCK — The opening game Thursday against Tulia didn’t go the Lady Steers’ way, as they fell to the Lady Hornets 52-43. The second round was kinder to BSHS as they pounded Floydada 42-20, with Logan

Yarbar leading the team with 15 points.

The Lady Steers (11-8) played Panhandle on Saturday. Look for results on Monday’s *Herald*.

**Forsan Boys**

BIG LAKE — The Buffaloes kicked off the 82<sup>nd</sup> Mary Tatum Holiday Classic in Reagan County with a narrow, 54-52 loss to Fort Stockton.

In Round Two, Forsan rebounded with a 52-47 victory over Ozona as Kade Fannin led the Buffs with 13 points, six steals and six rebounds. Aric Hernandez had a game-high 21 points and Dillon Bagnall added 9.

The third and final game for Forsan was a hard-fought battle with Pecos. Fannin had 15 points and 11 rebounds and Hernandez put up 12 points, but it wasn’t enough as the Eagles eliminated the Buffaloes from tournament play, 62-56 in the semifinal round.

**Girls**

BIG LAKE — The Lady Buffaloes were vying for third place at the 82<sup>nd</sup> Mary Tatum Holiday Classic as they met rival Stanton on Saturday to determine who would take away the bronze. Results will be printed in Monday’s *Herald*.

But first, Forsan had to take on host school Reagan County in the opening round, whom they scored a convincing 47-35 victory over.

Forsan came away with a split after the second game, as Ballinger handed the Lady Buffs a 52-47 loss.

Ali Knight scored 16 and Reagan Haggard contributed 12 in the loss to Ballinger, while leading scorers in the win against Reagan County were Maria Ortiz with 12 and Brittney Hergert with 10.

See **ROUNDUP**, Page 10A



HERALD file photo

**Big Spring’s Chazzell Robinson blocks a shot during a game against Seminole earlier in the season. The Steers lost their first two games at the Bridgeport Tournament over the weekend. Both defeats came at the hands of larger Fort Worth-area schools.**

# Texas Tech rallies to beat Minnesota 34-31

**KRISTIE RIEKEN**

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas Tech has had a difficult month since coach Tommy Tuberville left abruptly for the job at Cincinnati.

The struggles continued on Friday night, and the Red Raiders trailed Minnesota by a touchdown with just more than a minute left in the Meineke Car Care Bowl.

That was when Doege D.J. Johnson and Seth Doege came through with big plays to help Texas Tech to a 34-31 win.

After Doege connected with Eric Ward on a 35-yard scoring play to pull the Red Raiders even at 31 with just more than a minute remaining, Johnson returned an interception 39 yards and Ryan Bustin made a 28-yard field goal as time expired to give the Red Raiders the win.

“We’ve overcome a lot of adversity,” Johnson said. “To

end my last play like that is a blessing.”

Michael Carter intercepted two of Doege’s passes in the fourth quarter before the tying score, but Minnesota couldn’t convert either of the turnovers into points.

“Things weren’t always going our way ... but we kept fighting and put ourselves in a position to win the game,” Doege said.

The Red Raiders (8-5) got their third straight bowl victory to end their trying season on a high note.

Texas Tech has hired Kliff Kingsbury to replace Tuberville, but interim coach Chris Thomsen led the team against Minnesota (6-7). Kingsbury was at the game, watching from a suite.

Doege threw for 271 yards and a touchdown and ran for another score in front of a crowd that included 1977 Heisman Trophy winner Earl Campbell and former Tech

coach Spike Dykes.

“More than anything I credit those players,” Thomsen said of Johnson and Doege. “They really held it together ... to get to make those plays after they struggled. They kept their poise and confidence and continued to stay in there and battle.”

Philip Nelson threw for 138 yards and two scores for the Gophers, who were in a bowl game for the first time since 2009.

“I think our kids played hard tonight; they played their guts out, and I appreciate that,” Minnesota coach Jerry Kill said. “We just couldn’t make a play at a critical time.”

The Red Raiders returned to a bowl after having their 18-season bowl streak snapped last year.

A 1-yard touchdown pass from Nelson to Drew Goodger gave Minnesota a 31-24 lead early in the fourth quarter.

Texas Tech led 24-17 at half-time, but couldn’t do anything offensively in the second half until the last couple of minutes. It was an ugly game for the Red Raiders, who had 13 penalties for 135 yards and lost the tight end Jace Amaro when he was ejected for throwing a punch.

Jakeem Grant ran for what was initially ruled a touchdown for Tech late in the third quarter. Amaro threw a punch at Derrick Wells in the end zone on the play and was ejected.

After the penalty, the play was reviewed and overturned. Doege threw an incomplete pass before Tech made a 32-yard field goal. But the Red Raiders had a false start penalty on the play and had to kick again and this time the Gophers blocked it.

Nelson threw a 17-yard touchdown pass to Devin Crawford-Tufts, who was left uncovered in the end zone, to

tie it 24-all early in the third quarter.

Donnell Kirkwood scored on a 3-yard run to leave Minnesota up 17-14 early in the second quarter.

Texas Tech had a first-and-goal at the Minnesota 2 after a pass-interference call on the Gophers. But Texas Tech had to settle for a field goal after a rush for a 3-yard loss and two penalties.

Minnesota’s next drive started out well before turning ugly. The Gophers had made two first downs before MarQueis Gray was sacked for a loss of 7 yards. Kirkwood ran for 17 yards on the next play, but Minnesota received two 15-yard penalties on the play, one for a personal foul on lineman Zac Epping, to make it second-and-42. Epping received a second personal foul penalty on the next play to bring up third-and-49.

See **RALLY**, Page 10A

# AP source: UT’s McCoy, Hicks suspended

Texas has sent home backup quarterback Case McCoy and injured linebacker Jordan Hicks on the eve of the Alamo Bowl in San Antonio for violating team rules, a person with knowledge of the suspensions told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Friday because the school wasn’t releasing the names of the suspended players. The person said the players violated curfew.

Coach Mack Brown addressed the situation during a previously scheduled news conference Friday and referred to a KENS-TV report

that police were investigating two unidentified Texas players in an alleged sexual assault at a San Antonio hotel.

“This has been reported: We had a couple young men that broke team rules last night. They have been suspended from the team and they will be sent home,” Brown said at a previously scheduled news conference in San Antonio. “They will not be available for the game and I will not address any more questions in that matter.”

Sgt. Javier Salazar, a San Antonio police spokesman, said only that detectives are in the early stages of investigating a case of al-

leged sexual assault in the downtown area. Investigators are interviewing witnesses and collecting forensic evidence, he said.

A heavily redacted police report says a 21-year-old woman told police she believed she was assaulted around 2 a.m. Friday after inviting two men to her hotel room. The report shows only that the men are students and that one is 21 and the other is 20. The woman told police that she had had several drinks when she invited the men to her hotel.

The woman said one of the men assaulted her while the other “just stood there and watched.”

# Nuggets drop Mavs 106-85

DALLAS (AP) — Danilo Gallinari was the European big man hitting 3-pointers, and he spoiled Dirk Nowitzki’s first home game for the Dallas Mavericks since coming back from knee surgery.

The Denver forward was 7 of 11 from long range and finished with a career-high 39 points as the Nuggets handed the Mavericks their fifth straight loss, 106-85, on Friday night.

“He was one of the

best players in the game,” Gallinari, a 6-foot-10 forward from Italy, said of the 7-foot Nowitzki from Germany. “So you always try to follow and learn from the best. I’ve watched a lot of videos from him.”

Nowitzki, whomissed the first 27 games after surgery late in the pre-season, had five points in 17 minutes in his third game back. “I was a step slow,” Nowitzki said. “That was obvious.”

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## RALLY

Continued from page 9A

"We just made some errors that I wish we hadn't made," Kill said.

Christian Eldred shanked the punt, giving Texas Tech the ball at the Minnesota 42.

The Red Raiders capitalized on their great field position when Doege spun away from a defender in the backfield and leaped over another Gopher near the goal line on a 4-yard touchdown run.

Tech converted a fourth-and-6 play

on that drive, and led 24-17 at half-time.

Minnesota's Rodrick Williams Jr. scored on a 2-yard run to give the Gophers a 10-7 lead in the first quarter.

Doege lost his helmet on a 5-yard scramble on Tech's next drive and had to go out for one play. He was replaced by Michael Brewer, who found Derreck Edwards for a 13-yard touchdown pass to give the Red Raiders a 14-10 lead.

The Gophers ended that drive with a 41-yard field goal to make it 3-0.

Texas Tech's Grant returned the ensuing kickoff 99 yards for a touchdown to put Texas Tech up 7-3.

## ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 9A

### Coahoma Boys

BIG LAKE — Tanner Ruiz continues to shine for the Bulldogs as he led Coahoma to a 53-43 victory over San Angelo TLCA, scoring 19 points. Braxton Iden added nine and Alex Hill put up eight.

Host team Reagan County was eliminated by Coahoma in the second round as the Bulldogs downed the Owls 45-39.

Ruiz contributed a game-high 21 points and had six steals and Braxton Iden put up six points and got eight rebounds.

Coahoma squared off against rival Stanton to determine the tournament championship Saturday. Results will be published in Monday's edition of the *Herald*.

### Girls

BIG LAKE — The Bulldogettes fell to 7-14 on the season after going 1-3 in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Mary Tatum Holiday Classic.

Sonora — who is playing for first place — routed Coahoma in their

opening game, 67-37, but the Bulldogettes came back in the second round Friday, pummeling San Angelo TLCA 55-18. Game Three came against host Reagan County, who eliminated CHS by a score of 42-27.

With district play about to begin, Coahoma Head Coach Paul Hartman feels his team has grown, despite the lopsided win-loss ratio.

"We have improved in many areas and will continue to do so," Hartman said. "We feel we are prepared for the district season and have a goal of competing for a playoff spot. Our district will be very competitive."

### Stanton Boys

BIG LAKE — The Buffs played Coahoma for the Reagan County tournament champion (see results in Monday's *Herald*) after earning their way to the top of the bracket by pounding McCamey 67-25 Thursday in the opener and following it up with a 53-39 victory over Fort Stockton in the second round.

### Girls

BIG LAKE — Splitting the first two games, the Lady Buffs played for third place against Fortson on Saturday (results will be in Monday's *Herald*), after soundly beating Pecos 55-15 Thursday before falling to Sonora by a score of 55-28 in the second round.

### Garden City Boys

LENORAH — The Bearkats have climbed up to a No. 15 state rank and proved why after notching a win Friday to open the Grady Black & White Cotton Classic.

The victims were Ira, whom Garden City narrowly defeated, 40-37. Corbin Davis led the Bearkats with 11 points and Sam Miller added 10.

Garden City met Grady in the winner's bracket Saturday. See Monday's *Herald* for further results.

### Girls

LENORAH — Holly Halfmann led the Ladykats with 20 points and Carlie Hollinsworth added 10 as Garden City routed Midland Trinity in their opening matchup at the Black & Gold Cotton Classic.

Halfmann struck again — this time with 18 points in Game Two. The Ladykats embarrassed Ira 73-20 and played host school Grady on Saturday for the tournament championship. See Monday's edition of the *Herald* for results.

### GRADY Boys

LENORAH — The Wildcats earned their way to the winner's bracket by defeating Wink 67-40 in the opening round of the Black & White Cotton Classic on Friday.

Powered by Brandon Lucas and E.J. Rodriguez — who each scored 15 points — and Michael Jimenez, who added 12, the Wildcats met Garden City on Saturday. Look for results in Monday's *Herald*.

### Girls

LENORAH — Lady Wildcat ace Ellyn Avery scored a combined 42 points in Grady's first two wins as they hosted the Black & White Cotton Classic.

First, Grady knocked off Lovington, N.M., 58-22. In the second round, The Lady Wildcats smashed Wink 62-30.

The victories guaranteed Grady a spot in the championship game, where they met Garden City on Saturday. See Monday's *Herald* for results.

### Other scores:

• Sands (boys) defeated Pampa, 48-47. Thomasson, 17; Timmins, 10. Next vs. Perryton.

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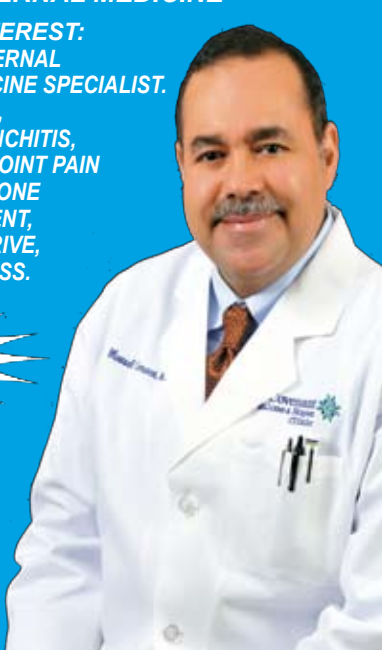
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Photos courtesy of Getty Images

# CLEANING

## MADE SIMPLE

FAMILY FEATURES

**G**iving your home a good cleaning doesn't have to be a big chore. You can make the whole house look and feel fresher by focusing on a few key areas.



### Floors

Even if you vacuum regularly, floors and carpets could use a deep down cleaning now and then.

- **For carpeted areas** — Start by vacuuming as usual, to pick up surface debris. Move as much furniture out of the room as possible. (If you can't move it, put some plastic under it to protect the legs.) If you don't want to rent a carpet cleaner, you can use a handheld electric spot scrubber to remove stains.
- **For hardwood or vinyl tile areas** — Vacuum as usual. Remove as much furniture as possible. Use a steam mop to clean and sanitize the floor. Many models have triangular pads to help you get into corners and around furniture more easily.
- **For other tiled areas** — If your tile is natural stone, treat stains based on type. If the stain is calcium based, from grout buildup, mineral deposits or hard water, use a pH balanced cleaner for stone.

### Bathroom

Freshen up the bathroom with these simple cleaning tricks.

- **Take care of the tub** by scrubbing with baking soda on a clean, damp sponge. Rinse, then wipe dry. You can clean and deodorize your vinyl shower curtain by giving it the same baking soda treatment.
- **If you have stone, granite or marble surfaces**, use a cleaner made specifically for those materials, such as DuPont™ Soap Scum Remover or DuPont Mold and Mildew Stain Remover for natural stone. Some general purpose cleaners may contain acids, bleach or ammonia that could break down the sealer on natural stone, making the surface more likely to stain.
- **Brighten up the bathroom** by cleaning the window, mirrors, light fixtures and even the light bulbs with multipurpose surface wipes.

### Kitchen

Take care of those areas that might not get daily attention.

- **Empty the refrigerator** and toss anything out of date or that looks like a science experiment. Remove the shelves and bins, giving them a good cleaning with a solution of 1/4 cup multi-surface cleaner and one gallon of warm water. Rinse and dry thoroughly before putting them back.
- **Clean and sanitize surfaces** that come into contact with food. To sanitize washable hard, nonporous surfaces such as granite, without damaging them, spray DuPont Sanitizer for Sealed Natural Stone. Spray until thoroughly wet and leave it for one minute. Wipe with a clean cloth or let air dry — do not rinse. Learn more tips to care for natural stone at [www.dupont.com/jbtips](http://www.dupont.com/jbtips).
- **Use a duster with a long handle** to clean in higher areas, such as the tops of cabinets, ceiling corners, vents and recessed lighting fixtures.

### Clutter

Conquering clutter will make your home look better right away.

- **Divide and conquer** — Sort items into piles for storing, donating or throwing away. When you've tossed the junk and donated designated items, it's time to start storing.
- **Give everything a home** — Instead of putting things into whatever container you might have, look for storage containers to fit your particular needs. You can find flexible containers to slide under beds or fit into closet corners; clear totes to hold toys or larger items; divided drawer inserts to organize desk and "junk" drawers; and even attractive baskets and boxes that can store what you need while adding color and design to the room.

### Furniture

In order to keep your furniture looking its best, you need to do more than simply dust now and then.

- **For upholstered furniture** — Vacuum upholstery and spot clean as needed. For leather pieces, you can get rid of old marks and stains with a specially formulated remover. Use oil-free leather cleaner and protector to keep the original look and feel of the leather.
- **For wood furniture** — To remove grime and other residues, use a purifying wood cleaner, then follow up with a revitalizing furniture wood polish. It will help enhance and preserve the wood's natural beauty.

### Appliances

They take up a lot of real estate in the home — make sure they're clean, too.

- **Washing machines** can build up a sticky residue inside. If your machine does not have a specific washer cleaning cycle, add liquid chlorine bleach to the dispenser and run a normal cycle with hot water.
- **Check the drain area of your dishwasher** and remove any bits of food or small items. Place a bowl, right side up, in the top rack and fill it with one cup of white vinegar. With nothing else inside, run the dishwasher on its shortest cycle to remove soap scum and hard water buildup.
- **Don't forget the outside of your appliances.** For light cleaning, dilute 1/4 cup multi-purpose cleaner in a gallon of warm water. Wipe your washer, dryer and refrigerator clean. For tougher cleaning, use some full-strength multi-purpose cleaner directly on a sponge. Rinse surfaces thoroughly with plain water afterwards. Regular cleaners can leave residue on stainless steel surfaces, however, so use a product such as DuPont Stainless Steel Cleaner that will clean now and resist fingerprints and grease later on.



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# Engagements Blum's Jewelry

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## Wigington and Degnan

Zachary Michael Degnan and Hayley Ann Wigington would like to announce their engagement.

The bride is the daughter of Bill and Sherri Wigington of Big Spring, Texas, and Tom and Kenda Land of Midland, Texas. The bride is the granddaughter of Burnell and the late Robert Wigington of Big Spring, Sandra Flowers Tepy of Riverside, Calif., Glen Tepy of Cedar Pines Park, Calif., and the late Patricia Flowers of Big Spring.

The groom is the son of Shane and Michelle



Zachary Degnan and Hayley Wigington

Degnan of Midland. The groom is the grandson of Jessie and Bettie Crompton of Evanston, Wyo., and Robert and Midge Degnan of Idaho.

Hayley was a 2007

graduate of Big Spring High School, and is now employed with Midland Memorial Hospital. Zachary graduated also in 2007 from Evanston (Wyo.) High School, and

is currently an occupation operator with Cudd Pressure Control.

Hayley & Zachary have planned a spring wedding in March of 2013 in Midland.



Kendell Clark and Amanda Lucas

## Lucas and Clark

BETHLEHEM, Pa. — David and Jennifer Lucas announce the engagement of their daughter Amanda Lucas, to Kendell Clark, son of Julie Clark of Peru and Tony Clark of Ashland, Maine.

Amanda is a graduate of Upstate Medical University with a doctorate of physical therapy. She is a physical therapist for Good Shepherd Rehabilitation in Northampton, Pa. She is the granddaughter of Veronica and the late Charles Moore, formerly from Big Spring, and Newell and Wanda Lucas of San Angelo.

Kendell is a graduate of the Rochester Institute of Technology with a masters in electrical engineering. He is a senior project electrical engineer for Lutron Electronics in Coopersburg, Pa.

The couple currently resides in Bethlehem, Pa. and plan to celebrate their wedding in Orefield, Pa. on Sept. 8, 2013.

## Births

### Michael Rey Aguilar

Michael Rey Aguilar, a boy, was born at 2:06 p.m. Dec. 14, 2012, weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces and was 20 inches in length.

Parents are Gabriel and Rachel Aguilar of Big Spring. Grandparents are Lorenzo and Mary Juarez and the late Raul and Amelia Aguilar.

The baby was wel-



comed home by siblings Gabriella, Gabriel and Daniel.



### Jacob Tyrell Moore

Jacob Tyrell Moore, a boy, was born at 2:25 p.m. Nov. 26, 2012, weighing 8 pounds and 15 ounces and was 20 and one-fourth inches in

length.

He is the son of Tommy and Tawna Moore of Big Spring.

Grandparents are Wayne Jacobs and the late Sherry Jacobs, Glenda Williams, Donnie Moore and Tonya Krause.

Jacob Tyrell was welcomed home by big sister Ryleigh Jo Moore.

### Kynlee Rae Vanderpool

Kynlee Rae Vanderpool, a girl, was born at 7:45 a.m. Dec. 15, 2012, weighing 6 pounds, 10 ounces and was 19 and one-quarter inches in length.

She is the daughter of Jeanette Rene Vanderpool and Matthew William Vanderpool of Big Spring.

Grandparents are Maria Ester Tarin and Jesse Tarin and Janie and Willie Vanderpool.

Kynlee Rae is welcomed home by siblings Aumaris Vanderpool, 6, Ashlyn Vanderpool, 5, and Zacharian Vanderpool, 1.



### Aubree Marie Pierce

Aubree Marie Pierce, a girl, was born at 4:31 p.m. on Dec. 18, 2012, weighing 5 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 17-1/2 inches in length.

She is the daughter of Derek Pierce and Stacie Pierce of Big Spring.

Grandparents are Junior Hilario (Francis Hilario step-mom), Michelle Leos, Randy Pierce and Kelly Hankins.

## Chalet could use your assistance

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

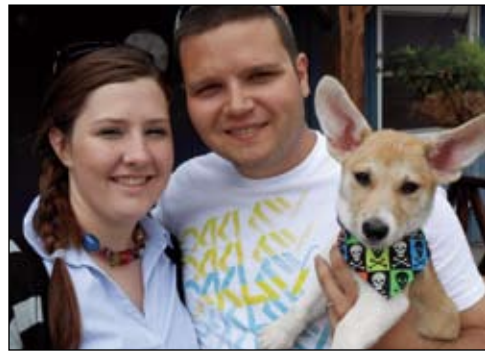
Chalet Resale Shop for sale to raise money for patient needs. Men's clothing and larger-sized clothing are always in need. For more information, call Melissa Adams, BSSH program coordinator, at 432 268-7730.

Contact the Herald at [newsdesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:newsdesk@bigspringherald.com)

Lori Straley

Bride Elect Of

Wesley Miller



SHOWER: January 12 • WEDDING: February 6

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

Included Below Are Our Other Registrees:

- ♥ Jordan Chesworth & Ricky Crawford
- ♥ Katie Singleton & Garrett Fulton
- ♥ Jill Johansen & Christopher Turner
- ♥ Lori Straley & Wesley Miller

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Hangar 25 Air Museum's annual fundraiser is coming up in January!

The **Silver Wings Ball** will be  
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Evening events will begin at 6:00pm with a cocktail hour.  
Join us for a night of dining, dancing, and live auction

Cash Bar

Tickets will go quickly, so get yours today!

Live Auction

Tickets for the event will cost \$50  
Reserve a Table for \$400

DEADLINE TO PURCHASE TICKETS:  
JANUARY 5TH

Contact Hangar 25 or Gloria McDonald for tickets  
(432) 264-1999 or (432) 270-3644  
or [hangar25@crcom.net](mailto:hangar25@crcom.net)



Associated Press photo

# Trains carrying more oil across U.S. amid boom

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Energy companies behind the oil boom on the Northern Plains are increasingly turning to an industrial-age workhorse — the locomotive — to move their crude to refineries across the U.S., as plans for new pipelines stall and existing lines can't keep up with demand.

Delivering oil thousands of miles by rail from the heartland to refineries on the East, West and Gulf coasts

costs more, but it can mean increased profits — up to \$10 or more a barrel — because of higher oil prices on the coasts. That works out to about \$700,000 per train.

The parade of mile-long trains carrying hazardous material out of North Dakota and Montana and across the country has experts and federal regulators concerned. Rail transport is less safe than pipelines, they say, and the prolif-

eration of oil trains raises the risk of a major derailment and spill.

Since 2009, the number of train cars carrying crude hauled by major railroads has jumped from about 10,000 a year to a projected 200,000 in 2012. Much of that has been in the Northern Plains' Bakken crude patch, but companies say oil trains are rolling or will be soon from Texas, Colorado and western Canada.

"This is all occurring

very rapidly, and history teaches that when those things happen, unfortunately, the next thing that is going to occur would be some sort of disaster," said Jim Hall, a transportation consultant and former chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.

Rail companies said the industry places a priority on safety and has invested heavily in

See **TRAINS**, Page 4B

## 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.**

As of Tuesday morning (Dec. 18), it appears that some sort of compromise is being worked out between President Obama and Speaker of the House Boehner to avoid the full effects of the "fiscal cliff" tax increases and spending cuts that are due to kick in on Jan. 1. While details of the discussions are fluid at this point, some media outlets are reporting that the arrangement being discussed would involve a roughly equal amount of tax increases and spending cuts. The amount being bandied about is in the \$1.2 trillion range over a 10-year period. Therefore, this one-to-one ratio between tax increases and spending reductions would total approximately \$2.4 trillion of "deficit reduction" over the next decade, or \$240 billion each year. Keep in mind that the Congressional Budget Office has pegged the 2012 U.S. budget deficit at \$1.1 trillion. This would make a dent in the budget deficit but hardly solve the problem. The bigger, tougher decisions would get kicked down the road.

And how will the market react to such a deal? We have been looking for a minor compromise that would raise taxes on a small segment of the population and cut spending in some narrow way. That appears to be the direction we are headed. The idea of \$3 in spending cuts for every \$1 in tax increases that some of our elected officials discussed only a few months ago has apparently been thrown out the window. But the market seems to be willing to accept a deal that would balance the cuts in spending with increased tax revenues. This would help clear up any near-term uncertainty. In addition, there is talk on the Street that the deal may include an agreement to raise the debt ceiling. Indeed, as of this writing, the S&P 500 has been in rally mode for the last two days in response to the most recent proposals to avoid the cliff.

In our opinion, if such a minor compromise is reached, it is unlikely that the market would surge in a sustainable manner from current levels. At least some of the enthusiasm is likely already priced into equities. There is much more work to be done on fiscal issues in the year to come, and the economy continues to grow at a sub-par pace. We see the economy growing at a below-trend 2.5 percent in the coming year.

Once we get past the fiscal cliff uncertainty, investors will likely refocus on the modest growth/modest inflation economy. Stocks can do well in that environment. Additional potential positives include: a Federal Reserve that will continue to provide plenty of liquidity to the economy in the form of low interest rates; improved consumer confidence; and a slowly improving labor market. We have had two meaningful pullback opportunities to put a portion of sideline cash to work this year. Beyond the cliff, other potential opportunities may present themselves.

The outlook for stocks is good. If you have sideline cash that is targeted for the equity markets, be ready to act.

*Past performance is no guarantee of future results. This article was produced on Dec. 18 by Scott Wren, Wells Fargo Advisors senior equity strategist, and provided courtesy of Bhupen Agrawal, managing director - branch manager of Wells Fargo Advisors' Midland office, at 432-684-7335. The material has been prepared or is distributed solely for informational purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy or sell any security, or instrumental to participate in any trading strategy. Stocks offer long-term growth potential, but may fluctuate more and provide less current income than other investments. An investment in the stock market should be made with an understanding of the risks associated with common stocks, including market fluctuations.*



Courtesy photo  
Longtime Big Spring State Hospital Employee Michael Salazar received his 35-year Service Award from Chief Nurse Executive Stormy Ward and Program Specialist V Mique Yarbar recently. Salazar started as a mental health worker on the substance abuse unit in 1977. He currently works as a rehabilitation teacher in the Activity Therapies Department.

# Putin signs anti-U.S. adoptions bill

MOSCOW (AP) — President Vladimir Putin on Friday signed a law banning Americans from adopting Russian children, abruptly terminating the prospects for more than 50 youngsters preparing to join new families and sparking critics to liken him to King Herod.

The move is part of a harsh response to a U.S. law targeting Russians deemed to be human rights violators. Although some

top Russian officials including the foreign minister openly opposed the bill, Putin signed it less than 24 hours after receiving it from Parliament, where it passed both houses overwhelmingly.

The law also calls for the closure of non-governmental organizations receiving American funding if their activities are classified as political — a broad definition many fear could be used to close any NGO that of-

fends the Kremlin.

The law takes effect Jan. 1, the Kremlin said. Children's rights ombudsman Pavel Astakhov said 52 children who were in the pipeline for U.S. adoption would remain in Russia.

The ban is in response to a measure signed into law by President Barack Obama this month that calls for sanctions against Russians assessed to be human rights violators.

# Fewer U.S. banks failing as industry strengthens

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. banks are ending the year with their best profits since 2006 and fewer failures than at any time since the financial crisis struck in 2008. They're helping support an economy slowed by high unemployment, flat pay, sluggish manufacturing and anxious consumers.

As the economy heals from the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, more people and businesses are taking out — and repay-

ing — loans. And for the first time since 2009, banks' earnings growth is being driven by higher revenue — a healthy trend. Banks had previously managed to boost earnings by putting aside less money for possible losses.

Signs of the industry's gains:

— Banks are earning more. In the July-September quarter, the industry's earnings reached \$37.6 billion, up from \$35.3 billion a year earlier. It

was the best showing since the July-September quarter of 2006, long before the financial meltdown. By contrast, at the depth of the Great Recession in the last quarter of 2008, the industry lost \$32 billion.

— Banks are lending a bit more freely. The value of loans to consumers rose 3.2 percent in the 12 months that ended Sept. 30 compared with the previous 12 months, according to data from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. More lending fuels more

consumer spending, which drives about 70 percent of economic activity. At the same time, overall lending remains well below levels considered healthy over the long run.

— Fewer banks are considered at risk of failure. In July through September, the number of banks on the FDIC's confidential "problem list" fell for a sixth straight quarter. These banks numbered 694 as of Sept. 30 — about 9.6 percent of all federally insured banks. At its peak in the

first quarter of 2011, the number of troubled banks was 888, or 11.7 percent of all federally insured institutions.

— Bank failures have declined. In 2009, 140 failed. In 2010, more banks failed — 157 — than in any year since the savings and loan crisis of the early 1990s. In 2011, regulators closed 92. This year, the number of failures has trickled to 51. That's still more than normal. In a strong economy, an average of only four or five banks close annually.

## Public Records

### Howard County Justice of the Peace Out- standing IBC

#### Warrants:

Sherri Monique Aldridge, 1507 E. Sixth St., Big Spring  
Carol J. Anderson, PO Box 1143, Stanton  
Patricia Ann Bacon, 5700 Cedar Rd. Apt. 2, Big Spring  
Amanda Nicole Bair, 1103 E. 15th St., Big Spring  
Charles Howard Baker, 118 Shiloh, Victoria  
Jessica Lynn Banks, CR 1200, Lubbock  
Johnny Barraza, 429 Westover, Big Spring  
Tommy Billalba Jr., 3614 Hamilton, Big Spring  
Jennifer Leigh Black, 1405 E. Barton, Temple  
William Riley Bounds, 1818 Corsicana, Dallas  
Joe Ray Brown, 902 Hickory, Abilene  
Vanessa Calderon, 1504 Kentucky, Big Spring  
Emily Denise Carrillo, 2610 Albrook, Big Spring  
Donald Cervantes, 1211 Lloyd, Big Spring  
Trystan Taelor Cevallos, 3912 E. Hwy. 350, Big Spring  
Joshua Adam Cisneros, 802 Culp, Coahoma  
Melissa Cisneros, 1810 S. Benton, Big Spring  
Christoval Corrales, 1105 N. Nolan, Big Spring  
Melissa Crawford, 1207 Mulberry, Big Spring  
Jennifer R. Crow, 1714 Fort Worth, Brownwood  
Montie Dee Daniels, 2606 Chanute, Big Spring  
Julie E. Davis, 5202 Bangor Ave. Apt. K301, Lubbock  
Stefan Deal, 102 Casie Ln. Apt. 1, Fort Worth  
Manuel Delosrios, 707 Lorilla, Big Spring  
Teana Demyen-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, Meadow  
Kristi L. Elliot, 603 E. 12th St., Big Spring  
Alexandria Nicole Escanuela, 2521 Chanute, Big Spring  
Brittany Vanessa Escanuela, 302 Circle, Big Spring  
John Randall Evatt, 4301

W. 49th St. Apt. 329, Amarillo  
Kristen Falcon, 2606 Fairchild, Big Spring  
Amy Michelle Fields, 102 N. Fifth St., Coahoma  
Sharlamarr Frink, 3723 Monclair, Odessa  
Joey Lee Garcia, 3102 Ave. C, Snyder  
Noel Garcia II, 1604 Robin, Big Spring  
Pedro Garcia, 806 Johnson, Big Spring  
Joe Nick Garfias Jr., of 1309 Runnels, Big Spring  
Kay Lynn Garrett, 2609 Wasson Rd. Apt. 45, Big Spring  
Rosa M. George, 509 W. Second, Stanton  
Joseph Blake Gist, 3500 Cedar Run, Abilene  
Nicholas Gonzales, 903 Creighton, Big Spring  
Roxanne Deanda Gonzales, 539 Westover Apt. 211, Big Spring  
Eunice Torres Gonzalez, 7311 Westmoor, Odessa  
Whitney Marquez Gray, 2934 Old Anson Rd., Abilene  
Robert Earl Green II, 2512 Fairchild, Big Spring  
Kimberly Hargrove, PO Box 1985, Big Spring  
Tracy Lenn Haynie, 503 Kylie Lane, Wylie  
Bryan David Hernandez, 1500 Kentucky Way, Big Spring  
Ruby G. Hernandez, 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 48, Big Spring  
Ashley Rae Hodge, 3214 Drexel, Big Spring  
Danny Holt, 125 Farney Rd., Lorena  
April M. Horton, 1705 Charles, Portsmouth, Ohio  
Bradley Ryan Horton, 601 Linda Lane, Big Spring  
Dana Michelle Hudgins, P.O. Box 837, Coahoma  
Ashley Nicole Islas, 1104 Wood, Big Spring  
Brian Ivanchan, 1208 Mulberry, Big Spring  
Mandy Diane Jenkins, 8707 E. Highway 350, Big Spring  
Lonnie Malcolm Johnson, 1211 Ridgeroad, Big Spring  
Christopher Shawn Jones, 112 McDonald Rd., Big Spring  
Donald Jones, 3718 Ave. V, Snyder  
Jason Earnest Key, 900 Abrams, Big Spring  
Albert Leal, 2522 Albrook, Big Spring

Robert Lee Lopez, 503 E. 18th, Big Spring  
Jenny Marie Hamilton Lyon, 4201 W. Highway 80 Apt. 6, Big Spring  
Aaron Christopher Mack, 2134 Bonham, Odessa  
James Elijah Marlow, 2001 Runnels, Big Spring  
Daniel 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  
Nancy Ortega, 1111 E. 14th, Big Spring  
James Michael Perez, 626 Tulane, Big Spring  
Fred Allen Perry, 1425 E. Sixth Apt. 107, Big Spring  
Taylor James Perry, 2105 Sydney Baker Apt. 228, Kerrville  
Joshua Plaia, 1401 E. 18th, Big Spring  
Jarum Renee Pryor, 802 N. Plaza, Big Lake  
Randy Randolph, 2514 Albrook, Big Spring  
Michael Neal Roberts, 538 Westover, Apt. 103, Big Spring  
Roberta Garza Rodriguez, 1103 Stanford, Big Spring  
Lisa J. Rubio, 1303 Sycamore, Big Spring  
Leza Lopez Ruiz, 1520 Tucson, Big Spring  
Miguel Andres Sanchez, 64 McCaleb Rd., Montgomery  
Anastasia Clarice Sanders, 1401 Culpepper Ave., Wilson  
Brittany Nicole Savell, 425

E. Davis Rd., Big Spring  
Warren Victor Schneider, 803 Atlantic, Coahoma  
Jamie Serrato, 1401 N. Highway 87Apt. 203, Big Spring  
Kennedra Wynell Shelton, 400 N. Fourth, Corsicana  
Angela Gay Smith, 102 N. Ash, Coahoma  
Charles Ray Smith, 2911 W. Highway 80, Apt. 155, Big Spring  
Tiffany Katherine Stokes, 1407 E. 19th St., Big Spring  
Timothy Donald Taylor, 4000 W. Highway 80 No. 18, Big Spring  
David Wayne Turner, 3204 Irving, Snyder  
Abram Unger, 503 NE Fourth, Seminole  
Brittania Kay Upchurch, 4303 Princeton, Midland  
Alonzo Vasquez, 306 W. Seventh St., Iraan  
Timothy Shea Wargo, 624 State, Big Spring  
Charles Watson, 804 W. I-20 Apt. 127, Big Spring  
Thomas Weeks, P.O. Box 110891, Anchorage, Alaska  
Michael Wade Welch, 700 S. Aylesford, Big Spring  
Jamie Wiggins, 1905 Wasson Rd. Apt. 28, Big Spring  
Byran Paul Williams, 1409 E. Main St., Round Rock  
Calvin Williams, 1313 Mulberry, Big Spring  
Kevin Lamont Williams, 1809 Nolan, Big Spring  
Mary Lou Wilson, 610 N.E. Ninth, Big Spring  
Frances Elena Yanez, 1610 Cardinal, Big Spring  
James Edward Young, 3313 Auburn, Big Spring  
Dennis Anthony Zaragoza, 4534 Sinclair, Big Spring  
Mary Esther Zubiate, 1103 S. 11th Place, Big Spring

#### County Court Decisions:

Probated Judgment: Clifton Lewis Scott, interfering with an emergency phone call, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).  
Probated Judgment: Gloria Kathleen Luna, driving while intoxicated – second offense, \$2,000 fine, \$457 court costs, 365 days in jail (jail time suspended, 24 months probation).  
Judgment and Sentence: Micah Nickle, theft of prop-

erty – more than \$50 and less than \$500, \$282 court costs, 10 days in jail.

Probated Judgment: Benjamin Elton Repman, driving while intoxicated, \$750 fine, \$457 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 6 months probation).

Probated Judgment: William Gilbert Aguilar, possession of marijuana – two ounces or less, \$500 fine, \$342 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).  
Judgment and Sentence: Roxanne Blackwell, resisting arrest, search or transportation, \$250 fine, \$282 court costs, 30 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: Robert Howland, possession of marijuana – two ounces or less, \$342 court costs, five days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: Larry Dale King, terroristic threat, \$250 fine, \$332 court costs, 30 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: Andrew Juarez Jr., bail jumping – failure to appear, \$500 fine, \$332 court costs, 90 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: Justin Delagarza, theft of property – more than \$50 and less than \$500, \$250 fine, \$282 court costs, 30 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: Avel Abreo Ramirez, resisting arrest, \$250 fine, \$282 court costs, 50 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: Charlie Jake Turner, possession of marijuana – two ounces or less, \$500 fine, \$342 court costs, 30 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: Ronald Edward Wilkins, violation of a protective order, \$266 fine, \$232 court costs.

#### District Court Filings:

Integras Capital Recovery vs. Douglas Lykken, accounts, notes and contracts.  
Integrity Recovery LLC vs. Elena E. Paiz, accounts, notes and contracts.

#### Marriage Licenses:

Chad K. Hughes, 33, and Ashley N. Kennedy, 27, both of Big Spring.  
Fabian A. Urias III, 26, and Ronna D. Dodson, 27, both of Big Spring.

Reginald C. Hamilton, 38, and Darlene K. Adams, 55, both of Big Spring.

#### Warranty Deeds:

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

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

Grantor: Michael Mauzey and Melissa Mauzey  
Grantee: Laurence Wilson and Margaret Wilson  
Property: A 3.08-tract out of Section 46, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey  
Date: Oct. 30, 2012

Grantor: Manuel Martinez Jr.  
Grantee: Gary Cunningham and Ester Cunningham  
Property: A tract out of Section 47, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey  
Date: Oct. 30, 2012

Grantor: Kristi Anne Taylor  
Grantee: Lonnie J. Prater and husband Gary Prater  
Property: Lot 7, Block 19, College Heights Addition  
Date: Oct. 29, 2012

Grantor: Donald C. Lee and Myrtle J. Lee  
Grantee: Gloria Cortez  
Property: Lot 1, Block 23, Saunders Addition  
Date: Oct. 25, 2012

Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien:  
Grantor: Stephen O. Wallis and Mary B. Wallis  
Grantee: Gary Rogers  
Property: A tract out of Section 36, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey  
Date: Oct. 31, 2012

Grantor: The Estate of Fe Abreo Acosta  
Grantee: Casey D. Powell  
Property: Lots 3-4, Subdivision B, Fairview Heights  
Date: Oct. 29, 2012

## TRAINS

Continued from Page 3B

track upgrades, provided emergency training and taken other measures to guard against accidents. There have been no major oil train derailments from the Bakken, according to federal regulators.

Union Pacific Railroad CEO Jack Koraleski said hauling oil out of places like North Dakota will be a long-term business for railroads because trains are faster than pipelines, reliable and offer a variety of destinations.

"The railroads are looking at this as a unique opportunity, a game-changing opportunity for their business," said Jeffery Elliot, a rail expert with the New York-based consulting firm Oliver Wyman.

BNSF Railway Co., the prime player in the Bakken, has bolstered its oil train capacity to a million barrels a day and expects that figure to increase further. To accommodate the growth, in part, the railroad is sinking \$197 million into track upgrades and other improvements in Montana and North Dakota.

BNSF is also increasing train sizes, from 100 oil cars per train to as many as 118.

Larger trains are harder to control, and that increases the chances of something going wrong, safety experts said. State and local emergency officials worry about a derailment in a

population center or an environmentally sensitive area such as a river crossing.

Rail accidents occur 34 times more frequently than pipeline ones for every ton of crude or other hazardous material shipped comparable distances, according to a recent study by the Manhattan Institute, a conservative think tank. The Association of American Railroads contends the study was flawed but acknowledges the likelihood of a rail accident is double or triple the chance of a pipeline problem.

The environmental fears carry an ironic twist: Oil trains are gaining popularity in part because of a shortage of pipeline capacity — a problem that has been worsened by environmental opposition to such projects as TransCanada's stalled Keystone XL pipeline. That project would carry Bakken and Canadian crude to the Gulf of Mexico.  
Wayde Schafer, a North Dakota spokesman for the Sierra Club, described rail as "the greater of two evils" because trains pass through cities, over waterways and through wetlands that pipelines can be built to avoid.

"It's an accident waiting to happen. It's going to be a mess and we don't know where that mess is going to be," Schafer said.

For oil companies, the embrace of rail is a matter of expediency. Oil-loading rail termi-

nals can be built in a matter of months, versus three to five years for pipelines to clear regulatory hurdles and be put into service, said Justin Kringstad of the North Dakota Pipeline Authority. Although more pipelines are in the works, Kringstad said moving oil by rail will continue.

The surge comes at the right time for railroads: Coal shipments — a mainstay of the rail industry — have suffered because of competition from cheap natural gas.

In the eastern U.S., CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads haven't seen as much growth because oil from the Marcellus Shale area of Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York is close enough to refineries that trucks haul the crude.

Yet BNSF is beginning to haul Bakken crude east to Chicago, where it hands off the tank cars to CSX or Norfolk Southern for delivery to Eastern refineries. It has also sent oil to the West Coast, a trend that could increase if Alaska crude production falters, as some industry observers are predicting.

The growth will require significant upgrades to already congested rail lines, industry analysts said.

Overall, crude oil shipments still represent less than 1 percent of all carloads. And there are far more dangerous materials aboard the nation's trains, including explosives, poisonous gases and other industrial chemicals.

But emergency officials are increasingly wary of major accidents involving oil trains, which carry far more cargo than some other hazardous-material trains.

While oil is not as volatile as some other products, a rupture of just one car can spill 20,000 to 30,000 gallons, said Sheldon Lustig, a rail expert who consults with local governments on accidents and hazardous materials.

Recognizing the risks, Houston-based Musket Corp., an operator of oil

train terminals in North Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Oklahoma, has donated spill equipment and provided training to fire officials.

"You want to be a good steward in that community," said Musket managing director JP Fjeld-Hansen.

Federal Railroad Administration officials said they have coordinated hazardous-material training seminars and sought more law enforcement patrols for rail crossings to increase safety.

Federal law requires

railroads to select hazardous-material routes after analyzing the potential for accidents in heavily populated areas and environmentally sensitive spots. Those analyses are confidential for security reasons.

Lustig said the railroads have considerable sway over the process.

"Under federal guidelines, the railroad makes the analysis, the railroad decides what they want to do, and the railroad does it," he said. "There is no public accountability."

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Legals

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, American Self Storage which is located at 3314 E. FM 700 Big Spring, TX 79720 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 11:00 o'clock A.M. on Saturday, January 12th, 2013, at 3314 East F.M. 700 Big Spring, Texas. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property may be sold item by item or in batches, or by the space. All sales are subject to Texas State Sales Tax. Sale is on the contents of:

Tenant: Terry Scarberry Consisting of: Misc.HHG Tenant: Cherise Calloway Consisting of: Misc. HHG #7618 December 23 & 30, 2012

Answer to previous puzzle

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12/29/12

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Feelings are hard to accurately pin down with a name or description, especially because they not only happen in the moment in which they are triggered, but continue happening as they resonate and evolve with every recollection. The Cancer moon lingers in a void-of-course phase inspiring a murky recounting and reinterpretation of yesterday's emotions.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Typically, there is all kinds of guilt and shame around being selfish, but should there be? You count, too. If you delight yourself, you've made one person happy, and that's a start.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Don't be fooled into thinking that your surroundings don't offer what you need to thrive and grow your talents. There is more to mine there, and today will be



HOLIDAY MATHIS

proof of it. GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Just relax. What's broken will be fixed, what's missing will be found, what's done is done. There's no need to run. Your easygoing stride will take you as far as you want to go.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The moon in your sign magnifies your emotions. With so much extra feeling to share, you'll wake up sleepwalkers and bring sensation to the numb. Dates are favored tonight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A cozy, predictable relationship will be much less so now. You may not be sure of how to take the change in tone just yet, but let this develop more before you weigh in.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's still too early to position yourself as an expert in some regard, but you can help others with what you know. Just be sure to qualify the help by saying, "I'm not an expert, but..."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be proactive in relationships, teaching people how to treat you. You'll reward loved ones

when they are behaving, and you'll avoid having to put up with misbehavior.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll get good answers, accurate and thorough. Now that you know what's going to make a project work, the question becomes: Are you willing to do that?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll meet those with a common purpose. Combine resources. You'll achieve together what you couldn't do alone. You'll be especially compatible with Leo and Aries.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Many people will take a break now, but not you. A relentless inner drive has you soldiering on with ambitious work. This is exactly why you'll prevail in 2013.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Are you getting used to the nifty excitement caused by Mars in your part of the sky? You may feel like you need an outlet for your aggressive energy, and exercise will be a good temporary fix.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). List making is lucky, and you'll enjoy crossing

things off, adding things and crossing more things off. The activity gets you organized, makes you aware of your priorities and may even make you rich.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 29). Strip away some of your self-imposed rules, and a spark of new energy sends you unstoppable through the first three months of the year. In April, reassess. You'll likely need to refresh your skills and assemble a different team for the next turn of events. Loved ones want your attention and some travel time in June. Aries and Libra people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 48, 27, 19, 43 and 11.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "Lately, I can't talk to my boyfriend of seven years, a Pisces. We fight constantly and not in a good way. We argue and never come to a conclusion. Everything is heated and emotional, and I'm about through with it, but I can't seem to make the break. What should an Aquarius do?"

It sounds like you've already made up your mind, so forget not being

able to make the break. My advice is to just do it. Be strong and do it. Do it before your birthday -- the sooner the better. With Mars in your sign now, you may be a little feistier than usual, but it doesn't mean the problems you have aren't real. Mars is a warrior and a destroyer. Sometimes things have to be broken down to be built back up. So make a clean break now -- no waffling. Avoid accepting or assigning blame. Avoid using the word "should." Avoid apologizing. Be compassionate but direct and decisive. Handle the details and move on. If this relationship is ever going to be, it will be after a nice long break.

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

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for 23 years, and we have two teenage daughters. Our biggest issue is disciplining the kids. I think they should do more household chores. My husband agrees in theory, but does nothing to hold them accountable when they don't cooperate, so the burden of discipline falls on me.

I'm sick of being the bad guy and living in a slovenly house that no one else cares about. I've talked to them until I'm blue in the face. I've tried letting things go to see whether they'd eventually do something, and that doesn't work either. Usually, I end up so frustrated that I throw a big hissy fit and clean it myself.

I'm ready to move out. To me, it's more than the mess. It's teaching the kids to be independent, to

have some work ethic and to be accountable for their actions. To them, I'm being a nag. What should I do? -- Tired in Rural Oregon

Dear Tired: Nagging is part of your job as a parent. And it's OK to let some things go. The girls' rooms are theirs. Leave their clothes on the floor and their beds unmade. Tell them those things are their responsibility, and show them how to use the washer and dryer. If you can't stand the sight of the mess in their rooms, close the doors.

Common areas will be tougher, but they are counting on you to give up. Firmly and repeatedly remind your husband and children to do whatever chores you assign. Do not do these things for them out of exasperation, and try not to become angry. Offer incentives in the form of increased or decreased allowance. Help

them understand that you are not a servant. Being a member of the family means doing your share. If your husband won't help, discuss hiring outside cleaning assistance.

Dear Annie: I am a senior in high school and plan to have a family graduation party next spring. However, I haven't spoken to my maternal grandparents in six months. They have never been a part of my life and have said and done some hurtful things over the years. They often start fights at family get-togethers.

I have no desire to invite them, but my mom says I should because I would otherwise regret it later. Honestly, I'd be happy never to see them again, but I don't want to hurt my mom by not inviting her parents. Should I? -- East Coast Senior

Dear Senior: Yes -- not only because it would please your mother, but also because it will give your grandparents a chance to behave better. One should take advantage of opportunities to reconcile when possible.

Dear Annie: "Washington" said her mother was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis 30 years ago. She had been active in her church and had lots of friends, but at age 49, she was in a nursing home. Now the only person who visits is her daughter.

I was diagnosed with MS in 1961 at age 19. In 1962, I became wheelchair bound. I'm fortunate to have a loving, caring husband of 52 years who does the things I cannot do for myself. This disease turns your life upside down. It makes the MS patient feel like a burden to society. But

disabled people want to be loved, too.

I have a chin-controlled power chair to move around in. I can use the computer with a voice-activated system, and I listen to books on tape. I stay as active as my limitations will allow. But with everything I do, someone has to assist me. I am blessed to have my husband.

For people who say they're bored: How about volunteering for the disabled? -- Faithful Follower in Florida

Dear Florida: A wonderful suggestion. Approximately 400,000 Americans are currently diagnosed with MS. For those who want more information, please contact the National MS Society at nationalmssociety.org.

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15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57

# Sweet Ways to Cook with SWEET CORN



FAMILY FEATURES

**C**orn on the cob with some butter is a popular side dish, but there's so much more you can do with fresh, juicy corn. These recipes make the most of sweet corn from Florida and will have your family asking for more.

"Sweet corn is a really versatile ingredient," said Justin Timineri, Executive Chef and Culinary Ambassador, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. "From fritters and soup to enchiladas and corn on the cob with some surprising toppings, there are plenty of ways to enjoy this healthful grain."

To get more fresh ideas for cooking with corn, visit <http://bit.ly/floridacorn>.



**Chef Justin Timineri**

## Chef Justin's Kitchen Tips for Kids

Get the kids involved in buying, prepping and cooking corn. Here's what they need to know to help you in the kitchen:

- Look for fresh sweet corn with the husk still attached. They should feel and look moist and plump, with the kernels inside fat and shiny. The silk of the corn should be a little sticky and should look glossy, stiff and moist.
- To shuck: Grasp the husks and pull down to expose the kernels. Continue until all the husks and silk-like hairs have been removed.
- To remove kernels: Hold corn cob upright by the tip, with the large end solidly down on the table. Take a small sharp knife and cut down, removing the corn kernels. Be careful not to cut too deep and remove parts of the cob.



## Sweet Corn with Southern BBQ Butter

Yield: 4 servings

- 1/4 cup of your favorite barbecue sauce (sweet, spicy, etc.)
- 1/4 stick butter
- 4 ears fresh Florida sweet corn, shucked
- Kosher salt and fresh ground pepper
- Chives, for garnish

Preheat oven broiler on high.

Add barbecue sauce and butter to small saucepan.

Stir over low heat until melted and smooth.

Season corn lightly with salt and pepper. Place sweet corn in a medium-sized baking dish and pour barbecue mixture over sweet corn. Broil 4 inches from broiler, being sure to watch the whole time. Turn and broil for 6 to 8 minutes, or until golden.

Garnish with chives. Serve warm.

### Here are some other great ways to top Florida sweet corn on the cob:

- Garlic and basil butter
- Cilantro, lime and honey
- Parmesan and pesto sauce
- Cinnamon, sugar and butter

## Sweet Corn and Black Bean Enchiladas

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup onion, chopped
- 1 cup fresh Florida sweet corn kernels
- 2 bell peppers, diced
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 cup salsa
- 1 can low sodium black beans, rinsed and drained
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 10 6-inch corn tortillas
- 2 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese, divided
- 1 8-ounce can enchilada sauce

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Lightly spray an 11 x 7-inch (2-quart) baking dish with pan release cooking spray.

Add vegetable oil to a medium pan. Cook onion, corn and bell peppers over medium high heat for 3 minutes. Add cumin, salsa and black beans, and continue to cook for two minutes, stirring occasionally. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Remove pan from heat and let cool slightly.

Place an even amount of the filling mixture in each tortilla. Using 1 cup shredded cheese, evenly distribute it on top of each tortilla. Carefully roll up each tortilla, and place seam side down in sprayed baking dish.

Pour enchilada sauce over rolled enchiladas, spreading to coat all tortillas. Sprinkle with remaining 1 cup cheese.

Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until cheese is melted and sauce is bubbly around edges. Remove from oven and let cool slightly.

Serve with diced avocado, salsa and sour cream, if desired.



## Sweet Corn and Tomato Bisque

Yield: 4 servings

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1/2 onion, finely chopped
- 4 ears fresh Florida sweet corn, kernels removed
- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- 4 cups low-sodium broth (vegetable or chicken)
- Kosher salt and fresh ground pepper
- 2 tablespoons sour cream
- 2 medium tomatoes, coarsely chopped
- 1 scallion, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon cilantro, finely chopped, plus more for garnish

Melt butter in large, heavy pot. Add onion and cook over moderately high heat, stirring, until lightly browned, for about 6 to 7 minutes.

Stir in corn and garlic, cooking until corn is lightly browned, about 5 minutes. Add broth and simmer until corn is tender, about 15 minutes. Lightly season with kosher salt and pepper to taste.

Transfer half the soup into blender or food processor; purée until almost smooth. Add blended soup back into unblended soup; stir to combine.

Add tomatoes, scallion and 1 tablespoon cilantro; bring to a boil. Serve hot and garnish with cilantro.

## Sweet Corn and Ricotta Fritters

Yield: 4 to 6 servings

- 2 ears fresh Florida sweet corn, kernels removed
- 1/2 bunch fresh cilantro, chopped fine
- 4 ounces low-fat ricotta cheese
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 1/3 cup self-rising unbleached or whole-wheat flour
- Kosher salt and fresh ground pepper
- Olive oil (for shallow pan frying)

In medium-sized bowl, combine corn, cilantro, ricotta, eggs, flour and a pinch of salt and pepper.

Add a small amount of olive oil to a medium-high preheated sauté pan. Carefully add spoonfuls of corn mixture to hot pan. Cook on both sides until golden brown. Test the first done fritter, and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Serve with low-fat sour cream if desired.



# Does 2013's style trend spell end of trendy?

**SAM CRITCHELL**

AP Fashion Writer  
NEW YORK (AP) — The biggest trend in fashion for the new year might just be that there isn't anything especially trendy. Based on runway and retailer previews, the must-have look in 2013 could be menswear-inspired and tailored, or ladylike chic. Colors are bold and bright, or graphic black and white; fabrics are slinky and silky, or textured and tough. And pick your silhouette: There are both short sexy minis and long flowing maxis to be had. Check off dressed-up shorts, jumpsuits and slinky mermaid gowns. It was largely the same story for fall 2012 — and spring before that. 2011,

too. "The problem with trends is that we are trended out. ... We are so exhausted by overload that we just don't have a way to process anything new," says trend analyst Marian Salzman, CEO of ad agency Havas PR North America. Remember the days when a new fashion season meant a new must-have and a corresponding closet purge? Out with boy-cut jeans, in with skinnies. Out with skinnies, in with bell-bottoms. Years ago, there was often a single muse who dominated the season. If she were a bohemian free spirit in the spring, she might be a tough biker chick in the fall. It seemed as if every designer was courting

her at the same time. Now the models on one catwalk seem like they were dressed personally by the designer from his or her singular point of view. Looks aren't stagnant, and you can see tastes evolving — right now there certainly is movement toward sophisticated, grown-up clothes in rich jewel tones and sultry touches — but there isn't a feeling that it's being done frenetically. One style might be more "in" than another, but nothing is quite "out." "When I started in this industry over 20 years ago, we'd be on the plane after the shows and talking about the trends of next season," says Elle creative director Joe Zee. "We really lived in

the bubble. You could say, 'It's all about the miniskirt,' and immediately you'd hear, 'Oh, well, there's nothing for me.' Now, I can say it's all about the '60s and miniskirts again, but there are still a lot of palazzo pants, and jeans, and everything else, so you'll find something." Do a search for high-waisted bellbottoms on any given day, and you'll find a million pairs out there — and that's a season when they weren't deemed "trendy," says Zee, who also is curator for the online shopping destination Vente-Privee. Of course, the Internet has played a huge role in this. Shoppers see new styles more or less at the same time as the retailers and editors sitting in the front row, so

fashion has become more democratized. There's still a role for insiders, but it's more as style interpreters instead of final arbiters. Stores have a much bigger selling space with their websites, so they don't have to choose between the wide-leg pants or the skinny ones. And consumers don't have to wait for the big deliveries a few times a year. There's always a rolling supply of new items — and things headed for clearance racks. This isn't necessarily a bad thing for fashion. It was a stretch for a designer long respected for career clothes to tout hot pants. The same could be said for the wunderkind doing embellished ballskirts. Now they don't have to. This allows for more creativity, not less. No one has to look alike. No one has to squeeze into an unflattering must-have item just because a few fashion insiders deemed it must have. After years of the industry preaching personal style, it seems it's taking its own advice, and designers seem more concerned with

carving out their own look — and gaining fans of it — than jumping on an inauthentic trend. Women can approach fashion as if they have options, Zee says. Take colorblocking, for example. "I've said that's a 'trend' for five seasons. This season I'll say it's black and white, and maybe last year I said it was red and pink, but the look hangs out, has a longer life, and that gives you a broader sense of style," Zee says. When tastemakers began touting "personal style," Zee says he's not fully sure they meant it. But say something often enough, and people start believing it. "In the moment maybe it was a marketing ploy," he says, "but then came 'Sex and the City' — which I think was a tent pole of personal style — and then the Internet and the popularity of 'street style,' and now I think women are saying, 'I'm going to do what I like to do.'" There's also the importance of value in fashion now, and there's not just a dollar sign attached to that. Quality, heritage and integrity are factors.

## Obama's 2nd inauguration to draw smaller crowds

WASHINGTON (AP) — Visitors coming to the nation's capital for President Barack Obama's second inauguration can't stay in the one place President Ronald Reagan's family once called an eight-star hotel. That spot is the White House, and it's booked for the next four years. Still, inauguration-goers have a range of lodging options — from crashing on a friend's couch to reasonably priced rooms to ones that cost thousands of dollars a night. With second inaugurations tending to draw fewer spectators, finding a place to stay in Washington won't be nearly as difficult as in 2009. City officials are expecting 600,000 to 800,000 visitors for the Jan. 21 inauguration, far less than the 1.8 million people who flooded the National Mall four years ago to witness the inauguration of America's first black president. Back then, some hotels sold out months in advance and city residents rented out their homes for hundreds of dollars a night. This time, hotels say they're filling up more slowly, with rooms still available and prices at or slightly below where they were four years ago.

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