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SUNDAY

JANUARY 27, 2013



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VOLUME 108, NUMBER 89

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Day at Capitol sign up nears

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Monday is the signup deadline for area residents and officials planning to make the trip to Austin Feb. 5 for the biannual Howard County Day at the Capitol.

Monday is the last day to reserve a seat on the chartered bus — or sign up to drive down in a private vehicle for the event — according to Teresa Darden, Big Spring Economic Development Corporation executive assistant.

Every two years, a group of Howard County residents — sponsored by the Big Spring EDC and Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce — make the trip to Austin in

hopes of raising awareness among the state legislature of the affects their decisions have on the Crossroads area.

"Howard County Day at the Capitol is an excellent way to catch the attention of lawmakers in the Lone Star State" Darden said. "This is a great chance to see first-hand how the legislature works.



Associated Press photo

Monday is the final day to sign up for Howard County Day in Austin, which is Feb. 5.

They make the laws which affect our lives, day after day. It's very important that we let them know we're interested. See **CAPITOL**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

A Big Spring firefighters hoses down hot spots of a structure and grass fire that was reported in the 1000 block of N.W. Third St. Friday morning. No injuries or significant property damage was reported.

Out with the old... Howard College advocates alternate funding method

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Rural community colleges — including Big Spring's Howard College — are advocating for a different method of state funding for the institutions.

HC trustees will hear a report on efforts to tweak the state's funding formula when they hold their monthly meeting at 12:30 p.m. Monday in the student union building's Tumbleweed Room.

The long-time formula for determining state aid to community colleges has centered almost exclusively on contact

hours, the total number of hours students are physically in class or labs. The more contact hours a school generates, the more money it generally receives from the state.

"But that formula fluctuates from year to year based on the availability of state funds," Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said. "And those fluctuations affect smaller, rural colleges like Howard much more than community colleges located in urban areas."

Because of that factor, See **COLLEGE**, Page 3A

Symphony audience to hear 'American Marvels'

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
 Managing Editor

Big Spring Symphony, back in the Municipal Auditorium, presents the third of its "A New Decade, Home at Last" 2012-2013 series a week from now with a decidedly American flavor.

Entitled "American Marvels," the Saturday, Feb. 2 concert will feature mostly American music of the 20th century. The concert will be-

gin with the "Candide Overture" by Leonard Bernstein, followed by "Buckaroo Holiday" by Aaron Copland.

The orchestra is under the direction of Dr. Keith Graumann.

The trumpet section will be featured, playing "Bugler's Holiday" by Leroy Anderson, followed by selections from "Crazy for You" by George Gershwin.

The featured guest artist

for the evening is former Big Spring resident Dr. Charles Webb, who will join the orchestra playing the piano in the "Paganini Variations" by Witold Lutoslawski.

Webb was stationed at Webb Air Force Base, where he established a military chorale. His distin-



guished musical career culminated as Dean of the Music School at Indiana University, the largest school of music in the United States.

"I am very pleased to have Dr. Webb joining us for this concert," said Graumann. "He has had a brilliant career as a performer and

continues to judge piano competitions internationally.

"The Lutoslawski work he will be playing is very exciting and reminiscent of some Stravinski works. Lutoslawski was the most famous of Polish composers of the 20th century. While not exactly fitting our American theme, many of his works were premiered in the

See **SYMPHONY**, Page 3A

Texas woman to die next week loses clemency bid

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles has unanimously refused a clemency request from a Dallas County woman set to die next week for the slaying and robbery of a retired 71-year-old college

psychology professor at her home.

Attorneys for Kimberly McCarthy had sought a 120-day reprieve from her scheduled Tuesday execution and that her sentence be commuted to life in prison.

The seven-member board Friday turned her down.

The 51-year-old McCarthy faces lethal injection in Huntsville for the 1997 stabbing and beating death of

See **CLEMENCY**, Page 3A

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426 DALLAS ST.
 SUPER CUTE HOME!!! Updated and well maintained. Awesome wood deck in backyard! 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, appliances included. This home is a must see!!!

Obituaries

Caden James Hall



Aug. 14, 1986 — Jan. 22, 2013
Caden grew up as a country boy from Gardendale, Texas. He lived in Coahoma, Texas, during his teenage years before returning to Gardendale to build his home. Caden was the owner of Dig-Em Backhoe Services in Gardendale. He was the proud father of a beautiful little girl, Joslynn Rose. Caden would give the shirt off his back to anyone in need. He had a heart of gold and was quick to help anyone do anything they needed. Caden loved being around people and was easy to spot in a crowd by his cowboy hat and his big smile. He was very proud of the fact that he built his home with his own two hands and was building his company from the ground up. His daughter, Joslynn, was the light of his life. His faith was very

important to him. Caden is survived by his daughter, Joslyn Rose Hall, and the love of his life, Crystal Navarrette; father, Jimmy Hall and wife Shirley; mother, Karen Hall; one brother, Jeremy Cypert and wife Tyra and nephew Brayden; two sisters, Kayla Hall and Wendy Hernandez and husband Rodney; niece, Bailey Sparkman; nephews, Cory Armstrong and Christopher Hall; maternal grandmother, Lula Havner; paternal grandparents, Council and Naomi Hall; and countless numbers of friends. Caden was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Frank James Havner; and brother, Arron Hall. Services will be held at West Texas Cowboy Church in Gardendale, Texas, at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013, with interment immediately following at West Texas Memorial Park. Services are entrusted to American Heritage Cemetery and Funeral Home.
Paid obituary

Joe S. Ewing

Joe S. Ewing, 70, formerly of Big Spring, Texas, died Jan. 21, 2013, in Colorado Springs, Colo. He was born Jan. 19, 1943, in Big Spring and attended public schools here, graduating from Big Spring High School in 1961. He then attended North Texas State University before beginning his career

in the U. S. Border Patrol. He later transferred to the U.S. Customs Service, where he was a pilot and a senior special agent. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, of Colorado Springs, Colo.; two daughters, Natalie Joe Petsche of Ocala, Fla. and Dani Leigh Ewing of Port St. Lucie, Fla.; and a brother, Charles David Ewing of Bend, Ore.

Take Note

- The Freaks of Nature car club and C&D Truck Accessories will be holding a car show Feb. 2 to benefit the Gonzales family at Sugars Bar — located at 3430 E. Interstate Highway 20 — from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Sergio Gonzales was killed in a traffic accident on U.S. Highway 87 on Dec. 13. Proceeds from the benefit will go to benefit the family and offset costs. Entry fee for the show is \$10. Musical band Forgotten Road will perform from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. There is a \$5 admission. For more information, call 432-714-4311.
- 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 appliances. 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 1 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, contact Jamey Stegall at 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 or 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.

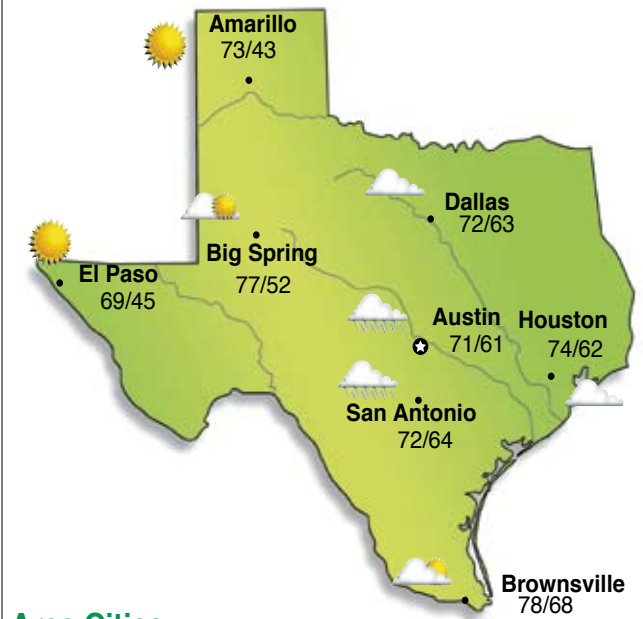
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Sun 1/27	Mon 1/28	Tue 1/29
77/52 Some clouds in the morning will give way to mainly sunny skies for the afternoon.	79/51 Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 50s.	67/39 Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise: 7:43 AM Sunset: 6:15 PM	Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 6:16 PM	Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 6:17 PM

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

Texas At A Glance



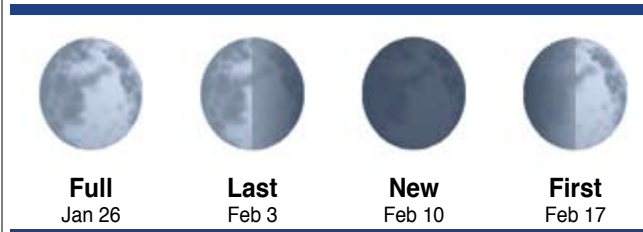
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	75	59	pt sunny	Kingsville	80	66	rain
Amarillo	73	43	sunny	Livingston	72	60	cloudy
Austin	71	61	rain	Longview	70	60	cloudy
Beaumont	72	61	cloudy	Lubbock	73	46	sunny
Brownsville	78	68	cloudy	Lufkin	73	62	cloudy
Brownwood	76	62	pt sunny	Midland	76	53	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	75	66	rain	Raymondville	80	67	pt sunny
Corsicana	69	62	cloudy	Rosenberg	74	62	cloudy
Dallas	72	63	cloudy	San Antonio	72	64	rain
Del Rio	76	62	pt sunny	San Marcos	73	62	rain
El Paso	69	45	sunny	Sulphur Springs	69	60	cloudy
Fort Stockton	77	52	sunny	Sweetwater	76	56	pt sunny
Gainesville	68	58	cloudy	Tyler	69	63	rain
Greenville	68	58	cloudy	Weatherford	71	59	cloudy
Houston	74	62	cloudy	Wichita Falls	73	58	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	55	41	mst sunny	Minneapolis	33	28	mixed
Boston	29	16	sunny	New York	35	26	sunny
Chicago	33	31	mixed	Phoenix	64	52	rain
Dallas	72	63	cloudy	San Francisco	55	41	mst sunny
Denver	59	34	sunny	Seattle	43	39	rain
Houston	74	62	cloudy	St. Louis	48	45	frz rain
Los Angeles	60	45	rain	Washington, DC	36	30	mst sunny
Miami	79	68	mst sunny				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Sun 1/27	Mon 1/28	Tue 1/29
4	4	4
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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

Correction

Neely Key's name was inadvertently left off a list of Coahoma Elementary School second graders who were named to the "A" honor. This list was published in the Jan. 17 edition of the *Big Spring Herald*.

GreenHouse Photography is selling our customer files!!

We will continue to do photography, but from an internet-based platform. Sometime between now and May 31, 2013, we will close the retail outlet on Scurry St. We are selling our negatives and past files. Call the studio to purchase your original negatives and files from:

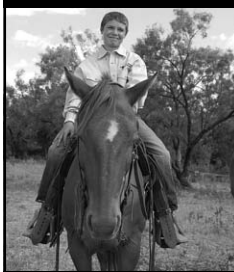
- Harrold Photography (1984 and prior images photographed by Carla Walker Harrold)
- Photo Magic Studio (1984 to 1995)
- GreenHouse Photography (1995 to 2012)

Prices range from \$75 to \$400 depending on the type of session. Don't lose these priceless images! Call us with a little basic information about your portraits so we can get your images home.



For a limited time, GreenHouse is still open Tuesday-Friday 10:30-12:30 and 1:30-5:30 pm

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Support Groups

- MONDAY**
- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, noon-1 p.m., 615 Settles.
 - PEP — Parent Education Program for CPS participating and non-participating parents, single parent, grandparents, adoptive or fostering parents. Every first and fourth Monday of the month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Northside Community Center. Classes are free. For information, call 263-2673.
 - VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7-8 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.
 - Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) TX 0021 meets at First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad, in the dining hall on the east side of the building. Weigh-in starts at 5 p.m. and meeting starts at 5:30 p.m. We have a different program each week. For more information, please call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
 - Circle of Hope, a Celebrate Recovery group, meets at 6:30-8 p.m. at

Spring Creek Fellowship, located in the College Park Shopping Center. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program dealing with life's hang-ups, hurts and habits, covering many areas. Circle of Hope group is a ministry of Spring Creek Fellowship. For further information, contact Dale at 432-270-8462.

- Reformers Unanimous International is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Mondays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Enter at the back of the church.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring and Snyder Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. This is a group for all Parkinson's disease patients, spouses and caregivers. For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.
- Special Parents for Special Children support group meets at 6:30 p.m. at Elbow Elementary. Contact Kerri Rosenbaum at 432-816-3320 or kerriro-

senbaum9488@msn.com

- VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m.

Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

- Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, at 1209 Wright St.
- Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m.
- Circle of Hope, a Celebrate Recovery group, meets at 6:30-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship, located in the College Park Shopping Center. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program dealing with life's hang-ups, hurts and habits, covering many areas. Circle of Hope group is a ministry of Spring Creek Fellowship. For further information, contact Dale at 432-270-8462.
- Overcomer's: Recovery & Restoration (R&R), a Christ-centered recovery program is held at Cornerstone Covenant Church from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the "Green Room" of the East Wing.

CAPITOL

Continued from Page 1A

ed in how the laws they make impact our lives." According to Big Spring EDC Executive Director Terry Wegman, the time at the Capitol will be well spent, as local officials and other

representatives will take time to meet with elected officials to discuss the concerns of the Crossroads area.

"Resolutions will be read on the floor of the House and Senate proclaiming Feb. 5, 2013, Howard County Day at the Capitol," Wegman said. "Rhapsody — the Big Spring High School

choral group — will be performing in the Rotunda, those making the trip will have the chance to have their photos taken with our elected officials and we'll be receiving a legislative briefing." Bus tickets are \$40 each.

"For those who are planning to take advan-

tage of the bus we have chartered, we'll be leaving from the east parking lot at Howard College's Dorothy Garrett Coliseum at 4:30 a.m.," Wegman said. "Food and drinks will be the responsibility of those traveling. On the way back, the bus will stop off at Cooper's Barbecue, as we have for the

past several events, and the meal will be Dutch treat. We expect to arrive back at the Howard College parking lot at approximately 7 p.m."

For more information on Howard County Day at the Capitol, call Big Spring EDC at 432-264-6032 or Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce at 432-263-7641

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

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1A

combined with increased calls from legislators to have at least part of state funding for colleges tied to an accountability system, Sparks and other officials with the Texas Association of Community Colleges recently presented a slightly different funding proposal to the Texas Legislature's Senate Finance

Committee and House Appropriations Committee.

TACC's proposal would break state funding to community colleges into three areas:

- The number of contact hours the school generates.
- "Core funding," which would provide each community college with \$500,000 annually, regardless of the number of contact hours generated.
- Ten percent of a school's allocation

would be based on how well it achieves performance benchmarks, such as how many students earn diplomas or certificates.

"Ten percent of the community colleges in Texas generate 75 percent of the contact hours," Sparks said. "This approach will provide smaller colleges with stability in funding while, at the same time, addressing the public's interest in accountability at institutions of higher learning."

In other business Monday, trustees will consider:

- Reports on construction projects at the Big Spring and San Angelo campuses.
- A report on preliminary enrollment and contact hours for the spring semester.
- Award bids for security services and baseball field work.
- Convene in executive session to consider donations, property matters and the board's annual evaluation of the

college president.

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

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SYMPHONY

Continued from Page 1A

United States."

The second half of the concert will feature one of the most famous of all symphonies, the "New World Symphony" by Antonin Dvorak.

"One of the great joys for me as a conductor is conducting the symphonies of Beethoven," added Graumann. "The other is conducting Dvorak's "New World Symphony" as I will

Saturday evening. "The work offers all ranges of emotion, from excitement and joy to beauty and sadness. It is a favorite work for many performers as well as listeners alike."

Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$13 for seniors and \$8 for students. They may be purchased at Blum's Jewelers, the Heritage Museum, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and at the door. Area radio stations will also be giving listeners an opportunity

to win free tickets.

Bill McClellan can be reached by calling the

Herald at 432-263-7331, ext. 230 or by email at editor@bigspringherald.com

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CLEMENCY

Continued from Page 1A

Dorothy Booth. Booth was a neighbor in Lancaster, about 15 miles south of Dallas. Evidence showed

McCarthy called her to borrow a cup of sugar, then went to get it and attacked Booth.

McCarthy would be the fourth woman executed in Texas in modern times.

Devotion To Saint Jude
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, loved, preserved & glorified throughout the world now and forever. The sacred heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, Helper of the Hopeless, pray for us. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ for the help of your servant St. Jude in listening to my prayers. Say this prayer nine times for nine days. By the end of the eighth, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you Sacred Heart of Jesus & St. Jude for prayers answered.
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The Big Spring Symphony Orchestra
Dr. Keith Graumann, Music Director and Conductor
Presents
AMERICAN MARVELLS
Guest Artist
Pianist Charles Webb
Performing the Music of America
Opening with the
Candide Overture
by Leonard Bernstein
Saturday, February 2, 2013 8:00 p.m.
Big Spring Municipal Auditorium
Tickets Available at: Blum's Jewelers, The Heritage Museum & The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce
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The Broughton Foundation
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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.

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HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.

• We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.

• Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.

• Letters should be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Give us the strength, dear Lord, to get through adversity.

Amen

Shaving signs to Super Bowls

When this column began in '02, half-hearted promises were made to provide occasional recipes and helpful hints. Alas, only one of each has been offered so far.

With Texas Motor Speedway's introduction of bacon-flavored cotton candy to its concession menu, I'm going to provide one of my mamma's favorite recipes — salmon patties with whipped cream. Now if I can just find it.

Today, I offer my second helpful hint: Make sure you have fresh batteries in your TV remotes. This is a “must” for the extraction of the powerful, engaging and memorable moments of Super Bowl XLVII.

Schedule practice runs to make sure all the buttons are functioning. After all, there will be frequent “pauses, fast forwards and back-ups” for an event that will be viewed — as well as recorded — in tens of millions of households.

I typically record most TV shows for later viewing—even if only 30 minutes later—to bypass commercials. (I realize, in the words of new friend Rick Dahlgren, “this is not ‘rocket surgery.’”)

For the Super Bowl, however, I flip-flop. The game's outcome is of little interest to me, but I don't want to miss a commercial. I'm already “up to hear” (up to “see, too”) with pre-game stuff, including Ma and Pa Harbaugh's 100 percent certainty of their sons coaching both winning and losing teams, since brothers John and Jim Harbaugh are opposing head coaches.



DR.
DON
NEWBURY

It's the ads that make us smile when not much else does. They'd better, since 30-second spots are going for up to \$4 million each and projected to cost \$5 mil by '16.

By recording the event, we can zip from commercial to commercial, ignoring a game known for becoming lopsided.

We'll join millions of others the next day as media experts dissect the “winners and losers.” Then, for a few months, we'll remember the really good commercials. Recalling which products go with which ads, however, is quite another matter.

Ads have come a long way since Burma-Shave signs entertained a nation. At their height in the 50's, 7,000 verses were nailed on fence posts across the US.

The “ditties”—many written by Nebraska University student Warren Buffett — helped us smile through depression years. And the extra money helped him smile through college.

We lived in comparative slow motion, nostrils soothed by aromatic roses along the way. Cars were slower, highways were rougher, and TV had not yet arrived. Yes, it took less to amuse us. Those signs did the trick, though, particularly during unscheduled stops along the road for tire repairs. We kids ran on ahead to see all six signs.

The signs cost next to nothing, save for the cost of planks of wood, paint and clever words. By comparison, each 30-second TV spot costs advertisers up to 40 cents per viewer!

Why wouldn't “losing” ad people groan, “Alka-Seltzer it up” and seek other lines of work?

This is the fate of ad-making dice-throwers for “the ultimate game.” (In 1972, Dallas' Duane Thomas questioned, “If it's the ultimate game, how come

they're playing it again next year?”) I miss days when conversations began with “Have you heard the one about?”

Sometimes I visit websites featuring the old Burma-Shave poems. The final “dittie” was posted exactly 50 years ago for the “good-to-the-last-strop” lather: “Our Fortune/Is Your Shaven Face/It's Our Best/Advertising Space.” Shortly before, this one was seen along the way: “Farewell O Verse/Along the Road/How Sad to See/You're Out of Mode.”

A few whine that the Super Bowl is “much ado about nothing.” These folks need to get ready for another heaping helping of “ado.”

No doubt, longtime West Texas Congressman Charlie Stenholm is happy he served in a gentler era, when folks smiled more.

He regaled audiences with a terrific Super Bowl story I have “appropriated” for repeated non-government use.

Charlie told of a Super Bowl viewing party planned for youth following church worship services....

The youth minister, afraid there might not be enough food for a larger-than-anticipated crowd, scrawled a sign for the sandwich table. “Please Take Just Two — Remember God is Watching You.”

He didn't notice a 14-year-old making a cookie sign.

It read, “Take All You Want — God's Watching the Sandwiches.”

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Comets coming

TO THE EDITOR:

My little lady friend and I enjoy several hobbies together — antiquing, going to the Houston Ballet every month and astronomy.

With some excellent telescopes, we observe some deep space objects after studying them in our manuals. Then, every other month we go to McDonald Observatory to study deep space galaxies, satellites of outer planets and nebulae through a 36" telescope with an employee/instructor.

Last October at th 36" at McDonald, she and I learned there are two comets headed into our solar system: PANSTARRS in March and ISON in December. They will be beautiful.

With sponsorship of key folks in Colorado City, my lady friend and I will have comet parties in Colorado City on March 15-16 at the city park and in December. We've even added equipment so we shall be entirely mobile to schools and even nursing homes.

The Comet PANSTARRS in March will be bright but visible about 45 minutes in the west. ISON will be visible about 45 minutes before sunrise with a long, long tail.

ORAND CARROLL
BIG SPRING

Wonderful festival

TO THE EDITOR:

“Praise the Lord” for another successful festival, attracting 23,067 from 38 states and 17 countries. It is amazing to me that so many countries visit us, visiting or passing through our fair city and take the time to visit our “Festival of Lights.” They came from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Dominican Republic, England, Germany, Guam, Kenya, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Nepal, Philippines, Scotland, Uzbekistan, Virgin Islands.

The remarks we received were really glowing, “our best yet,” they would say. That is the re-

marks we like to hear.

We try our best each year to improve and again I must say, this could not happen without our committee, each having their area of responsibility and especially Howard and Vicki Stewart, the time and work they put in makes this event go in the right direction. Their little grandson, “Trooper” — but I call him “Scooter” — has blended in to help Howard with the removal of extension cords and other things. Maybe in a few years he can take the helm of his grandfather. Yea!

This year, we have two new committee members, Jim DePauw and Gale Pittman. They both had unique assignments as Jim was responsible for the Commercial Christmas Cards being put up in a timely fashion. Gale designed a new event which I think will be a great continued attraction — “the counting of the geese.” It was fun this year and we believe it will really take off in the next few years.

This year, the city gave us the Parks Department under the direction of Thomas Hodges and Mark Prince to assist in the operations. The Street Department got a rest this year; they had worked with us so many years, they needed a rest.

A vital roll in the success of this production is our greeters and that has been in the hands of my friend and most capable coordinator Debbie Wegman. She recruits volunteers to greet our visitors and obtain the information we need, the number of visitors in a car and where they are from. This is where we get our tabulations!

The wheels of this event turns with the help of our Adopt A Spot participants, they take responsibility for an area by putting up lights and display items furnished by us, and taking them down after closing. They can put up a sign which shows the area they have adopted. They are wonderful and we appreciate them all.

Another element that helps with the continued upgrading support are donations, our grateful thanks to all the visitors who gave financially as they were greeted at the park. That money goes for the expense of the improvement to our Festival which most assuredly goes for lights, electricity and any additional equipment and material that makes our Festival more attractive. We appreciate all the individuals and businesses that made donations of all kinds.

We also feature Commercial Christmas Cards which is a big attraction and a great place for advertisement. We have seven inquiries scheduled for this year and, if anyone is interested, give me a call at 432-263-4607 and I will give you the particulars.

PAT SIMMONS
FOUNDER/CHAIRMAN

Coincidental

TO THE EDITOR:

Been hearing a lot about Bruce Cox lately? Well, you won't hear a peep about him in this because this is all fiction, totally made-up, and any similarity between any of these characters or any of these happenings and any real people and real happenings is totally coincidental.

12:45 p.m.: A doctor's office full waiting room. Lots of activity with some seemingly medically-oriented people in charge. Names are called. People sit, stand, shuffle about, talk, laugh, go in and out of rooms.

One o'clock: Crashing through the double front doors full-tilt boogie, Dr. Skye, I'm guessing. As he pulls his motorcycle helmet off and throws it to the floor, his salt and pepper pony tail flies out, and he spreads his arms out wide, breaks into a full-face smile and greets the room: “Dance or Die!”

He's slight of build and about six feet tall, sporting a Texas Christian University Frogs t-shirt, jeans and tennis shoes.

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

Laughing a large, endorphin-fueled laugh, he scans the room, "Now, who've we got here? I don't remember inviting any of you." Then, around the room he goes zigzagging from patient to patient talkin', movin', talkin'.

"You're doin' better, huh? Looks like you lost a little. Great! See what happens when you follow that diet map of goin' around the outside of the store instead of into the middle where all that sugar, salt, fat-filled, over-processed junk is?"

Movin', laughin', movin': he shakes hands and pats shoulders. "You? Not pregnant again? Remember how I told you that works?" Peering, perusing: "You? I thought we were through with you; fall off a rig again? You here for the needles? They helpin'?" Good. Good."

He addresses the room again: "OK, well, I don't think I'm needed here; I'm going home." Everybody laughs.

He glances at me, then spots the woman next to her and flips, "Didn't I tell you to get the bleep out and stay the bleep out?" The room goes silent.

The woman starts talkin', but the doc spins abruptly, takes rapid steps across the room into his office and slams the door.

His troops rally. The strawberry shaped woman with the Tinker-Bell voice who registered us floats (I swear it) across the room to and

through the door (her long shiny black Indian garb flowing behind her), probably to see that the problem woman has gone away and is staying away.

Simulcast: The doc comes flyin back out yelling "Marge!" toward his RN's open door, as she, a 6-foot blonde, Billy Banks work-out lookin' blonde in colorful scrubs, is already out of her office, taking long, purposeful strides toward his office. "Marge, did I not tell you that this was 'Blacks and Whites Only Day'? No Mexicans!"

"Yes, Doctor, you did. Now, do you see this room full of people and all those charts on all those doors?" He seems to be about to respond when he hears a croup-like cough and twirls to see a little, 3- 4-year-old Hispanic girl sitting on her father's lap. Staring intently at the child, Skye says, "Bleep it, Marge, can you please get his girl's vitals and put her in a room?" He speaks softly to the girl and shakes hands with the father. "And, pics, Marge, I'm gonna need pics."

A 40-something guy saunters in with a guitar slung over his shoulder. Skye acknowledges him with a nod, "Hey, Fred, this pretty little girl over here would love to hear you play her a pretty little song, you know that?"

Fred settles into the nearest chair while unzipping his guitar case. "Why, doc, I would love to do just that!"

It's now 4:15 p.m., and the doc gestures me toward his office, "Come

on in."

I'm lookin' at wall documents while he digs around in his desk, pulls out a pack of Marlboros and lights one, sees where I'm lookin', "Yeah, I got a license, but probably not for long. They've got me on the monthly plan right now. Pretty soon," he snorts, "it'll be by the week."

Marge knocks, walks in. "Trish just came in."

He explodes, jumps from his desk to the window behind him and yanks at broken, dangling blinds to look out. He says, "See that? That out there? It's bleeping Disney World! It's all candy and teacup rides!"

"What the bleep does she want from me? More Valium? More Soma? She should just bleeping leave that lowlife husband of hers and go for a bleeping teacup to Cambodia and make tea for some wife whose husband cut her lips off when she didn't cook his rice right! Bleeping stupid,

bleeping woman!"

Marge is placing charts on his desk, "Yes, Doctor, I think you should go tell her that. She's in Room 111."

The doc sits again and twists his chair my way, rests his elbow on the desk, chin on his hand, looks me straight in the eyes and says, "Now, what's wrong with you?"

A light knock and Marge sticks her head in, "The little girl's X-Rays are ready and Franni told me to tell you her father has no insurance and can't afford our fee."

Skye says, "I don't give a bleep about that. What room are they in?"

He leaps around his desk and out of the office, stopping abruptly to hit a button on a wall-mounted iPod player that then blasts out loud American Indian drum music, and he begins to dance."

JENNA WARE
BIG SPRING

Please pay your child support

As parents, our children look to us for love and support and to lead by example. By paying child support, you are setting a good example for your children and helping to secure their future.

It is common knowledge that child support payments cover a child's basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing. However, the benefits extend beyond the financial security that each payment provides. Research shows that


children of parents who pay their support have fewer behavior problems, make better grades and stay in school longer than children who do not receive regular support.

Parents who pay child support are more likely to be a constant presence in their children's lives and take an active role in their upbringing. Children with two involved, caring parents are more confident, more likely to exercise self-control and less

likely to engage in risky behaviors that result in drug usage and early pregnancies.

Thank you to the thousands of parents who paid their child support in full and on time during 2012. Because of you, this office collected a record \$3.48 billion in child support for the state fiscal year that ended Aug. 31.

Contact the Attorney General's office at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov.



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News in brief

Newtown residents to join pastors, parents in march for gun control on National Mall in DC

WASHINGTON (AP) — Residents from Newtown, Conn., are joining a march on Washington for gun control on Saturday with parents, pastors, survivors of gun violence and Education Secretary Arne Duncan.

Organizers said they are expecting thousands of participants for the rally on the National Mall, including about 100 from Newtown and buses from New Jersey, New York and Philadelphia. Others are flying in from Seattle, San Francisco and even Alaska. They will gather Saturday at the Capitol Reflecting Pool at 10 a.m. and will begin marching down Constitution Avenue toward the Washington Monument at 11 a.m. A rally is planned on the monument grounds at noon.

Molly Smith, the artistic director of Washington's Arena Stage, and her partner organized the march, inspired by the Connecticut massacre that killed 20 first graders and six teachers at Sandy Hook Elementary School, she said. The gunman also fatally shot his mother and committed suicide.

"With the drum roll, the consistency of the mass murders and the shock of it, it is always something that is moving and devastating to me. And then, it's as if I move on," Smith said. "And In this moment, I can't move on. I can't move on."

"I think it's because it was children, babies," she said. "I was horrified by it."

Veterans hope registry answers concerns about health effects of burn pits in Iraq, Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — J.D. Williams didn't think much about the smoke cloud that often shrouded his air base in Iraq. Not when it covered everything he owned with black soot

or when his wheezing and coughing made it difficult to sleep at night.

"We just went about our business because there was a war going on," said Williams, a retired chief warrant officer who was responsible for maintaining some 250 aircraft for the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division.

He returned home from that second stint in Iraq in 2006 and subsequently was diagnosed with an irreversible lung disease that his doctor suspects could be related to smoke from one of the hundreds of burn pits that dotted Iraq and Afghanistan during the course of the two wars. The pits were used to burn off the garbage that accumulates at military bases, everything from Styrofoam and metal to paints, solvents, human waste and medical waste.

A new Department of Veterans Affairs registry, mandated by Congress, will be used to try to determine if there is a link between the burn pits and long-term health problems.

Military personnel who were stationed near an open burn pit can sign up. Researchers will use the database to monitor health trends in participants, and the VA will alert them to major problems detected.

Iraqi militants try to harness opposition rage, raising fears they will benefit from unrest

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi insurgents are trying to capitalize on the rage of anti-government protesters and the instability caused by rising civil unrest, complicating the government's efforts to stamp out a resurgent al-Qaida and other militants.

Organizers of the protests attracting minority Iraqi Sunnis insist they have no links to terrorist groups. Yet Iraqi and U.S. officials have expressed concern that violent extremists could benefit from the demonstrators' feelings of alienation and hostility toward the Shiite-led Iraqi government.

And tensions are rising. At least five protesters were killed

and more than 20 were wounded on Friday when soldiers opened fire at stone-hurling demonstrators near Fallujah, a former al-Qaida stronghold where tens of thousands took to the streets. Some in the crowd waved black banners emblazoned with the Muslim confession of faith.

They were the first deaths at opposition rallies that have been raging around the country for more than a month. Two soldiers were later killed in an apparent retaliatory attack.

Egypt court sentences 21 to death for violence last year that killed 74

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian court sentenced 21 people to death on charges related to one of the world's deadliest incidents of soccer violence, which killed 74 mostly teenage fans of Egypt's most popular sports club last year.

The verdict comes after a day of clashes between security forces and protesters opposed to Egypt's Islamist President Mohammed Morsi that left seven dead.

Fans of al-Ahly, whose stands were attacked by rival club Al-Masry in the Feb. 1 incident in the Mediterranean city of Port Said, had promised more violence if the accused did not receive death sentences.

Families of the victims shouted "Allahu Akbar!" or God is great, after the judge read out his verdict. One man fainted, while others wailed and cried in disbelief as they carried pictures of the young men killed in the soccer riot.

Judge Sobhi Abdel-Maguid said in his statement read live on state TV that he would announce the verdict for the remaining 52 defendants on March 9.

Migrants from Europe find plenty of jobs in Latin America, but bureaucracy stymies

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Geologist David Rodriguez and actress Cristina Pascual, two of the nearly six million Spaniards left jobless in the European recession, fled to Latin America last year, figuring their futures would be brighter in the booming economies on this side of the Atlantic.

Instead, they found themselves stuck, facing so many bureaucratic hurdles that their only option was to work illegally, for much lower wages. Without a work visa, they couldn't get a formal job. Without a job offer, no visa. And without a job and a visa, they had no way of securing an all-important tax-identification number, freezing them out of Chile's booming formal economy. Trying to bend the rules can result in deportation for the worker, and fines for the company.

Rodriguez and Pascual are among the many migrants watching this weekend as leaders from the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean seek ways of eliminating the red tape that has made it so difficult for foreigners to bring their skills across borders.

The vast majority of migrants be-

tween the continents used to travel to Europe, but the trends flipped after 2010, when economic indicators began to improve in Spain and Portugal's former colonies. Now Spanish and Portuguese workers are arriving by the thousands each year, entering on tourist visas and job-hunting in Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Argentina. Spanish migrants with skills needed in the mining industry are particularly sought after in Chile.

But the bureaucracy is getting in the way.

Officers' spouses club at Fort Bragg does about-face, invites female officer's wife to join

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP) — A woman who is married to a female Army officer at Fort Bragg and who was recently denied membership in its officers' spouses club said late Friday that she has been invited to become a full member.

Ashley Broadway told the Associated Press that she received the invitation from the club's board in an email Friday.

The invitation came on the same day that Broadway also learned she'd been named Fort Bragg's 2013 "Military Spouse of the Year" by Military Spouse magazine. She is married to Lt. Col. Heather Mack, who gave birth this week to the couple's second child, a baby girl.

"I'm pleased, I'm happy," Broadway said by phone Friday night. "As soon as things calm down with the baby, I want to get involved. I hate that it took so long for them to come to this conclusion. But I think things happen for a reason. I'm a very devout Christian. I've had faith in God this whole time. I think if anything it's brought up a larger issue: We have two classes of service members and how they're... not treated equally."

Marine expert: Dolphin may have been ill before wandering into polluted N.Y. canal and dying

NEW YORK (AP) — A dolphin seen shaking black gunk from its snout after wandering into a polluted urban canal may well have been ill before it lost its way and died, a marine expert says.

The wayward dolphin splashed around in the filthy waters of the Gowanus Canal before it died Friday evening. The canal is a Superfund site, where for years factories and fuel refineries operated.

The deep-freeze weather hadn't seemed to faze the dolphin as it swam in the canal, which runs 1.5 miles through a narrow industrial zone near some of Brooklyn's wealthiest neighborhoods.

Marine experts had hoped high tide, beginning around 7:10 p.m., would help the dolphin leave the canal safely. But the dolphin was confirmed dead shortly before then, said the Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation.

Experts aim to conduct a necropsy to determine why the dolphin died.

Something special's happening in the Circle.

February 2013 Activities

- Feb. 4** – Games 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 5** – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
Coffee @ PRL 10:00 a.m.
Supper Club "Carlos", 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 6** – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
Movie 1:00 p.m.
"Extremely Loud &"
- Feb. 7** – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
Just Peachy Cafe, 10:00 a.m.
Bunko, 4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 8** – LUNCH BUNCH & BIRTHDAYS
"Settles Grill", 11:30 a.m.
- Feb. 10** – MCT "Shrek", 1:00 p.m. (See Feb. 17th)
- Feb. 11** – Games, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 12** – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
Supper Club "Al's BBQ", 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 13** – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
Movie 1:00 p.m. "Snow White &"
- Feb. 14** – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
"Just Peachy Cafe", 10:00 a.m.
Valentine's Pot Luck & Bingo, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Wear Red!
- Feb. 17** – OR Here?? check closer to dates!!!!
- Feb. 18** – Games, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 19** – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
Supper Club "Red Mesa", 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 20** – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
Movie, 1:00 p.m. "Hunger Games"
- Feb. 21** – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
Just Peachy's, 10:00 a.m.
Healthy Woman Event
- Feb. 25** – Games, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 26** – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
Supper Club "Cowboy's", 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 27** – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
Movie 1:00 p.m. "Wrath of the Titans"
- Feb. 28** – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
Just Peachy Cafe, 10:00 a.m.



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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Leo Moon Spoiled Child Syndrome

The astral influences that come with this Leo moon might dampen its spirits a bit. So if you feel like an unsatisfied child even though you have a friend and a room full of toys to explore, consider this: Happiness is not a place. Therefore, you can't get there. You can only decide that you are there.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Can your joy run out, or is it an infinitely renewable resource? You could ask the same question of love. The answer: When you subtract all resistance, the feelings will flow endlessly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It won't be enough for you to be better than average at what you do. Excelling beyond your peers also brings limited rewards. You'll be happiest when you do what it takes to advance toward mastery.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). In some aspects of relationships, you are still a beginner. You'll learn through practice. Each new interaction has something to teach you as long as you don't assume you already know everything.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In spite of what self-help gurus profess, there is much valuable knowledge and inspiration to be gained by watching television, as long as you do it mindfully. With the remote in hand, keep your inner critic awake.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your curiosity will be stimulated by areas of interest just outside of your current realm. It only takes one phone call or introduction to break into an adjacent circle and make new friends there.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Shyness is a mask for fear of public opinion. One way to get around it is to agree internally to be disliked. Better to be disliked for expressing what's really on your mind than to be liked for being someone you're not.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've built your life with certain people, but you're not exactly like them. It's a day to celebrate your differences. It's wonderful to be part of a tribe and still be accepted as an individual.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). While it's temporarily wonderful to avoid criticism and impress others with your abilities, it has nothing to do with long-term satisfaction. Concern yourself instead with what feels comfortable and right.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A project gets much simpler once you abandon the pretense of being perfect. It's unnecessary, not to mention impossible. You'll be doing yourself a huge favor by simply forgetting about perfection and going for fun.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Maybe you want things the way they were, but no matter how hard you try, there's really no going back. You're smarter now. You'll use the past to build in a new direc-

tion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). As the darling of the planets these days, you'll often enjoy the vibrant feeling of your mind, body and spirit synching perfectly together to help you reach new heights of accomplishment.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll have a strong sense of what really matters. It may seem as though this is no big deal, but indeed, it's a rare and fine quality, as there are many around with trifling concerns.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 27). In a sense, everything you've learned has led up to this year. Something you attain in an irresistible sale will make a huge difference in your lifestyle over the next six weeks. Family depends on you in different ways through February. March brings more discretionary income. June brings a mission or rite of passage. Pisces and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 1, 11, 46 and 50.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: According to legend, Jupiter overthrew his father, Saturn, to rule as king of the gods. He then split up the universal spoils with his brothers, Neptune and Pluto. Neptune got water and the sea. Pluto got the afterlife. Jupiter got the sky and thunder, oaths, agreements and the general goings-on of the state. A big god, he could handle the big responsibilities -- and his planetary counterpart is equally endowed with astrological largesse. Is there anything Jupiter's energy of abundance doesn't touch?

The planet of augmented fortunes has a change of direction this week, ending a retrograde that started back in October of 2012. The work of the past four months may not have seemed to add up to rewards in real time. While retrograde, Jupiter likes to play around with the idea of delayed karma. And let's face it, if we always saw a result for doing good, wouldn't it cease to be good and start to be something closer to fair trade? The very essence of doing what's right is that it's something you do whether you get a reward or not; that's what makes it right. Hopefully, we've learned a lesson or



HOLIDAY MATHIS

two with the recent karmic delays, because the karmic payout system is about to speed up considerably.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Patton Oswalt, who starred in "The King of Queens" and was the voice of the rat in "Ratatouille," has been known to rant and prophesy insightfully on his website. Recently, he wrote: "The wheel isn't spinning any faster or slower, but it is getting noisier." Oswalt was born under an unconventional Aquarius sun and has three major planets in psychic water signs.

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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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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net



By Steve Becker

Look Before You Leap

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠K J 4
♥A K Q 5
♦J 9 6
♣10 8 3
WEST
♠6 5 2
♥6 4 3
♦K Q 8 4 2
♣A Q
EAST
♠Q 10 9 7 3
♥J 10 8 2
♦7
♣7 5 4
SOUTH
♠A 8
♥9 7
♦A 10 5 3
♣K J 9 6 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1♥ Pass 2♣ Pass
3♣ Pass 3NT
Opening lead — four of diamonds.

Certain card combinations require close inspection before declarer decides precisely how to tackle the suit. South failed to make the necessary effort in today's deal and lost his contract as a result.

West led the four of diamonds, which was covered by the six, seven and ten. Declarer crossed to dummy with a heart, led the eight of clubs and finessed, losing to West's queen.

West returned the king of diamonds, ducked by South, and followed with the queen, taken by the

ace. Declarer could then do no better than lead a second club. West won with the ace and cashed the 8-2 of diamonds to set the contract, scoring three diamonds and two club tricks in all.

Had declarer paid more attention to his diamond holding at the outset, he would have made the contract with an overtrick. Assuming West was leading his fourth-best diamond, the Rule of Eleven would have indicated the winning play.

South should simply subtract four — the spot-card led — from eleven, which reveals that there are seven cards higher than the four in the North, East and South hands. Since declarer can see six of these cards in his own hand and dummy, East can have only one card higher than the four.

South should therefore play the nine of diamonds from dummy at trick one. If East's diamond is the seven or eight, the nine will hold the trick, and declarer will still have the suit doubly stopped. If East produces the king or queen of diamonds, South takes the ace and again has diamonds doubly stopped.

Declarer's aim from the start is to establish his clubs before West can establish his diamonds. By playing a higher diamond from dummy initially, South assures himself of winning the race.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.
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MINUTES OF COUNTY FINANCES
TREASURER'S REPORT

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY FINANCES IN THE HANDS OF TERESA THOMAS TREASURER OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS.

COMMISSIONERS' COURT HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS IN REGULAR SESSION JANUARY TERM 2013

IN ACCORDANCE with Section 114.026, Local Government Code, we, the undersigned, constituting the entire Commissioners Court of said County, certify that on the 14th day of January, 2013 at the Regular term of Court, we compared and examined the monthly report of TERESA THOMAS, Treasurer of Howard County, Texas, for December 31, 2012, and finding the same correct, entered an order in the Minutes approving said Report, which states total cash and other assets on hand as \$12,548,838.50.

Mark Barr, County Judge
Oscar Garcia, Commissioner Pct. 1
Donnie Baker, Commissioner Pct. 2
Jimmie Long, Commissioner Pct. 3
John Cline, Commissioner Pct. 4

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, by Mark Barr, County Judge, and County Commissioners of said Howard County, each respectively, on this the 14th day of January, 2013.

Attest: Donna Wright, County Clerk

FILED FOR RECORD THIS 14TH DAY OF January, 2013, and recorded on the 14th day of January, 2013.

Donna Wright,
County Clerk and
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners
Court in and for Howard County, Texas.

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Steers, Lady Steers keep playoff hopes alive with 4-3A wins

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**
Sports Editor
Big Spring

Boys

The Steers kept their chance of earning a postseason berth alive Friday with a 67-43 rout of visiting Snyder.

Less than a minute into the game, Tyler Graves put up four points and Tavaris Walker registered his first two points of the outing, putting BSHS up 6-0.

Looking dominant on defense, the Steers forced three straight turnovers — all of which turned into points.

Snyder was unable to put together a meaningful rally, as BSHS led the Tigers from start to finish.

“I think since the Greenwood game (a six-point loss for the Steers), we have played very well,” BSHS Head Coach Cliff Thompson said. “We’ve adjusted to playing with a new lineup and the guys have really stepped it up on the court.”

Walker ended with a game-high 19 points, while Ty’Ral Menefield added 13, junior transfer Chris Sledge chipped in 11 and Graves accounted for eight in the Steers’ most dominant game since District 4-3A play began.

Sophomore Tyler Bryan hit a three-point shot in the final minutes, helping BSHS go on a 10-3 run to start the fourth quarter, which ended up putting the game on ice for the rejuvenated squad.

The Steers had no turnovers in the first quarter, but got a little ahead of themselves in the second half. Rushed offensive play caused a few mistakes, but by that time BSHS had the game in the bag.

“We are hitting our stride. We did it a little late in the season, but we have a chance to make the playoffs.”

BSHS will try to go for its third straight win Tuesday as they host district leaders Abilene-Wylie at Steer Gym. Tip off is slated for 7:30 p.m.

“If we can play the way we have played the last three games, we are capable of playing with anyone,” Thompson added.

Thompson also noted that the ninth grade and junior varsity squads both won by at least 20 points Tuesday, despite having only six eligible players.

Girls

Undeclared Abilene-Wylie has a District 4-3A championship in the bag, barring a monumental meltdown, and Greenwood’s 6-1 record will likely secure them the second playoff spot. As for Big Spring, the Lady Steers are doing what they need to do to nab the third and final postseason seed.

BSHS (25-18 overall) earned their fourth district win last night with a convincing, 57-45 victory over the Lady Tigers at Steer Gym.

The Lady Steers fell behind early.

See **HOOPS**, Page 9A



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton/visit www.claxtonphotography.com

Big Spring’s Tavaris Walker puts up a shot during Friday’s 67-43 home win over Snyder. Walker had a game-high 19 points during the affair.

Lady Hawks open with sweep of Temple



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton/visit www.claxtonphotography.com

Howard College’s Micherie Koria beats a throw to first base during Friday’s season opener against Temple College. Howard swept visiting Temple, winning Game One 4-3 and taking Game Two 6-1.

Parker gets cut, returns to lead Spurs past Mavs

DALLAS (AP) — Tony Parker writhed in pain alone under the basket, his hand covering the same left eye that was seriously injured last summer when the San Antonio guard was a bystander in a bottle-throwing melee at a nightclub.

He stayed down the entire 20 seconds of a Dallas possession on the other end because no foul was called, and he had to be pulled away from the referees as he was led to the bench.

It turned out to be a cut above the eye that required three stitches, and Parker came back after three quarters to lead seven Spurs in double figures with 23 points in a 113-107 victory against the Mavericks on Friday night, San Antonio’s seventh straight win.

“I was a little bit mad, obviously, but I just told the doc to hurry up and get the stitches in and get back on the court,” Parker said.

The Spurs star said he didn’t flash back to the June incident at a New York club, when tiny shards of glass embedded in his cornea and doctors told him he was millimeters away from losing the eye.

“Because it wasn’t my eye,” he said.

San Antonio didn’t need Tim Duncan, who stayed home with a sore right knee, because DeJuan Blair had a season-high 22 points, including 17 on 8-of-9 shooting in the first half. Tiago Splitter, normally paired with Duncan in the starting lineup, had 13 points and 12 rebounds.

“I think this group has shown that ability to if somebody is down then

See **SPURS-MAVS**, Page 10A

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Yankees' GM: It's possible A-Rod could miss entire season

NEW YORK (AP) — Yankees general manager Brian Cashman says it's possible third baseman Alex Rodriguez could miss the entire season while recovering from hip surgery. Cashman says "there's no guarantees in this stuff" that Rodriguez will be able to play this year. The 37-year-old Rodriguez had surgery on his left hip last week. The

team said the rehabilitation time was expected to be six months, which would sideline the star slugger until the All-Star break. On Friday, Cashman said it was possible A-Rod could be out all year. "Yeah," Cashman told WFAN radio. "I think because (of) the serious nature of the surgery and the condition that he's trying to recover from, you

know, there is that chance." "I can't say it's not possible that he won't be back," he said. The Yankees signed free agent Kevin Youkilis during the offseason to play third base while Rodriguez is out. Cashman said Rodriguez is doing everything "in his power to put himself in the position to get back and be

healthy and productive." "Best case scenario, yeah he should be back," Cashman said. "Worst case scenario, he won't be back, or there might be something in between." A 14-time All-Star, Rodriguez hit .272 with 18 home runs and 57 RBIs in 122 games last year. The three-time AL MVP was benched in three of nine postseason games.

HOOPS

Continued from page 8A

Trailing 15-11 at the end of the first quarter, sophomore Julianna Rodriguez heated up in the second stanza, racking up 10 points. Rodriguez forced a turnover which led to two points, allowing BSHS to regain the lead. "It was a slow start," BSHS Head Coach Mike Warren said. "But we caught fire in the second and third quarters. We played good defense when we needed to and it was a well-rounded game. It was a big win for us. We have to move on and try to keep that third playoff spot."

A 14-3 run put the Lady Steers ahead 25-18 at the halfway mark, then increased their lead to eight by the end of the third quarter.

Rodriguez led Big Spring with a game-high 23 points — her best showing yet — and hit two 3-point baskets. Logan Yarbar put up 14 points and also sank two 3-point shots.

"(Rodriguez) really hit her stride about five games ago," Warren said of the sophomore. "She can knock down those threes, it takes the wind out of the other teams' sails when they start to come back and she hits another three."

There is still work to do, however. Sweetwater remains only a game behind, holding a 3-4 record.

Next up for the Lady Steers will be a rematch against No. 18 Wylie on Tuesday at 6:15 p.m. at Steer Gym.

"We're just going to go out and try to compete," Warren added. "We want to avoid getting psyched out after they beat us pretty badly in the first game. But it will be like a playoff game. We will try to improve for the playoffs and hopefully learn to not play scared."

Forsan

Boys FORSAN — The wins keep on coming for Forsan, whose latest district foe — Sundown —

was dispatched Friday night in front of a home crowd, 67-51.

The Buffaloes were led by Kade Fannin and Matthew Mims, each of whom chipped in 17 points, Aric Hernandez added 11, Tyler Evans had nine and Dillon Bagnall put up eight in the win, which puts Forsan at 5-1 in District 6-1A (15-8 overall).

"The guys were ready to play from the opening tip," FHS Head Coach Gary Huckabee said of his squad's performance. "We hit a few shos early and played great defense to take the lead. Sundown is a very good team, but the guys kept the pressure on until the end. It was a huge team effort."

Forsan's next test will on the road against Plains — a tough competitor who defeated the Buffs the first time around.

Game time is set for Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Girls

FORSAN — With a thrilling home court win over the No. 5 ranked team in the state — Smyer — on Tuesday, The Lady Buffs have a renewed sense of their potential.

The momentum carried over to Friday night's meeting with Sundown, as Forsan dispatched the Lady Roughnecks, 44-31.

Up by six at the end of the first half, the Lady Buffs kept at it, outscoring Sundown 23-16 in the second half to improve to 19-5 on the season and 5-2 in district. A playoff appearance is likely for FHS Head Coach Lindsey Schmidt's hard-working team.

"It was a big game for us," Schmidt explained. "We started out good,

but we got into foul trouble early. The girls really stepped it up in the fourth quarter. Brittney Hergert came in and had a filled a role for us and Rachel Haggard had a great game defensively."

Defense has been Schmidt's focus all year, especially when facing ranked teams such as Smyer and Plains — who the Lady Buffs will meet again Tuesday on the road at 6:30 p.m.

"They are a good team," Schmidt said of Plains. "They play in-your-face defense and man coverage. They will press the whole ball game and they have some excellent shooters. But like we have done all year, we will rely on our defense. If they can get out there and step it up defensively, anything can happen."

Coahoma

Boys

LAMESA — The Golden Tornadoes held the ailing Bulldogs to single digits in each quarter of play Friday, taking a decisive 60-24 win.

Shanen Warneke, Alex Hill and Armani Guillama had six points apiece for CHS, but Lamesa — who is undefeated in district play — proved to be more than the Bulldogs (10-14, 0-5) could handle.

The Tornadoes took

the early lead and held it until the final buzzer, leaving Coahoma winless in District 4-2A action.

The Bulldogs will have a chance to earn their first division win Tuesday against rival Stanton on Tuesday in front of a home crowd. Game time is set for 8 p.m.

Girls

LAMESA — The Lady Tornadoes only held an eight-point lead at the half, but it was too much, as Coahoma couldn't get their offense clicking enough to mount a comeback in the second half of play and fell to Lamesa, 36-18.

The Bulldogettes (9-19, 2-5), were led by Julia Castilaw's seven points and Kyla Clanton's six.

According to CHS Head Coach Paul Hartman, his team played good defensively throughout the game, but struggled on offense — hitting only 26 percent of their shots.

"We played well on defense until late in the fourth quarter," Hartman said. "We just couldn't get any shots to drop."

The Bulldogettes will host rival Stanton on Tuesday. Tip off is slated for 6:30 p.m.

Other scores:

Boys
• Stanton defeated Colorado City, 52-34.

Cole Schroyer 13, Scott Smith 12, K.J. Glaspie 8. Next at Coahoma, Tuesday, 8 p.m.

• Grady (No. 10) defeated O'Donnell, 66-27. E.J. Rodriguez 13, Brandon Lucas 13, Brett Glaze 10, Michael Jimenez 9, Dillon Bagnall 9. Next at Wellman-Union, Tuesday, 8 p.m.

• Garden City (No. 14) defeated Veribest, 59-41. Corbin Davis 15, Sam Miller 12, Juan Bustos 12. Next at Bronte, Tuesday, 8 p.m.

Girls

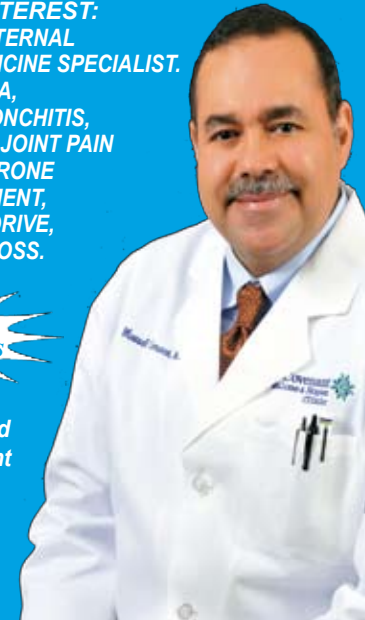
• Stanton defeated Colorado City, 40-35. Jennifer Henley 15, Bayli Barnhill 9. Next at Coahoma, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

• Grady (No. 10) defeated O'Donnell, 71-33. Cayley Opegard 16, Ellyn Avery 14, Charmynee Arnold 7, Kristen Blocker 7. Next at Wellman-Union, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

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

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SPURS-MAVS

Continued from Page 8A

somebody else is going to step up," said Spurs assistant Mike Budenholzer, filling in — and winning — a second time for the ill Gregg Popovich. "They all have a lot of confidence, and they know we have confidence in them."

The Mavericks, who trailed by double digits for large portions of the game after two blowout losses to San Antonio, made it interesting only after Parker left with 1:02 remaining. Dallas cut a 15-point deficit to four with mostly reserves on the floor in the final minute, but Nando De Colo hit two free throws with 2.2 seconds left to end the threat.

Rodrigue Beaubois led the Mavericks with a season-high 19 points.

Parker's head collided with Elton Brand's arm on a drive early in the first quarter, and he angrily complained about drawing blood without getting the call.

The Spurs, who also played most of the game with Manu Ginobili on the bench, went up by 11 early without Parker. Blair, Boris Diaw and Gary Neal had eight points apiece, and Neal had a four-point play when he hit a 3-pointer from the wing as he was getting bumped by Darren Collison.

"When the big dogs go out, you've got to step up," Blair said. "You can't put your head down and worry about what could have happened."

Blair repeatedly got uncontested shots at the rim off pick-and-rolls and hit a couple of nifty running bank shots, including one when Neal jumped and couldn't find anywhere to throw the ball before sliding a bounce

pass to Blair just before coming back down.

"It's hard to overcome layup after layup, and that's what happened," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said.

When he returned early in the second quarter, Parker hit three straight shots and finished the half with 10 points. For the game, he added 10 assists and four rebounds.

The Spurs took control with a 21-6 run in the third quarter, capped by a Dallas turnover when a pass from Collison went through O.J. Mayo's legs and led to a fast break that ended with Diaw throwing a behind-the-back bounce pass to Splitter for a layup and a 74-49 San Antonio lead.

"They execute so well on offense and they make you pay and they do a good job of exploiting however your defense plays," said Vince Carter, who had 17 points for Dallas. "We just

didn't adjust well enough tonight."

Dirk Nowitzki, who debuted a month ago in a 38-point loss at San Antonio after a 27-game absence following right knee surgery, had 15 points on 6-of-14 shooting. Mayo, the team's biggest 3-point threat, finished with 14 but missed all four from long range.

The Mavericks got within 10 with 4 minutes left during a strange sequence that resulted in a technical foul against Carlisle even though officials reversed the call that caused him to complain.

Vince Carter tipped in a miss, but Courtney Kirkland called goaltending. Carlisle argued and was given the technical by Eli Roe.

The Spurs still got the free throw even after Carter was awarded the basket when Kirkland consulted with the crew.

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MICHELLE LOCKE

Associated Press

Still think a \$5 latte at Starbucks is over the top? Hold on, because now there's an even pricier cuppa Joe to get buzzed about.

These days caffeine fiends are all atwitter about Geisha beans, a high-end coffee so rare and prized it's being sold for \$7 a cup. That's a lot of dough for a straight up cup of Joe, but worth it say fans of the beans which come from low-producing plants that grow only in certain areas.

"It's got unique aromatics. It's just rich with tropical fruits. It's got tremendous brightness in the cup — sweet and just super interesting stuff," says Ric Rhinehart, executive director of the Specialty Coffee Association of America, based in Long Beach, Calif. "Coffee people are just in love with it."

The beans emerged on the market about seven years ago and quickly got the attention of high-end roasters and coffee connoisseurs. Now, the coffee has moved toward the mainstream, being offered at Starbucks and sold by the pound by major companies, including Vermont-based Green Mountain Coffee, which recently introduced its Colombia Geisha Special Reserve coffee as part of its line of rare and premium beans.

Just don't expect this to become an everyday blend, says Lindsay Bolger, director of coffee for Green Mountain Coffee. "It can't because it's limited and obviously



we're not going to be able to carry it year-round," she says. But when you "really are seeking a very singular, very unique, very rarefied experience with your coffee, this is such a wonderful and convenient way to bring that to coffee lovers.

Geisha beans originated in the Gesha (no "i") district of Ethiopia, hence the name. There's no literal connection to the elegant Japanese hostesses, though Bolger sees a figurative affinity in that the coffee is "very delicate, pure, the flavor expression is refined, graceful, very lovely."

The plant was taken to Central America at some point and became a sensation during the last decade after a Panamanian farm, Hacienda La Esmeralda, offered the beans at auction.

James Freeman, founder of Blue Bottle Coffee, a small, upscale chain based in the San Francisco Bay area — it also has outlets in New York City — was among those who were impressed with Geisha coffee when it first emerged. The company now sells tins of beans as well as brewed coffee for around \$7 a cup.

"We're getting a lot of great feedback about how distinctive it is," Freeman says. "A good Geisha is very much unlike any other coffee that you've ever had, so it's very memorable. It's not a subtle thing for connoisseurs only."

Why the high price tag? Not only does the Geisha plant produce relatively few beans, it's also very sensitive to soils and climate. Plant it in one spot and it's special, try another and it's just ordinary coffee, says Bolger. "It requires just the right conditions and it requires very careful handling."

At Green Mountain, the Columbia Geisha is being sold in 18-count boxes of K-cup packs at \$31.99, which works out to about \$1.80 per cup. Blue Bottle is selling 150-gram tins at \$25, with each tin producing 8 to 10 servings.

The quest for super premium coffees mirrors what's been going on in other parts of the food world, such as the revival of heirloom tomatoes, says Rhinehart. "We're always looking for unique flavors or exceptional qualities."

What Freeman likes about the Geisha trend is that consumers are recognizing the name and getting interested in the concept of searching out different types of beans. "It's making people pay attention," he says. "It's not a 99-cent thing that comes out of a tap."

Online:
<http://haciendaesmeralda.com/>
<http://www.bluebottlecoffee.net/>
<http://www.greenmountaincoffee.com/>



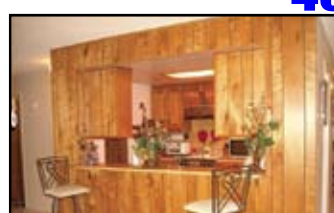
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Anniversary



James R. and Ethel L. Ballard, better known in Big Spring as Pa and Ma-Ma have had 60 happy years together. James is retired and Ethel is a housewife.

Courtesy photo

Subway sorry its 'Footlong' short

NEW YORK (AP) — Subway is apologizing that its "Footlong" sandwiches fell short of expectations.

The world's largest fast-food chain faced widespread criticism last week after a man posted a photo online showing a "Footlong" next to a tape measure that showed it to be just 11 inches.

Subway said Friday that its redoubling

efforts to "ensure consistency and correct length" in all its sandwiches.

The company had already noted last week that bread length could vary when franchisees don't bake to its exact specifications.

In a statement, Subway expressed "regret" for "any instance where we did not fully deliver on our promise to our customers."

Who's Who?

Cisneros earns law degree

Reina Cisneros of Big Spring graduated from South Texas College of Law on Dec. 15, 2012, earning a doctorate of jurisprudence degree.

Cisneros



Cisneros is a 2004 graduate of Big Spring High School and a 2007 graduate of University of St.

Thomas. While a student, she was president of the South Texas Democratic Student's Association and competed in the International Law School Mediation Tournament. She also earned pro bono honors and her mediation certificate.

Her parents are Regina and Gilbert Cisneros of Big Spring.

Cisneros will sit for the February Texas Bar Exam.

Commencement for the 112 graduates was held at the Hilton Amer-

icas in downtown Houston and featured U.S. District Court Judge Jennifer Elrod as speaker.

South Texas College of Law is Houston's oldest and only private law school founded in 1923.

Outstanding employee

Russell Stukel has been presented with the Steve Miller Outstanding Employee award from the University of

North Texas.

As a recipient, he will receive \$1,000 along with a crystal award.

Russell is the director of student life at the Math and Science Academy of North Texas. He works with juniors and seniors at local high schools. He received his master's degree in education from North Texas and is a 1981 graduate of Big Spring High School.

His parents are Ray and Rose Stukel of Big Spring.

Near Balmorhea

Cave diving team goes to new depths

GALVESTON — A Texas A&M University at Galveston professor is part of a diving team that descended 462 feet in a West Texas cave, believed to be the deepest underwater cave in the United States.

Tom Iliffe, professor of marine biology and one of the world's most experienced cave diving scientists, led a diving team on a seven-day trip to explore, map and investigate the depths of Phantom Springs Cave, located near Balmorhea in West Texas. Team members went as deep as 462 feet and recorded the dive on cameras, but still did not find the end of the cave.

"There's really no telling how deep it is or how far the cave goes," Iliffe says of the Jan. 8 cave dive.

The team ended its dive in a tunnel 30-40 feet wide by 20 feet high that continued as far as their lights would penetrate. The only casualty of the dive was a \$7,000 diving scooter that imploded

due to the extreme pressure and sunk to the bottom in the deepest section of the cave where it still remains.

"This is also one of the longest underwater cave systems in the country," Iliffe adds. "You have to swim horizontally for over a mile at an average depth of 30 feet before arriving at the spot where the cave passage begins to stairstep down, getting deeper and larger all the time. The cave water is significantly warmer than what would normally be expected for this area, thus suggesting this geothermally warmed water almost certainly originates from deep below the Earth's surface."

Iliffe's team consisted of 10 expert divers coming from Texas, Tennessee and Florida. In addition to two deep divers, other team members specialized in cave mapping, video photography and lighting, and scientific investigations.

Phantom Springs

Cave is located about 120 miles southwest of Midland. The nearest town is Balmorhea, population 435, and the cave is on land owned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Few people have ever been in the waters of Phantom Springs Cave and a scientific permit to investigate its deep waters is not easy to obtain. The Bureau of Reclamation firmly restricts access to the cave for environmental reasons and to preserve the very sensitive ecosystem.

Iliffe and the team hope to return to Phantom Springs sometime later this year to continue mapping and exploring the cave and to identify various types of cave-adapted organisms.

"Divers have been exploring this cave for more than 30 years, but there are still parts of it that no one has entered," he adds.

"It just goes on and on. No end has been found in either the deep sec-

tions of the upstream tunnel or, at the opposite end of the cave, far downstream where the passage size becomes much smaller and flow rates increase drastically. Both ends present different types of challenges — either diving to extreme depths upstream or fighting against strong currents to get back out of the downstream part of the cave."

The project was supported by ADM Foundation, Karst Underwater Research of Florida and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Iliffe has explored more than 1,500 underwater caves, more than anyone else in the world. During his 35-year career, he has discovered more than 300 species of marine life.

For more about the Phantom Cave expedition, go to www.adm-foundation.org/projects/phantomcave2013/phantom2013.html

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Menus

Senior Center

Monday: Chicken fajitas, tortillas, lettuce, tomato, cheese, refried beans, spanish rice, fruit, milk.

Tuesday: Cheeseburger, potato chips, carrot salad, mixed fruit, milk.

Wednesday: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls, apple crisp, milk.

Thursday: Chicken and dumplings, green peas, crackers, salad,

angel cake with peaches, milk.

Friday: BBQ beef on a bun, baked beans, fried okra, coleslaw, banana pudding, milk.

Sands CISD

Monday: Breakfast — Burrito, juice, milk; Lunch — Chicken and broccoli penne, salad, carrots, apple slices, breadstick, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast — Biscuit, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch — Ultimate taco salad, corn, fruit, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast — Cinnamon roll, fruit, juice, milk; Lunch — Steak fingers, potatoes/

gravy, green beans, apple-pineapple d-lite, milk, roll.

Thursday: Breakfast — Pancake, bacon, juice, milk; Lunch — Chicken quesadilla, beans, carrots, Orange Smiles, milk.

Friday: Breakfast — Hot Pockets, juice, milk; Lunch — Pizza, salad, veggie cup, mixed fruit, milk.

Forsan ISD

Monday: Breakfast — Cinnamon roll, cereal, toast, juice, milk; Lunch — Hamburger, garnish, potato rounds, diced pears, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast —

Scrambled eggs, toast, cereal, juice, milk; Lunch — Tangerine chicken, brown rice, broccoli, carrots, snowball salad, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast — Biscuit, sausage, cereal, toast, juice, milk; Lunch — Tex-Mex stack, spanish rice, salad, refried beans, hot cinnamon apples, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast — Pancake wrap, cereal, toast, juice, milk; Lunch — Stuffed bbq potato, carrots, Texas toast, fruit bowl, milk.

Big Spring ISD

Monday: Breakfast — Apple Jacks, juice, milk; Lunch — Meatballs, potatoes/gravy, green beans, peaches, bread, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast — Sausage roll, juice, milk; Lunch — Roasted chicken, brown rice pilaf, broccoli, fruit cocktail, cornbread, Orange Smiles, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast — Baked cheese sticks, juice, milk; Lunch — Spaghetti, pears, salad, green peas, roll, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast — Blueberry waffle, juice, milk; Lunch — Bean/cheese chalupa, lettuce/tomato, french fries, carrots, sliced apples, milk.

Friday: Breakfast — Pancake on a stick, juice, milk; Lunch — Hamburger, sweet potato sticks, sliced cucumbers, lettuce, tomato, pickles, pineapple chunks, ranch beans, banana, milk.

Kendal Adams

Bride Elect Of

Casey Barham

WEDDING:
March 23

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:

- ♥ Jill Johansen & Christopher Turner
- ♥ Lori Straley & Wesley Miller
- ♥ Jordan Chesworth & Ricky Crawford

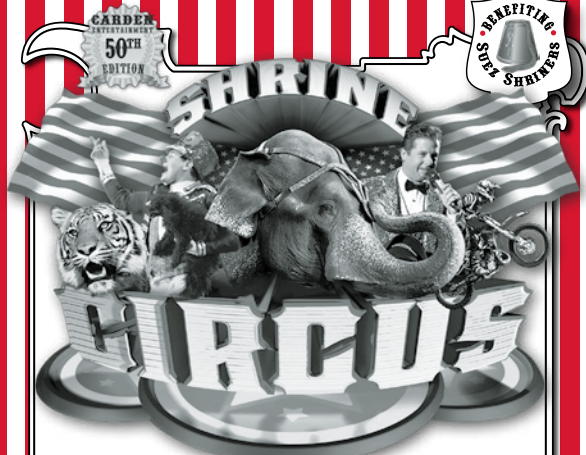




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We will be calling for your support of the 2013 Suez Shrine Circus in Big Spring, TX. We greatly appreciate your participation.

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Proceeds are for the benefit of the Suez Shriners and are not deductible as charitable contributions.

KETTLE ARRIVES



HERALD photo / Thomas Jenkins

Work crews prepare this 42-foot long galvanizing kettle to be hoisted into the air and through the roof of Boyce Galvanizing on N. U.S. Highway 87 on Friday morning. The kettle — which weighs 880,000 pounds — will be used to galvanize everything from highway guardrails to electrical transmission towers.

Boyce: 'Take a dip'

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

In less than a month, one of Big Spring's most anticipated businesses will be up and running, compliments of a 42-foot, 880,000 pound kettle, according to officials with Boyce Galvanizing.

The company — which opened in Big Spring in mid-2012 — took delivery of the massive kettle Friday morning, according to Boyce CEO Cole Morgan.

"The kettle is sort of the final piece of the puzzle for our opera-

"We've dipped all sorts of things. We've even dipped a car. Really, a guy had read how the first thing Jay Leno does when he gets a new car is have it stripped down and galvanized, so he felt like he needed to do the same thing."

—Cole Morgan, Boyce CEO

tion," Morgan said. "I expect we'll be ready to do our first commercial (galvanizing) dip in approximately two to three weeks."

As teams readied to hoist the massive kettle

— which was shipped to Big Spring from Columbus, Ohio — with a crane and lower it down through the ceiling of one of the company's buildings located on N. U.S. Highway 87, Mor-

gan said there would still be plenty of work to do before it was up and running.

"The kettle is heated by natural gas burners," he said. "We'll lower these zinc bars down into the bottom of it and melt them down. It usually takes about six or seven days to get all of the zinc completely melted down."

Morgan, a native of Waxahachie, Texas, said once the zinc is melted and the kettle operational, there's little to no limits what the company will be able to galvanize.

"The zinc we're using is 99.9 percent pure. Some galvanizers will use zinc that has lead in it, however, that limits what you can use it for," Morgan said. "For instance, you wouldn't be able to use it for galvanized water pipes. Because of the purity of our zinc, we'll be able to do any job. It's a big plus for us."

Morgan said the list of things that can be galvanized is pretty long.

"Some of the more common things you might see are the highway guardrails," he said. "Also, the transmission towers are galvanized, as are cell phone towers. The zinc provides a corrosion resistance for any kind of steel product."

See **BOYCE**, Page 4B



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Cole Morgan, right, chief executive officer of Boyce Galvanizing and Terry Wegman, executive director of the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation discuss the amount of zinc bars — pictured behind them — used to galvanize metals.

Gatorade to remove controversial ingredient

NEW YORK (AP) — PepsiCo Inc. is removing a controversial ingredient from its Gatorade sports drink in response to customer complaints.

A spokeswoman for the company, Molly Carter, said Friday that

the move was in the works for the past year after the company began "hearing rumblings" from consumers about the ingredient. She said it wasn't a response to a recent petition on Change.org by a Mississippi teenager.

The petition on Change.org noted that the ingredient, brominated vegetable oil, has been patented as a flame retardant and is banned in Japan and the European Union. It had more than 200,000 supporters Friday.

For Gatorade, Carter said the ingredient is used as an "emulsifier," meaning it distributes flavoring more evenly so that it doesn't collect at the surface. She said it was used only in select flavors including such as orange and citrus.

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.

We do not expect much out of fourth quarter earnings reporting season. Sure, individual company surprises, both good and bad, are going to happen. But overall, looking at companies in the S&P 500, there probably will not be much to get excited about in this modest growth environment that Americans have been living with for the last several years.

Keep in mind that at this point in the economic cycle, earnings growth typically slows down. Why? Mainly because the economy is no longer climbing out of a deep hole; therefore, the year-over-year earnings growth comparisons get tougher. Gross domestic product (GDP) in this economic recovery has increased at a very slow pace relative to other recoveries over the past sixty years. However, corporate profits have bounced back strongly over the past three years. Domestic companies have worked hard as a group to make the most out of an unfavorable economic environment. They are leaner and meaner than they were five or six years ago, when times were good. They had to adjust their practices and get lean in order to survive the deep recession, especially those cyclically-oriented companies whose fortunes are more tied to the ebb and flow of the economy. Now, they want to stay that way and continue to move forward in the year ahead.

Consider the macro situation. The economy probably grew by around two percent last year, well below the historical long-term average. As we look ahead through this year, we expect the economy to grow a bit faster, at approximately two and a half percent. That is still below the longer-term average and keeps the headwinds blowing against a quick recovery in the labor market. Consumers have been taking on debt, buying cars, and borrowing money to go back to school. In fact, student loan debt is at an all-time high. Many in the media have been telling us that consumers are shedding debt and are in better financial shape than they were two years ago. But recent data shows that the vast majority of debt reduction that has occurred at the consumer level is due to creditor write-offs. In other words, consumers are in better overall shape because many of them are defaulting on their financial obligations. For those who default, credit will be harder to obtain in the future. This has a direct impact on the ability of the consumer to drive the economy ahead at an accelerating rate.

As investors work their way through the fourth quarter earnings reporting season, they need to realize that, at this point in the economic cycle, the probability of a big upside or downside surprise in overall earnings is small. Earnings growth for the fourth quarter of 2012 will likely fall in the flat to mid-single digit range. A percent or two on either side of that range probably will not make much of a difference to the market. Earnings are a lagging, not leading, indicator. Looking ahead, the reality is that 2013 will likely feature only modest earnings growth.

But stocks can work their way higher in a modest growth/modest inflation environment and we look for a positive move in the equity market this year.

During this earnings reporting season, low expectations are already baked into the market and the chance of a surprise is minimal.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. This article was produced Jan. 16 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. Additional information is available upon request. The material contained herein has been prepared from sources and data we believe to be reliable, but we make no guarantee as to its accuracy or completeness. Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC, member SIPC, is a registered broker-dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

Thank God for rain, but extreme drought conditions still in effect

Special to the Herald

STANTON, Texas — Area residents are grateful for the small amount of moisture hydrating the parched West Texas land earlier this month, but an inch of rain can only do so much in severe drought conditions. As of December, the Palm-

er Drought Severity Index showed Martin and Howard counties in extreme drought, which parallel conditions since this time last year. With little rainfall throughout 2012, the drought monitor could still be high in the New Year. Keeping this in mind, the Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District monitors the drought

index to better communicate the importance of conserving water. In order to save water and use it wisely, the PBUWCD offers helpful indoor tips to practice daily.

Tip 1 — While most plumbers encourage dripping faucets to prevent pipes from freezing during winter months, catch the dripping water in a bowl and use it to water plants to

use water efficiently.

Tip 2 — If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the showerhead with a water-efficient model.

Tip 3 — When cleaning out fish tanks, give the nutrient-rich water to your plants.

Tip 4 — When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.

Tip 5 — Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator for water efficiency and food safety.

For more ways to conserve water in your home, visit the Permian Basin UWCD's education website at www.savingh2o.org or stop by our office at 708 W. St. Peter in Stanton.

Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

Sherrri Monique Aldridge, 1507 E. Sixth St., Big Spring
Carol J. Anderson, PO Box 1143, Stanton
Patricia Ann Bacon, 5700 Cedar Rd. Apt. 2, Big Spring
Amanda Nicole Bair, 1103 E. 15th St., Big Spring
Charles Howard Baker, 118 Shiloh, Victoria
Jessica Lynn Banks, CR 1200, Lubbock
Johnny Barraza, 429 Westover, Big Spring
Jennifer Leigh Black, 1405 E. Barton, Temple
William Riley Bounds, 1818 Corsicana, Dallas
Joe Ray Brown, 902 Hickory, Abilene
Vanessa Calderon, 1504 Kentucky, Big Spring
Emily Denise Carrillo, 2610 Albrook, Big Spring
Donald Cervantes, 1211 Lloyd, Big Spring
Trystan Taelor Cevallos, 3912 E. Hwy. 350, Big Spring
Joshua Adam Cisneros, 802 Culp, Coahoma
Melissa Cisneros, 1810 S. Benton, Big Spring
Christoval Corrales, 1105 N. Nolan, Big Spring
Melissa Crawford, 1207 Mulberry, Big Spring
Jennifer R. Crow, 1714 Fort Worth, Brownwood
Montie Dee Daniels, 2606 Chanute, Big Spring
Julie E. Davis, 5202 Bangor Ave. Apt. K301, Lubbock
Stefan Deal, 102 Casie Ln. Apt. 1, Fort Worth
Manuel Delosrios, 707 Lorilla, Big Spring
Teana Demeny-Roberts, 5601 N. Service Rd., Big Spring
Delores Dohnalik, 1500 Stones Throw, Horseshoe Bay
Michael Angelo Dorado, 2202 William Rd., Big Spring
Josepy James Eckert, 1123 Newhaven Trail, Pearland
Maria Luisa Elizondo, 603 S. Second, 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
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
Chelsea Kristyne Millspaugh, 7403 N. Service Road, Big Spring
Alicia Morales, 3307 E. 11th Place, Big Spring
Jose Munoz, 3804 Connally, Big Spring
Melissa Nieto, 615 Tulane, Big Spring
John Randall O'Harrow, 107 S. Main, Big Spring
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:

Judgment and Sentence: Oscar Hernandez, theft of property - more than \$50 and less than \$500, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 60 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Joseph Alton Murley, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, \$282 court costs, 10 days in jail.
Probated Judgment: Loryn Escovedo, criminal mischief - more than \$500 and less than \$1,500, \$200 fine, \$332 court costs, 365 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Gary Lee Smale Jr., theft of property - more than \$500 and less than \$1,500, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 120 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Gary Lee Smale, theft of property - more than \$500 and less than \$1,500, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 120 days in jail.
Probated Judgment: James Dustin Lear, driving while intoxicated, \$500 fine, \$457 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Oscar Hernandez, bail jumping - failure to appear, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 60 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Tekia Williams, possession of a controlled substance, \$500 fine, \$342 court costs, 45 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Robert Lee Aikens Jr., theft of property - more than \$500 and less than \$500, \$500 fine, \$332 court costs, 75 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Robert Rivera, theft of property - more than \$50 and less than \$500, \$500 fine, \$328 court costs, 60 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: James Earl Magers, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 30 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Kelli Ann McAdams, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, \$250 fine, \$282 court costs, 10 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Kelli Ann McAdams, bail

jumping - failure to appear, \$250 fine, \$332 court costs, 10 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Isaac James Tarin, criminal mischief - more than \$50 and less than \$500, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 60 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Gary Christopher Starr, prohibited weapons - switchblade/knuckles, \$266 fine, \$232 court costs.
Judgment and Sentence: Isaac James Tarin, resisting arrest, search or transportation, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 60 days in jail.
Probated Judgment: Deedra Alvarez, theft of property - more than \$500 and less than \$1,500, \$500 fine, \$332 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended - 12 months probation).
Probated Judgment: Christopher James Duforat, driving while intoxicated, \$1,000 fine, \$457 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended - 12 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Mason Jack S. Wilbanks, resisting arrest, search or transportation, \$1,266 fine, \$232 court costs, five days in jail.
Probated Judgment: Arthur Miramontes Jr., driving while intoxicated, \$750 fine, \$457 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended - 12 months probation).
Probated Judgment: Robert Gonzales Jr., failure to identify - giving false information, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended - 12 months probation).
Probated Judgment: Armando Avina, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended - 12 months probation).
Probated Judgment: Riley E. Wood, evading arrest or detention, \$750 fine, \$282 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended - 12 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Jordan Brodrick Holguin, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, \$548 fine, \$292 court costs.
Probated Judgment: Humberto Ramirez, driving while intoxicated, \$500 fine, \$457 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended - 12 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Joshua Allen Noble, resisting arrest, search or transportation, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 60 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Joshua Allen Noble, criminal mischief - more than \$500 and less than \$1,500, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 60 days in jail.
District Court Filings:
In Re transfer of structured settlement payment rights by

Stephanie Barr, civil.
In Re Elvira Jayne Hernandez, family.
Marriage Licenses:
Robert M. Wade, 42, and Chante L. Stump, 30, both of Big Spring.
Eldon K. Seales, 38, and Kelly D. Grant, 33, both of Big Spring.
Warranty Deeds:
Grantor: Donald R. Taylor and Mavis E. Taylor
Grantee: Mike Runion
Property: The N/50 feet of Lots 1-2, Block 47, Government Heights Bauer Addition.
Date: Dec. 12, 2012
Grantor: Donald R. Taylor and Mavis E. Taylor
Grantee: Mike Runion
Property: Lot 3, Block 47, Government Heights Bauer Addition
Date: Dec. 12, 2012
Grantor: Donald R. Taylor and Mavis E. Taylor
Grantee: Mike Runion
Property: TA 0.293-acre tract out of Section 42, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P Rr Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 12, 2012
Grantor: Norman Scott Ragle and Rebecca Ragle
Grantee: Jim Perry and Lynda Perry
Property: Lot 6, Block B, Merrick Greene Addition
Date: Dec. 12, 2012
Grantor: Davie Matthew Jones
Grantee: Arvel W. Stansel and Brenda D. Stansel
Property: Lot 9, Block 8, Stanford Park Addition
Date: Nov. 28, 2012
Grantor: Gloria Martinez
Grantee: Reynaldo Herrera
Property: A tract out of Section 42, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Nov. 26, 2012
Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien:
Grantor: Louis Anthony Morelino and Korina Kerby
Grantee: Matt Lozano
Property: Lot 4, Block 1, Hillcrest Terrace
Date: Dec. 21, 2012
Grantor: Steven Green and Trissa Green
Grantee: Seve Rodriguez and Katie Rodriguez
Property: Lot 5, Block 1, Hilldale Addition
Date: Dec. 14, 2012
Grantor: Jill Hooper Homes Inc.
Grantee: Chris Golding
Property: Lot 1, Block 4, Lockhart Addition
Date: Dec. 14, 2012
Grantor: Jill Hooper Homes Inc.
Grantee: Chris Golding
Property: Lot 1, Block 4, Lockhart Addition
Date: Dec. 14, 2012

MINUTES OF COUNTY FINANCES TREASURER'S REPORT

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY FINANCES IN THE HANDS OF TERESA THOMAS TREASURER OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS.

COMMISSIONERS' COURT HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS IN REGULAR SESSION JANUARY TERM 2013

IN ACCORDANCE with Section 114.026, Local Government Code, we, the undersigned, constituting the entire Commissioners Court of said County, certify that on the 14th day of January, 2013 at the Regular term of Court, we compared and examined the monthly report of TERESA THOMAS, Treasurer of Howard County, Texas, for September 30, 2012, and finding the same correct, entered an order in the Minutes approving said Report, which states total cash and other assets on hand as \$13,103,460.28.

Mark Barr, County Judge
Oscar Garcia, Commissioner Pct. 1
Donnie Baker, Commissioner Pct. 2
Jimmie Long, Commissioner Pct. 3
John Cline, Commissioner Pct. 4

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, by Mark Barr, County Judge, and County Commissioners of said Howard County, each respectively, on this the 14th day of January, 2013.

Attest: Donna Wright, County Clerk

FILED FOR RECORD THIS 14TH DAY OF January, 2013, and recorded on the 14th day of January, 2013.

Donna Wright,
County Clerk and
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners
Court in and for Howard County, Texas.

236441

BOYCE

Continued from Page 3B

“We’ve dipped all sorts of things. We’ve even dipped a car. Really, a guy had read how the first thing Jay Leno does when he gets a new car is have it stripped down and galvanized, so he felt like he needed to

do the same thing.”

Boyce Galvanizing is just one of many success stories for the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation, which — along with the Howard County Industrial Foundation — helped the business set up shop in the Crossroads area.
“The EDC provided an incentive agreement that amounted to a \$450,000 loan to provide equity for the financing,” Big Spring EDC Executive Director Terry Wegman said. “The

EDC also acted as a conduit for the Howard County Industrial Foundation, which provided a \$796,000 loan for Boyce Galvanizing to purchase the 880,000 pounds of zinc needed to get the project off the ground. They stepped up and absorbed the risk on that aspect of the project. It was a huge step.”
Wegman said purchasing the zinc was one of the toughest aspects of the start-up.
“Since zinc is a commodity, the prices are always fluctuating,” he

said. “However, Cole (Morgan) kept a close eye on the prices and was able to make the purchase at a three-year low. That’s a huge gain for them.”
Morgan, however, is extremely modest about the monumental purchase.
“Sometimes you get lucky. We certainly did,” he said.

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

In the United States, 50,000-60,000 new cases of Parkinson Disease are diagnosed each year, adding to the one million people who currently have PD. The Center for Disease control rated complications from Parkinson's disease as the 14th leading cause of death in the United States.

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233940

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Charles Myers

Attorney At Law

Family Law And
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Superintendent
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(Certified Only)
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Seasonal Water Treatment
Plant Operator

For more information go to
www.mybigspring.com
or apply in person in the
Human Resources Office
located at 310 Nolan
(432) 264-2346

236314

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Fax: 432-263-0773

236417

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TECHNICIAN**

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**
South Plains Rural Health
Services is in need of two Cer-
tified Pharmacy Technicians at
Howard County Community
Health Center in Big Spring.
The Pharmacy Tech assists
the Pharmacist in the
operations of the pharmacy in
conjunction with the health
services provided within the
community health center.
Primary duties include main-
taining all quality control and
inventory control records on
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by the pharmacist in charge.
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practice of Pharmacy, in accor-
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and company regulations.
Educational requirements
include High School Diploma
and a Pharmacy Technician
Certification. This full-time
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Dale Moore, South Plains
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1000 FM 300, Levelland TX
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236237

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West Texas Centers

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Help Wanted

CHEMICAL PRODUCTION Company accepting applications for Truck Treating Driver and Truck Treating Driver Trainee. Individual will be responsible for delivering chemical to customer locations and other duties, as needed. Oilfield knowledge preferred. This position is based in Big Spring, TX. We offer a \$5,000 sign on bonus, competitive Salary, 401(K), Medical, Dental, and Vision, paid vacation and holidays. Submit resume c/o P.O. Box 1431/ Blind Box 226, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

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CROSSROADS HOSPICE is hiring for the position of social worker pt/ft. Candidate will provide care to hospice patients in the Howard and surrounding counties. Bi-lingual candidate preferred. Candidate must meet DADS/MC requirements for a hospice social worker. Interested candidates should fax resume to 432-263-5304 attention Debbie Read.

NEEDING INSURANCE Sales & Service Agent. Experienced preferred. Bring resume to 408 East FM 700.

Help Wanted

CROSSROADS SALOON now hiring Bartender/waitresses. Friendly environment. Apply in person at 3101 S HWY. 87. Ask for Heather or Big Jern. Serious inquiries only!!

Dental Hygienist

South Plains Rural Health Services is in need of a Dental Hygienist at Howard County Community Health Center in Big Spring. The Dental Hygienist works as part of the Dental Provider Team providing dental services to the patients of the Center. The Dental Hygienist performs dental prophylactic services and provides educational information for the prevention of dental disease. This full-time position offers a competitive salary, benefits, and holidays. Please mail resume/ applications to Dale Moore, South Plains Rural Health Services, Inc. 1000 FM 300, Levelland TX 79336, or fax to (806)894-3378. Or apply online at www.sprhs.org EOE. No phone calls please.

ESTABLISHED COMPANY in Big Spring needs One Experienced Remodel Carpenter. Experienced in all phases of remodel construction. Must have valid Driver License and be drug free. Call RS Home Repair, (432)816-3030.

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Help Wanted

FIELD TECHNICIAN WANTED

The Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District is accepting resumes for the position of Field Technician. Qualified applicants must have a High School Diploma or equivalent GED, have a valid Texas Driver's license and a good driving record. Full job description is available at the District Office. Resumes may be submitted in person at the District office at 708 W. St. Peter Street, Stanton, TX, mailed to P.O. Box 1314, Stanton, TX 79782, faxed to 432-756-2068, or emailed to permianbasin@sbcglobal.net Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOP JOBS

GROUND MAINTENANCE position: Full time, benefit package.

Apply at
Trinity Memorial Park,
6900 S. US Hwy 87,
Big Spring, TX 79720.
No phone calls please.

IMMEDIATE OPENING for part-time Laundry attendant. Work 14 days- 7 days off. Good people skills a must. Apply 1208 Gregg Street.

Help Wanted

HILLCREST CDC has a Position Available, Mon.-Fri. If you are energetic and love kids please come apply. Must have high school diploma or GED. Hillcrest CDC, 2000 West FM 700.



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Comfort Keepers is seeking kind, caring & personable individuals to provide non-medical in-home care to the elderly. Full & Part time positions available and weekends. Flexible schedule. CNA's preferred but not required. Must have Own Transportation. Please apply at Texas Workforce Solutions.

INGRAM CONCRETE, a family-oriented concrete manufacturing company, is currently seeking CDL Mixer Drivers. These are full-time and permanent positions in Big Spring, TX and Colorado City, TX. Paid weekly. Local deliveries. No waiting period on medical insurance. Full benefits/401k. Please apply at 605 North Benton in Big Spring, TX or call 432-561-8922 for additional information. EOE M/F/D/V.

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

Help Wanted

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Help Wanted

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LARGE STORE Sales Rep. Must be 18, able to work independently and have reliable transportation. Salary includes Base, Commission, OT and mileage reimbursement. Apply at www.pepsibeveragesjobs.com.

LOCAL SALVAGE Yard accepting applications and hiring for a parts puller and a dismantler. Must have own tools. Fill out application at Westex Auto Parts, 1511 Hwy 350 in Big Spring.

TOP JOBS

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Valentine's Day Preview

February 1-28



Mila Kunis
and
Justin
Timberlake

FEBRUARY 1
Friends With Benefits (11)
at 3:10 am on STARZ

FEBRUARY 1
Bull Durham (88) at 6:05 pm on HBO2
Think Like a Man (12) at 6:50 pm on STARZ
Going the Distance (10) at 9 pm on TBS
The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (10) at 9:30 pm on FX
Good Luck Chuck (07) at 11 pm on COM
The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (10) at Mid. on FX
Four Daughters (38) at 12:15 am on TCM
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (08) at 1 am on COM
She's the Man (06) at 1 am on TBS
The Bounty Hunter (10) at 2:30 am on FX
Blonde Ambition (07) at 3 am on TBS
Brokeback Mountain (05) at 3:05 am on TMC
Love Actually (03) at 4:10 am on HBO
The Girl Next Door (04) at 4:10 am on HBO2
FEBRUARY 2
A Crush on You (11) at 5 pm on HALL
Groundhog Day (93) at 5:30 pm on AMC
Good Luck Chuck (07) at 6 pm on COM
Chasing Amy (97) at 6 pm on SHO2
50 First Dates (04) at 6:15 pm on HBO
Puppy Love (12) at 7 pm on HALL
P.S. I Love You (07) at 8 pm on FAM
The Five-Year Engagement (12) at 8 pm on HBO
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (08) at 10 pm on COM
The Time Traveler's Wife (09) at 10:30 pm on FAM
The Sweetest Thing (02) at 11 pm on OXY
The Five-Year Engagement (12) at 11:05 pm on HBO
Friends With Benefits (11) at 11:05 pm on STARZ
Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (09) at 1 am on TBS
Happy Accidents (00) at 5 am on TMC
FEBRUARY 3
Sex and the City 2 (10) at 5 pm on TBS
200 Cigarettes (99) at 5:15 pm on HBO2
How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (03) at 7:30 pm on BRAVO
13 Going on 30 (04) at 8 pm on ENCR
The Proposal (09) at 8 pm on FX
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (11) at 9 pm on SHOW

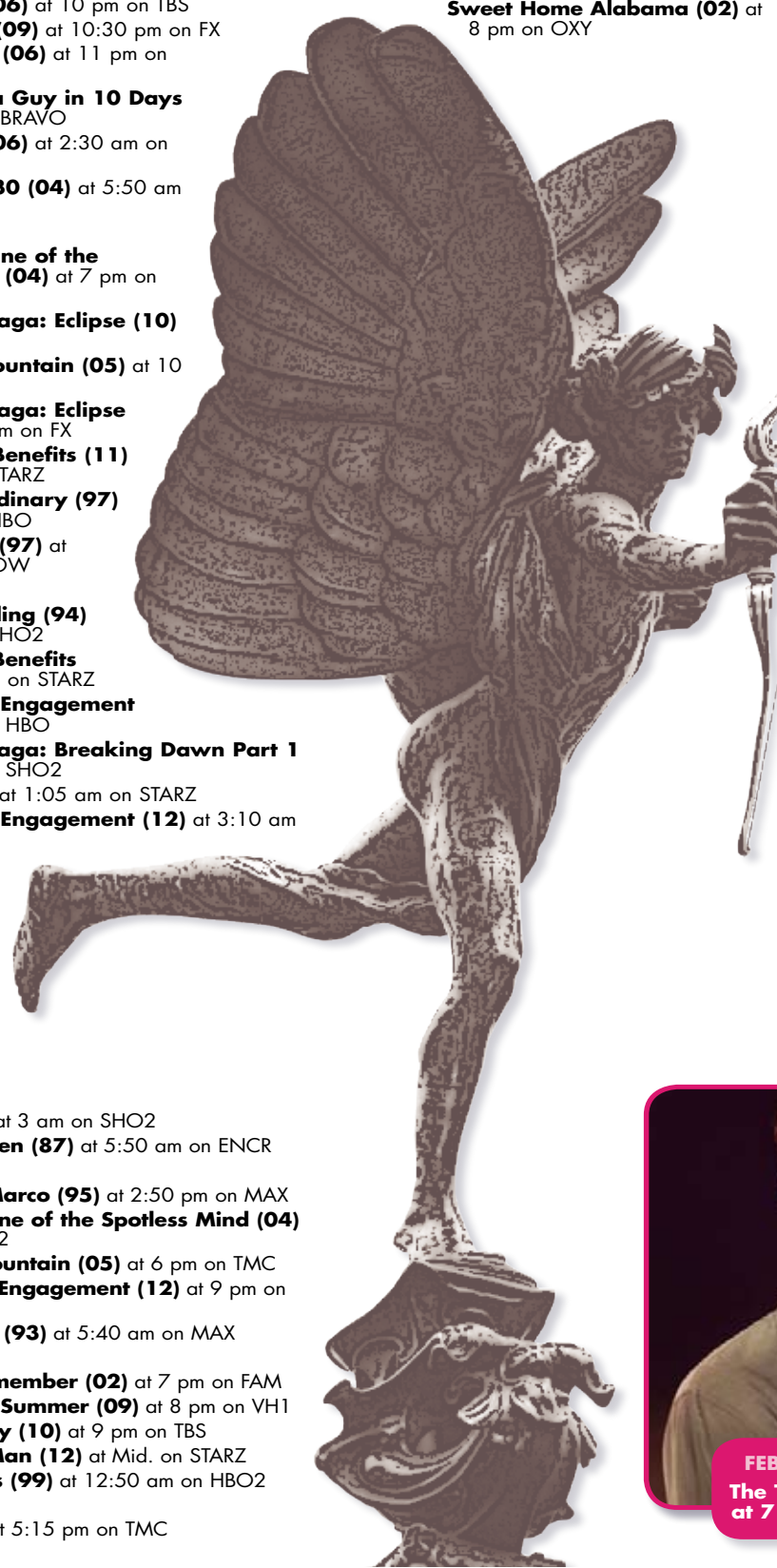
What's Your Number? (11) at 10 pm on MAX
The Holiday (06) at 10 pm on TBS
The Proposal (09) at 10:30 pm on FX
The Break-Up (06) at 11 pm on USA
How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (03) at Mid. on BRAVO
The Holiday (06) at 2:30 am on TBS
13 Going on 30 (04) at 5:50 am on ENCR
FEBRUARY 4
Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (04) at 7 pm on SHO2
The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (10) at 8 pm on FX
Brokeback Mountain (05) at 10 pm on TMC
The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (10) at 10:30 pm on FX
Friends With Benefits (11) at 1:50 am on STARZ
A Life Less Ordinary (97) at 2:15 am on HBO
Chasing Amy (97) at 2:55 am on SHOW
FEBRUARY 5
Muriel's Wedding (94) at 4:45 pm on SHO2
Friends With Benefits (11) at 7:05 pm on STARZ
The Five-Year Engagement (12) at 8 pm on HBO
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (11) at 8 pm on SHO2
The Vow (12) at 1:05 am on STARZ
The Five-Year Engagement (12) at 3:10 am on HBO

FEBRUARY 6
Another Cinderella Story (08) at 7 pm on FAM
The Vow (12) at 7:10 pm on STARZ
The Heart Specialist (06) at 1:15 am on TMC
Captives (94) at 3 am on SHO2
Made in Heaven (87) at 5:50 am on ENCR
FEBRUARY 7
Don Juan DeMarco (95) at 2:50 pm on MAX
Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (04) at 6 pm on SHO2
Brokeback Mountain (05) at 6 pm on TMC
The Five-Year Engagement (12) at 9 pm on HBO2
Benny & Joon (93) at 5:40 am on MAX
FEBRUARY 8
A Walk to Remember (02) at 7 pm on FAM
(500) Days of Summer (09) at 8 pm on VH1
Valentine's Day (10) at 9 pm on TBS
Think Like a Man (12) at Mid. on STARZ
200 Cigarettes (99) at 12:50 am on HBO2
FEBRUARY 9
Cocktail (88) at 5:15 pm on TMC

The Back-up Plan (10) at 6 pm on USA
Twilight (08) at 7 pm on FAM
Sweet Home Alabama (02) at 8 pm on OXY

Be My Valentine (13) at 9 pm on HALL
Twilight (08) at 9:30 pm on FAM
35 & Ticking (11) at 10:30 pm on BET
Sweet Home Alabama (02) at 10:30 pm on OXY
Be My Valentine (13) at 11 pm on HALL
Three Coins in the Fountain (54) at 12:30 am on TCM
Eloïse's Lover (09) at 2 am on SUND

FEBRUARY 10
Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (04) at 6 pm on SHO2
Twilight (08) at 7 pm on FAM
Love & Basketball (00) at 7:30 pm on BET
The Wedding Date (05) at 8 pm on TBS
Be My Valentine (13) at 9 pm on HALL
Twilight (08) at 9:30 pm on FAM
The Wedding Date (05) at 9:45 pm on TBS
It's Complicated (09) at 11 pm on USA
She's the Man (06) at 11:30 pm on TBS
The Five-Year Engagement (12) at Mid. on HBO
Friends With Benefits (11) at 1 am on STARZ
Just Like Heaven (05) at 1:30 am on TBS
FEBRUARY 11
Jerry Maguire (96) at 5 pm on AMC
Friends With Benefits (11) at 7:05 pm on STARZ
Ella Enchanted (04) at 8:30 pm on DISN
Bachelor Mother (39) at 4:15 am on TCM
FEBRUARY 12
Chasing Amy (97) at 6:30 pm on SHOW
Groundhog Day (93) at Mid. on AMC
Captives (94) at 12:15 am on SHO2
FEBRUARY 13
Made of Honor (08) at 6 pm on LIFE
James Patterson's Sundays at Tiffany's (10) at 6 pm on LMN
Wristcutters: A Love Story (06) at 6:30 pm on SUND
The Switch (10) at 8 pm on LIFE
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (11) at 8 pm on SHO2



Robert
Pattinson
and
Kristen
Stewart

FEBRUARY 6
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (11)
at 7 pm on SHOW

FEBRUARY 13
Hope Floats (98) at 8:30 pm on FAM
The Engagement Ring (05) at 10 pm on LMN
200 Cigarettes (99) at Mid. on HBO2
The Switch (10) at 12:02 am on LIFE
The Engagement Ring (05) at 2 am on LMN
The Girl Next Door (04) at 2:20 am on HBO2
Wristcutters: A Love Story (06) at 3:30 am on SUND
Mad About Mambo (00) at 4:45 am on SHOW
FEBRUARY 14
How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (03) at 6 pm on FAM
The Five-Year Engagement (12) at 7:45 pm on HBO
Gone With the Wind (39) at 8 pm on TCM
The Vow (12) at 9:15 pm on STARZ
The Five-Year Engagement (12) at 3:30 am on HBO
Portrait of Jennie (48) at 4:30 am on TCM
FEBRUARY 15
The Wedding Planner (01) at 6 pm on FAM
Chasing Amy (97) at 6 pm on SHO2
My Boss's Daughter (03) at 6:30 pm on ENCR
A Cinderella Story (04) at 7:30 pm on OXY
Be My Valentine (13) at 8 pm on HALL
P.S. I Love You (07) at 8:30 pm on FAM
Pretty Woman (90) at 9:30 pm on OXY
FEBRUARY 16
Be My Valentine (13) at 5 pm on HALL



Matthew
McConaughey
and
Jennifer
Lopez

FEBRUARY 14
The Wedding Planner (01)
at 8:30 pm on FAM

Monte Carlo (11) at 5:15 pm on HBO
Larry Crowne (11) at 5:30 pm on MAX
Always and Forever (09) at 7 pm on HALL
Pretty Woman (90) at 7 pm on OXY
Straight From the Heart (03) at 9 pm on HALL
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (11) at 9:05 pm on SHOW
Undercover Bridesmaid (12) at 11 pm on HALL
The Bridges of Madison County (95) at 5:20 am on ENCR
FEBRUARY 17
The Five-Year Engagement (12) at 6:50 pm on HBO
Doctor Zhivago (65) at 8 pm on TCM
The Five-Year Engagement (12) at 10 pm on HBO2
A Good Year (06) at 10 pm on SUND
Under the Tuscan Sun (03) at 2:40 am on STARZ
FEBRUARY 18
Muriel's Wedding (94) at 3:05 pm on SHO2
Something Borrowed (11) at 3:20 pm on MAX
Think Like a Man (12) at 9 pm on STARZ
Chasing Amy (97) at 11 pm on SHO2
The Heart Specialist (06) at 11:35 pm on TMC
The Goodbye Girl (77) at 12:30 am on TCM
Laws of Attraction (04) at 1:35 am on ENCR
Think Like a Man (12) at 4:25 am on STARZ
Muriel's Wedding (94) at 5:30 am on SHO2
FEBRUARY 19
50 First Dates (04) at 4:45 pm on HBO
What's Your Number? (11) at 8:15 pm on MAX
Working Girl (88) at 1 am on AMC
A Farewell to Arms (32) at 4 am on TCM
How to Deal (03) at 4:40 am on ENCR
FEBRUARY 20
Ever After: A Cinderella Story (98) at 5:50 pm on HBO2
Chasing Amy (97) at 6 pm on SHOW
The Blue Lagoon (80) at 8 pm on LMN
Hold Back the Dawn (41) at 8 pm on TCM
Friends With Benefits (11) at 9 pm on STARZ

Pretty in Pink (86) at 10 pm on LMN
The Blue Lagoon (80) at Mid. on LMN
The Five-Year Engagement (12) at 12:30 am on HBO
The Lady Eve (41) at 12:30 am on TCM
Pretty in Pink (86) at 2 am on LMN
Happy Accidents (00) at 3:15 am on TMC
Sexting (11) at 4:25 am on SHOW
FEBRUARY 21
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (11) at 6 pm on SHOW
Chasing Amy (97) at 6 pm on SHO2
Captives (94) at 3 am on SHO2
Trust the Man (05) at 3:45 am on MAX
A Life Less Ordinary (97) at 4:30 am on HBO
Love Birds (11) at 4:40 am on SHO2
FEBRUARY 22
Sorry, Thanks (09) at 4:45 pm on SUND
The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (10) at 7 pm on FX
Uncorked (10) at 8 pm on HALL
The Sweetest Thing (02) at 8:30 pm on OXY
The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (10) at 9:30 pm on FX
The Sweetest Thing (02) at 1 am on OXY
Shallow Hal (01) at 1 am on TBS
The Vow (12) at 2 am on STARZ
The Heart Specialist (06) at 2:20 am on TMC
She's the One (96) at 4:40 am on HBO
Peter and Vandy (09) at 4:50 am on SHO2
Only You (94) at 5:20 am on ENCR
FEBRUARY 23
What's Your Number? (11) at 5 pm on MAX
A Good Year (06) at 6 pm on SUND
The Wedding Planner (01) at 7 pm on FAM
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (11) at 8 pm on SHO2
The Vow (12) at 10:45 pm on STARZ
Coyote Ugly (00) at Mid. on FAM
You've Got Mail (98) at 3 am on OWN
FEBRUARY 24
Laws of Attraction (04) at 4:40 pm on ENCR
Backyard Wedding (10) at 5 pm on HALL
The Wedding Planner (01) at 5:30 pm on FAM

Chasing Amy (97) at 6 pm on SHO2
Elevator Girl (10) at 7 pm on HALL
I Married Who? (12) at 9 pm on HALL
Brokeback Mountain (05) at 11 pm on TMC
Wristcutters: A Love Story (06) at 1:45 am on SUND
Laws of Attraction (04) at 2:40 am on ENCR
FEBRUARY 25
Touch of Pink (04) at 5:25 pm on HBO2
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (11) at 6 pm on SHOW
The Five-Year Engagement (12) at 2:35 am on HBO
The Girl Next Door (04) at 4:05 am on HBO2
Peter and Vandy (09) at 5:30 am on SHO2
FEBRUARY 26
New Year's Eve (11) at 7 pm on HBO
Something Borrowed (11) at 5:05 am on MAX
FEBRUARY 27
The Five-Year Engagement (12) at 11 pm on HBO2
Chasing Amy (97) at 11:10 pm on SHO2
White Palace (90) at 4:15 am on HBO2
Easy Virtue (08) at 5:50 am on ENCR
FEBRUARY 28
My Boss's Daughter (03) at 8 pm on ENCR
Love Actually (03) at 1:35 am on HBO
What's Your Number? (11) at 2:15 am on MAX
Waiting for Forever (10) at 4:45 am on TMC



Annie's Mailbox®

Dear Annie: I am honored to see citizens and patriots step forward to honor and support one of our nation's greatest assets, the American veteran.

Helping those who have given their mind, body and spirit in defense of our nation is woven into the fabric of our society.

From the Revolutionary War to the present, everyday people donate their time and expertise to help those who have served on the frontlines of freedom.

Our veterans reflect all that is good in our nation: honor, courage and commitment. The volunteers who serve and support our veterans bring that same measure of greatness to their mission each and every day.

Many of your readers join us each February in the National Salute to Veteran Patients.

This program encourages Americans to visit and volunteer at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and to send letters of thanks or valentines to those who have protected our nation. This year's National Salute is February 10-16.

Last year, more than 361,000 valentines were received at VA medical centers, and 21,904 people visited nearly 82,493 veteran patients.

We have had an increasing number of Americans participate in this program each year, and 2012 was no exception.

I thank you and your readers for your work in bringing attention to this worthy cause. Of special note, VA Voluntary Service recruited a total of 364 new volunteers during the week of the 2012 Valentines for Veterans Concert Series.

This is an outstanding testament to the ongoing support our veterans receive at the community level.

On behalf of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, I encourage your thoughtful readers again to take some time this February to honor our veterans. Annie, thank you for your support of this outstanding program.

For more information regarding the National Salute and volunteer opportunities at a local VA medical center, please visit VA's Voluntary Service web page at www.volunteer.va.gov. — Tommy S.



Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar

Sowers, Ph.D., Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Sowers: Every year, our readers make us proud with their outpouring of appreciation for our veterans through the Valentines for Vets program.

Our veterans deserve our thanks and appreciation. Sending a valentine or volunteering at one of the VA medi-

cal facilities is a wonderful way to express our gratitude to those who have served our country.

The veterans would be especially thrilled if you could spend a few minutes visiting and talking about their families and hometowns. Tell them how much you appreciate their service.

Teachers, you have always been wonderfully supportive in making this a class project, especially with those charming and much-appreciated handmade valentines. Encourage your students to express their creativity while learning the satisfaction of doing for others.

Every year, the dedicated members of Camp Fire USA participate in this VA program, and Salvation Army volunteers distribute valentines, gifts and refreshments at various VA facilities around the country.

Concerts and other programs are held across the country as part of the National Salute to Veteran Patients weeklong festivities.

If you do not live close enough to a VA facility to drop off your valentines in person, it's perfectly OK to

put them in the mail.

Simply check your phone book for the nearest VA facility, or go to the VA website at www.va.gov.

We can never repay these courageous veterans for the sacrifices they have made on our behalf, but we can take the time to let them know they have not been forgotten.

Please remember our veterans this Valentine's Day. We know of nothing else that costs so little and brings so much happiness. — Marcy and Kathy

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254.

To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Dear Margo

Dear Margo: My husband's mother passed away suddenly. She was in her 80s. His father died the previous year. My husband, "Dan," attended his father's funeral but chose not to attend his mother's. He wanted to remember her in his own way. He did not want his final memory of her to be the one in the casket. We live on the West Coast; the funerals were on the East Coast.



MARGO HOWARD

His three older sisters are angry and do not speak to him anymore over this. Everyone grieves in their own way. It makes me sad that his sisters are acting like this. They've called him every name in the book and dumped a big guilt trip on him. They all live on the East Coast, and we see them infrequently. My husband held his tongue to keep the peace when the girls stuck Mom in a home immediately after Dad died.

Was he wrong to not attend his mother's funeral? I think his sisters need to get over this. — Sad in Oregon

Dear Sad: I have a little history with this subject. When my mother died, some of her friends were mad at me because there was no circus, I mean, funeral. One relative even had the gall to go on television calling the absence of a funeral "a tragedy." Not only was this not my decision, it was my mother's, but I can think of no more personal choice than how to deal with death — your own or someone else's. Dan's response was useful for him, and I would be supportive. You might suggest he ignore the sisters until they dismount their high horses. And how nice that they live on the other coast. — Margo, personally

Dear Readers: Here are a few talk-back letters, something I have steered away from, but

now think may have value. Let me know what you think.

Dear Margo: You missed the boat with the mother whose son was freezing her out. She is one of millions of mothers who put their children at the center of their universe and then are shocked when the "child" turns out to be self-centered. She taught him that he deserved nothing but the best, and she would do without so he could have it. He internalized her message and found a woman who is materialistic. I'm not typically "blame everything on the mother," but in this case I think it is justified. She is still making excuses for a 40-something instead of holding him accountable. To value his mother is a lesson she never taught him. — My Two Cents

Dear Margo: You neglected one likely element in your response to the dad whose daughter is able-bodied but is being supported and chooses to nap and browse Facebook all day rather than working. She's probably suffering from depression. I urge people to keep this possibility in mind when critiquing inactivity and apparent laziness. The best support would be to help her find out whether she's prone to this debilitating condition, which can make simple tasks unbearably difficult, if not overwhelming. — Valerie

Dear Margo: You had a letter from a woman who was upset that her daughter's godmother hasn't been a good friend. Could it be that this woman has too many family celebrations, expecting others to travel too often and obligating them to cough up gifts? The letter writer mentions that her friend had to deal with "her mother's belongings and difficult family members," but without a drop of empathy or support for her friend's challenges. The woman sounds pretty narcissistic. — MZ

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In honor of School Board Recognition Month in Texas, Big Spring Independent School District officials presented plaques to trustees during their monthly meeting Thursday evening. Shown are, from left, BSISD Superintendent Steven Saldivar and trustees Chad Wash, Jeff Borman, Pat DeAnda, Tony Kennedy, Irene Rodriguez and Kenneth McIntosh. Not pictured is trustee Phil Furqueron.

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Are awards by gender out of touch?

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Do Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway and Helen Mirren really need a category just for women — a singular kind of affirmative action — to snare one of Hollywood's favorite accessories, an Oscar, Emmy or Screen Actors Guild trophy?

In a society tilting steadily toward gender neutrality, the separate-but-equal awards that divide actors into one camp and actresses into another have the whiff of a moldy anachronism.

True, the Association for Women in Science gives honors to encourage female success in male-dominated fields. But to mark enduring achievements, would its members ever yearn for a Women's Nobel Prize in physics?

In contests of intellect or artistry, should gender ever matter?

"It's not like it's upper body strength," Gloria Steinem dryly observed of the requirements of acting.

The separate labeling of male and female performers is losing favor in the industry. Actresses often swat the distinction away by calling themselves "actors," standing shoulder to shoulder with their male counterparts.

Usherettes are long gone from movie theater lobbies, after all. And defense officials said Wednesday the Pentagon will be lifting its ban on women in combat.

SAG, which holds its awards ceremony Sunday, edged toward gender neutrality with its trophy dubbed the Actor, although the guild gives separate honors to best performance by a male actor and by a female actor.

That cracks the door open, but only slightly. Fling it wide so that Daniel Day-Lewis' majestic performance in

"Lincoln" and Jessica Chastain's steely turn in "Zero Dark Thirty" vie for the grand prize!

"That's a great idea," said Mark Andrews, writer-director of the animated film "Brave." "At the end of the day, we're all storytellers, and I don't think when we're defining a character that the gender is the major defining factor."

In all other awards-eligible fields, including directing, writing or cinematography, everyone is "going for it," male and female alike, Andrews said.

That may be progress in theory for performers but not in practice, according to Sally Field, a SAG and Oscar best supporting actress nominee for "Lincoln."

"If you do that you won't see any actresses up there (on stage) at all," she said. "The percentage of roles is so weighted toward actors. That's the way it's always been."

Exactly, concurred Naomi Watts, "The Impossible" best actress SAG and Academy Award nominee.

"There's so much competition in life and I do think we are different," she said. "Yes, we should be able to have the same things as much as possible ... (but) life's a battle already and there's so many great roles written for men. Women are definitely at a disadvantage when it comes to volume."

Hathaway, in the running for SAG and Oscar supporting actress honors for "Les Misérables," considers the gender split "an awesome question worthy of an awesome debate."

"Can I conceive of a world where performance becomes a genderless concept? Absolutely. Do I think it's going to happen anytime soon? No," she said.

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