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SUNDAY
 JANUARY 18, 2015

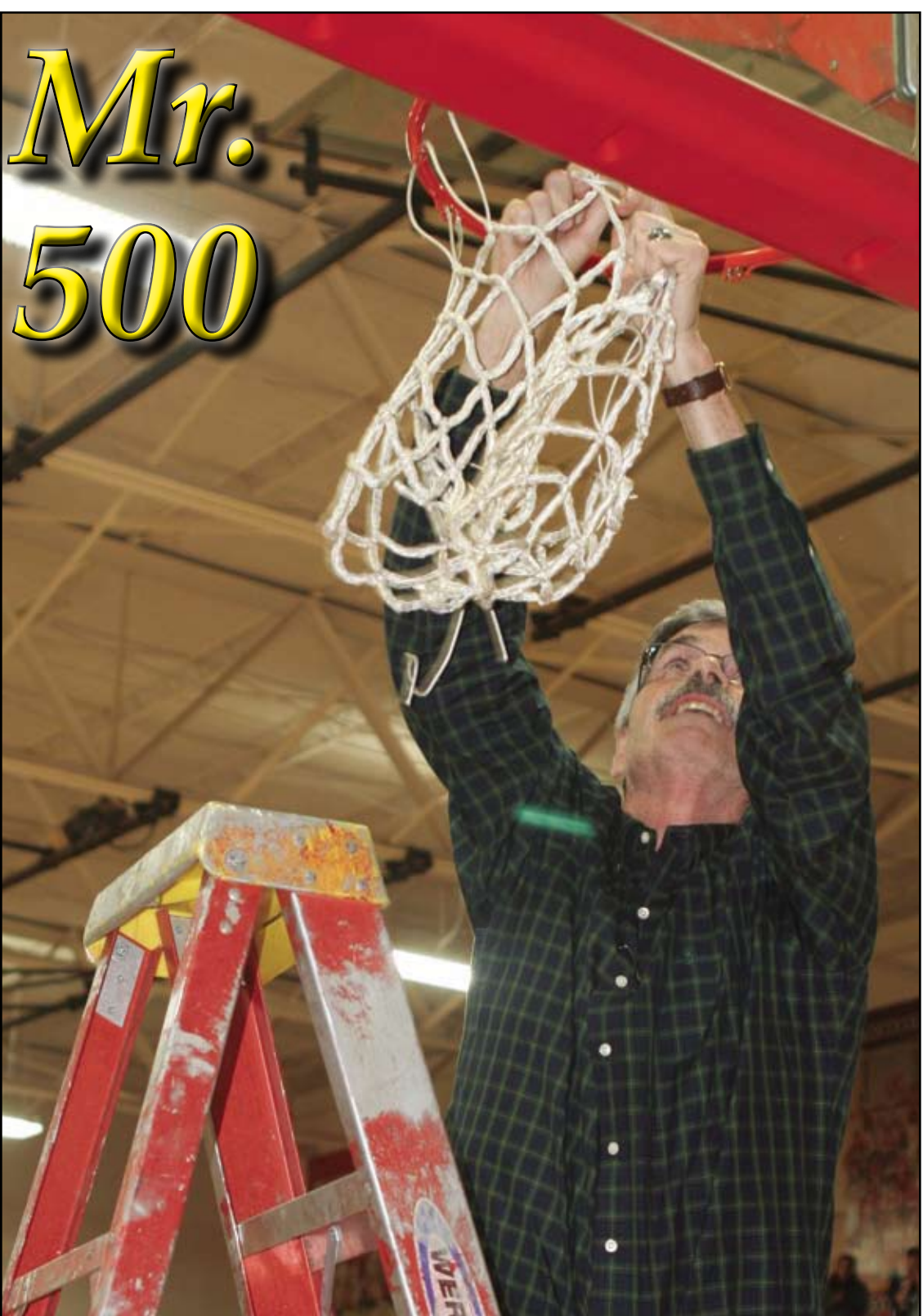


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VOLUME 110, NUMBER 80

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY



Mr. 500

Courtesy photo/Karen Moore
Coahoma High School boys' basketball coach Kim Nichols cuts down the nets after the Bulldogs' victory over Sonora Friday night. The win was Nichols' 500th as a basketball coach. See additional photo and story, Page 10A.

Call waiting ... and waiting

AT&T service to county disrupted when cable cut

Herald Staff Report

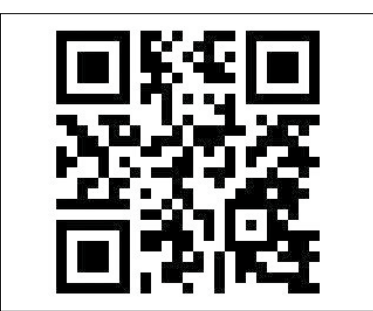


Service was restored for most AT&T customers in Howard County and surrounding areas Friday night after service was disrupted for most of the day. According to a media report, the outage was caused when utility workers inadvertently cut a phone line. As is, the outage left many residences, businesses and entities without phone service causing for some issues. At 11:30 a.m. Friday, the Howard County Sheriff's Office's phone lines were not working, forcing the department to transfer 911 calls to another agency, officials said. The department reported in a

press release that the transfer was successful and the agency was forwarding information from 911 calls back the sheriff's dispatch center via cell phones. The service disruption affected a number of cities throughout West Texas, the company reported. Also, the Big Spring State Hospital reported its phone service was disrupted and provided an alternative number for those needing to contact personnel at the hospital. That number is 432-816-1174.

City offices closed Monday

The City of Big Spring will close all offices, including the landfill, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday. Emergency services (Police, Fire, and EMS) will continue normal operations. Emergency Utilities Department will also continue and can be contacted at 264-2392.



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Local students qualify for regional science fair

BY LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer

Fifty-nine Big Spring ISD students have qualified to advance to the 2015 Permian Basin Regional Science Fair. On Friday, awards were given out to students who placed first through third at their individual campus and to the overall winners of each elementary school. "Overall the fair went very well," said Donny Green, Big Spring ISD science fair coordinator. "I would say we saw a tiny bit more participation than last year. The projects were quite good. The few of the elementary projects I was able to see while making my rounds during the judging were quite good, so when they get to the junior high level an onwards — if we can keep them interest — they will be very good." The 2015 Regional Science Fair will be held Feb. 20 and 21 at the University of Texas — Permian Basin campus in Odessa. All students who placed first through third in their individual categories at their campus science fair can attend the regional fair but only students who are in the sixth

grade or higher will be eligible to compete for a spot at state. At the district level, the Big Spring Junior High School and Big Spring Intermediate held a joint science fair competition. Students who placed in both the junior high/intermediate and high school fairs received a \$50 gift card to Wal-Mart donated by Alon USA -Big Spring Refinery. Results are as follows:
Big Spring High School
 Chemistry, Andrea Ramirez, 1st.
Big Spring Junior High and Big Spring Intermediate schools:
 Chemistry: Rebecca Moore, 2nd; Kiana Banks, 3rd.
 Environmental science: Reina Barraza, 3rd.
 Math: Ransom Colette, 2nd.
 Plant science, Corey Rogers, 2nd.
 Team: Nathan Letz and Manuel Marquez, 1st.
 Biology: Maggie Ogle, 3rd.
 Behavioral science: Kloe Mata, 1st.
 See **SCIENCE**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Goliad Elementary School overall all science fair winner are Nathaniel Barrera. Also pictured with Barrera is Goliad Principal Michelle Schreiner, left, and teacher Bri Anderson.

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Obituaries

Ernesto Gil



The Rev. Ernesto Gil, 81, died Dec. 12, 2014. Memorial services were held Dec. 14, 2014. He was born to Eleodoro and Heleodora Gil Sept. 4, 1933, in Mexico City and was a minister for many years. His first church was First Baptist Church in Combes, Texas and his current church was Primera Iglesia Baptista in Donna, Texas.

He is survived by three children, Martha Patricia Gil of Big Spring; Ernesto Gil Jr. of Dallas and Noemi Fernandez of Harlingen; 11 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sarabetha Gil; and a daughter, Maria Ester Aguirre.

Ara Gillette



Ara Lee Anderson Bailey Gillette, 91, of Colorado City, formerly of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015, in a Colorado City nursing home. Graveside funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015, at Mt Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Jan. 28, 1923, in Howard County, Texas and attended school at Midway and Moore. She moved to California as a young girl and had worked for Douglas Aircraft during World War II. She returned to Howard County after the war and was a homemaker. She

was a Baptist.

Survivors include two sons, James A. Bailey and Wesley Bailey, both of Brownwood; eight grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Oscar and Lillie Anderson; her two husbands, J. O. Bailey and H. D. Gillette; two sons, Thomas Lynn Bailey and William Edward Bailey; two sisters; and three brothers.

The family suggests memorials to the Alheimers Association-Greater West Texas Chapter, 4400 N. Big Spring St., Suite C-32, Midland, Texas 79705.

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

Lawrence R. Lewis

Lawrence R. Lewis, 88, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015, at his residence. Funeral services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory.

Zadie Winters

Zadie Winters, 86, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015, at Parkveiw Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Today's Weather

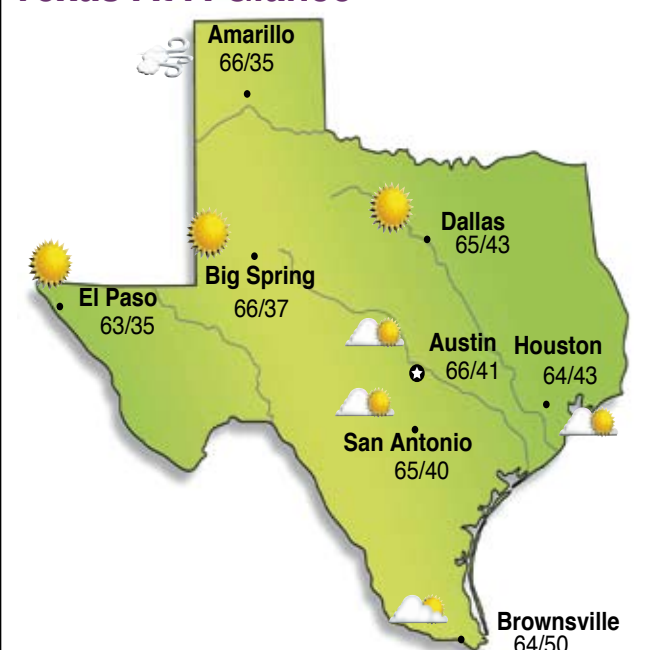
Local 5-Day Forecast

Sun 1/18	Mon 1/19	Tue 1/20	Wed 1/21	Thu 1/22
66/37 Mainly sunny. High 66F. Winds SW at 10 to 20 mph.	71/39 Sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 30s.	60/35 Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	57/35 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	42/30 Mix of rain and snow showers. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise: 7:46 AM Sunset: 6:06 PM	Sunrise: 7:46 AM Sunset: 6:07 PM	Sunrise: 7:46 AM Sunset: 6:08 PM	Sunrise: 7:46 AM Sunset: 6:09 PM	Sunrise: 7:45 AM Sunset: 6:10 PM

AmericanProfile

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Texas At A Glance



Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- JOSHUA LEE MARSH, 21, of 1808 S. Settles St. was arrested on a warrant from another agency.
- ADRIAN EUGENE HIGERSBERGER, 26, transient, was arrested on a charge of forgery-check/credit card (two counts).
- MARCO ANTONIO PADILLA, 23, of 504 N. Amburgey, Odessa, was arrested on a warrant for another agency.
- ASHLEE ANN TAYLOR, 34, of 1112 Sycamore St. was arrested on a charge of criminal trespass-habitation/shelter.

- ROBERT DWITE SCHAAF, 30, of 1603 Lexington Avenue was arrested on a charge of criminal trespass-habitation/shelter; and warrants from other agencies.
- DAWNTAVIA SHAREYE GHANT, 23, of 1002 N. Main 16 was arrested on a charge of theft, more than or equal to \$50 but less than \$500-shoplifting.
- CHRISTOPHER PAUL JUSTICE, 27, of 1134 Avendale, Weatherford, Texas, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- JAMES DEWAYNE TURNBO, 36, of 301 S. Furrh St., Coahoma, was arrested on a warrant from another agency.

- THEFT was reported in the 900 block of Willia St., the 2700 block of Wasson Road, the 3600 block of W. Highway 80, 200 block of W. FM 700, and the 2000 block of E. FM 700.
- CRMINIAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main St. and on Salem Road.
- MINOR ACCIDENT was reported in the 600 block of State St.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1500 block of Stadium Avenue.
- DISTURBANCE was reported in the 3400 block of E. Interstate 20.

Support Groups

MONDAY
• VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7-8 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.

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

• SteppingStone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Spring Town Plaza (inside the

mall, across from the movie box office, next to Sears).
Open meeting at 7 p.m.

TUESDAY
• Big Spring and Snyder Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month.

This is a group for all Parkinson's disease patients, spouses and caregivers.

For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo

Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.

• VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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

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

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

• SteppingStone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Spring Town Plaza (inside the mall, across from the movie box office). Open meeting at 7 p.m.

• A Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

FRIDAY
• 7p.m. — The Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Spring Town Plaza (inside the mall, across from the movie box office, next to Sears).

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2015 BSISD Science Fair



HERALD photos/Lyndel Moody

Pictured above is Moss Elementary School overall winner was Emily Kocak. Also pictured are teacher Gina Kimberly and Moss Assistant Principal Bert Otto. Pictured top, right are the winners of the Big Spring High School, Junior High School and Big Spring Intermediate district science fair. They are, in no particular order, Rebecca Moore, Reina Barraza, Ransom Colette, Nathan Letz, Manuel Marquez, Kloe Mata, Andrea Ramirez, and BSISD science fair coordinator Donny Green. Not pictured are Kiana Banks, Corey Rogers and Maggie Ogle. At right, Washington Elementary School students who placed in the Big Spring ISD science fair are (pictured in no particular order) Audrie Brito, Emma Miracle, Kendra Brito, Braden Lopez, Malachi Hodge, Christina Ortiz, Alexa Santamaria, Zoey Castillo, Clifford Anglin, Angelica Barraza, Esmeralda Ramirez, Jacy Mackenzie, Abby Delgado, and Bella Marquez. Also pictured are Washington Principal Charlie Crisp and teacher Erica Melton.

SCIENCE

Continued from Page 1A

Moss Elementary School

Overall winner: Emily Kocak.

Chemistry: Katlin Hale, 1st; Connor Theford, 2nd; Isaiah Diaz and Ryleigh Pirraglia, 3rd (tie).

Life science: Adrian Navarro, 1st.

Physics: Gage Miller, 1st; Kaiden Roberts, 2nd.

Earth/space: Emily Kocak, 1st; Ethan Phipps, 2nd; Autumn Hale, 3rd.

Goliad Elementary School

Overall Winner: Nathaniel Barrera

Chemistry: Nathaniel Barrera, 2nd; Aaron Legarda, 3rd.

Earth/space science: Delia Rawls, 3rd.

Physics: Timothy Ontiveros, 3rd.

Washington Elementary School

Overall winner: Audrie Brito

Earth and space science: Emma Miracle, 1st; Kendra Brito, 2nd; Braden Lopez, 3rd.

Life Science: Malachi Hodge, 1st.

Physics: Christina Ortiz and Alexa Santamaria, 1st.; Zoey Castillo, 2nd; Clifford Anglin, 3rd.

Environmental Science: Audrie Brito, 1st; Angelica Barraza, 2nd; Esmeralda Ramirez, 3rd.

Chemistry: Jacy Mackenzie, 1st; Abby Delgado, 2nd; Bella Marquez, 3rd.

Marcy Elementary School

Overall winner: Michael Stoaks.

Behavioral science: Hannah Peckenpaugh,

1st; Kaydence Norwood, 2nd.

Physical science: Michael Stoaks, 1st; Roman Perez, 2nd; Brena Tubb and Leane De La Torres, 3rd (tie).

Life science: Mia Saracho, 1st; Natalie Rodriguez and Quevanza Lewis, 2nd (tie); Distiny Hodnett, 3rd

Environmental science: Aaliyah Montoya,

1st; Ezekiel Carreon and Miranda Gomez, 2nd (tie); Alandra Juarez, 3rd.

Chemistry: Jordan Richards, 1st; John Manyiali, 3rd; Marco Salinas and Celeste

Martinez, 3rd (tie).

Earth science: Adolfo Salinas 1st; Ethan Urias, 2nd; Thalia Olivarez, 3rd.

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Zadie Winters, 86, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

William "Bill" Thompson, 75, died Saturday, January 10, 2015. Visitation, Vigil and Mass will be January 24, 2015.

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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:

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

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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

May we remain diligent about reading Your word, Lord, for our life.

Amen

Network news is a big medicine show

In the movie *Mary Poppins*, Julie Andrews sings a song that states: "A spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down in a most delightful way."

These days it takes a lot of medicine to take the news. I have a good friend, a lawyer, who says he watches the 5:30 news every day and ends up in tears because it has the entire spectrum of emotions. He cries at the horrible things happening around the world, and then does the same thing when the "feel good" stuff comes on at the end of the newscast.

He might need some medicine to make him feel better. And that may apply to a bunch of other people, too. I think the 30-minute evening network newscast is a big medicine show.

In early December, I carefully watched the 5:30 news for three days straight and counted commercials for medicines. I

watched CBS on Wednesday, Dec. 10, then watched NBC on Thursday Dec. 11, then watched ABC on Friday, Dec. 12.

I suspected the number of medicine commercials was greater than commercials for other things, but I was amazed to learn how many there were for various drugs designed to make people feel better.

CBS had 15 commercials during the 30-minute cast. There were two for Trivago, one for GNC and the rest were for Xarelto, Plevnar 13, Gaviscom, Nexium, Tamiflu and similar items.

NBC also had 15 commercials during its 30-minute news report. Very similar to CBS — including three for investment services, two for insurance.

The others were for Brisdelle, Jublia, Linzess, Cialis and other things for various ailments. The news report did have a lengthy report on a breast cancer symposium.

During ABC's evening news, there was just one of the 13 spots that was not medicinal. It was for Ameritrade.

Again, we're talking about

commercials for Brisdelle, Jublia, Tamiflu, Bayer Aspirin, Cialis, CVS Health, Chrones disease, Ensure, Chantix, Alka-Seltzer, Symbicort and Coricidin.

So when network news goes after sponsors, the obvious targets are firms dealing in medicines. That is quite different from local newscasts, which depend mainly on car dealers and furniture stores.

Advertising is the engine that runs the American economy. It, more than anything else (except maybe for our right to report the news), represents what America is all about and is a perfect example of how our free enterprise system works.

My wife and I have owned an advertising agency since 1981 and love the business. It's encouraging to see how effective advertising can be.

Apparently network television news and medicine were meant for each other.

Tumbleweed Smith is a folklorist, humorist and oral historian who lives in Big Spring with his wife Susan. Contact him at ts@tumbleweedsmith.com



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Festival of Lights was great success

To the Editor:

Wow, what a year for the most beautiful "Festival of Lights!" Yes, this was the most beautiful one yet, and it was all due to a team of hardworking volunteers headed up by Howard Stewart. The visitors came from 41 states and 14 countries, Brazil, Canada, England, Finland, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Kosovo, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Saudia Arabia and Spain. We also had a very good turnout from surrounding towns and a great representation from Midland, Colorado City, Snyder and Lamesa.

Weather the last two nights closed down the event and my hopes for 25,000 visitors was dashed but we had 21,916. It took us several years to reach 20,000, so like I've said, "There is next year!"

Howard Stewart, project manager, did an outstanding job again this year and was assisted by Brandon Ensey of the Parks Department, who was in charge of the three FCI trustees, three guys always do a good job! Then we had other volunteers that were Howard's extended arm, Jim DePauw, Randy Robertson, Clint Elliott, Al Williams, Howard County Sheriff's Dept. and Parks Dept. employees.

The new candles display at the diorama were absolutely stunning and a real eye catcher. It was se-

lected by the committee several months back and Howard & Vicki got to work on layout, and Howard, along with the Howard County Sheriff's Office, did the work. Such a great job! Vicki being an artist gave her advice — this is truly a gift to have an artist in our midst — saving us lot of money.

Adopt a Spot sponsors did a remarkable job this year; we lost a few but gained that many and more. It takes lot of public involvement to make the wheels of this project to turn. We have some wonderful participants.

Sadly, there always seems to be someone that likes to steal something from our displays. Again, this year the Big Spring State Hospital's wonderful display was vandalized by the theft of one of Santa's helper, an elf that was assisting Mrs. Claus by holding the yarn. If you know something about this please notify the Police Dept.

Those adopting a spot were: Adult Protective Service, Alon Refinery, B&R Septic, Big Spring Collision, Big Spring Fire Dept., Big Spring Schools, Big Spring State Hospital, Circuit Riders Cowboy Church, Commercial Christmas Cards- Jim DePauw, Crossroads Hospice, Crossroads Young Marines, GEO Group, Inc., Disabled American Veterans, Downtown Revitalization, Elbow Cub Scout Pack 29, First Methodist Church, Eastern Star,

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

My Uncle Mort's New Year

From time to time, readers send email or call to pose similar questions: "Is your Uncle Mort real?" My unvarying rhetorical response is: "Do you want him to be?"

I sense their sinking feelings, let down by my failure to provide positive answers. I grudgingly admit that he is a figment of my imagination, but is a conjured composite of some of my actual uncles.

Mort's "escapades" have been chronicled here for more than a decade. I had taken little note of his "age" until a reader called to question how my uncle had managed to remain 92 years old for a half-dozen years? I've been more attentive to "age accuracy" ever since. I kick it up by one year every July Fourth — Independence Day for our country, as well as a reminder that Mort enjoys 365 "independent days" annually.

With a sharp eye constantly out for the quick buck, Mort is usually about as successful as a fisherman with a bare hook.

But, like the golfer who keeps swinging — hoping to finally hit that perfect shot — he keeps right on truckin.' An incurable optimist, he's as hopeful as California gold rush pioneers, believing that one day, a scheme, invention or half-baked gadget idea will pan out.

We visited on New Year's Day. I wasn't surprised to learn he was hard at work on a new "can't miss" exercise program. I was taken aback, however, that

he had aborted his latest invention project.

Since these are distinctively different initiatives, each will be considered separately.

"They're pushing the Daniel Plan at the church house to lose weight," Mort said. "I don't think many seniors are going to buy into it, since most of us get our exercise serving as pallbearers for our friends who exercise," he laughed.

This set him to thinking about an exercise plan for seniors — one that's "economical and as effective as participants want it to be."

"I'm going to market it for a mere \$1.99," he bragged, "And if I hand deliver the bags, I'll clear \$1.87 on each sale."

Figuring the "whole load" was unavoidable, I requested details. He said for the first week, participants hang five-pound potato bags from each outstretched hand for five minutes daily. The second week calls for hanging 10-pound bags for three minutes, followed by a final week of 25-pound bags for one minute.

"If folks don't feel like this is quite enough exercise, they can toss a potato into each bag the third week," he laughed, emphasizing they have to furnish their own potatoes.

As to his aborted "invention," he claimed to be well along on a meticulous formula that, once perfected, would cause bodily sweat to accumulate on our feet.

Deodorant companies, he theorizes, will seize the opportunity to aim their products specifically at the feet, where Mort thinks sweat may accumulate in puddles.

He admitted, though, that a "for-real" invention announced

recently for drivers' GPS units may thwart his plans. The new device sends electrical tingles in the proper foot — left or right — depending on which direction drivers are turning. "That sounds like an electrocution waiting to happen," Mort said. "And I'm afraid I'd face lawsuits from here to kingdom come. Sure as shootin,' those GPS electric signals hitting sweat puddles in shoes might cause shocks that go way beyond tingles," he opined.

Before our visit ended, he asked, "Got milkweed?" He expressed delight that monarch butterflies are expected to migrate in larger numbers this spring, mostly because folks have planted milkweed to attract them. I told him that so far, zinnias have given them pause in our backyard.

He left, mumbling about the feasibility of crossing monarchs with lightning bugs. "There'd be the chance for 24/7 popularity," he maintained, beautiful creatures flying in sunlight by day and bodily lighted at night. Mort said that such hybrids might have a clever name, such as "butter-bugs."

He projected the possibility of a contest to name the new creatures.

This was a better "winder-upper" than the ending of our first 2014 visit. I asked what he planned to give up for New Year's. His answer? "Resolutions..."

Dr. 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.



DR. DON NEWBURY

Plunge in crude prices has Eagle Ford on edge

PEARSALL, Texas (AP) — The recent crash in oil prices feels as different in San Antonio and rural South Texas as the divide between city life and ranching.

In San Antonio, economists expect that a plunge in oil prices from above \$100 to below \$50 per barrel means a slight negative impact, likely to be shrugged away by the strength of industries such as military, medical and tourism.

But drive an hour south to a region where drilling rigs punctuate the sky, and there's an anticipated swing from boom to belt tightening. "It's a recipe for disaster for small businesses," said Huy Doan, who in the past two years has opened two Donut Palace locations in Pearsall. "The reason I came here was for the oil field. I'm worried."

It's not yet obvious while trucks rumble through town and signs still shout "Now Hiring! Drivers Wanted!!" But a slowdown is creeping in.

Companies have start-

ed pulling back drilling plans. One of Doan's regular customers said his oil field crew was trimmed from 100 to seven. Plenty of oil field workers and locals still swing by the the Donut Palace daily, but not as many as before.

"We'll see some pretty big changes over the next few quarters," said George Wommack of Petro Waste Environmental, which operates oil field disposal sites across the Eagle Ford region. Wommack grew up in Midland in an oil and gas family, and doesn't think people have realized what low oil prices mean.

"It doesn't matter how many booms and busts people have seen. They never think this one will be like the last one," Wommack told the San Antonio Express-News. "We're prepared for \$50 to \$80 oil to be the new norm for the next 12 to 18 months. It could be two years. I hope it's not. We've tried to position ourselves in a way that we can survive. You can weather volatil-

ity as long as you don't have too much debt. That's what always gets people."

Economist Karr Ingham, who works with the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers, said oil prices crashing below the \$50 mark means Texas will lose significant numbers of upstream energy jobs, the part of the oil and gas business that's focused on exploration, drilling and production.

"People say they'll hang onto their best employees. I'm telling you, six months into 2015, we'll see it," Ingham said. "There are going to be tens of thousands of jobs lost."

Ingham expects at least 40,000 direct jobs could be lost in the oil fields, and beyond that, tens of thousands of more so-called "indirect" jobs that depend on those energy workers and firms spending money.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas models show Texas could lose 128,000 direct and indirect energy jobs by mid-

year if oil stays around \$55 per barrel.

"This is getting into territory now to where we may be looking at some actual damage to the Texas economy as a whole. It's getting worse by the day," Ingham said. "Some things depend on how low we end up going and how long it lasts, but the die is cast at this point for a major oil and gas industry contraction."

Over the next several months, drilling permits will fall. A slice of the drilling rigs working in Texas will get stacked and sidelined. Energy jobs will peak and drop.

"The last thing to happen is production itself will finally peak and fall. That takes months to happen," Ingham said. "That's the thing we need to happen the fastest. The market is telling the world, 'I don't want what you're giving me, shut it down.'"

The price of the U.S. benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude oil plunged below \$50 per barrel last week for the

first time in more than five years. It was above \$100 in June. The average was \$75.96 in 2010, when the Eagle Ford drilling permits jumped to 1,018 from 94 in 2009.

While the Eagle Ford has brought jobs to San Antonio, the prospect of a drilling decline isn't expected to hammer the city's economy. Experts generally are optimistic about 2015, citing low unemployment, expected growth in key job sectors and a historically stable economic base.

"I think San Antonio will see a slightly negative impact," said Keith Phillips, economist and research officer at the local branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. "Going into the end of 2014, San Antonio was quite strong. That strength will mostly be maintained, even though growth in the Eagle Ford is expected to slow quite sharply."

In the past few years, San Antonio enjoyed growth in mining and logging — the category that includes oil-field-related jobs — but "it's

a very small category," Phillips said. "All that growth has been positive, but maybe not as positive as we initially thought."

People "initially were expecting a bigger impact on San Antonio," agreed Thomas Tunstall, research director at the University of Texas at San Antonio Institute for Economic Development. "Whatever downside is associated with a slowdown in oil and gas activity, it will be fairly muted."

Oil production in Texas has been surging since 2008 with the use of horizontal drilling techniques and hydraulic fracturing. Fracturing pumps millions of gallons of water and chemicals at high pressure to break shale and prop open the cracks with sand, letting oil and gas flow up a well.

Eagle Ford production has surged from essentially nothing — a few hundred barrels of daily production in 2008 — to

See OIL, Page 8A

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

Home Hospice, Howard College Diplomats and Student Gov., Howard County Sheriff's Dept., KBST & Fuse 94.3, Lamun, Lusk, Sanchez Nursing Home, McEwen Insurance, Park Place, Relay for Life, Salvation Army, The Carpet Store, Thixton Family, Trinity Baptist Church, Wal Mart and Western Container.

We have a new team member, Deanna Burnett, who will manage our little gift shop which she made very successful this year. The shop is blended in with Santa and Mrs. Claus, which is a big attraction with the children. We had a few carolers this year,

which we hope to improve on, and all of this was held at Belaski Pavilion. The BSHS band and Nazarene Church once again gave an outstanding performance.

Greeters are a vital part of our Festival, and Haley Lewis of CVB was responsible for coordinating the greeters. This is a great responsibility, as this is where we obtain information from visitors for our records as to where they are from and the number of people in the vehicle.

Also, at this point, our visitors have the opportunity to make donations if they like — all donations are greatly appreciated. It is with the donations we are able to keep the Festival going, we purchase additional lights, displays

and equipment plus pay for electricity. This year we added a new transformer and with the electrician cost, it tallied up to a pretty penny!

There were other donations during the course of the year given by Southwest Tool, B&R Septic, Joyce Weaver, Howard County Sheriff's Dept, G&M Auto Care, Jim Little/Air Park, Higginbotham-Bartlett and FCI for

three trustees.

Then there were those that stepped up to the plate with help in finalizing our festival: BSHS National Honor Society, GEO Group, Inc., Buddy Powell/Big Spring Printing and Ron Alton. We certainly, want to say "thanks" to Scott Emerson and Superod for the signs they made which were not only informational but helped guide travelers to our entrance.

Did you notice our new additions? The star and poinsettia located on South Mountain? This was done with help from our friend, Jim Clements, and in remembrance of our friends, Pete Sanderson and Kenny Scott. Then, the new addition in the park featured three schools, BSHS, Coahoma and Forsan logos. The north side of the street was done by new Adopt A Spot partici-

pants, Crossroad Hospice, First Methodist Church and Elbow Cub Scout Pack 29.

Thanks to all our volunteers — you are what makes this event happen, and to my buddy, Howard Stewart; without you I'm afraid this event would not happen, so all of you that know Howard tell him how grateful we are to have him ... he is one special guy!

Pat Simmons

We welcome all youth to come join us for



Wednesday Night JAM

We will provide a light supper with help with homework along with play & our lesson.

6:15 - 7:45

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Jerry and Debbie Read, Owners



Rondel Brock

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Big Spring Ford

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Big Spring Jr. High Cheerleaders

BSJH Cheerleaders

Marissa Aguilar
Alianna Beserra
Chloe Bustamante
Sophia Dominguez
Luxie Evans

Kynlee Fontana
Trinity Galloway
Emily Hendricks
Gabby Lopez
Amber Martinez

Arianna Ornales
Mackenzie Rodriguez
Haiven Rushing
Erin Yeats

Good Luck, TRINITY!



We Love You!

265230

BEST WISHES GIRLS!



We are proud of you!!

*Love Mom, Dad, Teddy,
Kirstian and Ted*

263659



We are very proud of you and all the hard work!
Remember, your dreams won't work unless you do!

GOOD LUCK AT NATIONALS!

*Love you always,
Chris, Momma & Pailey*

265225



We are extremely proud of you and
wish you good luck at nationals!

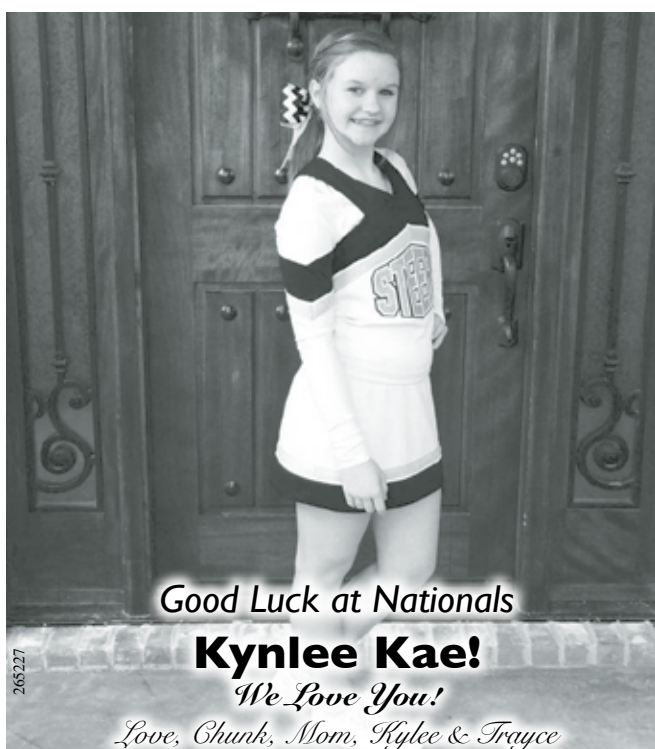
*Love, Dad, Mom, Alyssa, Ashlii,
Brylii and Grandparents*

263661



Proud of you Luxie!
Love MOM

263655



Good Luck at Nationals

Kynlee Kae!

*We Love You!
Love, Chunk, Mom, Kylee & Trayce*

265227



Congratulations Marissa!
We're so proud of you.

Good Luck at Nationals!

*Love Mom, Dad, Edward,
Mariah and Eric*

263660

HEADED TO NATIONALS!



The Big Spring Jr. High Cheerleaders will be headed to Nationals, located in Dallas, Texas, to compete with other teams nationwide on January 24th. If they make it to the finals, the cheerleaders will compete for a second time on January 25th. The cheerleaders have worked hard to raise money for their trip through fundraising. The cheerleaders have also received money from different sponsors who are helping to get them to nationals.

Good luck at Nationals Big Spring Jr. High Cheerleaders.

Cheer Your ♥'s OUT!



Gabby we are so proud of all your hard work and accomplishments! Keep reaching for the stars!
We Love You,
Dad, Stacey, Phillip, Cella, Alice, Nana, Pampy, J.R., Matt & Steph

Tie your shoes, straighten your bow.
Show your Spirit from head to toe,
Lead the crowd with that smile,
Use your Pom to cheer out loud



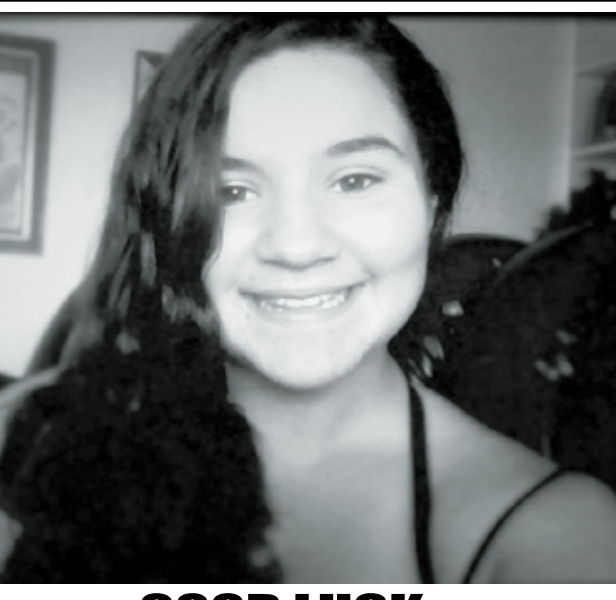
'cause NATIONALS is finally here!
Good Luck Kenzie!
We Love You,
Mom, Dad and Jacobe



If you don't leap you'll never know what it is to fly!!
Good Luck Arianna.
Love Mom, PapaBear,
Bub, Sis & Emi



We are so proud of you
Sophia!
Good Luck At Nationals!
Love you tons, Your Family

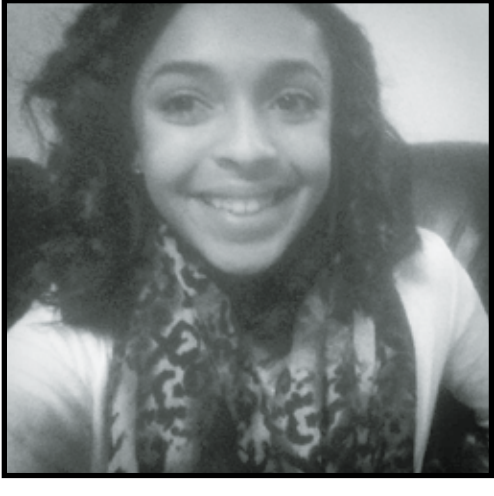


GOOD LUCK at NATIONALS!
PROUD OF YOU!

Amber,
Good Luck at Nationals
Baby Girl!!



You make us proud each and everyday with all your accomplishments!
KEEP UP THE HARD WORK!
Love You,
Mom, Dad, Cass and Bubba



We are so proud of you go get-em at Nationals!
WE LOVE YOU!
Mommy, Jake and Laneigh

News in brief

1 inmate fair, 4 others critical following deadly wreck

ODESSA, Texas (AP) — The condition of an inmate badly hurt in a deadly prison bus wreck has improved while four others remain in critical condition at West Texas hospitals.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice said in a statement Friday that 34-year-old Remigio Pineda has been upgraded to fair condition at an Odessa hospital.

Three other inmates are being treated there while corrections officer Jason Self is hospitalized in Lubbock.

The five were in the bus Wednesday west of Odessa when it lost control on Interstate 20, crashed through a guardrail, careened down an embankment and struck a passing freight train.

Eight inmates and two corrections officers were killed.

Authorities say icy road conditions were the primary cause of the wreck.

Ex-councilman in West Texas gets 5 years over drug ring

MIDLAND, Texas (AP) — A former West Texas city councilman has been sentenced to five years in federal prison for his role in a Midland-based drug ring.

Joe Anthony Kay was sentenced Friday in Midland.

The 50-year-old ex-councilman in Denver City pleaded guilty last September to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances.

Kay was arrested in August as part of an indictment targeting drug running in Midland, Odessa and Denver City. Investigators say Kay since 2010 conspired to distribute cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and marijuana.

He's the last of seven people convicted and sentenced to prison for their roles in the trafficking operation.

Denver City is 85 miles northwest of Midland.

Deputies responded to custody calls before 4 Texas deaths

PORT LAVACA, Texas (AP) — Investigators say deputies were twice called to a South Texas home on child custody issues the night before a woman and her three young children were found dead inside, but a motive behind the killings remains unclear.

Jonathan Camacho remained jailed Friday on a murder charge in the death of his 23-year-old wife, Dulce Cumpean-Camacho, and capital murder charges in the deaths of the three children: 4-year-old son Zavier Camacho, 1-year-old Sierra Camacho and 3-month-old Faith Camacho.

Calhoun County Sheriff George Aleman said deputies were twice summoned Sunday night to a home in Port Lavaca on child custody issues, The Victoria Advocate reported. But early Monday, firefighters were called to a fire at a one-room shed where the family lived. The four bodies were found in the debris.

"Initial reports from family members were that people were inside the residence," the sheriff's office said in a statement.

Deputies, assisted by Texas Rangers, later determined the deaths were homicides. Preliminary results from autopsies determined the victims were stabbed, according to a statement released Thursday.

California woman pleads guilty in Texas to passing fake cash

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A California woman has pleaded guilty to making and passing nearly \$58,000 in fake cash.

The San Antonio Express-News reported Saturday that Tela Lee Conerly faces up to 20 years in federal prison during sentencing this spring.

Conerly pleaded guilty Friday in San Antonio to manufacturing and distributing counterfeit currency. Investigators tracked serial numbers of some of the fake bills passed since 2011 in California, Oregon, Arizona and Texas.

Investigators say Conerly bleached real \$1 bills and changed them to fake \$100s.

Police in Hondo, 50 miles west of San Antonio, arrested Conerly last March on a tip that she was printing fake money in a hotel room. Officers recovered a computer, a printer, bogus bills and other counterfeiting equipment.

Further details on her California connection weren't immediately available.

Nearly \$900K returned to Beaumont schools after finance scam

BEAUMONT, Texas (AP) — Nearly \$900,000 stolen from a Southeast Texas school district by two finance employees has been returned as part of their punishment.

The Beaumont Independent School District received the funds as partial repayment by Devin Mc-

Craney and Sharika Allison.

Prosecutors on Friday announced the restitution as part of nearly \$4 million owed by the pair in the fraud and wire-transfer scam.

McCraney last April pleaded guilty to fraud upon programs receiving federal funds. The district's former finance director was sentenced in September to nearly six years in prison.

Allison, who formerly was comptroller at Beaumont ISD, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit fraud upon programs receiving federal funds. She received nearly four years behind bars.

The Texas Education Agency last year took over the district, which has nearly 21,000 students.

3 teens charged in Houston church parking lot slaying

HOUSTON (AP) — Three teens have been charged with capital murder in the fatal shooting of a man whose body was found in a Houston church parking lot.

Online jail records Saturday didn't immediately provide custody information for 19-year-old Andres Rojo, 17-year-old Jorge Castro and 19-year-old Edgardo Ligas.

Police on Friday announced the arrests in the investigation into the death of 19-year-old Rikko Armando Valencia. Investigators believe robbery was the motive for the slaying of the fast-food restaurant employee shortly after he got off work.

A groundskeeper at Spring Woods Baptist Church discovered the body on Nov. 16 before services. Police have Valencia apparently was taking a shortcut through the parking lot when he was attacked.

Fort Worth officer stabbed during traffic stop, kills driver

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A North Texas police officer has shot and killed a driver who stabbed the officer several times during a traffic stop.

Fort Worth police say the officer was hospitalized in stable condition following the attack early Saturday.

A police statement says the officer conducted a traffic stop and the driver, who was alone in the vehicle, started fighting with him. Police say the officer was stabbed multiple times but he managed to open fire and fatally shoot the suspect.

Names of the officer and the suspect weren't immediately released.

The officer, who's been with Fort Worth police since 2008, will be placed on administrative during a review of the incident.

OIL

Continued from Page 5

more than 1.6 million daily barrels of oil and other liquid hydrocarbons anticipated this month, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

"As much as the Texas economy has benefited, these are not normal times," Ingham said. "They're times of dra-

matic expansion followed by a serious correction."

Because natural gas prices are still at historically low levels — closing at \$2.95 per million British thermal units Friday — operators can't simply switch from drilling oil to drilling gas.

"You're not going to drill a well right now for natural gas," Ingham said. "There's not a place to go."

It's hard to see the change in South Texas, where drilling normally slows around the holidays anyway.

Winter hunting, too, traditionally puts a crimp in oil and gas activity. The owners of large properties often specify in their mineral leases that companies must accommodate deer season by limiting work hours, or by stopping drilling and fracking altogether.

In Karnes City, the seat of Karnes County and the spot in Texas that produces more crude oil than any other, city administrator Don Tymrak said it appears that oil and gas wells that were started in December still are going forward.

But Karnes City officials are rethinking their budget, written when oil was above \$100. Karnes City leased city land to Marathon Oil and so far has gotten hundreds of thousands of dollars in royalty payments. The city had expected millions, though.

"It can't just keep going sky high forever," Tymrak said. "Maybe a crash is possible. Some people don't want to call it that, but a rose is a rose is a rose."

While most firms have stayed mum, others have announced plans to retrench. Among them,

Comstock Resources in December said it would suspend its Eagle Ford oil drilling program altogether.

Dallas-based Matarador Resources Co. last week also said it would pull its two drilling rigs out of the region due to plunging crude oil and natural gas prices.

Falling oil prices caused Sanchez Energy of Houston, an Eagle Ford-focused company, to cut planned spending from more than \$1 billion to between \$600 million to \$650 million. It will trim the number of drilling rigs in South Texas in half, from eight to four.

As of Jan. 2, there were 200 rigs operating in the Eagle Ford.

For now, Paul Ruckman, whose family ranch straddles Karnes and DeWitt counties, two of the busiest areas of the Eagle Ford, said nothing seems differ-

ent.

"I'm at H-E-B in Kenedy and it's just packed with oil field workers," Ruckman said Thursday afternoon. "You go to the gym and it's full of young guys." Two active drilling rigs sit about 500 feet from his back porch, operated by 20 to 30 workers.

His royalty checks, though, already have dropped by about 25 percent.

"It's been there for millions of years," Ruckman said. "If it gets low, I'd just as soon leave it in the ground until prices rise."

Doan said he's watching crude oil prices closely, talking with other businesses and asking his regular customers what they're hearing in the field.

"I hope oil goes back up," Doan said. "I don't mind paying a little more in gas. I'll make it up in doughnuts."



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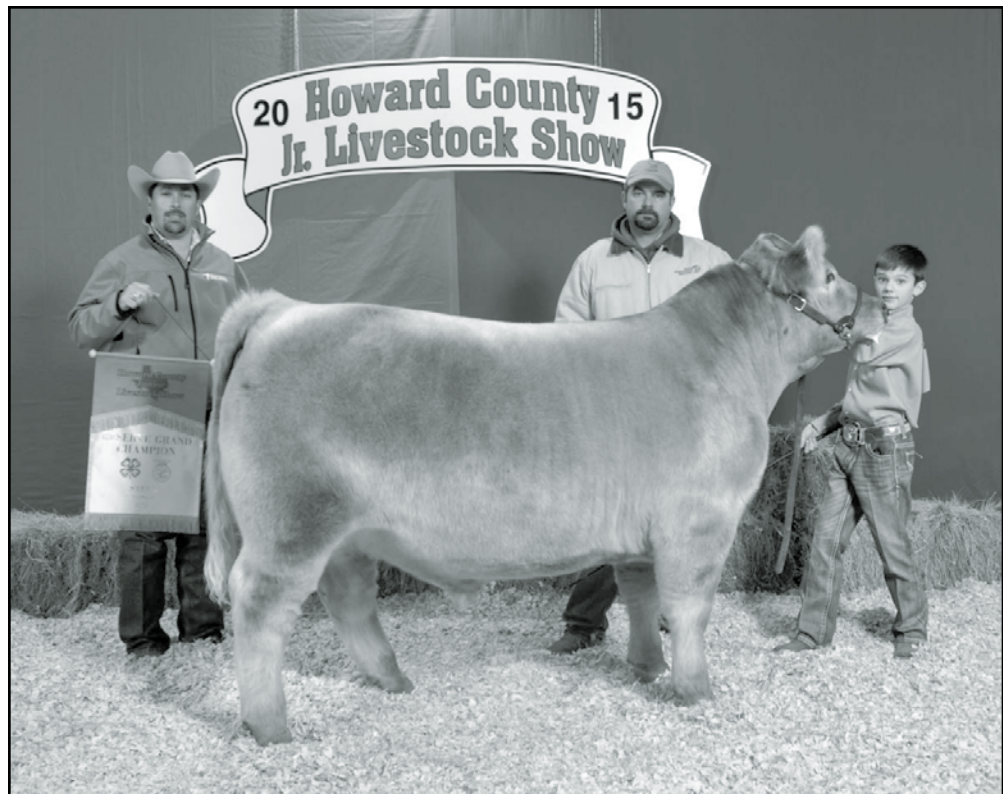


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Family Law And Criminal Law
Ward & Myers, L.L.P.

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2015 Howard County Livestock Show



Friday,
 Saturday
 results

RABBITS

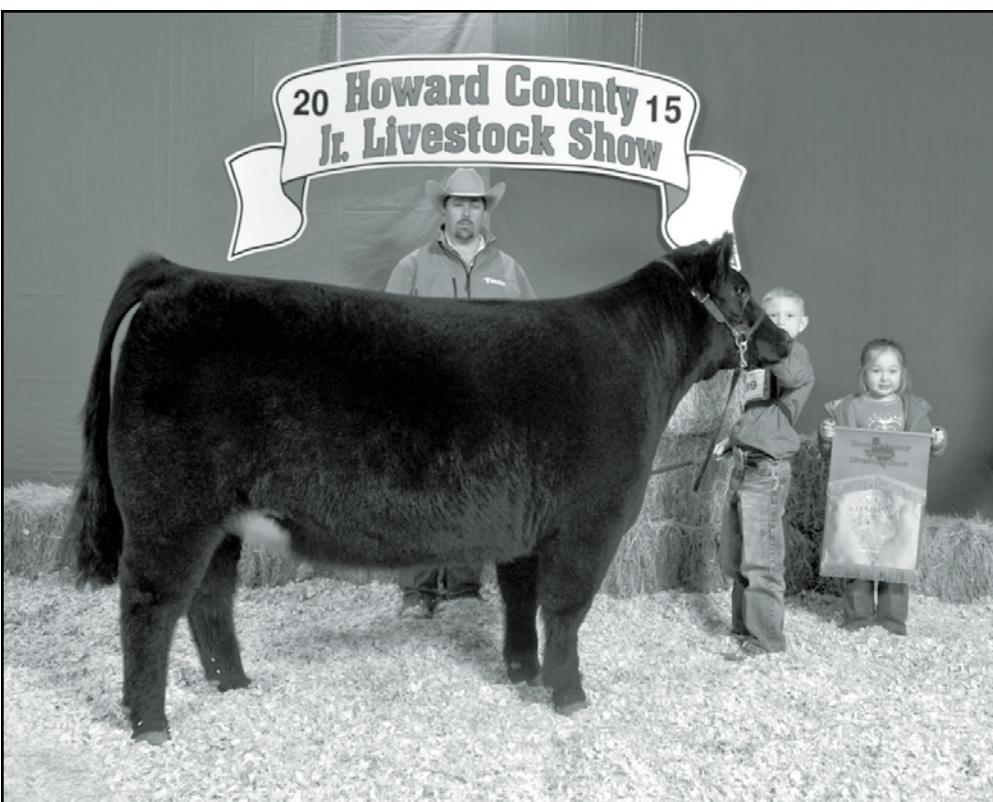
Grand Champion — Brynn Workman,
 Coahoma FFA
 Reserve Grand Champion — Vance
 Ott, Howard County 4-H

CATTLE

Grand Champion Heifer — Barrett
 Howe, Howard County 4-H
 Reserve Grand Champion Heifer —
 Tatum Miller, Howard County 4-H
 Grand Champion Steer — Barrett
 Howe, Howard County 4-H
 Reserve Grand Champion Steer —
 Seth Brooks, Howard County 4-H

BARROWS

Grand Champion Barrow — Slone
 Shaw, Sands FFA
 Reserve Grand Champion Barrow -
 Kelsey Allen, Howard County 4-H



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\$500 FARM BUREAU*
\$1,000 CONQUEST**

\$16,760 SALE PRICE



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 3 TO CHOOSE FROM

\$15,820 MSRP
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\$1,000 CONQUEST**

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\$17,855 SALE PRICE



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\$500 FARM BUREAU*
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\$19,565 SALE PRICE



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\$500 FARM BUREAU*
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Photos courtesy/Karen Moore

Coahoma head basketball coach Kim Nichols stands with the members of his 2014-15 basketball team following his 500th career victory on Friday. Nichols has served as the Bulldogs' head coach for the past three decades and has posted a career record of 500-316 during that span. Prior to taking over the coaching duties in 1984, he was an assistant coach at CHS for 10 years.

BSHS teams fall to Lobos

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

Friday isn't a day the Big Spring High School Steers and Lady Steers will look back on with much joy. In fact, they might just want to tear that date out of the calendar.

The Big Spring boys' basketball team suffered a tough loss in its District 2-4A opener on Friday, falling to Levelland 65-56.

Big Spring, making its first outing since Jan. 6 in Andrews, fell to 13-7 for the season and, more importantly, moved to 0-1 in district play. Levelland and into a tie with Lubbock Estacado and Lamesa for the 2-4A lead.

The Steers managed to stay close throughout the contest, which was played in the Levelland High School gym. Big Spring trailed by just seven at the end of the first half, at 33-26.

The Steers cut Levelland's lead to 46-40 heading into the final eight minutes.

Ty Sealy led all BSHS scorers in the game with 14 points. Tyler Bryan added 13 more.

Matt Yanez finished with eight, while Kei-Shawn Broussard and Tobyn Tannehill added seven each.

Like the BSHS boys' the Big Spring Lady Steers also came away with a tough loss on Friday, falling to the Loboettes by a 71-39 margin.

Levelland used a 37-15 See **BSHS**, Page 11A

Little League sign-up to begin Jan. 24

Big Spring Little League will hold sign-ups for the upcoming season starting on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015 at the Springtown Plaza (formerly Big Spring Mall) on the end by Beall's from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.. The league is open to players ranging in ages from 4-16. Parents registering their children should bring a birth certificate.

Registration fees are \$90 per child and the league provides the entire uniform.

Signups will also be held Saturday, Jan. 31, Feb. 7 and Feb. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and also on Feb. 9-13 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Individuals interested in coaching please sign up early and let a board member know.

DOGS' PRIDE

Coahoma hands longtime head coach 500th career victory with 61-40 romp over Sonora

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

On the court, there were plenty of fireworks during the Coahoma Bulldogs' district-opening showdown over the Sonora Broncos on Friday night in front of a large crowd in the Coahoma High School gymnasium. Clutch three-point shots, hard fouls, a player ejection, a technical foul and more than a few thrills.

The biggest excitement of the evening came after the Bulldogs' 61-40 victory as longtime head coach Kim Nichols was honored by local residents, CHS administrators and former players for reaching the 500-win plateau for his career.

For Nichols, who has served as the Bulldogs' head basketball coach for the past three decades, the win over Sonora was vastly more important than the 500-win accomplishment.

"The only number that real-

ly means anything is 1-0, and that is what we are in district play right now," said Nichols, who began teaching at Coahoma 40 years ago right after graduating from West Texas State University. "The other is more a testament to the players who have come through here and there hard work. To be honest, I'm kind of glad it (the chase for 500 wins) is behind us now. This is all about the kids that play the game and not about the adults."

Following the win, Nichols' current team, relatives, school officials and former players took part in honoring Nichols with a plaque presentation ceremony on the gym floor, photos and the cutting down of the net.

"He's a great guy," said Coahoma senior Braxton Iden. "This is my fourth year to play for him and it is great to

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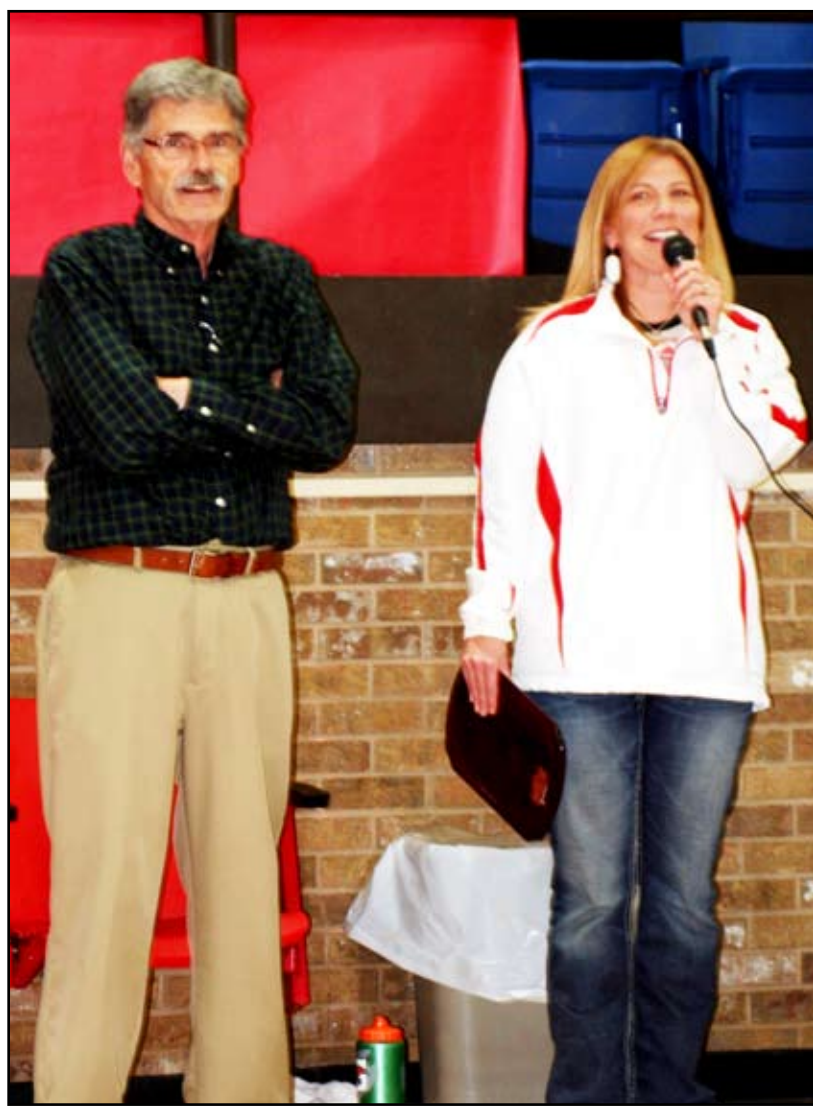
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Photos courtesy/Karen Moore

Coahoma High School head basketball coach Kim Nichols was honored following the Bulldogs' win over Sonora on Friday. The victory made Nichols one of just 39 Texas high school boys' basketball coaches to reach the 500-career win mark.

Lady Broncos escape with 63-47 win in foul-marred game

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

COAHOMA - The Coahoma High School Bulldoettes went to a basketball game on Friday and a free-throw shooting contest broke out. Unfortunately for Coahoma, Sonora made the most free throws en route to claiming a 63-47 foul-marred decision in District 5-3A action in the CHS gymnasium.

Sonora sank 23 of their 34 attempts during the contest, and con-

verted several CHS turnovers in to easy baskets. For their part, Coahoma sank just 19 of their 42 attempts.

Sonora, paced by the play of senior Gracie Dozier, got off to a quick start against the Bulldoettes. The Lady Broncos outscored Coahoma by a 14-8 clip in the first eight minutes.

Julia Castilaw provided much of the spark for Coahoma in the first quarter by throwing in four of her team-high 16 points.

Coahoma battled its way back in the second. The Bulldoettes, who went to the free throw line 18 times in the period, pumped in 16 points in the second and went into the half down by just four, at 29-24.

Sonora broke the game open in the third. Dozier led a 22-7 spree in the initial eight minutes of the second half and spirited to the Lady Broncos to a 51-32 advantage heading into the fourth quarter.

Dozir, who converted 13 of

her 17 trips to the free throw line into points, finished the game with 26.

Lauren Simer and Tara Holgosen both played well for Coahoma. Both pumped in nine points in the contest. Kaeli Yager added six.

During the game, Sonora and Coahoma were whistled for a staggering 52 fouls.

The Bulldoettes will return to play on Tuesday by traveling to Colorado City on Tuesday.

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Photos courtesy/Karen Moore

Former and current Coahoma players took part in a post-game celebration honoring Kim Nichols for his 500th carer win on Friday.

500

Continued from Page 7A get this for him. He's dedicated his whole life to us, and this team. We really appreciate what he has done. The whole community appreciates what Coach Nichols has done and we are proud of him."

With the victory, Nichols moved into an elite group of high school basketball coaches who have reached the 500-win mark. According to Texas Basketball, a pre-season basketball publication, only 39 coaches in the state's history have amassed 500 career victories, including 1,333 by former Fort Worth Dunbar head coach Robert Hughes.

The win sends Nichols into Tuesday's showdown with rival Colorado City with a 500-316 carer record.

The Bulldogs certainly made the win No. 500 memorable. Coahoma used a 31-10 run in the final eight minutes of play to break open a 30-30 tie and salt away a 21-point come-from-behind victory in their District 5-3A opener.

Sonora had more to smile about in the first quarter. After Iden had scored the game's first points on a short jumper from the elbow, the Broncos reeled off seven unanswered points and grabbed a 7-2 lead. They tacked on a pair of free throws in the final seconds and took a 9-4 advantage into the start of the second.

Coahoma's only other basket of the opening period came on a basket by Iden with 1:52 left ending a 5 minute scoring drought.

"We came out a little sloppy in the first," said Nichols, noting the Bulldogs turned the ball over 10 times in the initial eight minutes of play. "Once we got going, we settled down and

did OK." Coahoma did more than OK in the second. Sparked by a pair of three-pointers by Iden and freshman Mason Moore, the Bulldogs pounded out a 20-13 run in the frame and carried a 24-22 lead into the half.

Iden scored nine of his game-high 22 points in the second quarter. Moore added eight.

Sonora answered back in the third. The Broncos opened the second half with an 8-6 spree and grabbed a 30-28 lead with 2:08 left in the third quarter on a three-point shot by Tanner Esparza from the left corner.

Kyler Franks, one of three CHS players to hit double figures in the game, tied the game at 30-30 with 44 seconds left in the period by putting back an offensive rebound.

Franks finished the game with 11 points

Coahoma blew the game wide open in the first 4 minutes of the fourth quarter. Keyed by two treys by Iden, the Bulldogs opened the frame with a staggering 15-2 run that all but put Sonora away.

CHS ballooned its lead to 19 moments later. Thanks to a flagrant foul on Sonora's Andres Acevedo that led to his ejection from the game and a technical foul on the SHS bench, the Bulldogs tacked on a 5-0 spree that pushed their advantage to 53-34 with 2:16 left.

"Coach just told us to relax and have fun," said Moore of the team's play in the second, third and fourth quarters. "Once we settled down, we just hustled and played our game the best we could."

The Coahoma junior varsity boys also celebrated a win on Friday. The Bulldogs' JV defeated Sonora by a 31-26 margin.

Lady 'Cats claim 52-44 win over Lady Coogs

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

Carli Richards and Emily Glaze both pumped in double-digit performances on Friday night and powered the Grady Lady Wildcats to a 52-44 victory over the Klondike Lady Cougars in District 11-A play.

With the victory, Grady improved to 13-8 for the season and to 2-1 in district competition.

Klondike, now 1-2 in 11-A action, managed to hold their own early

in the game. The Lady Cougars posted 14 points in the second quarter and trailed by just one, at 25-24, at the half.

Grady came out strong in the second half, however. The Lady Cats outscored Klondike by a 27-20 clip in the final two quarters to claim the win.

Richards led all GHS scorers with 21 points. Glaze added 11.

The Lady Cats will travel to Loop on Tuesday.

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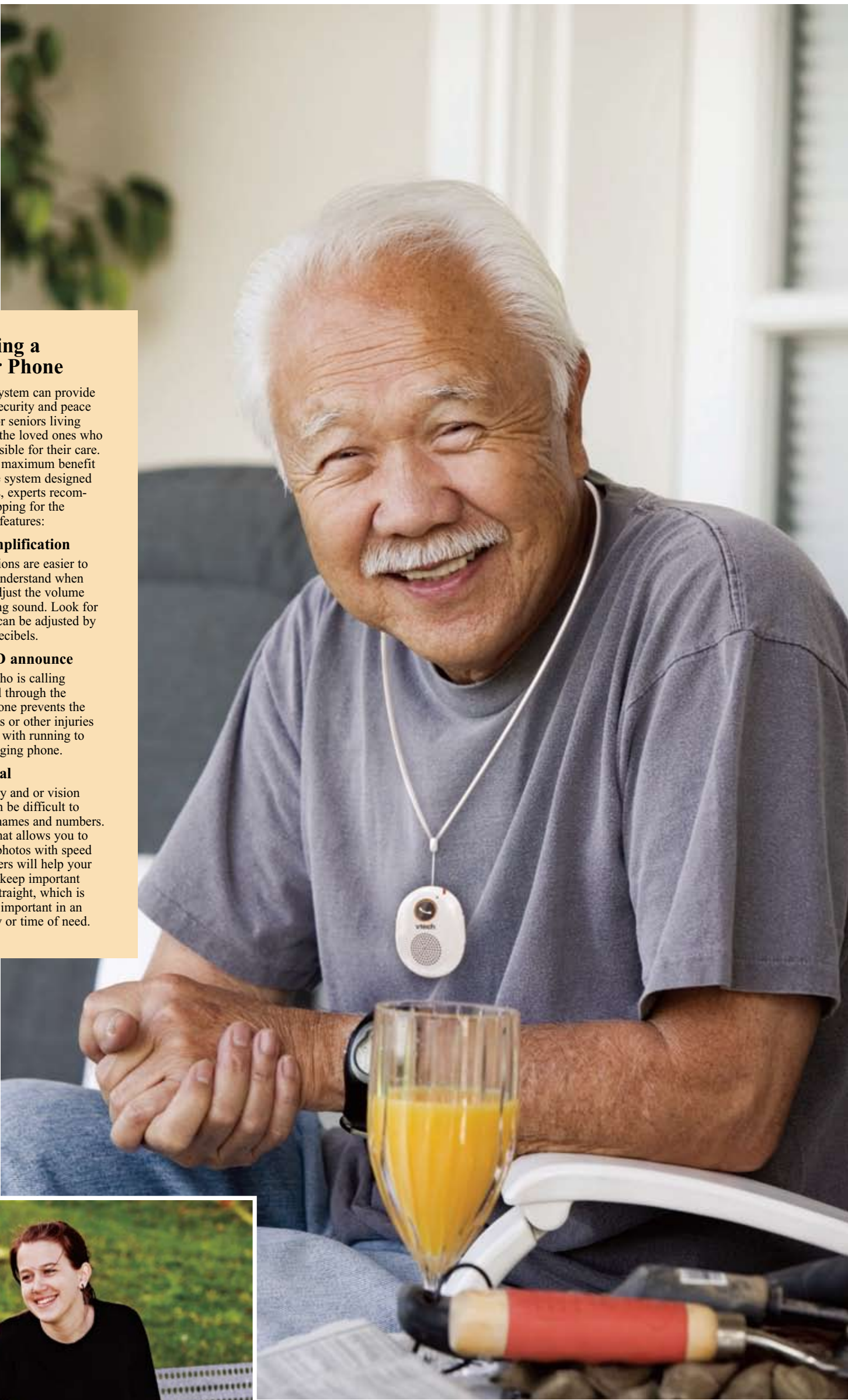
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YOUNG AT HEART

How seniors are staying connected through their golden years



FAMILY FEATURES

For seniors, keeping in touch with friends, family and caregivers is important to maintain an active social life and remain independent. The number of seniors — and the need to find creative ways to be mindful of their care — is on the rise. With nearly seven million Americans providing support as long-distance caregivers, according to the National Institute on Aging, staying in touch is especially important.

Nurture relationships

Email, cell phones and texting are some of the ways technology is helping people stay connected today. These tools can be especially useful for seniors living away from friends and family or for those who aren't able to travel as much as they used to. One affordable option is a complete phone system, such as VTech CareLine, which has no monthly fee. Offering a wearable pendant, one-button or voice-activated dialing, big buttons and volume booster, CareLine has features designed with seniors in mind. For more information about keeping seniors safely connected via a phone system, visit www.vtechphones.com/careline.

Going places

Seniors today are staying active, spending time with friends and family outside of their home, rekindling old passions and exploring new activities that keep them on the move. Even for seniors who aren't able to be as active, changes in scenery, like a neighborhood walk or visit to the park, are great ways to get fresh air, uplift spirits and live a healthier life. Since transportation can sometimes be a challenge, especially for seniors who rely on caregivers who work full-time, there are numerous organizations that provide transportation resources for seniors to assist in getting them safely to doctor's appointments, organized activities at local community centers, shopping excursions and more. Your local Area Agency on Aging is a good resource to begin researching options in your area. Find your local agency at www.n4a.org.

Selecting a Senior Phone

A phone system can provide valuable security and peace of mind for seniors living alone and the loved ones who are responsible for their care. To get the maximum benefit of a phone system designed for seniors, experts recommend shopping for the following features:

Voice amplification

Conversations are easier to hear and understand when you can adjust the volume of incoming sound. Look for units that can be adjusted by up to 40 decibels.

Caller ID announce

Hearing who is calling announced through the speakerphone prevents the risk of falls or other injuries associated with running to catch a ringing phone.

Photo dial

As memory and or vision fails, it can be difficult to associate names and numbers. A phone that allows you to associate photos with speed dial numbers will help your loved one keep important numbers straight, which is especially important in an emergency or time of need.



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Help Create Connections

Helping an elderly person who lives alone stay connected with others can play a major role in that senior's quality of life. As a caregiver, you can help foster those connections by:

- Coordinating a rotating visitor schedule with friends and family.
- Asking others to make regular calls to check in and chat.
- Researching local senior programs, such as classes, shopping excursions or fitness programs.
- Identifying resources such as transportation services that are available to help seniors get out and about.

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A frozen moment of the past...



Gregory Harrison of Little Rock, Ark. sent in this photo he found with his mother when the two were sorting through some items belonging to Myra Jane (McClain) Wages, Harrison's great-grandmother. According to Harrison, they believe the gas station was owned by his great-grand uncle, Dock Baxter McClain (1888-1964). Harrison wonders if anyone in the public knows where this station existed and if it could possibly exist today. If you have any ideas, please e-mail Harrison at nosirragh@gmail.com or at call him at 501-920-8647.

Club News

Big Spring Art Association

On Dec. 16, 2014, the Big Spring Art Association held its Christmas party at Kay Smith's Brushworks Studio. Members present were Kay Smith, Estelle Howard, Loren and Jerry Hastings, Tex and Linda Irvin, Jean Money and son, Willis Eiben, and Leatrice Brown.

In addition, visitors present were Susan Gaston, Frank Acosta and son Frankie, and some others whose names are unknown. We had an enjoyable time munching on the delicious food that our members brought. To top the night off, we made the gift exchange much more fun by doing a "white elephant" exchange.

At the next meeting set for 7 p.m. Jan. 20, Leatrice Brown will present the program. She will do either a portrait or a still life drawing. She hasn't decided yet. She will demonstrate her pencil technique.

Leatrice's journey into art began when she bought her nephew, Duane, a Fat Albert coloring book.

She looked at the pictures in the coloring book and said, "I think I can draw these." She drew a few pictures and began to look for a teacher that taught drawing.

At that time, there was no one here. Everyone taught oil painting. Someone told Leatrice to talk with local artist, Virginia Whitten. Mrs. Whitten suggested she start with oil painting. She did and with the help of Mrs. Whitten, she did a few paintings.

However, she still had a great desire to draw. Because Leatrice taught school, she could not take drawing classes at Howard College in the fall. As luck would have it, one summer the college offered a beginning drawing class. Leatrice registered for the class.

She was a bit nervous about taking the class because it was for a grade. It turns out that the teacher, Becky Smiley, an excellent teacher, was very patient. She demonstrated everything.

See **CLUB NEWS**, Page 11B

Weddings

Combs - Herrin



Zachary Herrin and Elizabeth Ann Combs

Elizabeth Ann Combs of Eltopia, Wash., and Zachary Robert Herrin of Big Spring, Texas, were united in marriage Oct. 18, 2014, in an outdoor ceremony at the home of the bride's aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Bartz, in San Marcos, Texas. The wedding was officiated by Bubba Miller, pastor of Branded for Christ Cowboy Church in Huntsville, Texas.

The bride is the daughter of Lori and Coby Combs of Eltopia. She is the granddaughter of Donna Biram of Wenatchee, Wash., and Mike Biram of Palisades, Wash.

The groom is the son of Nancy D. Herrin of Big Spring and Scot Herrin of Big Spring. He is the grandson of Patricia Lane St. Clair of Mertzon, Texas, and the late Dan St. Clair, and Lynn and Bob Herrin of Austin, Texas, and the late Carolyn Cox Herrin.

Escorted by her father, the bride wore a strapless Oleg Cassini gown with a sweetheart neckline and chapel length train. The matron of honor was Shelly Treat, the bride's sister, of Ellensburg, Wash. Bridesmaids were Lindsey Poppe of Richland, Wash., Cassidy Clyde of Kennewick, Wash., Kalee Keane, the bride's cousin, of Wenatchee, Wash., Brit Russel of Burton, Texas, and

Emily Eford of Stephenville, Texas.

The best man was Zane Herrin, the groom's brother, of Stephenville. Groomsmen were Kody Willis of Burleson, Jacob Del Toro of Lubbock, and Aaron Sandile, Jacob Dunn and Jake Orman, all of Huntsville. The ring bearer was Nate Urias of Midland, Texas.

The bride is a 2008 graduate of Connell High School in Connell, Wash., and a 2010 graduate of Walla Walla Community College in Walla Walla, Wash. She earned her bachelor of science degree from Sam Houston State University in 2013, majoring in animal science with a minor in equine science. She is a professional barrel racer and competes as a member of the Women's Professional Rodeo Association.

The groom is a 2009 graduate of Forsan High School in Forsan, Texas. He earned his bachelor of science degree from Sam Houston State University in 2013, majoring in agricultural engineering and technology. He is employed with S. Herrin Construction and Herrin Cattle Company in Big Spring.

Following the ceremony, and dinner and dance were held at the Bartz home. The couple enjoyed a trip to Destin, Fla., before returning to their home in Big Spring.

Scholarship contest for area students

STANTON - The Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District (PBUWCD) is sponsoring an essay contest for graduating seniors.

One senior student from each of the high schools located in the district's coverage area, Forsan, Grady, Sands and Stanton, will be awarded a scholarship. All senior students who are planning to attend college are eligible to enter the essay contest.

Each winner of the contest will receive a \$2,000 scholarship to the college of their choice.

The essays are due no later than March 3, 2015. They may be submitted to the student's school counselor or the Permian Basin UWCD office at 708 W St. Peter, Stanton, Tx.

For further criteria and information, please contact your high school counselor or the PBUWCD office at (432)756-2136 or email pbuwcd.edu@gmail.com.

Menus

Big Spring ISD

Monday - Holiday

Tuesday

Breakfast: blueberry waffle, sausage patty, apples, assorted fruit juice, milk; Lunch: Asian teriyaki chicken or pig-in-a-blanket, brown rice, broccoli, pineapple chunks, chocolate graham crackers, milk.

Wednesday

Breakfast: animal crackers, string cheese, peach cups, assorted fruit juice, milk; Lunch: Tex-Mex stack or toasted ham and cheese, tortilla chips, refried beans, garden salad,

See **MENUS**, Page 3B

Dr. David L. Ward, D.D.S., P.C.

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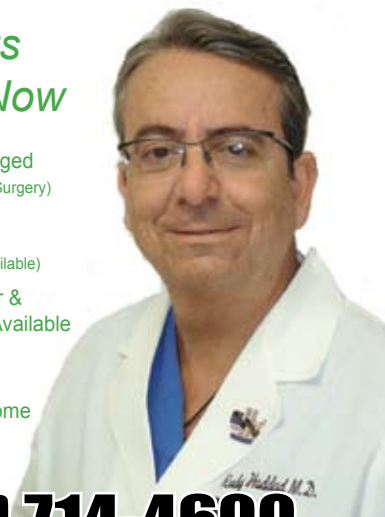
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Courtesy photo

Alon USA presented a check to the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County for a little more than \$62,000. Pictured from left are Jeff Brorman, VP of Refining, ALON USA; Chad Averette, United Way Campaign Chairman; Jeff Wilson, Alon USA United Way committee member; Gloria Bain, Alon USA United Way committee member; Tony Rodriguez, Alon USA United Way committee member; Keith Imken, Alon HR manager; Chad Myers, Alon USA United Way committee member; Adolph Granato, Alon HSSE manager; Jessica Rivera, Alon USA United Way loan executive; Steve Mattingley, Alon USA engineer; and Ted Tarbet, Alon USA United Way committee member. Not pictured are Bill Burchett, Alon USA United Way committee member; Morris Chaney, Alon USA United Way committee member; and Lynn Richardson, United Way board member.

ALON raises more than \$62,000 for local United Way campaign

Herald Staff Report

Alon USA -Big Spring Refinery recently presented a \$62,000 check to the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County collected from this year's United Way annual campaign. According to Sandy Stewart, United Way executive director, the money will greatly help the 16 local agencies which receives funds from the United Way.

"We are very proud of the amount that we were able to raise," said Jessica Rivera of Alon USA-Big Spring Refinery. "I am thankful for my United Way Committee here at the refinery. We know we have a huge goal to beat in front of us for the next United Way Campaign but we are up for the

challenge. By raising \$62,002.86, we have nearly doubled our fundraising total since 2011."

The local United Way helps fund 16 area agencies which are American Red Cross West Texas Chapter; Buffalo Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America; Casa of West Texas; Council on Aging/Mobile; Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center; Emergency Services Chaplain Corp.; Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest; Howard County Humane Society; Isaiah 58; Northside Community Center; Permian Basin Regional Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse; The Salvation Army; The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club; Victim Services; Westside Community Day Care Center; and YMCA of Big Spring.

MENUS

Continued from Page 2B

hot cinnamon apples, Spanish rice, milk.
Thursday
Breakfast: bacon

scramble pizza, bananas, assorted fruit juice, milk; Lunch: hamburger or cheeseburger or chicken patty, potato rounds, ranch beans, peaches, milk.
Friday

Breakfast: cinnamon mini rolls, mixed fruit cup, assorted fruit juice, milk; Lunch, chicken parmesan or cheese pizza or pepperoni pizza, breadsticks, garden salad, green beans, orange smiles, milk.

Sands CISD

Monday
Breakfast: oatmeal rounds, yogurt, fruit juice, milk; Lunch, chicken fajitas, salsa, seasoned corn, baby carrots, fruit bowl.

Tuesday
Breakfast: waffles, sausage, fruit juice, milk; Lunch, Asian chicken, brown rice, baby carrots, steamed broccoli, chilled pineapple, sugar cookies.

Wednesday
Breakfast: breakfast sliders, fruit juice, milk; Lunch, Spanish rice, refried beans, salsa, garden salad, hot cinnamon, apples.

Thursday
Breakfast: sausage and biscuits, fruit juice, milk; Lunch: chicken parmesan, breadsticks, savory green beans, garden salad, fresh

apple slices.

Friday
Breakfast: cinnamon rolls, fruit, juice, milk; Lunch: hamburger, tater tots, western beans, diced pears.

New Hope Christian School

Monday
Breakfast: cereal, pineapple, orange juice, milk, (granola bar and milk, snack); Lunch, turkey and cheese sandwiches, French fries, carrots, milk.

Tuesday
Breakfast: blueberry muffin, applesauce, milk (butter crackers and deli meat, snack); Lunch, enchilada casserole, pinto beans, salad, milk.

Wednesday
Breakfast: cinnamon rolls, peaches, milk, (veggie sticks and goldfish, snack); Lunch: beanie weenies, baked beans, corn, milk.

Thursday
Breakfast: honey buns, pears, milk, (Rice Crispy Treat and milk, snack); Lunch, fish sticks, hush puppies, mixed veggies, pinto beans, milk.

Friday
Breakfast: cereal bar, Mandarin oranges, milk, (Ritz crackers and string cheese, snack); Lunch, barbecue on a bun, tater tots, green beans, milk.

TAX GUIDE 2015

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Courtesy photo

Officials with Big Spring Center for Skilled Care were joined by Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce representatives for ribbon cutting ceremonies at the facility, located on South Wasson Road.

Make 2015 a debt-free year

After the holidays, I realized that I need to do something about some of this debt that I accumulated. So this year, one of my new year's resolutions is to pay down my debt.

Many people face a financial crisis some time in their lives. Whether the crisis is caused by personal or family illness, the loss of a job, or overspending, it can seem overwhelming, but often you can overcome it.

Your financial situation doesn't have to go from bad to worse. Make this year a year to reduce your debt!

If you or someone you know is in debt, your Better Business Bureau (BBB) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) offer five tips to help you get started this new year:

- Develop a budget. The first step toward taking control of your financial situation is to do a realistic assessment of how much money you take in and how much money you spend.

The FTC provides a Budget Calculator online that is helpful for creating a budget.

- Contact your creditors. Contact your creditors immediately if you're having trouble making ends meet. Tell them why it's difficult for you, and try to work out a modified payment



plan that reduces your payments to a more manageable level.

Don't wait until your accounts have been turned over to a debt collector. At that point, your creditors have given up on you.

- Ask for lower rates. Most credit card companies will lower interest rates when asked, especially if you mention a "hardship plan," designed for those that are going through a struggle for a short time.

Lower rates mean your payments go more toward principal instead of interest.

- Send extra payments. Make at least the minimum payment each month on every account, but send that extra amount to make a bigger dent. As soon as that debt is paid off, put its payment and the extra toward the next account on your target list.

- Stick to the plan. It can be tempting to use your credit cards again once the balances are lowered, but that will only make it harder to get out of debt, and the process may take much longer. Resist the temptation and keep your eyes on your long-term goal.

Foreclosures fell in 2014

By ALEX VEIGA

AP Real Estate Writer

LOS ANGELES — A healthier U.S. housing market and economy helped to winnow foreclosures in 2014 to levels not seen since before the housing bust.

The decline is the latest evidence of how foreclosures have diminished in recent years from a national crisis to a largely market-specific concern.

While foreclosures remain elevated in many populous metropolitan areas, such as New York, Philadelphia and San Diego, they have declined annually overall in recent years, and 2014 was no exception.

The number of homes repossessed by banks fell 29 percent last year to the lowest level since 2006, a year before the subprime mortgage crisis erupted, according to data released Thursday by foreclosure listing firm RealtyTrac Inc.

One reason for the drop: fewer homes entered the foreclosure process last year.

Foreclosure starts tumbled 14 percent versus a year earlier to the lowest level since 2006, the firm said.

"Foreclosures are no longer a threat to home values nationwide," said Daren Blomquist, a

vice president at RealtyTrac.

All told, 643,193 U.S. homes entered the foreclosure process last year, according to RealtyTrac. That represents a 70 percent drop from their 2009 peak of about 2.14 million homes.

Completed foreclosures, or homes that were taken back by lenders, fell to 327,069. That's down 69 percent from their peak of 1.05 million five years ago.

U.S. home sales slumped much of last year after a three-year rebound, held back by flat incomes, tight credit and rising home prices.

While the steady, albeit slower pickup in home values last year likely squeezed some potential buyers out of the market, it continued to lift property values for homeowners. When home prices rise, it can help homeowners build or recover equity, which can make it easier to qualify for refinancing or sell rather than ending up in foreclosure.

Nearly 1.5 million homes returned to positive equity — when a home is valued at more than what the owner owes on the mortgage — in the 12 months ended Sept. 30, according to CoreLogic. Some 5.1 million homes, or 10.3 percent of all homes with a mortgage, remained in negative equity — when the value of

a home falls below what is owed on the mortgage — as of Sept. 30, the firm said.

While fewer homes entered the foreclosure process last year, they rose on an annual basis in December for the second month in row.

The increase stemmed largely from home loans that were made between 2004 and 2008, before banks tightened lending standards. Many of those mortgages represent loans gone unpaid for years that are only now entering the foreclosure path, often because of logjams in states where the courts play a role in the foreclosure process.

"This foreclosure market is normalizing, but it's still heavily skewed to the bubble years," Blomquist said.

Among the states where foreclosure starts increased in December from a year earlier were Massachusetts, New Jersey and Nevada.

Not all states saw completed foreclosures decline last year. Nine states registered an increase from 2013, including Maryland, New York, Oregon and New Jersey.

As of Dec. 31, some 421,164 homes were owned by banks but not yet sold, down 17 percent from a year earlier.

Funding boom shows the power of tech startups, raises concerns

By BRANDON BAILEY

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Venture capitalists poured a whopping \$48.3 billion into U.S. startup companies last year, investing at levels that haven't been seen since the heady days before the dot-com bubble burst in 2001.

Software and biotechnology companies were the leading recipients of venture funding in 2014, which rose more than 60 percent from the previous year, according to a new report issued Friday.

Experts say the surge comes as tech startups are performing well in public stock offerings, and shows that investors recognize the power of new technology to disrupt and replace old industries. But it also underscores a nagging concern that investors may be sinking money into some companies at inflated values.

"There really is an unprecedented level of innovation that is taking place," said Robert

Ackerman, managing director and founder of Allegis Capital, a Silicon Valley venture firm. "What I worry about is how the excess of capital is affecting valuations and expectations."

Software companies got the biggest chunk of funding, as they have for the last five years. Venture investors put \$19.8 billion into software deals last year, or 77 percent more than in 2013. The second leading sector, biotech startups, raised \$6 billion or 29 percent more than a year earlier.

Venture funding has never matched the peak of \$105 billion that was reported in the go-go year of 2000, right before a host of untested new Internet companies collapsed after failing to produce revenue. The total fell to just under \$41 billion in 2001 and hasn't regained that level until now. It had climbed to just under \$30 billion in 2013.

McCaffrey said last year's surge shows investors increasingly

believe U.S. tech companies are capable of succeeding quickly on a global scale, which means they are poised to reach vast markets and reap sizable revenue. He also noted that new kinds of investors, including private equity or hedge funds, and the corporate investment arms of major companies, are now vying with traditional venture capital firms to back promising startups.

"What we're seeing is healthy competition for these deals, which can drive them up to be frothy," McCaffrey said.

But some prominent figures in Silicon Valley have voiced alarm at the valuations of some companies, suggesting that investors are taking on excessive risk.

"There has been increasing concern about valuations," said Mark Cannice, professor of entrepreneurship at the University of San Francisco, who conducts his own quarterly survey

See **BOOM**, Page 5B

Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

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
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
Tonya Renea Gogburn, 1610 Johnson, Big Spring
Okytra Larae Cole, 1903 Runnels, Big Spring
Matilda Cortez, 302 N. St. Teresa, Stanton
Hannah Deaton, 19634 Atasca Oaks Dr., Humble
Shiloh Sharee Dennis, 4651 E. CR 490, Stanton
Tina Marie Ellis, 4002 Austin Ave., Snyder
Brittany Vanessa Escanuela, 2521 Chanute, Big Spring
Jose Enrique Faz, 602 N.W. Seventh, Big Spring
Michael Dean Fleming, 5216 Tremont Ave., Mid-

land
Andy Lee Flores, 1302 Kendall, Big Spring
Noel Garcia II, 1011 Stadium, Big Spring
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
Rhonda Dawn Harper, 1009 Ave. J, Odessa
Matias Hernandez Jr., 620 E. 4th St., Big Spring
James Beauford Hodnett, 111 Merrick Road, Big Spring
Shatiya Lasha Jenkins, 4590 N. Texas no. 198, Odessa
Stephanie Ford Johnson, P.O. Box 483, Coahoma
Richard Leos, 509 W. 8th St., Big Spring
Jenny Marie Hamilton Lyon, 2609 Fairchild, Big Spring
Aaron Christopher Mack, 2134 Bonham Ave., Odessa
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
Dehalie Marie Nunez, P.O. Box 93, Eden
Robert Scott Ochoa, 2607 Chanute, Big Spring
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
Yuri Lozano Rubio, 421 Cedar, Colorado City
Brittany Nicole Savell, 425 E. Davis Rd., Big Spring
Ricky Lynn Waltenbaugh, 538 Westover Rd., apt. 133, Big Spring
Candida Lynn Whitehead, 3706 Connolly St., Big Spring
Tamara Ruth Whitt, 1909 Morrison, Big Spring
Jamie Wiggins, 1905 Wasson Rd. apt. 28, Big Spring
Cody K. Witt, 310 E. 21st, Big Spring

Policy change aims to help first-time homebuyers

(AP) — Uncle Sam wants to make it more affordable for Americans to buy their first home.

The recent policy changes affect government-backed home loans and could make it less costly for first-time buyers to come up with a down payment or to afford private mortgage insurance.

The changes center on the Federal Housing Administration and mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Last week, the Obama administration announced that the premium that borrowers with an FHA-backed home loan must pay for mortgage insurance will be dropped to 0.85 percent from 1.35 percent by the end of this month.

The move is estimated to save the average homebuyer \$900 a year, as well as help save money for homeowners looking to refinance their mortgage.

That followed an announcement last month that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which buy home loans from lenders and then package them as securities to be sold to investors, would be adopting new guidelines on down payments.

Specifically, the change would enable some borrowers to buy a home with a down payment as low as 3 percent, down from a minimum of 5 percent.

“These combined actions between the FHA, Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae are a huge signal to the market that it’s OK

to lend to first-time homebuyers,” said Nela Richardson, chief economist at real estate brokerage Redfin.

The share of U.S. homes bought by first-time buyers has been below average through much of the housing rebound. First-time buyers accounted for 31 percent of all previously occupied homes bought in November.

For many, affordability remains an obstacle because they have insufficient savings or poor credit — hurdles that could keep them from benefiting from the recent loan policy changes.

Here are three things to keep in mind if you’re considering applying for a home loan backed by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac or guaranteed by the FHA:

THE FINE PRINT

The FHA’s new 0.85 percent mortgage insurance premium is lower, but remains higher than historic norms. The rate was initially increased to raise FHA capital reserves, which took a hit during the housing crisis.

And the rate cut will do nothing to change the eligibility requirements for FHA-backed loans.

Not all borrowers will qualify for the 3 percent down payment on a home loan guaranteed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Under the terms announced

last month, borrowers must have enough income to afford the monthly payments. And the rate is only good on homes that will be used as the borrowers’ primary residence. Borrowers also will have to pay for mortgage insurance.

Freddie Mac’s version of the loan program also requires that borrowers earn less than the median income.

BANK LENDING STANDARDS

FHA, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have their own definition of a qualified borrower, but banks often go beyond these standards, raising the threshold for what it takes to qualify for a home loan.

Banks do this to shield themselves from the possibility that they might have to buy back loans they sell to the government should the loan go unpaid. That can happen if the government determines that the lender failed to vet borrowers’ creditworthiness properly.

“It could be something like a missing piece of documentation in the loan file that wouldn’t necessarily cause the loan to default,” said Tom Wind, executive vice president of home lending at EverBank.

However, the government has taken steps in recent months to clarify for banks the type of scenarios that would trigger a loan buyback in the

future. That could motivate some banks to remove the additional credit standards imposed on government-backed mortgages.

SAVE BY PAYING MORE

The low down-payment programs offered by government-backed loans help borrowers buy a home for less money upfront, but they can cost more over time, particularly when one factors in the cost of private mortgage insurance. While PMI is tax-deductible, consider paying more each month to help build equity in the home up to 20 percent. At that point, the borrower can apply to have the private mortgage insurance waived.

Generally, it’s less expensive to get a conventional loan guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac because FHA charges higher premiums, even after the recent reduction.

Fannie Mae also has a lower down payment requirement than FHA.

“The single best thing first-time homebuyers can do to improve their chances to qualify is to bring more money to the table for the down payment,” said Sam Khater, deputy chief economist at CoreLogic, a real estate data firm. “Homeownership is about building equity, so anything that buyers can do to get a good start on building equity will help them achieve sustainable homeownership.”

Xiaomi takes aim at Apple

China’s Xiaomi takes aim at Apple

BEIJING (AP) — Rising smartphone star Xiaomi is moving up-market and taking aim at Apple’s iPhone.

The Chinese manufacturer known for ultra-low-priced handsets on Thursday unveiled a new model that Chairman Jun Lei said is comparable to Apple’s iPhone 6 but thinner, lighter and much cheaper. The phone starts at 2,299 yuan (\$375), less than price of an iPhone 6 in China.

Xiaomi, founded in 2010, passed South Korea’s Samsung Electronics Co. in the second quarter of last year as the best-selling smartphone brand in China by number of handsets sold. The company is expanding into India and other developing markets but has yet to announce plans to enter the United States or Europe.

The new Xiaomi could add to competition for Apple Inc. in China.

BOOM

Continued from Page 4B

of investor confidence. “It’s not that many businesses aren’t viable, but the question is what are you paying for them.”

Still, many venture investors shy away from characterizing the current trend as a “bubble.” Ackerman, whose firm focuses on commercial

software and networking technology, said he’s convinced that new software and communications advances are revolutionizing vast sectors of the world’s economy.

But he said hedge funds and other new investors are investing at higher levels because they expect significant returns after seeing a series of successful initial public stock offerings over the last year. “They are basically

chasing returns,” he said.

That has led to “excess capital and excess valuations,” Ackerman added. “Are there companies out there that are overvalued today by traditional metrics? Yes.”

The market will eventually re-calibrate, he said, and when it does, some investors may lose money. Meanwhile, he warned, some companies that are receiving massive infusions of cash are not spend-

ing it wisely, which can lead to unsustainable operations. McCaffrey and other experts said they expect venture funding will continue without any sharp drop in 2015, however.

Commercial software companies, especially those that offer cyber-security services and tools for analyzing large amounts of data, are expected to be big draws in the coming year, along with biotech and

health technology.

But one veteran investor predicted fewer new companies may be funded in the future. Bigger venture capital firms are investing in older, more developed startups because they are viewed as proven businesses that offer less risk, said Brian Cohen, chairman of the New York Angels, a consortium that invests in very early-stage companies.

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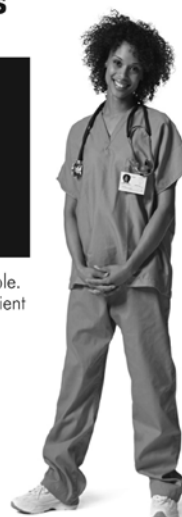
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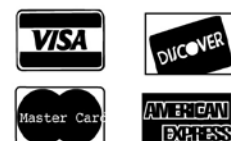
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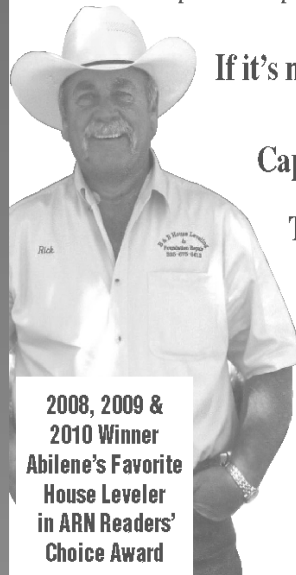
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If you're not sure about applying, email your questions to dominos@clearwire.net
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These positions must have a Bachelors degree with a major in Social work or a minimum of 24 hours in psychology, sociology or other human service hours. All Employees must live within 70 miles of the duty site. Employees will be required to have a personal vehicle available with WTC reimbursement provided. Travel requirements depend upon the position. Extensive training is provided. Flexible Schedules. \$19.79 hr \$1583.08 bi weekly \$41,160 annually.
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TAMI L. DAVIS
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MH Team Clerk: Provides direct clerical support to the Treatment Team, Specifically the Team Coordinators. Responsible for data entry into the electronic medical record. Coordinating schedules, monitoring home pages and tracking all clients in regard to plans due dates. Makes appropriate client appointment phone calls and reminder letters. GED or High School Diploma. Must have some computer knowledge \$10.95 hr \$876.00 bi weekly \$22,776 annually.

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Sudoku Answer On Page 10B

sudoku

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

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
Solution to a Predicament

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A K Q
♥ Q 4
♦ K J 9 5
♣ Q 9 6 3
EAST
♠ 9 7 2
♥ J 10 9 3
♦ 3
♣ K J 10 8 2
SOUTH
♠ J 6
♥ A K 8 7 5 2
♦ A Q 10 4
♣ A
The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 3 NT Pass
4♦ Pass 6♦ Pass
7♦
Opening lead — eight of diamonds.
To be a good bridge player, simply relying on past experience in similar situations will not be good enough to carry you through in many cases. You also must be able to adapt to situations where things don't go exactly the way you would like them to go.
For example, take this case where South got to an excellent grand slam and went down one, losing 100 points when he should instead have made seven diamonds and scored 2,140 points.
It didn't take South long to go astray. He won the trump lead with the ten and continued with the ace, on which East discarded a club.
At this point, declarer realized that the only real threat to the contract was the possibility that the hearts might not be divided 3-2. So at trick three he led a heart to the queen and then led a heart back to the ace. Unfortunately, West ruffed, and the grand slam went down the drain.
Declarer would have done better had he taken more effective steps to guard against unfavorable divisions in both diamonds and hearts. All he had to do was to cash the ace of clubs at trick two, then lead a low trump to dummy's nine.
Upon discovering the 4-1 trump division, declarer ruffs a club, leads a spade to the queen and ruffs another club with his last trump. Now a spade to the king, followed by the K-J of trumps, puts an end to the matter.
By playing this way, South scores all 13 tricks regardless of how the hearts are divided. He finishes with his four natural trump tricks, two club ruffs in his hand, the A-K-Q of spades, the Q-K-A of hearts and the ace of clubs. It seems ridiculously easy when the winning line of play is pointed out. The hard part is to think of it!

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Legals

CITY OF BIG SPRING
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Pursuant to the authority granted by the City Council of the City of Big Spring, Texas, the City of Big Spring will receive sealed proposals on the following date/time for the purchase of the items/services listed below:
Date/Time: Monday, February 2, 2015, at 2:00 p.m., for the following:
RFP # 15-015 Cedar Crest Land Sale RFP
Proposals are to be opened and read aloud in the City Council Chambers at 307 East 4th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, with award to be made at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Big Spring City Council. Proposal information and specifications may be obtained from the Office of the Purchasing Agent, 1380 Airpark Drive East, Bldg. #19, Big Spring, Texas 79720. All proposals must be marked with the date of the proposals and a general description of the proposal item(s). The City of Big Spring reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any or all formalities.
#8574 January 11, 18, & 25, 2015

Legals

Notice of Abandoned or Unclaimed Property
As required by Art. 8.17 Code of Criminal Procedures; The Big Spring Police Department Identification Division (3613 W. Hwy 80, Big Spring Texas 79720) is currently in possession of a Miller Bobcat 225 blue in color welding machine. The owner of this property is not known. If the owner of the property does not claim such property within 90 days from the date of the publication such property will be disposed of and the proceed, after the deduction of the reasonable expense of keeping such property and the costs of the disposition of this property, will be placed in the treasury of the municipality or county disposing of the property. If you are the owner of this property and can provide specific identifying information regarding this property you are encouraged to contact the Big Spring Police Department Identification Division at (432) 264-2571 or (432) 264-2576.
#8577 January 18, 2015

Legals

CITY OF BIG SPRING
310 Nolan Street
Big Spring, TX 79720-2657
432-264-2513
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS, APPROVING Z14-05, A REZONE OF AN APPROXIMATELY 116.6 ACRE TRACT IN SECTION 25, BLOCK 33, T-1-N, T & P RR. CO SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 314, HOWARD COUNTY, CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS AND A 70.67 ACRE TRACT OUT OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF SECTION 26, BLOCK 33, T-1-N INCLUDING THE BASEBALL FIELD, KNOWN AS THE ROY ANDERSON SPORTS COMPLEX IN NORTH BIG SPRING, FROM LIGHT INDUSTRIAL (LI) TO SINGLE-FAMILY (SF-2) DWELLING ZONING DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
16 JANUARY, 2015
18 JANUARY, 2015
TAMI L. DAVIS
ASSISTANT CITY SECRETARY
#8582 January 16 & 18, 2015

Legals

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE BY MARTIN COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
Notice is given that the MARTIN County Hospital District dba Martin County Hospital will sell the approximate 1.55 acre tract of property on which the former hospital was located at 610 North St. Peter, Stanton, Texas, and as more fully described herein, by the bidding process set out below:
Description of Property: The approximate 1.55 acre tract of land that is part of Block 1 of the Link addition survey, in MARTIN County, Texas.
The property will be sold with deed restrictions, including prohibitions against the use of the land for a mobile home or RV park, or for other manufactured or modular home dwellings, as well as restrictions on subdividing the land and on certain commercial uses. Construction on residential home must commence within 12 months. Lot sizes for the entire tract are platted for 65'x120' lots.
Sealed bids will be accepted at 600 East Interstate 20, Stanton, Texas until 11:00 a.m. CST January 26, 2015. Bids will be opened publicly at the Martin County Hospital District Board room starting at 11:30 a.m. January 26, 2015. Bids received after 11:00 a.m. CST January 26, 2015 will not be accepted.
Minimum bids will not be considered if less than \$12,500 per lot
For further information, contact Paul McKinney, Martin County Hospital Chief Executive Officer, at (432) 607-3200.
#8584 January 18 - 23, 2015

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Mars Changes Battle Tactics

Last week, Mars tangled with Saturn and now the warrior planet takes on Neptune. This is mainly about faith. Essentially walking, running and dancing are all acts of faith requiring one to fling oneself off balance momentarily and trust one's ability to



HOLIDAY MATHIS

recover on the other side. Being too careful will cause as many stumbles as being too careless.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Action alone won't move things forward -- it has to be the right action. You'll be inspired this afternoon, so move while you are feeling strong and quite positive that the future you desire will come to pass.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Friends and family will show their appreciation. As for the others, they don't know all you give and do in the course of a day but they'll

get a glimpse of it when you're unaware anyone is paying attention.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Knowing when to be funny (and when not to be) will be key to advancing your agenda. As one playwright put it, "Everybody likes a kidder but nobody lends him money." -- Arthur Miller

CANCER (June 22-July 22). New friends and stimulating conversation will be part of the day's fun. It will all start with an unusual choice you make before you leave the house. A Libra's influence will be good for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Wishing is tricky. If done incorrectly, it can push the desired outcome further away from you. Approach with an attitude of excitement and know that you already have all that's necessary to start making the change want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Self-discipline is a gift you give yourself. Sure, sometimes it feels like a punishment. Soon enough the habit will be formed and you'll automatically do what's good for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). An odd turn of events

this afternoon is best handled with a patient demeanor. You don't have to know the reason why things happen to believe that there is one.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When you're ready to change, you will. Until then, be supportive of yourself. There's so much you can appreciate about the way things are. In weird way, it will all feel rather perfect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's human nature to suppose that others are doing better and feeling happier than they really are. Try not to compare yourself, and keep your heart open because your care and tenderness will be sorely needed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll diffuse an emotionally charged situation by inviting others to share, within reason. Your calm demeanor helps those around you calm down, too.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You like relationships to run smoothly, which is why the first sniff of drama has you running in the opposite direction. When you can't change another person's mind at least you can change the subject.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can afford to go a little left of center with your work and make some offbeat choices. These unexpected choices will stand out as memorable and charming.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 18). You go into the year with a level head. Your reasonable approach will win you a VIP fan, and possibly a new job, in the next six weeks. Beware of instant gratification in March, as it comes with a backlash. Go for the slow-growing, long-term projects and relationships. You'll get a financial bonus in June and October. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 14, 47, 39 and 48.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: This

New Moon in Aquarius causes us to look at our lifestyle from the larger view of humanity and zero in on specific habits that are dangerous to the long-term survival of our species. In the modern world, the average person commits daily crimes to the environment. While it's overwhelming to consider every piece of plastic garbage, harmful emission, etc., the Aquarius New Moon encourages one small change and favors whatever action you can take to make a difference.

This week also brings the first Mercury retrograde of the year. Wednesday, Jan. 21, the messenger planet will apparently reverse course in Aquarius, the sign of technology. If your personal system goes a bit haywire, don't be too quick to sign on for the upgrade, as they are not always improvements. It's a time to slow down because patience will keep you from mistakes and wasted time. Hasty moves, on the other hand, could cause you to fall down an "Alice in Wonderland"-style rabbit hole (remember that the whole adventure started because the White Rabbit was rushing around " ... late for a very important date." If it's that important, they'll wait for you.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: He's known for comedies, but Jason Segel will get serious this year in his role as author David Foster Wallace in the highly anticipated "The End of the Tour," a drama about a magazine reporter's recollections of his travels and conversations with the enigmatic writer. Segel was born when the Sun and Mercury were in grounded Capricorn and the moon was in whimsical Aquarius.

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 Anna Stiga
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
1 Projects needing sets
6 Name that "Sounds like a fish!" in a 1982 movie
10 Apollo 11 landed in one
14 Yucca cousin
15 Verbal nod
16 World's most popular transportation company
17 Person needing sets
19 Escapist vehicle?
20 Gillette introduction of 1979
21 Mag with a Street Chic Daily web page
22 The UAW was founded within it
23 Window-shade part
25 Surname of three siblings who each wrote an 1847 novel
29 Clever move
31 Stretches, for example
32 Palm product
35 Ideally
36 Mineral mined in the Mojave
37 Word in the etymology of "admiral"
38 Taxing
40 Sculpture at St. Peter's
41 Expresses discontent, in a way
42 Great-aunt who takes in David Copperfield
43 Has no use for
45 House ___
46 Plans for the future
47 Reuben Award comic of 2004
54 Overused eBay adjective

- 55 Strikingly different
56 Wrongdoing
57 Voter in the news, 9/18/2014
58 Descriptor defined by the National Institutes of Health
59 Remove for checking, perhaps
60 Sources of some scratches
61 Valuables in certain Manila envelopes
- DOWN**
1 Public persona
2 Daniel Radcliffe role in 2015's *Victor Frankenstein*
3 Tibetan for "superior one"
4 They're outstanding in their fields

- 5 Commissions
6 Scene of the crime in *A Few Good Men*
7 The Romans' name for Turkey
8 Place for a chin on a violin
9 Woodstock '99 poster designer
10 A noticeable improvement
11 Continuously
12 What the Lexington Minuteman statue holds
13 Source of an ale's fruity flavor
18 Shipwreck divers' mecca
24 Dated, for short
25 Martha Stewart makes them with basil leaves and homemade mayo
26 ___ gear
27 Hubby in *Funny Girl*
28 Reminder starter

- 29 Respected elders
30 Regrettably
32 Ring, essentially
33 Frat initiation, e.g.
34 What a toolbox may hold
36 Less-than-elegant exit
39 It's often seen between here and there
40 Place to buy bowls and beds
42 Badger
43 Was on
44 Basic cable channel
45 Ice Breakers alternative
48 A long while ago
49 A short while from now
50 Role-playing game costume
51 They're formed for flattery
52 Extremely
53 The six single title characters of a TV Land series

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20									21			
				22				23	24			
25	26	27	28				29	30				
31						32					33	34
35					36				37			
38				39					40			
		41						42				
43	44						45					
46					47	48	49		50	51	52	53
54					55							
56					57				58			
59					60				61			

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

Answer to previous puzzle

FLAP	MEMO	VOYOS
LULL	EDEN	EVOKE
UCLA	MINE	MENSA
BRONCOBUSTER		
SETSAIL	ION	APB
BREADWINNER		
CALATS	RES	ETNA
TURN	AID	COINS
RAZE	ALE	DANCES
BROADCASTER		
SIN	AMC	AVOCADO
BREATHALYZER		
BEGAN	ROIL	RUNG
RAIMI	TUTU	URSA
RUNAT	ERIE	SEEN

CLUB NEWS

Continued from Page 2B

Leatrice had the beginning of a dream come true. Today, she's a member of the Big Spring Art Association with people whom she enjoys and who are willing to share their expertise. The Big Spring Art Association meets in the basement of the Howard County Library. We look forward to having a marvelous New Year. The art association's goal is to continue to bring good art to the people of Big Spring in whatever form it may be. Follow us on Facebook.

Keep Big Spring Beautiful

Keep Big Spring Beautiful joined up with Big Spring fifth graders to collect plastic bags and get them off of the street. HEB partnered up with us to recycle these bags. We collected 1,701 bags. Moss fifth grade won with 841 bags.



Class winners received a ice cream party.

- Winners were:
1. Gail Adlesperger class--Marcy
 2. Goliad—Klint Bratcher
 3. Washington—Erica Melton and Mona Green
 4. Moss—Gina Kimberly, Candice Masar, and Margie Martinez

Big Spring Area Retired Teachers Association

All Big Spring area retired school personal are invited to attend the regular meeting of Big Spring Area Retired Teachers Association. We will meet in the Cactus Room at Howard College at 11:30 a.m. Monday. Teri Johansen, of Johansen Nursery, will present the program "Greening and Growing West Texas." Updates from the 84th Legislative session will also be presented. A "Dutch treat" lunch will be served. For more information please contact Shirley Shroyer 432-263-4059.

Applications now accepted for the Phyllis Graumann Memorial Scholarship

Big Spring Symphony Guild has announced its fourth annual Music Scholarship in honor of Phyllis Graumann. Phyllis was a charter guild and board member and longtime symphony supporter.

The scholarship will aid a seventh to 11th grade Howard County music student in acquiring instrumental or vocal music training.

The selected applicant will receive a \$300 scholarship to use for private music instruction, music camp/school tuition or a music festival attendance.

To be eligible, all applicants must demonstrate exceptional talent and must be residents of Howard County. Instrumentalists and vocalists may apply from their seventh grade year through the completion of their junior year of high school. Applicants should be between the ages of 12 to 17.

To apply, applications must include a \$5 non-refundable check to the Phyllis Graumann Memorial Scholarship fund; attach a copy of your ID or driver's license or birth certificate to show proof of age; and include a DVD or video tape of the student playing instrument or singing approximately two minutes long. An on line video or emailed video may also be sent to Eulaine McIntosh at eulainemc@yahoo.com.

If playing an instrument, show view of student that will allow examination of technique, front view and side if necessary. Ask your music teacher to write a letter of recommendation and mail it to the address above.

Letters should be mailed by music teacher, not applicant. This link may be helpful to the teacher: www.musicteacher-shelper.com/blog/tips-for-writing-student-recommendation-letters/

shelper.com/blog/tips-for-writing-student-recommendation-letters/

Application should be turned in by April 1, 2015 to: Phyllis Graumann Memorial Scholarship Committee, Big Spring Symphony Guild, 2800 Crestline Road, Big Spring, TX 79720.

Finalists will be notified by phone approximately May 1, 2015.

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- Master of Ceremonies:
Mr. Jim Clements
- Entertainment:
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- Announcement of:
Man & Woman of the Year

**Date:
Tuesday
January 27, 2015**

**Tickets: \$30 per person
Program: 7:00 pm
Sonic Floor ~ Dorothy
Garrett Coliseum
Ticket deadline -
Wednesday, January 21, 2015.**

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10-6**

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