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BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2016



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U.S. Army to recruit more women, adapt physical testing

LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

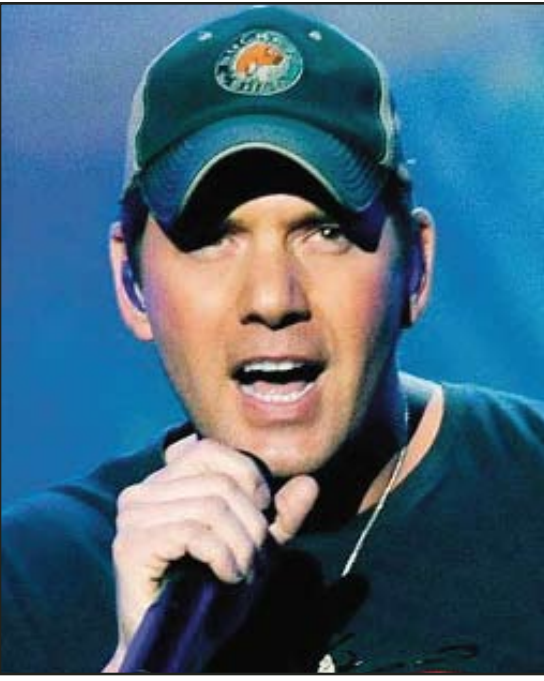
WASHINGTON (AP) — Beginning this summer, a visit to a local Army recruiting office will include a new set of gymnastic tests to help determine what military jobs a recruit is physically capable of performing. Prospective soldiers will be asked to run, jump, lift a weight and throw a heavy ball — all to help the Army figure out if the recruit can handle a job with high physical demands or should be directed to a more sedentary assignment. The new tests come as the Pentagon is opening all combat posts to women, a process that involves setting physical standards for every job that both men and women will have to meet. As part of the effort, the Army will increase the number of female recruiters to better target women. The goal will be to add 1 percent each year for the next three years in order to get at least one woman at each of the Army's

more than 780 larger recruiting centers across the country. Right now, only about 750 of the 8,800 Army and Army Reserve recruiters are women. The head of U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Maj. Gen. Jeff Snow, told *The Associated Press* that adding more women as recruiters will give female recruits someone more credible to talk to about options for women in the military and how an Army career could affect married or family life. But he said that getting that increase will be tough because other commands across the Army are also com-

peting to get more women in their units. As women move into combat roles, Army commanders want to have women in leadership positions across the force to serve as mentors and role models. In particular, Army leaders want more women as drill sergeants and platoon sergeants as recruits go through basic and advanced training. Defense Secretary Ash Carter in December ordered the military services to allow women to compete for all combat jobs. But he and other military leaders have been adamant that the physical standards for

the jobs will not be lowered in order to allow more women to qualify. Brig. Gen. Donna Martin, deputy commander of Army Recruiting Command, said that despite the added recruiting efforts, there may not be a flood of women rushing to compete for combat jobs. But she said the Army may see an eventual increase in women enlistments as they see the array of options. "I think it's all about awareness — about a choice," Martin said. "It's not forcing any women to go into combat arms. It's about making them aware that this is a choice." "It's the whole question of can you have it all," said Martin, who has been in the Army for 29 years, has been married for 21 years, and has a 19-year-old son. "You can have as much as you want." The new physical tests, according to Army leaders, will evaluate all recruits — men and women — and

See, **ARMY**, Page 3A



Courtesy photos

Country music stars Rodney Atkins, left, and the Bellamy Brothers will be appearing at the 2016 Funtastic Fourth celebrations June 24-25

Funtastic Fourth heating up

Rodney Atkins, Bellamy Brothers to headline summer event

By AMANDA ELSTON
Managing Editor

Chalk it up to the 75 degree forecast. It may only be February but the Downtown Revitalization Association (DRA) is already getting ready to rock this June 24-25 for the 14th annual Funtastic Fourth, sponsored by Alon USA and 7/11. And this year, both the lineup and the expected crowd turnout are bigger and better than ever. "During last year's event, we had between 25,000 and 30,000 people come out during our two-day event, he said DRA member Allen Johnson. "This year, we are expecting to see over 30,000 people over the span of two days. Friday night's lineup boasts the talents of

Jimmy and the Johnsons, Mark McKinney, and The Bellamy Brothers, who are currently on their 40th anniversary tour. Saturday night's music kicks off with Loco Motives, Brandon Ray, and Jon Wolfe, with headlining act Rodney Atkins to top off the night. In addition to the evening acts, Saturday morning the DRA is expecting to have gospel music from 9 am to noon, according to Johnson. "We have been planning the 2016 event since the day after 2015," laughed Johnson. "All the streets of downtown Big Spring will be completely shut down. This year, we will have 13 carnival rides, food and craft vendors, and tons of stuff for kids. We will also be having our second annual IBCA Crossroads Barbecue cook-off that will take place both Friday and Saturday that is being coordinated by Shannon Saverance. It's going

to be a blast." With the goal of creating a dynamic downtown Big Spring, the DRA has been putting on Funtastic Fourth since 2002. Each year's event has been bigger than the last with the support of DRA officers, members, and community volunteers. And with the Funtastic looming ahead in the next few months, the DRA has been planning some funtastic fundraising opportunities to ensure that 2016 is the best event yet. In order to raise funds to make that dream a possibility, the DRA has planned a dodgeball tournament for the community, with all proceeds going to the Funtastic Fourth event.

See, **EVENT**, Page 3A

Holiday Closings

Big Spring municipal offices, including the landfill, and Howard County offices will be closed Monday in observance of President's Day. Emergency services for both entities will be available. Coahoma ISD and Forsan ISD also will observe the holiday, but Big Spring ISD and Howard College will hold classes as scheduled.

Candidacy filing for muni, school board, college to end Friday

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer


All municipal and school board races in Big Spring have candidates. Contested races? That's another matter. With one week to go before the candidate filing deadline for the city of Big Spring and Big Spring ISD school board races, incumbents are the only ones who have announced for the May 7 election. Big Spring municipal voters will elect a new mayor and District 5 city council representative this year. As of Friday, only the incumbents — Mayor Larry McLellan and Councilman Raul Benavides — have filed their candidacy papers with Assistant City Secretary Tami Davis. Persons interested in running for either of the two posts have until 5 p.m. next Friday to file the necessary paperwork, Davis said. Candidacy papers can be obtained in Davis' office at city hall. Both positions are for three-year terms. Candidates must be Big Spring residents, although persons running for the council post do not have to live in District 5, Davis said. It's the same story at Big Spring ISD, where the four incumbents — and no one else — for the seats up for election in May have formally announced for the races, BSISD Chief Financial Officer Debbie Green said.

See, **FILINGS**, Page 3A


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2807 GOLIAD - \$199,900.00
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2309 LYNN DRIVE - \$219,500.00
Well maintained home with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Bonus sun room, workshop and open patio.

Obituaries

Samantha Payne



Samantha Payne, 32, of Big Spring passed away Friday, Feb. 5, 2016 at a local hospital. The family will receive friends Sunday, Feb. 14, 2016 from 2 p.m. thru 4 p.m. at Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Funeral Services will be Monday, Feb. 15, 2016 at 2 p.m. at Myers and Smith Chapel. Burial will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Oct. 17, 1983 to Carolyn and Johnny Payne, Sr. in Big Spring. She had been a lifetime resident of Big Spring. Her three children were the light of her world. She

loved making blankets and she collected angels. Samantha was a firm believer in Christ, always wanted to help others and was beautiful inside and out. She loved hugs and clung to words of encouragement.

Samantha is survived by one son: Blaze Estes; two daughters: Faith Estes and Tandi Payne; her mother: Carolyn Payne; two brothers: Jason Payne and Johnny Payne; one sister: Donna Payne and numerous nieces and nephews all of Big Spring.

She was preceded in death by her dad: Johnny Payne, Sr.; an infant child: Ethan Chance Estes; two brothers: Boe and Bryon Payne and her grandparents. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Francine Jansch

Francine Jansch, 81, of Big Spring died Friday, Feb. 12, 2016. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Gregoria Gonzales



Gregoria V. "Goya" Gonzales, 94, of Big Spring died Thursday, Feb. 11, 2016 at her residence. A vigil will be held Sunday, Feb. 14, 2016 at 7 p.m. at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be Monday, Feb. 15, 2016 at 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

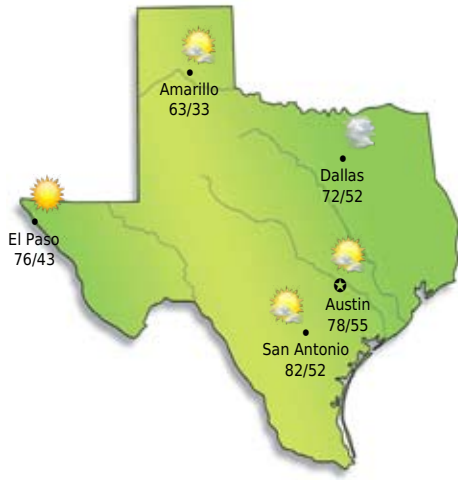
She was born Oct. 28, 1921 in San Antonio, Texas to Jovita and Ignacio Villareal. She married Jose Angel Gonzales Feb. 12, 1938. She has been in the Big Spring Community for over 70 years and was affiliated with Holy Trinity Catholic Church. She was a

homemaker, loved gardening, cooking, shopping, make up and her dog. She enjoyed spending time with family and friends but especially loved her time with her grandchildren. Goya is survived by two daughters: Linda Gonzales and her husband Arturo, Jovita Trevino and husband Joe, all of Big Spring; one son: Jose Angel Gonzales, Jr and wife Frances of San Angelo; one brother: Enrique Villareal of Denver, Colorado; one sister Jovita Vasquez of San Antonio; ten grandchildren; several great grandchildren and great great grandchildren. In addition to her parents and husband she was preceded in death by one sister: Jane White; one brother: Rudy Villareal; and one grandson: Albert Gonzales. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sun 2/14	Mon 2/15	Tue 2/16	Wed 2/17	Thu 2/18
71/37 Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 71F. W winds shifting to N at 10 to 15 mph.	71/41 Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.	75/41 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 40s.	80/49 Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 40s.	83/50 Windy with a mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 50s.
Sunrise: 7:30 AM Sunset: 6:30 PM	Sunrise: 7:29 AM Sunset: 6:31 PM	Sunrise: 7:28 AM Sunset: 6:32 PM	Sunrise: 7:27 AM Sunset: 6:33 PM	Sunrise: 7:26 AM Sunset: 6:34 PM

Texas at a Glance



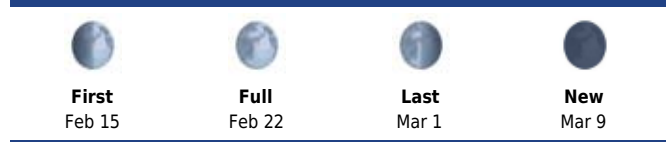
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	74	50	Sunny	Kingsville	76	54	Cloudy
Amarillo	71	38	Sunny	Livingston	66	49	P Cloudy
Austin	77	56	P Cloudy	Longview	62	47	Sunny
Beaumont	65	51	Cloudy	Lubbock	72	39	Sunny
Brownsville	75	58	Sunny	Lufkin	65	48	Sunny
Brownwood	73	50	Sunny	Midland	77	48	Sunny
Corpus Christi	74	57	Cloudy	Raymondville	80	57	Cloudy
Corsicana	67	53	M Sunny	Rosenberg	67	57	Cloudy
Dallas	66	54	Sunny	San Antonio	79	53	M Cloudy
Del Rio	81	52	Sunny	San Marcos	77	52	Sunny
El Paso	78	45	P Cloudy	Sulphur Springs	60	50	Sunny
Fort Stockton	81	48	P Cloudy	Sweetwater	75	51	P Cloudy
Gainesville	63	50	Sunny	Tyler	62	49	Sunny
Greenview	63	50	Sunny	Weatherford	67	51	Sunny
Houston	67	57	M Cloudy	Wichita Falls	66	52	P Cloudy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	40	23	Sunny	Miami	75	59	Sunny
Boston	21	-7	Cloudy	Minneapolis	10	3	P Cloudy
Chicago	15	10	Sunny	New York	22	2	Sunny/Wind
Dallas	66	54	Sunny	Phoenix	87	53	Sunny
Denver	65	33	Foggy	San Francisco	66	52	Cloudy
Houston	67	57	M Cloudy	Seattle	50	47	Cloudy
Los Angeles	83	56	Sunny	Saint Louis	21	18	M Cloudy

Moon Phases



UV Index

Sun 2/14	Mon 2/15	Tue 2/16	Wed 2/17	Thu 2/18
5	5	5	5	5
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **MICHAEL SHAWN SCHMIDT**, 42, of 2609 Wasson Rd. 3 was arrested on a warrant from another agency.
- **BENITO RIOJAS BAIZA**, 47, of 4107 W. Hwy 80 was arrested on warrants for defective headlamps, two counts of bail jumping/failure to appear and driving while license invalid.
- **COMMODORE ROGER BELL**, 44, of 4917 Wasson Rd. was arrested on a warrant from another agency.
- **RICHARD HERNANDEZ ARENIBAZ**, 50 of 3606 Piper Rd. was arrested on a charge of assault - family violence, threat or offensive touch.
- **JAMES ELIOTT MULLHOLAND**, 31, of 103 Collins Rd. was arrested on warrants for three counts of failure to appear, two counts of expired

motor vehicle inspection certificate and expired registration.

- **BRANDON JOE ROBINSON**, 30, of 103 Collins Rd. was arrested on a charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1900 block of Rannels St.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 500 block of E. 3rd St., the 3600 block of W. Hwy 80 and the 3700 block of Dixon St.
- **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1900 block of S. Main St., the 200 block of Austin and the 800 block of Andree St.
- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 100 block of S. Moss Lake Rd.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 3600 block of Piper Rd.

Support Groups

MONDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, As Bill Sees it, 615 Settles, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- 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.

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.; newcomers 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 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. Newcomers' 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.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of Young St. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of Veterans Blvd. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **FIRE** was reported in the 100 block of 9th St. Fire was out on arrival and investigated.

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Arrington earns TFB AGFUND endorsement



Courtesy Photo

Jodey Arrington with members of the TFB AGFUND.

By **AMANDA ELSTON**
Managing Editor

Congressional hopeful and former member of the Bush administration Jodey Arrington has gained the endorsement of the Texas Farm Bureau AGFUND.

“Throughout his campaign efforts to earn the Republican nomination to be our next congressman, Jodey has repeatedly stressed the importance of a vibrant and properly supported agriculture sector,” read an Arrington press release. “His knowledge and commitment to strengthen policies that empower American agriculture security has earned him the endorsement of the Texas Farm Bureau AGFUND.”

Mike Moates, county president of the Howard County Farm

Bureau, said the decision to back Arrington was made after a meeting was held back in January when all nine congressional hopefuls presented their platform to the Bureau in hopes of gaining their endorsement.

“All the candidates got to speak for 10 minutes, and then we would ask questions for 10 minutes,” said Moates. “We were impressed with Arrington’s concern about the border and border safety. He grew up in Plainview and around the farming community. He is interested in visiting with farmers and makes it a point to talk to people farming.”

With a platform including an emphasis on American West Texas farmers and ranchers, Arrington makes it a point to emphasize his concerns about

West Texas agriculture.

“The 19th Congressional district deserves to have a strong voice in Congress who can effectively represent the needs of our farming and ranching families as well as promote policies that enable our nation to have the food security we need. Food security is every bit as important to the stability of our country as energy security,” said Arrington. “Sadly, the importance of agriculture has been lost on most 21st century Americans. But not here in West Texas.”

What stood out the most to Moates was Arrington’s enthusiasm to work with people here in Howard County.

“Arrington is working with all of District 19,” said Moates. “Long time member of the Farm Bureau Mike Conaway has been in contact with him and plans on working with him in the future.”

Arrington is one of nine congressional hopefuls vying for incumbent Randy Neugebauer’s position. He joins the eight other candidates that have announced their candidacy to run for district 19. This includes Lubbock Mayor Glen Robertson, Levelland healthcare administrator DeRenda Warren, Dr. Donald May, President and C.E.O. of Platinum Bank Greg Garrett, retired Air Force colonel Michael Bob Starr, Don Perish, Jason Corley, and John Key.

Pops n Park to have more explosions in 2016

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

The fireworks display for the annual July 3 Pops in the Park celebration will be a little bit bigger in 2016, thanks to a price break from the seller.

Last week, committee members approved to increase the fireworks display budget to \$25,000 from \$20,000 after they learned they could literally get more bang for their buck. If they had opted to stay with last year’s purchase of \$20,000, the committee would have faced a price increase from the seller which would mean they’d be receiving less fire works than in the 2015 show.

Since the committee is increasing the order,

the seller will not tack on the yearly price increase, and instead sell the explosives at 2015 prices.

The city-wide annual American Independence Day celebration draws thousands to Comanche Trail Park every year to enjoy the large fireworks display accompanied with live music provided by the Big Spring Symphony.

This year the event falls on a Sunday so committee members are in talks to book a pre-show act that includes a variety of musical genres including gospel song.

According to committee chairman Kelly Seals, the event cost around \$45,000 to host each year and is completely funded through donations.

“We are always accepting donations,” she said. “Anyone who would like to donate can call Debbie ValVerde at the Big Spring Chamber.”

For more information, call ValVerde at 263-7641.

EVENT

Continued from Page 1A

“We have seen other communities put on dodgeball tournaments and everyone seemed to have a blast, h said Johnson. gThis will be both a fun time for people and a great way to raise money. h

The dodgeball tournament will be held on Saturday, Feb. 27 at the Big Spring Junior High Gym and is also being coordinated by Saverance. The \teams can have a maximum of 10 people and everyone of all ages is invited to participate with double elimination as the rule. Entry to participate is \$10 a person with the first place team being awarded \$300.

“There is no need to sign up before hand, h said Johnson, explaining the tournament. gJust show up with your team at the east gym entrance and sign

ups will start at 5 p.m .the night of with the games beginning at 7 p.m. h

Johnson also said that those who didn’t want to play in the tournament were more than welcome to come watch and gcheck out the concessions that they will be serving h during the games.

For those interested in becoming vendors for the Funtastic Fourth, contact vendor coordinator Don Rodgers at 432-271-8545. Sponsorship opportunities and those interested in fundraising should be directed toward Danny Isbell at 432-466-3016, Vice-President/Treasurer Ida Chavira at 915-613-9351, or Johnson at 432-267-6278. For other questions on how to get involved with the event, volunteer opportunities, or just more information on the Downtown Revitalization Association, contact President Christy Brorman at 432-466-2268.

FILINGS

Continued from Page 1A

Incumbents Julie Harris (District 3), Chad Wash (District 5), Jeff Brorman (District 6) and Fabian Serrano (District 7) have formally announced their bids to seek new terms on the school board.

All the positions have three-year terms, except for District 3, which is for the final two years of Ken McIntosh’s unexpired term (McIntosh resigned in 2015, and Harris was subsequently appointed to fill his position).

Unlike the municipal race requirements, candidates must live in the district they seek to represent, Green said.

Filing deadline for the BSISD races also is Friday, she added.

If no contested races appear on the ballot, both the municipal and ISD elections likely will be cancelled, officials said.

In stark contrast to the city and BSISD elections, the Howard College Board of Trustee races are shaping up as a free-for-all — three candidates are vying for two vacant at-large seats, while the Precinct 1 and Precinct 2 races each have two candidates.

All three elections are scheduled for May 7 at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

ARMY

Continued from Page 1A

will judge their core strength and endurance. Recruits still will have to take the routine aptitude tests and physical evaluations.

“By doing predictive tests we can marry people up with those specialties that physically they should be able to do, which should reduce attrition and be a better fit for the Army,” Snow said. “It is truly about the right person at the right time with the right skill sets to perform, and we think that we’re setting them up for success in that particular specialty.”

He added, however, that Army leaders are trying to finalize what scores will be needed to qualify for a highly physical job and what would limit recruits to less physical occupations.

While the tests coincide with the campaign to bring women into combat fields, military officials note that setting specific

physical standards for all jobs may prevent some men from getting into certain infantry or armor posts if they don’t qualify.

The tests stem from the three years of study the Army did as it considered whether all combat jobs, including grueling infantry, Army and special operations careers, should be opened to women, and what abilities recruits needed to succeed at the more difficult battlefield posts.

The questions also reflect concerns that women are injured at a higher rate than men, even during the early days of enlistment. Injuries or difficulties doing physical requirements often lead many women and men to fail or decide to leave the military.

The physical assessment test is made up of four tasks: a standing long jump; an interval, aerobic run; a dead lift of weights; and a seated power throw of a weighted

ball. Snow said the tasks test upper and lower body strength, body core strength, endurance and power.

He said it will cost about \$3 million to get all the testing equipment to the Army’s 1,300 recruiting locations.

Online:

U.S. Army Recruiting Command:
www.usarec.army.mil/

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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 writers and not those of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

ADDRESSES

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LETTER POLICY

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.

- Form letters, letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.

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

CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

DAILY PRAYER

Dear Lord, You have given us all the needed details for a good life through Your word.
Amen.

Caleb's telephone and tennis adventures

Twelve-year-old Caleb Lewis of Dallas was walking with his parents when he spotted an iPhone in low bushes by the sidewalk. His parents suggested he leave it there, just in case the owner came looking for it. Caleb insisted he could find the owner.



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

When the family finished its walk and returned home, Caleb got busy. The phone's battery was completely discharged, so Caleb connected the phone to a charger. Within minutes there was enough charge to use the phone. Now Caleb is not your ordinary phone and computer user. He knows some shortcuts and figures out things. He is diligent in his efforts to solve technical problems.

He was able to see some calls that had been made from the phone. He started calling those phone numbers and at each one he would ask if they recognized the number he was calling from. After five calls, someone told him the iPhone belonged to a teenage boy. Caleb got the own-

er's home number and called it. The owner's mother answered the phone and was thrilled to know her son's phone had been found and was being returned. She lived just a few blocks away. She asked Caleb what his favorite candy bar was and he told her it was a Kit Kat bar.

She showed up at Caleb's house twenty minutes later with a giant Kit Kat bar and a ten-dollar bill. She gave both items to Caleb after he handed her the phone. Caleb is a generous soul and shared the candy with his parents.

Caleb stood at that trophy case for sometime and we noticed his finger was moving across it.

Caleb is our grandson and we took him to England and Scotland during his Christmas break from school. We arrived in Edinburgh early on the 26th of December. Since we didn't sleep much on the plane we went to our hotel and took a nap. Christmas market was going on in Edinburgh and we wanted to see it. Hard rain was falling but it didn't seem to slow down any of the festivities. Streets were crowded, dozens of booths were set up to sell merchandise and

some people rode a Ferris wheel and other carnival rides. The Scots' favorite saying is "Stay Calm and Carry On." They did just that on that rainy night in Edinburgh. We bought umbrellas and used them. It was the only time we used them on the trip. We had good weather with lots of sun.

Caleb is a tennis player and is serious about it. One reason he wanted to go to Britain was to visit Wimbledon. The closer we got to the place, the more Caleb's disposition changed. He seemed to be in a trance. We saw the many grass courts, some under artificial sunlight to encourage growth. Sometimes the sun doesn't shine in England. Caleb borrowed my camera and took pictures all over the complex.

At the museum in Wimbledon, Caleb stared at the trophies. One held the previous year's trophy with the winner's name on it. Caleb stood at that trophy case for sometime and we noticed his finger was moving across it. He spelled out Caleb Lewis 2030.

Tumbleweed Smith is never desperate for an interview, but he's always looking for a good story. Contact him at ts@tumbleweed-smith.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hardison Appliance Service: Open for business

To the Editor:

I would like to say thank you to Big Spring for your patience through our health problems over the past couple of months. Everyone has been so supportive of our difficulties. Your prayers have meant to world to us.

I would also like to assure everyone in the Big Spring area that Hardison Appliance Service is NOT going out of business. We have closed our West 3rd Street location but will continue to pro-

vide the same quality service for your major appliances as we have for the past 52 + years.

We still have our same phone number. We will be working from our home doing in-home service calls.

We appreciate your business in the past and look forward to serving you in the future.

Thank you and God Bless,

Guy and Debbie Burrow
Hardison Appliance Service
Big Spring, Texas

Weaving in and out...

Ask me--or other retirees "out to pasture" or "on the shelf"--and responses will be similar, if not identical. We're flattered to be asked our opinion on almost any topic from most anybody at almost any time. Rarely do we hear, "What do you think?"

Sixteen years removed from a 40-year higher education career, I'm tickled when college-bound students--as well as their parents or grandparents--seek my counsel on majors likely to prepare graduates for good-paying jobs. Rather than admit their guesses are as good as mine, I advise them to contact my Uncle Mort.

Despite advancing years and without the benefit of--or perhaps spared from--education beyond the mid-high school years, he usually manages to come up with practical answers.

"For the longest time, I pushed study in postage and handling or tattoo removal," he says. "But times they are a'changin'."

For current queries, he offers different suggestions.

"Today, I'm recommending handgun holster design, as well as geriatric study to guide senior adults frustrated by ever-lengthening "coping lists." (He believes many "long of tooth" grow weary of falling behind in comprehension of so many new words--and initials--encountered daily.)

On the topic of college, I recall the story of a basketball coach, new at a university, who was able to sign a prized player on the final day of late registration. The kid's high school transcript was shaky, so the coach helped him with his class schedule, careful to include basket weaving.

Well, the coach made a big mistake on that course.

Soon, the youngster complained he had little chance to pass basket weaving. "I started out way behind," he moaned. "There are only four students in the class, and the other three are Navajos. Besides that, the teacher is Native American, too--and she grades on the curve."

Truth be told, the basket weaving story actually was "triggered" (no pun intended for readers who may have just gotten their open carry permits) by the news of a recent workshop in Dallas for--you guessed it--basket weavers.

Lest you think this news might best be swept under the

"Today, I'm recommending handgun holster design, as well as geriatric study to guide senior adults frustrated by ever-lengthening "coping lists." (He believes many "long of tooth" grow weary of falling behind in comprehension of so many new words--and initials--encountered daily.)

rug, it simply wouldn't be fair to the broom makers, who are included in the group. The art has survived across the centuries, and their products tell much about "how it was" hundreds of years ago.

We shouldn't jump to conclusions--over brooms or not--about the current "whys" of basket weaving. Participants feel it is purposeful, relaxing and worthy of sharing with generations yet to come. Determined to seek out new weavers, they gathered 100 strong at the recent workshop.

They say they've heard the basket weaving jokes, particularly the common tag of "easy" college credit.

"Underwater basket weaving--unlike underwater ice skating--can be fun in the summer," one

panned.

A veteran of eight years as a basket weaving teacher claims it is not as easy as it looks. Enthusiasts meet in historical venues, community buildings, schools and churches.

Basket weaving attempted in silence might be a good thing. It has been said that before we open our mouths, we should consider whether our words are an improvement on silence.

Prominent people--particularly in the sports world--may charge lavishly for their utterances, perhaps by the word. They do so with product endorsements, and in many cases, substantial numbers of us would wish their heroes to remain silent. A current example is Peyton Manning, an exceptional quarterback who has guided two teams to Super Bowl victories. His remarks at game's end clearly had financial implications. Wouldn't one expect his quote, or something similar--"I'm gonna drink a lot of Budweiser tonight, I promise you that"--from a person with ownership in at least two beer distributorships?

Past Super Bowl winners have kept their post-game beverage choices under wraps. Usually, they've announced they're "going to Disneyland." With 112 million viewers of all ages hanging on every Super Bowl second television provides, Manning would have done well to avoid sharing such details. Reference to a pizza-stuffing night would have been preferable, and Papa John's would have appreciated the plug for National Pizza Day, mere hours away.

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. Columns archived at venturegalleries.com, newbury blog.

Still going strong



Courtesy Photo

These residents of Park Place Retirement recently celebrated their February birthdays. Picture from left are Annie Fox 91, Elmer Dickens 90, Doris Varley 90, and Jimmie Lou Drake 82.

Weekly Menus

Big Spring ISD

Monday

Breakfast: Trix or Apple Jacks cereal, cheddar cheese stick, apples, assorted fruit juice and milk; Lunch: chili dog, pinto beans, broccoli with ranch, pears, fresh fruit bowl and milk.

Tuesday

Breakfast: pancake on a stick, grapes, assorted fruit juice and milk; Lunch: meaty queso, garden salad, baby carrots, strawberries and bananas and milk.

Wednesday

Breakfast: sausage breakfast pizza, mixed fruit cup, assorted fruit juice and milk; Lunch: rib patty sandwich, potato rounds, peas, fruity Jell-O, fresh fruit bowl and milk.

Thursday

Breakfast: blueberry muffin, banana, assorted fruit juice and milk; Lunch: meaty macaroni, green beans, garden salad, grapes, animal crackers and milk.

Friday

Breakfast: PBJ Uncrustable, orange smiles, assorted fruit juice and milk; Lunch: barbecue pork sandwich, sweet potato tots, tomato and cucumber, pineapple chunks, fresh fruit bowl, lettuce/tomato topping and milk.

Sands CISD

Monday

Bad Weather Holiday

Tuesday

Breakfast: muffin and yogurt;

Lunch: chili cheese combo, fresh veggie cup, fruit cup and pudding.

Wednesday

Breakfast: pancake wrap; Lunch: pizza, garden salad, petite tomato cup and fruit cup.

Thursday

Breakfast: breakfast pizza; Lunch: chicken nuggets, mac and cheese, savory green beans, garden salad and apple slices.

Friday

Breakfast: waffles and cheese stick; Lunch: cheese enchiladas, charro beans, garden salad and hot cinnamon apples.

Big Spring Senior Center

Monday

Ham and cheese sandwich, lettuce and tomato, baked chips, fruit cup and milk.

Tuesday

Baked pork chop, brown rice, Brussels – carrots – cauliflower, banana pudding, bread and milk.

Wednesday

Beef stew with vegetables, chocolate chip cookies, fruit cup with citrus, cornbread and milk.

Thursday

Soft chicken taco with salad and cheese, spanish rice, cheery pink cloud and milk.

Friday

Fish sticks with catsup, stewed tomatoes, fiesta corn, pear halves and milk.

Call 432-267-1628 to make reservations

Take Note

We are handicapped-accessible. Cost is \$8 per person.

Youth activities

The Crossroads Young Marines are taking applications for another boot camp. For more information, call 432-517-4791. Young Marines welcomes boys and girls ages 8 to 18 who are still attending school.

Let's dance!

The Big Spring Senior Center dance is open to all ages. No alcohol or smoking.

Need help?

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

170 other languages, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. For free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

Learn English and becoming more fluent in the language by enrolling in the ESL classes offered through the Adult Education and Literacy Program at Howard College. The classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00-5:30 pm or 6:00-8:30 pm at the Charles Warren Building, room #102 on the Howard College Campus. The classes are open to anyone 18 years of

age or older who want to improve their English speaking ability.

The only requirements are regular attendance and completion of 60 hours of classroom instruction.

There are no fees for the classes that include grammar instruction and writing, vocabulary and reading skills, life skills and US Citizenship Preparation—or Civics Instruction.

Persons may contact the instructor, Adrian Saldivar, at 432-230-3164 and leaving a message or by calling the

Adult Education and Literacy office at 432-264-5026 and leaving their name and phone number.

Volunteer opportunities

Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings.

It's a great way to work off community service and get help, too. Be there at 9-11 a.m. and get two for one, plus a rehab meeting.

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2012 Ford Focus SE (3 to choose from)
Was \$12,425 **NOW \$10,600**

2015 Chevrolet Cruze LTZ
Was \$19,400 **NOW \$17,800**

2015 Mustang Performance (Orange Only)
Was 27,825 **NOW \$24,500**

2014 Mitsubishi Lancer SE
Was \$13,800 **NOW \$11,800**

2007 GMC Yukon SLE 3rd Row
Was 16,000 **NOW \$13,700**

2012 Ford Explorer XLT 3rd Row Seating
Was \$22,950 **NOW \$21,000**

2008 Hummer H3 4WD
Was \$14,925 **NOW \$12,200**

2008 GMC Yukon Denali
Was \$22,275 **NOW \$19,000**

2008 GMC Yukon Denali AWD
Was 22,275 **NOW \$20,000**

2013 Lincoln Navigator Premium
Was \$33,250 **NOW \$28,152**

2010 Chevrolet Tahoe 3rd Row
Was \$39,725 **NOW \$38,000**

1999 Freightliner Conventional id120
Was \$12,500 **NOW \$9,500**

2013 Chevrolet Silverado LT Texas Edition
Was 30,175 **NOW \$27,850**

2014 Chevrolet 2500HD High Country Crew 4WD
Was \$50,000 **NOW \$48,200**

2012 Ford F-250 Crew Cab 4X4
Was \$44,300 **NOW \$39,000**

2014 GMC Sierra Crew 4WD Texas Edition
Was \$33,572 **NOW \$31,895**

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Russian PM: West rekindling the Cold War

MUNICH (AP) — Russia's prime minister accused the West on Saturday of rekindling the Cold War, telling a meeting of top defense officials, diplomats and national leaders that sanctions imposed after the annexation of Crimea and new moves by the NATO alliance "only aggravate" tensions.

Dmitry Medvedev said Russian President Vladimir Putin told the same Munich Security Conference in 2007 that the West's building of a missile defense system risked restarting the Cold War, and that now "the picture is more grim; the developments since 2007 have been worse than anticipated."

"NATO's policies related to Russia remain unfriendly and opaque — one could go so far as to say we have slid back to a new Cold War," he said.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg threw the blame back at Moscow. "Russia's rhetoric, posture and exercises of its nuclear forces are aimed at intimidating its neighbors, undermining trust and stability in Europe," he said.

The annual conference is one known for frank talk among top officials, and participants this year include U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, British Foreign Minister Philip Hammond, and many others.

US deploys more Patriot missiles in South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The United States temporarily deployed an additional Patriot missile battery in South Korea in response to North Korea's nuclear test and a long-range rocket launch, ahead of talks next week to set up an even more sophisticated U.S. missile defense in a move that has worried China and Russia.

The new tough stance follows South Korea's decision to shut down an inter-Korean factory park that had been the rival Koreas' last major symbol of cooperation, but that Seoul said had been used by North Korea to fund its nuclear and missile programs. North Korea responded by deporting South Korean citizens, seizing South Korean assets and vowing to militarize the park.

South Korea on Friday cut off power and water supplies to the industrial park and announced that its planned talks with the United States on deploying the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, one of the most advanced missile defense systems in the world, could start next week. Officials say they have yet to set a specific starting date for the talks.

In the meantime, the U.S. military command in South Korea said Saturday that an air defense battery unit from Ft. Bliss, Texas, has been conducting ballistic missile training using the Patriot system at Osan Air Base near Seoul.

Lt. Gen. Thomas Vandal, commander of the U.S. Eighth Army, said "exercises like this ensure we are always ready to defend against an attack from North Korea."

For refugees, finding work in Europe an uphill battle

VIENNA (AP) — Antonio Piani appears to have beaten the odds stacked against refugees finding work in Europe, but the hotel where he works was set up specifically to employ people like him.

The 40-year-old says the janitor's job is his first permanent position since leaving Iran more than 11 years ago — a disheartening message for the hundreds of thousands of new arrivals seeking work in Austria, Germany, Sweden and

the few other prosperous EU countries willing to take them.

"It's bound to get more difficult," said Piani, an Iranian Christian. "Refugee numbers are increasing and so is the sentiment that they are taking jobs from the locals."

Nearly 40 percent of those unemployed in Austria were classified as migrants or of a migrant background, according to statistics cited in April by Volkshilfe, Austria's largest NGO dedicated to helping the underprivileged. In Sweden, official figures released Thursday found that 38 percent of the 386,000 registered as unemployed were non-European migrants. And German Labor Office figures from last month show a more than 60-percent rise in the number of non-European migrants without a job over the year.

And numbers are only half the story.

Israeli educators battle government over textbook content

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's main high school civics textbook has become a new battleground in a culture war embroiling the country, pitting politicians against educators in a debate over how much religion and Jewish history should be included in the country's national curriculum.

Three of the book's authors have removed their names from chapters they wrote, claiming Education Ministry professionals altered their work beyond recognition to include a nationalist slant. The book's editor has submitted a six-page protest letter, and the sole Arab member of the committee overseeing civics education has quit in protest. The book is scheduled to be published in March.

"It's a book for all the students of Israel — for secular and religious, for Arabs and Druse," said copy editor Yehuda Yaari. "And this book does not represent an approach that matches all the students."

The uproar comes at a time when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's nationalistic government has been pushing forward with a series of initiatives critics charge undermine the country's democratic values. The country's culture minister has threatened to pull funding for plays and art exhibits she deems hostile to Israel, the government is promoting legislation that many believe will hurt dovish nonprofit groups, and the Education Ministry recently blocked a novel from the national curriculum because it described a romance between a Jew and an Arab. It all adds up to a climate where critics accuse the government of trying to impose its conservative values on the public.

At the center of the storm is Education Minister Naftali Bennett, leader of the Jewish Home party that is closely identified with the West Bank settlement movement. Bennett defended the changes to the civics book as "excellent and professional," and said there was no reason to apologize for instilling the country's youths with what he considers to be Jewish values.

Columbine shooter's mother says she thinks of victims daily

DENVER (AP) — The mother of Columbine High School shooter Dylan Klebold says she didn't know anything was wrong with her son before the 1999 attack, and she prayed for his death when she heard he was involved and that the rampage might still be underway.

In an interview that aired on "20/20"

late Friday, Sue Klebold told ABC News' Diane Sawyer that before the attack she considered herself a parent who would have known something was wrong.

"I think we like to believe that our love and our understanding is protective, and that 'If anything were wrong with my kids, I would know.' But I didn't know, and it's very hard to live with that," she said.

"I felt that I was a good mom ... That he would, he could talk to me about anything," she continued. "Part of the shock of this was that learning that what I believed and how I lived and how I parented was an invention in my own mind. That it, it was a completely different world that he was living in."

Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris opened fire at the suburban Denver school on April 20, 1999, killing 12 students and a teacher before killing themselves. Another 24 people were injured in the attack.

Rihanna hits the runway — this time, as designer

NEW YORK (AP) — Rihanna is certainly used to stopping the show, whether as a performer or as a fashion figure whose daring choices can make headlines.

But at New York Fashion Week on Friday, she let her models make the splashy entrances. After all, she was the designer this time.

The singer presented her Fenty Puma by Rihanna collection, heavy on Japanese-inspired streetwear in almost exclusively black and white, with, she said, "a Gothic undertone." As befitting a collection for Puma, it of course featured sneakers, many with high stacked platforms.

In an interview before the show,

which was staged in a dark, mirrored, forest-like setting filled with stage smoke, Rihanna spoke about what motivates her to design.

"I think design is a part of being creative," she told The Associated Press. "I enjoy creating and expressing the crazy things going on in my mind through something that people can see and that is tangible. That is the best part, being able to express yourself."

Seeking a Splash: Klay goes for All-Star 3s upset of Curry

TORONTO (AP) — Klay Thompson believes, even if he knows many don't.

He knows how good Stephen Curry is, so he couldn't have been terribly surprised when he was told during NBA All-Star player interviews that "everyone" thinks his Golden State Warriors teammate is going to win the 3-point contest Saturday night.

"Everybody thinks that? Oh, wow," Thompson said. "There's got to be a few who think Klay has a chance. I mean, I don't mean to refer to myself in the third person, but there's a few out there, I think. I'm one of them. Hopefully my brothers, and probably the rest of the world thinks Steph. That's fine. I'll play the underdog for a night."

A heavy underdog, at least according to one betting site. Curry was made a 10 to 11 favorite Friday by Bovada, meaning an \$11 wager would only pay \$10. Kobe Bryant also picked Curry when asked.

The 3-point contest takes place between the Skills Challenge and slam dunk contest, but it may be the main event with the Splash Brothers from the NBA champions leading the field.

Have an idea? Comment? Suggestion?
Contact the Herald
at 263-7331 or
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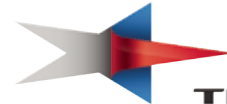


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Weekly oil report

New Locations:

Glasscock County

Cinnabar Operating, LLC
4800 Bryant Irvin Court
Fort Worth, TX 76107-0000
Will Cook, Agent
(682) 990-9141

#27HW James I "A", drill, El: NA, API #42-173-37341
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field
16.50 miles northwest of Garden City
A-208, Section 27, Block 34, T-2-S, T&P RR Co. survey
Total Depth: 1000 feet
340' FWL, 343' FSL of 320.5-acre lease
340' FWL, 2300' FNL of the survey

Cinnabar Operating, LLC
4800 Bryant Irvin Court
Fort Worth, TX 76107-0000
Will Cook, Agent
(682) 990-9141

#7HW Matthew "A", drill, El: NA, API #42-173-37342
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field
16.40 miles southwest of Big Spring
A-520, Section 7, Block 34, T-2-S, T&P RR Co. survey
Total Depth: 1000 feet
472' FWL, 835' FSL of 160.01-acre lease
472' FWL, 1807' FNL of the survey

Howard County

Encana Oil & Gas, Inc.
370 17th Street, Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202-0000
Alexis Kubat, Regulatory Analyst
(702) 876-3074

#3502A Huitt "35", drill, El: NA, API #42-227-38713
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field
5.80 miles south of Big Spring
A-375, Section 35, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. survey
Total Depth: 10,000 feet
657' FNL, 874' FEL of 123.8-acre lease
657' FNL, 874' FEL of the survey

Encana Oil & Gas, Inc.
370 17th Street, Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202-0000
Chelsea Carpenter, Regulatory Analyst
(720) 876-5176

#3408I Tubb "34", drill, El: NA, API #42-227-38714
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field
6.80 miles south of Big Spring
A-1145, Section 34, Block 33, T&P RR Co. survey
Total Depth: 10,000 feet
1830' FSL, 758' FEL of 609.37-acre lease
1830' FSL, 1088' FEL of the survey
Rule 38 Exception

Hannathon Petroleum, LLC
223 West Wall Street, Suite 800
Midland, TX 79701-0000
Ryan Bergeron, Consultant
(512) 478-3456

#3502 Morgan Ranch, drill, El: NA, API #42-227-38715
Petey (Fusselman) Field
4.90 miles northwest of Forsan
A-169, Section 35, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. survey
Total Depth: 11,000 feet
546' FEL, 330' FNL of 5,120-acre lease
2095' FWL, 1980' FSL of the survey

Irion County

Keystone Petroleum, N.M., LLC
222 West Las Colinas Blvd.
Suite 1570E
Irving, TX 75039-0000
Phone #: NA

#1 Sugg "3057", drill directional, field transfer, El: NA
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, API #42-235-32317
10 miles northwest of Mertzon
A-195, Section 3057, Block 28, H&TC RR Co. survey
Total Depth: 6300 feet
990' FWL, 990' FSL of 160-acre lease
990' FWL, 990' FSL of the survey

See, **OIL**, Page 9A

US stocks end a down week on an up note

By **ALEX VEIGA**

AP Business Writer

U.S. stocks ended a down week on a high note Friday, snapping a five-day losing streak on the strength of energy and financial companies.

A sharp rebound in oil prices and an encouraging report on retail sales helped lift the stock market to its first gain since late last week.

Despite the rally, the major U.S. stocks indexes ended the week down about 1 percent and they remain down more than 8 percent for the year.

"It's a relief to see after several very ugly days in a row, but I wouldn't hang my hat on it and say the worst is over," said Rob Eschweiler, global investment specialist at J.P. Morgan.

See, **STOCKS**, Page 9A



US rig count drops 30 this week to 541; Texas down 14

HOUSTON (AP) — Oilfield services company Baker Hughes Inc. says the number of rigs exploring for oil and natural gas in the U.S. declined by 30 this week to 541.

The Houston company said Friday 439 rigs sought oil and 102 explored for natural gas amid depressed energy prices. A year ago, 1,358 rigs were active.

Among major oil- and gas-producing states, Texas declined by 14 rigs, New Mexico and Oklahoma each dropped four and North Dakota was down three. Colorado, Pennsylvania and Wyoming lost two apiece and Kansas was off by one.

California and Louisiana gained one rig each.

Alaska, Arkansas, Ohio, Utah and West Virginia were all unchanged.

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

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(AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)

Pope Francis, center, and Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch Kirill, second from left, meet at the Jose Marti International airport in Havana, Friday, Feb. 12, 2016. Pope Francis landed in Cuba Friday for the first-ever papal meeting with Patriarch Kirill, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, a historic development in the 1,000-year schism within Christianity.

'Finally:' Pope meets Russian Orthodox leader

By NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — With a hug and an exclamation of "Finally!" Pope Francis met Friday with Patriarch Kirill in the first ever meeting between a pontiff and the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, a historic development in the 1,000-year schism that has divided Christianity.

"We are brothers," Francis said as he embraced Kirill in the small, wood-paneled VIP room of Havana's airport, where the three-hour encounter took place.

"Now things are easier," Kirill agreed as he and the pope exchanged three kisses on the cheek. "This is the will of God," the pope said.

Francis was having the brief talks in Cuba before heading off on a five-day visit to Mexico, where the pontiff will bring a message of solidarity with the victims of drug violence, human trafficking and discrimination to some of that country's most violent and poverty-stricken regions.

The meeting and signing of a joint declaration was decades in the making and cemented Francis' reputation as a risk-taking statesman who values dialogue, bridge-building and rapprochement at almost any cost.

Still, while the meeting has been hailed by many as an important ecumenical breakthrough, Francis has also come under criticism for essentially allowing himself to be used by a Russia eager to assert itself among Orthodox Christians and on the world stage at a time when the country is increasingly isolated from the West.

The joint declaration is expected to touch on the single most important issue of shared concern between the Catholic and Orthodox churches today: the plight of Christians in Iraq and Syria who are being killed and

driven from their homes by the Islamic State group.

It is being signed in the uniquely ideal location of Cuba: far removed from the Catholic-Orthodox turf battles in Europe, a country that is Catholic and familiar to Latin America's first pope, but equally familiar to the Russian church given its anti-American and Soviet legacy.

The Vatican is hoping the meeting will improve relations with other Orthodox churches and spur progress in dialogue over theological differences that have divided East from West ever since the Great Schism of 1054 split Christianity.

But Orthodox observers say Kirill's willingness to finally meet with a pope has less to do with any new ecumenical impulse than grandstanding within the West and the Orthodox Church at a time when Russia is increasingly under fire from the West over its military actions in Syria and Ukraine. Kirill, a spiritual adviser to Russian President Vladimir Putin, leads the most powerful of the 14 independent Orthodox churches that will meet this summer in Greece in the first such pan-Orthodox synod in centuries.

The Russian church has long sought greater influence over the Ecumenical Patriarch in Istanbul.

"This isn't benevolence. It's not a newfound desire for Christian unity," said George Demacopoulos, the Greek-Orthodox chairman of Orthodox Christian studies at Fordham University in New York. "It is almost entirely about (Kirill) posturing and trying to present himself as the leader of Orthodoxy."

Popes as far back as Paul VI have met with the ecumenical patriarch, who is the "first among equals" in the 250 million-strong Orthodox Church and the only patriarch who can speak for glob-

al Orthodoxy. But the Russian Church is the biggest, wealthiest and most powerful in Orthodoxy, and has always kept its distance from Rome.

Catholic and Orthodox split in the Great Schism of 1054 and have remained estranged over a host of issues, including the primacy of the pope and, more recently, Russian Orthodox accusations that the Catholic Church was poaching converts in former Soviet lands. Those tensions have prevented previous popes from ever meeting with the Russian patriarch, even though the Vatican has long insisted that it was merely ministering to tiny Catholic communities.

The most vexing issue in recent times centers on the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, the country's second-largest, which follows eastern church rites but answers to the Holy See. The Russian Orthodox Church has considered western Ukraine its traditional territory and has resisted papal influence there.

Cardinal Kurt Koch, the head of the Vatican office that deals with Orthodox relations, said the Ukrainian church will certainly come up in the two-hour private talks between Francis and Kirill.

"I think it would be impossible to meet without discussing such issues," he told Vatican Radio. But he said the future significance of the meeting could not be overstated.

"It will certainly forge relations within Orthodoxy: We still don't have contact with a lot of Orthodox patriarchs, and this meeting could help develop intra-Orthodox relations ahead of the pan-Orthodox council," he said. "Improved understanding between Rome and Moscow will certainly have positive effects on the theological dialogue."

Revitalized El Paso ready to show off for papal tourists

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — No longer the desolate space it was a few years ago, downtown El Paso is ripe with new hotels, bars, restaurants — and bulldozers that herald the planned construction of a streetcar, a children's museum, a Mexican-American cultural center and new mixed-used buildings.

The far West Texas city is ready to shed its long-held reputation as a center of illegal immigration and show off its revitalized streets to the tens of thousands of tourists hoping to get a glimpse of Pope Francis, who will cap a five-day visit to Mexico on Feb. 17 in neighboring Ciudad Jurez with a Mass in a large field near the border that many will be able to see from downtown.

El Paso's renewed energy stems from many young people who left the economically challenged city in search of better opportunities but returned to make a difference. Mexicans who left Jurez at the height of its violence also contributed to the city's growth, opening businesses across the border and coming here to shop.

"Ten years ago, I remember friends telling me this was 'Hell Paso' and they wanted to move away," said Rep. Claudia Ordaz, who at 30 years old is the youngest member of the City Council and lived in Washington, D.C., and Austin before coming home and running for office.

Decades ago, El Paso was one of the busiest places for illegal immigration, second only to San Diego. Residents who lived along the border described regularly seeing migrants in or around their backyards. But the Border Patrol shifted its policies in the 1990s, and within months, the number of illegal crossings in El Paso dipped from 10,000 daily to 500.

And the notion that El Paso and its downtown in particular were unsafe grew as extreme

violence in Juarez — at one point considered a homicide capital with multiple daily murders — took shape around 2006. But El Paso is continually ranked one of the safest of its size: The city of about 680,000 reported just 2,671 violent crimes in 2014, about half of that in smaller cities like Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Kansas City, Missouri.

El Paso still has its issues. The median household income is only about \$40,000 a year and only 23 percent of residents over the age of 25 hold bachelor's degrees or higher, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

"Education is obviously our biggest challenge. We need to make sure we get these kids educated and get them into the workforce," Ordaz said, adding that another factor is a "brain drain" — the exodus of bright young people who move to bigger cities to seek better opportunities.

Voters in November 2012 approved more than \$470 million in bonds to fund updates to downtown and new tourist attractions. Among those projects included San Jacinto Plaza, the historic city square in the heart of downtown. Residents have been critical of how long it has taken: Renovations began in 2013 and were supposed to be complete a year ago but continue.

City leaders tout Jurez and El Paso as one big, symbiotic metropolitan area, and El Paso Mayor Oscar Leeser says he regularly works with the mayor of Juarez.

"We travel together to talk about the message of El Paso and Jurez and to help create jobs for our community, and to take the fences down. There is no border as far as we're concerned. We are one city,"

Leeser said late last month at a news conference that touted El Paso's preparations for the pope's visit.

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Weekly oil report

Scurry County

Schlachter Operating Corporation
6211 W. Northwest Highway
Suite 256
Dallas, TX 75225-0000
Mike Krasner, Regulatory Analyst
(214) 692-1567

#1 Blum, drill, El: NA, API #42-415-35045
Tri-Rue (Reef) Field
3.50 miles north of Ira
A-2147, Section 157, Block 97, H&TC RR Co. survey
Total Depth: 7200 feet
330' FNL, 490' FEL of 40.93-acre lease
2355' FSL, 490' FEL of the survey
SWR 36 (H2S)

New Oil Completions:

Borden County

PPC Operating Company, LLC
10355 Centrepark Drive, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77043-0000
(325) 267-6046

#4031 Canon Ranch Unit, API #42-033-32386
Jo-Mill (Spraberry) Field, new well, El: 2646' GR
15 miles southwest of Gail
A-1460, Section 34, Block 33, T-5-N, T&P RR Co. survey
2640' FSL, 491' FEL of the survey
Total Depth: 7450 feet. PBTD: 7342 feet. Logs: Resistivity
Daily Potential: 127 Bbls 41.0 gravity oil w/ 363 BWPD
Pumping. GOR: 283
Spud: 10-29-15. Completed: 1-12-16. Pay: NA
8-5/8" @ 3407 feet w/ 650 sx.; 5-1/2" @ 7431 feet w/ 260 sx.
MS tool @ 5488 feet w/ 390 sx.; 2-7/8" @ 7250 feet
Perfs: 7131-7269
7131-7269: Acidize w/ 2,000g 15% NEFE HCl

Contractor not listed

Santa Rosa 710'
Rustler 1379'
Yates 1949'
San Andres 3260'
Clear Fork 4363'
Leonard Lime 6087'
Spraberry 6126'

Glasscock County

Energen Resources Corporation
3510 N. "A" St., Bldgs. A and B
Midland, TX 79705-0000
(432) 684-3693

#202H Sabine "NS 35-38 02", API #42-173-36939
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, new well, El: 2725' GR
14 miles southwest of Garden City
A-282, Section 35, Block 34, T-5-S, T&P RR Co. survey
1038' FWL, 2313' FNL of the survey
Total Depth: 8029 feet. PBTD: NA. Logs: RCBL/GR/CCL
Daily Potential: 790 Bbls 42.0 gravity oil w/ 604 BWPD
Flowing. GOR: 1465
Spud: 3-26-15. Completed: 10-15-15. Pay: NA
9-5/8" @ 7211 feet w/ 2,145 sx.
5-1/2" @ 15,873 feet w/ 1,780 sx.; 2-7/8" @ 7472 feet
Perfs: 8254-15,801

Contractor not listed

Santa Rosa 1000'
Yates 1250'
Seven Rivers 1300'
Queen 1500'
Glorieta 2450'
Grayburg 2850'
San Andres 2995'
Clear Fork 3500'
Spraberry 6010'
Wichita/Albany 7400'
Dean 7450'
Wolfcamp 7621'
Wolfcamp Upper 7868'

See, OIL, Page 10A

STOCKS

Continued from Page 7A

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 313.66 points, or 2 percent, to 15,973.84. The Standard & Poor's 500 gained 35.70 points, or 2 percent, to 1,864.78. The Nasdaq composite added 70.67 points, or 1.7 percent, to 4,337.51.

Global stocks have been in a slump since the beginning of the year on concerns that growth in China, which has been the engine of the global economy in recent years, is slowing far faster than expected. Plunging oil prices and low inflation have added to the market's jitters that the global economy is sputtering.

Those worries also helped drive the stock market lower in recent days, and continued to batter stocks in Asia. Japan's main stock index lost nearly 5 percent Friday. But the downbeat trend in the U.S. snapped as investors were encouraged by retail sales and a rally in European stocks.

A surge in oil prices helped put investors in a buying mood early on. A day after sinking to its lowest level since May 2003, benchmark U.S. crude climbed \$3.23, or 12.3 percent, to close at \$29.44 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, gained \$3.30, or 11 percent, to \$33.36 a barrel in London.

The oil rebound sent the S&P 500's energy companies 2.6 percent higher. Marathon Oil was the best performer in the sector, rising 48 cents, or 6.8 percent, to \$7.49.

"Oil, which has been one of the most fickle, most volatile series that everybody's watching, is having a nice day," said Tim Dreiling, regional investment director for The Private Client Reserve of U.S. Bank. "Europe is continuing to look good. And it looked like (the market) was oversold."

Financial shares led the market's advance. The sector is the worst performing part of the market this year because investors expect that low interest rates around the world will sap bank profits, but it rallied 4 percent Friday.

JP Morgan Chase climbed \$4.42, or 8.3 percent, to \$57.49, while Citigroup added \$2.56, or 7.3 percent, to \$37.54. Bank of America rose 79 cents, or 7.1 percent, to \$11.95. Meanwhile, Deutsche Bank AG surged 12.1 percent after the bank offered to buy back more than \$5 billion in bonds in a display of financial strength. The stock gained \$1.87 to \$17.38.

Traders also welcomed a report from the Commerce Department indicating a modest gain in retail sales last month. The data, which came in ahead of expectations, suggested that consumers kept shopping despite sharp drops in stock prices.

The positive sales report and recent jobs data showing a pickup in wage growth suggest the economy is holding up better than Wall Street thinks, Eschweiler said.

See, STOCKS, Page 10A

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STOCKS

Continued from Page 9A
 "It solidifies our view that the markets are pricing in a significantly higher probability of recession than what we think the fundamentals currently dictate," he said.
 Encouraging quarterly results from some companies also helped lift the market.
 Wynn Resorts surged 15.8 percent

after the casino operator reported better-than-expected quarterly results Thursday. The stock gained \$9.45 to \$69.14.
 Groupon vaulted 29 percent after the online daily deal service's latest quarterly profit and revenue topped Wall Street estimates. The stock added 65 cents to \$2.89.
 Some companies didn't fare as well, however.
 Activision Blizzard slid 7.9 percent

after the video game company' reported weaker-than-anticipated quarterly revenue Thursday. The stock was one of the biggest decliners in the S&P 500 index, losing \$2.40 to \$28.12.
 Pandora Media slumped 12 percent after the Internet radio company's fourth-quarter profit fell short of estimates and the company didn't comment on rumors that it's looking to sell itself. The stock lost \$1.09 to \$8.

In Europe, Germany's DAX was up 2.5 percent, while France's CAC 40 was up 2.5 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 3.1 percent.
 In Asia, Japan's main stock index fell sharply, leading other Asian markets lower. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 plunged 4.8 percent after earlier sinking as much as 5.3 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 1.2 percent. South Korea's Kospi gave up 1.4 percent and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 fell 1.2 percent. Shares in New Zealand and Southeast Asia also fell. Markets in China and Taiwan were closed all week for Lunar New Year holidays and will reopen on Monday.
 A day after surging 4.5 percent, gold fell \$8.40, or 0.7 percent, to \$1,239.40 an ounce. Silver was flat at \$15.79 an ounce. Copper, an industrial metal that will often rise and fall along with investor's optimism about the global economy, rose 2 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$2.03 a pound.
 In other energy trading in New York, wholesale gasoline jumped 10 cents, or 10.8 percent, to close at \$1.04 a gallon, while home heating oil climbed 9 cents, or 9.2 percent, to close at \$1.07 a gallon. Natural gas fell 3 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$1.97 per 1,000 cubic feet.
 Bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 1.74 percent from 1.66 percent late Thursday.
 In currency markets, the dollar rose to 113.26 yen from 112.27, while the euro fell to \$1.1255 from \$1.1330.

Weekly oil report

Apache Corporation
 303 Veterans Airpark Lane, Suite 3000
 Midland, TX 79705-0000
 (432) 818-1636

Contractor not listed

Santa Rosa 780'
 Yates 2015'
 Seven Rivers 2235'
 Queen 2640'
 San Andres 3090'
 Grayburg 3680'
 Glorieta 4070'
 Clear Fork 5365'
 Spraberry 6585'
 Wichita/Albany 7640'
 Dean 7980'
 Wolfcamp 8158'

#9HU Shackelton "31", API #42-173-36822
 Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, new well, El: 2678' GR
 11.30 miles northwest of Garden City
 A-327, Section 31, Block 35, T-3-S, T&P RR Co. survey
 200' FSL, 1621' FEL of the survey
 Total Depth: 8273 feet. PBTD: NA. Logs: none
 Daily Potential; 558 Bbls 42.0 gravity oil w/ 480 BWPD
 Gas Lift. GOR: 1564
 Spud: 5-29-15. Completed: 12-03-15. Pay: NA
 9-5/8" @ 7690 feet w/ 575 sx.; MS tool @ 3994 feet w/ 900 sx.
 5-1/2" @ 13,070 feet w/ 2,100 sx.; 2-7/8" @ 7837 feet
 Perfs: 8613-12,978

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Lady Steers playoff bound

By DREW WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

IRA — The Big Spring Lady Steers are playoff bound after beating Sweetwater, 46-36, Friday evening.

The game was already a playoff game of sorts. Big Spring beat Sweetwater on Tuesday, giving each team the same division record and setting up Friday's win-or-go-home play-in game.

"I'm extremely proud of our girls stepping up." Big Spring head coach Stacey Smalley said. "I woke up and had a good feeling, and I think the girls did, too."

Big Spring relied on seniors Mykala Edwards and Diamonique Mayes, who had no problem shouldering the load.

Up 23-18 at the half, Big Spring extended their lead to 9 in the fourth quarter. The Lady Mustangs made it interesting by making a 3-pointer with 32 seconds left and shrinking the lead to 42-36, but a shrinking of Edwards free throws made it a three possession game with time running out.

Edwards finished as the game's leading scorer with 12 points, and had consistent successful drives to the basket that led to scores and open looks for her teammates. Smalley didn't give Edwards her usual amount of rest because of the circumstances, but it didn't seem to phase the senior.

"I work her to death and I rarely give her a break, and I do that with my point guards," Smalley said. "It's hard to get that trust built, and I trust



Photo: Drew Williams

Lady Steers point guard Mykala Edwards puts up a runner from the free throw line.

her."

Smalley added that it was "huge" for her team to see Edwards give the effort that she did.

Mayes added 10 points and was a dominant presence inside, collecting rebound after rebound, which helped her make important free throws late in the game on second-chance oppor-

tunities. She also added three timely blocks in the fourth quarter that helped seal the win for the Lady Steers.

"She never complained about being tired, I was going to leave her in there the entire time for rebounds alone. That girl kills it," Smalley said.

Rebounding and defense carried the Lady Steers. Sweetwater went almost

two full quarters without scoring a basket from the floor, having to rely solely on free throws for their points.

"I'm definitely proud of that defensive effort," Smalley said. "We really stepped it up and we had all of our girls transitioning the way they were

See **STEERS**, Page 3B

Sports Calendar

Monday

Softball — Coahoma at Forsan, 5 p.m.

Tuesday

Girls' basketball — Big Spring vs. Bushland at Lubbock Christian University, time TBA

Boys' basketball — Big Spring at Estacado, 8 p.m.

Boys' basketball — Coahoma at Raegan County, 6:30 p.m.

Boys' basketball — McCamey at Forsan, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Girls' golf — Forsan tournament at Merkel-Tin Cup Golf Course

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

Steers suffer tough loss to Lamesa

By DREW WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

The Big Spring Steers were officially eliminated from playoff contention Friday, losing to Lamesa in a blow-out, 91-42.

It was close in the first quarter, which ended 20-13. Kolton Knudson was finding success for the Steers driving in the lane and getting to the free throw line.

But the Tornados came out hot in the second quarter, including defensively. The forwards took over the paint and the guards knocked down impressive shots, giving them a 52-22 halftime lead.

Lamesa never let off the gas, and the game ended with the Tornados up by 49 points. Knudson finished with 17 points in the loss.

Though his team's playoff chances are over, Big Spring head coach Nicholas Tyerman still expects his team to compete in their final game on Tuesday, and added that he wants his seniors to lead by example.

"We're still working on fundamental skills like we always have, and we'll continue to keep on doing," Tyerman told KBYG radio. "It's about character and about finishing strong, no matter what the adversity is."

And despite the season soon coming to a



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Steers guard Lorezno Jones lays in basket in loss to Lamesa.

close with the finale on Tuesday, Tyerman is excited about his team's future. He said he's seen the talent in the younger classes, and is

excited to get a chance to work with the incoming players.

"The future is bright, from seventh grade on up," he said. "I think

we're going to be good for a few years to come."

He finished by adding, "The sky is the limit."

See **HORNS**, Page 3B

Longhorns battling back

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — "Havoc" is finally taking hold at Texas, where first-year coach Shaka Smart and the No. 24 Longhorns have shaken off a slow start to join the hunt for the Big 12 title.

Texas (16-8, 7-4 Big 12) sits firmly among the four teams in a second-place logjam just one game out of first heading into Saturday night's big road matchup at No. 14 Iowa State (17-7, 6-5).

And though it took a while, Smart's "havoc"

style of aggressive defense and up-tempo offense has taken root in the last few weeks.

Beat Iowa State and Texas knows that a league crown the Longhorns haven't worn since 2008 could be there for the taking.

"We know we're going to have a great chance of winning" the league, guard Kendal Yancy said. "It just keeps growing and growing, our belief in each other."

See **HORNS**, Page 3B

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Mets pitcher first player banned for life

NEW YORK (AP) — Mets reliever Jenrry Mejia became the first player to receive a lifetime ban under Major League Baseball's drug agreement after testing positive for a performance-enhancing substance for the third time.

The commissioner's office said Friday that Mejia tested positive for the anabolic steroid Boldenone, which athletes have used to increase muscle mass and once was popular for use in horse racing.

The 26-year-old right-hander was the Mets' closer in 2014, then was suspended for 80 games last April 11 following a positive test for Stanozolol, a drug popular among bodybuilders.

At the time, he said, "I can honestly say I have no idea how a banned substance ended up in my system."

Mejia returned July 12, appeared in seven games for New York, then was banned for 162 games on July 28 after a positive test for Stanozolol and Boldenone.

"I think not surprisingly there's a tremendous amount of disappointment, I think to some extent, anger, to some extent, amazement that this could happen so soon after a previous suspension was completed," Mets general manager Sandy Alderson said then. "This is the consequence of making bad choices."

The Mets said Friday they "were deeply disappointed." The Major League Baseball

Players Association declined comment, and a spokesman for Mejia's agents said the pitcher had no comment.

Under pressure from Congress to toughen their drug program, major league players and teams agreed in November 2005 that a third positive test for PEDs would result in a lifetime ban. His 162-game suspension had matched the longest under the big league program, a year-long ban served by the Yankees' Alex Rodriguez in 2014 that originally was 211 games before an arbitrator reduced it.

Mejia may apply one year from now to baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred for reinstatement, and Manfred at his discretion has the power to let Mejia back in baseball — but no earlier than for the 2018 season. If an application is made and denied, Mejia could ask baseball's arbitrator to end the ban, claiming the penalty is without "just cause." The arbitrator cannot reduce the ban to less than two years.

Outfielder Josh Hamilton, then in the minor leagues,

was suspended several times for drugs of abuse from 2003-05 but was allowed to return each time.

During a time when there was not a drug agreement, Steve Howe was suspended for life by Commissioner Fay Vincent in 1992 after the pitcher's seventh drug- or alcohol-related incident. Arbitrator George Nicolau said doctors concluded Howe suffered from Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder and cut the suspension to time

served, which was 119 days.

No players have been banned for life under the minor league drug program.

A Dominican signed by the Mets in 2007, Mejia reached the major leagues in 2010 and became their closer in 2014, when he had 28 saves in 31 chances.

He is 9-14 with a 3.68 ERA in 18 starts and 95 relief appearances.

Mejia began last year as the Mets' closer, but couldn't get loose while warming up on

opening day at Washington and went on the disabled list with elbow inflammation.

Because of the suspensions, Mejia received just \$496,311 of his \$2,595,000 salary last year. He will receive none of his \$2.47 million salary this year.

In Mejia's absence, Jeurys Familia became New York's closer, and the Mets went on to reach the World Series for the first time since 2000.

New York lost the World Series to Kansas City in five games.



AP photo

Shaq, Iverson finalists, Yao could join them in Hall of Fame

TORONTO (AP) — Shaquille O'Neal was just 9 years old when his stepfather began teaching him basketball with a plan to dominate like Wilt Chamberlain, Bill Russell and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

Young Shaquille didn't even know

who they were.

Now he's on the verge of joining them in basketball immortality.

"He told me this day would happen and I never believed him," O'Neal said of Phillip Harrison, who raised Shaq along with his mother and died in 2013.

O'Neal was chosen Friday as a finalist for induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, joining Allen Iverson to highlight the potential class.

Yao Ming could accompany them in Springfield, Massachusetts in September, though he was nominated by the Hall's International Committee and wasn't subject to the step O'Neal and Iverson had to clear Friday.

Former Phoenix Suns point guard Kevin Johnson, college coaches Tom Izzo, Bo Ryan, Lefty Driesell, Eddie Sutton and Muffet McGraw; women's superstar Sheryl Swoopes, longtime referee Darrel Garretson, high school coaches Leta Andrews and Robert Hughes, 10-time AAU national champion Wayland Baptist University, and John McClenon, the first African-American coach in a professional league, were also chosen as finalists by the North American or Women's Committees.

The entire class will be unveiled April 4 in Houston before the NCAA championship game and enshrinement ceremonies are set

for Sept. 9 in what could be an overcrowded birthplace of basketball if O'Neal, Yao, Iverson and their fans are all there.

"We're going to go on tour," joked Jerry Colangelo, chairman of the Hall of Fame board. "It could be a big one."

O'Neal and Iverson couldn't be much different as people or players.

The 7-foot-1 O'Neal, dressed in business attire wearing a jacket and tie, lived up to his stepfather's vision by becoming an inside force like Chamberlain, Russell and Abdul-Jabbar on his way to four NBA championships and an MVP award.

"Later on in my career people started comparing me to them, so I was like if you want to compare me to the greats, I have to represent the game with grace and honor and hopefully I did that," O'Neal said.

Iverson came casually dressed as he did for most of his career, wearing a T-shirt, Yankees hat and faded jeans with a couple of neck chains as accessories. It was his look that made him as popular with a generation of fans as his game.

"I'm a product of Michael Jordan, Isiah Thomas, Magic Johnson, Charles Barkley, Shaquille O'Neal, all those guys that paved the way for us," Iverson said. "They might not have no idea of what they did for us as kids wanting to be like them."

And many of today's small, speedy guards wanted to be like Iverson, a

6-foot, relentless wave of energy who averaged 26.7 points, won four scoring titles and an MVP award.

"I was fast until Allen Iverson. I'm not afraid to admit it," Kevin Johnson said. "They called me the fastest point guard in the NBA with the basketball, and I knew I had to relinquish that title the moment I saw Allen Iverson play."

Yao recalled first watching the NBA live in China during the 1994 finals, when Houston won the title. He went on to play for the Rockets after they made the 7-6 center the No. 1 pick in the 2002 draft, and now he could find out he's a Hall of Famer in that city.

"I feel very peaceful," Yao said. "I'm glad it all can be connected to Houston."

He, O'Neal and Iverson all benefited from a recent change in Hall of Fame rules that made a player eligible for candidacy after four full years of retirement. It was previously five, which meant they were actually six years removed from their playing days before they could be enshrined.

"Now we benefit this year by a couple of people who are going to be eligible, but we've been talking about this for a while as a board," Colangelo said.

Longtime NBA reporter David Aldridge and ESPN broadcaster Jay Bilas won the 2016 Curt Gowdy Media Awards, while Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany is the John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award winner.



AP photo
Allen Iverson, playing for the Philadelphia 76ers in 2001

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Over and out: Some MLB teams open with little playoff shot

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

Spring training is a time for optimism, when players bask under the warm sun of Florida and Arizona while fans dream about their team reaching the bright lights of October. For Atlanta, Cincinnati, Milwaukee and Philadelphia, there's little hope of getting to the 2016 postseason following decisions to jettison veterans and rebuild for the future. Colorado and San Diego also have retooled and figure to finish far behind.

If you're not all in, 21st-century baseball demands you drop all out in the sport's version of "Extreme Makeover."

"With respect to doing a 'rebuild' that involves giving up for a period of time, I think the rules we have currently promote that," said New York Mets general manager Sandy Alderson, whose team won the NL pennant last year following six straight losing seasons. "I definitely think it's something that needs to be addressed."

While Boston signed David Price and acquired Craig Kimbrel, Arizona added Zack Greinke and Shelby Mill-

er, and the Chicago Cubs reeled in Jason Heyward, the Braves, Reds and Brewers got rid of veterans.

"I just think you have to be realistic about what you got," said Tony La Russa, the Hall of Fame manager who as Arizona's chief baseball officer has directed what the Diamondbacks hope is a quick turnaround. "If you've got an older group that's got a chance, you fill in the pieces. If you've got a young group, you want to be patient. You got prospects, you think about developing them rather than going out and getting free agents."

Ahead of pitchers and catchers starting workouts Thursday, teams have committed \$2.3 billion to free agents, \$600 million more than any previous offseason, according to calculations by Major League Baseball. Seven free agents received \$100 million-plus contracts — Price, Greinke, Heyward, Chris Davis, Justin Upton, Johnny Cueto and Jordan Zimmermann — more than free agents in the three prior offseasons combined.

Yet for some clubs, 2016 is basically over before it starts when it comes to contending.

worst 51-111 in 2013, the Astros were within six outs of reaching last year's AL Championship Series and had a three-run lead before the Royals rallied.

"To have a core group of players that has come through the minor leagues together, that has graduated to the big leagues together, that has developed at the major league level together and ultimately to win at the major league level together, that is a great position to be in," new Phillies GM Matt Klentak said.

Since last August, Boston, Detroit, the Los Angeles Angels, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Seattle and Toronto have replaced their top baseball operations executive. In the previous year, Arizona, Atlanta, Colorado, the Los Angeles Dodgers, San Diego and Tampa Bay appointed new baseball heads.

"They're not coming in and saying:

'Oh, you know what, you're going to raise my payroll, and I'm going to go out and sign the most expensive free agent,'" MLB Chief Legal Officer Dan Halem said. "They come in and they pitch: 'We're going to start over. We're going to rebuild. We're going to grow our talent. We're going to improve our minor league system.'"

Some owners and GMs think the collective bargaining agreement covering 2012-16 has encouraged rebuilding. Teams that draft high in the first round get large amounts of draft slot money in their signing bonus pools, which can be used to pay prospects over slot later in the draft. Teams with the top 10 picks can't lose them if they sign top free agents.

Alderson thinks the top 15 selections should be protected, taking away incentive for teams to tear down their rosters ahead of the July 31 trade deadline.

HORNS

Continued from Page 1B

It certainly didn't start that way when Texas was 3-3 and Smart described the Longhorns as a mentally fragile bunch. The Longhorns have clearly shaken off that label in a league long known for its physical play and where intimidation is part of the game.

"They're not going to punk us," Yancy said. "We're fighting back ... We're winning that battle as well."

Smart has pushed his players in that direction. In Monday night's 63-60 loss at No. 3 Oklahoma — a game the Sooners won with a last-second 3-pointer — center Prince Ibeh was caught up in a jostling incident that resulted in officials calling a double technical foul. During the timeout, while game officials sorted out the foul, television microphones picked up Smart cautioning his team not to get caught up in "shenanigans" but also forcefully telling them, "We will stand up!"

"We're not a soft group," Ibeh said. "This team has an edge."

Ibeh could find himself in a frontcourt battle Saturday night with Cyclones forward Jameel McKay.

Iowa State announced Friday that McKay, who averages 12 points and nine rebounds, will return after a two-game suspension.

Ibeh has had a turnaround senior season under Smart. Under previous coach Rick Barnes, Ibeh spent most of his career coming off the bench until a broken

foot injury forced out starter Cam Newton and pushed Ibeh on the court as a starter.

Ibeh has blossomed in his final chance. A defensive force who averages nearly two blocks per game, Ibeh has had his moments on offense, too, with double-doubles against Vanderbilt and TCU, and a solid nine-point effort against Oklahoma.

The toughness Smart wants has projected itself in other ways, particularly with the trapping defense he used so well at VCU to the bursts of up-tempo offense fueled by guard Isaiah Taylor and Javan Felix.

None of this started particularly well.

A miserably long trip to China for the season-opener resulted in a lethargic loss to Washington. A trip back across the globe to a holiday tournament in the Bahamas produced two more losses in three games.

Then the pieces slowly starting fitting into place. Felix hit a buzzer-beater to beat North Carolina. Then came key road wins at West Virginia and Baylor. Texas also won its first matchup with Iowa State at home. At Oklahoma, the Longhorns led for nearly the entire game before Buddy Hield's big shot gave the Sooners the win.

To finish out this season, Texas will play five ranked opponents over its final seven games, including home matchups against West Virginia, Oklahoma and Kansas.

"We're pretty good when we're the underdogs," Yancy said.

Win a bunch of those remaining games and Texas won't be underdogs any more.

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

supposed to, communicating, and kind of gambling with the pressure on the defense that we added."

Freshman Logan Terrazas also finished in double-figures with 10 points. Her aggressiveness paid off in the first half, getting to the line and going 4-for-5.

"Logan's come a long way. In her eighth grade year, she was like a little baby giraffe out there and it felt like everybody could knock her down. Now she's start-

ing to battle back and she wants the ball, she's shooting, she's asking for the ball, she's looking for her shot, and I couldn't be happier with that."

Smalley was happy with the way all of her freshman played Friday.

"That's awesome to see, because that's definitely the future," she said. "And to see those girls step up and play with our seniors at such a young age is awesome for a coach."

The win will send the Lady Steers to Lubbock on Tuesday, where they'll take on Amarillo Bushland at Lubbock Christian University.



David Price after signing with the Boston Red Sox this offseason. AP photo

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AL West team capsules

A team-by-team look at the American League West entering spring training, including key players each club acquired and lost, and dates of the first workout for pitchers and catchers, and the full squad:

Texas Rangers

Manager: Jeff Banister (second season).

2015: 88-74, first place, lost to Toronto in ALDS.

Training Town: Surprise, Arizona.
Park: Surprise Stadium.

First Workout: Feb. 19/24.

He's Here: RHP Tony Barnette, RHP Tom Wilhelmson, OF Justin Ruggiano.

He's Outta Here: OF Leonys Martin, 1B Mike Napoli, RHP Yovani Gallardo.

Going campin': The Rangers surprised most people last season by winning the AL West title after pitcher Yu Darvish had Tommy John surgery during spring training. Even more strange was the ending — Game 5 of the AL Division Series at Toronto with that nearly hour-long seventh inning that included three consecutive Texas errors before Jose Bautista's homer and big bat flip. Still, the success in their first season under Banister — the AL Manager of the Year — has only heightened expectations going into spring training. Cole Hamels will be in the rotation from the start of the season following his midyear addition. Darvish is on track to be back by late May or early June, and the bullpen got even stronger with the addition of two more relievers with closing experience — Barnette (from Japan) and Wilhelmson (trade from Seattle).

Houston Astros

Manager: A.J. Hinch (second season).

2015: 86-76, second place, wild card, lost to Kansas City in ALDS.

Training Town: Kissimmee, Florida.

Park: Osceola County Stadium.

First Workout: Feb. 19/23.

He's Here: RHP Ken Giles, RHP Doug Fister.

He's Outta Here: 1B Chris Carter, INF Jed Lowrie, LHP Brett Oberholtzer.

Going campin': The Astros look to contend again after their long-term rebuilding project finally came to fruition and they made the postseason for the first time since 2005. After coming six outs from a trip to the AL Championship Series — they wasted a three-run lead against Kansas City in their Game 4 loss and then were eliminated in Game 5 — Houston's top priority was to boost the bullpen. The Astros added right-hander Ken Giles, who will compete to be their closer, in a trade with the Phillies. They chose not to offer a contract to slugger Chris Carter, which puts pressure on Jon Singleton to prove he can be their everyday first baseman after struggling offensively in parts of two major league seasons.

Los Angeles Angels

Manager: Mike Scioscia (17th season).

2015: 85-77, third place.

Training Town: Tempe, Arizona.

Park: Tempe Diablo Stadium.

First Workout: Feb. 19/24.

He's Here: 3B Yunel Escobar, SS Andrelton Simmons, RHP Al Albuquerque, OF Craig Gentry, C Geovany Soto, OF Daniel Nava, INF Gregorio Petit, INF Cliff Pennington.

He's Outta Here: SS Erick Aybar, 3B David Freese, OF David Murphy, C Chris Iannetta, RHP Trevor Gott, INF Grant Green, OF Matt Joyce, OF David DeJesus, OF Shane Victorino.

Going campin': The Angels finished one game out of a playoff position last season, but owner Arte Moreno and new general manager Billy Eppler decided not to push their payroll into luxury tax territory with any game-changing additions. Los Angeles didn't fill its gaping hole in left field with an elite free agent, instead patching it with veterans Craig Gentry and Daniel Nava. The Angels also switched half of their infield, obtained glove whiz shortstop Andrelton Simmons from Atlanta and third baseman Yunel Escobar from Washington.

Seattle Mariners

Manager: Scott Servais (first season).

2015: 76-86, fourth place.

Training Town: Peoria, Arizona.

Park: Peoria Stadium.

First Workout: Feb. 20/25.

He's Here: C Chris Iannetta, C Steve Clevenger, 1B Adam Lind, 1B Dae-Ho Lee, OF Nori Aoki, OF Leonys Martin, RHP Joaquin Benoit, RHP Steve Cishek, RHP Ryan Cook, RHP Justin De Fratus, RHP Nathan Karns, LHP Wade Miley, RHP Evan Scribner, RHP Joe Wieland.

He's Outta Here: 1B Logan Morrison, SS Brad Miller, OF Austin Jackson, DH Mark Trumbo, OF Dustin Ackley, LHP J.A. Happ, RHP Carson Smith, LHP Roenis Elias, LHP Joe Beimel.

Going campin': No team in the major leagues underwent a bigger off-season makeover than the Mariners, from the front office to the coaching staff to the majority of the projected 25-man roster.

Most of the position battles are settled heading into spring training with the main questions backup utility player, the right-handed complement to Adam Lind at first base and how exactly the rotation among five players in the outfield breaks down.

Oakland Athletics

Manager: Bob Melvin (sixth season).

2015: 68-94, fifth place.

Training Town: Mesa, Arizona.

Park: Hohokam Stadium.

First Workout: Feb. 21/26.

He's Here: INF Jed Lowrie, LHP Rich Hill, RHP Ryan Madson, LHP Marc Rzepczynski, RHP John Axford, RHP Liam Hendriks, 1B Yonder Alonso, RHP Henderson Alvarez.

He's Outta Here: 3B Brett Lawrie, RHP Jesse Chavez, LHP Fernando Abad, LHP Drew Pomeranz, LHP/RHP Pat Venditte, RHP Evan Scribner, 1B Ike Davis, 1B Nate Freiman, OF Craig Gentry, LHP Barry Zito.

Going campin': Oakland's run of three straight playoff berths ended with a disappointing last-place finish as Billy Beane's bold moves to trade Yoenis Cespedes midway through 2014 and future MVP Josh Donaldson last offseason backfired. The A's led the majors with 126 errors last season and had one of the worst bullpens in the league. The 4.56 ERA for the relievers ranked last in the AL.



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The King of Rock and Roll, Elvis Presley, changed the way people looked at music. He broke ground for a new genre that would lead not only the artists of his time, but future artists for generations to come.

His legacy is still felt all over today, and not just in America, but in many foreign countries.

West Texas and Big Spring in particular were blessed to have been visited by Elvis in the late 50s and early 60s, and now, an Elvis impersonator will be following in his footsteps.

On April 26, 1955, Elvis visited Big Spring, stayed at the Hotel Settles and performed at the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium.

On Feb. 20 2015, Elvis impersonator Joseph Hall will visit Big Spring, stay at the Hotel Settles and perform at the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium.

While it isn't the same, it will give people a chance to remember the past for a day.

Joseph Hall, who is from Lincoln, Neb. was born in 1984 and has been playing tribute to Elvis since 2006.

He gained fame by starring on NBC's America's Got Talent in 2008. He was viewed by more than 90 million viewers, made 6 appearances and placed in the top 10. He did well

enough that Sharon Osbourne was quoted as saying, "I've got shoes older than you, but I'd like to try you on."

Joseph has performed all over the world, from Las Vegas to Porthcawl, Wales.

He has also received several awards throughout his career, including the "Spirit of Elvis" award.

He has been officially recognized by the Elvis Presley Enterprises, and he received the 2014 Branson's Male Performer of the Year award and the 2014 Branson Tribute Show of the Year award.

Joseph currently resides in Branson, Mo. with his family and is in his 5th season in Branson performing for crowds all over the country.


"My goal is to capture the essence of Elvis Presley, to pay tribute to him with the utmost respect to his legacy, his music, his image and above all else, his fans," said Hall.

Joseph Hall will be performing at the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium on Saturday, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20. He will also provide a meet and greet, sign autographs and have t-shirts, cds and other memorabilia available.

His tour will also be stopping in Abilene on Feb. 19 and Midland on Feb. 21.



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Courtesy Photos
Various photos of Joseph Hall paying tribute to Elvis Presley.

Left: The Big Spring Herald ad from the 1955 visit by Elvis Presley.

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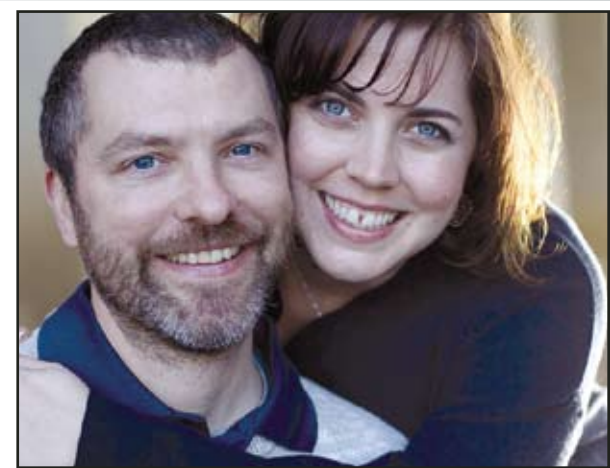
Warrington
- DeFazio
to wed
April 9, 2016



Dennis and Teresa Warrington of Big Spring are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kelli Janelle Warrington to Vincent Peter DeFazio. Kelli is a 2005 graduate of Big Spring High School and a 2013 graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington. She is currently employed as an Account Executive at Fashion Logistics.

Vincent is the son of Peter and Marie DeFazio of Chicago, Ill. He is a 2000 graduate of Fremd High School and a 2004 graduate of Indiana University. He is currently employed in Software Sales at Sprinklr. The couple plan to exchange vows on April 9, 2016 at Marie Gabrielle in Dallas, Texas.

Redferan -
Brown
to wed
April 22, 2016



John and Jane Redfearn of Decatur, Texas and Ben Brown of Fort Worth and Shirleen Brown of Big Spring are proud to announce the engagement of their children, Jacey Lynn Redferan and David Scott Brown. Jacey, who resides in Irving, Texas, is the granddaughter of the late Noble and late Syble Redfearn and the late John Archie and the late Rosalyn Hill. She is a 2002 graduate of Howard Payne University with a bachelor of science in communication. She works for TTUHSC School of Pharmacy as Assistant Director of Experimental Programs. David of Conroe, Texas is the grandson of the late Roy Lee and the

late Bertha Brown and the late Leon Lowry and the late Colleen Lowry. He graduated from Howard Payne University with a bachelor of science in communications in 2000 and graduated from Baylor University with a masters of science in education in 2002. He is employed by Woodforest National Bank as Assistant Vice President; Anti-money Laundering Manager. The couple will exchange vows on Friday, April 22, 2016 at the Orchard in Azle, Texas.

Club News

Big Spring Rotary Club Big Spring Art Association



Courtesy Photo

The Big Spring Rotary Club recently honored Abigail Diaz as their Student of the Month for February. Abigail is a second grade student at Moss Elementary School. Pictured with Abigail are her parents, Paul and Jessica Diaz, and Big Spring Rotary Club President, John Weeks. The Big Spring Rotary Club meets each Tuesday at Noon in the Cactus Room of the Student Union Building at Howard College.



Kay Smith presented a new and upcoming thing called Sketchbook Skool. Sketchbook Skool is a video based school designed to inspire creative story telling through illustrated journaling. It was started by Danny Geogory, an illustrator, who had to choose another path due to the illness of his wife. In addition to telling how this trend began, she had an entire table of sketch books that she has done. Smith showed us her fantastic work. In addition to this, she shared different kinds of paper, different kinds of pencils, watercolors, markers, etc. Her presentation was truly inspiring.

received his teaching certificate from Sul Ross University in 1990. He taught at Goliad Middle School for 20 years. His life time goal has always been to be an artist. Through his art, Rudinger's desire is to create images that move people either intellectually or emotionally. As a teacher, he loved the light bulb moment when a student "got" something that he was presenting to them. Mr. Rudinger draws and paints work in acrylic, watercolor and a mixture of media. His images include fantasy, illustration, kaleidoscopes, some landscapes and still-life. He will present fantasy art at our next meeting. The next meeting will be this Tuesday at 7 p.m. We meet in the basement of the Howard County Library. We laugh and we learn ... so if you have an interest in art of any kind, we would love to have you.

James Rudinger, an artist and art teacher, will do our February demonstration. Rudinger, originally from Uvalde, Texas, served in the Navy from 1972 to 1976. Mr. Rudinger graduated from Angelo State University in 1979 with a BA in art. Mr. Rudinger

Births

Zoi Beth Harrington

Hearthier Gentry and Joshua Harrington of Big Spring are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Zoi Beth Harrington. Zoi was born at the Cogdell Memorial Hospital in Snyder, Texas on Feb. 4, 2016 at 1:11 p.m. She weighed 7 pounds,

6 ounces and was 19 ¼ inches long. Maternal grandparents are Paul and Kendra Brazell of Fort Worth. Paternal grandparents are J.D. and Beth Allen of Big Spring, Texas. She was welcomed home by siblings, Joshua Aiden and Brylon Harrington.

Birth Announcements, Weddings, Engagements
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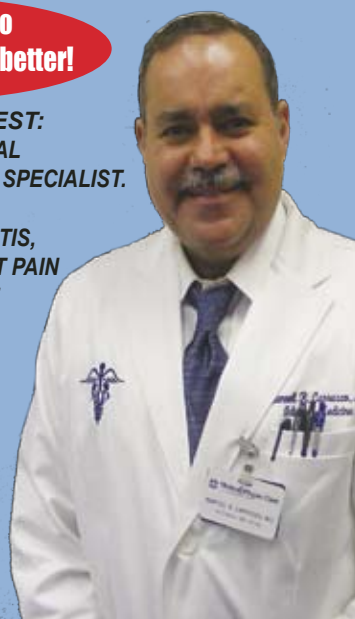
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After Oregon standoff, some say: Right fight; wrong tactics

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Right fight; wrong strategy.

That's what many ranchers and sympathizers opposing federal control of public lands in the West concluded after the armed occupation of a national wildlife refuge in Oregon.

For some, the weekslong standoff that ended Thursday with the surrender of the final occupiers has only strengthened their resolve to fight the government's control of vast expanses of Western land. But not all condone the tactics of the armed group that drew the nation's gaze to the snowy landscapes of eastern Oregon.

"We're not backing off," said Greg Whalen, a military veteran from Las Vegas who supports the Bundy ranching family that led the occupation. "We're actually going to fight harder peacefully."

Whalen and others say protests must remain a key part of the strategy but they must be civil to avoid giving a reason for arrests.

Others suggest the battle should shift to the courts to pry authority over open space from the federal government. State lawmakers, notably in Utah, are considering a legal way to take control of U.S. lands that account for a majority of the West, including most of Nevada; about two-thirds of Utah, Idaho and Alaska; and half of Oregon.

Federal officials say U.S. control ensures the land is used in the inter-

est of the environment, outdoor enthusiasts and industries, such as ranching, mining, and oil and gas.

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert denounced the tactics in the standoff but called it "a wakeup call for all of us that there (are) legitimate issues out there that are causing frustration."

Supporters say sympathy from prominent Western politicians shows that their mantra, "That locals can do a better job managing federal lands than out-of-touch bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. has been embraced by more than gun-toting protesters."

"We're not just cowboys with hats who are hicks and don't know what's going on," said LisaMarie Johnson, who stood with Cliven Bundy at his Nevada ranch in a 2014 armed standoff with federal agents. Bundy is the father of the Oregon occupation's leaders.

"People in New York City don't understand what's going on out here," the Nevada resident said.

The dispute predates statehood in some places. But calls for action have gotten louder as federal agencies designate protected areas for endangered species and set aside tracts for mining, wind farms and natural gas exploration. The latest wave has roots in the Sagebrush Rebellion, which began more than 40 years ago over grazing rights in Nevada.

Occupiers that seized the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon

on Jan. 2 demanded the U.S. turn over the land to locals and release two ranchers imprisoned for setting fires.

Tom Haynie, a 58-year-old Las Vegas resident who's also passionate about solar energy, medical marijuana and water in the West, subscribes to a common belief in the movement.

"The government wants to control everything," Haynie said. "But it's the people's land, not the federal government's land."

Brett Tolman, a former U.S. attorney in Utah, said it appears the federal government is trying to send a message: You will face legal consequences if you cross the line from peaceful protest.

Cliven Bundy was arrested Wednesday in Portland for his actions nearly two years ago in the Nevada standoff.

A total of 25 people have been charged in the Oregon occupation.

Four people were prosecuted in Utah for riding ATVs on an off-limits trail in 2014, including a well-known county commissioner who was convicted and became a cause celebre in the movement.

Therein lies the danger in the federal strategy: The intended message may be misinterpreted, Tolman said.

"I think people are going to be more hardened and more upset, and in some ways, you make martyrs out of those who have chosen this route," he

said.

Many are giving that status to Arizona rancher Robert "LaVoy" Finicum, who was killed by police in a Jan. 26 traffic stop that also led to the arrests of Cliven Bundy's sons, Ammon and Ryan Bundy.

Finicum, an Oregon standoff spokesman, was memorialized at his funeral last week near the Utah-Arizona border as a freedom fighter murdered in the name of liberty. Authorities say he was reaching for a gun.

Some worry that the Bundys will garner similar sympathy as they remain in jail. But others say they don't consider them leaders of a movement that has more moderate voices working through the courts.

"How can you go up there and take over government property and expect to accomplish anything from it?" said Demar Dahl, an Elko County commissioner in Nevada and advocate for state control of lands. "Whatever we do, we've got to do within the law."

Jerry DeLemus traveled twice from his home in New Hampshire to play peacemaker once during the Nevada standoff and once during the Oregon occupation.

"I love the Bundys," DeLemus said this week. "But they made a tactical mistake going out to that refuge. They were portrayed as armed anti-government protesters taking over government buildings. There was a lot of fear."

Low snow causes havoc again with Iditarod

WASILLA, Alaska (AP) — Another low snow year in Alaska has organizers worried about where to start the world's most famous sled dog race.

The Iditarod always begins with a ceremonial, fan-friendly slow jaunt along the streets and trails of Anchorage a day before the start of the competitive portion of the nearly 1,000-mile race. The ceremonial start is scheduled for March 5.

A lack of snow last year north of Anchorage forced the start of the race to be moved to Fairbanks from its traditional starting point in Willow, about 75 miles north of Anchorage.

The conditions in Willow are much improved this year, but the problem is in Anchorage, where the snowfall in the city for the past two years has equaled only about two-thirds of a normal year.

"Our real challenge right now is trying to figure out whether we've got adequate snow to make Anchorage and the ceremonial start happen," Iditarod Chief Executive Officer Stan Hooley said Wednesday.

"We're pretty confident in where we're going to officially start the race. In terms of that all-important ceremonial start, we've got some work to do," he added.

This will be the 44th edition of the race to Nome, and the ceremonial start has always been held in Anchorage.

That won't change, but Hooley says he's not quite sure how it might look just yet. He said in 1994, there wasn't enough snow covering the 11-mile route from downtown Anchorage and it was shortened.

During the ceremonial start, fans across the world participate in an

auction and the highest bidders called Iditariders get to ride with mushers on the Anchorage course. In the past few years, the auction has brought in more than \$200,000 for the race.

"It's an important part of our overall fundraiser mix," Hooley said, noting it pays other dividends.

"Those (Iditariders) are our very best goodwill ambassadors, because when they go back to their own little corners of the world, they do it with smiles on their faces and talk a lot about that experience."

Hooley is not ready yet to shorten the ceremonial start and is hoping Mother Nature will help with some late February snow.

But Luis Ingram, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Anchorage, said there is no significant snow in the seven-day forecast and confidence isn't high for any snowfall after that.

Anchorage set a record for low snow totals last year at 25.1 inches. The total so far this year is 25.8 inches. A normal annual snowfall total in Anchorage is 74.5 inches.

Hooley said there is plenty of snow outside Willow, and he's pretty sure that is where the race will have its official start on March 6. The board of directors is expected to decide the official start location either Willow or Fairbanks on Friday.

There's also plenty of snow in traditionally difficult areas such as Rainy Pass, the Dalzell Gorge and the Farewell Burn, where mushers have been injured in recent races by crashing sleds on rocky trails.

Snow in those areas is the best it's been in 15 or 20 years, Hooley said.

Meanwhile, preparations continue for this year's race, which has

drawn the third-largest field ever with 86 mushers.

In a trailer outside Iditarod headquarters in Wasilla, vet tech coordinator Tabitha Jones is making sure all the dogs that might be in the race are getting their blood checked and hearts monitored.

Each musher can start the race with 16 dogs, but if they haven't decided on their team yet they could bring in 24 dogs for those examinations. All the dogs also get an identifying chip inserted under their skin.

If every musher brought in 24 dogs, there would be more than 2,000 hounds taking part in the program.

"It's the pre-race screening program that all the dogs in the Iditarod or the potential dogs that could be on a team have to go through in order to run," Jones said.

New York City officials — too cold for ice fest

NEW YORK (AP) — It's too cold in New York City for the annual Central Park Ice Festival.

The Central Park Conservancy says Saturday's event has been canceled.

The National Weather Service predicts temperatures in the teens on Saturday for New York. But wind

chills could drop to between zero and minus-10, and wind gusts could reach around 44 mph.

The free event was to feature ice-carving artists and music.

Last month, Central Park's free winter sports day called Winter Jam was canceled due to a major snowstorm.

'Frozen' to kick off in Denver in 2017

NEW YORK (AP) — Disney has announced that Denver will be the place where it tests its upcoming "Frozen" musical.

Disney Theatrical Productions said it will mount the show at the Buell Theatre in the Denver Center for the Performing Arts in August 2017. It is expected to land on Broadway in 2018 alongside its hits "Aladdin" and "The Lion King."

The show will be directed by Alex

Timbers, a two-time Tony Award nominee who directed "Peter and the Starcatcher," "Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson," "The Pee-Wee Herman Show" and "Rocky" on Broadway.

It had been previously revealed that the husband-and-wife songwriting team of Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez are returning to work on the show and Jennifer Lee, co-director and screenwriter of the film, is writing the story.

Picture this: exhibit to feature crime photos

NEW YORK (AP) — Picture this: The Metropolitan Museum of Art is turning to crime.

An upcoming exhibition is called "Crime Stories: Photography and Foul Play." The museum says it will explore the "multifaceted intersection between photography and crime."

The images range

from the 19th century to the present.

They include photos taken by Alexander Gardner of events following the assassination

of President Abraham Lincoln.

Other highlights include forensic images by the French criminologist Alphonse Bertillon.

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Glickman's Militaria: Swords, Weapons of every kind, Every war and many countries (Bayonets, Edge, Knives, Daggers, Hatchets, hundred of them), Civil War items, Flare Guns, Helmets and Caps, Reference Books, WWII unopened case 00 Buck Shotgun ammo, Flags, Accoutrements, Headgear, Combat Gear, Medals and Badges, Utensils, Ammo Belts, Cartridge carriers, Iron barracks bed, Rare and early Training Rifles, Early Canteens, Entrenching Tools, Holsters, Gas masks, Field gear, Trench Art, Survival Radios, Foot Lockers, Ammo Cans, Russian Naval Uniform, New York Militia Coat, 12 Display Cases and more than can be listed.

Mr Glickman had a passion for Military Collectibles and collected and sold them for many years. He was well known and respected in the world of Military Collectibles. Anyone that has been to his store in Big Spring Texas knows that he collected and sold anything relating to the Military. It will take us several auctions to liquidate in its entirety.

Coins: Morgan and Peace silver dollars, Buffalo Nickels, Indian head & Wheat cents, Silver Quarters, Mercury Dimes, Fractional Currency, Confederate Notes, \$10& \$20 gold Certificates, National Currency, \$5 Red Seal Notes and other paper currency

Special Interest & Collectibles: Jewelry including Gold, Silver and Diamonds, Turquoise & Silver, Lique, Sports Memorabilia including Magic Johnson signed Jersey, Dallas Cowboy signed football, Vintage Accordion, Carryola Windup Record player, Chauntauga Roller Organ, Furniture including Book cases, Armoire, Dining Tables and Chairs, Bakers Rack, large Mirror, Cedar chest, Waterford Vase, Tools, Speakers and some electronics

Note Internet Bidding will be available via Auctionzip and Invaluable (20% Buyers Premium online) 432-683-2262 or 432-349-6774 Tim Watkins Tx Lic 13861 Onsite: 10% Buyers Premium, Cash, Check, 12% for Credit cards, all items as is where is

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Permits

Dunnahoo Properties, 821 W. I-20. Signs; Val: \$15,000 Fee: \$85.
Big Spring Monticello Homes, 1208 Grafa. Res elec; Val: \$2,000 Fee: \$49.
Silverleaf Communities, 727 Bucknell Ave. Res HVAC; Val: \$6,700 Fee: \$45.
Silverleaf Communities, 3314 Fordham. Res HVAC; Val: \$6,000 Fee: \$25.
Linda Diane Gordon, 2906 Cactus Dr. Res elec; Val: \$2,000 Fee: \$25.
Stacey Best, 2709 Cindy Ln. Res Re-roof; Val: \$500 Fee: \$32.
Jonathan Logan Pettit, 2305 Cindy Ln. Res gas; Val: \$32.
Bill Brooks, 4 Kiowa Circle. Res Re-roof; Val: \$18,000 Fee: \$100.
Patsy Cate, 3227 Cornell Ave. Res gas; Val: \$5,000.
Chuck Rosenbaum, 608 W. 18th St. Res add; Val: \$15,000 Fee: \$85.
Wendy's Old Fashioned hamburg-

er, 2311 S. Gregg St. Non res; Val: \$10,000 Fee: \$ 60. Com HVAC; Val: \$27,000 Fee: \$70.
First United Methodist Church, 400 Scurry St. Com HVAC; Val: \$10,000 Fee: \$75.
Irma Moreno, 1002 E. 13th St. Res elec; Val: \$0 Fee: \$20.
Martha Aguilar Alacantar, 500 N. Runnels. Res add; Val: \$300 Fee: \$25.
Cricket Wiresless, 111 E. Marcy 160. Signs; Val: \$750 Fee: \$25.
TSB Liquor, 1004 N. Lamesa Hwy. Com elec; Val: \$500 Fee: \$25. Com HVAC; Val: \$5,000 Fee: \$115.
Dolphin Pools, 1001 E. 3rd St. Structure; Val: \$1,200 Fee: \$25.
Ernesto Acosta Rodrigues, 809 W. 4th St. Structrue; Val: \$1,200 Fee: \$25.
Teresa Darden, 3305 Duke Ave. Non res; Val: \$3,000 Fee: \$25.
Keith Jerome Ledford, 2609 Larry

Dr. Res HVAC; Val: \$4,000 Fee: \$45.
William H. Bokelman, 3228 Drexel Ave. Res gas; Val: \$500 Fee: \$32.
Bryan Herr, 100 N. Goliad St. Com elec; Val: \$1,500 Fee: \$25.
Don Avant, 2301 Carl St. Res Re-roof; Val: \$4,700 Fee: \$35.
Laura Coughenour, 1312 Dixie. Res Re-roof; Val: \$4,000 Fee: \$30.
Kerr Management Inc., 2601 Fairchild Dr. Res Re-roof; Val: \$2,500 Fee: \$25.
Kerr Management Inc., 2501 March Circle. Res Re-roof; Val: \$2,500 Fee: \$25.
Randall Stiles, 2300 Grace St. Res elec; Val: \$1,200 Fee: \$50.
Cecil Stephens, 1907 Birdwell G. Com elec; Val: \$0 Fee: \$25.
Michael Dutchover, 2303 Lynn Dr. Res add; Val: \$1,000 Fee: \$25.
Joe Rodriguez, 3311 E. 11th Place. Res add; Val: \$1,200 Fee: \$25.

Tips, resources for home improvement

On Groundhog Day, groundhog Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow, forecasting an early spring. This means it may be a good time to schedule any repairs or improvement projects your home needs. Whether you are planning a full spring cleaning, looking for do-it-yourself home renovation ideas, or need a contractor for quick maintenance, Better Business Bureau serving Central, Coastal, Southwest Texas and the Permian Basin offers tips and resources just in time for spring's arrival.



HEATHER MASSEY

Your BBB has created an informational home improvement site to remind you of home maintenance that should be checked as the weather warms up. BBB also has ideas for home improvement projects, such as remodeling your kitchen or bathroom or building a deck or new fence. Whatever repair or installation you need done, BBB recommends consumers use a BBB Accredited business.

Although some home repairs and projects can be done on your own, or with a little help from Pinterest, bigger projects and routine maintenance should be completed by a professional. BBB's Accredited Business directory includes contact information for landscape contractors, roofing contractors, and air conditioning and heating contractors. Finding a contractor to help with repairs now can help you avoid costly bills later.



Here is your BBB's list of home improvement projects to complete this spring:

- Do a roof inspection. Your roof is your home's most important protector against water damage. Now is the time to inspect your roof and look for possible signs of water damage.

- Clean your gutters. Clogged gutters can cause water damage to your home. Keeping your gutter clean ensures the irrigation plans for your home are releasing water to appropriate locations.

- Replace your HVAC filters. Replacing or cleaning your A/C filters can save you money on energy bills and extend the life of your system by not having to work as hard to cool your home.

- Clean your dryer vent. Lint can escape your dryer vent and get stuck in the dryer trap. Cleaning out the dryer trap and vent can save you money by reducing dryer times. In addition to saving you money, it will also prevent house fires caused by clogged vents.

- Check the washing machine fill hose. Check for cracks and leaks in hoses connected to your washer. Leaky hoses can create water damage to floors and foundations if not caught in time.

- Fix cracks in walkways and driveways. Inspect driveway and walkways for cracks and loose particles in the structure. Cracks can be easily sealed before they become costly repairs and unsafe.

- Touch up painted areas. Do a checkup on painted areas inside and outside of home for peeling or chipped paint areas. These touchups keep the home looking fresh and can protect the home from further damage.

- Clean around and under the refrigerator. Pull out your refrigerator and inspect the coils and clean any dust or debris. Dust on the coils makes the refrigerator work harder, thus causing higher electrical bills. This is a great opportunity to collect trash and clean under your refrigerator.

- Replace the batteries in smoke detectors. Take the time to replace the batteries in your smoke detector; a fresh set of batteries never hurts.

- Prepare your lawn mower for summer. Change the oil and sharpen the blades of your mower and other outdoor gas powered equipment. These quick fixes lengthen the life and improve the quality of lawn work.

- Examine seals around windows and doors. Cold weather can crack caulk and other weather seals. Examine and repair as needed. Sealing your home prevents water damage and saves on heating and cooling costs by reducing the energy used by HVAC units.

- Drain your water heater. Your water heater tank builds up debris through the flow of water. Drain the spigot at the bottom of your tank to prolong the life and reduce energy.

For more consumer information, BBB Business Reviews or to file a complaint, visit your local Better Business Bureau online at bbb.org/central-texas.

Heather Massey is the Regional Director for the Permian Basin office of Better Business Bureau serving Central, Coastal, Southwest Texas and the Permian Basin.



Courtesy photo

Raul Benavides of Edward Jones Investment, 2108 Scurry, was a recent recipient of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's "We Appreciate Your Investment in our Community" banner.

Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

Marcus Joe Anderson, 2621 Chanute Dr., Big Spring
Steve Antoine, 1425 E. 6th St. #19, Big Spring
Katie Cole L. Baker, P.O. Box 3372, Big Spring
Elda Melina Bernal, 1311 Mobile, Big Spring
Wayne Richard Buyce, 4042 Morningside Way, Canyon Lake
Amber Canales, 612 Drake Rd., Big Spring
Jason Canales, 612 Drake Rd., Big Spring
Raymond Carroll, 712 E. 17th St., Big Spring
Pedro Chavarria, 1404 Wood St., Big Spring
Tonya Renea Cogburn, 1610 Johnson St., 2000 S. Main St., Big Spring
Jennifer S. Cook, 2911 N. Hwy 80 Apt. 107, Big Spring
Matilda Cortez, 302 N. Saint Teresa, Stanton
Hannah Deaton, 19634 Atasca Oaks Dr., Humble
Tina Marie Ellis, 4002 Austin Ave., Snyder
Selena Bethani Enriquez-King, 100 E. Parker, Midland
Brittany Vanessa Escanuela, 2521 Chanute Dr., Big Spring
Jose Enrique Faz, 602 N.W. 7th St., Big Spring
Juana Fierro, 406 N.W. 5th St., Big Spring
Michael Dean Fleming, 5216 Tremont Ave Apt 901, Midland
Leticia Garcia, 1404 Princeton Ave., Big Spring
William Gene Garner, 704 Rosemont, Big Spring
Guillermo Gomez, 2107 Morrison, Big Spring

James Michael Griffin, 303 Butler St. #502, Atlanta
Christina Nichole Gutierrez, 2809 25th St., Snyder
Dylan Hammons, 4401 E. 11th Place, Big Spring
Matias Hernandez Jr., 620 E. 4th St., San Angelo
Kaleb Hill, 910 Baylor, Big Spring
Ammie Lee Howell, 1507 Hilltop Road, Big Spring
Shatiya Lasha Jenkins, 4590 N. Texas #198, Odessa
Stephanie Ford Johnson, P.O. Box 483, Coahoma
Aaron Christopher Mack, 2134 Bonham Ave., Odessa
Ruann R. Martinez, 1005 N.W. 2nd St., Big Spring
Saprina Lea Martinez, 2521 Chanute Dr., Big Spring
Heriberto Palafox Mora, 1311 Mobile St., Big Spring
Felicia Ornelas, 538 Westover No. 236, Big Spring
John Troy Riddle, 3717 Old Howard Co. Airport Road, Big Spring
Liza Leigh Garfias Ovalle Rios, 1905 Wasson Rd. Apt 63, Big Spring
George Anthony Robinson Jr., 1905 Wasson Rd. #14, Big Spring
Andy Rodriguez, 1904 Runnels Street, Big Spring
Christina M. Rodriguez, 624 State Street, Big Spring
Linda Eva Rodriguez, 2519 Gunter Circle, Big Spring
Juan Romero, 2504 March Circle, Big Spring
Veronica Romero, 103 Becker Road, Big Spring
Yuri Lozano Rubio, 421

Cedar, P.O. Box 173, Colorado City
Stacie Lyanne Salas, 5102 Wasson Road, Big Spring
Brittany Nicole Savell, 425 East Davis Rd., Big Spring
Shane Skaggs, 1 Courtney Place 301, Big Spring
Brandy Logsdon Stanislaus, 2507 Carol Dr., Big Spring
Kendra D. Tatum, 412 S. Moss Lake Rd., Big Spring
Joe Anthony Villarreal, 2206 Cecilia, Big Spring
RickyLynnWaltenbaugh, 538 Westover Road Apt. #133, Big Spring
Tiara Ware, 1301 Mt. Vernon Ave., Big Spring
Candida Lynn Whitehead, 3706 Connley, Big Spring
Tamara Ruth Whitt, 3706 Connley, Big Spring
Jamie Wiggins, 1905 Wasson Rd. Apt. #28, Big Spring

Marriage Licenses

Emmanuel Valencia Ruiz, 20, and Brianna Page Parmele, 18, both of Big Spring
Cliff Machuka Makori, 31, and Eunice Kemuma Ombongi, 21, both of Big Spring
Cory Blake Payne, 28, and Sarah Elizabeth Raabe, 23, both of Big Spring
Mark Wade Miller, 52, and Susan Ann Miller, 54, both of Big Spring
Dustin Ray Riley, 26, and Tanya Mischelle Jenkins, 33, both of Big Spring

Judgments

The State of Texas vs.

Grady Kirkland Smith, unlawful carry weapon. \$100 fine, court costs and 30 days in jail.
The State of Texas vs. Ezequiel Arredondo Balboa, assault that causes bodily injury to a family member. \$750 fine, court costs, 180 days in jail and 24 months probation.
The State of Texas vs. Dalton Will White, accident involving damage to vehicle. \$250 fine, court costs, 180 days in jail and 12 months probation.
The State of Texas vs. Andrew Garza, theft of property. \$100 fine, court costs and 120 days in jail.
The State of Texas vs. Jerry Don Duffer, criminal trespass. \$100 fine, court costs and 20 days in jail.
The State of Texas vs. Andrew Garza, terroristic threat to a family member. \$100 fine, court costs and 120 days in jail.
The State of Texas vs. Andrew Jonathan Yanez, assault causes bodily injury. \$750 fine, court costs, 365 days in jail and 24 months probation.
The State of Texas vs. John Manuel Solis, possession of marijuana. \$100 fine, court costs and 75 days in jail.
The State of Texas vs. John Manuel Solis, harassment. \$100 fine, court costs and 75 days in jail.
The State of Texas vs. Delores D. Deagarza, deferred adjunction - theft of property. \$250 fine, court costs and 6 months probation.
The State of Texas vs. Terry Lee Carter, hinder secure creditors. \$100

See **RECORDS**, Page 5C

Stocks higher as oil rebounds

Associated Press

A strong rebound in oil prices and an encouraging report on retail sales helped lift the U.S. stock market in afternoon trading Friday, putting it on course for its first gain in a week. Financial and energy companies were among the biggest gainers. Oil was up more than 11 percent.

KEEPING SCORE: The Dow Jones industrial average rose 226 points, or 1.5 percent, to 15,887 as of 1:54 p.m. Eastern Time. The Standard & Poor's 500 gained 24 points, or 1.4 percent, to 1,853. The Nasdaq composite added 42 points, or 1 percent, to 4,309.

THE QUOTE: "Oil, which has been one of the most fickle, most volatile series that everybody's watching, is having a nice day," said Tim Dreiling, regional investment director for The Private Client Reserve of U.S. Bank. "Europe is continuing to look good. And it looked like (the market) was oversold."

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude was up \$3, or 11.4 percent, to \$29.21 a barrel in electronic trading in New York. The contract tumbled to \$26.21 on Thursday, its lowest level since May 2003. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, gained \$2.63, or 8.7 percent, to \$32.69 a barrel in London.

PUMPED UP: Marathon oil climbed 4.6 percent as the price of crude oil rebounded.

GOOD BET: Wynn Resorts surged 11.8 percent after the casino operator reported better-than-expected quarterly results Thursday. The stock gained \$7.03 to \$66.72.

BANK REBOUND: Several banking stocks bounced back from a sector-wide slide on Thursday. JPMorgan Chase climbed \$3.98, or 7.5 percent, to \$57.05, while Citigroup added \$2.24, or 6.4 percent, to \$37.22. Bank of America rose 65 cents, or 5.8 percent, to \$11.81.

BUYBACK BOOST: Deutsche Bank AG surged 11 percent after the bank offered to buy back more than \$5 billion in bonds in a display of financial strength.



Courtesy photo

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce representatives were on hand recently as ribbon cutting ceremonies were held at Gale's Bakery.



Courtesy photo

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce representatives were on hand during the ribbon cutting ceremony for Folsam Law Firm, 406 E. Marcy, on Feb. 10.

GOP candidates quiet on release of tax returns

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican presidential candidate, offered this year's hopefuls advice about a hard-learned lesson: Release your tax returns before the primaries and avoid tough scrutiny later. But the top three Republicans leading in national polls don't appear to be listening.

Even as other candidates — most notably Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush — have already disclosed years' worth of private tax returns to dispel questions about their personal finances, Donald Trump, Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio have failed to do the same despite promises to do so, sometimes after events that have now come and gone. None of the campaigns will say why

they've delayed or when the candidates will release their returns.

The best explanation: It's postponing an unpleasant moment, said Joseph Thorndike, a contributing editor for Tax Notes.

"If you say you're going to do it, you've got to do it," Thorndike said. "I don't like the disingenuousness of 'we're working on it.'"

The three Republican candidates have unequivocally said they will disclose their returns. Trump, who broke a promise in 2012 to disclose his returns if Obama produced his long-form birth certificate, said in January that he was preparing to release his "big returns." The Cruz campaign told the Dallas Morn-

ing News in April that Cruz would release his returns soon after they were filed, but he still hasn't. Shortly before Rubio filed his 2014 taxes last year, he told the Tampa Tribune that he would make them public.

The Republican candidates have company on the Democratic side: Bernie Sanders released only excerpts from his 2014 tax returns. The documents — along with separate financial reports filed with the Federal Election Commission — showed little in the way of assets and an income mostly limited to his \$174,000 Senate salary and a \$5,000 annual pension from being mayor of Burlington, Vermont, from 1981 to 1989.

The most interesting of

the returns will likely be Trump's, said Thorndike.

"If Donald Trump's tax returns really are that big as the stack he had next to him, there's a lot going on in there," Thorndike said. Interpreting Trump's wealth likely won't be easy without access to the tax returns filed by his corporate entities, which Trump is unlikely to provide. But Trump's personal returns should shed light on how lucrative his business empire truly is.

It's impossible to definitively say what trouble the returns could cause each candidate, but a key interest for Trump and Cruz will be how much they gave to charity.

RECORDS

Continued from Page 4C

fine, court costs, 180 days in jail and 12 months probation.

The State of Texas vs. Sandra Jean McGuire, application for deferred sentence — theft of property. \$200 fine, court costs and 6 months probation.

The State of Texas vs. Brandon Eugene Owens, driving while intoxicated — open container. \$100 fine, court costs and 45 days in jail.

The State of Texas vs. David Ray Gonzales Jr., revocation of probation and imposition of sentence — unlawful carry of gun. \$500 fine, court costs, 73 days in jail and pay remaining balance of \$834.

Warranty Deeds

Grantor: Foxwest Properties Ltd.
Grantee: Jamie Olivarez
Property: Lot 2, block 2, Replat of lots 1-10, 21-22 and 28.
Date: Jan. 4, 2016

Grantor: Joie Jean Bayes
Grantee: John Middleton and Cindy Middleton
Property: 8.18 acres in sec. 30, block 32, T-3-N, T&P, RR
Date: Feb. 1, 2016

Grantor: Pat Kingsfield
Grantee: Terry A. Woffard and Lora Woffard
Property: Lot 1, block 1, Edwards Hills addition
Date: Jan. 12, 2016

Grantor: Judy Belyeu
Grantee: Paul Belyeu
Property: 4.23 acre tract in S.W. quarter of sec. 34, block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR
Date: Jan. 29, 2016

Grantor: Bank of America, William Barnes and Sue Barnes Caldwell
Grantee: Oxy USA
Property: E. 2/3 of sec. 13, block 34, T-1-S, T&P RR
Date: Jan. 19, 2016

Grantor: Colby Britt Ditto
Grantee: Valencia Rankin Ditto
Property: Sec. 8, block

25, H&TC Ry. Co.
Date: Jan. 4, 2016

Grantor: Lara Jo White
Grantee: Ralph Allen White
Property: 61.213 acre tract in sec. 41, block 32,

T-1-N, T&P, RR. Co. Survey

Warranty Deeds with lien

Grantor: Tierra Group LLC.

Grantee: Michael Shane Feaster and James Aron Clark
Property: Lot 3, block 2, idglea Terrace
Date: Dec. 21, 2015

Grantor: Teresa Rankin

Cox and Valencia Rankin Ditto
Grantee: Sterling Cattle Co., Inc.
Property: Sec. 8, block 25, H&TC Co. Survey
Date: Jan. 27, 2016

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Coke suspends bottling at plant at center of dispute



AP photo/Allaf Qadri

By KATY DAIGLE

Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Coca-Cola suspended bottling at three plants in India, including one in the parched northwest where farmers have been protesting the company's use of dwindling groundwater reserves.

Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages, which is a subsidiary of The Coca-Cola Co. based in Atlanta, said it was reorganizing operations across its 24 franchise bottling plants in India according to market demand and factory upgrades.

The company's action, however, follows more than a decade of agitation by farmers in the state of Rajasthan, where groundwater levels have been plummeting.

Coca-Cola said it runs the Kaladera plant in Rajasthan "as a responsible corporate citizen," and is collecting rainwater and trying to get more farmers to use drip irrigation, a more efficient method of watering crops.

The plant is still being used for storage and other operations, and could be reopened "should there be a change in demand and volume," company spokesman Kamlesh Sharma said Friday.

The two other plants are in the northeastern state of Meghalaya and the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, according to another company spokesman Kalyan Ranjan.

"Water wasn't an issue in these two plants," Ranjan said, though Andhra

Pradesh is another Indian state facing a crisis in its water supply. "We are rationalizing capacity and economic viability, and these are very old plants." Meanwhile, the company says it is building new facilities in India.

Both Coca-Cola and competitor PepsiCo Inc., which is headquartered in Purchase, New York, have faced ongoing protests against several of their plants across India over access to dwindling groundwater reserves.

India is heavily reliant on its erratic monsoon rains for recharging rivers and underground aquifers, and parts of the country suffer regularly from drought.

As a result, India is depleting its aquifers more quickly than any other country or region in the world. By 2030, studies predict the South Asian nation of 1.25 billion and counting will have just half the water it needs.

There is no nationwide plan for how India will cope with competing and growing demand for water

from agriculture, industry and urban areas. Hundreds of millions of farmers nationwide are still pumping ground reserves with little to no oversight.

Agriculture accounts for 91 percent of the country's groundwater use, while cities swallow up about 7 percent and industry takes 2 percent.

Amid local agitation in 2005, Coca-Cola closed a plant in the southern state of Kerala.

PepsiCo had also faced a backlash against its plants, leading to it pledging a "positive water balance" and announcing it had replenished billions of liters in 2009. The company says it has helped thousands of subsistence farmers by offering guaranteed purchase of their crops. But last year, it faced violent protests against its plans for a new plant in the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

On Friday, some of the 25,000 farmers in the Rajasthani town of Kaladera expressed relief that Coca-Cola had halted bottling operations.

"We are happy," said farmer Mahesh Yogi, part of the local group demanding the plant's closure since 2004. "The plant depleted the water level in the village, and farmers were left with no water to irrigate their fields."

The company maintains, however, that it used less than 1 percent of the town's available water.

"The real issue is that conservation efforts must include steps to get farmers to use water efficiently," the Coca-Cola spokesman Sharma said.

US rig count drops 30 this week to 541;

Texas down 14

HOUSTON (AP) — Oilfield services company Baker Hughes Inc. says the number of rigs exploring for oil and natural gas in the U.S. declined by 30 this week to 541.

The Houston company said Friday 439 rigs sought oil and 102 explored for natural gas amid depressed energy prices. A year ago, 1,358 rigs were active.

Among major oil- and gas-producing states, Texas declined by 14 rigs, New Mexico and Oklahoma each dropped four and North Dakota was down three. Colorado, Pennsylvania and Wyoming lost two apiece and Kansas was off by one.

California and Louisiana gained one rig each.

Alaska, Arkansas, Ohio, Utah and West Virginia were all unchanged.

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

Ohio company sells classic Etch A Sketch

BRYAN, Ohio (AP) — The Ohio company that has produced or owned the Etch A Sketch for more than five decades has sold the classic toy to a Toronto-based toy firm.

Bryan-based Ohio Art Co. made the surprise move to sell the Etch A Sketch and its spinoff, the Doodle Sketch, to Spin Master Corp. for an undisclosed price. Ohio Art announced the sale Thursday.

"I think it's such an icon, it's a part of our everyday

life here," Martin Killgallon, Ohio Art's president, told The Blade in Toledo. "It'll be bittersweet, but we had to look at the long-term future of the business."

The company said the move leaves it with more capital to focus on metal lithography, the craft on which it was founded over a century ago.

"Ohio Art is squarely focused on continuing to build its reputation as one of the premier metal lithographers in North America," CEO Elena West said.

The Etch A Sketch was created by a French inventor in 1955. The brand has been produced or owned by Ohio Art since 1960, when it bought the rights for \$25,000 after executives saw it at a toy fair in Nuremberg, Germany, in 1959.

Production of Etch A Sketch and its spinoff was moved to China more than 15 years ago.

Information from: The Blade, www.toledoblade.com/

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Auctions

Notice of Public Sale of Property to satisfy a Landlords lien, Sale to be held at A&A Self Storage at 1300 E. 4th St., Big Spring, Tx 79720. SILENT BIDS will be taken Sat., Feb. 20th from 10:30am to 1:00pm. Highest bidder will be notified by phone later that day and be required to pay a \$25.00 cleaning deposit along with winning bid, all contents must be removed by Monday, Feb. 22nd or forfeit deposit.

Property includes the contents of:

- Unit#49 Roxanne Gonzales
- Unit#90 Shenikqua Steward
- Unit#105 Michael McGrath
- Unit#83 Alex Franco
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#8959 February 2 & 14, 2016

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NOTICE Request for Proposals West Texas Centers Construction/Manager-Agent (At Risk) 319 Runnels, Big Spring, Texas 79720 CONTRACT NO. WTC100-1

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that West Texas Centers will accept proposals for a "construction/manager-agent(at risk)" to provide consultation or administrative services during the design and remodeling phases and to manage multiple contracts with various construction prime contractors for general remodeling of the building located at 3205 S. Hwy. 87, Big Spring, Texas. This procurement is a one-step process.

The "construction/manager-



West Texas Centers

Crisis Director

- Clinical and administrative oversight for crisis services.
- Minimum of three years post graduate clinical management experience. Must be licensed by state of Texas as an LPC, LCSW, LMFT or licensed psychologist.
- Salary: \$23.24 hr \$1867.39 Bi weekly \$48,552 annually

Positions are located in Big Spring.

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

268515



West Texas Centers

Position 332: Provider Service Part Time positions. This position provides services to persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Services range from skills training, to assistance with daily living activities. Services are provided in the home, the community and in a vocational setting. Schedules are flexible. Hrly \$12.90.

Provider Service Tech: Works in 4 bed HCS residential setting and Vo-Tech Center, under the general direction of a Residential Manager and Vo-Tech Manager. May share responsibility with other staff or may work independently or other staff to provide daily supervision, care and training. Required to work possible rotating schedules and flexible hours. GED or high school diploma. \$12.90 hr.

Support Service Tech FullTime: Provides services within the community and in the person's home. Services include: Employment assistance, Individualized Competitive Employment/Supported Employment, Community Supports/Supported Home Living, and In-Home Respite. Responsibilities include providing training, supervision, and/or support in the areas of: self-help, independent living, community participation and involvement, social and peer development, employment, financial management and health maintenance. Required to work flexible hours and may be required to use personal vehicle to perform job duties. GED or High School Diploma \$9.93 hr \$794.31 bi weekly Benefits.

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

268520



West Texas Centers

MH Peer Provider: Peer Provider uses their life experience in mental health recovery to assist other adults in their mental health recovery. Performs direct services that engage clients in activities designed to reduce the symptoms of disabilities that result from their diagnosed mental illness and to increase the ability of the individual to live and work within their community. Requires flexible hours, involves completing paperwork. Travel and the use of personal vehicle are required. Must have a valid Texas driver's license \$10.59 hr \$847.38 bi weekly \$22,032 annually. Must have High School Diploma or GED.

MH Office Manager: Responsible for the non-clinical aspects of the day to day operations in a medical office environment. Duties include promoting excellent customer service, development and implementation of office policies and procedures. Oversees all aspects of office management, including reception, scheduling and financial operations. Assist in interviewing and training a productive medical office team. Scheduling staff to meet operational requirements, responsible for facility cleanliness, hygiene and safety. Trains and rotates office staff through various office duties to ensure cross-coverage in all job areas. Oversees inventory and ordering of office supplies. Ensures that staff communicates with customers in a courteous, professional, cooperative and mature manner. Protects client confidentiality per policies and procedures. Position will require travel within the agencies service area. Prefer bachelors degree will substitute experience for education \$17.94 hr \$1434.92 bi weekly \$37,308 annually.

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Some positions require participation in crisis call rotation. 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.

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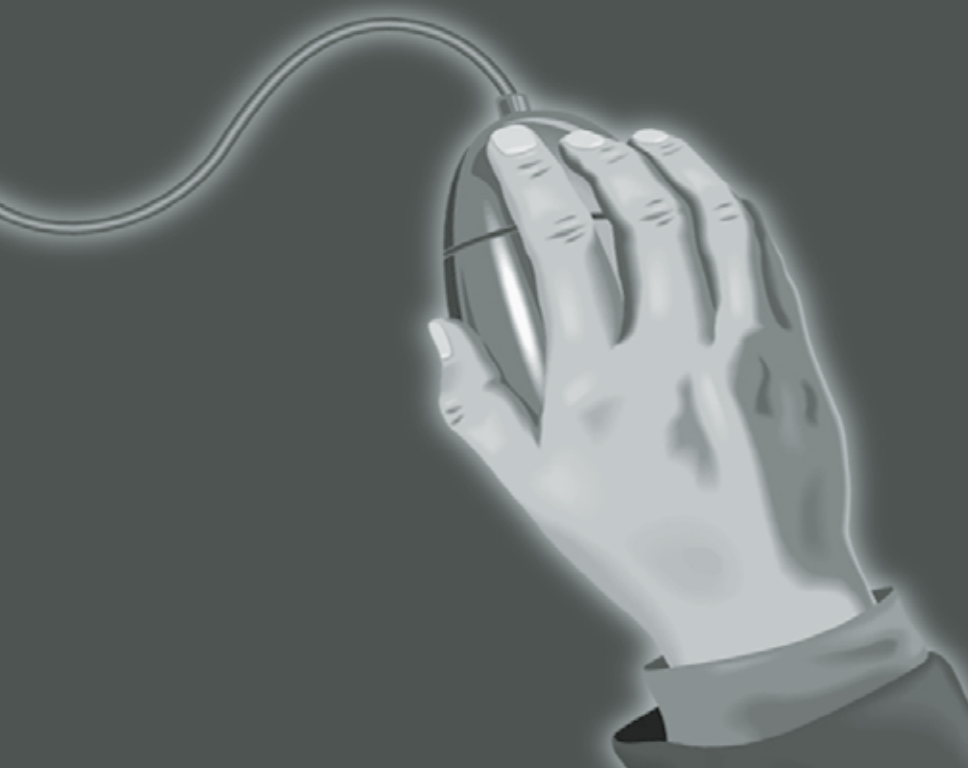
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agent(at risk)" is the sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, or other legal entity that assumes risk for construction, rehabilitation, alternation, or repair of a facility at the contracted price as a general contractor and provides consultation during and after the design of the facility.

Project will consist of interior work including minor wall re-configurations, some painting, minor electrical and HVAC duct work, fire safety and ADA accommodation modification, full roof replacement, remodeling of existing space to accommodate a six machine laundry and the build-out of the existing kitchen space to service a 16-30 bed inpatient respite facility. Bid specifications and other pertinent information will be available Wednesday, February 17, 2016. Specifications may be obtained by contacting Gail Wells by phone 432-466-1504. A pre-bid site visit is required for each bidder. Site visits will be scheduled at bid specification request. Bid specifications will include general information on the project site, project scope, schedule, selection criteria and the weighted value for each criterion, and the time and place for receipt of the proposals and qualifications. Other information considered necessary to assist WTC in the selection of the "construction/manager-agent (at risk)". WTC may require as part of the offeror's proposal, proposed fees and prices for fulfilling the general conditions of the contract.

Bids should be itemized to every extent possible and include expected completion timeframes.

Sealed bids will be received by West Texas Centers until **5:00 p.m. Thursday, March 3, 2016**. Bids will be opened at **10:00 A.M. Friday, March 4, 2016** at West Texas Centers, 319 Runnels, Big Spring, Texas. Bid awards will be awarded within 45 days of bid opening.

Public Notice

Each bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope, addressed to West Texas Centers, 319 Runnels, Big Spring, Texas and marked "Procurement of Construction/Manager-Agent(at Risk)- Contract No. WTC100-1," on the outside of the envelope. Proposals may be mailed to: Debbie Moses, 319 Runnels, Room 202, Big Spring, Texas 79720 or delivered to that address.

A bid security deposit (bond) in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid amount may be required. Project performance period is to be determined through negotiation; each criterion will include separate required completion dates, but overall must be no longer than 120 days from the date of the award. Specific components of the bid will required completion on an accelerated timeframe in order for WTC to open and operate the facility no later than May 1, 2016. If the contractor fails to complete the project in the working days specified for each criterion in the final contract, liquidated damages of \$100.00 per day of delay may be assessed. The successful bidder shall also furnish a Maintenance Bond in the amount of one hundred percent of the contract covering defects of material and/or workmanship for one year following WTC final acceptance and approval of the work. Roofing bids must include a ten year or better material and workmanship warranty. Bidder must provide evidence of Texas Workers Compensation insurance. Bidder must be prepared to provide 2 years of company financial viability documentation if requested. Bidders must provide three business references for similar work performed. The "construction/manager-agent (at risk)" must deliver all bond requirements within ten days after their contract is executed with the Center. The

Public Notice

selected contractor must meet all state procurement and bid processes when selection subcontractors to perform work on the project. Bidder and all subcontractors must meet all requirements related to FLSA, Workers Compensation, and security bond requirements.

Historically Underutilized Businesses are encouraged to participate in this project. Contractors will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity laws and regulations, all Federal, State, and local regulations for construction safety and health standards.

As the awarding authority, West Texas Centers reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposal applications, waive any informality, omissions, excess verbiage or technical defects in the bidding, investigate the ability of applicants to honor a bid, and West Texas Centers need not necessarily award the contract to the lowest Bidder if, in the opinion of West Texas Centers, it would be in the best interest of West Texas Centers to accept another bid.

Not later than the seventh day from the contract award date, WTC will document the basis for the selection of the bidder. Such information will be available to the public upon request.

#8970 February 14, 21, & 22, 2016

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107 East 25th St. 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer. No smoking/no pets. References required. \$1,000/month, \$1,000/dep. Call 432-213-2319

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1202 Runnels St. 1 bedroom. No pets. References required. Call 432-263-7769 or 432-213-1013

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2 bedroom. 405 NW 10th St. CH/A, paid water. \$725/month, \$1,125/move in. Call 432-213-2497 or 310-702-8644 Application required.

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4111 Dixon St. 3 bed, 2 bath, garage, CH/A, fenced yard. No indoor pets. \$1,100/month. One year lease required plus deposit. Owner/Broker 432-263-6514

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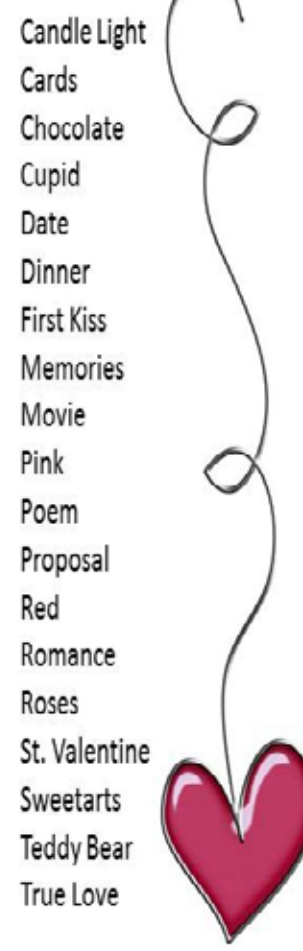
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ANSWERS

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

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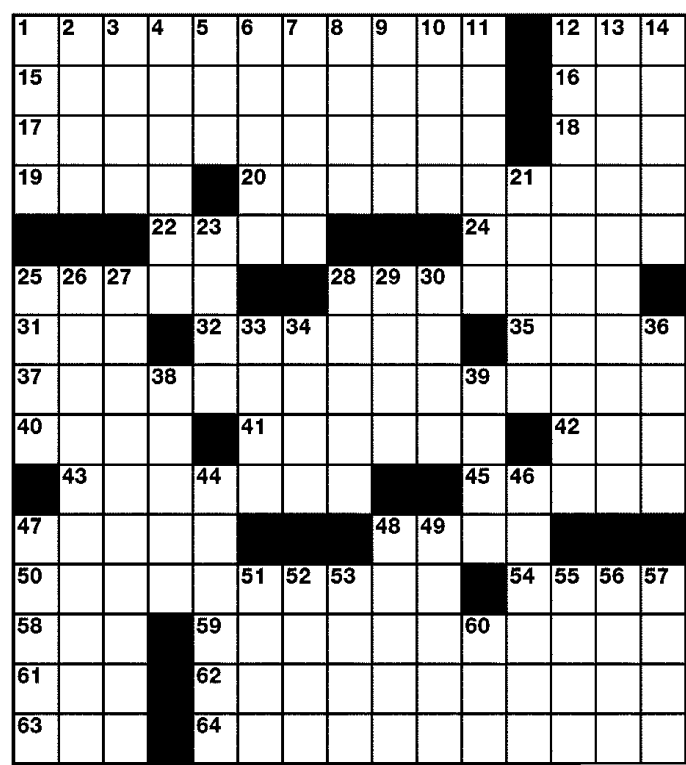
Answer to previous puzzle

BRIG	JAMUP	PSIST
LIMO	FLOSS	ETITE
UCBERKELEY	COEN	
ROUSE	ESC	APPT
THEBIGS	HUNAN	
UNMEMBERSHIP		
EONS	CREEDS	EEIE
CNOTE	ADS	APACE
RAN	ESPIED	EDEN
UVPROTECTION		
ERICA	SEVERAL	
PROD	TAR	ELATE
HAVE	ULAPPROVED	
IGER	TEPEE	PEAT
LENS	EXTRA	ELMO

2/13/16

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 Its viewership is often dropping off
 - 12 Part of older ATMs
 - 15 Windless
 - 16 Prankster's sound
 - 17 1492 Columbus stopover
 - 18 What some sports sticks hit
 - 19 *Tout*, across the Rhine
 - 20 Some fossil bases
 - 22 Lead ___
 - 24 Marie Curie's Nobelist daughter
 - 25 Informercial brand once called Quikuit
 - 28 Europe's "Linenopolis"
 - 31 See 38 Down
 - 32 Intriguing creation
 - 35 Touring-bike burden
 - 37 Chef's accessory
 - 40 Fix permanently
 - 41 Acqua di Giò fragrance maker
 - 42 Clone in the news, 1996
 - 43 Dietary staples for impalas
 - 45 Get suspended
 - 47 Fidelity
 - 48 Full extent
 - 50 Exotic pet from Africa
 - 54 At-sea state
 - 58 Not break down
 - 59 One patronizing a green grocer
 - 61 MD specialty
 - 62 *Gregorio XV* canonized her
- DOWN**
- 1 Circus wear
 - 2 Utter vehemently
 - 3 Roll clipper: Abbr.
 - 4 Mixer nixers
 - 5 Chief's outfit, for short
 - 6 It was first played at the White House in 2001
 - 7 "You make bath time so much fun" singer
 - 8 Leather worker's union
 - 9 Noted nonchalant napper
 - 10 Supplier for the Eiffel Tower and Beijing subway
 - 63 Paper cutters, for short
 - 64 Cell bells, maybe
- 11** Visionary's intro
- 12** Dim-sum staple
- 13** What flashes consist of
- 14** ___ days
- 21** Word from the Latin for "pray"
- 23** Cashier
- 25** Saying "I'm down for that"
- 26** Song heard in *Good Morning, Vietnam*
- 27** Losers
- 28** Driver's shoulders
- 29** Top baby girl's name of 2014
- 30** Medieval Iberian kingdom
- 33** Dunkin' Donuts menu item
- 34** Queen holding a pomegranate
- 36** Cork, for one
- 38** With 31 Across, "Affirmative"
- 39** Insulation material
- 44** Word preceding a snap
- 46** Weather
- 47** Carol's royal complement
- 48** "Chin-chin!" kin
- 49** Numerical starter
- 51** Take for a ride
- 52** Numerical starter
- 53** Exposition setting, often
- 55** Part of an MD's diplomate designation
- 56** Ingredient in cranberry sauce
- 57** Many of them are named for monarchs
- 60** *Condiment blanc*



Tomorrow's Horoscope



Heavenly Hearts Week

Valentine's Day opens on

HOLIDAY a sensual
MATHIS Taurus moon,

which makes a favorable angle to Pluto and Jupiter before opposing Mars in Scorpio in the early evening. This is just the kind of dramatic tension that bodes well for special times and unforgettable occurrences in these last few days of the Aquarius solar journey. Serving the greater good will still be the theme most of the week. Have you given enough of yourself yet?

ARIES (March 21-April 19). People say they're okay when they are not. They do this because they don't want you to worry, or because they are afraid that you will give a kind of help they cannot reciprocate. Your job this week is to draw the truth out of people. It won't be hard. They trust you. You open hearts and minds and make a

difference.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Everyone has a different tolerance level for change and yours is pretty high these days. While others around you experience anxiety around the unknown, you welcome it -- invite it, even. It's because you're ready to take in new views, be surprised, and, best of all, blow past the previous limits.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's not like you're signing up for the hard jobs despite the reality that they make you feel scared. You're signing up for them (SET ITAL) because (END ITAL) they make you feel scared. This is how transformation happens. Becoming who you aspire to be isn't always a pretty, comfortable or pleasurable process, and you do it smilingly anyway!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The week will focus on some of your favorite topics, feelings and people. Your requests will be answered with enthusiasm equal to the excitement you feel

in helping others. And your help is sweet, not meddlesome in the least. You're not interested in power and control, only in providing pure support.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Success is when others like, approve of, pay and praise you. You have little control over that, really. But there is much that you can control: for instance, how hard you work. Doing so will bring deep satisfaction and inner confidence. Achievement is far more important than success.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You believe that love is as love does. And yet, you can't help but recognize that it's also a feeling -- a warm buzz that spreads over you like a soft blanket whether or not you want it to. This week you could have mixed feelings about the amorous joy in your heart as you figure out the best way to fit it into your life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It takes a big effort to go out, meet new people,

take part in the local culture and make your mark. All the preparation involved in creating a rich social life is nothing compared to the follow-up work you'll do to build your network. The charge you'll get from these new connections will be an invaluable energizer.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Once you get "that feeling" about something, there is no going back. You are compelled to honor what's in your gut, even though it may be directing you in an illogical or even frightening direction. You're headed toward a destiny marker, and there is something uncomfortable about it. Good! You're stretching.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're holding out for extraordinary love. You'll be attracted to those who can make an elegant contribution to your life and inspire you toward expressions you wouldn't have thought of otherwise. Love is like an intricate tapestry that's

coming together before your very eyes this week.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your ambition may carry you in the early week, but make time for rest after Thursday. A comfortable sense of pacing is a gift you can give to yourself. It will make you more relaxed, creative and attractive, too. Think of what you might accomplish and learn if you had time for practice and experimentation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's wonderful to be liked for who you are, but what will be even better this week is when someone is at once attracted to present-you and future-you alike. This person will see and embrace the great potential in you. Once the two of you align your vision, this love connection will move you in more ways than one.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The thing about obstacles is, sometimes you don't even see them until after you've hit them. Well, at

least this cuts out a lot of wasted time in worry. Instead of fretting, make a run for it. Don't think; just go. Cover as much ground as you can. You'll astound yourself at how far you get before anything stops you.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: Because your domestic life develops in ways that support you so well, you'll tuck a major success into your portfolio by late April. The connection you have with old friends will prove most fortuitous, and do take all the help offered to you, as it will be a win-win for all involved. You'll hear confessions of love and be promised spectacular things in the summer, though it's the laid-back sweetness you'll cherish most in August and September. New family additions come in October.

To write to Holiday Mathis, visit www.creators.com and click "Write the Author" on her page. COPYRIGHT 2016 CREATORS.COM

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Readers: Happy Valentine's Day to one and all, along with our special good wishes to our veterans in VA hospitals around the country. And our particular thanks and appreciation to those readers who have taken the time to send valentines, visit the vets and volunteer at VA facilities. Bless each and every one of you. You are truly caring and compassionate.

Dear Annie: I have been friends with "Lorraine" for 20 years. The friendship was maintained mostly through long phone calls and visits to her house. When I divorced and became a single parent, it was not always convenient for me to be on the phone for hours or to stop by after work. Lorraine's husband was very controlling, so coming to my house was not an option.

When I had surgery, Lorraine didn't visit at all, and I was crushed. I wrote her a letter explaining how hurt I was. She sent me a scathing reply and that was the end of our friendship. When we ran into each other last year at a shopping mall, I found out she was divorced and

Here's the dilemma: Lorraine likes to drink. She was pulled over for a DUI two months ago and decided she will drink only in her own home or if someone drives her. It's a smart decision, but our friendship is now back to where it was before, sustained through long phone calls and my visiting her home.

Annie, I am happily married now and enjoy being with my husband. Lorraine wants me to visit her on my own. I have done this a few times, but I am feeling resentful that we are back to this one-sided visitation. If I tell her, I'm not sure what the outcome would be. Any guidance is greatly appreciated.

-- Round Two
Dear Two: You probably know what the outcome would be. Lorraine has her own issues and you cannot fix them. We suggest you put boundaries on this relationship that allow you to maintain it within your own comfort zone. Visit when you want, even if it is less often than Lorraine would like. You don't need to make excuses or apologies for having a life apart from hers.
Dear Annie: My daughter is a bridesmaid in several weddings this year.

All require her to fly out of town, pay for a hotel room and buy a gown never to be worn again. The real problem is the expensive bachelorette weekends, again requiring airfare, hotel and food, not to mention the bride's entertainment. When did this custom begin? She has two options: Decline the invitation to be in the wedding party, or decline the bachelorette weekend (which she has done several times).

On behalf of my daughter, I'd like to address this to all brides, hoping they will be more understanding of the stressful situations they put their friends

in:
Dear Brides: While I am honored to be included as a bridesmaid and cannot wait until the big day, I simply cannot afford to participate in your upcoming destination bachelorette weekend. I am certain it will be fun, but it is not in my budget. I am saving for the airfare, hotel and dress for your wedding. I hope you understand. I love you and am happy for you. -- Your Friend and Bridesmaid

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@creators.com, or write to: Annie's

Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. You can also find Annie on Facebook at [Facebook.com/AskAnnies](https://www.facebook.com/AskAnnies). To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2016 CREATORS.COM

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sudoku

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

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Reducing the Element of Risk

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 7 3
♥ K 7 5 3
♦ A Q 10 9 5
♣ K 6

WEST
♠ K J 9 6 4
♥ A 8 4
♦ 7 2
♣ J 9 2

EAST
♠ 10 8 2
♥ 10 9 6
♦ K 6 4
♣ Q 7 5 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q 5
♥ Q J 2
♦ J 8 3
♣ A 10 8 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
1 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead — six of spades.

If someone aims a gun at your head, it is a good idea — as a matter of self-preservation — to disarm him if you can.

An analogous situation sometimes occurs at the bridge table when a particular opponent threatens your chance of making the contract. In that case, you try, if possible, to eliminate the threat.

Let's say you're declarer at three notrump in today's deal. West leads a spade — presumably fourth-best — and you win East's ten with the queen. You see that the contract can easily be made if West has the king

of diamonds. In that case, repeated finesse would in all likelihood yield five diamond tricks, after which you can drive out the ace of hearts to assure 11 or 12 tricks.

If the diamond finesse loses, however, East will return a spade to establish West's suit. Then, if West started with more than four spades and also the ace of hearts, you will go down.

Once you reach this point in your considerations, you might see the advantage of leading the queen (or jack) of hearts at trick two instead of taking an immediate diamond finesse. Indeed, this play should virtually assure the contract.

West is the dangerous opponent, but he can be disarmed by leading the queen of hearts before you do anything else. If he has the ace and takes it, you intend to duck the spade return and win the next spade.

Now when you take the diamond finesse, you are on safe ground. If the finesse loses, either East will not have a spade to return (because he started with only three of them), or East will lead a spade (because he started with four of them), in which case the contract is safe.

Of course, if West does not take the first heart, you can then try the diamond finesse with impunity and finish with at least nine tricks. Either way, the contract is assured by leading a heart first.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.
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Those Valentine's Day flowers might just be from Kenya



AP Photo/Ilya Gridneff

In this photo taken Feb. 1, 2016, Phanice Cherop, a 29-year-old single mother of two, works at the AAA Growers' farm in Nyahururu, four hours' drive north of the capital Nairobi, in Kenya.

By ILYA GRIDNEFF

Associated Press

NYAHURURU, Kenya (AP) — This Valentine's Day, there's a good chance your flowers came from Kenya.

"I know the flowers are for giving on Valentine's Day," said Phanice Cherop, a worker at a flower farm in Kenya. "They are very beautiful."

On a crisp February morning, Cherop squeezed through a row of shoulder-high white roses, cut a flower and methodically placed it in the bunch she carried. The Kenyan-grown flower was likely headed for a vase in Australia, England, Japan or the United States.

Kenya's cool climate and high altitude make it perfect for growing large, long-lasting roses. Such conditions have helped make Kenya become the world's fourth-biggest supplier

after the Netherlands, Ecuador and Colombia.

Cherop, a 29-year-old single mother of two, works at AAA Growers' Simba farm in Nyahururu, four hours' drive north of the capital, Nairobi. It's the one of company's four 20-hectare (50-acre) farms that make them Kenya's third-largest grower of vegetables and flowers combined. Cherop was one of 600 workers bused in from surrounding villages to pick or pack thousands of roses to be sent around the world ahead of Feb. 14.

Flowers are intricately tied to the global economy. When it collapsed in 2008, the cut-flower trade lost \$1.5 billion the following year. In 2013, global exports of cut flowers, cut foliage, living plants and flower bulbs amounted to \$20.6 billion, more than twice the amount in 2001.

International events, including Russia's war in Ukraine and plummeting oil prices, have shaped flower fortunes for numerous Kenyan farms. Sales to oil-producing nations, such as Norway and those in the Middle East, have dropped due to their reduced spending power, said Britain-born Andrew Mules, general manager of AAA Growers' Simba farm.

"Up until two years ago, flowers would have been the most profitable part of the farm," he said. "Now it is our third after soft fruit and then vegetable crops."

Kenya is the sixth-largest flower exporter to the U.S., according to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. As east Africa's agricultural powerhouse, Kenya supplies the European Union with 38 percent of its cut-flower imports, partly due to a tax-exemption trade agreement.

Mr. Mules, who farmed in Zimbabwe before being evicted under President Robert Mugabe's land reforms, said prolonged rains due to the El Nino weather pattern have pressured the company's bottom line.

"The timing of Valentine's Day is perfect for Kenya because it falls in the dry season," he said. "Unfortunately, this year, due to el Nino, it has lengthened the so called 'short rains.' Instead of stopping in November we were getting rain in January."

Another lament is about Russia. In 2012, flower exports to Russia, the world's fifth-largest flower importer, began shrinking due to its tanking economy and depreciating ruble. Russian military intervention in Ukraine in 2014 only "worsened the

situation," said Cindy van Rijswijk, a fruit, vegetables and floriculture analyst at Dutch bank Rabobank.

"A more indirect effect is that, because of the declining cut-flowers exports to Russia, these flowers are supplied to other markets, which causes pressure on prices," she said.

Dana Malaskova, AAA Growers' commercial manager, said that up until September 2014, the company was sending a quarter of their flowers to Russia, with a steady 5 percent annual growth; now the volume has shrunk to 5 percent of the total.

"We no longer rely on Russia for International Women's day on March 8, the year's second-biggest flower-giving event," she said.

The drop in Russian demand isn't translating into a drop of the price of a bouquet this Valentine's Day, said Neville Ratemo, a director at Kenya's Horticultural Council.

"There is always a big volume at this time of year and people will always be buying roses, so the price goes up," he said.

The Kenya Flower Council said exports rose from 86,480 tons in 2006 to 136,601 tons in 2014. Kenya's flower business continues to employ half a million Kenyans and earned more than half a billion dollars last year, according to government statistics.

In the temperature-controlled storeroom of AAA Growers' warehouse, stacks of cardboard boxes bound for Canada, Australia, the United States and France are the end point to the process that started with workers like Cherop.

Cherop, who earns Kenya's rural minimum wage of \$80 a month, said the arduous manual work is a necessity to feed her family. Giggling, she admits, after a bit of prodding, that she's never received flowers.

"We do not really do this here in Kenya," she said. "No man has ever given me. I would like some."



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- Venue
- Registrars
- Bridesmaids
- Best man
- Wedding dress
- Suite hire
- Photographer
- Entertainment
- Catering
- Florist
- Transport
- Hair and Beauty
- Bridesmaid attire
- Wedding cake
- Decorations and favours
- Guest list

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HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

HERALD photos

Joe D. Barnes and Ron Brooks were the top honorees at 2016's Ag Appreciation Luncheon, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber of Commerce participates in toy drives (top) as well as hosts ribbon cuttings.

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Community

CONNECTIONS

Supplement To The Big Spring Herald
Sunday, February 14, 2016



**Big Spring Area
Chamber of Commerce**

215 W. 3rd

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CHALLENGING HOWARD COUNTY TO DO SOMETHING

What an exciting opportunity to be chosen as the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce President for 2016. I am so blessed to be part of such a great organization during a time when Howard County is continuing to experience growth in certain business sectors that will prove to be beneficial for all of our residents.



As the good book tells us in James chapter 1, we must be doers, not hearers only. Challenge yourself in 2016 to get uncomfortable. I learned a few years ago that comfort often leads to stagnation and the opposite of growth. In turn, you almost always have to get uncomfortable and sometimes fail in order to succeed and experience growth. I humbly ask for your support and effort be a part of our positive movement so that together, we can continue to make Howard County a great place to live and visit. Now, get up and "Do Something!"

ADRIAN CALVIO
PRESIDENT



2015 was a great year under the leadership of Amy Jacobs and we certainly thank her for a job well done. My plan is to continue moving the Chamber forward in a positive direction. I realize that this will only come to fruition with teamwork and a culture of community.

Your Chamber is comprised of volunteering members from our local neighborhoods. These members are dedicated to work together for the improvement of our economic environment as well as the social and cultural aspects of our community. I highly encourage anyone interested to become a part of this progressive organization to do so.

Our Chamber theme this year is "Do Something." This message is meant to encourage the individual, the business owner, the teacher, the preacher, the musician, the artist, the runner, the employed, and the unemployed to simply "do something".



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BENEFITS OF A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERSHIP

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce has been advancing "the civic, cultural, and social betterment and interest of the people of Howard County" since 1919. If you aren't a business owner or member of an organization, aren't familiar with the ins and outs of how a chamber works, or simply new to the area, there are many benefits of being involved with your Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. With 300 plus businesses and group memberships, the Chamber is home to community leaders throughout the county that have one goal in mind, to improve the quality of life and business climate in the area.

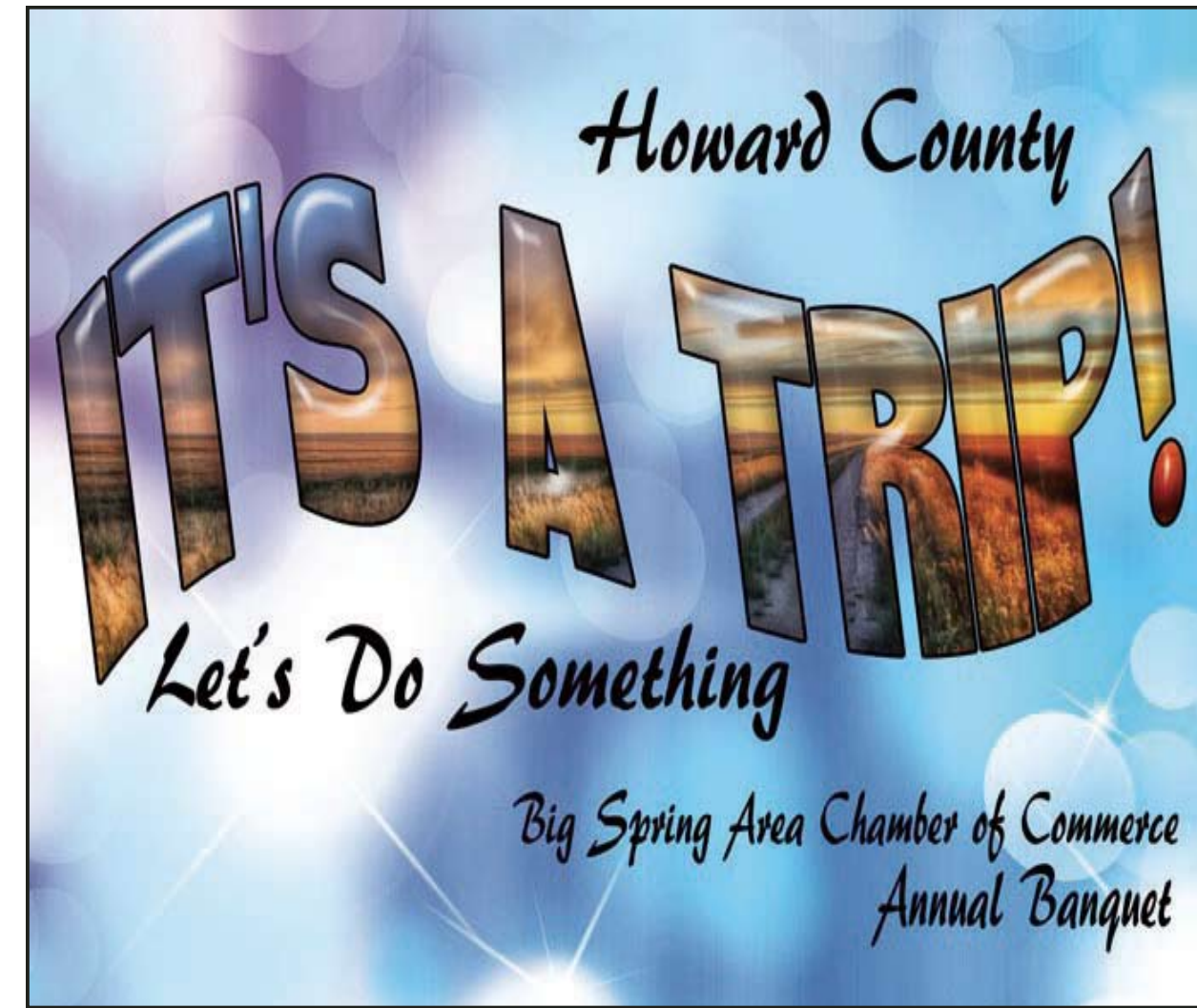
While the Chamber's staff of executive director Debbye ValVerde and executive assistant Nancy Davenport are seen throughout the week hosting ribbon cuttings for new businesses and presenting signs for new members, the amount of work they do behind the scenes with their Board of Directors is massive. Annually, the Chamber hosts Pops in the Park, the Health Fair, a Christmas toy drive, and the Ag Appreciation Luncheon. Additionally, the Chamber hosts Business Before Hours and Business After Hours, both programs designed to bring local merchants together to network. The Chamber banquet is one of the most highly anticipated events of the year, as members are recognized for their hard work and the Man and Woman of the Year are announced. Past winners include Mamie Lee Dodds and Richard Atkins in 1993, Pat Simmons and Ben Bancroft in 1998, Linda Conway and Bobby McDonald in 2003, and Russ McEwen and Verna Davis in 2010, just to name a few.

If you find yourself asking, "What else can a Chamber of Commerce

membership do for me?," look no further.

- Refers businesses to visitors and callers
- Helps promote businesses of the chamber
- Maintains awareness of key issues at the local, state and federal level by coordinating with the Texas Chamber and US Chamber
- Provides businesses with education through seminars and increases awareness of the importance of buying locally
- Host annual banquet, quarterly Community Series Breakfasts and Luncheons, Ag Appreciation Day, a golf tournament, the Health Fair, and other programs to provide business information and networking
- Offers support and awareness of all areas of art
- Advertises businesses in the Membership Directory
- Works with the city, county, Big Spring Economic Development, and other entities for the betterment of the community
- Quarterly Member to Member Mailer where you can promote your business for \$100 to over 360 members
- Offers promotion and links to business through this website
- Member 2 Member (M2M) Breakfast Blitz
- Involvement in the Ambassadors

If you are interested in becoming a member, or just have a few questions about the things that the Chamber hosts or is involved in, call 432-263-7641. Information about the city, various civic groups, and businesses can be obtained at their office, located at 215 W. Third Street.



February 16, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Sonic Floor

Passing of the Gavel from
Amy Jacobs to Adrian Calvio

Announcement of Man &
Woman of the Year

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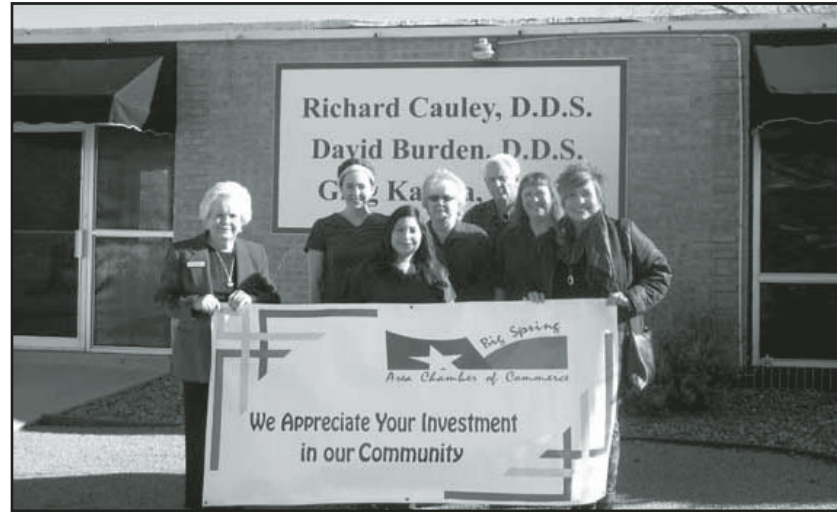
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- Spring Creek Fellowship, Hotel Settles,
- Star Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep-Ram,
- State National Bank, Walmart, Water
- Water, Wells Fargo Bank

THANKING MEMBERS FOR THEIR INVESTMENT



Courtesy photos

Basin 2 Way Radio recieved their "We Appreciate Your Investment in our Community" banner in December 2015.



Courtesy photos

Richard Cauley, D.D.S. recieved their "We Appreciate Your Investment in our Community" banner in January 2016.



Courtesy photos

Brenda's Hilltop Cafe recieved their "We Appreciate Your Investment in our Community" banner in October 2015.



Courtesy photos

Border States Electric (above) and Howard County Abstract (below, left) recieved their "We Appreciate Your Investment in our Community" banner in October 2015.



CONTINUED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Chamber Facebook

The Chamber supports area schools and teachers such as Coahoma ISD.



HERALD photos

Pops in the Park is a free annual event that the Chamber heavily supports.



HERALD photos

Nancy Davenport helps Paint the Town Blue, supporting local police officers, this past September.

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FORMER CHAMBER PRESIDENTS

- 1919 John E. Mundell
- 1923 W.W. Rox
- 1924 M.H. Morrison
- 1925 R.L. Price
- 1926 B. Reagan
- 1927 S.R. Weaver
- 1928 Shine Philips
- 1929 Edwin A. Kelly
- 1930 Dr. E.O. Ellington
- 1931 Joe Edwards
- 1932 T.W. Ashley
- 1933 Wendell Bedichek
- 1934 D.W. Webber
- 1935 George White
- 1936 G.C. Dunham
- 1937 R.F. Schermerhorn
- 1938 Dr. P.W. Malone
- 1939 Calvin Boykin
- 1940 Ted O. Grobel
- 1941 R.W. Whipkey
- 1942 B.L. LeFever
- 1943 Willard Sullivan
- 1944 A.S. Darby
- 1945 R.T. Piner
- 1946 Joe Pickle
- 1947 K.H. McGibbon
- 1948 Elmo Wasson
- 1949 Douglas Orme
- 1950 Adolf Swartz
- 1951 Dr. M.H. Bennett
- 1952 Truman Jones
- 1953 Dr. R.B.G. Cowper



HERALD Photo

Former Chamber president Bruce Schooler hands the gavel and the presidency over to former president Amy Jacobs in 2015.

- 1954 Champ Rainwater
- 1955 Marvin Miller
- 1956 Ira L. Thurman
- 1957 Jimmie Beale
- 1958 Dr. J.E. Hogan
- 1959 Clyde McMahon Sr.
- 1960 Cliff Fisher
- 1961 Horace Garrett
- 1962 Roy B. Reeder
- 1963 Dr. Carl Marcum
- 1964 John L. Taylor
- 1965 Ike Robb
- 1966 John A. Currie
- 1967 Dr. Lee Rogers
- 1968 Dr. M.W. Talbort Jr.
- 1969 M.R. Koger

- 1970 Paul Meek
- 1971 Paul Meek
- 1972 R.H. Weaver
- 1973 George McAlister
- 1974 Ralph McLaughlin
- 1975 Ken Perry
- 1976 J.D. Nelson
- 1977 Roger D. Brown
- 1978 Ray Don Williams
- 1979 Johnnie Lou Avery
- 1980 Jimmy Taylor
- 1981 Winston Wrinkle
- 1982 Sidney T. Clark
- 1983 Bill E. Read
- 1984 Paul L. Shaffer
- 1985 Granville Hahn

- 1986 John Arrick
- 1987 Troy Fraser
- 1988 Clyde McMahon Jr.
- 1989 Hooper Sanders
- 1990 Don Reynolds
- 1991 Steve Fraser
- 1992 James Welch
- 1993 Ben Bancroft
- 1994 Jeff Morris
- 1995 Jim Weaver
- 1996 Frances Wheat
- 1997 Curt Millins
- 1998 Ray Kennedy
- 1999 Chuck Williams
- 2000 Jim Purcell
- 2001 John Freeman
- 2002 Cheryl Sparks
- 2003 Terry McDaniel
- 2004 John Weeks
- 2005 Joe Conciencie
- 2006 Virginia Belew
- 2007 Lee George
- 2008 Lynda Elrod
- 2009 Steve Herren
- 2010 David Justice
- 2011 Terri Johansen
- 2012 Jan Foresyth
- 2013 Jim Clements
- 2014 Bruce Schooler
- 2015 Amy Jacobs
- 2016 Adrian Calvio

HISTORY OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The concept of various businesses joining together in a mutual effort to increase commerce had its beginnings in Europe hundreds of years ago. Primarily as a defensive tactic, traders banded together for protection against common enemies and to establish policies to govern trade. This was eventually extended as a means to exert influence on governments and legislation.

The first organization of businesses was evidently in Marseilles, France, where the first use of the term, "Chamber of Commerce" has been documented. This fledgling group was established by the city council in 1599 — more than four centuries ago. The idea caught on and spread to Germany and eventually throughout Europe.

The concept comes to America

The modern Chamber of Commerce is more of an American development. The New York State Chamber is the oldest Chamber of Commerce in America, formed in 1768 and chartered by King George III in 1770. That makes it older than the Declaration of Independence, so Chambers of Commerce are not a new development.

Local chambers

The first local chamber was founded in Charleston, S.C., in 1773. This was followed by New Haven, Conn., and then to Philadelphia, Pa., in 1800. The trend spread rapidly across the country soon after. By 1870 there were 40 local Chambers of Commerce in the United States. Today there are more than 5,000 Chambers of com-



HERALD photos

2015 Woman of the Year Christy Brorman receives her plaque at the Chamber's annual banquet.

merce. The primary function of protecting commerce remains the same, but it is interesting to follow the changes and adaptations of the Chamber functions through the years as chambers have adjusted to the changing needs of society.

Today the role of Chambers of Commerce has expanded to address socioeconomic concerns and social needs, going far beyond its original intent several centuries ago.

The prosperity of individ-



HERALD photos

2015 Man of the Year Tommy Corwin was crowned at the Chamber's 2015 banquet on Jan. 27.

ual businesses depends on the development of the community. The success of individual businesses serves to increase the prosperity of the community and the resulting prosperity bounces back to the benefit of the lo-

cal business owner. It's a win-win deal.

National chamber

President William Howard Taft sent a letter to Congress in 1911 addressing the need for a "central organization" in order to "keep purely American interests in a closer touch with different phases of commercial affairs." A few months later the U. S. Chamber was born.

Your chamber

Historically and to this day the Chamber of Commerce remains the most trusted source of information on local businesses and services and the most dependable ally in commerce. There is no better partner for success than your local Chamber of Commerce.

By Ralph Higgins, a writer for the Green Business Chamber and contributor to ChamberMe.

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TEAMWORK, PROGRESS AND COMMUNITY

As I start my 25th year with the Chamber, I want to thank all the members, volunteers, and community leaders who I have had the privilege of working with side by side at community events, on projects or those who have been invested with the Chamber. You are one of kind and I thank you for the knowledge you have bestowed on me. Your investment in the community and involvement shows that you not only want to see progress but you want Howard County to shine! There have been lots of changes and I am so glad I have seen and played a part of what I feel has been nothing but good for Howard County.

So much progress has gone on and continues to go on as we see small businesses opening up around town. In Spring Town Plaza, downtown Big Spring, the College Park Shopping Center on Gregg Street. These are just a handful of many locations. Industry is going on everywhere in Howard County with rail projects, wind farms, and the



reliever route just to name a few. We as a community need to support these businesses and remember that those tax dollars from sales stay right here in Big Spring, Coahoma, and Forsan.

Working together is what it takes to make this the community what we want it to become. It takes community pride. Volunteerism is strong in our community we enjoy helping others help others. Whether that be at the Comanche Warrior Triathlon, Relay for Life, United Way, Pops in the Park or at the HEB Feast of Sharing, we turn out in great numbers, that is com-

munity pride.

The Chamber always focuses on its members. We try to come up with new, fun incentives and more ways to promote our members' businesses. We continue to ask you to take action and get involved with your Chamber of Commerce as well as other organizations in your community. Our goal every year is to acquire more members, to help retain members, and to promote Big Spring and Howard County as a whole. Thank you to all 370 Chamber members who contributed their time and money toward all of our projects in 2015. These projects include the annual banquet, health fair, job fair, golf tournament, Ag Appreciation Luncheon, Leadership Big Spring, ribbon cuttings, open houses, Member to Member mailers, Thank You for Your Investment presentations, email blasts and more. Because of you, we did it.

A very special thank you goes to outgoing president, Amy Jacobs, for all the support she gave the Chamber staff. As superintendent for

Coahoma ISD, she has a busy schedule, but she was always there when we needed her! Thank you to my outgoing board members, Raul Benavides and Denise Wagner. Your support and commitment meant a lot. To the board of directors who have agreed to continue to serve and support the Chamber, I thank you. To our incoming directors – Emma Krabill of Scenic Mountain Medical Center; Manny Negron of American Cancer Society, Michael Richardson of Parks Insurance Agency, Jeff Ward of State National Bank and Charlie Crisp of Crispy's Café who is filling a one year term, thank you for agreeing to come on board. It will be a learning but fun experience! I look forward to working with incoming president Adrian Calvio and the entire board of directors in 2016. Adrian has lots of great ideas and energy – "Let's Do Something" - Let's make things happen in Howard County!

I cannot say enough about my executive assistant, Nancy Davenport. We have been together for 10 years.

She is my right and left hand -Thank you Nancy! To the entire staff of the 215 W. 3rd building – Terry, Teresa, Odis and Sandy – we make a great team. We work hand in hand to make our community a better community.

To my number one supporters, my entire family, and numerous friends for always being there for me, God has blessed me well. To my husband Larry, he knows I have a passion for this job and my community – I thank you for your continued support!

As I always say – "It's not what your Chamber can do for you; it is what you, your business, and your involvement with the Chamber can do together to better your business and our community."

It takes community pride. Let's do something! Let's make things happen!

**DEBBYE VALVERDE,
IOM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BIG SPRING AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**



Debbie ValVerde (left) and Nancy Davenport pose with Salvation Army Capt. Jeremiah Romack during the Chamber's annual toy drive. Toys collected in 2015 went to assist CASA, the Cossacks Motorcycle Permian Basin Chapter, and The Salvation Army.



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Past President



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2016-2018



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Larry
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Banquet's guest speaker: 'Daytripper' Chet Garner



Comanche native, award-winning PBS show host to entertain with travel tales from across the Lone Star State

Chet Garner of the "Daytripper" will bring laughs and smiles to this year's Big Spring Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet.

Garner was born in Comanche, Texas and raised in Port Neches, Texas.

"Chet's love for story telling started at a young age around the campfire in Boy Scouts," said Debbye ValVerde, Executive Director of the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce. "and toting around his grandfather's VHS video camera staging elaborate productions in his backyard."

Garner earned a degree in radio-television-film from the University of Texas at Austin. He then graduated first in his class from Baylor Law School.

After three years practicing law, he followed his passion by becoming the host, executive producer and writer of the "the Daytripper," a six-time Emmy award-winning show on PBS. The

show is a travel show that focuses on the beauty, history and food of the Lone Star State.

"My favorite part of the job is discovering the unexpected," said Garner. "It may be down a dirt road or hidden in plain sight in the middle of a big city. But I love stumbling upon something I was completely unaware of. It still happens, and I think it will happen for the rest of my life in Texas."

While Garner travels all over Texas to share his new discoveries and knowledge of all things Texas, he and his wife have made their home in Georgetown, Texas with their four children. Having never visited Big Spring, Garner said he is looking forward to the experience.

"I've never been to Big Spring, but some of our best friends grew up there," said Garner. "I feel like I've heard about Big Spring for many years so this has been a much anticipated trip."

"I first met Chet and had the pleasure of hearing him speak in Canyon at the Texas Plains Trail Round-Up. Chet is funny, witty and you will leave with a smile and appreciation for Texas," said ValVerde.

Despite a crash course in travel, filmmaking and marketing, Garner has done whatever it takes to create a successful television show.

"Chet is very entertaining and likes participation from the audience," said ValVerde.

The Big Spring Chamber of Commerce Banquet is Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Dorothy Garrett Colosseum at Howard College.

"The Daytripper" is a reflection of me. I love food. I love being outdoors. I love history. And I'm a bit nutty," said Garner. "Without God's blessings, there's simply no way I would have a show like this. I try to appreciate that every day."



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The Chamber of Commerce holds a yearly banquet to celebrate members and the accomplishments of that year. This year's theme, "It's A Trip!" will be held on Feb. 16 with special guest speaker Chet Garner of the PBS television show "Daytripper".



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