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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**FRIDAY**

**JANUARY 10, 2014**

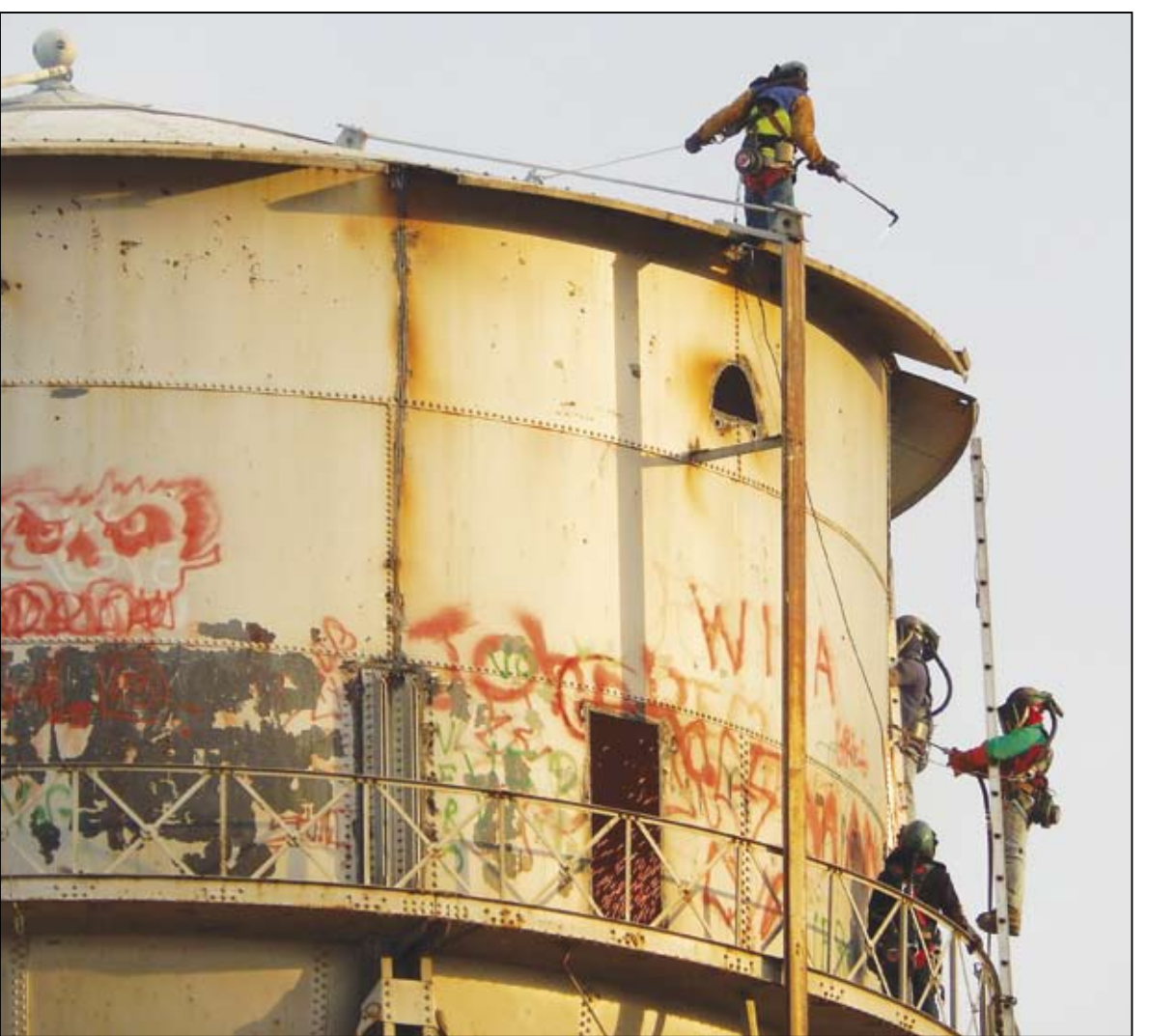


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HERALD photo/Andreia Medlin

Sparks were flying early this morning as welders worked on removing the top of the north side water tower in preparation for demolition. Removal of the tower was determined because it is no longer reparable.

# Sold out!

## Silver Wings Ball to take flight Saturday

By **LYNDEL MOODY**  
 Staff Writer

It's time to iron the tuxedo or pull out your best evening dress, but if you haven't already purchased tickets for the Hangar 25 Air Museum's annual Silver Wings Ball, you are out of luck.



Stockburger

According to Genevieve Stockburger, museum administrator, tickets for the event set for Saturday at the historic Hotel Settles are sold out, but those who have already made their purchase should have an en-

joyable evening.

"It's a formal event," Stockburger said. "You do get people in tuxedos, but it's not a requirement. I do have a few guys come in their (military) dress blues, and this year I have a couple coming from Oklahoma in their World War II reenactment attire."

The Silver Wings Ball will take flight at 6 p.m. in the upstairs ballroom with a cocktail hour, followed by dinner at 7 p.m. A live auction will begin at 8 p.m. and then dancing will take place in the hotel's mezzanine until late in the night with music

See **WINGS**, Page 3

# Raising, showing animals heightens family experience

By **LYNDEL MOODY**  
 Staff Writer

Young Sam King spent his

Thursday afternoon trying to make some obstinate pigs ready to shine at the Howard County Junior Livestock Show.

King is one of 143 area youths who've made the commitment to learn, raise, feed and eventually be willing to sell that farm animal for slaughter as part of a county educational agricultural program to teach young students about animal management.

"It takes a lot of work," said King, who lives in Coahoma and is a member of the 4H program which is under the leadership of Tommy Yeater, Howard County Agri-Life extension agent-agriculture. "I've learned more about what pigs are and how they act."

It's also been a family activity as much as a lesson in responsibly for King and his father, Jerald.

"He is learning responsibility and patience — what it takes to work with an animal that doesn't do what you want it to do," said Jerald. "He is learning patience and how to take care of something on his own. It's also about the experience he will have with his friends up here and when he goes to the major shows. He loves it, but it's a lot of work."



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

**Sam King of Coahoma works with his pig at the Howard County Junior Live Stock Show. The stock show ends Saturday with a luncheon at 12:30 p.m. followed by the premium auction at 1:30 p.m. The event is being held at the G.C. Broughton Ag Complex located on the Howard College campus.**

Sam King said he has been participating in stock shows for the past four years and last year earned reserve grand champion with his pig. He is showing five pigs this year.

"Every year up the family is learning to pick out pigs," Jerald said, remarking on how his son has progressed in the program. "He learned a lot."

And as for Jerald, the program has been a learning lesson as well as an opportunity to spend more

time with his children.

"I did stock shows once when I was in junior high," Jerald said. "My family wasn't that interested in it. I love it, and I get to do it with him. I have two daughters who do it also. We have a good time but what I love about it is I get to spend time doing it with my children. You can watch them throw a football on the football field but here you're clipping the animals and cutting them and taking care of them, walking them.

There's a lot more family time. We have a good time."

Following the end of the county show, Sam will be taking his project to the San Antonio Stock Show and at the end will say goodbye to the barrows he shows there. As part of the program, the students sell their animals at an auction where the they will be sent for slaughter.

This county livestock show, the area youths will receive

See **FAMILY**, Page 3



## INDEX

- Comics 13
- Classified 10-12
- Religion 6-8
- Obituaries 2
- Opinion 4
- Sports 9

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 Please call 263-7331.  
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## Obituaries

## Zirah LeFevre Bednar

Zirah LeFevre Bednar, 95, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014, in a nursing center in George West, Texas. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014, at 14th and Main Church of Christ, Big Spring with Rick Cunningham officiating. Interment will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park, Big Spring.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10, 2014, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Zirah Lea Patton was born Sept. 28, 1918, in Callahan County, Texas, to Wesley and Dessie Patton. She then moved to the Big Spring area and attended Moore School, graduating from Big Spring High School.

In 1937, she married Richard "Dick" LeFevre, with whom she had three children: LeRoy, and twins Jay and Zay. Her husband died in 1945, and she raised her children with the help of her parents. Her children all preceded her in death. In 1970, she married Edwin Bednar, who died in 2004.

She worked for the Big Spring Police Department as a dispatcher and also attended Howard College. She spent years working as a dress finisher with her mother who was a professional seamstress. In 1960, she ran for and was elected as the county tax collector/assessor for Howard County; she served in this capacity until 1980 when she retired to care for an aging parent.

Zirah was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Altrusa Group (Ladies Rotary), and served as chair of the Howard County Council on Aging for two years.

She was a member of the 14th and Main Church of Christ for approximately 85 years. She served for 15 years in the Cradle Roll department and also spent a lot of time helping in the church's kitchen. Her desire to walk daily with the Lord was a shining example to all.

Survivors include Michelle Dixon, granddaughter; Dianna LeFevre, granddaughter; Richard LeFevre, grandson; Jeffrey LeFevre, grandson; and Jennifer Bernal, granddaughter; 11 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister and brother; two husbands; her three sons; and one grandchild.

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

*Paid obituary*

## Lucia G. Manzanarez

Lucia G. Manzanarez, 83, of Big Spring died Tuesday at her residence. Vigil services will be 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be 10 a.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with Monsignor Bernard L. Gully officiating. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born June 25, 1930, in Big Spring to Juanita and Marcelino Gonzales. She grew up in Knott and spent most of her life in Howard County, except for 20 years in California. She worked for 15 years at the University of California at Irvine. She married Columbo Manzanarez in Santa Ana, Calif., on Nov. 4, 1965. He preceded her in death March 7, 2009. She was one of the first housekeepers at Mayo Ranch Motel.

She is survived by one son, Ray Sanchez Jr. of Big Spring; two daughters, Yolanda Martinez and husband Joe of Big Spring and Veronica Rodriguez and husband Rafael of Corona, Calif.; seven grandchildren, Mike Manzanarez, Juanita Lerma and Ismael Vargas of Big Spring, Joseph Martinez and wife Krystle of Colorado City, Eric Martinez, Nicolas Romero and Laura Romero, all of Big Spring; and two great-grandchildren Cassidy Martinez and Carlos Jose Vargas of Big Spring.

In addition to her parents and husband, she is preceded in death by four sisters, Rosalia Billalba, Florencia Franco, Basilicia Moran and Margaret Romero; and two brothers, Pablo Gonzales and Ascencion Gonzales.

Pallbearers are Mike Manzanarez, Ismael Vargas, Joseph Martinez, Eric Martinez, Nicolas Romero, Tommy Billalba, Gabriel Lopez and Edward Romero. Honorary pallbearers are Laura Romero, Cassidy Martinez and Carlos Jose Vargas.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home and Chapel. Please pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

*Paid obituary*

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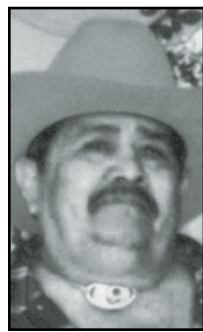
Sunday 11:00 a.m. Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.  
Service broadcast Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.  
over KBYG 1400 AM Evangelistic Service....6:00 p.m.  
on your dial Wednesday Service.....7:00p.m.



**Randy Cotton**  
Pastor

## Cosme A. Ramirez Sr.

Cosme A. Ramirez Sr., 74, of Big Spring died Jan. 8, 2014, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Vigil services will be 7 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be 2:30 p.m. Monday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with Deacon Johnny Arguello officiating. Burial will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.



He was born to Margarita and Pablo Ramirez in Big Spring on Sept. 7, 1939. He married Rosa Parra in June 1959 in Big Spring and was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. He was a self-employed contractor in Howard County. He was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

He is survived by his wife of more than 50 years, Rosa Torres of Big Spring; three sons, Cosme P. Ramirez Jr. and wife Julie, Julian P. Ramirez and wife Gloria and John Paul P. Ramirez and wife Ann Marie, all of Big Spring; two daughters, Presilia B. "Prissy" Rodriguez and husband Raymon Sr. and Marisa Flores, also of Big Spring; 25 grandchildren; 45 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his daughter, Cruz R. Miramontes, one sister, Juanita Marquez; one brother, Pable Ramirez Jr.; one grandchild; and two great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home and Chapel. Please pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

## Marcelo L. Torres

Marcelo L. Torres, 93, of Abilene, formerly of Coahoma died Thursday, Jan. 9, 2014, in Abilene. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Police blotter

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

- DANIELLE TERICE JONES, 29, of 408 W Fifth St., was arrested on a warrant for unlawful dog or cat tethering.
- SYLVIA YVETTE HINOJOS, 22, of 100 NW Third St., was arrested on a warrant for driving while license invalid.
- JOSE MANUEL JIMENEZ, 18, of 301 NW 10<sup>th</sup> ST., was arrested on a warrant for another agency.
- MIKE GONZALES MANZANAREZ, 31, of 8506 S. Service Road, was arrested on warrants from other agencies.
- LEONA JENE RADASA, 32, of 1425 E. Sixth St. 28, was arrested on a charge of harassment of a public servant and public intoxication with prior convictions.
- NATASHA JUDY LOYA, 25, of 1904 Wasson Road 56 was arrested on charge of possession of marijuana, less than two ounce sin a drug free zone and of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1700 block of Ownes St.
- DISTURBANCE was reported in the 300 block of NW 10<sup>th</sup> St and the 300 block of E. 24<sup>th</sup> St.
- UNWANTED SUBJECT was reported in the 500 block of Young St. and the 1200 block of E. 11<sup>th</sup> Place.
- BURLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 2600 block of S. Monticello St.
- BURLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 1500 block of W. 4<sup>th</sup> St.

## Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 64 inmates at the time of this report.

- JERRY REYES VARGAS was booked by HCSO for sentencing on a motion to revoke probation on

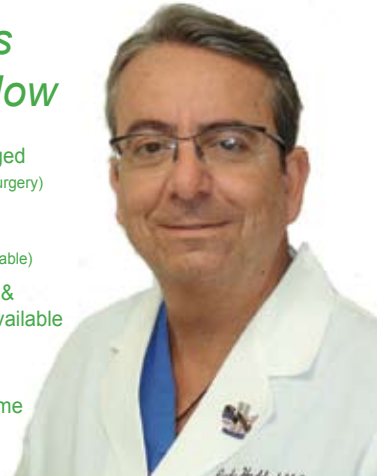
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220755

## Today's Weather

## Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 1/10	Sat 1/11	Sun 1/12	Mon 1/13	Tue 1/14
<b>67/36</b> Morning clouds will give way to sunshine for the afternoon. High 67F.	<b>62/43</b> Sunshine. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.	<b>74/36</b> Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 30s.	<b>61/36</b> Sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	<b>66/36</b> Sunshine. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 30s.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:48 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 6:00 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:48 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 6:00 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:48 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 6:01 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:48 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 6:02 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:47 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 6:03 PM

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a charge of forgery of a financial instrument.

• TONYA RENEA COGBURN was booked by HCSO on a charge of issuance of a bad check and on a motion to revoke probation for possession of a controlled substance 3 greater than or equal to 28 grams but less than or equal to 200 grams.

• JOSE MANUEL JIMENEZ was booked by BSPD on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia and minor in consumption of alcoholic beverage.

• DANIELLE TERICE JONES was booked by BSPD on a charge of unlawful dog or cat tethering.

• SYLVIA YVETTE HINOJOS was booked by BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• MIKE GONZALES MANZANAREZ was booked by BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid and violate promise to appear.

• NATASHA JUDY LOYA was booked by BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana less than or equal to 2 ounces in a drug free zone and possession of drug paraphernalia.

• LEONA JEAN RADASA was booked by BSPD on charges of harassment of public servant and public and public intoxication with three prior convictions.

## Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL call reported at the 800 block of Lorilla. One patient transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- TRAUMA reported at the 4100 block of Parkway. No transport.
- MEDICAL call reported at the 400 block of Runnels. One patient transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL call reported at the 1400 block of Oriole. One patient transported to SMMC.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

January 11th  
**Hangar 25 Air Museum presents the Silver Wings Ball:**  
Hotel Settles.  
Contact: **432-264-1999**  
or  
**hangar25@crcom.net**

January 25th  
**12th Annual Children-in-Need Chili Cook Off.**  
Contact: **Amy Vidal at 432-263-0007**

February 3rd  
**Chamber Annual Meeting:**  
Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.  
Contact: **Debbye ValVerde at 432-263-7641**

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Contact the Herald  
at 263-7331 or  
**news@bigspringherald.com**

## Take Note

• Spring of Siloam Christian Women's Job Corps offers 12 weeks of job training for women seeking employment or better employment. We provide computer training, resume preparation, and interview skills in a Christian setting. We also have a free certified nurses aide training program. The next session starts Feb. 3. Applications are being accepted now.

For more information or to get an application, call 432-517-4627.

• Big Spring RSVP is celebrating the 2014 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service through Jan. 20 by coordinating a local book drive benefitting the children of West, Texas. RSVP volunteers will collect new or gently used children's books at the Big Spring Se-

nior Center, 1901 Simler Avenue from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• The Big Spring Pow Wow Committee reminds those interested whether you are a Native American or interested in Native American culture and would like to be a part of the 10th anniversary of the Big Spring Pow Wow, you are invited. For more in-

formation, call Richard Lesser at 432-935-0125 or Randy McKinney at 432-267-4843.

• The Big Spring State Hospital Community Relations office is accepting donations of magazines. They should be brought to the Community Relations office on campus. For more info, call Jamey Stegall at 268-7535.

## 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 517-4922 or 935-6306.

• Circle of Hope, a Celebrate Recovery group, meets at 6:30-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship, located in the College Park Shopping Cen-

ter. 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.

• Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Baptist Temple Church Fellowship Hall, 400 E. 11th Place. Open meeting at 7 p.m.

### 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 Dis-

ease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.

• Special Parents for Special Children support group meets the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Elbow Elementary. Contact Kerri Rosenbaum at 432-816-3320 or kerrirosenbaum9488@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

• "A Journey to a New Normal," a grief support network, meets from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at 602 S. Main. For information, call 263-5999.

• 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.

### THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

• Circle of Hope, a Cel-

brate 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. For more convenient access to the meeting room, park in the back of the church and enter through the metal door across from the fellowship hall. If you need more information, contact the church secretary at 432-264-0015.

• Visual Awareness Support Group (VASG) is open to the public but specifically aimed for people who suffer from vision problems and their caregivers. For more information, call 263-2501.

• Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Baptist Temple Church Fellowship Hall, 400 E. 11th Place. Open meeting at 7 p.m.

### FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

### SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

### SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

## FAMILY

Continued from Page 1

their projects back as local businesses who

participate in the premium auction are in reality giving a donation to help support the program.

The Howard County

Junior Livestock Show wraps up Saturday with a luncheon at 12:30 p.m., followed by the premium auction at 1:30 p.m. The stock show is

held at the G.C. Broughton Ag Complex on the Howard College campus between the east side of Memorial Stadium and the west side of Founda-

tion Softball Field.

Contact Lyndel Moody at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com) or by 263-7331, ext 234

## WINGS

Continued from Page 1

provided by PJ the DJ. "Since we were an historical Air Force Base, we try to do a little bit of period music but as the evening progresses, the more modern the music gets," Stockburger said. Silver Wings is the largest fund-raiser for the local museum, providing nearly one-third of its budget, Stockburger said.

"The money we raise from the Silver Wings Ball goes toward supporting the museum as a whole," she said. "It

goes to our education programming, our veterans programming, maintaining the buildings and the exhibits and our airplanes and creating new exhibits. It is one of my favorite events because you get to dress up. We've had some pretty good donors sponsor us for this event. I'm very excited about it."

Hangar 25 is located on the old Webb Air Force Base in a fully restored World War II era hangar. Its mission is to promote education through the collection, preserva-

tion and exhibition of the history of the Big Spring Army Air Force Bombardier School and Webb Air Force Base. It houses several restored military planes.

Red Barn Studio will be on hand to take por-

traits of the attendees. Tickets for an opportunity to pocket a night's stay at the Hotel Settles are still available for \$10 or six for \$50. For more information, call the museum at 264-1999. Hangar 25 Air Mu-

seum is located at 1911 Apron Dr., Big Spring. Its website is [www.hangar25airmuseum.com](http://www.hangar25airmuseum.com)

Contact Lyndel Moody at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com) or by 263-7331, ext. 234

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Digital  
Fri.: 3:45 9:45  
Sat.: 3:45 9:45

**Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (R)** Digital  
Fri.: 4:30 7:15 10:30  
Sat.: 1:30 4:30 7:15 10:30

**Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG-13)** Digital  
Fri.: 4:00 7:00 10:10  
Sat.: 1:30 4:00 7:00 10:10

**Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13)** Digital  
Fri.: 4:15 7:30 10:25  
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1	3	9	7	5	2	6	8	4
5	6	8	4	1	3	2	7	9
7	4	2	9	6	8	3	1	5
8	7	6	2	9	1	5	4	3
2	1	3	6	4	5	8	9	7
4	9	5	3	8	7	1	2	6
3	2	4	8	7	6	9	5	1
9	8	1	5	3	4	7	6	2
6	5	7	1	2	9	4	3	8

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Larry Bohannon, 64, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Christopher Puga, 41, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Lucia G. Manzanarez, 83, died Tuesday. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Cosme Ramirez, 74, died Wednesday. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 2:30 p.m. Monday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Marcelo L. Torres, 93, Thursday. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Coahoma Cemetery.

# Opinion

## She's just one of seventy

*"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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My cousin Ben, may he rest in peace, told me years ago that he was having terrible dreams about his house going up in flames, and the firefighter is there but can't save him because she's a woman. As the feminist lawyer in the family, I was surely to blame.

He needn't have worried.

The Los Angeles Fire Department began training its first class of recruits in five years — 70 in all, 69 men and one woman. Sixty percent of the recruit class is white, compared to 29 percent of the city. Overall, the department has been 3 percent female since 1995.

Why only one woman in the new class? Three percent is tough to beat in terms of considering diversity, but this year's recruiting effort managed to "beat" it at 1.5 percent.

Mayor Eric Garcetti is calling the results unacceptable, but the truth is, we've been accepting them for years. For all of my uncle's worries, women have not "taken over" the fire department, and Los Angeles is hardly

unique in lacking diversity.

But here's the irony. I don't know whether my uncle and aunt ever had occasion to call on the fire department, but my guess is, dollars to donuts, it was not to be carried out of a burning building (I would have heard about something like that), but because of a health emergency. The latest numbers for Los Angeles are that 85 percent of the calls are for medical care. So that petite gal that my cousin was worried about? All that matters is how skilled she is, not how tall.

There are all kinds of answers for why the numbers are what they are.

Fire stations are notoriously "rowdy," which is a nice word for prone to be the subject of harassment suits. And even when those suits are successful — and they certainly have been over the years and not only in Los Angeles — you are still left with all of the problems that come with joining a group that has topped out at 3 percent. So if you want the women you have to stay and new women to come, you have to engage in all kinds of affirmative action both to get them there and to support and promote them once they are there.

And even then, you probably won't get to 50-50.

Peek into a nursery school classroom anywhere you want, and you're likely to see what I noticed for the first time when my kids were little. It didn't matter what we parents said or did. The kids divided themselves. The boys wore the fire helmets.

Twenty years later, way more boys than girls are applying to be firefighters.

I don't think being a firefighter is "better" than other jobs girls may want to pursue. I have great admiration and appreciation for firefighters, but I don't remember a single day of my life when I imagined myself doing the job. Too scary for me.

At the end of the day, equality isn't a numbers game. I don't expect LAFD to ever be 50-50. But if you don't pay attention to numbers along the road to real equality, you're going to miss out on talent without even knowing it. You don't get the best fire department, or the best of anything, by effectively excluding half of the population from the pool.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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## Immigration reform a nightmare?

The pundits are already telling us that 2014 is most definitely the year for comprehensive immigration reform, as if they had not said the same thing about 2013, and a few of the years preceding.

Are we to believe that legislation Congress has been unable to pass in recent years will somehow jump over all of its hurdles in a year of midterm elections — at a time when many conservative politicians will be seeking office in gerrymandered districts where bashing on immigrants is politically expedient?

Are we to believe that House Speaker John Boehner, after demonstrating a trace of courage by taking on the conservative extremists in his party over the federal budget, would now find the cojones to defend comprehensive immigration reform and risk sparking a divisive feud within the Republican Party?

In other words, are to believe in dreams and fairy tales?

Mark my words: If we get immigration reform before the midterm elections, it will not be comprehensive. It could come in the form of a series of measures designed to make illegal entry even more difficult. It could even include some leniency for the so-called Dreamers, who entered the U.S. as children.

But it would not include a path to citizenship for the rest of the

11 million undocumented immigrants already living among us. There is no way conservative extremists would allow granting what they call "amnesty" in a midterm election year — not without throwing racist-bordering tantrums that would further alienate the Republican Party from Latino voters.

There is no way Boehner could get them to shut up!

Nevertheless, the eternal immigration reform optimists believe that any measure passed by the House of Representatives — even if mostly anti-immigrant — could still be reconciled with the bill already passed by the Senate, and believe a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants is a possibility.

And they are dreaming! Unfortunately, if Boehner moves forward with some sort of House immigration bill, it's not likely to be reconcilable with the Senate's. Even worse, it could end up giving the Senate and President Barack Obama the ultimatum to accept severely weakened reforms that could be worse than taking no action at all.

What happens if Republicans offer to accept a path to citizenship but only for the Dreamers? What if they propose to halt deportations and allow the other undocumented immigrants to stay and work here as second-class citizens without a path to citizenship?

Could they convince the president and Senate that something is better than nothing? And if they do, won't that delay real comprehensive reform for many more years?

Let's face it: As long as Republicans can keep undocumented immigrants from voting, and giving immigrant-bashing zealots the paycheck they deserve, the GOP probably would be willing to accept a legalization-without-naturalization program.

And sadly, this is the way we could be headed if immigration reform is sought in Congress before the midterm elections. The remedy could be worse than the illness!

Because Obama and Democrats in Congress are desperate to deliver on their many broken promises to reform immigration, they could end up accepting a terribly bad deal and pretending they did well.

However, after the elections — if all the stars are lined up correctly, if a few immigrant bashers are defeated, if Republicans finally recognize they need the Latino vote to get to the White House in 2016 and if a dozen other issues have not (as usual) become higher priorities in Washington, then perhaps immigration reform could truly be comprehensive, compassionate and fair.

But that is the only clear window of opportunity for true immigration reform this year. I can dream, too, can't I?

Yet going through that window before November could prove to be more harmful to immigrants than beneficial. It could be a nightmare!

To find out more about Miguel Perez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

### 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](mailto: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.
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- 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](mailto:editor@bigspringherald.com) or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

### DAILY PRAYER

Thank you, dear Lord, for the bread on our table and the warmth in our heart.

Amen



SUSAN  
ESTRICH



MIGUEL  
PEREZ

# Food industry cuts calories four-fold over pledge

By **MARY CLARE JALONICK**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some of the nation's largest food companies have cut daily calorie counts by an average of 78 per person, a new study says, more than four times the amount the industry pledged to slash by next year.

The study sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found that between 2007 and 2012, the estimated total cut in food product calories from a group of 16 major food companies was in the range of 6.4 trillion.

Seventy-eight calories would be about the same as an average cookie or a medium apple, and the federal government estimates an average daily diet at around 2,000 calories. The study said the calories cut averaged out to 78 calories per day for the entire U.S. population.

The 2010 pledge taken by the companies — including General Mills Inc., Campbell Soup Co., ConAgra Foods Inc., Kraft Foods Inc., Kellogg Co., Coca-Cola Co., PepsiCo Inc. and Hershey Co. — was to cut 1 trillion calories by 2012 and 1.5 trillion calories by 2015.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation signed on to hold the companies accountable, and that group hired researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to painstakingly count the calories in almost every single packaged item in the grocery store. To do that, the UNC researchers used the store-based scanner data of hundreds of thousands of foods, commercial databases and nutrition facts panels to calculate exactly how many calories the companies were selling.

The researchers aren't yet releasing the entire study, but they said Thursday that

the companies have exceeded their own goals by a wide margin.

Dr. James Marks, director of the Health Group at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, said the group is pleased with the results but the companies "must sustain that reduction, as they've pledged to do, and other food companies should follow their lead."

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is a nonpartisan philanthropic and research organization that works to improve the nation's health.

Even though the companies that made the commitment represent most of the nation's most well-known food companies, they sold only a little more than a third of all packaged foods and beverages at the beginning of the study. Missing are many off-label brands sold under the names of retailers, and it's unknown whether those products have changed.

It is also unclear how the reduction in calories translates into consumers' diets. When the companies made the pledge in 2010, they said one way they would try and reduce calories would be to change portion sizes in an attempt to persuade consumers to eat less. The companies also said that they would develop new lower-calorie options and change existing products so they have fewer calories.

Evidence of those efforts are visible on any grocery store shelf. Many products now come in lower calorie versions, are baked instead of fried, or sold in miniature as well as larger versions.

Marks says he believes that companies' efforts to package smaller servings — 100 calorie packs of popular snacks, for example — and smaller cans of sugary drinks may have contributed to the reduction in calories. He says the



Courtesy photo

main contributors most likely were the public's increasing willingness to buy healthier foods and companies responding to those consumers.

The companies involved are all part of an industry coalition of food businesses called the Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation that has organized to help reduce obesity. The foundation pledged to reduce the calories as part of an agreement with a group of non-profit organizations and made the 2010 announcement as part of first lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move campaign to combat childhood obesity.

To meet the commitment, the companies took a variety of approaches. In a statement Thursday, Coca-Cola said it had

introduced more than 100 no-calorie and low-calorie beverages in the last seven years and had introduced mini-cans of many of its products. Kraft said it had changed recipes to lower sugars in Capri Sun juice drinks and Kraft barbecue sauce.

Lisa Gable of the Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation says the study's findings "exceeded our expectations."

She said the companies achieved the goal by coming together and also competing to make new lower-calorie foods. Market studies have shown that many of the healthier foods have outperformed other products, she said.

"This is a very significant shift in the marketplace," Gable said.

Nutrition advocate Margo Wootan of the Center for Science in the Public Interest agrees that there has been a shift, but she says it is too soon to know how much cred-

it the food companies can take.

"It's hard to know how much of this is due to proactive efforts by the food and beverage industry as opposed to heightened concern by the American public about obesity and nutrition," Wootan said. Also, she noted that food sales were down in general as the economy stumbled, and that could be a factor in the lower numbers as well.

Still, she said the 78 calorie drop is good news.

"From a public health standpoint that's meaningful," she said.

Associated Press writer Candice Choi in New York contributed to this report.

Follow Mary Clare Jalonick on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/mcjalonick>



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## ► Church News

### Spring Creek Fellowship

New Connection Groups have begun! Take a look at our website to see all the information needed to decide on the class you want to join.

Our food teams are back and ready to provide wonderful meals for us on Wednesday evenings at 5:30. Adult Bible Study, Youth, Boy Scouts and children's activities start at 6:15.

"Free Indeed" is collecting sleeping bags, socks, toboggans, scarves, and gloves for the homeless. Bring them the church or contact the church office to drop these off.

"Wired That Way" classes are scheduled for Wednesday evenings at 6. Call the office at 714-4584 or email to [allaboutstring@gmail.com](mailto:allaboutstring@gmail.com) to enroll.

Our SCF Prayer Team meets every Tuesday from noon to 2 at Spring Town Plaza. Everyone is welcome.

Big Spring Classical Academy classes are back in session. Classes include Pre-K thru 5th grade. Visit our [www.springcreekfellowship.org](http://www.springcreekfellowship.org)

You can now listen to the sermon from the previous Sunday at 9 a.m. every Sunday on KBYG 106.3 FM and 1400 AM.

#### Weekly Happenings:

**Sunday**  
9:15 a.m., Sunday school/Connection Groups  
10:15 a.m., "Holy Grounds Café" is open with snacks and fellowship  
10:45 a.m., Worship Service

**Wednesday**  
6 p.m., Bible study and activities for all ages

**Saturday**  
7:30 a.m., Weekly Men's Prayer Breakfast  
10 a.m., "Sewing Seeds of Hope" Crafting fellowship

If you would like any further information regarding any of our ministries or events, contact the church office or visit our website.

Spring Creek Fellowship meets at the College Park Shopping Center at 501 Birdwell Lane in Big Spring, Texas. Contact us at 432-714-4584 or visit our website at [www.springcreekfellowship.org](http://www.springcreekfellowship.org) "Every Member a Minister"-1 Peter 4:10 NKJV

### Non-denominational Sabbath Fellowship

Meeting at 809 Scurry, Saturday morning, 10 until 11.

The holidays are behind us. The new year has begun. Resolutions have been made (and some already forgotten). Did you make any promises to get to know God better this year? If not, why not?

We have a few short years here to prepare for eternity. Are we making the most of those years? God says in His word, "Come, let us reason together."

God wants to discuss your life with you. He extends an invitation to approach Him, get to know Him, and He promises you a life that measures with His life if you will ask Him.

Come study with us. We have very lively discussions and we know His presence is with us as we do. Won't you join us?

Remember, what man says is unimportant; what God says is vital.

Bob and Marla Rainwater, moderators. 432-264-9937

### First Presbyterian Church

The Children's Choir Program begins at 4:20 p.m. Wednesday. Also on Wednesdays, the Lectionary Bible Study, led by Craig Holstedt and Tom Koger, meets at 5:17 p.m., and Chancel Choir rehearsal is at 6 p.m.

Ushers for January are Lynn and Helen Glass and Don and Charlie Boling.

The Session will have its annual planning meet-

# Beware of rocking chairs

**A**nxiety, that tight-as-a-fiddle-string emotion that plagues all of us, often sets our teeth on edge. I don't know exactly when anxiety first came into play, but I suppose it has been around since the days of Adam and Eve. I suspect that when sin entered the world, anxiety came with it, tagging along like a younger sibling.

At some point, perhaps hundreds of years ago, someone started describing anxiety. Language, as it often does, has preserved the best descriptions. Thus the phrase "as nervous as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs" has survived as a clear, concise picture of anxiety.

Like a cat in a room full of rocking chairs, we would all do well to be aware of our sur-

roundings. Maybe we would do well to stay away from rockers or to rearrange our furniture. But avoiding stress completely is never a realistic option.

Even the coolest of cucumbers has to admit that there are times when life seems out of control. We get bombarded with problems that have no easy solutions. Stress mounts up. The simple becomes complex. Answers evade us. Frustration grows. Anxiety explodes, robbing each day of its happiness. The late Charles Spurgeon, remembered for his great preaching skills and Christian literary works, seems to have understood the problem of anxiety in our lives. He wrote, "Anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strength."

If we could only worry enough to remove all of tomorrow's problems, most of us would wring our hands and grit our teeth until the slate was cleared. The truth is, however, that anxiety doesn't erase trouble.

It doesn't even prevent any of the possible calamities that may come our way tomorrow or the next day.

The apostle Paul also seemed to have understood the problem of anxiety. He admonished his readers, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7-8 NASB).

Sometimes we find ourselves living in precarious situations. We feel as uneasy as long-tailed cats in a room full of rocking chairs. Our best option, however, is not panic but prayer. Casting our anxiety on God always yields peace beyond our ability to understand.

*Bonnie Wheat is a minister's wife and an author. She can be contacted at [brwheat@suddenlink.net](mailto:brwheat@suddenlink.net).*



BONNIE  
WHEAT

ing Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

Christine Boling is in charge of refreshments for "Take Ten" for Sunday.

Lectionary for the Sunday of the Baptism of the Lord is Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17. The Rev. Craig Holstedt will deliver the sermon. The Chancel Choir will offer "Thee We Adore," by Fredrick Candlyn as the offertory anthem. We will celebrate Communion and ordain and install the new elders for this year. The new elders will be communion servers. We will receive a special offering for the Marion Medical Mission, which builds shallow wells in villages in Africa.

Our worship service begins at 10:50 a.m. for announcements and parish concerns before our radio broadcast at 11.

If you cannot attend worship, listen in on KBST 1490 AM, beginning at 11 a.m. If you wish to have a printed bulletin for the service, call the church office at 263-4211. You may also see what's happening at the church by visiting our website: [www.bpchs.org](http://www.bpchs.org) There, you can find a link that will enable you to listen to several recent sermons by the Rev. Holstedt.

### First Church of the Nazarene

Happy New Year Big Spring! Are you looking for a new beginning in this new year? Let God in and see what kind of new beginning he can give. We hope you will join us. Many exciting things are happening.

Dr. Chic Shaver will be here Feb. 2-5 for revival services. Join us Sunday, Feb. 2 at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., then the 3rd through the 5th at 6:30 p.m.

MTV is back at 6:30 p.m. for the youth on Wednesdays. THRIVE for college and career seeking young adults with Colter Morgan happens Thursdays at 8 p.m. in the commons area. Ladies' Bible Study is every Sunday at 4:30 pm. And Prime Time Fellowship is the first Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Looking for lunch plans? Wednesday at noon bring your lunch for class with Leonard.

You are also welcome to join us for all of our other services and classes:

Sunday service at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Sunday morning youth and children's classes at

## Sudoku Answer on Page 3

# 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.

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

[www.sudoku-puzzles.net](http://www.sudoku-puzzles.net)

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### Bidding Quiz

**You are South** and have the following hand:  
♠KQ10942 ♥9♦KQJ3♣A7

- Partner opens One Club**, you bid One Spade, and partner bids Two Spades. What would you bid now?
- East bids One Club**, you overcall with One Spade, and your partner bids One Notrump. What would you bid now?
- Partner opens One Heart**, you respond One Spade, and partner bids Two Hearts. What would you bid now?

\*\*\*

- Four notrump.** A small slam is nearly certain — about all you need from partner are two aces and a king. In fact, there is even the possibility of a grand slam — if partner has three aces and a king — and Blackwood is the ideal way to find out what you need to know.  
If partner responds five diamonds, showing one ace, you sign off at five spades; if he bids five hearts, showing two aces, you bid six spades. If he bids five spades, showing three aces, you next bid five notrump, asking about kings. Although it is unlikely partner could have a king since he didn't open one notrump or jump to three spades at his second turn, it doesn't hurt to ask; should he

happen to bid six diamonds, showing one king, you can confidently bid a grand slam.

- Four spades.** Partner was not obliged to respond to your overcall, and by doing so he evinced a mild interest in game. Since you have an exceptionally sound overcall, you should conclude that game is very likely. It would be wrong to hedge by bidding three spades, which partner might pass. Nor is there any advantage in bidding diamonds, since you don't want to play in that suit.  
High-card point count takes a back seat in hands of this type. It is true that you have only 15 points in high cards, but that would not be the right way to evaluate your hand. Contracts are made by tricks, not points, and in this case it is hard to imagine losing more than three tricks after partner voluntarily bids one notrump.
- Three diamonds.** With an opening bid opposite partner's opening bid, you must make a forcing bid at this point. In view of partner's minimum rebid, slam is not likely, though still possible, but for the moment the problem is to find the best game contract. Three diamonds leaves room for all kinds of exploratory sequences at a safe level. What you do next will depend on partner's response to three diamonds.

**Tomorrow:** Doubleheader.  
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9.

Sunday morning children's church at 10 in the fellowship hall.

Sunday evening youth activities at 6:30.

Tuesday night prayer at 6:30 in the sanctuary.

Wednesday evening classes for all ages at 6:30.

Unable to come to church on Sunday morning? Listen to KBST 95.7 at 10 a.m. and you can hear a live broadcast of our service. You can also view streaming footage inside the sanctuary by going to our webpage at [www.nazfamily.org](http://www.nazfamily.org)

First Church of the Nazarene is located at 1400 Lancaster. For more information, contact the church office at 267-7015. You can visit us on the web. We are also on Facebook and Twitter.

### First Baptist Church

Have you made a decision that 2014 is the year you'll get involved in church or return to church? First Baptist Church invites you to come Sunday and be a part of our growing congregation. Small group Sunday school classes meet at 9:30 and there are classes available for all age groups and life stages. Morning worship service begins at 10:50; Pastor Mark Lindsey continues the sermon series "Disciple: To Be a Real Follower of Jesus." Drawn from John 15:5, the focus of the series is being a disciple through surrender to Christ.

Children start each Sunday morning at 9:30 in the Good News Garage for a time of praise and worship before breaking off into small groups. The Gospel Project literature for kids is a refreshing way to bring the Bible into the lives of these youngsters, and has been enthusiastically received.

Meeting at 5:30 is AWANA, a powerful and fun scripture memory program for children K-6th grade. This Sunday is "Bring a Friend" night.

Teenagers meet in the second floor Youth Department at 9:30 for Sunday School groups, and at 6 for Bible study and fellowship led by Youth Pastor Jonathan Raffini.

On Wednesday evenings at 6, the youth are beginning a Bible study on the book of Philippians.

Upward Basketball is underway. Go to [fcbigspring.org](http://fcbigspring.org) for a complete game schedule. Come and cheer on these young athletes.

FBC Mother's Day Out program has now begun the spring session. There are a few openings available; contact Tracy Boeker at [tboeker90@gmail.com](mailto:tboeker90@gmail.com) or call 267-8223 for more information.

Wednesday evenings begin with a meal served from 5-6 in the Family Life Center. Come join us Jan.15 for carne guisada. Activities follow for children, youth and adults. Go to [fcbigspring.org](http://fcbigspring.org) for details or call 267-8223.

If you have questions about God and His place in your life or need a word of encouragement, FBC invites you to call or stop by and someone will be glad to listen, pray with you and talk with you about Jesus Christ, who makes all things new. FBC is located at 705 W. FM 700. There is always a place for you at First Baptist Church.

### Forsan Baptist Church

We have begun a new message series on Sunday mornings called "Coping with Change." These topics will deal with decisions, loss, trials and major life changes. This Sunday, our message is called, "Safe in the Storm."

On Sunday evenings we are going through the DVD-based study called "The Story." It is a wonderful 31-week study with a participant guide and open questions. On Wednesdays we are in the midst of a verse-by-verse trek through the Old Testament.

Youth activities on Wednesday evenings include a meal at 5:30 and classes for all ages beginning at 6. We have Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, Mission Friends, CHAOS (Christ Has All Our Answers) youth and even an adult Bible study.

Our church is located at 201 Main in Forsan. Sunday school begins at 9:50, with worship services at

See CHURCH NEWS, Page 7



**CHURCH NEWS**

Continued from Page 6

10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday services begin at 6 p.m. Rides for all youth activities are available if arranged ahead of time. Call the church at 432-457-2342 or Pastor Darren Weaver at 432-213-2348.

**First United Methodist Church**

First United Methodist Church is located just off Gregg Street at the corner of Fourth and Scurry in downtown Big Spring. Classic Worship gathers at 8:30 a.m. and Family Worship is at 10:50 a.m. Both services meet in the sanctuary. Sunday school for all ages meets at 9:45 a.m. A nursery is provided at all times. The Family Service can be heard each Sunday morning on KXCS - 105.5 FM.

This Sunday, Pastor Bill Ivins will be sharing a message entitled "Why People Need Jesus." The message is taken from II Thessalonians 1:3-12. During the 10:50 a.m. worship celebration, the Celebration Choir will sing "Lord Most High" by Gary Sadler and "This Is the Day" by Cindy Berry.

This Sunday, children in pre-school through 2nd grade will continue a series called "Altitude." In this series, the preschool and kindergarten class will learn lessons from the Bible that happened on mountains. This Sunday's lesson is entitled "I Will Obey God's Rules!"

The 1st and 2nd grade class will be learning lessons from the Beatitudes in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. This Sunday's lesson is taken from Matthew 21:12-17, John cleanses the Temple. This week's Main Point is "As A Follower of Christ, I Will Stand Up for What is Right!"

Older children in grades 3, 4, and 5 will continue a series called "The Book." The lesson for this week is entitled "How Do I Understand the Bible".

For the New Year, Children's Church will be studying the series "Knowing Jesus". Our focus is to make Jesus REAL to our children. This Sunday's lesson is entitled "Jesus is Immanuel". Children's Church is held during the 10:50 AM worship service only for children 4 years old through 5th grade. A nursery is available for children 3 and younger during the Sunday School hour and 10:50 worship service.

First United Methodist Church is building its life around three focal points — compassion, hope and community. During 2013, our major emphasis was on becoming a more compassionate church.

Food2Kids was launched in response to that emphasis. More than 70 percent of children in the Big Spring School District are on the free and reduced lunch program. Many of those children have little or no food when they are away from school on weekends and holidays.

Food2Kids was launched by First United Methodist Church in order to provide food to that smaller group of kids. We began a pilot project at Goliad Elementary School last fall and will expand the program to Marcy Elementary School during January.

During 2014, however, the congregation will shift its focus to hope. Our theme throughout the year is "Experience Christ — Experience Hope." Our congregation emphasis throughout the year will be offering the hope of the Gospel to those who don't know Christ as Savior and Lord.

To launch that emphasis, First United Methodist Church is hosting Dr. Bob Farr on Saturday, Jan. 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dr. Farr is the director of congregational excellence for the Missouri Region of the United Methodist Church. His teaching will focus on providing practical skills for reaching out beyond the walls of the church.

The teaching sessions will be in the Partee Youth Building. Lunch will be served in Garrett Hall at noon. The cost of the event for church members is \$10; childcare will be provided by reservation only.

For more information on any activity at First United Methodist Church, visit our website at [fumcbs.com](http://fumcbs.com) or phone the church office at 432-267-6394.

**Veterans family receives check from local fund**

**Herald Staff Report**

The Veterans Families Fund recently presented a \$500 check to the Navy MA E3 Dayvion Young family.

Writes his wife, Tahlea — "We have two beautiful children named Jaylen, who is 3 and

Jordynn, who is 2. We married May 25, 2013, at Cornerstone Covenant Church in Big Spring. My husband is a MA, his rank is E3, and he is currently stationed in Kingsbay, Ga."

The Veterans Families Fund uses money donated by Big Spring

area residents and businesspersons to show appreciation to the sacrifices made by veterans and their families.

"Thank you, Big Spring area, for giving this money. You know the veterans and their families appreciate the check," said J.Gale

Kilgore, fund administrator.

Donations to the fund are always appreciated. Those interested should make their donations to Wood Forest National Bank, Veterans Families, Account 5901848, 201 W. Marcy Drive, Big Spring, Texas 79721.

**Only man is endowed with the gift of prayer**

It is often our last resort, the final step in a hopeless situation. We refer to it with such phrases as "he doesn't have a prayer,"

or "there is nothing left to do but pray." But it is perhaps the most important and distinguishing characteristic of our humanity.



**BILL TINSLEY**

No other creature prays. We share many attributes with the animal kingdom, including instincts for hunger, reproduction and survival. All animals provide care and nurture for their young. Some construct elaborate shelters whether nests, caves, holes or houses. Many have complex social systems. But no other creature has the capacity to communicate with the Creator

and to pray. Only man is endowed with that gift.

I have never met or heard of anyone who complained that they prayed too much. But I have known many, including myself, who wish they had prayed more. In our most desperate circumstances and in our finest moments, we cry out to God in prayer. The greatest gift we can bestow upon another human being is to pray earnestly for them.

How can my prayer alter or change the circumstances or the outcome of events on earth? It seems more reasonable to understand prayer as a psychological exercise merely benefiting the one who prays. But Scripture affirms that there is more at work when we pray than we imagine.

Jesus prayed. In fact, He rose early in the morning before sunrise and sought solitary places where He could

spend time alone in prayer. He taught us to pray, not as a public display to impress others, but in secret where "your father who sees in secret will reward you openly." (Matthew 6:6). He taught us to pray constantly with discipline and determination. His prayer life was so powerful that his disciples asked him to teach them to pray.

Prayer is not a matter of reciting particular words or repeating religious rituals. God looks on the heart. He hears the person who is convicted of guilt and feels unworthy to lift his eyes to heaven. And God hears those who humbly seek to do His will, "The effective prayer of a righteous man," the Bible says, "can accomplish much." (James 5:16)

The mystery and the miracle of prayer resides not in us, but in the One who created us and founded the vast universe that we have only begun to explore.

We are not cogs in an accidental machine that grinds its way toward extinction. We are created in the image of God and our very nature hungers for His presence. He has endowed us with personality, intelligence and freedom. He desires our company. He listens and He invites us to pray.

"Ask," Jesus said, "and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

"Or what man is there among you 'who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:7-11).

**► Religious briefs**

**Group appeals judge's refusal to block prayer**

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP) — A group is appealing the refusal of a federal judge to stop Greenville County schools from holding events in churches.

The Greenville News reported the American Humanist Association is appealing the decision by U.S. District Judge G. Ross Anderson Jr.

Court records show the humanist group has filed notice of appeal with the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va.

The group wanted Anderson to block the school district from holding events at places of worship and allowing student-led prayers while its lawsuit proceeds.

Anderson said last month the association's allegations lacked proof.

The group sued earlier this year, seeking to stop Mountain View Elementary School from holding ceremonies in a

chapel at North Greenville University, which is affiliated with the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

**East Tennessee pastor cleared in snake case**

JACKSBORO, Tenn. (AP) — An East Tennessee grand jury has cleared a pastor who has appeared on a reality television show about snake handling in church of possessing venomous snakes.

Campbell County pastor Andrew Hamblin of Tabernacle Church of God in LaFollette (luh-FAH'-lut) was cited Nov. 7 and pleaded not guilty. But the Knoxville News Sentinel reports a grand jury on Wednesday exonerated the 22-year-old pastor.

Prosecutor Lori Phillips Jones said officials didn't see the matter as a religious freedom case but public safety. She said she respects the grand jury's decision.

Hamblin has appeared on the National Geographic show

"Snake Salvation."

**Fire at farmhouse of religious sect**

WESTMINSTER, Vt. (AP) — Fire has destroyed a Westminister, Vt., house on a farm owned by the

Twelve Tribes religious sect.

A member of Twelve Tribes said Tuesday that between 30 and 40 people live at the Basin Farm.

He said no one was injured and no animals were hurt.

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leading of Christ to the point where you  
say, "I myself no longer live,  
but Christ lives in me."*  
**Galatians 2:20**

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we are afraid, it is for fear of  
judgment, and this shows that his  
love has not been perfected in us.*  
1 John 4:18

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*Rejoice, you people of Jerusalem!  
Rejoice in the Lord your God! For the  
rains he sends are an expression of his  
grace. Once more the autumn rains will  
come, as well as the rains of spring.*  
(Joel 2:23)

*God's love supply is never empty.  
"For his unfailing love toward those  
who fear him is as great as the height  
of the heavens above the earth."*  
(Psalm 103:11)

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### Sports in brief

#### JH Lady Steers sweep Monahans

Both Big Spring Junior High girls' basketball teams won their first round action from the Kermit "A" Tournament.

In the eighth grade game, BSJH defeated Monahans 30-15. Top scorers were Alexis Gaitan with 6 points, and Alexis Delafuente, Veronica Chavarria and Christen Crosby with five points.

Top rebounders were Gaitan, Sidney Evans, Chavarria and Crosby, all with three boards.

The Big Spring seventh graders also defeated Monahans, this time by a 44-22 score.

Kayleigh Penny led BSJH with 14 points, while Logan Terrazas and Alexis Starr had 12 and 10 points, respectively.

Top rebounders were Terrazas with seven boards and Kayleigh Penny with five.

Tournament play will continue Saturday.

### Sports Calendar

#### TODAY

##### Girls' basketball

Abilene Wylie at Big Spring, 6:15 p.m.  
Stanton at Coahoma, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan at Plains, 6:30 p.m.

##### Boys' basketball

Abilene Wylie at Big Spring, 7:30 p.m.  
Stanton at Coahoma, 8 p.m.

Forsan at Plains, 8 p.m.

To submit a calendar item, please call 263-7331, ext. 235, or e-mail reporter@bigspringherald.com

#### Hawk Buddies hoop camp set for Jan. 18

Howard College women's basketball will host its Hawk Buddies basketball camp on Jan. 18, in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on the college campus.

The Hawk Buddy program is for girls and boys in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Registration will be from 8:30-9 a.m. with the camp running from 9 a.m.-noon, which will include a pizza party from 11:40 a.m.-noon.

The \$20 fee includes:

- Basketball
- Free admission for all family members to HC home games
- Clinic with lectures on goals and basketball fundamentals
- Pizza party with the Lady Hawks
- Buddies Night — autographs and pictures with the Lady

#### Hawks

Buddies Night will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13, as the Lady Hawks take on Frank Phillips College at Garrett Coliseum.

For more information or to obtain a registration form, please visit [www.hchawk.com](http://www.hchawk.com) or contact Assistant Coach Addie Lees at 264-5155.

#### CGA hosting

##### 4-man scramble

The Chicano Golf Association will hold its annual membership drive four-man scramble Feb. 16 at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

Entry fee is \$35 per player for the build-your-own-team tournament and registration will accepted up to 9:30 a.m. the day of the event.

Mulligans will be sold for \$5.

For more information, contact the golf course pro shop at 264-2366.



Courtesy photo/Howard College

Howard College's Eric Weary looks to pass the ball from under the basket during the Hawks' Western Junior College Athletic Conference game vs. Clarendon at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Thursday evening. HC swept Clarendon Thursday — the men won their contest, 75-77, while Howard's women edged the Bulldogs, 70-66 for their first conference win of the season.

## Finalists named for NFL Hall of Fame

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — First-year nominees Derrick Brooks, Tony Dungy, Marvin Harrison and Walter Jones were among the 15 modern-era Pro Football Hall of Fame finalists in voting announced Thursday night.

Brooks was a linebacker with Tampa Bay; Dungy coached Tampa Bay and Indianapolis, leading the Colts to a Super Bowl title in 2007; Harrison was a receiver for Indianapolis; and Jones was an offensive tackle with Se-

attle.

Former New York Giants defensive end Michael Strahan also was selected a modern-era finalist along with defensive end/linebacker Charles Haley, defensive end/linebacker Kevin Greene, receiver Andre Reed, running back Jerome Bettis, receiver/returner Tim Brown, safety John Lynch, guard Will Shields, cornerback/safety Aeneas Williams, kicker Morten Andersen and former San Francisco owner Edward

DeBartolo Jr.

Punter Ray Guy and defensive end Claude Humphrey were announced as senior nominees in August.

The 46-member selection committee will vote Feb. 1 in New York, with a minimum 80 percent required for induction.

Former NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue failed to advance. Former coaches Jimmy Johnson and Don Coryell and general manager George Young also dropped out along

with fellow semifinalists Steve Atwater, Roger Craig, Terrell Davis, Joe Jacoby, Karl Mecklenburg and Steve Wisniewski.

Strahan, Andersen and Lynch are in their second year of eligibility. Shields is in his third year, Bettis his fourth, Brown and Williams their fifth, Reed his ninth, and Greene and Haley their 10th.

The modern-era finalists were chosen by the selection committee from a list of 126

nominees that was reduced to 25 semifinalists. Each finalist received a minimum vote of 80 percent.

To be eligible, modern-era players and coaches must have last played or coached more than five seasons ago.

Cris Carter, Jonathan Ogden, Larry Allen, Bill Parcells, Warren Sapp, Dave Robinson and Curley Culp were inducted last year, the 50th anniversary celebration of the hall.

## Gold on fast lane to Sochi after short program skate

#### RACHEL COHEN

AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Gracie Gold redeemed a shaky short program with a fantastic free skate a year ago.

Now that she's mastered the first day of the U.S. Championships, the teenager likely won't need anything spectacular to make it to Sochi.

Gold set a career high with 72.12 points Thursday to stake herself to a big lead after the short program. She's more than five points ahead of 15-year-old Polina Edmunds and nearly seven points ahead of a resurgent Mirai Nagasu heading into the long program.

Two-time defending champion Ashley Wagner was fourth. The top three women go to the Olympics.

The 18-year-old Gold works with renowned coach

Frank Carroll, who helped Evan Lysacek win at the Vancouver Games.

"It is a new short program and there were a couple of unknowns going into this event," she said. "I'm really glad I was able to trust my training, and I think I've worked really hard with Frank."

Gold was ninth after the short program in 2013, then won the free skate to surge into second place and a spot at the world championships, where she finished sixth. A year later, she combined an improved presentation with strong jumps and a rapport with the audience.

Earlier, hometown favorites Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapor ran away with the pairs short program. The defending champs staked themselves to a huge lead of 6.63 points.

Gold was sharp from the start with her triple lutz-triple toe loop combination, and the program to "Piano Concerto" kept on building. She earned the highest possible level on all her other elements.

Her performance was no surprise; Gold is one of the favorites here to claim an Olympic spot.

But Edmunds, the 2013 U.S. junior champion, stunned almost everyone but herself with her routine as the final skater of the night.

She matched Gold's combination jumps and made her bubbly program look almost easy — as if she knew she belonged in the top echelon.

"It couldn't have been much better," she said. "I shouldn't be surprised. I have all the elements. I just went out and did them."

## FSU, QB Winston could face lawsuit

#### By GARY FINEOUT

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The attorney for a woman who accused star Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston of sexual assault said Thursday that she intends to sue the school, the Tallahassee Police Department and the player himself.

Also Thursday, Gov. Rick Scott's office released letters written to him in December by the accuser and her mother, imploring him to reconsider opening an investigation into the case.

Attorney Patricia Carroll, who represents the woman who accused Winston of rape, said she plans to file a notice to sue the police department early next week. Under Florida law, anyone filing a lawsuit against a government agency must file court paperwork six months prior to the suit itself.

The sexual encounter be-

tween Winston and Carroll's client happened on Dec. 7, 2012. Winston's attorney has said more than once that the sex was consensual.

No charges were filed against Winston by Leon County prosecutors who investigated the case nearly a year after the woman said the attack happened.

But Carroll said her client, who was an FSU student at the time, was sexually assaulted. The woman was 19 and reported what happened to Tallahassee Police.

At a mid-December news conference, Carroll criticized the way the police investigation was handled, saying that detectives failed to interview key witnesses, used unreliable and incomplete forensic tests and never tested the alleged victim's blood for the presence of date-rape drugs. Carroll said that her client was "treated like a suspect."

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**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

**Cosmic Coat of Arms**

If you had to create your own personal coat of arms, what is the symbol that would most meaningfully represent you? The trine of the sun in Capricorn and the Taurus moon will illuminate such personal symbols. Stay observant, and these representations of our consciousness will show up in surprising places.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You'll be attending an event. If this experience were a book, you would skip some of it — namely the filler that feels bloated with too many details. You can afford to skip that part in real life, too.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You'll be dealing with people you don't necessarily agree with or even like, but you still have to figure out how to best manage the interaction. One success recipe: honesty, levity and a smile.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Everyone wants to be understood, and yet most people barely understand themselves — so how can they understand anyone else? Your talent for clearing up misunderstandings will be in high demand.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). It's a time to get lean and mean in terms of a project or something to do with your lifestyle. This will lead to positive results. Simplicity and economy are your best defenses. Downsize before you are downsized.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Just because something is not hard doesn't mean it's easy. What's worth doing today will take a few simple steps. The extreme repetition of those steps will be what makes for a successful outcome.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Here's the straight truth: You are compromising too often and too much. Instead of starting off with what you think the other person will go for, start off with what you want.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). One of the secrets of your success is that you use the words "our" and "we" often. Standing for your group, even if it's only a group of two, will start a wonderful string of events.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Do what you want to do today. There will be people whose needs compete with yours and other reasons for subverting your interests, and all are manageable if you have the will. Get on your own side.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Being around the same person or people for too many hours and days in a row could bring out a less than optimum side of you. Arrange to get away. You deserve this.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll have a string of well-timed interactions, and this is not only because the universe is on your side these days. It's also because you are observant and you follow your intuition.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It won't matter to you whether you have a little or a lot. What will matter is that what you have is your own. If you have the choice, you'd rather have very little and be able to call it completely yours.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Everyone needs novelty in their day, though few have the guts, talent and ideas to provide it. That's where you come in. You don't mind if they laugh — it means you did your job right.

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• Team photos and updates will be published. Here you'll be able to follow along with the progress of each team, and see how your team measures up. These specials will be published January 29, March 16, April 30th.

• We will only provide your team's **total percentage** of weight loss, not individuals.

• At the end of the 3-month program, the winning team will be determined by the highest percentage of weight lost, and receive the “Grand Prize”.

• Contest prizes determined on number of teams.

• To join the **Best Loser Spring Challenge**, fill out the form below and return to us with your \$60 entry fee, Cash Only, no later than **January 17, 2014**.



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(TEAM PHOTO MUST BE TAKEN, ENTRY FEE MUST BE TURNED IN AND YOU MUST WEIGH IN BY THIS DATE TO QUALIFY FOR CHALLENGE)

**Sign us up for the Best Loser Challenge!**

Team Name (Be Creative) \_\_\_\_\_  
 email: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Captain 1: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Member 2: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Member 3: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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