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CAN YOU SPARE A QUARTER?

Pennsylvania man raising funds for St. Jude's Hospital

BY **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

Bernie Buffone is on a mission to raise funds for St. Jude's Hospital one quarter at a time. "Everybody has a quarter in their pocket," Buffone said with his no nonsense, Pennsylvanian accent. "I want everybody to send in a quarter to St. Jude's Hospital under Kitten Run 2, so we get the credit for it. This is not about stars asking the public for \$19 a month. I need it from the American working people. Everyone has a quarter in their pocket."

Buffone made a stop in Big Spring on his cross-country bicycle ride through the United States to raise funds for the well-known children's and cancer



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Bernie Buffone made a stop in Big Spring last week. The Pennsylvanian is on a cross-country bicycle ride to raise funds for St. Jude Children's and Research Hospital. He hopes to collect 11,000,000 quarters.

research hospital. The families of children undergoing treatment at a St. Jude's hospital never receive a bill for services, and the majority of funding for St. Jude comes from individual contributions, according to its website.

That is the reason Buffone said he picked this charity. His plan is ambitious. His goal is to raise

See **ST. JUDE'S**, Page 3A

VA gets thumbs up from audit panel

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Big Spring VA Medical Center has passed muster following a second round of investigations targeting unacceptable wait times for patients, officials confirmed Friday.

Back in June, the Big Spring VA's audit results revealed that the hospital was ranked

last for patient wait times for those trying to make primary care appointments. The facility was also suspected of being deceptive, or using secret waiting lists, for patients.

In response to the audit, the local VAMC instituted "intense" training for scheduling staff to bring the facility in compliance with regulations, efforts which were successful, officials said.

In a letter to VAMC Director Michael Kiefer, Department of Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson said a second audit of the hospital by the Office of Accountability Review has shown marked improvement in the problem areas.

"Based on all the interviews the auditors conducted, they concluded that the staff did not do anything willful or

malicious, and recommended no further review," said Iva Jo Hanslik, community relations director for the VAMC. "We are in good standing again.

Associate Director of Nursing Alan Silveri said local staff was relieved but not necessarily surprised by the good news.

"We know we do a good job here; sometimes we make mistakes, but we correct them as soon as we see them," Silveri said. "Our goal, of course, is to serve the veterans here."

The hospital was dealing with a shortage of physicians when the audit was first conducted, however that is no longer the case.

The facility has had a lot of success in recruiting four more doctors and several nurse practitioners and physician assistants to help bring down wait times.

"We're trying to increase the amount of providers we can get, and so by opening the doors and increasing

the wage for those two particular mid-level providers, that gives us the ability to increase our access," Silveri

said.

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

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SWCID housing, city pact on HC agenda

BY **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

They dreamed it. Now they are ready to build it. Howard College trustees will consider giving the go-ahead to the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf Village construction project when they meet Monday.

College officials have been working for several years to find funding for the project, which is expected to help

alleviate housing issues for the growing campus. "We have been able to secure some funds through the SWCID foundations and through some other gifts," said Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks. "We've been seeking support to get at the least the infrastructure for the entire village in place, and we have

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11-year-old Arkansas girl hails cab ... to Florida

BRYANT, Ark. (AP) — An 11-year-old Arkansas girl paid a cabbie \$1,300 to take her to meet a boy in Florida, but authorities caught up with the runaway in Georgia, and found her safe, after her parents reported her missing.

Bryant police used cellphone records to determine the girl hailed the cab in Little Rock Dec. 5 after talking to a 16-year-old

Jacksonville, Florida, boy she met two years ago, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported Friday.

“According to the information that I have, she was in a sweatsuit with a lot of makeup on and she looked like she was 17 or 18 years old,” said Ellis Houston, a managing partner with Greater Little Rock Transportation Services, which oper-

ates the local Yellow Cab service.

The driver was not charged and is not facing disciplinary action, Houston said.

“Maybe he lacked a little bit of judgment,” Houston said.

According to police, the girl hitched a ride from Bryant to west Little Rock early Dec. 5 and summoned a cab to a donut shop.

There, she gave the

cab driver \$1,300 stolen from her grandmother.

After the girl’s parents reported her missing, police used cellphone records to link her to the boy and the cab ser-

vice. The Georgia State Patrol stopped the cab west of Atlanta.

The boy said he didn’t know the girl’s plans and Bryant Police Chief

Mark Kizer said it doesn’t appear the boy will face charges.

“There really wasn’t a crime broken by the guy in Florida,” he said. “It’s really, sticky.”



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Actors with the First Church of the Nazarene perform a scene in the annual Live Drive-Through Nativity. The event — now in its 28th year — continues Saturday and Sunday from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The church is located at 1400 Lancaster. The entrance to the Nativity Drive-Through is best approached from the west on Martin Luther King Boulevard, then turn south onto Lancaster.



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**The Big Spring Herald
would like to say Thank You to each and
everyone who came out and lined the streets to watch
the 29th Annual Big Spring Herald
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**Special thanks to everyone who
participated and those who help make it happen,
the city workers, emergency and law
enforcement Personnel.**

**We appreciate the patience of all the residents and
business along Scurry who put up with the traffic.**

**We look forward to next year’s parade and hope to
make it bigger and better.**

Happy Holidays!

**Rick Nunez/Parade Coordinator
General Manager
Big Spring Herald**

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS COMING YOUR WAY



Bruce Schooler photo

It takes a lot of people to put on some of the holiday displays in Howard County and the annual Festival of Lights at Comanche Trail Park is no different. Above is a group shot of some of the volunteers. The million-light spectacle will be turned on from dark-30 until 10 p.m. each evening through Dec. 31, beginning Monday.

ST. JUDE'S

Continued from Page 1A

11,000,000 quarters, a figure he estimates will support two children undergoing treatment.

To help keep costs down, the 62-year-old lives only off his monthly Social Security and pension. He camps in a

tent whenever possible. On his bike hangs bags packed with clothes, cooking material, a bike repair kit and tent equipment.

He has a navigator, Adam, who helps him map out his trip and assists him when he becomes lost. Two other volunteers — Christine and Kay — help with publicity in their spare

time.

And he is riding hurt. During his first run, Kitten Run 1, a vehicle pushed him off the road, severely injuring one of his legs. Some days, he says, it hurts even to walk and he has met many people who say he is crazy for attempting the trip.

But Buffone said he is doing this for the chil-

dren. "I'm about 6,200 miles in," he said. "I started out in Pennsylvania and have been in New York, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana and now Texas. I plan to go out to California and come back the same way. If I don't

get enough quarters, I'll head up to Maine."

Buffone is heading to New Mexico next but said he has really enjoyed his journey through Texas.

"I love the state of Texas," he said. "The people are very considerate. The south is very nice to peddle through. They are just very considerate people."

To follow Buffone on his journey, visit his Facebook page, www.facebook.com/KittenRun2

To help in his fundraising efforts, send a donation to St. Jude Research Hospital; Kitten Run 2; 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis Tn 38105; care of Laura Russell.

Contact Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1

the ability to build at least one cottage. Possibly, we will be able to build more than one cottage depending on what cost figures come back from the bidding process."

In other business, trustees are expected to consider an interlocal agreement with the city of Big Spring to allow Howard College students an opportunity to

receive hands-on training with heavy equipment at the city landfill.

"We have simulated training for students who are taking courses that deal with heavy equipment training but this allows them to take that next step and gain real time experience," Sparks said. "This is something that is beneficial for the college and it helps us prevent the cost of purchasing that equipment."

Howard College instructors will oversee

all the students when they use city-owned equipment, Sparks said. The Big Spring City council approved the agreement last week.

Trustees will meet at 12:30 p.m. in the Tumbleweed Room, located in the Student Union Building, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Also on the agenda, trustees will:

- Consider personnel and financial matters.
- Hear an update on current construction projects, the dental

hygiene program and removal of the KWES/KWAB building and tower.

Contact Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or

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Maria Enriquez, 62, died Wednesday. She will lie in state Saturday from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Opinion

“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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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:

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- 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.

DAILY PRAYER

Let not this weekend go by, Lord, without us spending time with you.

Amen

Longhorn association 50 years old

“When people see longhorns in a pasture while driving, 9 times out of 10 they're going to pull over to the side of the road and get their cameras out,” says Mike Coston, president and CEO of the Texas Longhorn Breeders Association. “Longhorns are unique. They're very friendly and like to be touched and petted. You can feed them out of your hand.”

The association, headquartered in Fort Worth, has nearly 4,000 members around the world. It is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. More than half a million animals are entered in the database.

Rick Fritsche is the association's registrar.

“The breed originated in Africa,” he says. “It came through Spain and Mexico and settled in Texas where the numbers increased dramatically. They had no enemies, were incredibly resilient, could live on just about anything and had a birthing ease that was almost beyond belief.”



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

The longhorns were driven north in herds after the Civil War, giving birth to the cowboy era, which lasted about 20 years. “Then railroads took over and the cattle were shipped by rail to northern markets,” says Mike.

Rick says the horns developed as a natural progress as protection.

“Today, our breeders are growing for horn length, so they only pick the mamas and papas with backgrounds of big horns, roughly insuring that the offspring will have longer horns.”

The longest horns belong to a rancher in Oklahoma. They measure seven and three-quarters feet from tip to tip.

Rick says the longhorns have 97 percent lean meat.

“One of the things that is keeping us out of the lean beef market is the thing that makes them so iconic, which is their horns. Most processing and packing houses don't want to have to deal with the horns. They have to hire someone to cut the horns off, which increases the cost of processing.”

In the late 1880's, barbed wire fencing ended the open range and ranchers started controlled breeding, developing breeds that developed faster than longhorns.

The longhorns were almost

bred out of existence and by the 1920's only a few small herds remained.

The U.S. government, realizing the significant history of the breed, stepped in and appropriated \$3,500 to buy longhorn cattle and move them to a preserve in the Wichita Mountains of Oklahoma.

“That started the saving of the breed,” says Mike. “Then in 1943 they started selling longhorns at auctions to ranchers who wanted them. In 1964 those ranchers decided to create a registry to continue the breed line of the longhorns, so the association was formed.”

Charlie Schreiner III of the YO Ranch in Kerrville was the first president. His grandfather had stocked the ranch with longhorns in the 1870's. Schreiner had steer No. 1, bull No. 1 and cow No. 1 in the registry.

The association headquarters is in a building across from the entrance to the Fort Worth Stockyards. A new building is planned in the center of the stockyards district.

Contact Tumbleweed at P.O. Box 95, Big Spring, TX 79721 or ts@crcom.net or 432 263-3813.

► Letters to the Editor

It has to stop!

TO THE EDITOR:

My name is Jose Pierre, my prison BOP is 00418-265. I am from Haiti, I write this letter with my best of knowledge and sincerity. I've been in prison a very long time and I'm also a Federal inmate. I got transferred from a Federal prison to this GEO Group at Big Spring, Texas. To make my point, what I've seen here at this Geo Correctional since I got here I have never seen anything before. We are Federal inmates and we get threatened by the GEO employees and the treatment by them is horrific and no one would think it happens in the United States.

Because we are from other countries and don't know the GEO or Bureau of Prison's poli-

cies or the law in the Constitution.

Everything GEO does to all of us is unconstitutional. A few years ago, an inmate inside the compound get shot, another hung himself inside the Special Housing Unit. GEO here in big Spring, Texas has four facilities and all have corruption inside their walls. From drugs to cell phone to others illegal contraband. The person that died inside the SHU, their family didn't know he passed away until a few months after and probably GEO got away with it.

In all of the four facilities here we all are foreign inmates and there are no U.S. citizens here except for the staff.

Here now, to find an inmate to be guilty of a crime especially at the Interstate facility, if no one

admits his guilt, they take a 6 men room to the SHU and without finding guilty, GEO changes your release date a month or a week before your scheduled release date. GEO doesn't care if there's a proper Bureau of Prisons established policy. They don't care!

Bureau of Prisons is supposed to have or check the paperwork for any disciplinary hearing, but here the same GEO workers take the time (Good Conduct Time) without any proper approval from BOP and they take away 27, 41 and even 82 days of Good Time. Every year we only accumulate 54 days of Good Time. They take away commissary, phone and visitation privileges for 18 months also. This is against the

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

There are turkeys in the news

Turkeys, I suppose, are unaware that their “jobs” in life are to gobble down granular foodstuff in a timely manner that will render them prime menu targets for us to gobble down — particularly at Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. They do so with little fanfare — save the one that is “spared” by presidential decree.

Chicken — the meat Chick-fil-A's advertising cows urge us to eat more of — make far more “news” if only in ads throughout the year. But turkeys? Not so much. Mostly, we use their name in derisive manners. When we label others as “turkeys,” they may consider themselves put down.

The “we-give-it-all” birds are at the center of platters, artistically depicted on school bulletin boards, included in plays and central to conversations during these festive days.

My Uncle Mort, 102, admits that he “made a plumb fool of himself” at the Thanksgiving table. “I ate three servings of turkey, two of everything else and four slices of assorted pies,” he groaned.

I can imagine a rotund Sumo wrestler putting away this much food, but Uncle Mort? His soaking-wet weight is usually around 145 pounds.

“I stared at the last four bites of mincemeat pie, afraid I was

already 100 percent full,” he explained. “But, I wasn't about to let it go to waste. Luckily, by flossing my teeth between each bite, I licked the saucer clean,” he bragged.

Sometimes, unexpected memories are made by children well-drilled in school trappings associated with the holidays. Kyra, six-year-old granddaughter of Dr. Harry and Marsha Krennek, remembered last year's kindergarten class had a “Thanksgiving Feast.” They dressed as Pilgrims and Indians, dining on traditional holiday fare — the kind purportedly served at the very first observance.

This summer, as the Krenneks drove up the mountain to Mesa Verde, Colo., it was mentioned to Kyra and her nine-year-old brother Colin that they might get to see some “real Indians” there.

Kyra's response was quick and emphatic; she didn't care to see any Indians. “They might want to have a feast with me,” she explained. (Turns out, the Indians were busy selling fry bread and jewelry, so Kyra's fear didn't materialize.)

Christmas came early for the Ohio State University football team when it was chosen over Texas Christian University and Baylor University for the coveted fourth slot for the play-offs leading to a national championship.

A few million Texans are as upset as the parents of daughters who finish runner-up in pageants, festivals and assorted other competitions.

Biases erupt from fans who feel

their respective “school colors” are brightest of all.

Uncle Mort has his own ideas about the selection. “I'm not sure there's two cents worth of difference in the top six teams,” he claimed. “Maybe the lucky four schools were named so there'd be a wide representation of nicknames — Crimson Tide, Seminoles, Ducks and Buckeyes. And perhaps BU and TCU were left out to avoid religious wars.”

Undoubtedly, Google will get a good work-out. Outside of Ohio, not too many folks know what a Buckeye is. And, the name “Seminoles” — long associated with Florida State — will remind smaller institutions whose mascots formerly were Indians that the NCAA is consistent mostly in its inconsistencies. And the organization chooses its battles carefully.

My criticism of the NCAA is longstanding. Mentioning it again is likely both tiring and pointless.

Mostly, it is a lapdog for TV; the mega-millions generated by Division I football dictate far too much.

Sportsmanship is “out the window” as teams roll up “style points.” And too many coaches' salaries are beyond ridiculous.

OK, I'll make my exit here, already having made a turkey of myself.

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

WALKING THE RED ROAD

Water of life

There is a very precious liquid that lies beneath the surface of the land. No I am not speaking of oil, I am speaking of water.

The human race can live without oil and gasoline. We did for hundreds of thousands of years. However we cannot live without water, nothing on this planet can. Not just the creatures that live in the rivers and seas rely on water. Every living thing — people, animals and plants needs water to live. It is believed that life on earth began in the water and then moved onto the land.



RANDY A. MCKINNEY

In the Native American culture we have a ceremony called the Water of Life. We take a pail of water and a holy man blesses it. Each person receives a glass of water. We offer the water to the spirits of the four directions and pray for the good of the people.

After the prayer we drink half of the water in the glass. The second half is given back to Earth Mother as an offering. Native Americans have always understood the value of the life-giving water.

In Europe, the waters have been polluted for centuries. The rivers were used to dump sewage and industrial waste into. Even today the people in Europe can catch fish in the rivers but they cannot eat them. The fish are contaminated from centuries of pollution.

Unfortunately when the Europeans came to America and conquered it they brought the same mentality

with them and began polluting the waters in America. Only in the last few decades has that way of thinking changed. However, the road to recovery will be a long one.

The new Americans also abused the waters in other ways. The building of dams changed the way of the rivers to create man made lakes. In some cases this meant water for one location and no water for another. Also this action greatly affected the creatures dependent on the flow of the river.

To Native Americans a river has power. It is as a living thing. Constantly moving, flowing, changing the land, creating its own path and giving life to all within it and around it. A man made lake has no power. The spirit of the water has been taken away.

On a local level the way of the water has also been greatly altered by the new Americans. In Howard County, the many springs here had been used by Native Americans for centuries. All changed with the coming of the white man.

In the late 1800's there was the big spring, Moss spring, sand spring and Concho spring — all flowing. There were also springs close to Vealmoor, one off what is now north Birdwell Lane, one on the Barrett ranch, the Powell ranch and the Garrett ranch. To the best of my knowledge none of the springs flow today. Local land owners are extremely reluctant to let anyone on their property — even to do historical research. There may be even more springs that I have yet to locate in my research.

In 1873, the Texas and Pacific Railroad acquired the big spring to use as a water supply. When they

had almost pumped it completely dry they used dynamite in an attempt to increase water flow. This action completely sealed off the underground water source and the spring did go completely dry.

Around most of the springs water wells were drilled, eventually causing the other springs to go dry. Of course this was all done in the name of progress.

We are also polluting our water supply in Big Spring. Water from the waste treatment plant is pumped into Beals Creek which then flows into the Colorado River and then into Lake Spence. I remember as a boy Beals Creek smelled so bad we called it stink creek.

And if this is not enough, the city built the landfill on the water shed feeding Beals Creek. Great ideas don't you think — now that's progressive thinking at it's highest level.

People, sometimes the best progress comes from leaving things as the Creator meant them to be. The Native Americans understood this. The Creator furnished them with the water of life as a gift to all the people. They saw no reason to change the Creator's plan.

The Water of Life is very precious, it is even sacred to the Native American people. Let us take care of the water, protect it, and not destroy or even waste it. After all, the next time you get thirsty, would you prefer a glass of clean water, one full of chemicals, a glass of polluted water or a glass of gasoline?

Randy A McKinney is a member of the Sunrise Wind clan of Two Bear Claws and vice president of the Powwow Committee of Big Spring.

Buildings evacuated after marriage proposal flop

AMSTERDAM (AP) -- A Dutchman's attempt at a romantic wedding proposal was simply smashing.

The unidentified lover in the central town of Ijsselstein rented a crane, planning to descend in front of his girlfriend's bedroom window first thing Saturday morning, play her a song and then pop the question. Instead the crane toppled over, smashing a large hole in the neighbors' roof.

The man clambered to safety and no one was injured.

According to the Algemeen Dagblad newspaper, the girlfriend said "yes" anyway. After speaking with police, the pair traveled to Paris to celebrate.

Then the crane fell again during attempts to right it with a larger crane, bashing in the rest of the neighbors' roof. The town's mayor is on the spot after the building was declared unsafe. Six apartments were evacuated.

Weddings, winning as easy as 12-13-14 for some

LAS VEGAS (AP) — It's rare. It's orderly. And when it comes to remembering an anniversary date, it's as easy as 12/13/14.

Saturday's Dec. 13, 2014, represents the last sequential calendar date for at least 20 years (Jan. 2, 2034) and another 89 years if waiting for Jan. 2, 2103.

If a person has a heart set on commemorating the next 12/13/14, make sure that heart can stand another 100 years on earth to make it to Dec. 13, 2114.

For cryogenic fans, it's 1,000 years until 3014.

A sequence comes sooner for math nerds with pi. The day is mere months away on March, 14 (Get it? 3.1415)

The dates represent a lucky list of number for some gamblers and certainly a memorable birth date for others.

Lottery players looking for a bit of extra luck love these kinds of quirky number combos.

On Sept. 11, 2002, the winning numbers in New York State's Pick 3 game were 9-1-1. A total of 5,631 people picked the winning sequence; the combination was picked so many times, the numbers were closed out.

Maura McCann, a spokeswoman for the New Hampshire Lottery, said they anticipate selling more tickets on sequential or repetitive dates such as 12/12/12, but notes that lottery players get inspired by all sorts of things. In 2005, more than 100 winners of a secondary \$100,000 Powerball prize played numbers linked back to the numbers in a single fortune cookie.

"Lottery players, kind of in a nutshell, are superstitious," McCann said.

The numbers mean less in Las Vegas sports betting books.

In horse racing, it would mean an unusual number of horses would have to run to take a ticket on 12, 13, 14, said John Avello, of the Wynn hotel-casino.

A roulette wheel stands to be the more likely destination for a gambler looking to chance it with the date, he said.

For many others in Las Vegas, they will take a chance by making a date for a spouse.

The Viva Las Vegas wedding chapel plans to marry 120 couples Saturday starting with Egyptian-themed nuptials followed by weddings with a touch of Tom Jones, gangsters, Liberace and, of course, Elvis, said general manager Brian Mills. The number is on pace with July 7, 2007 (7/7/7) but far from the 230 weddings the chapel performed for Nov. 11, 2011 (11/11/11).

Nevada's Clark County marriage license bureau issued its most "numerically-interesting" certificates — 4,333 — in the four days leading up to July 7, 2007, — more than half of what it typically issues in an entire month..

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

law and it has to stop. We are in the United States, we even send complaints to the warden and nothing happens. Central office in Washington, D.C., doesn't even know what is going on here.

Our prisoners rights have been violated and the due process under the Eighth Amendment

and 14th Amendment and equal protection.

I know we can't stop GEO from doing this, but we want the world to know what's going on in here and hear us please!

JOSE PIERRE #00418-265

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 BIG SPRING

Santa is here!

TO THE EDITOR:

We believe that Santa Claus was in Big Spring on Thursday night, Dec. 11. He was disguised in oilfield clothing.

Our group of 12 ladies, all grandmothers (and most are great-grandmothers) were having our annual Christmas dinner at KC Steakhouse and when we got ready to leave we were informed that our entire meal had been paid for by these oilfield men as they were leaving.

We would like to thank them and let them know how much we appreciate

their kindness. We definitely had something to talk about while we were playing cards later. We just couldn't get over our nice surprise.

Also, if they are reading this, we want them to know that we will be "paying it forward" so that their Christmas spirit will keep on going! Thank you again for giving us something we will remember forever.

MARTHA BEENE
 AND THE THURSDAY
 NIGHT LADIES CARD
 CLUB.

Feeling blessed

To the Editor:

I am from Lamesa and was shopping in your community on Wednesday, Dec. 10, around 10:30 or 11 a.m. at Walmart, purchasing food for my dogs.

While in the dog food department, I met a sweet young man. When I got up to pay, I did not notice he was behind me until he insisted on paying my bill.

I told him no, that it was OK and I could af-

ford it but he still insisted and said it was his Christmas to me and my dogs!

I do not know this gentleman but would love to thank him and wish him and his family a very blessed Christmas!

You have wonderful, giving people in your community. I feel very blessed by his act of kindness towards me.

Sincerely,
 SHIRLEY ARCHER
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Adrian Calvio

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42.9 million Americans have unpaid medical bills

By JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly 20 percent of U.S. consumers with credit records — 42.9 million people — have unpaid medical debts, according to a new report by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

The findings suggest that many Americans are being trapped by debt because they are confused by the notices they get from hospitals and insurance companies about the cost of treatment. As a result, millions of Americans may be surprised to find they are stuck with lower credit scores, making it harder for them to

borrow to buy a home or an automobile.

"When people fall ill and end up at the hospital with unexpected bills, far too often they have entered into a financial maze," CFPB director Richard Cordray said in a speech to be delivered Thursday in Oklahoma City.

On average, a person with only overdue medical debt owes \$1,766. Someone with unpaid medical bills and other sources of debt — possibly credit cards or back taxes — owes an average of \$5,638. More than half of all debt on credit reports stems from medical expenses.

The report by the federal regulator indicates

that much of this trouble could be avoided. About half of consumers who only carry medical debt have no other signs of being under financial distress. But complaints to the CFPB indicate that consumers are routinely baffled by medical bills. Unwieldy insurance and hospital statements leave them uncertain as to how much money they owe, the deadline for payment, and which organization should be paid.

The confusion tends to generate disputes from consumers about the unpaid debts. This has prompted the CFPB to also announce Thursday that it will require

major consumer reporting agencies to provide regular reports on how they investigate and respond to disputed charges.

The unpaid medical bills have negative repercussions for credit scores, which help determine how much money people can borrow and the interest rates for mortgages and auto loans.

An unpaid bill of at least \$100 could lower an otherwise sterling credit score of 780 by over 100 points, the Fair Isaac Corp. told the CFPB based on a previous model it used to calculate creditworthiness.

The firm updated its credit score model in

August, putting less weight on unpaid medical bills when predicting the likelihood of repayment. Consumers with only medical expenses in collection would see their credit score increase by a median of 25 points once the new model is fully implemented.

The updated model was announced after a separate CFPB report in May on the impact medical debt had on credit scores.

The latest CFPB analysis overlaps with a separate study released in July by the Urban Institute, a Washington, DC-based think tank.

The Urban Institute study found that the

share of Americans with debt in collections has remained relatively constant, despite the country as a whole whittling down the size of its credit card and other debts since the Great Recession ended in the middle of 2009. That points to a sizeable share of Americans who are not only struggling to understand medical bills but also have no choice but to take on debts they have little chance of repaying.

The Urban Institute found that 35.1 percent of people with credit records had been reported to collections for debt that averaged \$5,178, based on September 2013 records.

Congress puts potatoes on menu for low-income moms

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's another political victory for the popular potato.

For the first time, low-income women would be able to pay for white potatoes with government-subsidized vouchers issued by the Women, Infants and

Children nutrition program, known as WIC.

The potato provision is part of a massive spending bill Congress is considering before the end of the year.

White potatoes have been excluded from WIC since fruits and vegetables were first allowed

under the program in 2009. It's not that white potatoes themselves aren't nutritious, but they're often used to make french fries, which are usually fried or baked in unhealthy fats and oils.

The Institute of Medicine had recommended

that they be excluded, saying WIC recipients already eat enough white potatoes.

The potato industry has aggressively lobbied for inclusion, saying it's not as much about sales as the perception that potatoes aren't as nutritious as other vegetables. Lawmakers from roughly 40 potato-growing states have been pushing for several years to include the potato in the program.

The potato's advocates argue that it provides potassium, dietary fiber and folate, a water-soluble B vitamin, which can be helpful for pregnant women. They say it is also economical, which could help low-income mothers stretch their dollars.

Sen. Susan Collins, a Republican from the

state of Maine, has long promoted the nutritional attributes of potatoes, including potassium.

"Potatoes are cholesterol-free, fat-free and sodium-free and can be prepared in countless healthy ways," she said in a statement Wednesday.

The potato industry had another major legislative victory in 2011, when Congress voted to thwart the Agriculture Department's recommendation that only two servings a week of potatoes and other starchy vegetables be served in federally subsidized school lunches. The USDA effort was an attempt to limit the proliferation of french fries on school lunch lines.

WIC provides grants to states to provide food

vouchers to low-income pregnant women, women who have recently given birth and infants and children up to age 5 who are found to be at nutritional risk. Only a handful of foods meant to boost nutrition are allowed, such as whole grains, low-fat dairy and fruits and vegetables.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has opposed efforts to add white potatoes to WIC, but he said in a letter to a member of Congress earlier this year that USDA would move up a regular review of the WIC food package by more than a year so the department could seek the assistance of the institute to learn if excluding white potatoes "is still supported by the most current science available."

Charles Myers

Attorney At Law

Family Law And
Criminal Law

Ward & Myers, L.L.P.



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11-year-old Arkansas girl hails cab ... to Florida

BRYANT, Ark. (AP) — An 11-year-old Arkansas girl paid a cabbie \$1,300 to take her to meet a boy in Florida, but authorities caught up with the runaway in Georgia, and found her safe, after her parents reported her missing.

Bryant police used cellphone records to determine the girl hailed the cab in Little Rock Dec. 5 after talking to a 16-year-old

Jacksonville, Florida, boy she met two years ago, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported Friday.

“According to the information that I have, she was in a sweatsuit with a lot of makeup on and she looked like she was 17 or 18 years old,” said Ellis Houston, a managing partner with Greater Little Rock Transportation Services, which oper-

ates the local Yellow Cab service.

The driver was not charged and is not facing disciplinary action, Houston said.

“Maybe he lacked a little bit of judgment,” Houston said.

According to police, the girl hitched a ride from Bryant to west Little Rock early Dec. 5 and summoned a cab to a donut shop.

There, she gave the

cab driver \$1,300 stolen from her grandmother.

After the girl’s parents reported her missing, police used cellphone records to link her to the boy and the cab ser-

vice. The Georgia State Patrol stopped the cab west of Atlanta.

The boy said he didn’t know the girl’s plans and Bryant Police Chief

Mark Kizer said it doesn’t appear the boy will face charges.

“There really wasn’t a crime broken by the guy in Florida,” he said. “It’s really, sticky.”



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Actors with the First Church of the Nazarene perform a scene in the annual Live Drive-Through Nativity. The event — now in its 28th year — continues Saturday and Sunday from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The church is located at 1400 Lancaster. The entrance to the Nativity Drive-Through is best approached from the west on Martin Luther King Boulevard, then turn south onto Lancaster.



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**Special thanks to everyone who
participated and those who help make it happen,
the city workers, emergency and law
enforcement Personnel.**

**We appreciate the patience of all the residents and
business along Scurry who put up with the traffic.**

**We look forward to next year’s parade and hope to
make it bigger and better.**

Happy Holidays!

**Rick Nunez/Parade Coordinator
General Manager
Big Spring Herald**



Herald photo/Tommy Wells

Members of the Coahoma Bulldogettes take a break during their 69-9 rout of Grape Creek during the second round of the Hooptown Classic in Stanton. The Bulldogettes played for the consolation title on Saturday afternoon.

Steers, Wildcats fight on in Andrews

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

The Big Spring Steers and Grady Wildcats both turned in outstanding efforts on Friday in the second round action at the annual Gym Bice Classic in Andrews.

And, as a reward, the two close programs earned the right to face off against each other in the third round of the three-day, round-robin event.

The Steers managed to punch their ticket into Saturday's showdown with Grady by pummeling the Kermit Yellow Jackets on Friday.

Backed by the play of Ty Sealy, Tyler Bryan and Matt Yanez, the Steers improved to 2-0 in the tournament with a 53-48 victory.

The Steers had opened the tournament the day before by defeating Midland Greenwood, 50-33.

Grady, which entered the tournament No. 7 in the Class A polls, managed to get its first win of the tournament on Friday by grinding out a 53-39 victory over Greenwood.

The Wildcats had struggled in their two games on Thursday, falling to Andrews, 65-62, and to Lamesa, 59-42.

Following its game against Grady on Saturday afternoon, Big Spring played Andrews, at 6:30 p.m., for the tournament title.

Steers to play in Sandhills tourney

The Big Spring High School Steers send out the old year with a trip to Monahans for the annual Sandhills Invitational Basketball Tournament. The three-day tournament will run from Dec. 29 through Dec. 31.

The BSHS boys will open Pool B play on Dec. 29 with a 9 a.m. matchup against Midland Christian. They will then face New Way Christian at 3 p.m.

On Dec. 30, the Steers will face El Paso Riverside at 9 a.m. and Alpine at 1 p.m.

The championship round will be held on Dec. 31.

Simer leads Bulldogettes to Hooptown consolation finals

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

STANTON – Lauren Simer did everything but deliver the water to her teammates on Friday afternoon for the Coahoma Bulldogettes. She would have probably done that, too, if she had needed. After that, she did have plenty of time after taking a seat on the bench during the final minutes of the second half.

Amazingly, the long spell on the bench didn't seem to slow the Coahoma star down a bit. In fact, despite sitting more than six minutes overall, she still nearly rewrote the Hooptown Classic single-game scoring record en route to helping power the Bulldogettes to a 69-9 romp over the Grape Creek Lady Eagles.

Fueled by a 21-point first half effort, the CHS standout finished the contest with a game-high 33 points. Her total was a mere four points shy of tying the tournament's all-time single-game scoring mark of 37 set 13 years earlier by Midland Christian's Haley Whiteside.

2014 Stanton Hooptown Classic Friday's Results	
GIRLS	
Colorado City 48, Clyde 42	Stanton 57, Snyder 42
Consolation Semifinals	
Stanton JV 38, Sweetwater 34	Coahoma 69, Grape Creek 9
BOYS	
Frenship JV 65, Sands 19	Stanton 65, Coahoma 42
Consolation Semifinals	
Colorado City d. Sweetwater	Grape Creek 63, Clyde 56, 3OT

And did we mention she also led the team in rebounding, collecting more than 10?

With the victory, Coahoma advanced to the consolation finals on Saturday to face off with the Stanton Buffaloes junior varsity.

Sparked by an aggressive defensive push that forced Greenwood into nine first-quarter turnovers, the Bulldogettes took complete control of the second-round matchup in the first 5 minutes. Coahoma opened the game

with a 13-0 run before Greenwood managed to register its first basket, a fastbreak layup with 3:11 left in the frame.

Simer provided much of the Bulldogettes' offense in that run. She opened the game by scoring 11 of the team's first 13 points, including the first six in a row.

Taylee Miller accounted for Coahoma's other basket by sinking a short 8-footer that put the Bulldogettes up 8-0.

Overall, Simer poured in 15 of Coahoma's initial points and led the team into the start of the second with a commanding 21-4 advantage.

The Bulldogettes unveiled a more balanced scoring effort in the second, turning multiple turnovers into a 16-0 romp that lifted Coahoma to a comfortable 37-4 halftime advantage.

Simer led the CHS scoring attack in the second with six points. Miller and Julia Castilaw both added three, while McClayne Holgorsen and Clarissa Martinez both pushed in two.

See COAHOMA on Page 10A

Buffaloes win in Sterling City; Coahoma suffer loss in Stanton

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

The Forsan High School Buffaloes enjoyed their Friday afternoon in Sterling City. The Coahoma Bulldogs probably didn't enjoy theirs as much in Stanton.

The Forsan Buffaloes kept their hopes on a tournament title alive on Friday by pounding out a 36-26 win over the Robert Lee Steers in the second round of the Sterling City Invitational Basketball Tournament.

With the victory, the Buffaloes improved to 1-1 and went into Saturday's final round needing a pair of wins over Ozona and Eldo-

rado — and a loss by Sterling City — to claim the round-robin format crown.

Robert Lee didn't make the win easy. The Steers managed to stay close throughout the first two quarters of play and went into the half trailing by just three, 16-13.

Forsan, now 6-9 overall, broke the game open in the third, however. The Buffaloes reeled off a 12-4 spree in the first eight minutes of the second half and cruised to a 28-17 cushion.

Robert Lee never recovered from there.

Forsan put nine players into the scorebook in the game, including Ian Park, who pushed in a team-high seven points. Ben Mikeska and Jesse

Cervantes added five each, while Ryan Pearson, Garrett Evans, and Dalton Ogle all contributed four. Trevor Williams pitched in three, while Jacob Valdez and Walker Park added two apiece.

Coahoma didn't have as much to celebrate in the second-round matchup against Stanton at the Hooptown Classic. Stanton used a 37-26 run in the second half to streak to a 65-42 decision in the semifinals.

With the loss, the Bulldogs fell into a third-place showdown with Sands on Saturday afternoon, while Stanton advanced to the tournament title game to face

See GAMES on Page 10A



Photo courtesy Cindy Smith

WJCAC thriller ...

The Howard College Lady Hawks will return to Western Junior College Athletic Conference play in grand fashion on Jan. 3 when they host rival South Plains in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Lady Buffs drop game to Spur

GAIL – The Spur Lady Bulldogs ended the Forsan Lady Buffaloes quest for the Borden County Invitational Basketball Tournament title on Friday by claiming a tough 34-25 decision in second-round action.

With the loss, Borden County slipped to 1-1 in the event and fell into a third-place matchup against Ralls.

Despite the loss, the Lady Buffaloes picked up a stellar effort from Mary-Ashley McDaniel. The FHS star led the Lady Buffaloes offensively by throwing in 13 points.

Forsan will host Iraan on Dec. 16.

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BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A True Value



Browns' Manziel on being targeted: 'I welcome it'

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — For all the adulation and attention Johnny Manziel receives, he gets almost equal doses of negativity, some of it in the form of taunts and hard tackles.

Since college he's been a marked man, and it's no different in the NFL.

Don't think that scares him.

"I welcome it," the Cleveland rookie quarterback said Friday.

As he prepares for his first career start Sunday against the Cincinnati Bengals, Manziel said he understands there are always going to be those

out to get him.

"I accept that, and I've been a guy that's had a lot of hate spewed towards me," he said following practice. "And, obviously, we saw that at (Texas) A&M, but it's part of it, and you just move on from that and do what I need to do."

Manziel's first experience as a pro with being targeted came during an Aug. 18 exhibition game against Washington. The Redskins taunted him to the point that Manziel flipped his middle finger toward Washington's sideline, a gesture that

was captured on national TV and wound up getting him a \$12,000 fine.

Manziel said he learned from the incident and he's now better equipped to handle any trash talking.

"I'm in a different place now," he said. "It's not like it was in preseason. I have to have a lot better control of everything. I'm under a lot more control than I was then, and I know I have a lot better control of my emotions. I know I need to go out and be the leader of this team, and regardless if I'm a rookie or not, go out and try to have fun and not get caught up in any other bull crap."

Browns coach Mike Pettine plans to remind Manziel to keep his composure when the Browns (7-6) face the AFC North-leading Bengals (8-4-1).

"It won't be anything extravagant," Pettine said, "just more of, 'It's one play at a time and focus on the job.'"

Lawmaker: Too many schools make playoffs

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A West Texas lawmaker says too many high school football teams reach the state playoffs and has introduced a bill that would reduce the number of qualifiers.

Republican Sen. Charles Perry of Lubbock says the University Interscholastic

League's playoff system has become "watered down" and allows up to 74 percent of teams to make the playoffs. The bill he filed Thursday looks to reduce the number of schools advancing from each district from four to two.

The bill was filed a few weeks after Houston Scarborough be-

came what's believed to be the first winless team in the Texas football playoffs. Scarborough lost 64-0 in the first round and finished 0-11.

Perry says the current playoff format costs districts "thousands of dollars that could be spent in the classroom."

GAMES

Continued from Page 8A
Colorado City.

Stanton jumped out to a quick lead against Coahoma. The Buffaloes posted a 17-10 run in the first eight minutes and never looked back.

Stanton used an 11-6

effort in the second to build a 28-16 halftime edge.

Despite the loss, Braxton Iden and Kody Barber both played well for the Bulldogs. Iden pushed in a team-leading 19 points, while Barber added nine.

Mason Moore added seven.

McCoy cleared to start Sunday

ASHBURN, Va. (AP) — Colt McCoy received the OK from the doctor Friday to start Sunday against the New York Giants.

McCoy has been dealing with a sprained neck this week, but he was a full participant in Friday's practice, getting all of the first-team snaps. He then went to see a specialist, who cleared him to play.

Coach Jay Gruden had indicated that the doctor's approval would be a mere formality. Gruden said McCoy threw the ball fine with "no issues whatsoever" at practice.

McCoy sprained his neck in the fourth quarter of last week's 24-0 loss to the St. Louis Rams. He is listed as questionable on the injury report.

Robert Griffin III was pegged to start if McCoy

wasn't cleared. Gruden said he took into account the "total package" of work from McCoy, Griffin and Kirk Cousins when making the decision and said McCoy's greater body of NFL experience helped make the difference.

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 8A

Coahoma continued to push its lead in the third. The Bulldogettes used three-point shots from Martinez and Miller to key a 13-2 third-quarter spree and took a 50-7 lead into the fourth.

Coahoma closed out the game with a 19-0 romp in the final eight minutes. Simer and Castilaw both scored three times in the frame, and MaKayla Overton added a three-point shot.

In other girls' action in Stanton, the Stanton Lady Buffaloes powered themselves to a berth in the championship game against Colorado City with a 57-42 win over Snyder.

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Helping Those In Need



HERALD photo/Andraia Medlin
Just in time for Christmas. Coahoma fifth grade Student Council officers and Gifted and Talented students were in the spirit of giving as they unloaded 936 pounds of foodstuffs delivered to Isaiah 58 Friday afternoon. The food pantry is located at 809 Scurry.

Walden Pond Goes Solar

CONCORD, Mass. (AP) Henry David Thoreau famously wrote of "the sunshine of a winter's day," and now the simple place that inspired him the most is going solar. Officials are breaking ground on a new visitor's center at Walden Pond State Reservation, and the \$8 million complex will feature two decidedly high-tech touches: a solar canopy and a pair of electric vehicle charging stations. Gov. Deval Patrick says it's fitting that the new center in Concord, Massachusetts, will be built with energy-efficient materials and powered by green technology. "As the birthplace of

the conservation movement, Walden Pond is an important natural landmark for the Commonwealth and nation," Patrick said Monday. "These improvements are about good stewardship for this generation and the next." In 1845, Thoreau withdrew to a cabin near the pond for two years, two months and two days, and it was the inspiration for "Walden," published in 1854. "I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life, to live so sturdily and Spartan-like as to put to rout all that was not life," he wrote. More than a century and a half later, visitors to the site will enjoy far less-Spartan facilities.

Club News

Big Spring Art Association

At last month's Big Spring Art Association meeting, local artist Linda Rupard gave a seemingly effortless demonstration of painting acrylic on canvas. BSAA will have its annual Christmas party Dec. 16. Renowned artist Kay Smith has graciously offered the use of her gallery, Brushworks Studio Gallery located at 2106 Scurry, for the celebration. The festivities begin at 6 p.m. and we invite you to join us and let Kay know how much we appreciate her. We will have good fellowship and good food. If you cannot make it at 6, come when you can. You may find that you like our gang and not only will you be welcome, you will have lots and lots of fun. We look forward to seeing you. Check us out on Facebook.

Reader's Corner

No Christmas Tree

There were no Christmas trees in the place he was born because up until he was born the people did not have a reason to celebrate Christmas or decorate a tree because there was not a Jesus. Now years and years later, millions of Christmas trees are put up and decorated to honor that dear little baby born so long ago. Jesus never had a Christmas tree to call his own. Nor did he have

money to buy gifts for others. But Jesus did not need a Christmas tree or money for the gift he gave tall was the gift of life a priceless gift that cannot be bought traded or sold. Merry Christmas to all for unto us a Savior is born. God's son - Jesus Christ. Lana F. Anguiano

A Friend

What a friend we have in Jesus are words to an old Christian song. Those words can also be spoken about a very special person who lives in our town. Because for 40 years she has given her heart to countless little ones. She helped make this old world a better place for them for many came from poor homes and some had been treated less than kind and needed a friend. And she was their friend, the one who always had a smile, a kind word and a hug for every little one they came her way. If one of them needed a warm coat or new pair of shoes, they got them even if she had to buy them. The little ones seemed to know that she was someone they could trust because she loved them. On the day she was born God gave her a special gift. A heart of gold, a heart that loves all God's children young or old. No one can forget her birthday for she shares our savior Jesus Christ's birthday. Written to honor Melinda Hernandez Executive Director of Westside Daycare Center. I will open the window of heaven and pour you out a blessing. Malachi 3:10 Lana F. Anguiano

Public menorah lightings

NEW YORK (AP) Public Hanukkah celebrations are being planned around the U.S. and abroad, from a parade of menorah-topped cars in Philadelphia to a menorah lighting and concert at the Eiffel Tower. The event in Philadelphia on Dec. 20 is expected to include 300 cars, culminating in a gathering at Independence Hall. The event is one of hundreds sponsored around the world by the Chabad Lubavitch outreach organization, which

launched its public menorah celebrations 40 years ago in Philadelphia. Nightly lightings are also planned in U.S. cities ranging from San Francisco, at Union Square; to New York City, just outside Central Park near the Plaza Hotel; to Washington D.C. on the Ellipse. Basketball and hockey arenas are also hosting Hanukkah celebrations. The Miami Heat will host a menorah-lighting ceremony between the first and second periods Dec. 17, while the Brooklyn Nets will host one Dec. 21. Other Hanukkah events are scheduled for the NBA stadiums of the Orlando Magic, San Antonio Spurs, Houston Rockets, Dallas Mavericks, and Atlanta Hawks, as well as the NHL arenas of the Nashville Predators, Detroit Red Wings and the Columbus Blue

Jackets. International events range from a menorah lighting Dec. 18 geared to vacationers in Aruba, at the terminal where international cruises dock, to a celebration in Moscow in Revolution Square on Dec. 16. Thirteen menorahs in all will be erected around Moscow for the holiday. Crowds in London's Trafalgar Square are expected for the lighting of a 30-foot menorah outfitted with environmentally-friendly bulbs commissioned by the London Climate Change Agency. Another lighting is planned with a concert in Paris at the Eiffel Tower Dec. 21. The eight-day Jewish holiday of Hanukkah begins at sundown Dec. 16. The public menorahs will be lit each night, but the exact timing varies due to observances of the Jewish Sabbath on Friday and Saturday nights and other scheduling details, so check before you go at www.hanukkah.org/events.

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Junior & Maricella Yanez	Big Spring Hearld
Carmen Harbour	
Leon & Frances Hobbs	
Marvin Boyd	
Fred Morales	
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Liz Larez	
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The Lesson of the Giving Tree

In the mountains and forests of Colorado is nestled the quiet quaint town of Pleasant Grove. It is a small town of about 1200 inhabitants, most of who live within a two mile radius of the town's central business district downtown.

A small courthouse, built well before just about everyone in town was born, 1908, sits as the town's centerpiece. For the record, Mrs. Josephine White was born just a year after the building of the courthouse and has been the communities oldest resident for the last 10 years. Around the courthouse are various shops and businesses. You see Pleasant Grove is too small for those "Big Box" stores, so we still make it a point to do business the old fashion way, with one another.

That brings me to the point of my story, and specifically a gentleman that many still call the Hero of Pleasant Grove. Yet, it would be many months after the events which I am about to tell you before anyone would realize that he was the one responsible for changing our entire little town.

So who is this man? His given name is James Christianson; James is a young man in his early thirties who has never married (we still can't figure out why).

He is the proverbial "Mr. Nice Guy", polite, caring, humble, and in a single word he embodies "love" more than anyone in Pleasant Grove, and for that fact more

than anyone in Pleasant Grove has ever known. By day he works as a master woodworker and carpenter, a trade he learned as the apprentice of his now passed father, Joseph.

You can hardly go anywhere in Pleasant Grove without seeing their handiwork. Many of the homes were built by one, the other or both of the Christiansons. At the least, almost every home has had some kind of work done at their hands.

Remarkable as that sounds, most people know James for a much more influential position that he holds. He is the minister at Grace Fellowship Church and just as he is known for the amazing way that his hands work with wood, his words have even more amazing skill at affecting the hearts of those that hear them. It would be expected that he would be a great orator when he is in the pulpit, and he is, but he is so much more than that.

Each encounter you have with him, you somehow walk away, inspired, encouraged, or just plain feeling better.

Now that you know our hero and a little about our little town, let me tell you how Pleasant Grove came to see him as hero.

It was a particularly long cold and wet winter, even for the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Over a three week period the temperatures hovered between 0° and 25° F and an astounding 10 feet of snow fell. The conditions were so bad that many fami-

lies could not even get out of their homes to restock the most basic of needed supplies: food, water, heating oil, etc.

However, as the days went on, as if miraculously, supplies began to just appear on or near the front porches of the most needy and desper-

"...no one will forget the lesson of the Giving Tree."

ate families. Seemingly, just at the perfect time when they were starting to believe there was no more hope, and they had reached the end of their own ability to resolve the issue. Along with each provision of supplies was a small, hand carved tree with a small note tied around its trunk. Each note simply said the following:

May you be reminded that even in the darkest, coldest and most difficult times in your life you do not walk alone. You have a Father in Heaven that watches over you in every step and every breath you take. He is the All Sufficient Provider, who knew your need and met it.

Now that you have been blessed seek His guidance, because if you will listen and obey, He will use you to bless and provide for another just as He provided for you.

When you share has He commands, please pass this "Giving Tree" and its message on as well."

It was literally unbelievable what would happen over the next week. Pleasant Grove went from being a town that was barely getting by as individuals to a community that was not just surviving, but thriving in the midst of some the most difficult of conditions that anyone, including Ms. Josephine White, had ever seen before or has been seen since.

As the days went on, the weather slowly warmed, the roads were cleared, and people began getting out again. There was one thing that everyone was talking about... The Giving Trees and from where had they come.

Their creator and the generous benefactor never came forward of his own choosing, but it was a young 6 year old boy named Timothy that figured it out. His family was one of the last to be given a Giving Tree and one day as he was admiring it, he suddenly saw something no one else in town had noticed.

He held the tree at just the right angle and the tree no longer looks like a tree, but a cross. His parents were amazed when he showed it to them.

It did not take long after that the people of Pleasant Grove put all the pieces

together - The cross, the tree, the fact that it was carved out of wood. There was only one person that could have been responsible, James Christianson.

When James was approached and asked if he was the creator and designer of the Giving Trees and the one that shared them with the town, he humbly denied doing so. His reply sounded much like words many of us had read before, but had somehow missed their meaning.

He simply said, "I only do what I see my Father doing, and say what I hear Him saying. He is the one that has and will continue to bless and provide for each of us as long as we continue to follow and serve him.

He gave us the greatest gift that any of else could ever hope to receive, the gift of Grace and Salvation, which were purchased on the original 'Giving Tree', the Cross at Calvary."

To this day in good times and difficult ones, the Giving Trees continue to make the rounds from home to home in Pleasant Grove. They have even ended up back in James' own home a time or two.

I can tell you this for sure, no one in Pleasant Grove will ever forget James Christianson, and more importantly, no one will forget the lesson of the Giving Tree.

Gary L Tidwell, MA
Primary Care Liaison
West Texas Centers
(Howard County)

'Killer Heels' looks at the history of high heels

(AP)"Killer Heels: The Art of the High-Heeled Shoe" (DelMonico Books-Prestel), edited by Lisa Small

Shakespeare mentions high heels in "Hamlet," former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg praised them and fashion designers from Dior to Manolo Blahnik have bewitched women and men with their versions. "Killer Heels" is a luxurious, fun and sexy look at the history of high heels, and it manages to be eye candy and thought-provoking, too.

It's on shelves for the holiday shopping season.

Based on an exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum, the book contains several essays and more than 100 luxurious illustrations that trace the history of heels from ancient Greece and Turkey to the modern streets of New York and Paris.

Greek actors used thick-soled cork shoes for greater visibility onstage, and during the Ottoman Empire women used a type of clog for slick bathroom floors.

That supposedly inspired the chopine of 16th-century Venice, and one delicately embroidered pair from that era shown in the book could still attract attention at a party today.

The book is dominated by pictures of heels from

the last 100 years, and designer Pierre Hardy notes a common theme there: "People love a high heel because it is not natural. It is a cultural object connected with seduction, power, and sexuality."

A pair of Salvatore Ferragamo heels from 1938 is like a happy, colored layer cake for feet, while the Rapaport Brothers' Satellite Jumping Shoes from 1955 has a pair of springs, presumably to launch the wearer even higher.

There are kinky red leather, thigh-high boots with heels from Paris in the 1920s and the untitled nude "Gaga Shoe" from 2012 that has tiny men clambering up the sides of the shoes.

The images are interspersed with interesting bits of history: According to legend, the men of Louis the XIV's

court used the talon rouge heel as a status symbol, and the trend began when a partying group of noblemen had the heels of their silk shoes stained red from bloody streets near slaughterhouses.

But Napoleon and Josephine later frowned on the implied message of higher status from high heels and chose flat-bottom shoes for their official look.

Many of the modern examples are a mix of fashion, art and architecture. Iris van Herpen's "Beyond Wilderness" is constructed to look like a black mass of twisted roots, while Roger Vivier's "Blue Feather Choc" is wildly elegant.

"Killer Heels" is bound to please any fashionista, but men who take a peek may also find the answer to an old question: The book definitely explains why women need so many shoes.

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Alon inducts five into 25 Year Club

Herald Staff Report

The 25 Year Club of Alon Big Spring Refinery welcomed five new inductees Friday, Dec. 5, at the annual banquet held at the Hotel Settles.

The 25 year club is an organization of employees of the Alon Big Spring Refinery that have reach 25 years of continuous service with the company and can trace its origins when the plant was known as Cosden Refinery. Each inductee was presented with a special ring commemorating the honor.

Inducted were Betty McFarlane, LeAnn Calhoun, Grant Swezy, Mary Truitt and Edie Atwell, all employed in the Dallas office.

McFarlane joined Fina/Alon in 1980 in the marketing department. She has served as a



administrative assistant in various departments during her lengthy career and she plans to retire at the end of December. McFarlane was given inductee card no. 701.

Calhoun began her career with Fina/Alon in 1989, working in revenue accountant, managing gas allocations for pipelines, recording and analyzing revenue for properties and interest owners. She continued in the financial/accounting part of the business during her career. She

received card No. 702. Grant Swezy also joined the company in 1989 as a marketing sales representative. He was serving as the senior marketing representative for Alon until retirement this year. His inductee card was 703

Rounding out the group are Truitt and Atwell, both who joined the company in 1989.

Truitt started as the Big Spring capital cost accountant and Atwell in marketing. In 2008 two days after the refinery explosion, Truitt reported to Big Spring and stayed for 11 months working the rebuild project coordinator. In July 2009 she transferred to Dallas. Atwell currently works in trading for the company. Their card numbers are 704 and 705 respectively.

HOLIDAY CHEER



HERALD Photo/Andrea Medlin

Having a little holiday cheer at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce are Big Spring Mayor Larry McLellan and Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Debbye ValVerde Thursday afternoon at the Chamber. The holiday reception to hosted by the Chamber, Big Spring Economic Development Corporation and the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

Glasscock County set for livestock show

By Rebel Royall

The Glasscock County Junior Livestock Show will be held Jan. 9-10.

All families are asked to help set up on Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 9 a.m. Weigh-in of swine projects will begin at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 8.

The show starts at 9 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 9 with swine and will be



Royall

followed by the steer and rabbit shows. Sheep and goat weigh-in will be held from noon until 5 p.m. on Friday as well.

Saturday, Jan. 10, the sheep show starts at 8 a.m. and will be followed by the goat show.

Our annual buyer's lunch will be held starting at 11:30 a.m. and the premium auction will start at 1 p.m.

Judges for this year's show will be: Chad Hill, swine and steers; Alice Rogers, rabbits; Chase McPhaul, sheep and goats; and Parks Tucker, showmanship.

Rebel Royall is the county Extension Agent-AG/NR for Glasscock County.

Greenpeace activists take plea deal in P&G protest

CINCINNATI (AP) — Eight Greenpeace activists who staged a Gamble Co. headquarters pleaded guilty Friday to trespassing in an agreement offered at the consumer products maker's request.

Hamilton County Common Pleas Judge Robert Winkler ordered them each to complete 80 hours of community service on the misdemeanor charge. P&G has said it's working with Greenpeace to eliminate deforestation in its palm oil supply chain, the subject of the March 4 protest.

Skilled care center open house slated

Big Spring Center for Skilled Care will hold an open house from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18.

The new facility is located at 3701 Wason Rd.

This will be a time to meet and greet with Big Spring Center staff members, tour the facility, and try some chef-prepared items from the facility dining menu.

Justin Stevens, LNFA, is administrator of the facility.

For more information and to learn about the Big Spring Center for Skilled Care, call 432-606-5012.



CHAMBER RIBBON CUTTINGS

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce recently sponsoring ribbon cuttings for businesses in the city. They include, at left, the Spa and the Hotel Settles, 200 E. Third St., and, below, the Welch Reception Center at 907 S. Lancaster.

Courtesy photos



Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

Sherrri Monique Aldridge, 1507 E. 6th St., Big Spring
 Marcus Joe Anderson, 3306 Auburn St., Big Spring
 Steve Antoine, 1425 E. 6th St. no. 19, Big Spring
 Katie Cole L. Baker, P.O. Box 3372, Big Spring
 Jessica Lynn Banks, 6403 CR 1200, Big Spring
 William Riley Bounds, 1810 Corsicana, Dallas
 Tiffany Burke-Mendoza, 1503 Robin, Big Spring
 Wayne Richard Boyce, 4042 Morningside, Canyon
 Raymond Carroll, 712 E. 17th St., Big Spring
 Roy DeWayne Carter, 5320 Wasson, Big Spring
 Susan Cheyanne Cearley, 4104 Muir, Big Spring
 Pedro Chavarria, 1404 Wood, Big Spring
 Okytra Larae Cole, 1903 Runnels, Big Spring
 Matilda Cortez, 302 N. St. Teresa, Stanton
 Stefan Deal, 8102 Casie Ln. apt. 1131, Fort Worth
 Hannah Deaton, 19634 Atasca Oaks Dr., Humble
 Manuel DeLosrios, 707 Lorilla St., Big Spring
 Teana L. Demeny-Roberts, 5601 N. Service Rd., Big Spring
 Shiloh Sharee Dennis, 4651 E. CR 490, Stanton
 Maria Luisa Elizondo, 603 S. 2nd St., Meadow
 Tina Marie Ellis, 4002 Austin Ave., Snyder
 Brittany Vanessa Escanuela, 2521 Chanute, Big Spring
 John Randall Evatt, 608 S. Louisiana apt. C, Amarillo
 Kristen Falcon, 2606 Fairchild Dr., Big Spring
 Michael Dean Fleming, 5216 Tremont Ave., Midland
 Andy Lee Flores, 1302 Kendall, Big Spring
 Sharlamarr Frink, 3723

Monclair, Odessa
 Noel Garcia II, 1011 Stadium, Big Spring
 Pedro Garcia, 806 Johnson, Big Spring
 Rosa M. George, 509 W. 2nd St., Stanton
 Roxanne Deanda Gonzales, 538 Westover Rd. apt. 211, Big Spring
 Whitney Marquez Gray, 2934 Old Anson Rd. no. 1224, Abilene
 James Michael Griffin, 303 Butler St. no. 502, Atlanta
 Eugene Frank Gulley, 1201 Floydada, Wellington, Texas
 Christina Nichole Gutierrez, 2809 25th St., Snyder
 Dylan Hammons, 4404 E. 11th Pl., Big Spring
 Matias Hernandez Jr., 620 E. 4th St., Big Spring
 James Beauford Hodnett, 111 Merrick Road, Big Spring
 April M. Horton, 1705 Charles St., Portsmouth, Ohio
 Brian Ivanchan, 1208 Mulberry, Big Spring
 Shatiya Lasha Jenkins, 4590 N. Texas no. 198, Odessa
 Stephanie Ford Johnson, P.O. Box 483, Coahoma
 Christopher Shawn Jones, Vanham Ave., Wilson
 Albert Leal, 2522 Albrook, Big Spring
 Richard Leos, 509 W. 8th St., Big Spring
 Jesse Paul Lopez, 1011 Scurry, Big Spring
 Jenny Marie Hamilton Lyon, 2609 Fairchild, Big Spring
 Aaron Christopher Mack, 2134 Bonham Ave., Odessa
 Todd Vincent Martin, 409 Woodcrest, Midland
 Joe Martinez, 2525 Fairchild, Big Spring
 Manuel Martinez Jr., 702 NE Iona, Lamesa
 Michael Shane Martinez, P.O. Box 613, Coahoma
 Lee Allen Mathis, 101

Falcon Ln., Hillsboro
 Hutchinson McWilliams, 1700 N. FM 700, Big Spring
 Jonathan L. Michelsen, 2798 Simmons, Abilene
 Jacob Montoya, 149 Whipowheel, Rockdale
 Willie Ray Myles Jr., 1220 Ross Ave., Waco, Texas
 Camilo Martin Nieto, 1 Courtney Pl. no. 108, Big Spring
 Melissa Chu-Lai Nieto, 615 Tulane, Big Spring
 Dehalie Marie Nunez, P.O. Box 93, Eden
 Robert Scott Ochoa, 2607 Chanute, Big Spring
 James Michael Perez, 1603 Owens, Big Spring
 Michael Lynn Perkins, 11681 CR 4164, Hermitage
 Taylor James Perry, 2105 Sidney Baker no. 228, Kerrville
 Jarum Renee Pryor, 602 N. Plaza, Big Lake
 Randy Randolph, 237 W. 21st St., Ft. Stockton
 Shenna Leeann Reeves, 615 Gene Lee Rd., Mineral Wells
 John Daniel Renteria, 4221 CR A 3500, Knott
 John Troy Riddle, 801 Industrial Loop no. 65, Breckenridge
 Liza Leigh Rios, 1002 Main no. 30, Big Spring
 Linda Eva Rodriguez, 2519 Gunter, Big Spring
 Veronica Romero, 103 Becker Rd., Big Spring
 Lisa J. Rubio, 1303 Sycamore, Big Spring
 Miguel Andres Sanchez, 64 McCaleb Rd., Montgomery
 Anastasia Clarice Sanders, 1401 Culpepper, Wilson
 Brittany Nicole Savell, 425 East Davis Rd., Big Spring
 Kennedra Wynell Shelton, 400 N. 40th St. no. A, Corsicana
 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
 Olivia Talietha Threats, 1208 Blackmon, Big Spring
 Abram Heinrichs Unger, 503 NE 4th St., Big Spring
 Ricky Lynn Waltenbaugh, 538 Westover Rd., apt. 133, Big Spring
 Timothy Shea Wargo, 624 State St., Big Spring
 Thomas Weeks, P.O. Box 110891, Anchorage, Ak.
 Candida Lynn Whitehead, 3706 Connolly St., Big Spring
 Tamara Ruth Whitt, 1909 Morrison, Big Spring
 Jamie Wiggins, 1905 Wasson Rd. apt. 28, Big Spring
 Byran Paul Williams, 1409 E. Main, Big Spring
 Frances Elena Yanez, 1610 Cardinal, Big Spring
 James Edward Young, 3313 Auburn Ave., Big Spring
Marriage Licenses
 Johnathon Nathaniel Hannon, 21 and Valerie Cruz Pacheco, 21, both of Big Spring
 Jesus C. Hernandez Jr., 29 and Christina Saucedo, 28, both of Big Spring
 Alfonso Vera Jr., 20 and Josephina Ernestina Granados, 19, both of Big Spring
 Quentin Deveon Simpson, 34, and Marinell Martinez, 25, both of Big Spring
 Mark Wade Miller, 51, of Big Spring and Susan Ann Harris, 53, of Midland
 Stetson Gene Earls, 28 and Linda Michelle Branham, 29, both of Big Spring
Warranty Deeds
 Grantor: James Robert

Miller aka Jimmy Miller and Ellen C. Miller
 Grantee: E and J Miller LLC, a Texas Limited Liability Company
 Property: Lot 3, blk 2, Hillcrest Terrace and lot 33, blk 5, College Park Estates
 Date: Nov. 26, 2014
 Grantor: Gordon N. McDaniel and Susan A McDaniel
 Grantee: Roshni Patel and Bhakti Patel
 Property: Lot 13, blk 2, Hillcrest Terrace Addition
 Date: Nov. 26, 2014
Warranty Deeds With Vendors Leins
 Grantor: Larry Pew and Sharon Pew
 Grantee: Justin Kyle Bennett and Christy Michelle Reyes
 Property: Lot 5, blk 2, Hillcrest Terrace Addition
 Date: Dec. 10, 2014
 Grantor: Trey Terrazas and Brenda Terrazas
 Grantee: Jennifer Marie Moorman and Jesse Buchanan Moorman IV
 Property: Lot 4, an S/8' of lot 5, blk 3, Indian Hills Addition
 Date: Dec. 4, 2014
 Grantor: Gerald Lee Harris and Tonya D. Harris
 Grantee: Jacob W. Owens
 Property: N/80' of lot 4, blk 13, North Park Hill Addition
 Date: Nov. 26, 2014
 Grantor: Grace Marie Tolison, fka Grace Sawyers
 Grantee: John Kimberly and Gina Kimberly
 Property: Lot 26, Bates Subdivision, Coahoma
 Date: Nov. 24, 2014
District Court Filings
 Gary W. Karns vs Cole Thomas Adams and

JPMW Trucking LLC – Injury/damage – motor vehicles
 In the Estate of Meredith Anne Kendall, deceased – Civil suit
 Melinda Moncada vs Jeremiah Moncada – Divorce
 State of Texas vs William Edwards – Civil cases relating to criminal cases
 State of Texas vs John F. Fehr – Civil cases relating to criminal cases
 Midland Funding LLC vs Julia Gomez – Accounts, notes and contracts
 Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC assignee of GE Capital Retail Bank (Sam's Club) vs Maira Garvin – Accounts, notes and contracts
 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. vs Alma T. Bowen – Accounts, notes and contracts
 Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC assignee of GE Capital Retail Bank (Wal-Mart) vs Gilberto Jacquez – Accounts, notes and contracts
 Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC assignee of Citi Bank N.A. (The Home Depot) vs Christina Brito – Accounts, notes and contracts
 Portfolio Recovery Associated LLC assignee of GE Capital Retail Bank (Wal-Mart) vs Ricardo Valdez – Accounts, notes and contracts
 Katrina Rene Juarez vs Donny Juarez – Protective order
 Johnny Castillo vs Lacey Chavarria Castillo – Divorce
 Karla Gomez vs Alejandra A. Lopez – Civil suit
 Feliciano R. Hernandez and Elizabeth Hernandez vs Gene Messer Ford Inc. - Accounts, notes and contracts



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Information Technology System Administrator - Responsible for overall planning, organization, and execution of Information Technology functions for the District, including maintaining computer hardware, software, and networks.

Electrician - Responsible for maintaining the District's control panels, motors, electric substations and power lines. Intermediate level position, good understanding of electricity required.

Crew Leader - Responsible for successfully planning, directing, organizing, and overseeing the daily activities of a crew maintaining the District's raw water pipelines, pumps, and pump stations. Intermediate level position, good leadership skills and mechanical aptitude required.

For additional information visit www.crmwd.org



West Texas Centers

Position 322: Provider Service Part Time positions. This position provides services to persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Services range from skills training, to assistance with daily living activities. Services are provided in the home, the community in a vocational setting. Schedules are flexible. Hrly \$12.90.

IDD Residential Support Tech: Provides Residential Services to IDD individuals in a residential 4 bed home. Services will be provided within the community and in the person's home. Responsibilities include providing training, supervision, and/or support in the areas of: self-help, independent living, community participation and involvement, social and peer development, financial management, and health maintenance. Staff may share responsibilities with other staff or may work independently of other staff to provide daily supervision, care and training of individuals in their care. Required to work flexible hours and may be required to work rotating shifts. High school diploma or GED \$12.90 hfr (\$1,032.00 by weekly \$26,832 annually).

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

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COUNTER & SALES person needed for local Furniture and Appliance Store. Bilingual and outgoing personality a plus. All inquires are to be made in person at 1611 South Gregg, Big Spring. Starting pay \$10.50 a hour.

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West Texas Centers

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Annie's Mailbox

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Dear Annie: I am in a 14-month-old relationship that is rapidly falling apart. I consider this relationship serious. "Clara" is in her early 60s and several years younger than I am.

The problem is, Clara periodically runs errands for her former employer. He often takes her out for lunch, and she never tells me when this happens.

Who dresses like that to see a doctor? What do you think? -- Not Entirely Sure

Dear Not Sure: We think Clara isn't ready for the relationship you want. Her behavior indicates that she isn't fully committed to you.

someone who is unattached, but we assume that isn't what you are looking for. You don't need a partner who makes you feel insecure and suspicious.

Dear Annie: My husband is a minister and is frequently called on to do funerals and weddings. Funerals often take up two days, including a night of visitation at the funeral home.

Too many times, my husband is not paid a dime for these services. The funeral home gets paid, and so do the people coordinating the weddings.

The practice in our small town is not to set fees for these services, so my husband is at the mercy of whatever a person chooses to give. Please print this so people will be aware of the appropriate way to thank a pastor for his services.

Dear Wife: Whenever payment is optional, some people will choose not to pay. If your husband has an assistant, that person can "set" prices by telling folks that a fee for a funeral or wedding ranges

from Price A to Price B, depending on what they choose to give. Or your husband could print up sheets with information on planning the event and include "suggested remuneration."

Dear Annie: Here's my advice for "Grandma's Doing Her Best," who asked where the bride's divorced parents should sit.

I was devastated when my husband left me to marry the "other woman," but two years later, I found a wonderful guy myself. When my daughter married, she had two great dads, and we didn't want tension to spoil her day.

I'm so glad we took the high road. Now the stepmom and her new husband are wonderfully important to my children. One never knows what life holds in store. Act with integrity. -- All's Well

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.

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Trine of the Sun and Jupiter

The Sagittarius sun and Jupiter in Leo are in a favorable arrangement to promote bold action. The best part is that it's rather obvious what must be done. Heart energies lock on to the thing that is certain to bring joy, and gut instincts confirm the choice.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). What do you do that makes a minute difference? Whatever it is, you can be sure that it counts. The little things will be the most important things, and only the best people will notice.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you could, as the saints do, love everyone indiscriminately, you would. It is a difficult, if not impossible, task for a mere mortal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). People like to think they can learn from history, but the curious

way it recycles, wearing different costumes and disguises, makes for a grand-scale deception.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The neighbors? That's an interesting question. The energy of the people around you -- is it good or bad? Is it time to move? Your feelings about your environment will be prescient.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You will accomplish whatever you set your mind to. Because you are so determined and very likely to succeed, it's important to choose the aim that will be good for all.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's true that this has been done before, but not by you. No matter how closely you stick to the tried-and-true methods, you'll still come up with an original product.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Whether or not you are a parent, parenting skills will help you in today's situation. You'll make the most of the circumstances by being positive, supportive and compassionate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The situation doesn't call for as much thought as you're trying to give it. There's such a thing as being too smart for your own good. Let your common sense rule over your uncommon intelligence.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When they get overly possessive of you, it's flattering but not really healthy. Also, if you find yourself tiptoeing around to avoid hurting someone's feelings, it's a bad sign.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If you act without dreaming first, your action will be small and uninspired. But if you dream without acting, you'll have nothing. Follow up your wishful thinking with faithful action.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's a day to return what was borrowed, pay back what is owed and generally make amends. If you've been shortchanging yourself, now is the time to make good.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Working alone will get old. You'll do better when you have supporters, and if you have competitors, too, better still. If forced to work solo, at least imagine that you're up against a worthy opponent.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 14). You'll be the self-appointed protector of what you and a few other people consider sacred. Others misunderstand? That's none of your concern. You'll be honored for an outstanding accomplishment in January.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: It's the last week of the season, and Jupiter recently turned retrograde, so don't be surprised if you go into the scene feeling like you're walking into the wind. You may stop and wonder whether you can still get where you want to go by turning around and heading in the opposite direction.

On Tuesday, December 16, Mercury enters Capricorn. Those who have been struggling with self-control issues will find new wells of discipline and a greater sense of internal structure. This is just the kind of cosmic boost needed to help us get life in order as we head toward the winter solstice, the new moon and the Uranus change of December 21.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The poet and mystic Nostradamus was born more than half a millennium ago in the south of France. Some say he predicted the French Revolution, the rise of Hitler and the nuclear destruction of Hiroshima.

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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Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Frank Longo Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
1 Unctuous stuff
11 Maldives is its smallest country
15 Bingbot, for one
16 Series in the DVD Martinis and Medicine Collection
17 Onetime New York home of Will Rogers
18 Tenoroon relative
19 Tape first sold in '75
20 British coronation anointment vessel
22 He directed Colin in Total Recall
23 Computer plug
24 Deep in the Louvre
27 Put up with a put-down
29 Primer descriptor
32 Alanis Morissette
36 Antithesis of love
37 Small discrepancy?
39 Built like London's Sutton House
40 Salsa ingredients?
42 Processing peaches, perhaps
44 Steak source
46 Honey, e.g.
47 Major function
50 See 8 Down
53 Subject of the 2010 documentary Between the Folds
54 Released, in a way
58 South Africa's "moral conscience"
59 Victim of a split decision?
61 Booster, frequently

- 62 Culture center
63 Highest-paid actor, per 2012 Guinness
64 Haydn masterwork
DOWN
1 Evidence-collection aid
2 Cultural fad
3 Sort of bio
4 Hexadecimal alternative
5 "Shoot"
6 They've been banned from the US since '62
7 Mars brand
8 With 50 Across, done with prime time?
9 Best friend of Charles Foster Kane
10 Literally, "citadel"
11 Excerpt from a statement

- 12 White fish or brown mammal
13 Creta o Sardegna
14 Forward
21 Theme page on Halloween-Costumes.com
23 Child development stage, per Freud
24 Battle report
25 Musical with the song "Another Pyramid"
26 Trifling
28 Dilbert engineer
30 Film-inspired eatery chain, familiarly
31 Common
33 Cat's acknowledgment
34 Something bad
35 Logical connection
38 House trailer

- 41 Hazard to navigation
43 Cash in a jukebox
45 Start
47 Finished work at 65, maybe
48 Not as ___
49 Exhibited exhilaration
51 Name on the cover of Fear of Fifty
52 Aptly named duffel-bag brand
54 Options for showing percentages
55 Disney title character from Kauai
56 Top-50 boy's name, 2003-2012
57 Some Junior Leaguers
60 King Lear expletive

14x14 crossword grid with numbers 1-64 indicating starting points for clues.

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Answer to previous puzzle grid showing words like TAUPE, BUFF, DRAB, ELMER, AMBI, OHNO, ASPEN, RAIN, LEAN, LOSLOBOS, ESTATE, UNSNAPS, CABFARE, ERR, TAM, OPULENT, ETA, HRE, COLOR, WHEEL, ORG, OBI, SALERNO, ATE, SEC, POSTMAN, FOCUSON, MAHALO, PRESSCAR, ORAL, MEAT, PHOTO, SINS, ERIE, AUDIS, SAGE, SAND, SLATE.

sudoku
ANSWERS
Grid with numbers 3-8 in various positions.

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Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge.

▶ Menu

Senior Center

Monday: Pork chop, sweet potatoes, turnip greens, fruit, cornbread, milk.
 Tuesday: Beef stroganoff with noodles, vegetable blend, Texas toast, sugar cookie, milk.
 Wednesday: Sliced ham, blackeyed peas, braised cabbage, tapioca pudding, rolls, milk.
Thursday: Cheeseburger, tator tots, lettuce/tomato/onion/pickle, rosy pears, milk.
 Friday: Cheese enchilada, refried beans, chips and salsa, oatmeal raisin cookie, milk.

Sands CISD

Monday: Breakfast, fruit strudel, cheese stick, fruit, juice and milk. Lunch, baked potato with ham and cheese, roll, garden salad, seasoned corn, snowball salad.
 Tuesday: Breakfast, mini pancakes, yogurt, fruit, juice and milk. Lunch, cheeseburger, French fries, garden salad, fresh vegetable cup, mixed fruit.
 Wednesday: Breakfast, sausage roll, cheese stick, fruit, juice and milk. Lunch, pizza sticks, spaghetti sauce, garden salad, baby carrots, apple slices, brownie cookie.
 Thursday: Breakfast, breakfast burrito, fruit, juice and milk. Lunch, roasted turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, dressing, savory green beans, roll, pineapple D'Lite.
 Friday: Breakfast, French toast, fruit, juice and milk. Lunch, sack lunch.

Big Spring ISD

Monday: Breakfast, apple or cherry frudel, string cheese, grapes, assorted fruit juice,

milk. Lunch, cheese or pepperoni pizza or hamburger or cheeseburger, garden salad, fresh vegetable cup, strawberries, milk.
 Tuesday: Breakfast, mini maple pancakes, strawberry yogurt, applesauce cup, assorted fruti juice, milk.
 Wednesday: Breakfast, sausage roll, string cheese, peach cup, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch, chicken and broccoli penne or pizza dipper with sauce, breadsticks, garden salad, baby carrots, peaches, graham cracker, milk.
 Thursday: Breakfast, cheese stuffed sandwich, banana, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch, meatloaf or chicken bowl, green beans, mashed potatoes, roll, apple-pineapple D'Lite, milk.
 Friday: Breakfast, French toast, mixed fruit cup, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch, sack lunch, milk.

Coahoma ISD

Monday: Breakfast, quesadilla, cereal, toast, fresh whole fruit, 100% Fruit Juice, jelly/syrup. Lunch, King Ranch chicken, Swedish meatballs, turkey or ham chef salad, steamed rice, broccoli Normandy, chilled peaches, roll.
 Tuesday: Breakfast, pineapple and yogurt parfait, ham and cheese croissant, fresh whole fruit, 100% Fruit Juice, jelly. Lunch, chicken fajita, spaghetti with meat sauce, mini corn dog basket, beef vegetable soup, green peas, carrot sticks, chilled Mandarin oranges, roll.
 Wednesday: Breakfast, breakfast taco, bacon and egg, blueberry muffin, fresh whole fruit, 100% Fruit Juice, salsa/jelly. Lunch, Homestyle

pizza, cheese and pepperoni, grilled chicken salad, mixed vegetables, yellow squash, blushing pears, peach crisp.
 Thursday: Breakfast, waffle bar or Pop Tart, cereal, fresh whole fruit, 100% Fruit Juice, syrup/fruit sauce. Lunch, soft tacos, chicken fajita taco salad, crispito with cheese sauce, Spanish brown rice, seasoned black beans, Southwest broccoli with queso, lettuce and tomato salad, jalapeno/salsa/sour cream.
 Friday: Breakfast, biscuits and gravy, cereal, toast, fresh whole fruit, 100% Fruit Juice, jelly. Lunch, crispy chicken sandwich, popcorn chicken, sweet potato fries, baked beans, burger salad, rosy apple-sauce.

Forsan ISD

Monday: Breakfast, quesadilla, cereal, toast, fresh whole fruit, 100% Fruit Juice, jelly/syrup. Lunch, King Ranch chicken, Swedish meatballs, turkey or ham chef salad, steamed rice, broccoli Normandy, chilled peaches, roll.
 Tuesday: Breakfast, pineapple and yogurt parfait, ham and cheese croissant, fresh whole fruit, 100% Fruit Juice, jelly. Lunch, chicken fajita, spaghetti with meat sauce, mini corn dog basket, beef vegetable soup, green peas, carrot sticks, chilled Mandarin oranges, roll.
 Wednesday: Breakfast, breakfast taco, bacon and egg, blueberry muffin, fresh whole fruit, 100% Fruit Juice, salsa/jelly. Lunch, Homestyle pizza, cheese and pep-

peroni, grilled chicken salad, mixed vegetables, yellow squash, blushing pears, peach crisp.
 Thursday: Breakfast, waffle bar or Pop Tart, cereal, fresh whole fruit, 100% Fruit Juice, syrup/fruit sauce. Lunch, soft tacos, chicken fajita taco salad, crispito with cheese sauce, Spanish brown rice, seasoned black beans, Southwest broccoli with queso, lettuce and tomato salad, tropical mixed fruit, jalapeno/salsa/sour cream.
 Friday: Breakfast, biscuits and gravy, cereal, toast, fresh whole fruit, 100% Fruit Juice, jelly. Lunch, crispy chicken sandwich, popcorn chicken, sweet potato fries, baked beans, burger salad, rosy apple-sauce.

New Hope Christian School

Monday: Breakfast, cereal, pineapple juice, milk. Snack, cottage cheese, apricots. Lunch, turkey and cheese sandwich, tater tots, vegetable sticks, milk.
 Tuesday: Breakfast, pancakes, peaches, milk. Snack, animal crackers, cheese sticks. Lunch, chili mac, green beans, corn, bread, milk.
 Wednesday: Breakfast, cheese quesadilla, orange smiles, milk. Snack, granola bars, milk. Lunch, nacho grande, refried beans, salad with tomatoes, milk.
 Thursday: Breakfast, blueberry muffin, apple-sauce, milk. Snack, butter cracker, slice cheese. Lunch, mini corn dogs, peas, pears, milk.



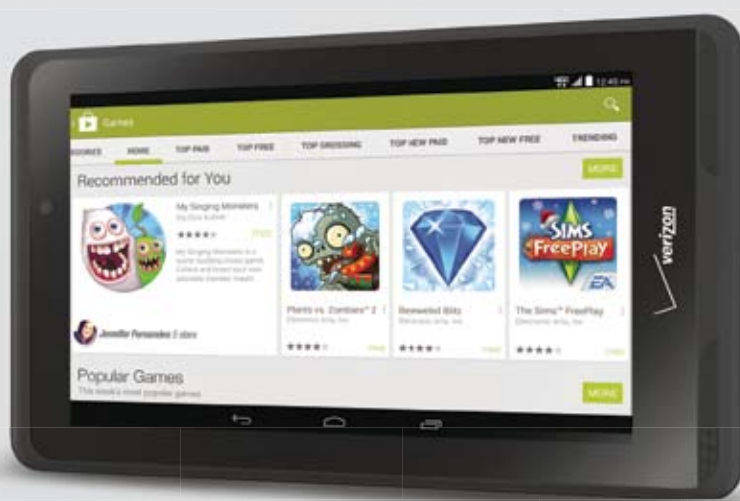
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MATCH THE SANTA TO HIS WORKSHOP!!



1



2



3



4



5



6

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