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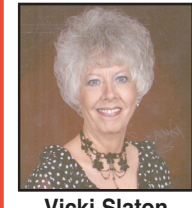
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Tour of Homes is Sunday

See Page 1C



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VOLUME 105, NUMBER 6

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Swine flu shots ready at Leonard's

Swine flu shots will be available at Leonard's Pharmacy, 701 Scurry, beginning at 9 a.m. Monday.

The shots will be available on a protocol basis from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays until supplies are exhausted.

For more information about the protocol and cost, contact the pharmacy at 263-7344.

FCU group says purchase gifts for others

Employees of the Big Spring Educational Employees Federal Credit Union elected again not to purchase gifts for each other this year, but to select Angel Tree cards and support the Salvation Army Angel Tree Project.

The project provides gifts for low-income children and senior citizens at Christmas.

"We want to strive to help others," an employee spokesperson said. "We encourage other businesses and groups in Howard County to consider doing the same or something similar."

It's the second year the FCU employees have decided to purchase gifts for children instead of each other.

Angel Trees are located at the Big Spring Herald (senior tree), Wal-Mart Supercenter, Bealls department store (located in the Big Spring Mall), Scenic Mountain Medical Center, the Heritage Museum and the Howard County Library.

For more information on the Angel Tree program, call 267-8239 or stop by the Salvation Army office, located at 811 W Fifth St.

Spring Tabernacle volunteers come from afar to help children

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

As the volunteers and church staff buzzed about the halls of Spring Tabernacle Church Friday afternoon for the ministry's annual Christmas gift giveaway, Wayne

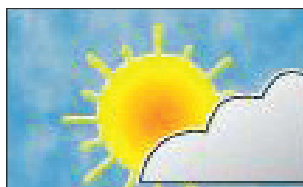
Peters and his wife, Lois, appear to be another pair of volunteers giving their time to the effort.

What isn't apparent, however, is how far the pair travelled to be a part of the church's helping hand for the holiday season.

The Peters — along with another couple, Terry and Ingrid Miller — made the lengthy journey all the way from Canada to be part of the annual giveaway, which provides toys and other Christmas gifts to local families who might not otherwise be

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 13, 2009





HERALD Photos/Thomas Jenkins

Above, Edna Rawls, a volunteer with Spring Tabernacle Church, hands a Christmas present to Irma Torres during the local ministry's annual giveaway Friday. At right, Wayne Peters, center, shares a laugh with local residents Billy and Sally Cleveland. Peters travelled to Big Spring from Canada to help with the event.



able to afford presents for their children.

"I've been here for the Christmas giveaway three years now. Billy and Sally Cleveland keep me coming back each year," said Peters with a smile and quick wink toward the Cleverlands. "The people here really are beautiful. They have a great spirit and the love for the people is what keeps me coming back each year."

The Peters hail from Winkler, Manitoba in Canada, located just above North Dakota, and according to Wayne, it's the spirit and fellowship of the annual effort that keep them coming back year after year.

"My favorite part of this is having the chance to work together with all of these great people," said Peters, motioning toward the swarm of volunteers moving in and out of rooms with Christmas gifts of every shape and size. "Just watching the faith portion of what we're doing here today is amazing. Almost everything you see here was donated, and to watch the flow of material going in and coming out is really God's provision in a very physical way, and I love to see that."

This year's trip marks the first time Peters, who is a contractor in his home town, has flown to the Lone Star State, and while air travel is certainly quicker, he said there's still a love for the road among he and his wife.

"I've driven it a couple of times, but this year I flew into Dallas," said Peters. "My wife and myself enjoy the drive, but it can become something

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12 SHOPPING DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS



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Symphony on the move for Christmas

By BILL McCLELLAN
News Editor

The Big Spring Symphony is moving on — this time to Trinity Baptist Church — as it continues its concert series with "A Symphonic Christmas" scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 19. It's a show that music director and conductor Dr. Keith Graumann believes will embrace the spirit of the holidays.

"We have planned a concert of wonderful seasonal and Christmas music," said Graumann. "Offered late in the Christmas season, we hope it will be the highlight of the holidays for many of our listeners."

Certainly it is likely to capture the fancy of many — Graumann has again lined up the Coahoma Choir Kids, soprano Joyce Bradley — among others— and arrange-



The Coahoma Choir Kids will be performing with the Big Spring Symphony again this year for a Dec. 19 concert.

ments by Mannheim Steamroller. The evening will open with works based on familiar carols, including "Carol of the Bells,"

"Silver Bells" and "Carol of the Drum," also known as "The Little



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Steers advance to Sandhills championship

Herald Staff Report

MONAHANS — The Big Spring Steers are in the Sandhills Tournament Championship after defeating Andrews 60-47 Friday night.

The Steers jumped out to a 15-0 lead at the outset as its press frustrated the Mustangs.

“We got some pretty good looks,” head coach Marcus Morris said of the early run. “We were moving around, getting in the passing lanes and getting steals off the press.”

After the early run, however, the

Steers let Andrews come back to tie the game at 43 in the third quarter.

“We relaxed a little bit, and let them back into the game,” Morris said.

Down the stretch, the Steers defense picked up and held Andrews to just four points from that point. They didn’t allow a basket over the last four minutes of the game.

“We’ve just got to learn to put together four quarters,” Morris said.

Jerrell Williams and Tyler Tannehill each dropped 16 points for the Steers. Matt Ritchey was also in double figures for Big Spring.

“They’re three different styles of

players, but each has talent, and they’re going to compete,” Morris said.

The Steers face Monahans Saturday in the tournament championship.

“It’s always exciting in the championship game,” Morris said. “If you want to be a championship team, you have to play in championship games, and it starts with the Christmas tournaments.”

Tipoff is 5:30 p.m. in Monahans. Check Monday’s Herald for results.

El Paso Bowie 50, Lady Steers 41

MONAHANS — The Lady Steers came close to forcing an all-Big Spring

tournament championship Friday, but they could not get past El Paso Bowie 50-41.

Big Spring stayed in the game the whole way, though they trailed for most of the contest. Bowie pulled away late for the nine-point win.

“We got behind there at the end, they spread the floor and we couldn’t catch them,” head coach Mike Warren said. “It was like chasing mice or something.”

The Lady Steers’ offense was frustrated from the beginning, and the

See **BSHS**, Page 2B



HERALD PHOTO/ Joe Zigtema

Coahoma’s Josh Paniagua dribbles in the fourth quarter Friday in Stanton. The Bulldogs used a 17-3 fourth quarter run to beat Crance 54-45. They advance to the third-place game in Stanton today.

Late charge lifts Coahoma to win

By JOE ZIGTEMA

Sports Editor

STANTON — The Coahoma Bulldogs are earning a comeback artist reputation.

Coahoma pulled out another win late over Crane in the Stanton Hoopstown Tournament Friday, using a 17-3 run in the fourth quarter en route to a 54-45 win.

Martin Leija drilled three 3-pointers during that stretch as Coahoma came back from down four in the final period. Leija finished with 21 points.

“We didn’t come out as fast as we could at first,” senior Josh Paniagua said. “But in the fourth quarter we finally got our energy and started clicking. We woke up, and (Leija) got hot with the three-pointers.”

The team has made a habit of

coming from behind in the second half, notching comeback wins against Sweetwater twice and nearly pulling one off against Miles last week.

“We found a way (Friday), but we’ve got to figure out a way to get started and play a four-quarter game,” head coach Kim Nichols said. “We’re playing hard, but we’re not executing. But we’re coming back when we need to.”

One reason Coahoma has been able to pull off the comebacks this season is its defense, Nichols said.

“Our defense is about where it needs to be,” he said. “But we’ve got to get more consistent on offense.”

The Bulldogs beat Crane in the consolation bracket after falling to Ira earlier in the day 70-46. Coahoma’s offense was shaky in

the early morning game, managing just 15 points. Leija scored 21 points in that game as well.

“He can get hot, but the people who are watching us play are fixing to take him away from us,” Nichols said. “We’ve got to have somebody else step up.”

That person may be Paniagua, who is showing signs of life on the scoreboard after a slow start scoring-wise.

“We’re just trying to fix it so we can play the whole game instead of waking up in the fourth quarter,” he said. “But we’ll fix it and we’ll get better from here.”

Bulldogettes advance to championship game

STANTON — The Coahoma Bulldogettes are vying for their second tournament championship in as many weeks today as

See **TOURNEY**, Page 2B

Forsan wraps up Borden Co. tourney

Herald Staff Report

GAIL — The Forsan Lady Buffs got the rematch they were looking for with Borden County on Friday in the school’s tournament championship.

They seemed well on their way to getting their revenge, too, when Forsan went up on the Lady Coyotes 12-3 in the first quarter.

However, the Lady Buffs scored just seven points in the second and third quarters, and the Lady Coyotes came back to beat Forsan 37-30 and capture the Gail tournament championship.

The Lady Buffs beat Crosbyton earlier in the day in the semifinal game. Kelsey Jones had 14 points and Megan Forshee added 10 to down the Lady Chiefs 48-31.

Forsan scored 31 second-half points in the contest.

Forsan will play Tuesday City on the road Tuesday. Tipoff is 6:30 p.m.

Bufs take third

GAIL — The Forsan Buffaloes went 2-1 in the Borden County Tournament, finishing third with a 40-31 win over the Seminole JV on Friday.

The Buffaloes fell to Lubbock Christian 51-25 earlier in the day. The Eagles beat Anson 79-57 to win the tournament championship.

“They’re pretty good,” Buffaloes coach Brad Batla said of Lubbock Christian. “I was pleased with the way we handled their pressure, which was killing the other teams in the tournament.”

Batla said he was pleased with the way the Buffaloes shrugged off the loss to beat Seminole’s junior varsity.

“We played pretty good,” he said. “We didn’t turn the ball over as much and we executed our offense a little better.”

Evan Burton led the way with 17 points for the Buffaloes. He scored in double figures in every game of the tournament.

Batla praised the play of point guard Patrick Robles in the tournament.

“He didn’t score much, but he was good as far as getting us in the offense and controlling things out on the court,” Batla said.

The team will play Rankin at home on Friday.

“It’s going well,” Batla said of his team’s season so far. “They kind of expected us to have some woes here and there as far as learning things, but with those young guys stepping out on the court against some good teams, they’re seeing what it’s like and they’re learning.”

Chargers, Eagles love December; Cowboys, Raiders are haters

Associated Press

The holiday season has been nothing but festive for the San Diego Chargers in recent years. Same thing, pretty much, for the Philadelphia Eagles. New England, as you might expect, has the decade’s best record in December and January regular-season games.

Dallas and Oakland wouldn’t mind skipping the 12th month altogether. And they’ve done a whole lot better than the Lions (10 wins) and Browns (12) as the year winds down.

Will the past be prologue for NFL teams down the stretch this season?

San Diego certainly hopes so. The

Chargers’ results have been as pleasant as the weather at home — they haven’t lost a December game since 2005.

That’s 15 straight victories and counting, a little surprising considering the Chargers haven’t gotten to the Super Bowl in that span. And considering how coach Norv Turner often is maligned, even though he’s 28-16 in San Diego, with two AFC West titles.

“The thing I like best about us is that we’re addressing what we have to do on a week-to-week basis,” Turner says. “And if you want to be a team that has a chance to have success in December and January, you have to be ready to play whatever type of

game presents itself.”

Philly is 31-15 in December and January non-playoff contests since 1999, part of the reason coach Andy Reid received a contract extension through 2013 this week.

“It’s that time of the year, that last quarter,” Reid says. “If you’re still in the hunt, things get a little faster, guys play a little faster and so on. That’s the nature of the game. That’s where we’re at. It’s important that we keep practicing the way we’ve been practicing and preparing the way we’ve been preparing. The guys have been very focused the last few

See **NFL**, Page 2B



AP Photo/Chris Park

LaDainian Tomlinson has been resurgent in recent weeks as he returns to the Lone Star State.

Sports in brief

Friday tournament scores

See 2B for box scores

Sandhills Tournament, Monahans

Big Spring boys 60, Andrews 47
Big Spring girls 40, El Paso Bowie 51
Borden County Tournament
Forsan girls 30, Borden County 37
Forsan boys 40, Seminole JV 31
Stanton Hoopstown Classic

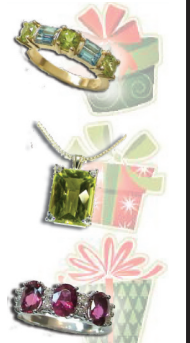
Coahoma boys 54, Crane 45
Coahoma girls 60, Grape Creek 49
Stanton girls 58, Denver City 53
Stanton boys 46, Grady 52, OT



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Tour of Homes '09

The Annual Tour of Homes hosted by the Symphony Guild and benefiting the Big Spring Symphony will be Sunday from 2-4:30 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased for \$10 and will be available at the door of each home.

The \$10 ticket purchases admission to the four homes and one office location on the tour this year. After the tour a reception will be held at First Presbyterian Church in the parlor, along with a free concert in the sanctuary.

Photos and
text by
Lane Bond



**Joan Beil,
502 Highland**

From Christmas trees, the family heirloom piano (made in 1870), to the wreaths, the eight-foot dining table set for Christmas dinner, to the candy-stripe decor in a room full of antiques, everything flows in perfect harmony. Randi Froman of the Alley Cat helped Joan decorate this perfectly traditional home.



**Ricki and Leah Hughes
1800 Brent Drive**

The house has a unique open floor plan, a marvelous fireplace and a large yard (40 acres all told) with exotic animals. Leah has wonderful flower arrangements inside and flowers in the yard. Several large rooms, beautifully furnished, await you here.

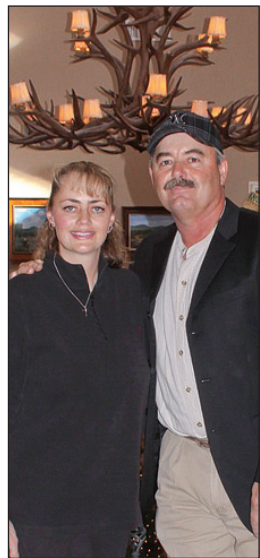


**Vince and Shawn Hatfield
Office of Sharp Image
Energy
3215 S. Hwy. 87**

You can now finally find out which of the rumors are true about that strange building on the hill just south of town.

The hexagonal house with the peaked roof has had people buzzing for months. It is not an exotic animal cage, nor a hotel, nor yet a home. It is the new office of Sharp Image Energy (primarily an oil company). The business has operated locally for 23 years. Two floors of offices and related rooms surround a

large atrium that is open from floor to pointed roof. Wrought-iron railings protect the second-floor walkway and stairs within the atrium. Mostly Native American paintings by celebrated Western artist Howard Terpning decorate the atrium. The chandelier of antlers would make the trip worth it.



**Eddie Vandewalker
1308 Virginia**

Don't be fooled by the size. This house is one of those good things that come in small packages. You just go from room to room along the north side, into a room on the south side, back to the front and turn back to the living room where you entered. Eddie has five organs, all having their own stories and all "rescued" from being destroyed or sold. The Guild crew said of it: eclectically funny, unique, a Christmas musical treat, many nativity scenes, each room separately color-coordinated and "It reflects Eddie's personality."



**Burt and Kathy Sheppard
1409 N. FM 700**

The property has the Sheppards' B-K Self Storage as well as their home, just up the hill after you enter the driveway. Guild members on an early preview used words like "Western cowboy comfort" and "rustic" to describe it. With open, tall ceilings with clerestory lighting, you feel like staying forever in this two-story home. Everything is designed for West Texas living, and it feels good.



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Obituaries

Thomas G. (Tommy) Harvell



BRONTE – Music Hall of Fame member Tommy Harvell succumbs to cancer

Thomas G. (Tommy) Harvell 82, of Oak Creek Lake died Dec.8, 2009. He was born in Jones County and grew up in the Big Spring area. Mr. Harvell was preceded in death by his parents, N.R. Harvell Sr. and Birdie (Bert) Dickerson Harvell, and one brother,

N.R. Harvell Jr., all of Big Spring.

Mr. Harvell is survived by Elsie Harvell, his wife of more than 61 years; two sons, Edward and wife Sharon of Canyon and David of Carlsbad; four grandchildren, Jeff, Jon, Kristin and Stephen Harvell; seven great-grandchildren; and a sister-in-law, Deina Harvell.

In 1984, Mr. Harvell retired after 40 years of service to the Cosden Oil Refinery in Big Spring.

His love for family was matched only by his passion for making others happy with his music. His interest in music began when he learned to play the guitar at age 10. By age 20 he was playing steel guitar, bass guitar, banjo and drums. His love of music and people continued until he played his last performance Nov. 2 in Sweetwater.

In July 2009, Tommy Harvell was inducted into the Western Swing Music Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City.

Having never met a stranger, Tommy's friendships were worldwide. On any given weekend one could find Tommy "pickin' and grinnin' with some of the best.

A celebration of his life is planned for this spring. Arrangements are by Shaffer Funeral Home.

Paid obituary

Josephine Myrick Daniels



Josephine Myrick Daniels, 93, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009, at her residence. The family will receive friends from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 1:30 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Josephine was born Aug. 23, 1916, in Big Spring to Minnie and Tom William Hasey. She was a lifetime resident of Howard County. She married Joe C. Myrick on March 2, 1934. He preceded her in death Jan. 5, 1974. She later married Mike L. Daniels on March 28, 1992, and he preceded her in death March 27, 1997.

She worked as a dietician for Sands and Grady schools. She was an active Pink Lady Volunteer at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for 20 years and had served as past president. She was also a member of RSVP and South Canterbury Auxiliary and had served as past presidents also. She was a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

She is survived by one son: C.J. Myrick and his wife Juanita of Breckenridge and one daughter: Jean Myrick Bassett and her husband Robert of Big Spring; four grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husbands, she was preceded in death by three sisters: Pearl Grissom, Lynell Ringener and Lavern Long; and two brothers: Henry Hasey and John L. Hasey.

The family suggests memorials to Trinity Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1448, Big Spring 79720.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

Take Note

• T&P Federal Credit Union has set up an account for Arthur Hernandez Jr. for medical expenses. Arthur has had numerous medical problems the past couple of years. He has had several surgeries on his stomach, the last one a few weeks ago. After the surgery he developed a staph infection. He is still in the hospital. The out-of-pocket expenses, the travel and expenses for his wife and many other numerous expenses are mounting up. Please help and make a much-needed donation.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- JONATHON GUTIERREZ, 18, 1501 Cardinal, was arrested on a local warrant.
- JOHN FLORES JR., 45, 1517 Sycamore, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication and a parole violation warrant.
- ADRIAN PEREZ, 29, 1305 Lexington, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana in a drug free zone.
- RODOLFO MATA III, 32, 1107 Mulberry, was arrested on a charge of assault.
- RAY JOHN MANUEL ZAPATA, 29, 1612 Settles, was arrested on a charge of assault/family violence.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1300 block of Gregg.
- ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE CAUSING BODILY INJURY was reported in the 1600 block of Settles.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1800 block of FM 700.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.
- DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED was reported in the 400 block of Birdwell.
- EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION was reported on Courtney Place.
- INTERFERENCE WITH THE DUTIES OF A PUBLIC SERVANT was reported in the 400 block of Fourth.
- THEFT was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson.
- UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 700 block of Creighton.

Lottery

Here are the winning numbers selected Friday in the Mega Millions lottery: 02-21-27-34-44, Mega Ball: 45.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 14-17-21-25-30.
Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$24,954
Winning ticket purchased in: Corpus Christi.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-5-2-3. Sum It Up: 15.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-3-1. Sum It Up: 5.

Support Groups

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY

• Grief share, sponsored by Home Hospice and the First Presbyterian Church, Seventh and Runnels (north end door), meets at 6 p.m.

Today's Weather

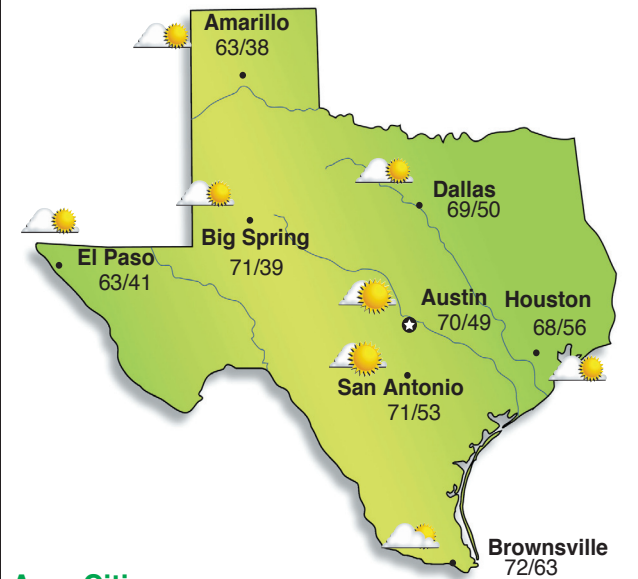
Local 3-Day Forecast

Sun 12/13	Mon 12/14	Tue 12/15
71/39 Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 71F. Winds SW at 10 to 20 mph.	69/32 Times of sun and clouds. High in the upper 60s and lows in the low 30s.	53/26 Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the mid 20s.
Sunrise: 7:38 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:39 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:40 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM

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Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	71	47	mst sunny	Kingsville	71	60	pt sunny
Amarillo	63	38	pt sunny	Livingston	68	51	pt sunny
Austin	70	49	mst sunny	Longview	67	52	mst sunny
Beaumont	67	56	pt sunny	Lubbock	69	36	pt sunny
Brownsville	72	63	cloudy	Lufkin	68	52	pt sunny
Brownwood	73	49	mst sunny	Midland	72	42	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	69	59	pt sunny	Raymondville	72	62	cloudy
Corsicana	68	50	mst sunny	Rosenberg	69	56	pt sunny
Dallas	69	50	pt sunny	San Antonio	71	53	mst sunny
Del Rio	70	52	pt sunny	San Marcos	70	50	mst sunny
El Paso	63	41	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	66	51	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	73	44	mst sunny	Sweetwater	72	45	mst sunny
Gainesville	67	48	pt sunny	Tyler	66	51	mst sunny
Greenville	65	48	pt sunny	Weatherford	70	47	pt sunny
Houston	68	56	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	70	46	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	49	40	rain	Minneapolis	18	11	cloudy
Boston	43	36	rain	New York	47	38	rain
Chicago	35	30	drizzle	Phoenix	57	43	rain
Dallas	69	50	pt sunny	San Francisco	54	41	rain
Denver	46	24	pt sunny	Seattle	38	33	mixed
Houston	68	56	pt sunny	St. Louis	40	36	cloudy
Los Angeles	61	45	rain	Washington, DC	47	38	rain
Miami	84	72	pt sunny				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Sun 12/13	Mon 12/14	Tue 12/15
3	3	3
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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

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Big Spring Symphony Association, Inc.

Keith Graumann,
Music Director and Conductor

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“A Symphonic Christmas”

Saturday, December 19th, 2009, 8:00 PM

Trinity Baptist Church
at the new and beautiful Sanctuary
E. FM 700 & Birdwell
with the Coahoma Choir Kids
and Sandra Wallace, Director

Bring your whole family and make this concert the highlight of your holiday season

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KBST Radio Big Spring Chamber of Commerce Big Spring Herald
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Nebraska's Suh blew up Texas and the Heisman race

NEW YORK (AP) — With one brilliant display of brute force, Ndamukong Suh altered the Heisman Trophy race like no other player this season.

In fact, it's doubtful that any one performance by one player has ever done more to determine who wins college football's most prestigious award.

The Nebraska defensive tackle in one night went from Heisman dark horse to fast-finishing finalist and might have shaken the big bronze statue loose from Colt McCoy's grasp as he was tossing the Texas quarterback around Cowboys Stadium.

"I didn't have any idea what my (Heisman) chances were (going into the game)," Suh said Friday, not long after checking into a midtown Manhattan hotel with his parents and sister. "My focus was to go out there and play as hard as I can to win that Big 12 championship and go to the Fiesta Bowl."

Suh might not win the Heisman when it is handed out Saturday night, but the guy who does should probably thank him.

McCoy, despite the pounding he took from Suh and the Cornuskers in a 13-12 victory in the Big 12 title game, is also a Heisman finalist, along with running backs Toby Gerhart from Stanford and Mark Ingram from Alabama, and Florida quarterback Tim Tebow.

Ingram seems to be the front-runner in what is expected to be a close vote. McCoy, the runner-up last year, was the favorite before he followed up a spectacular



Ndamukong Suh has dramatically altered the Heisman race over the last few weeks.

game on Thanksgiving night against Texas A&M with a clunker against Nebraska. Now there's no guarantee he'll finish in the top three,

Suh, meanwhile, probably has a better chance at becoming the first defensive lineman, and just the second defensive player, to win the Heisman than Tebow has to become the second player to win No. 2.

"I'm a competitor so I'd like to win, but I don't think I will," said Tebow, who was the first sophomore to win the award in 2007 and finished third in 2008.

Along with the Notre Dame coaching search and the usual BCS bashing, Suh's thoroughly dominant performance vs. the Longhorns — 4½ sacks, 12 tackles and more time in the Texas backfield than just about anybody but McCoy — has been the talk of college football.

Tebow called him a "dominant player."

"Four and a half sacks is pretty ridiculous for a nose guard in the two-gap defense," Tebow said.

Ingram called Suh "a man," "a game-changer"

and "a force to be reckoned with."

Gerhart said, "I can't pronounce his name so I just call him the beast from Nebraska."

Even with all the attention Suh has gotten, being named a finalist on Monday caught him off guard.

"I was definitely surprised," the 300-pound senior said. "I would have assumed a lot of the votes were in already. I had some media people who had votes down at the Nagurski (Award presentation) and said they voted for me and said a lot of people waited until after the Big 12 game and SEC game and the other games that were played on Saturday to make their votes."

The only defensive player to win the Heisman was Michigan cornerback Charles Woodson, but he also returned kicks and played some receiver.

Suh is the first lineman to be a finalist since Ohio State offensive tackle Orlando Pace in 1996. He's the first defensive lineman since Miami's Warren Sapp in 1994.

Sapp finished sixth

that season. In 1991, Washington's Steve Emtman finished fourth in the Heisman voting.

"It's definitely a rare thing and I'm definitely proud to be in a position to represent the defensive line and offensive line as well," Suh said. "I'm definitely glad to be here to represent them and if I were to win that would be a great honor to represent those guys."

Ingram, who ran for 1,542 yards and scored

18 touchdowns, would be the first Alabama player to win the award.

"All the All-Americans, all the SEC championships, all the national championships, all the bowl victories, all the great coaches, great players that have come through here, it's kind of crazy to me that nobody has even won the Heisman Trophy, not one person," Ingram said.

Tebow, who has a vote as a former win-

ner, declined to say who received his vote, but said he thinks Ingram is the favorite.

So did Gerhart, who has more yards rushing (1,736) and touchdowns (26) than any other player in the country.

Suh also said the tailbacks look like the favorites.

He doesn't have a vote, but when it comes to this Heisman race, Suh might have been the deciding factor.

NFL

Continued from 1B

weeks."

It seems somewhat odd that the Chargers, Eagles and Patriots, who are 36-11 in December and January since '99, are so efficient down the stretch because they have been offense-minded teams for quite a while. Yes, all three have representative defenses, but they've managed to pile up points in the cold.

"You kind of just deal with it when it happens," Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb says of the wind and snow and chill that Philadelphia, Washington and New York regularly provide this time of year in the NFC East. "There is no trick or anything to it. It's something that you have to battle through when you are involved in it."

There even are some players in bad weather locales who flourish in December. Bills wide receiver Lee Evans has 88 catches for 1,436 yards and 17 touchdowns in 23 games in December since breaking into the NFL as a first-round draft pick in 2004.

Overall for his career, Evans has 5,218 yards receiving and 37 TDs.

Not that he's helped the Bills prosper as the calendar closes in on the new year: the Bills are 10-13 in December with Evans on the roster.

Among the more baffling marks for the month is Dallas going

17-30 for December and the rare January regular-season game. The Cowboys traditionally have been contenders under Bill Parcells and Wade Phillips, yet they tend to fold under late-season pressure.

And they try to ignore it.

"The first 11 games make a difference, too, to where you are," says Phillips, whose quarterback, Tony Romo, is 5-9 in December games, 0-2 in January (both playoff contests). "Those games are important, it's not just one month."

"People can come up with all kinds of stats. I think the Cardinals lost three out of four last year and went to the Super Bowl and almost won the Super Bowl. So you can come up with all kinds of stats, but it is how you finish your record that season, not only in December, only in November or only on Thursday nights. We can come up with all kind of baseball stats if we want to."

Perhaps. But the standings don't lie. As Parcells often reminds people, you are what your record says you are. And the Cowboys' numbers approaching the end of the year are ugly.

But not as ugly as what Denver and Tampa Bay posted in 2008. The Broncos dropped their final three games — with a three-game lead in the division, no less — and fell out of the playoffs. That helped Mike Shanahan lose his

coaching job after 14 seasons.

Worse was what happened to the Bucs. Their biggest spiral since the expansion days began with four consecutive defeats last December, dropping them from 9-3 and thinking about a playoff bye to out of contention.

They cleaned house, sending coach Jon Gruden to the TV booth and promoting Raheem Morris. Tampa Bay is 1-11 this year and, no, the win did not come last weekend.

The Bucs are 3-12 in December since going 3-1 in December and 1-0 in January to finish the 2005 season. So the history of bad Decembers has Morris trying to sell his team on the value of finishing strong to learn how to play at the most meaningful time.

"You have to find a way to play great football in December, not only this year but for the future," Morris says. "You have to put your stamp on what you are going to be going into the playoffs, making that run and doing what you have to do. No time better to start than now to work on December football when you are in December, with a team that pretty much doesn't have a shot at the playoffs. You better establish your identity right now of what you are going to be in December."

Unfortunately, some teams have established an identity they don't want to be identified with.

TOURNEY

Continued from 1B

they play Stanton Saturday in the Hooptown Classic finals.

The Bulldogettes held off a late charge from Grape Creek on Friday to earn a 60-49 victory in the game, setting up a rematch of the Coahoma Invitational Championship last week. Coahoma won that game 60-55 in overtime. Now they'll play Stanton on its home floor.

"They're playing well right now, and it will be tough to beat them over there," head coach Derek Faught said. "We're just going to have to take care of the ball and be ready to play."

Kylie Gee scored 21 points and K'Leigh Fowler added 18 to lead Coahoma over Grape

Creek. The Bulldogettes shot 21 of 25 from the free throw line, which helped distance Coahoma from Grape Creek in the waning moments of the game.

The Lady Eagles trimmed the lead to one in the fourth quarter, but Coahoma was able to get to the free throw line, and Fowler drilled two late threes to ice it. "In a game like that, you have to shoot that well from the free throw line to win," Faught said.

Fowler made four three-pointers in the game and got to the free throw line often.

"She's good about getting penetration," Faught said. "She's our quickest guard, and we have to go to her if we need to create something off the drive."

Gee was 13 of 14 from the free throw line as well, battling down low

against a much bigger Grape Creek team.

"Whenever we did get the ball into her she did a great job of getting fouls," Faught said. "She makes a quick move, goes up strong and usually draws contact."

Box Scores

Coahoma 54, Crane 45

Crane 12 4 6 13 -- 45

Coahoma 14 21 8 17 -- 54

Coahoma- Leija 21, Williams 6,

Hahn 6

Grape Creek- Cavazos 10,

Carrillo 8

Coahoma 60, Grape Creek

Grape Creek 13 13 10 13 -- 49

Coahoma 14 21 8 17 -- 60

Coahoma- Gee 21, Fowler 18,

Stone 9

Grape Creek- Rodriguez 13,

Burner 12, Walter 8

Stanton 46, Grady 52, OT

Stanton 10 11 11 12 2 -- 46

Grady 11 17 11 5 8 -- 52

Stanton- Fulton 12, Sidel 12

Grady- Cox 26, Rodriguez 9

Stanton 58, Denver City 53

Stanton 16 15 13 14 -- 58

Denver 18 13 7 15 -- 53

Stanton- Fleckenstein 20, Jones

15, Sanchez 11

sure.

"Our press bothered them a little bit, and we played pretty decent defense, but when you start off sluggish, it's tough," Warren said.

Diamond Mayes led the team with nine points. Bridgette Tuitt had eight for the Lady Steers.

"She's an important part," Warren said of Mayes' play. "She's a rebounder and a hustler down low, and she does a good job."

Big Spring played Lamesa in the consolation final game Saturday. Check Monday's Herald for results.

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► Anniversary

60th wedding anniversary

Fidel and Lupe Saldivar

Fidel and Lupe Saldivar of Big Spring celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a special intent mass this weekend at Holy Trinity Parish.

The mass was celebrated Sunday, Dec. 13, at Sacred Heart Church with their children, family members and friends in attendance. A family gathering and celebration is planned in the couple's home after the church service, honoring Mr. and Mrs. Saldivar.

They have six children, Adrian Saldivar of Big Spring, Fidel Saldivar of Midland, Berlinda Rivera of Monahans, Elvia Martinez of Amarillo, Adriel Salvidar of Austin and Nelda Franco of Ackerly. Mr. and Mrs. Saldivar have nine grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.

The Saldivars have been active members of what is now the Holy Trinity Parish since the 1960s. Both have served as officers of the Women's Altar Society and the St. Joseph's Men's Organization, respectively, and more recently as Eucharistic Ministers of the parish.

Mr. and Mrs. Saldivar were married Dec. 10, 1950, in Ackerly, where they met. They have resided



in Big Spring since their marriage and enjoy the warmth of friends and family and the people of West Texas.



50th wedding anniversary



Lanny and Tony Hamby

The family of Lanny and Tony Hamby of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, will celebrate the couple's 50th wedding anniversary by hosting a party Saturday, Dec. 19, in Big Spring.

The couple were married on Dec. 22, 1959, in Big Spring. He was a 1958 graduate of Big Spring High School and she graduated a year later.

The Hambys raised four children in Big Spring and are proud to boast seven grandchildren.

Lanny practiced law for 40 years in Big Spring, while Toni was a homemaker.

After retirement, they followed their passion into full time Christian missionary work. They still maintain a residence in Big Spring and spend several weeks back at home each year.

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County has varied business Monday

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners will meet Monday morning to discuss a number of different issues, including the creation of reinvestment zones and tax abatement applications from a pair of businesses.

Commissioners are expected to meet with Terry Wegman, executive director of the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation, to discuss a number of measures necessary to ratify a pair of reinvestment zones in November.

The areas — noted as Re-

investment Zones D and E, according to county records — will also be the focus of a public hearing designed to give officials with other taxing entities, as well as anyone who wants to make their feelings on the issue known, a chance to express why they feel the abatement should or should not be granted.

The zones, as well as the tax abatements, are intended for Amerimex Rig Movers Ltd., Amerimex Drilling Ltd. and Plains Cotton Cooperative Association.

Also during Monday's meeting, County Auditor Jackie Olson will discuss

awarding of a bid for a fire department vehicle, as well as discussion and possible action on procuring vehicles for the county sheriff's office.

County Road and Bridge Administrator Eddy Jameson is expected to request permission to take bids for a used grader to replace one that was recently burned. Jameson is also expected to discuss office space for his office in the future.

County Jail Administrator Mike Dawson is to discuss a food service proposal for the jail facility, while County Clerk Donna Wright is expected to make

her monthly report and set the terms of the court.

Also on the agenda, commissioners are to consider a contract with Allison, Bass & Associates LLP for the scheduled redistricting program in 2011.

The meeting gets under way at 10 a.m. in the commissioner's courtroom, located on the third floor of the county courthouse. For more information, contact the county judge's office at 264-2202.

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

Kitten apparently rides 120 miles in wheel well

TUALATIN, Ore. (AP) — An Oregon man says a 3-month-old kitten apparently hitched a cold, 120-mile ride in the wheel well of his SUV.

Marc Lichty left Olympia, Wash., after finishing a day of work Wednesday. He heard meowing when he stopped at a rest stop along the way home but couldn't see a cat.

When he reached his home in Tualatin, Ore., he heard the meowing again and grabbed a flashlight. Sure enough, he says, "the cat was up underneath in the spare tire spot."

The family called Olympia business es in the area where he was working Wednesday but didn't find the kitten's owner. The animal had no collar or microchip; the Lichtys say they'll keep the kitten.

Health Committee tops FISD agenda

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

FORSAN — Parents will have a bigger say in how Forsan Independent School District keeps children healthy.

When FISD trustees meet at 7 p.m. Monday, one of the agenda items they will act on is the establishment of a School Health Advisory Committee, which is expected to include several parents as well as district personnel.

"It's a new requirement from the Texas Legislature," said

FISD Superintendent Randy Johnson. "Each school district has to establish one of these committees, which will meet four times a year and report back to school boards with any recommendations they may have."

The committee will be charged with reviewing a variety of health topics within the school district, including curriculum and nutrition standards, then making recommendations to FISD trustees, Johnson said.

Johnson anticipates the com-

mittee including five parents, as well as selected school personnel such as nurses, counselor and cafeteria managers.

"I think that what's going to happen the first year is that the committee will be busy gathering information and receiving reports from people," he said. "At some point later on, they will give advice or suggestions to the school board."

Johnson sees the new committee as a positive step forward for the district.

"It's always good to receive input," he said, "and that's a

big part of what the committee's designed to do."

In other business Monday, trustees will consider:

- Receiving a \$1,000 gift from B&B Electrical.
- Reports from Johnson and campus principals.
- Financial reports.
- Amendments to the Howard County Appraisal District budget.

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

SYMPHONY

Continued from Page 1A

Drummer Boy." The movie classic "March of the Toys" by Victor Herbert will follow.

"Next, we will contrast with three arrangements by Mannheim Steamroller," said Graumann. "I have often been asked to perform music recorded by Mannheim Steamroller and now have the opportunity."

"The music is a mixture of classical music style and ancient tunes combined with lots of percussion and a "popular" beat. This will be fun for all and will have everyone wanting to tap their feet, silently I hope!" Graumann said with a laugh.

Next, the audience will get involved vocally by singing a selection of mostly secular Christmas music in "Christmas Pop Sing-a-long" by Norris. Rounding out the first part of the evening will be "Twas the night before Christmas," narrated by symphony board member and local radio personality Malinda Flenniken.

The second part of the concert will open with

"Sleigh Ride" by Leroy Anderson and follow with a holiday tradition — Bradley's singing of "O, Holy Night."

Traditions continue as the Coahoma Choir Kids take the "stage," under the direction of Sandra Wallace. Accompanied by the symphony, the unique choir will perform "Star Carol" and "Christmas on Broadway." They'll continue with Wallace on piano by singing "Sing With Joy on Christmas Day" and "The Twelve Days after Christmas."

The evening's performance will culminate with the audience joining in the symphony in a medley of familiar sacred Christmas carols entitled "Christmas Sing-a-long" by John Fennagin.

Sunday's concert will begin at 8 p.m. in the new church's sanctuary. Trinity Baptist is located west of the Big Spring Mall on FM 700.

It will be the second venue for the symphony, which was forced out of Big Spring Municipal Auditorium this year when the historic building was closed for failure to meet ADA regulations. Because of the various concert lo-

cations, the symphony association has named this series "Moving On" — or, as Graumann says, is that "Moving Around?"

Tickets are available at the Big Spring Herald, KBST Radio, Western Bank, Faye's Flowers, Blum's Jewelers, the Heritage Museum and Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. Ticket prices are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students. Children under the age of 5 years are not expected to enjoy this concert, according to Graumann. For further information or to request a season brochure, contact the symphony office at (432) 264-7223.

The third concert, "Symphony in Motion," is set for 8 p.m. Feb. 20 when the symphony "moves back" to the Big Spring High School Auditorium. Featured soloists will be Big Spring Symphony members Michael Santorelli, trumpetist, and Sarah Wilson, cellist.

Celebrated entertainer and song writer Paul Williams will join the Big Spring Symphony in a "Symphony Pops Extravaganza" in the fourth and final concert

of the 2009-2010 concert season March 27 at 8 p.m. Music lovers and musicians alike will "move on" to the Howard College Coliseum for this special event to culminate the season.

Williams is the composer of "Rainy Days and Mondays" and "We've Only Just Begun," made famous by the Carpenters, "Just an Old Fashioned Love Song" performed by Three Dog Night, and "Evergreen," sung by Barbara Streisand.

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GIFTS

Continued from Page 1A

of a time issue. We don't mind the adverse weather conditions, like ice and snow. We're pretty used to that. However, flying gets you down here a lot quicker."

Spring Tabernacle Pastor Mona Lue Tonn called Friday's giveaway a huge success.

"It really went beautiful. You couldn't ask for the Lord to bless us any more than he's blessed," said Tonn. "Everyone seemed happy and that's the way we want it to

stay."

Tonn, who has helped lead the giveaway for a decade, said she enjoys it each year.

"It gets in your blood," said Tonn with a laugh. "It gets in your heart. When you help people it gives you hope and the strength to just keep on keeping on. I just love Jesus, and that's what makes the difference, when you love him and want to serve him."

Tonn said Saturday morning this year's effort provided four to five presents apiece for 513 children.

"That's more than

we've ever done before. It's a wonderful experience," she said.

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

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Tiger to take ‘indefinite’ leave from golf amid scandal

Associated Press

Tiger Woods is shifting his focus from winning majors to saving his marriage.

Two weeks after Woods crashed his SUV into a tree outside his Florida home, setting in motion a swift fall that featured reports of rampant extramarital affairs, golf's biggest star delivered a stunning development of his own. He temporarily is walking away from the game that made him the first \$1 billion athlete.

"After much soul searching, I have decided to take an indefinite break from professional golf," Woods said Friday evening on his Web site. "I need to focus my attention on being a better husband, father, and person."

As a result, Gillette, one of Woods' major sponsors, will phase him out of its advertisements while he repairs his personal life.

"As Tiger takes a break from the public eye, we will support his desire for privacy by limiting his role in our marketing programs," Gillette said Saturday.

This will be the second straight year that the No. 1 player was on the sidelines.

A year ago, he missed eight months while recovering from reconstructive surgery on his left knee. This time, Woods is trying to repair a broken family, knowing this will be a far more difficult comeback.

"I am deeply aware of the disappointment and hurt that my infidelity has caused to so many people, most of all my wife and children," Woods said. "I want to say again to everyone that I am profoundly sorry and that I ask forgiveness. It may not be possible to repair the damage I've done, but I want to do my best to try."

Woods and his wife,

Elin, have been married five years. They have a 2-year-old daughter and a 10-month-old son. The No. 1 player in golf has not been seen in public since the accident.

Woods gave no indication when he might return in what could be a pivotal year as he pursues the record 18 major championships won by Jack Nicklaus. Woods, who did not win a major this year, has 14.

The Masters, where Woods has won four times, is April 8-11. The U.S. Open is at Pebble Beach, where Woods won by a record 15 strokes in 2000, and the British Open returns to St. Andrews, where he has won twice by a combined 13 shots.

"We knew before he was coming back," said Steve Stricker, one of Woods' favorite players on tour. "Now, we're not sure when he's coming back. But this sounds good. I hope everything works out for him."

The PGA Tour supported the decision.

"His priorities are where they need to be, and we will continue to respect and honor his family's request for privacy," PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said in a statement, the tour's first public comment since Woods mentioned his "personal failings" and "transgressions" in a Dec. 2 statement. "We look forward to Tiger's return to the PGA Tour when he determines the time is right for him."

Woods' agent, Mark Steinberg, told The Associated Press that it was the right decision for Woods and his family.

"The entirety of someone's life is more important than just a professional career," Steinberg said in an e-mail to the AP. "What matters most is a young family that is trying to cope with difficult life issues in a secluded and caring way. Whenever Tiger

may return to the game should be on the family's terms alone."

Craig Parry, who played a practice round with Woods in Australia last month, said Woods brought the problems on himself.

"What he did was totally wrong," Parry said at the Australian PGA Championship. "And he's got no one to blame except himself. You can look at other people, but he's the one who's got to look in the mirror."

John Daly, who is going through his third divorce, said he has been trying to reach Woods and "he just didn't want to talk to anybody."

"I feel if there is anybody in this world who could give him some advice ..." Daly said in Australia. "I hope we get him back soon. They always say there is no one bigger in golf than the game itself. But Tiger is."

Woods was out of action from July 2008 until the end of February this year, and television ratings dropped 50 percent. The tour is trying to renew a half-dozen title sponsors, and it is to begin negotiations on the next television contract later next year.

As for Woods' corporate endorsements, most have stood by him for now.

"Tiger has been part of Nike for more than a decade," Nike said in a statement Friday. "He is the best golfer in the world and one of the greatest athletes of his era. We look forward to his return to golf. He and his family have Nike's full support."

Meanwhile, Accenture no longer has an image of



AP Photo/ Jack Smith

Tiger Woods is taking some time off after a mysterious crash set into motion a swift fall from grace.

Woods on the home page of its Web site. Earlier this week, Woods standing amid cactus plants studying his next shot was among three rotating pictures on the home page.

AT&T said it supported Woods' decision.

"We are presently evaluating our ongoing relationship with him," the company said in a statement. Not only does Woods carry the AT&T logo on his golf bag, the company is the title sponsor of his PGA Tour event over the July 4th weekend. Steinberg said it would be "premature and inappropriate" to talk about Woods' specific business relationships.

"Suffice it to say, we have had thoughtful conversations and his sponsors have been open to a solution-oriented dialogue," Steinberg said. "Of course, each spon-

15 when he won the Australian Masters for his 82nd victory around the world.

Stricker, who went undefeated as Woods' partner at the Presidents Cup, said his leave was the right decision.

"I think it's great that he's going to put his family first and work things out," Stricker said from Naples, Fla., where he is playing the Shark Shootout. "Golf will always be there. He wants to make sure his marriage is right and everything is good on the homefront. We'll sure miss him on tour until he gets things taken care of."

Woods also indicated he would step away from the work of the Tiger Woods Foundation, which has served some 10 million children.

"There are millions of young people who have truly changed their lives through the foundation's programs, and millions more still counting on us for help," Woods said in a separate statement through his foundation. "I am committed to them and to the foundation's excellent work, and I know my staff will continue these efforts during my absence."

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.

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Shades of Sherlock Holmes

East dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 6
♥ K 10 9 3
♦ A 8 7 2
♣ J 4 3

EAST
♠ A 7 3
♥ J 5
♦ K 6 5 3
♣ A 10 6 2

SOUTH
♠ K 10 9 8 5 4
♥ A 8
♦ 10
♣ K Q 8 7

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠		

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

Declarer's role bears a strong resemblance to that of a detective trying to solve a murder mystery in that there are nearly always clues to rely on from either the bidding or the play. Declarer is expected to examine those clues and then act on them as circumstances dictate.

Here is an example of good detective work. North-South's bidding was somewhat aggressive, but the final contract was a sound one.

The opening diamond lead was taken by dummy's ace, and the jack of spades was finessed, losing to

West's queen. Declarer ruffed the next diamond and then led the king of spades to East's ace.

Back came a diamond, ruffed by South, who drew East's last trump and played the king of clubs. East won with the ace and returned his last diamond, declarer ruffing with his last trump.

By now, South had lost two spades and a club and had to win the remaining five tricks to make the contract. He started by cashing the A-K of hearts, then played the jack of clubs followed by the four. After East produced the six, declarer, whose last two cards were the Q-8 of clubs, had to decide which one to play.

The fate of the contract hinged entirely on this decision. Essentially, South had to determine whether East's last card was more likely to be a club or a heart.

East had played the jack of hearts on the second heart lead, so, assuming that East's jack play was on the level, his remaining card had to be either the ten of clubs or queen of hearts.

South concluded that it could not be the queen of hearts. East had already shown up with two aces, a king and a jack. Had he also held the queen of hearts, he presumably would have opened the bidding at his first turn. Declarer therefore finessed the eight of clubs and so made the contract.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.

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Who's Who

Aguilar to graduate

Melissa Hughes Aguilar, daughter of Carla Hughes of Big Spring and the late Grady Hughes, of Portsmouth, Va., will be graduating with honors from Texas Tech University on Dec. 19.

She will be receiving her bachelor of arts and sciences degree with a minor in secondary education. Melissa is certified to teach secondary English/language arts. She completed her student teaching at Post High School.

She is the mother of two sons, Jordan Aguilar, 18, and Ethan Aguilar, 15.

UTPB grads named

December 12, some 250 students at The University of Texas of the Permian Basin were to receive diplomas at one of three commencement exercises held in the gymnasium on campus.

Among those graduates are:

From Big Spring – Jimmy DuBose, BA in history; Frances Batterton, BA in child and family studies; and Joyce Baumann, Education-reading.

From Coahoma — Russell Crawford, BS in industrial technology.

PAUL HARRIS AWARDS



Courtesy photos

Rotary District Gov. Jim Cole recently presented Greater Big Spring Rotarians Eddie Cole, top, and Amy Vidal with Paul Harris Fellow Awards.

Menus

Big Spring Senior Center

Monday: Chicken strips, mashed potatoes and gravy, brussel sprouts, biscuits, pear halves, milk.

Tuesday: Baked port tenderloin, broccoli and rice casserole, tossed salad with dressing, rolls, banana pudding, milk.

Wednesday: Beef tips with sauteed peppers and onions, parsleyed noodles, rolls, mixed fruit cup, milk, V8 juice.

Thursday: Barbecue beef, pinto beans, relish plate, cornbread, blackberry cobbler, milk.

Friday: Turkey and dressing, sweet potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, rolls, milk.

Forsan ISD

Monday: Breakfast-Muffin, banana, juice, milk; Lunch- Carne guisada, refried beans, flour tortilla, tossed salad, rosie applesauce, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast-Cheese omelet, toast, juice, milk; Lunch- Pizza, seasoned corn, tossed salad, orange smiles, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast-French toast, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch- Ravioli, green beans, garlic toast, sliced peaches, Rice Krispie Treat, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast-Breakfast pocket, juice, milk; Lunch- Hamburger, lettuce, tomato, pickle, Sun Chips, cinnamon applesauce cup, milk.

Friday: Breakfast- Cereal, cinnamon toast, juice, milk; Lunch- Ham sandwich, lettuce, tomato, pickle, Funyuns, fruit cup, sugar cookie, milk.

Big Spring ISD

Monday: Breakfast-Cereal, sausage patty, juice, milk; Lunch- Meatball sandwich, corn, fruit cocktail, milk.

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Births



Makenzi Grace Ward

Makenzi Grace Ward, a girl, was born Nov. 27, 2009, at Odessa Regional Medical Center, weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces and was 21-1/2 inches long.

She is the daughter of Ryan and Julie Ward of Big Spring and was welcomed home by a sister Makena Marie Ward.

Grandparents are Joe and Mary Cadenhead and Billy and Sheila Ward, all of Big Spring.



Zayleigh Rae Solis

Zayleigh Rae Solis, a girl, was born Oct. 23, 2009, at 11:43 a.m., weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces and was 19-1/4 inches long.

She is the daughter of Michael and Enchantra Solis of Big Spring and was welcomed home by an older brother, Isaiah Solis.

Grandparents are Larry and Hilda Lara of Big Spring, Olga Solis of Big Spring and Ricky Solis of Big Spring.

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Dec. 15 – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Supper Club, "China Dragon", 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 16 – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
Movie 1:00 p.m. "Surviving Christmas"

Dec. 17 – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Just Peachy Café "Coffee Club," 10 a.m.
Bunko - 5 p.m.

Dec. 18 – Christmas Party & Pot Luck, 11:30-2:00 p.m.

Dec. 21 – Games, 1-4 p.m.

Dec. 22 – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Supper Club "Cowboy's", 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 23 – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 p.m.
Movie 1 p.m., "White Christmas"

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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

Nominations for Man, Woman of Year being taken

Do you know someone who has devoted considerable free time to make our community a better place? Someone who has made a difference in the lives of others, or the beauty of our area maybe? Do you think they deserve recognition for those efforts?

Well, those are the kinds of people the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce wants to know about.

The chamber is currently accepting nominations for Man and Woman of the Year — two individuals who will be recognized during the chamber's banquet next year.

The deadline to nominate someone is Jan. 15, 2010, so there is plenty of time to have someone considered if you haven't made a nomination yet.

Because it is a Chamber award, those nominating someone must be a member of the Chamber of Commerce. However, nominees do not have to be a member.

Chamber officials suggest that nominations should be based on all around contributions to the community, and not for one accomplishment, unless the accomplishment was extraordinary.

It should also be noted that the term "community" in this case applies to the entire area served by the chamber.

Anyone holding a political office is not eligible to be nominated.

Applications can be obtained at the Chamber office, 215 W. Third St. For more information or to received a fax application, call 263-7641.

Remember, if you know someone who's not only voiced their pride in living and working in the Big Spring area, but have gone the extra mile to make our community a better place to live, chances are they deserve to be Man or Woman of the Year.

They won't nominate themselves, though.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we avoid irrational acts, Lord and take rational steps toward You.

Amen

Declaring war on another president?

As soon as President Obama had finished his West Point speech in which he pledged to send 30,000 more U.S. troops to Afghanistan, conservative pundits started poking at the president's demeanor and message. Big mistake. If Obama's delivery seemed, well, unenthusiastic, so be it. What is important is that Obama delivered a policy that will keep Afghanistan from devolving into a terror pit. He offered the best plan that conservatives possibly could expect.

Before the speech, documentary filmmaker Michael Moore wrote an open letter to Obama warning him not to become a "war president." And: "With just one speech tomorrow night you will turn a multitude of young people who were the backbone of your campaign into disillusioned cynics."

I can only assume Moore and his co-believers weren't listening to Obama on the 2008 campaign trail. At the Democratic National Convention in Denver, the then-Illinois senator promised to "finish the fight against al-Qaida and the Taliban in Afghanistan."

Said Obama, "When John McCain said we could just 'muddle through' in Afghanistan, I argued for more resources and more troops to finish the fight against the terrorists who actually attacked us on 9/11, and made clear that we must take out Osama bin Laden and his lieutenants if we have them in our sights."

"You know, John McCain likes to say that he'll follow bin Laden to the gates of hell, but he won't even follow him to the cave where he lives."

In flexing muscular rhetoric on Afghanistan, Obama quelled fears that he might be soft on national security issues. With a different platform, Obama may

not have won in November.

Events since the election have served to reinforce the need to stabilize the Afghanistan-Pakistan region (AfPak in foreign policy circles). As Obama noted, in the last few months, American authorities have arrested extremists believed to have been sent from the region to commit new acts of terror on American soil, and in Denmark in retaliation for a newspaper's publication of cartoons that unfavorably depicted the Prophet Muhammad.

And these guys were caught after U.S. troop levels more than doubled to around 70,000 — alongside 30,000 NATO troops. Do I wish Obama would use the word "victory" more, or any other word that exhibits a resolve to do what it takes to win? Yes. When the American president talks, he should put some fear into the jihadists.

When he's ramping up the war against al-Qaida and the Taliban, he doesn't need to reserve hiding-in-caves jabs for political opponent John McCain.

Perhaps domestic politics have made it necessary for Obama to utter this phrase: "The days of providing a blank check are over." Alas, this line suggests a lack of willpower in Washington.

And it doesn't help American troops when this president just can't seem to stop telegraphing that the American public is bumping up against the limits of its endurance.

Enter Obama's timeline to begin withdrawing U.S. troops in July 2011. Team Obama has argued that the timeline puts pressure on Afghan President Hamid Karzai, when it clearly exists to take some pressure off Obama.

But the political pressure can only get worse. More than 900 American troops have lost their lives in Operation Enduring Freedom. Their sacrifice must not be in vain.

As the number of U.S. casualties approaches a thousand, there will be intense press coverage of the benchmark as critics question whether the war is

worth the sacrifice. Obama will need to project his belief in this mission if he wants to maintain popular support for the war.

Finally, am I sick of Obama — who campaigned hard for this job — blaming every problem on George W. Bush and the implication that the war in Iraq enabled Osama bin Laden to get away? Absolutely.

As if to reinforce that notion, on Nov. 29, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations released an executive summary "Tora Bora Revisited: How we failed to get bin Laden and why it matters today."

It's an interesting report, one that hints that the war in Iraq is the reason Osama bin Laden got away from Tora Bora by noting that "(Gen. Tommy) Franks was well into planning for the next war — the invasion of Iraq."

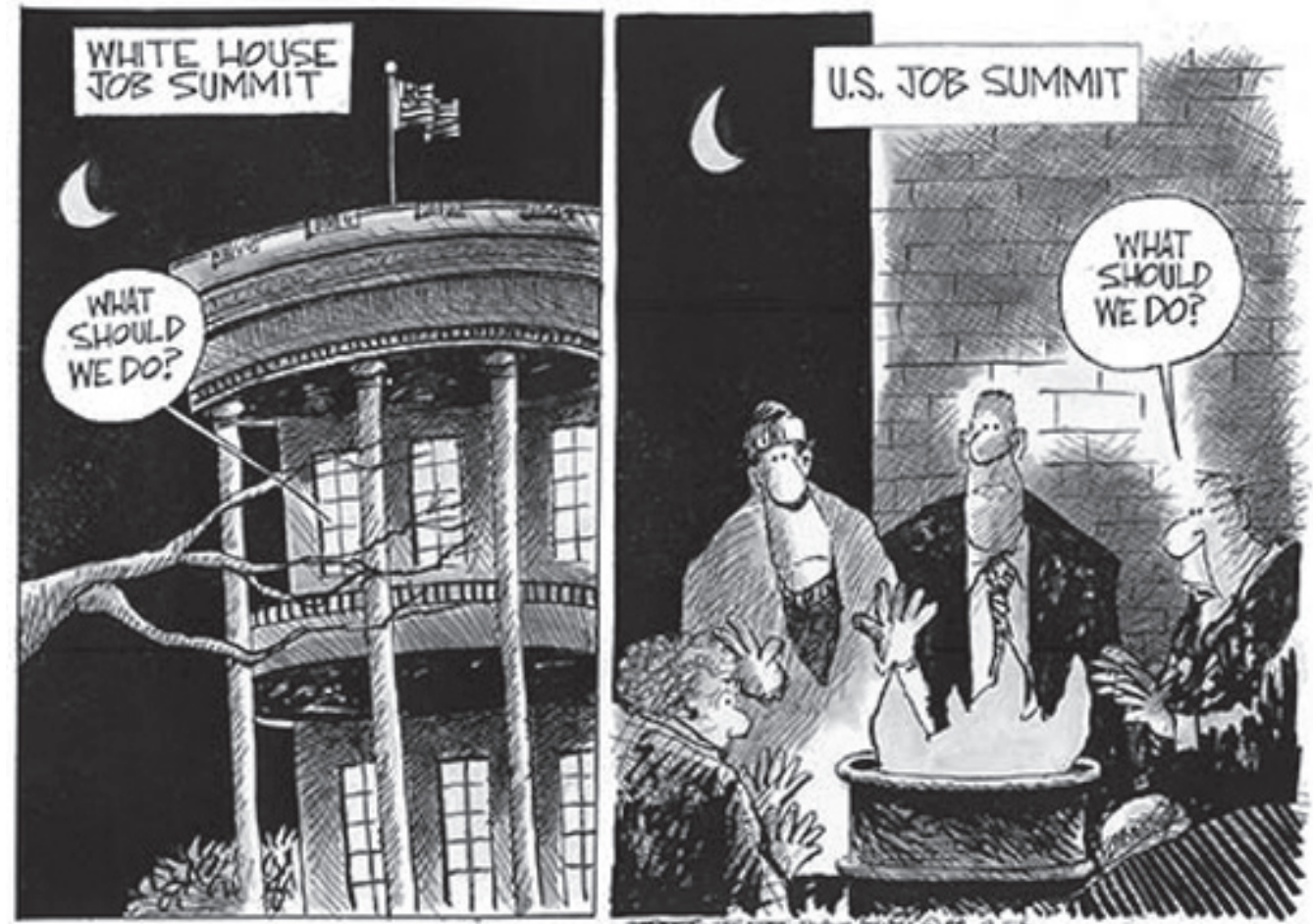
It's a bogus connection. Bin Laden slipped out of the mountains in December 2001. The Iraq war began in March 2003. Clearly, Tora Bora was a catastrophic blunder, and there is no way to factor how many American lives this failure may have cost.

While bin Laden wrote his last will and testament, there were fewer than 100 American commandos in the area, begging for reinforcements. The brass said no, lest too many U.S. troops provoke a backlash. Official policy pushed intelligence operatives to work with the local militias, who proposed the 12-hour ceasefire that saved al-Qaida lives by allowing them to flee.

Yes, Bush was commander in chief at the time and his generals were in charge. But those who oppose the Obama Afghanistan troop surge should realize that their alternative — a light American footprint with fewer U.S. troops working with more Afghan troops — has more than a passing resemblance to the Tora Bora formula.

Obama says he wants to finish this fight — to do so, he needs a heavy footprint.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@schronicle.com.
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YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

For my parents of the grand kind, I love how you always have hearts as big as the size of Texas. I believe that you both live up to the state motto of friendship. You are always nice to everyone and help whenever you can.

I also know how you have the state tree, the pecan tree, in your back yard. You, Nana, love yellow roses like the song "Yellow Rose of Texas." People in Texas are always ready to give a big hug to those who need it. You also do that to me and Makenzie whenever we come to your house, right when we walk in the door, no matter what.

I feel that you work hard to be in Texas and it's our home, and we clean it sometimes like it's our own home.

A lot of of people were pilots in war and a lot of them came from Texas. I know that in Big Spring, where you live, you have an aviation center or whatever it's called.

All I really know is that you can see on the inside of an old-time bomber and there are tons of old planes there in Big Spring.

You have many windmills near Big Spring and to me, they are landmarks that whenever I'm coming to your house. Texas has many landforms that serve as landmarks to other people, but I think the windmills are special, and whenever I see one, I always think of you.

I'm glad you could get out of your busy work schedule to come and see the Grandparents Day program. I love you to the very fill point of my heart, always and I'll always be near, maybe four hours away, but near, in North-Central Texas.

LOGAN BROWN
WATAUGA

TO THE EDITOR:

Alan Conroy ought to be ashamed of himself. Instead of

giving the Salvation Army bell ringer grief, he should have put some money in the pot and left.

We don't need a Madeline Murray O'Hare type in our county. He's obviously a bleeding heart liberal. They destroy everything good and decent.

We've had too many people put down God and country. Now they want to destroy the Christmas spirit.

Alan Conroy, you do not get the "good citizen award," for sure! Shame on you.

LILLIE HENDRICKS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to take some time to address Mr. Conroy about his recent stance on the bell ringer located in the post office.

First, let me start by informing Mr. Conroy and your readers of

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

Texas to meet Nebraska in NCAA volleyball title match

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Texas and Nebraska made fast work of their opponents to set up a much-anticipated NCAA Omaha Regional final featuring perhaps the nation's best player in Destinee Hooker against a Cornhusker team that hasn't lost a set since October.

Seventh-ranked Nebraska dispatched No. 5 Iowa State 25-11, 25-19, 25-22 on Friday night, with Lindsey Licht hammering 10 kills to lead a balanced attack.

Hooker, the Big 12 player of the year, had 23 kills and the No. 2 Longhorns continued their domination over Texas A&M with a 25-18, 25-18, 25-21 win.

Texas (27-1) and Nebraska (26-6) both made it to the national semifinals a year ago, but only one of them can go this year. That team will be decided Saturday night.

"This is a super-heavyweight prize fight," Nebraska coach John Cook said.

Fifth-ranked Iowa State had lost 75 straight matches to Nebraska before beating the

Huskers in a five-set match in October in Lincoln. Nebraska swept the Cyclones in a November rematch, and the Huskers picked up where they left off in the regional semifinal.

Nebraska hit .441 in the first set, with Licht slamming six of her kills. The Cyclones committed seven errors in the set and hit just .056.

Kaylee Manns' service ace put Iowa State up 17-16 in the second set before the Huskers rolled off seven straight points, and they never trailed again.

Brooke Delano, Kori Cooper and Hannah Werth had nine kills apiece for the Huskers. Victoria Henson led the Cyclones (27-5) with 13 kills, but ISU hit a season-low .096.

"I know both teams werereallynervous.It's hard not to be," Cook said. "We just handled it better with adrenaline and emotion. We knew we had a shot to get on them early, and we took advantage of it."

Texas ended A&M's postseason run with another lopsided win over the Aggies (20-11). The Longhorns have beaten A&M 12 straight

times and have won 14 sets in a row against them.

Hooker's 23 kills on 43 swings equaled the number she had in last year's national semifinal against Stanford.

"I don't know how many of y'all would raise your hand (to) go out there and play against her," A&M coach Laurie Corbelli told reporters after the match. "That's the ninth time I've played against her, and the last. I don't know that there will ever be a player who can do the things she does."

Passing breakdowns forced Texas to go to Hooker often in the first two sets. With so much of the offense running through her early, she changed her game a bit to allow Julianne Faucette and Ashley Engle to become more involved.

Faucette had 11 kills on 24 swings, and Engle had six on 10 swings.

"That's a bunch of really confident girls," the Aggies' Jennifer Banse said. "There's nothing in their heads other than beating balls and beating whoever is on the other side of the net."

Texas defeated



AP Photo/ Nati Harnik

Iowa State's Rachel Hockaday, left, has a kill against Nebraska's Kori Cooper (15) and Lindsey Licht, right, on Friday in Omaha, Neb. Nebraska will face Texas in the title match today.

Nebraska in two regular-season meetings, winning six of seven sets. Nebraska has won 10 straight matches, all on sweeps, since losing to Texas on Oct. 30.

Iowa State is the only team to have beaten both Texas and Nebraska this season, and Cyclones coach Christy Johnson-Lynch said the Huskers are capable of pulling an

upset.

"If Nebraska can serve and pass like they did tonight, they'll be able to hang with anybody in the country," Johnson-Lynch said. "They played pretty flawless tonight."

Nebraska will have a huge home-court advantage. A crowd of 8,935 showed up Friday at the Qwest Center, 50 miles from the Lincoln

campus.

Cook said he's counting on fans having some leftover emotion from the Nebraska football team's 13-12 loss to Texas in last week's Big 12 championship game.

"With what happened last weekend in football, I think it's going to be charged-up in here," Cook said. "I'm happy our kids get a shot at this."

See Monday's Herald for results from Saturday's state championship games

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Energy Watch



Bhupen Agrawal is branch manager and a managing director — investments for the Wachovia Securities Midland office.

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Economy will grow modestly in 2010

It has been reported that the favorite family saying of Joseph P. Kennedy, father of former President Kennedy, was “when the going gets tough, the tough get going.” This comment has become almost commonplace in the English language and it has often been good advice in the stock market.

Back in March of this year, it was very “tough” to have the courage to buy stocks, but some did and have reaped the benefits. At the time, the fundamental news about the economy was still quite negative and pretty much stayed that way for four more months.

By late summer, the economic news and corporate earnings started to improve and people began to understand why the market had rallied so sharply. But basically, the “going” has now gone from “tough” to “easy” during the last eight months, which is creating a different situation for investors.

Now that the stock market is acting very well and the background fundamentals have improved, should investors take a somewhat different posture in the market? In our opinion, the answer is “yes,” and the posture we recommend is a more conservative approach to the market vs. eight months ago and not to expect yet another giant leg-up anytime soon.

Also, we feel aggressive investors should consider using stop-loss orders under stocks that have appreciated substantially.

It is not unusual for the stock market to rally sharply when a big bear market and deep recession end. Corporate earnings have improved and the jobs numbers are flattening but the big uncertainty facing us today is how well corporate earnings will perform in 2010. Retailers did report strong shopper traffic on Black Friday, but we suspect much was due to the big discounts.

On the negative side, fear that Dubai will default on its debt conjured up concern that we are heading toward yet another global financial meltdown, but for us, this looks more like a “tempest in a teapot.”

As we see it, our biggest economic problem is that business in general face a very long list of uncertainties, such as the health care bill, cap and trade, new taxes and possible additional regulations. Also, smaller businesses currently have great difficulty in borrowing money.

We believe the economy will grow in 2010, but probably only modestly, and the stock market is already up big.

While we believe the stock market will be higher in 2010, once “the going” gets easy, it is usually the time to fall away from the crowd and “get going” to a more conservative investment posture.

For you energy titans out there, crude oil, while trading down from recent highs, has yet to break its current trend line around the \$75 area.

This is good news and indicates a gradual stair-step movement to the upside. This makes for less volatility in pricing.

Of course pricing is directly connected to the U.S. and global economies but from a technical point of view we would say the chart remains positive and should allow for some stability in the coming months.

A stable U.S. economy in 2010 will help greatly.

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Heritage Museum recently collected toys to benefit Spring Tabernacles annual Christmas Toy Drive. Shown are, from left, Mona Lue Tonn of Spring Tabernacle and Janell Davis and Jane Jones of the museum.

All business? Really? Tiger flubs crisis management 101

RACHEL BECK

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — So much for Tiger Woods’ business prowess.

The world’s No. 1 golfer and top-earning athlete has fumbled every move since the scandal involving allegations of serial infidelity hit two weeks ago. He hid the truth and has yet to face the public.

Woods needs a crash course in crisis management 101. When you are a world-famous brand, things can fall apart unless you quickly control the damage.

Polls show his popularity is in a free-fall. His commercials already have disappeared from broadcasts, though none of his sponsors have yet pulled their endorsement deals.

“Each day there is new, somewhat negative information to this story, his brand takes a little hit,” said Steve Rosner, president of 16W Marketing, a sports marketing agency in Rutherford, N.J. “The little hits will eventually add up to a big hit if the story continues to drag on.”

Woods is the latest athlete to find

himself at the center of a scandal, but what separates him from the rest is that he is the highest-paid and best-known sportsman in the world. The 33-year-old has already won 14 major golf tournaments, closing in on the record of 18 won by Jack Nicklaus.

His image used to be one of a squeaky-clean family man, in contrast to the kind of shenanigans that often emerge from the personal lives of other professional athletes. Woods has been known to be compulsively focused and disciplined in everything he does.

That level of commitment to his sport helped make Woods the world’s first \$1 billion athlete, according to estimates by Forbes. In addition to his earnings from golf, he has also reaped a fortune from endorsements with top brands including Nike, Accenture and Gillette.

Now, Tiger Inc. is at risk — mainly because he has let this crisis manage him instead of the other way around.

“Tiger is known as a control freak, but what he has done is

let this slip out of his control,” said Jason Maloni, vice president of the sports and entertainment practice at Levick Strategic Communications in Washington. “There is some hypocrisy here.”

Here’s where Woods botched some basics in crisis management:

- Rule No. 1: Don’t wait.

After Woods crashed his car outside his Florida home in the early hours of the Friday after Thanksgiving, he released a statement acknowledging the accident, but said nothing else.

Media reports said Woods refused to talk to the police. There were rumors that a spat with his wife over an alleged mistress preceded the crash, but Woods remained silent.

As the time ticked away, the story was being shaped by everyone but Woods. He became the butt of jokes, and multiple women alleging affairs with him shared kinky details with the tabloids.

Two days after the accident, Woods issued another statement.

See **TIGER**, Page 5C

Master Gardeners:

Time to think of composting

Well, it’s December again. Once more we descend into the long, dark, frigid time of the year. You may have the feeling that I don’t care for winter’s icy breath, and you would be correct. That’s all right, though, as I have many good books and a working furnace, which is more than our outdoor plants will have.

Pack them away for the winter with a three- or four-inch layer of mulch. Extend the mulch out to the extent of the root system, which generally mirrors the top growth.

If you don’t already have any around your plants, go to your favorite garden center and get some. Or, to be thrifty, go to the Big Spring Compost Facility at 3201 Perimeter Road. The compost facility only offers shredded bark and wood mixed together which is not as pretty as some

of the other mulches you can find at retail outlets. Pretty is as pretty does in my book, though, so the wood chips and bark work as well as any other mulch, and by decomposing more rapidly than most, benefit the soil better and faster.

The only drawback to using it, other than its appearance, would be that its decomposition can extract nitrogen from the soil and lessen the amount available to the plants. If you have a poorer soil it would be a good idea to top-dress it with a nitrogen fertilizer before adding the mulch. If you already have the mulch down and have noticed slower growth or anticipate it, just wait until spring to top-dress over the mulch. Water it in well and there should be no further problems.

This is a good month to start a compost pile, if you don’t already have one. Rake up your fallen leaves, add some shredded newspaper, kitchen waste and almost anything organic, water it well and add to it as you can through the winter. When the temperature rises back into the 80s, turn the pile once or twice

and you will have compost.

The Howard County Master Gardeners are busily at work installing the first greenhouses at their new Demonstration Garden located at the corner of Jones and W. Fourth Street.

The Demo Garden will give us a place to hold classes on gardening and horticulture that will easily allow for hands-on training.

It is a long way from being completed, or even usable yet, but we hope to make some major strides in that direction during the coming year.

We are all excited about getting started with the planting and can hardly wait to get our hands dirty.

I’ll try to keep you posted as to our progress.

As this is my last article this year, let me wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Until next year, stay warm and keep growing.

For more information, call Walter Ward at (432) 935-6455 or visit the Howard County Master Gardeners Web site at www.howardcountymastergardener.org



WALTER
WARD

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

a couple of things. The Salvation Army is an agency that helps people year-round through many different forms of assistance ranging from housing to utility assistance to clothing and food to medical assistance and the traditional holiday assistance programs. The funding to allow us to continue our services locally comes from the generosity of individuals who believe in the mission of the The Salvation Army and the work it does in their communities. Funding comes from many different sources donations, mail appeals, local fundraising efforts, grants and endowments.

During the holiday season, we have our bell ringing fundraising.

Now, you may ask, "Who are those bell ringers and where do they find them?"

Well, they come from everywhere.

The Salvation Army bell ringers are, for the most part, volunteers who believe in helping others and want a way to give back to the community. These volunteers are all ages from the community, civic groups and school groups, as well; although there are also some who are employees trying to earn an honest dollar and provide for their families.

Second, the bell ringer in question has been a volunteer for this agency for many years and has a true Salvation Army heart that just keeps giving love to others through her volunteer work done at The Salvation Army level.

Having had the opportunity to meet this woman first hand, I can tell you that she would not ever hurt anyone or verbally attack anyone unless she was provoked and felt really strongly about it.

I do not feel that a verbal disagreement in front of children from you or her was a good choice at all. Although, I can understand the position that you both felt really strong about your cause and wanted to stand your ground, I do feel every person should have the right to freedom of speech.

However, I do not see how this bell ringer was hurting anyone by being at the post

office and doing her job. By the way, this is a job that has been done in this location for 50 years.

I realize that time changes and things change, however, it didn't change so much that her efforts are no longer the same or needed. As a matter of fact, the needs are much greater now than ever before.

Do you realize that the funds raised from her bell ringing efforts help to feed a family for the holidays, just like I'm sure your family will eat; purchase gifts for needy children so they can be just like your children and open gifts on Christmas; help some of the elderly who are lonely and have no one else to care for them receive love and gifts; and will also help to feed the homeless and less fortunate of our community this holiday season?

I'm sure when you pushed this issue, you never thought about what your actions were going to affect, did you?

Well this bell ringing site has always been one of our best sites for income. That is partly because it is inside, has a lot of people coming in and out daily and gives our friendly bell ringers the opportunity to visit with them on a personal basis. Because of your actions, our bell ringer will now be outside, however, it may dampen our fundraising efforts but will not end our cause.

I totally understand that this is federal property, but come on, what exactly was it hurting? All you had to do was keep walking if you didn't want to donate or visit with the bell ringer.

As a matter of fact, if it was really that offensive, you could have changed entrances and gone in another way. Was this really a matter of "it's just not the right thing to do" or was it more "I don't want her there and I'm doing something about it and because I was not given what I want, I'm causing trouble?"

We will probably never know, but what I do know is this caused you to get some major publicity for "what?" I also know that it may dampen our efforts at the post office, but I have faith in our generous community and we will make up for it in other ways because God always provides.

Lastly, I have to ask you have you ever been in need?

Have you ever wondered what the Salvation Army does? How are you going to feel this holiday season knowing you were the holiday grinch?

Your actions may be the reason someone does not have a cheerful holiday season.

Do you teach your children how to help others? Do you teach them that sometimes people need help?

Well, if you do, you might also explain to them how those people are helped in your community.

I would like to ask you and anyone else in our community to visit your local Salvation Army corps and see how they help people.

Have you ever been hungry? Have your kids ever had to without food, clothing or shelter? Have your children ever been giftless at Christmas? Well, these are some of the things that we at The Salvation Army try to avoid for families during the holiday season.

Just think, Mr. Conroy, did you really do a good thing? Did it help anyone or hurt anyone? I am a true believer in The Salvation Army and its mission. I, too, am a Salvation Army volunteer and I also would have stood my ground and manned my kettle and rang my bell loudly and proudly, as that bell ringer did.

So I applaud the bell ringer for being proud of her purpose while at the post office.

As for you, Mr. Conroy, I wish you and your family a joyous holiday season and I pray that you will see your actions had a consequence that will affect others in your community. I am positive that our bell ringer also wishes you the same and will continue to hear the sounds of her Christian Christmas music, since it is the reason for the season!

DANELLE CASTILLO
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I want to ask all my dear Christian friends to please search their hearts concerning the Salvation Army kettle location at the post office. They should not hate or be dismayed by the man and his children. The children should never have been dragged into the post office melee.

Pray for this man and his precious children. Do not

harden your heart. Turn this situation to the Lord.

Those people who supposedly threatened bodily harm need to apologize to this man.

I think most of the anger came because of the treatment of the lady from the Salvation Army. If she was out of line, remember that she is a Christian and she and God will work things out.

Christmas is a Christian celebration to honor the birth of Jesus, God's son. God sent Him to us to teach us love, joy, peace and mercy.

We accept God's greatest gift of eternal life. Let us conduct ourselves in the way He expects us to behave and treat others.

We need to read our constitution and amendments. Remember the era and the reason we have them.

Entities with power have taken our constitution and amendments and twisted them to fit what pleases them. We sit by and allow this to happen.

Freedom of the press certainly does not give the media the right to harass citizens and victims in the way they do just to get an article for a price.

That is just one example of how far we are from what our forefathers intended.

We have become lax and complacent. Look at the condition our country is in right now because of this.

Maybe this post office melee is a wake-up call to Christian America.

This Christmas, when you say, "Merry Christmas," mean it.

DEAN KRAUS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

You can do the crime if you just know that the Big Spring Police Department doesn't have the time.

I just want to let the citizens of Big Spring know how their police department is dealing with petty crime here in Big Spring, as we all know petty crime doesn't lead to any more serious crimes.

This past weekend I was at my local convenience store when a young female walked right in and grabbed a 30-pack and a 18-pack of beer and walked right out the door. Yes, that's right, a beer run.

Well, when the clerk called

to report the crime to the Big Spring PD, she was told by the dispatcher that they were not going to send out an officer because the theft wasn't over \$50.

Now think about this for a minute — you have a police force that straight out won't respond to a crime. Yes, there might be a higher priority call at the time, but at least have an officer respond when they are not as busy to at least take a discretion of a vehicle or a person's build, but don't give the criminals a get out of jail for free card, if they don't steal over \$50 worth of merchandise.

So, basically what I learned that day was, if a criminal wants to go to every convenience store in town within a week's time and steal under \$50, he or she can get away with it,

Heck yeah, thank you PD for such great service.

A crime is a crime, and if the police force can't respond, what good are our tax dollars? I think our city council needs to have a little talk with our police chief and find out what is going on. And if it's found that he is not doing his job, which is to "protect and serve," not "protect and serve only when we feel like it," they might want to find someone else.

There should be no excuse for officers not responding to a citizen's request for help.

SANTIAGO FLORES
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

In reply to Orand Carroll's letter about abortion in last Sunday's paper: Mr. Carroll, it has been the law since 1970. Have you been asleep since that law was passed?

If you're a man, I seriously doubt that you have to worry about becoming pregnant. If you were to give birth, I'm sure Johnny Carson would spring from his grave and guest host the Tonight Show. It would be a show to be remembered.

I'm sure if you really wanted to hear the sounds an aborted baby makes, there are probably any number of doctors in this great country that would let you come hear for yourself.

If you really feel so strongly about this, why not take a

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JUSTICE OF THE PEACE	Brandee A. Eberhardt, 197 Briarwood Lane, Big Spring	Kimberly K. King, 1711 Young, Big Spring	Jennifer Roberts, 2500 Cheyenne, Big Spring	Jerry Lee Wrightsrl Jr., 2816 Ridge Road, Fort Worth
OUTSTANDING IBC WARRANTS:	Kaila R. Edwards, 201 E. Leatherwood, Big Spring	Robert Michael Kleck, P.O. Box 35, Rotan	Mandi E. Cevalos Rodriguez, 406 North Scurry, Big Spring	DISTRICT COURT FILINGS:
Irene Lopez Alaniz, 774 E. Highway 80, Abilene	Constance A. Elledge, 1709 Scotland Ave., Azle	Kenney Jana Krueger, 1207 Johnson, Big Spring	Magaly Romero, 1900 MLK Blvd. Apt. 603, Big Spring	In Re Nathan Alexis Ramirez, family.
Bryan Layton Allison, 1100 College Circle, Ranger	Irene Paredez Flores, 1000 E. 20th St., Big Spring	Lynda Kynman, 2503 Central Drive, Big Spring	Robert Christopher Rosamond, 801 Lancaster, Big Spring	Jamie Kemper vs. Shane Kemper, divorce.
Demetrio Alva, 11520 Arrow Rock, El Paso	Alejandro Franco Jr., 1900 Martin Luthe King Blvd. Apt. 215, Big Spring	Amanda Lasater, PO Box 30475, Midland	Jennifer Ann Rositas, 1429 E. Sixth, Big Spring	In Re Kakaye Marie Daniels, family.
Terica Alvarado, 1100 E. 61st St., Odessa	Danny Frias, 207 W. 17th St., Georgetown	Eloy Escobar Leal, 1806 E. 11th, Big Spring	Kenneth Wayne Ross, 12101 Dessau Rd., Big Spring	In Re Michael Lee Munoz, family.
Daniel Antrim, 120 N. 22nd Pl., Lamesa	Hilda L. Fuentes, 502 S. Seventh, Lamesa	Lindsey Kay Lee, 1405 S. Benton, Big Spring	Thomas Ross, 1206 Lela St., Jasper	Jody Reid vs. Paradigm Physical Therapy, temporary restraining order and injunction.
Christine Avalos Bara, of 1405 N. Sixth, Lamesa	Ruby Gaitan, P.O. Box 783, Lamesa	Alana Marie Lee, 2711 66th Street, Lubbock	Thomas Castillo Ruiz, 1306 W. Tennessee, Midland	In Re Trinity Rae Galan, family.
Amy Barber, 2602 Ent, Big Spring	Kenneth Galindo, 6830 El Paso Dr., El Paso	Patricia Lutrell, 2726 Redwood, Odessa	Blanca L. Saenz, 1202 N. Sam Houston Ave., Odessa	Laura Collins and Lindsey Barraza vs. Gary Smith, injury or damages with a motor vehicle.
Toby Barnett, 1713 Dwayne Barnett, Lubbock	Carlos Garcia, 1211 S. Third St., Brownfield	Jarrod Martinez, 61 E. Eighth St., San Angelo	Rudy Andrew Salazar, PO Box 1275, Stanton	Juanita Flores vs. Joe Flores, divorce.
Christopher Barrera, 1704 Goliad, Big Spring	James Randal Gardner, P.O. Box 1490, Lyons, Colo.	Lorene Martinez, 702 N. Iowa, Lamesa	Mona Saldana, 400 Circle, Big Spring	Old Republic Insurance Company vs. Tina Broghton, accounts, notes and contracts.
Teresa Baumann, 1509 E. Sixth, Big Spring	Christina Garza, 1202 E. 15th, Big Spring	Sandy Martinez, 1610 Eubanks, Big Spring	Emily Sartain, 1806 37th, Snyder	Malory Luna vs. Sunday Luna, protective order.
Amy Benavides, 3001 N. Midland Dr., Big Spring	Claudet Garza, 3106 E. Elm, Laredo	Christopher Wayne Mason, 2901 S. Brahma, Kingsville	Carol Ann Sawyer, 700 S. Lancaster, Big Spring	Janie Galaviz vs. Domingo Galaviz, divorce.
Casey D. Bernal, 901 Grand, Hereford	Misty Goldston, 2429 20th St., Lubbock	Natalie Ann McDonald, 2464 Glenwood, San Angelo	Stephanie Serrato, 1306 Wright, Big Spring	Margie Garcia vs. Victor Garcia, divorce.
Crystal Biles, 15885 S. Quartz, Odessa	Raul Gonzales, 2106 Johnson, Big Spring	Shawn G. McKay, 3107 Bonham Ave, Odessa	Harl Bradford Shaffer, 5603 Gail Hwy., Big Spring	Pharia LLC vs. Robin Minchew, accounts, notes and contracts.
Vern Black, 329 W. Tennessee, Floydada	Fernando Gonzales, 3000 Schadt, Fort Worth	Thomas M. McKellen, 2010 Sierra, Kenah	Curtis W. Shelton, 3714 Millbrook Road, Big Spring	Discover Bank vs. Suanne B. Preston, accounts, notes and contracts.
Jeremy Bolton, 506 N. Ave. L, Lamesa	Melissa Gonzalez, 2317 CR 220, Garden City	Carol Lee McNeil, 2601 Westridge, Snyder	Amy Leigh Corley Shifflett, 209 N. Main, Coahoma	The State of Texas vs. John Peter Gordon Jr., seizure.
Alexis A. Bowie, 2811 Lawton, Amarillo	Jeffrey Grams, 224 LeLon Lane, Springtown	Daniel Mercado Jr., 5611 Lancaster, Houston	Jonathan Michael Shorten, 1619 1-35 La Quinta, San Marcos	David Raymond Chrchwell vs. Mary Celia Churchwell, divorce.
Dave Bracken, 2720 42nd St., Lubbock	Gabriel Guerrero, 411 NE 10th Street, Big Spring	Christopher Flores Mendoza, PO Box 291, Mertzon	Korina Sirmon, 608 W. 15th St., Big Spring	MARRIAGE LICENSES:
Wanda Heron Brown, 538 Westover Rd. Apt. 113, Big Spring	Nora Gutierrez, 606 N. Eighth Street, Lamesa	Chad K. Merrill, 3300 Manor Rd. Apt. 174, Austin	Brian Paul Siverson, 589c Stoddard, Odessa	Ruben L. Trevino, 32, and Cynthia Salazar, 26, both of Big Spring.
Richard Henry Burk, PO Box 171933, Arlington	Steven Joe Guzman, 4172 Lake County Rd. 254, Colorado City	Joe Luis Miramontes, 1809 Nolan, Big Spring	Cade Smith, 410 McKee Lane, San Angelo	Ricky R. Mitchem, 45, and Carlene L. Martin, 42, both of Big Spring.
Cristal Cabello, 1314 65th Drive Apt. C, Lubbock	Edna J. Hale, 510 Milton Ave., Brownwood	Mari Montemayor, 627 State Street, Big Spring	Lisa D. Smith, 2010 Sierra Dr., League City	Christopher Lee Myrick, 33, and Christina Nicole Lucas, 30, both of Big Spring.
Melissa Camargo, 2100 Ave. N, Tahoka	September Rose Hallmark, 508 Dallas St., Big Spring	Anna Marie Moreno, 4656 St. Frances Ave., Dallas	Anthony Solis, 1303 Elm St., Big Spring	Antonio Martinez Martinez, 26, and Melissa Ann Hale, 24, both of Big Spring.
Wendell Campbell, 600 N.W. Eight St., Big Spring	Sharon Marquis Hanson, 1201 E. Co. Rd. 34, Big Spring	Robert Wayne Moseley, PO Box 39, Hondo	Rosa Soto, 407 E. Vealmoor, Coahoma	
Latonya Campbell, 5948 Callaston Lane, Fort Worth	Clifford Arvin Hart Jr., 3234 Drexel, Big Spring	Michael Todd McClinton, 1003 S. Midkiff, Midland	Janie Spurgeion, 1212 Wadley, Midland	
Donna J. Abbott Cantwell, 538 Westover Rd. Apt. 101, Big Spring	Dana L. Havink, 600 Star Linda Ct., Arlington	Ricky L. Nava, 707 Willa, Big Spring	Shawn Spurgeon, 106 N. Adams, Denver City	
Lenard Carson Jr., 102 S. Peach, Pecos	Heather Quinn Heiden, 5337 Saddle Ridge, San Angelo	William Leslie Neal, 2100 Alabama, Big Spring	Mickey Jermain Starnes, 402 Holly Oak Dr., Tyler	
Scott S. Carter, 3223 Cornell, Big Spring	Chris Henry, 3520 28th St., Lubbock	Nancy Ortega, 601 Abrams, Big Spring	Misty D. Sternadel, 457 Seventh St., Scotland TX	
Amy Castillo, 1806 Morrison, Big Spring	Cherie Brandy Hernandez, 2006 Ave. L, Snyder	Liza L. Ovalle, 3304 W. Highway 80 Apt. 44, Big Spring	Robert Summers, 1905 Wasson Dr. #5, Big Spring	
Krishna Nicole Castillo, 905 Walnut, Colorado City	Robert Stephen Hoback, 1516 Comberland, Odessa	Alesha Pace, 700 N. Dixie, Odessa	James Sutton, 2225 Oakland, Abilene	
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Jared Kendero Coby, 901 S. High Street # 802, Longview	Emily Howard, P.O. box 224, Big Spring	Katherine Hardin Perez, 4908 Parkway, Big Spring	Jimmy Vasquez, 4000 W. Illinois, Midland	
Christoval Moren Corralez, 1105 N. Nolan, Big Spring	Juan Baldwin Hubbard, 504 Eugene, Midland	Lisa M. Portillo, 1200 Stanford Ave, Big Spring	Liandro Ventura, 1905 Wasson No. 23, Big Spring	
Doyce Ray Coyle, 3301 Auburn, Big Spring	Jeanie Renee Ivey, 5326 Old State Hwy. 7, La Grange	Ruth Heinen Privett, 5822 Oak, Big Spring	Brenda Vera, 1901 Ave. N, Snyder	
Patrick C. Criss, 8030 Catalpa, Texas City	Shauna Danielle Jenkins, 3301 40th Place, Snyder	Rickie Dan Pruiett, 979 FM 977, Leona	Alicia N. Vernon, 9614 Dover Ridge, San Antonio	
Wesley Wayne Crow, 2400 Robb Lane, Big Spring	Brandy Johnson, 24327 Pleasonton, San Antonio	Richard Wayne Rains, 4501 Parkway, Big Spring	Tyler J. Voss, Fannin Co. Rd 4925, Leonard	
Susan Cuellar, 2301 N. Pecos #238, Midland	Byron Johnson, 801 Ohio, Big Spring	Patricia Ramos, 538 Westover Road #226, Big Spring	Rene Villa, 106 Circle, Big Spring	
Wanda Cunningham, 1505 Avion, Big Spring	Sarah A. Barrow Johnson, 3402 D. State St., Big Spring	Bruce Allen Rawson, 4730 Orange Street, Bacliff	Amy Wagner, PO Box 784, Blanco	
Corey D. Dancer, 2605 Alamesa Dr., Big Spring	Rene M. Johnson, 9205 W. County Road 174, Midland	Anna D. Rich, PO Box 1321, Denver City	Michael Wagner, P.O. Box 428, Denver City	
Ramona Davila, 2143 Texas Ave, San Antonio	Johnny Ray Jones, 501 E. 17th St., Big Spring		Jim Bob White, 412 Davis Rd., Big Spring	
Clarissa Renteria Dean, 2711 Rebecca, Big Spring	Luz Martinez Juarez, 602 N.W. Seventh St., Big Spring		Candida Lynn Whitehead, 1405 Runnels, Big Spring	
	Paige Morgan Kenas, 1003-2 Lake County Rd. 175, Colorado City		Tina Diane Whitlow, 1407.5 Settles, Big Spring	
			Brandi Woodard, 642 Westview Dr., Abilene	

Moore Supplies has special ‘green’ promo

Moore Supplies has a special deal going on for area businesses.

During December, Moore Supplies will pick up any office supply catalog and recycle it. At the same time, the company will drop off a 2010 Moore Supplies Office Products Catalog. For every catalog recycled, participants will be entered in a drawing for one of several prizes: a \$100 gift certificate for Moss Creek Ranch, a \$100 gift certificate for Serenity Spa, and a \$279.99 hi-back leather office chair from Moore Supplies.

To schedule a catalog pick up, call 714-4780.

The drawing will be held Jan. 4.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Linda Kaye Stallings (with scissors), owner of Blissful Boutique, is joined by family members and Chamber of Commerce representatives during ribbon cutting ceremonies at the business, located next to Coldwell Bankers Realtors on FM 700.

TIGER

Continued from Page 4C

It was vague at best.

Woods should have taken his own advice from 2007, when he was asked about what football star Michael Vick could do to rehabilitate his image after facing dogfighting charges.

“If you made that big a mistake, you got to come out and just be contrite, be honest, and just tell the public ‘I was wrong,’” Woods said in an interview with ESPN. “I think waiting a long time got a lot of people polarized.”

David Letterman dealt better with his indiscretions by admitting to them quickly.

• Rule No. 2: Don’t run from the truth.

When Woods issued his first statement on Nov. 29, he described “many false, unfounded and malicious rumors that are currently circulating about my family and me.” He pleaded

for privacy.

Woods left the impression that the allegations were not true. Three days later, he changed his story.

“I have let my family down and I regret those transgressions with all of my heart,” Woods said.

That statement came too late and “smelled of being drafted by lawyers,” says crisis management expert Mike Paul. “What do ‘transgressions’ really mean?”

“There was nothing heartfelt about it,” said Paul, president of MGP & Associates PR.

Paul, who specializes in rebuilding reputations of celebrities, corporations and CEOs, also noted the statement attacked the media. Wood said he was “dismayed to realize the full extent of what tabloid scrutiny really means.”

• Rule No. 3: Don’t hide.

Woods hasn’t been seen since the accident. The only human face on this story are the women who say they’ve had relationships with him.

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202647

Time to light the (Festival of) Lights

LETTERS

We must strive to live up to our branding as the “Lighted Poinsettia Capital of Texas.” We of the Comanche Trail Festival of Lights and others are trying to spread the word of this recognition.

I just received word that Sha Embree, CEO, and some staff members of Peer Group Consulting Company who were responsible for us receiving that designation will be here to visit our festival Wednesday. What excitement to have these people with us.

As we are preparing the park for the annual festival, it is our poinsettias that gives us the beauty and glow which enhances our Christmas showcase. It takes lot of dedicated volunteers to put this event on.

I tip my hat to Howard Stewart, our three FCI trustees and the parks department employees for their hard work to see this presentation be one of the best ever.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Bobby



PAT
SIMMONS

McDonald and Skip Burcham for their tireless time spent on the I-20 exhibit under the water tower which features three 50-foot poinsettias and a few smaller ones — a beautiful show.

A vinyl sign Skip Burcham made announces to travelers along I-20 that Big Spring is the “Lighted Poinsettia Capital of Texas” which brings more recognition to our community. That is the idea — exposure and recognition of our town.

We are receiving additional exposure with an article about Big Spring and the Festival of Lights in Travelhost Magazine that has a distribution of 80,000 copies to hotel and motels and is also placed in three very large travel information centers.

It features a photo of a scene in one of our lighting displays. It also reveals that we are the “Lighted Poinsettia Capital of Texas” and has a copy of that logo.

My hope and prayer is that our great little town of Big Spring will be recognized as a very special place to visit or live.

As stated in a previous article, we have expanded our festival and added a couple of locations where we need

more volunteers. Shortly after entering the park on Whipkey Drive near the duck pond, we will have a booth designed by none other than Skip, who has contributed so much to our organization. This booth is where brochures will be presented to visitors.

The next booth is our greeters booth, where we gather visitor information — get a head count, ask where they’re from, record that information and take any donations.

It is donations that keep our festival going. Without funds, we could not operate; we are a non-profit organization working to show off our city.

The new addition to the festival this year is when you travel under the second archway you will turn left, going down toward Cotton Mize Ball Field and Belaski Pavilion.

There, you will view a western-themed display. Naturally, the new addition does not come free — just to get the transformer installed was \$7,000, not to mention hundred of dollars in extension cords. So you see it takes your donations to make this event continue.

Part of our new addition you must visit is our new, unique and beautiful gift shop, unlike any other you have ever seen,

located at Belaski Pavilion. It was designed by Quintinn and Vicki Stewart.

We will offer T-shirts, coffee cups, hand-painted ornaments, poinsettia purses made of Wal-Mart plastic bags, sun catchers imprinted with our “Lighted Poinsettia Capital of Texas” logo, and then blinking lapel poinsettia pins (they are going to be on sale a little late).

Howard Stewart just keeps on working, he will be offering hot chocolate for sale.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit Belaski Thursday and Friday from 7:30-9:30 p.m. and on Dec. 21-23 at the same time. So bring the kids to see Santa!

We need several hundred volunteers to man the booths and set up displays.

We have 39 spots adopted, which certainly helps us. Volunteers will set up, maintain and take down displays as soon as possible after Jan. 1.

We will perform a final test of everything Sunday and Monday night to make sure everything is ready to receive our visitors Tuesday.

We, the members of the Comanche Trail Festival of Lights extend our best wishes to all Big Spring and visitors for a very merry Christmas.

Continued from Page 6A

pistol to an abortion clinic and fill someone full of hot lead. Bill O’Reilly says it’s your right to do so.

Personally, I don’t approve of the law passed in 1970, but the only shooting I will do is mainly at tin cans.

If you really want to do something about this more than three-decade old problem, run for Congress and reverse the current law.

CLARK KIRKMAN
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

The Heritage Museum would like to sincerely thank the community for its support in this year’s events. The Breakfast with Santa and Parade Day were a huge success. Supporters brought in food and toy donations that the museum proudly gave to the Spring City Tabernacle.

We would like to thank Santa and Mrs. Claus for your hard work during your visit from the North Pole. Also Lane Bond for taking portraits with the Clauses. Thanks to Gale Pittman; his wife, Maureen; and HEB for the gingerbread men classes and help with decorating. And thanks also go to the Big Spring cheerleaders for their talented face painting. We want to thank all of those who put up a tree in the “forest,” and the Signal Mountain Quilters for their beautiful display of quilts.

We have had a great year with exhibits on the T&P Railroad, Dr. Don McGonagill’s photographic talents, Tumbleweed Smith’s two magnificent Telly Award-winning documentaries, Jerry Worthing’s collection of prints from the late Gov. John Connally collection, our annual fund raiser Legends & Legacies and our celebration of the 100-Year Anniversary of the Big Spring Fire Department exhibit.

Big Spring is so fortunate to have such a caring and supportive fire department. The men worked very hard to help us set up the exhibit. We thank Carl Condray, Brian Jensen and all of the firemen, past and present, that lent the museum their artifacts as well as sharing their knowledge.

A special thanks to the Big Spring Herald for all of its coverage and to Mike Henry and KBST.

Finally, without the Dora Roberts Foundation, none of this would be possible; the museum’s gratitude is immeasurable.

NANCY, TAMMY, CHERYL
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Lawsuit threatened over atheist councilman

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Asheville City Councilman Cecil Bothwell believes in ending the death penalty, conserving water and reforming government — but he doesn’t believe in God. His political

opponents say that’s a sin that makes him unworthy of serving in office, and they’ve got the state’s Constitution on their side.

Bothwell’s detractors are threatening to take the city to court for

swearing him in, even though the state’s antiquated requirement that officeholders believe in God is unenforceable because it violates the U.S. Constitution.

“The question of whether or not God

exists is not particularly interesting to me and it’s certainly not relevant to public office,” he said.

Bothwell ran this fall on a platform that also included limiting the height of downtown buildings and saving trees in the city’s core, views that appealed to voters in the liberal-leaning community at the foot of the Appalachian Mountains.

When Bothwell was sworn into office on Monday, he used an alternative oath that doesn’t require officials to swear on a Bible or reference “Almighty God.”

That has riled conservative activists, who cite a little-noticed quirk in North Carolina’s Constitution that disqualifies officeholders “who shall deny the being of Almighty God.” The provision was included when the document was drafted in 1868 and wasn’t revised when North Carolina amended its constitution in 1971. One foe, H.K. Edgerton,

is threatening to file a lawsuit in state court against the city to challenge Bothwell’s appointment.

“My father was a Baptist minister. I’m a Christian man. I have problems with people who don’t believe in God,” said Edgerton, a former local NAACP president.

The head of a conservative weekly newspaper says city officials shirked their duty to uphold the state’s laws by swearing in Bothwell. David Morgan, editor of the Asheville Tribune, said he’s tired of seeing his state Constitution “trashed.”

Bothwell can’t be forced out of office over his atheist views because the North Carolina provision is unenforceable, according to the supremacy clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Six other states, Arkansas, Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas, have similar provisions barring atheist officeholders.

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☐ Control what you do, who you see or talk to, or where you go?	☐ Destroy your property or threaten to kill your pets?
☐ Stop you from seeing or talking to friends or family?	☐ Intimidate you with guns, knives, or other weapons?
☐ Take your money or Social Security, make you ask for money, or refuse to give you money?	☐ Shove you, slap you, choke you or hit you?
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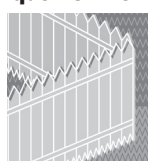
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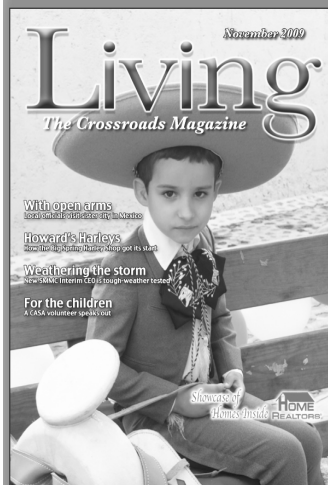
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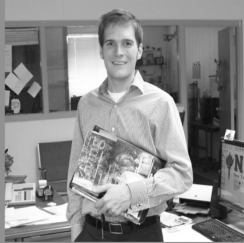
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The intensity of this waning Scorpio moon goes straight to our emotional core. Magnified feelings are illuminating and perhaps enthralling for a little while, but after a time, too much passion is draining. Figure out how to calm yourself. Be logical. Stay in a pattern. Help your brain produce alpha waves so that you can maintain a happy balance.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's a smile playing at the corners of your mouth, threatening to break wide open at the least provocation. You just feel particularly lighthearted today and see no reason to hide it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll be interacting with those who have yet to arrive at your evolved level of emotional maturity. Take this opportunity to hone your diplomacy skills. If you can deal with these guys, you can deal with anyone.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You are not forgetful. You simply prioritize the most important thoughts and let the lesser details fall where they will. This allows you to get more deeply involved in important tasks than most people. Your method will prove sound.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your priorities have changed, but not in response to external stimuli. Rather, you have realized that what you once thought was important isn't. You make a decision today that you wouldn't have made a year ago.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

You are a true Lionheart. Your sense of honor is matched only by your courage. Something happens today that illustrates this point perfectly. You hit it off especially well with an Aquarius.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If there's one characteristic that stands out today, it will be your thoroughness. You will gather all necessary information and then see a task through to the end. You make things easy for other people, and they appreciate it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You will notice a sudden improvement in your current relationship, causing you to consider deepening your commitment. You are not unwise to pursue this line of thinking. A solid partnership is a foundation for happiness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Not knowing when to quit might be looked upon as a fault. Then again, maybe it's a talent. You push past the point where others would have bailed and claim a prize that's for you and you alone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're the bright flame illuminating everyone around you in the most flattering light. Demure, graceful, elegant. No surprise then that today you're the center of attention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). This is a moment to choose your words wisely. You are in the right and everyone knows it, but it is important to you that you maintain favor and goodwill. And if you allow someone else to save face, all the better.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You will fly through your chores like a rake through dried leaves. Tasks that require repetitive motion free up your mind to sort

through some more abstract problems. You are processing a lot more than you think.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You don't need to waste time chasing down every last detail to make a decision. Decide based on your intuition — it usually serves you well. You'll feel pulled toward the correct choice.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 13). Brainstorm often — you will be exceptionally creative this year. Over the next 10 weeks, your ideas will help to open up revenue sources. Your social life percolates with interesting developments, and many will respond to your friendly and warmhearted tone. Loved ones will be guided by your good judgment in May. Leo and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 2, 15, 44 and 1.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Happy birthday to pop music's current queen, Taylor Swift. This Sagittarius embodies the brave nature of her sun sign, and she even named her second record Fearless. Her moon and Jupiter are in reflective Cancer, indicating a deeply sensitive nature. Her Mercury, Saturn and Uranus are in Capricorn, implying mental toughness and tenacity, as well as a serious head for business.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Holiday Entertaining

WITH AMERICAN LAMB



Pecan Crusted Rack of Lamb

Roasted Leg of American Lamb With Feta Vinaigrette

Serves 8 to 10

- 1 6 to 7-pound boneless leg of lamb
- 1 pint plain Greek yogurt
- 1 tablespoon curry powder
- 4 cloves minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt

Mix all marinade ingredients together and rub over lamb. Marinate overnight in fridge.

Preheat oven to 375°F.
Place lamb on roasting rack in a roasting pan. Roast lamb for approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes or until the internal temperature reaches desired doneness. Once lamb is removed from oven, let it rest for 15 minutes. Slice to desired thickness and top with feta vinaigrette. Serve with roasted fingerling potatoes and green beans.

Feta Vinaigrette

- 1/2 cup juice from 2 lemons
- 2 ounces red wine vinegar
- 1/2 bunch parsley chopped
- 4 ounces extra virgin olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 pound feta cheese (coarsely crumbled)

In a bowl mix together all ingredients except cheese. Add cheese at the end.

American Lamb Lollipops With Minted Tomato Sauce

Serves 8

- 1/2 cup Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh rosemary
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 2 frenched racks of lamb

Combine mustard, balsamic vinegar, oil, rosemary, garlic and salt. Place lamb in a roasting or sheet pan with the ribs curving down, and coat the tops with mustard mixture. Allow to stand for 1 hour at room temperature.

Preheat oven to 450°F.
Roast lamb for 20 minutes. Remove from oven and cover with aluminum foil. Allow to sit for 15 minutes, then cut into individual ribs and serve with sauce.

Minted Tomato Sauce

- 1 clove garlic, crushed with a little salt
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 to 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 2 to 3 tomatoes, crushed
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon chopped mint

Combine all ingredients in food processor and blend for 1 minute.



American Lamb Lollipops With Minted Tomato Sauce



FAMILY FEATURES

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An impressive presentation that is surprisingly easy to prepare at home, the rack offers versatility for holiday entertaining. The rack of lamb is an icon of fine dining menus across the country. Serving a rack of lamb during the holidays makes it easy to have an effortless, restaurant quality meal at home.

Rack Lingo

Lollipops — the rack is cut into individual chops and trimmed of all fat for an appetizer that is simple to make, impressive to present, and easy to eat right off the bones.

Frenched — A few inches of meat removed from the end of the bones, creating an attractive presentation.

Tips

For a holiday party, cook two rack roasts at a time; they will fit side by side in most roasting pans and two rack roasts will feed 8 people. Serve the two racks interlaced with fresh herbs twisted around the bones for a show stopping presentation.

Pecan Crusted Rack of Lamb With Rosemary Balsamic Sauce

Serves 8

- 2 frenched racks of lamb
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons coarse grain mustard
- 2 cloves minced garlic
- 3/4 cup fresh bread crumbs
- 3/4 cup toasted and chopped pecans
- 4 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary, divided
- 4 ounces semi-soft goat cheese, crumbled
- 1 cup balsamic vinegar

Preheat oven to 425°F. Rub lamb with oil and salt. Place in a roasting pan, fat side down. Roast 8 minutes. Turn and continue roasting 8 minutes. Remove from oven, leaving oven on.

Combine mustard, bread crumbs, garlic, pecans, 2 tablespoons rosemary, and goat cheese. Spread over lamb. Return to oven and cook 15 minutes, until crust is golden brown. Remove from oven and cover with foil to keep warm.

In saucepan, combine balsamic vinegar and remaining 2 tablespoons rosemary and let simmer for 6 to 8 minutes or until reduced to half.

Slide lamb into individual chops and drizzle sauce over chops. Serve with roasted butternut squash.

American Lamb Roasts for Holiday Entertaining

Perfect for relaxed entertaining, American Lamb roasts make a great holiday meal for sharing with family and friends. Nothing could be easier than roasting lamb. While lamb roasts need to cook slow and low, they take very little preparation time, allowing you to spend time with your guests while the lamb cooks to perfection!

Leg of lamb is a popular and traditional roast and is readily available at most grocery stores during the holidays. Shoulder roast and boneless loin roasts are also great options but may need to be special ordered by your grocery store or butcher.

Tips

Let the lamb roast rest for 10 to 15 minutes until the internal temperature reaches the ideal temperature. A cooling period will allow the meat's juices to settle and make carving easier.

Serve lamb roasts family style with carved, sliced meat arranged on a large platter with fresh herbs and roasted vegetables.

For more recipes and cooking information visit americanlamb.com.

Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: My girlfriend and I have been dating since we were high-school sophomores. Next year, we will be juniors in college, and we want to live together in a house with several other friends off campus. Her parents say OK. My parents say no.

My parents stated that living together should be special, and we should wait until we're ready to make a commitment. They worry that sharing a house with others will strain our relationship.

I don't want to live with my girlfriend alone because then I won't see my other friends as much. My parents claim that means I'm not ready for a serious relationship. If we move into this house, they will not pay my room and board. However, if we move in together, just the two of us, they will pay my half.

Are they being reasonable? Should we get jobs and pay our own way? Or should we do it my parents' way? — Living in L.A.

Dear Living: We find it interesting that your parents are pushing you to make a commitment you are clearly not ready to make, although it certainly doesn't hurt for you to learn to pay your own way. Your parents do have a point, however, that if you aren't ready to live with your girlfriend without others around, you probably shouldn't be living together except as platonic roommates. It ties you up emotionally, yet without that full-blown commitment, it is unfair to both of you. Think seriously about what you want from this relationship in the long term before you make a decision that will have a huge impact on your remaining college years.

Dear Annie: My stepson is in his mid-40s. He has a nervous habit of

pulling at or touching his crotch in public. His father and I have observed him doing this during family gatherings and in public places. We assume he also does it at his workplace.

We've discussed whether one of us (or maybe his wife) should talk to him about it. The question is, who should tell him and how? — Uncomfortable Stepmom

Dear Stepmom: His wife should be the one to discuss it with him. If she is unwilling, however, Dad ought to step in. You could be right that this is a nervous habit, and your stepson might be willing to work on it if he were aware of how often he does it and how noticeable it is. It might also be a medical issue, in which case he should see his doctor, and that's the approach we would use.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: My 24-year-old nephew is an alcoholic and a drug addict. He is currently in his sixth rehab facility, which just happens to be in my hometown.

I am a loving, nurturing person and want to help. Since he's been here, I've visited and given him bus fare so he can get to his job. My husband and others say he is never going to get better until all of us who love him just completely ignore him. Everyone says he needs to hit rock bottom.

He has since been kicked out of rehab and spent the other night in the emergency room because he had no place to stay and was out of money. He is barely holding on to his job, but that is what is keeping him here. He is trying to get into another facility. What's a caring and confused auntie to do? — Bewildered on the Bayou

Dear Bewildered: Here's what you should not do: Do not give him money or open your home for him to stay with you. You can, however, help him get to his job, work with him to get into another rehab facility and encourage him to see the counselors on staff. It's good for him to know you love and care about him, but please watch out that you don't unintentionally enable his drug habit. For information on the best way to deal with your nephew, contact Nar-Anon Family Groups (nar-anon.org) at 22527 Crenshaw Blvd., Ste. 200B, Torrance, CA 90505-3071 or Families Anonymous (familiesanonymous.org) at 1-800-736-9805.

Dear Annie: How can I handle holidays and special occasions with my partner's adult kids?

I've been with "Chuck" for several years. His relationship with his two children is not good. They resent that he didn't protect them from their controlling and verbally abusive mother, yet each of them has bonded to her like Super Glue. The kids both live close, but the daughter calls her father only when she needs money or a baby-sitter. The son prefers to call when we are out so he can leave a message.

I encouraged Chuck to see a therapist with his daughter, and they had two sessions together, but she did not show up for the other appointments. I also have encouraged Chuck to write or call his son to tell him that he loves him and would like a closer relationship with him.

I learned early on that I must never invite the kids on a holiday, since they will be with their mother (even on Father's Day). But when they accept our invitations, half the time they don't show up. The other times,

they arrive late and leave early. We've never been invited to their homes as a couple.

How should we handle this? — Sad in Maine

Dear Sad: We hope with forbearance. These kids do not seem to have dealt well with the divorce, and they are too self-absorbed and resentful to consider that their behavior is punitive and borderline rude. Your advice to Chuck was good, and we hope he will continue to let his children know he loves them. You can't go wrong treating them with affection and kindness, and we hope one of these days, they will grow up enough to appreciate it. If not, at least you will know you did your best for Chuck's sake.

Dear Readers: Tomorrow, Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009, is the 13th anniversary of the Worldwide Candle Lighting. At 7 p.m. local time, anyone who wishes can light a candle for one hour in remembrance of all the children who have died. Those who would like more information can contact the Compassionate Friends (compassionatefriends.org) at 1-877-969-0010. [0]

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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*In observation of the Christmas Holiday,
The Big Spring Herald will observe the
following deadline schedule:*

RETAIL / CLASSIFIED ADS

THURSDAY, DEC. 24TH
Deadline Monday, Dec. 21st, 3:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 25TH
No Paper Christmas Day

THURSDAY, DEC. 24TH
Deadline Monday, Dec. 21st, 10:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 27TH
Deadline Tuesday, Dec. 22nd, 10:00 a.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 28TH
Deadline Wednesday, Dec. 23rd, 10:00 a.m.

*Merry
Christmas!*

210117

November Online Photo Contest Winner



LITTLE DEER
BIG TROUBLE

Submitted By:
Pam Rich

Congratulations!

210193



**THEY'RE BACK!!!
"CHAMBER BUCKS"**

Are now available, just in time for the Holidays!!!

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Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce

WHAT ARE "CHAMBER BUCKS"??

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**Blissful • Blum's Jewelers • Elrod's Furniture
Harley Davidson Shop • Harris Lumber & Hardware
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They make great stocking stuffers, gifts for that hard to shop for co-worker or teenagers, great for bunko groups; bridge groups; clubs and organizations, teachers, the list is endless.

"Chamber Bucks" can be brought in \$5.00 increments. Anyone can buy "Chamber Bucks".

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Try Big Spring this year for your holiday purchases. Let's try to keep our money locally.

Purchase your "Chamber Bucks at the
**Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Office, 215 W. 3rd
For more information call 263-7641**

210031

Big Spring Art Association winding up an eventful year

The Big Spring Art Association met in September after a summer break and has had a busy three months since. Each month had great programs presented and a membership show in September.

September 21 was our first meeting after our summer break. We went over plans for our membership show, and Debra Lancaster presented our program for the evening. Debra is from Ackerly, is an author and artist, and has written and illustrated a book about the Rex Family of Big Spring. She presented an interesting program on her art and research of families in Big Spring.

Our membership art show was also in September, held in the Fine Arts Building at Howard College. Stacy Slaton of Howard College was our hostess and Debra Lancaster was the judge. Kay Smith won the first, second and third places in watercolors. Bruce Schooler won first place in photography and Cindi Hoard won second and third.

Arlys Scott won first and second in pastels, and in unique and unusual category, Carol Peterson came in first and Estelle Howard won second place.

In oils, Belle Schooler had first and second places, and Josh Nalley won third place. In mixed media, Roger Albertson won first and Estelle Howard took second. Belle Schooler received Best of Show and Linda Rupard Irvin won the Peoples' Choice Award.

Our October meeting was held on the 20th. After our business meeting was finished, Kay Smith presented

our program for the evening. She talked on how to recycle paintings rather than throw them away. She presented several examples of recycled art and how she did it. It was a very informative evening. We also had Tom Kelly and his son as our guest speaker. He is a chef at the Moss Creek Ranch, and he spoke about the possibility of local artists showing their work at the restaurant.

November's meeting was on the 17th, and the business portion was on our Spring Area-wide Art show coming up in May, and on our Christmas party. Our program was presented by Judy Tereletsy, who had invited Tammy Schrecengost, curator of the Heritage Museum, to be our guest speaker. Tammy talked about her duties as curator, interests, books she has written and is working on, and what's coming up at the museum.

We are having our Christmas party on the 15th of this month. Our hostesses will be Doris Vieregge and Ruby Bruns, and they have opened their home for our party. Everyone is to bring finger foods and an art-related gift to exchange.

We invite all who are interested in art, are artists and photographers to come to our meetings. BSAA holds its meetings at the Howard County Library basement on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted. We have a different program each month, presented by local and out of town artists/photographers, and more. Come join us!

—Submitted by Bruce Schooler



Results of the Big Spring Art Association membership show, from top down: Arlys Scott took first and second in pastels; Belle Schooler won first and second in oils and Best of Show; Carolyn Peterson won first in unique and unusual; Kay Smith received first, second and third in watercolors; and Linda Rupard's "Mardi Gras Cowgirl" took People's Choice Award.

Bruce Schooler photos

Ford Year End Sales Event 2009 F150 And Superduty Closeout

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2009 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT



Blue Flame/Gold Accent, 4.6 V-8, Chrome Pkg., Texas/Oklahoma Pkg., Dual Headrest DVD

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SALE PRICE

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Stk# 2231

MSRP \$53,965

Customer Cashback / Dealer Discount
\$10,000

SALE PRICE

\$43,965*

2009 Ford F250 Crew Cab Lariat Powerstroke Diesel 4X4



Pueblo Gold, Camel Leather, 6.4 Diesel, Chrome Pkg., Bedliner, Lariat Plus Pkg.

Stk# 2232

MSRP \$53,495

Customer Cashback / Dealer Discount
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SALE PRICE

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