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SUNDAY

JANUARY 29, 2012



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Courtesy photo
Hauchen Zhang, Van Cliburn gold medalist, will perform with the Big Spring Symphony at 8 p.m. Feb 4 at Garrett Hall.

Van Cliburn gold medalist to perform with symphony

Herald Staff Report

Hauchen Zhang, gold medalist of the Van Cliburn piano competition, will perform with the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra in Garrett Hall the evening of Saturday, Feb. 4.

The concert was originally scheduled fto be held at the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium, but delays in renovation of the facility forced a change of venue. Garrett Hall is located at First United Methodist Church, at the corner of Scurry and Fourth streets. The concert will begin at 8 p.m.

Zhang, of China, is the first gold medalist to perform with the orchestra, according to Dr. Keith Graumann, conductor.



Graumann

“Several Van Cliburn finalists have played in Big Spring, but it is really special to have the gold medalist,” said Graumann. “The Van Cliburn competition ranks right up there with the Tchaikovsky competition in Moscow.”

Zhang will play Rachmaninoff’s 2nd Piano Concerto and other selections.

Zhang was born in June 1990, in Shanghai. When he was three and a half years old, he began to study the piano. Two years later, he made his debut at the Shanghai Concert Hall.

In 1997, at the age of 6, he successfully performed Mozart’s Piano Concerto K.467 with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra. From there, Zhang continued to command attention — and win competitions. In 1997 and 1999, he took first prize in the Shanghai Piano Competition. In 2002, at age 12, he participated in his first international piano competition —The Fourth International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians, and became the youngest champion in the history of that prestigious competition.

See **ZHANG**, Page 3A

‘Love run’ coming to state park

By AMANDA MORENO

Staff Writer

Love the park? Love to run?

February 11 will provide an opportunity to combine love for the park and the love to run and even a chance to share it with your partner, in the first annual Run 2 Love 2 Run at the Big Spring State Park.

“Valentine’s Day was the inspiration for this event, of course,” Park Manager Ron Alton said. “This is an incentive for folks to stay fit.”

Local race director Craig Felty found the inspiration from a few couples he knows who are working toward running together and staying in shape. According to Alton, this event is Felty’s brainchild. In addition to the healthy aspect of running, the event also is financially healthy for the state park.

“All state park events are good business for the park,” Alton said. “Money raised will be used toward maintenance of the park.”

The state monitors the amount of traffic through the state park and the better the numbers, the better justification there is for the park.

See **RUN**, Page 3A



HERALD file photo
Running events are always popular at Big Spring State Park on Scenic Mountain.

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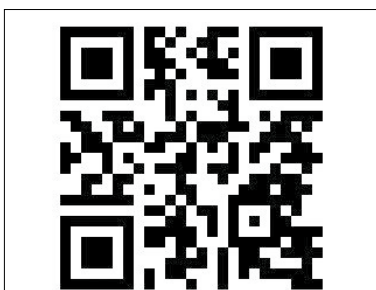


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Child advocate director pleads guilty to theft

Special to the Herald

SAN ANGELO — Debra Rucker Brown, former executive director of the Children’s Advocacy Center of Tom Green County Inc., pleaded guilty this week before U.S. District Judge Sam R. Cummings to one count of theft concerning a federally funded program.



Brown faces a maximum statutory sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. In addition, restitution could be ordered.

Judge Cummings ordered a pre-sentence investigation report with a sentencing date to be set after the completion of that report.

Brown, 51, served as the CAC’s executive director for more than 16 years — from August 1994 through February 2011. The CAC is a non-profit program that operates Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA); Hope House; Family Enrichment Services (FES); and the Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT).

See **PLEA**, Page 3A

Settlement talks in Texas redistricting are more positive

PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A lengthy and contentious fight over Texas redistricting plans took a new twist Friday when the state and a minority group opposing the redrawn maps started negotiating over the disputed districts in hopes of preserving its April 3 primary.

The state attorney general’s office told a three-judge panel in San Antonio that the goal should be to draw a temporary map to keep the primary, but minority groups signaled the discussions may have greater significance.

While hashing out a temporary map just for the 2012 elections would avoid Texas delaying its primary for a second time, it would leave unresolved a larger clash over minority representation. That separate battle has escalated all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Texas is one of nine states with a history of racial discrimination that must ask

See **FIGHT**, Page 3A



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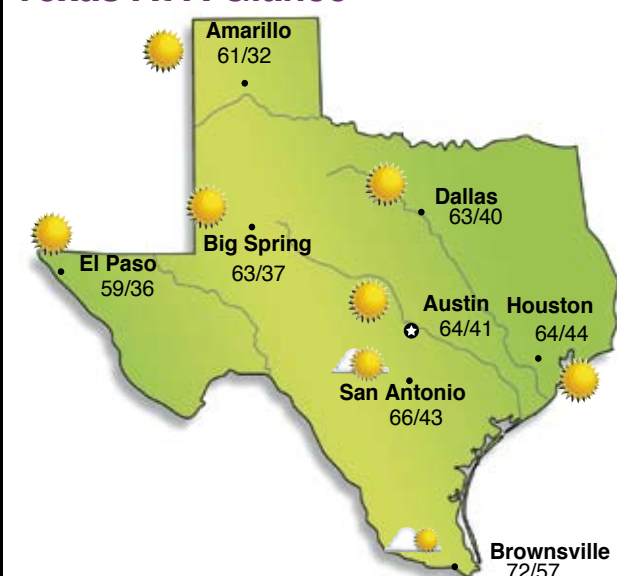
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sun 1/29	Mon 1/30	Tue 1/31	Wed 2/1	Thu 2/2
				
63/37 Sunny skies. High 63F. Winds S at 10 to 15 mph.	70/43 A few clouds. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.	72/42 Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.	69/38 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	62/35 Sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.
Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 6:16 PM	Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 6:17 PM	Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 6:18 PM	Sunrise: 7:40 AM Sunset: 6:19 PM	Sunrise: 7:40 AM Sunset: 6:20 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	63	41	sunny	Kingsville	70	51	mst sunny
Amarillo	61	32	sunny	Livingston	64	38	sunny
Austin	64	41	sunny	Longview	64	38	sunny
Beaumont	65	44	sunny	Lubbock	63	31	sunny
Brownsville	72	57	pt sunny	Lufkin	64	38	sunny
Brownwood	65	41	sunny	Midland	62	39	sunny
Corpus Christi	67	52	mst sunny	Raymondville	71	53	pt sunny
Corsicana	62	39	sunny	Rosenberg	64	43	sunny
Dallas	63	40	sunny	San Antonio	66	43	mst sunny
Del Rio	65	43	mst sunny	San Marcos	65	41	sunny
El Paso	59	36	sunny	Sulphur Springs	61	39	sunny
Fort Stockton	64	41	sunny	Sweetwater	62	39	sunny
Gainesville	60	36	sunny	Tyler	62	37	sunny
Greenville	60	36	sunny	Weatherford	61	36	sunny
Houston	64	44	sunny	Wichita Falls	61	37	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	56	31	sunny	Minneapolis	23	19	pt sunny
Boston	42	29	sunny	New York	44	31	mst sunny
Chicago	29	23	sn shower	Phoenix	73	44	sunny
Dallas	63	40	sunny	San Francisco	65	49	pt sunny
Denver	58	31	mst sunny	Seattle	49	43	rain
Houston	64	44	sunny	St. Louis	42	32	mst sunny
Los Angeles	78	47	sunny	Washington, DC	50	32	pt sunny
Miami	77	63	rain				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Sun 1/29	Mon 1/30	Tue 1/31	Wed 2/1	Thu 2/2
4	5	5	4	4
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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Police blotter

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

- SARAH ANNE WILSON, 31, of 2705 Clanton St., was arrested Friday on a charge of assault: family violence threat or offensive touch.
- CHRISTOPHER HUGH SIMPSON, 43, address unknown, was arrested Friday on a charge of public intoxication.
- LARRY HERNANDEZ, 51, of 1303 Sycamore St., was arrested Friday on a warrant from other agency.
- CHANCE PATRICK NEWTON, 21, of 1309 Virginia, was arrested Friday on a charge of disorderly conduct by fighting.
- SHANE ALAN KNOWLTON, 25, of 902 E. 12th Street, was arrested Friday on a charge of disorderly conduct by fighting.
- CRISTOPHER RYAN COLEGROVE, 19, was arrested Friday on a charge of disorderly conduct by fighting, fail to appear (two counts), safety belt rode without being secured, bail jumping/failure to appear/fine only.
- ROBERT KYLE HESS, 23, of 7000 S. Service Rd. 5, was arrested Friday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- ANTHONY ROBERT SANCHEZ JR., of 2813 Coronado Ave., was arrested Friday on a charge of no drivers license when unlicensed.
- BURGLARY OF HABITATION was reported in the 1500 block of Johnson Street.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported: In the 800 block E. Third Street. In the 200 block of N.W. Third Street. In the 1000 block of S. Birdwell Lane.

Support Groups

MONDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, noon-1 p.m., 615 Settles.

- PEP — Parent Education Program for CPS participating and non-participating parnts, single parent, grandparents, adoptive or fostering parents. Every first and fourth Monday of the month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Northside Community Center. Classes are free. For information, call 263-2673.

- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting, 8-9 p.m., fourth floor, VA Medical Center.

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. This is a group for those with Parkinson's Disease, Young Onset Parkinson's, caregivers, and those interested in learning more about the illness. For more information, contact Jody at 432-699-6640.

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Obituaries

Billy Joe Burleson



Billy Joe Burleson, 55, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012, at his residence. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 30, 2012, at Myers & Smith Chapel with Jerome McNally, pastor of New Life Ministries Church of God in Christ, officiating. Grave-side services will be at 3:30 p.m. Monday at Hamlin East Cemetery in Hamlin, Texas.

He was born July 24, 1956, in Hamlin, Texas, to Rosie Lee and James Burleson. He worked as a heavy equipment operator in road construction. He moved to Big Spring in 1990 from Hamlin. He was a member of Christ Community Fellowship.

He is survived by one daughter, Shanna Snow of Abilene; four brothers, Isaiah Edwards and wife Charlene Rushin, Carl Burleson and wife Margaret and Robert Burleson and wife Carol, all of Big Spring and Zachary Burleson and wife Sabrina of Abilene; three sisters, Joy Ann Hagan and husband Kofi of Atlanta, Ga., Rosemary Burleson of Abilene and Betty Burleson of Kansas City, Mo.; two granddaughters and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, James Lee Burleson and Terry Burleson; and two sisters, Gloria Inez Burleson and Bobby Jean Jefferson.

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

Omega Hernandez

Omega Hernandez, 80, died Friday, Jan. 27, 2012, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

- Special Parents for Special Children support group meets the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Elbow Elementary. Contact Kerri Rosenbaum at 432-816-3320 or kerriroosenbaum9488@msn.com

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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ZHANG

Continued from Page 1A

At 15, he was a winner of the 2006 Albert M.Greenfield Student Competition, organized by the Philadelphia Orchestra. An additional prize was awarded to him for his interpreta-

tion of Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto. In June 2009, at 19, he won the gold medal in the Thirteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, the first Asian to win the honor and one of the youngest gold medalists in the history of the competition. In the two years fol-

lowing the Cliburn competition, Zhang has performed in nearly 160 tour recitals in the Americas, Asia and Europe, including solos at such celebrated music festivals as Beijing Music Festival and the Gilmore International Keyboard Music Festival. He has also played almost all the best-

known piano concertos with world-renowned symphony orchestras such as San Francisco Symphony, Philadelphia Philharmonic Orchestra, London Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Krakow Philharmonic and Hong Kong Philharmonic. "... the pianist Zhang is no emulating eccen-

tric. He who plays like this, like Zhang did at the Pro-Musica Concert at the Funkhaus in Hannover, may do anything," said Stephan Arndt in the Hannover-sche Allgemeine. "He is one of those musicians who you only meet once every few years." Concert tickets are \$15 adults, \$10 for seniors

and \$5 for students and are available at Western Banks, Faye's Flowers, KBST, KBYG, the *Big Spring Herald* office, Blum's Jewelers and the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

Portions of this article were obtained from Zhang's website at <http://zhanghaochen.com>.

PLEA

Continued from Page 1A

CAC's funding comes mostly from grants and contracts for services, with the balance coming from charitable contributions and money raised through special events it hosts. A significant source of the grant funding is provided by the U.S. government through Department of Justice and Department of Health and Human Services. According to documents filed

in the case, Brown admitted that from Jan. 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2008, she knowingly embezzled or stole from the CAC by submitting and processing several fictitious reimbursement forms seeking reimbursement for items purportedly purchased for the CAC, or one of its programs, and for purported expenses incurred, including travel by her and others for CAC business. Using these fictitious reimbursement forms, Brown then caused CAC checks to be fraudulently issued payable to her or for her benefit. She also caused CAC

checks to be issued payable to her without providing any supporting documentation. She tendered the signed fraudulent checks at her bank for deposit to her personal checking account or for cash, or submitted them as payment on her personal credit card accounts. She'd been accused of taking more than \$237,000. The case is being investigated by the FBI and the Texas Rangers. Assistant U.S. Attorney Ann C. Roberts of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Lubbock is in charge of the prosecution.

RUN

Continued from Page 1A

is to keep the park open, according to Alton. The run will take place at 11 a.m. with registration completed by 10 a.m. the morning of the race. There will be a special couples bracket as well as single entries accepted. "As always, just because run is in the name doesn't mean people can't walk the distance if they choose to," Alton said. There will be awards presented to the top three places in male, female and couples divisions. There will also be special prize drawings and prizes for the best Valentine's costume. There is a \$20 entry fee for each person; couples are asked to submit their individual forms together. Registration can be conducted online at www.timingspecial-



Alton

ist.com or by calling the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce office at 263-7641.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

FIGHT

Continued from Page 1A

the Washington federal court or the U.S. Department of Justice to pre-approve any changes to state election laws. After a daylong hearing Friday in San Antonio, a three-judge panel said that if the two sides can't reach an agreement by Feb. 6, the primary will be pushed back. That hearing came a day after testimony ended in Washington over whether parts of the new Republican-drawn map violate the Voting Rights Act. Closing arguments are set for Tuesday and judges have given no indication on when they might rule. Negotiations between the state and minority groups were under way even before the court made its ruling late Friday. Democratic state Rep. Trey Martinez-Fischer, chairman of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus, said Texas Attorney General Gregg Abbott had approached his group to make a serious attempt to reach a compromise that would keep the state's April primary.

With that trial winding down, Martinez-Fischer said the strong case made by minority groups to the Washington court could be driving the state's readiness to talk about reaching a compromise on the maps that will be used in the upcoming election while the two court cases are resolved. "What's significant is that there's never been any discussions. There are now," Martinez-Fischer said. "Something's motivating that." Addressing the San Antonio court, Assistant Attorney General David Mattax characterized the discussions as purely geared toward getting a temporary map in place so the state could keep its primary. Anything agreed-upon, in other words, would not be final. "An interim map for 2012. That's what we need to get done now," Mattax told the court. But minority groups questioned if that was even still feasible after the Supreme Court ordered the San Antonio to take a second try at drafting temporary political maps for the 2012 election. Even some Republicans weren't sold on the idea of a temporary

map. An attorney for Republican U.S. Rep. Joe Barton, whose district could be affected by a new map, said the attorney general's office does not have the authority to negotiate map boundaries outside of what the Texas Legislature submitted. "The state cannot advocate a map other than that which the policy-making body passed," said Joe Nixon, Barton's attorney. "That is why Congressman Barton chose to intervene to protect his interest. We're not in a situation where we can say what can we agree or not agree on." Minority groups want congressional and legislative maps that reflect the increase in minorities living in Texas, something they say the Legislature's maps do not do. Republican lawmakers say they drew

new maps to benefit their political party, not to discriminate against minorities. The long-running dispute over the maps has volleyed between the San Antonio federal court which is considering the allegations of racial discrimination and the one in Washington which is checking to make sure the maps comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Abbott had asked the San Antonio court to quickly draw temporary maps so that Texas can still hold its primary on April 3. Minority groups, meanwhile, asked for more time to explain what they think the maps should look like. At issue is how the maps treat minorities. Texas must redraw political districts every 10 years to adjust for population changes.

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Ray Mendoza, Sr., 54, died Wednesday. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Kevin Brent Matteson, 51, died Sunday. Memorial Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Cliff Howard, 81, died Wednesday. Funeral services will be at 4 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Billy Joe Burleson, 55, died Tuesday. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Graveside services will be at 3:30 p.m. Monday at Hamlin East Cemetery in Hamlin, TX.

Donald G. McCommons, 72, died Wednesday. Graveside services will be at 11:30 a.m. Monday at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Dorothy M. Kilgore, 83, died Wednesday. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Trinity Memorial Park.

Omega Hernandez, 80, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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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.		
Bill McClellan Managing Editor	Ron Midkiff Publisher	Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Amanda Moreno Staff Writer	Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer	

YOUR VIEWS

To the Citizens of Coahoma

TO THE EDITOR:
With drought conditions ever-worsening and warnings from CRMWD about dwindling lake reserves on a regular basis, you would expect your city managers would be setting an example on water conservation.

Well, that isn't the case in Coahoma. With all the leaks, both known and unknown, in the Coahoma and Sand Springs water system being bad enough, they have allowed contained watering of grass and trees, however well intentioned.

In the last 15 months or so it has amounted to around two million gallons. As I have stated in the past, I like trees and grass as much as anybody, but I also want to be able to have potable water for my home and for fire protection. With predictions of our lake reserves being depleted by December 2012 without major rainfall, is it delusion or arrogance this has happened?

There has been talk of drilling state-approved city wells, but the same engineering firm usually employed by Coahoma — Park Hill Smith and Cooper — released a statement recently stating there wasn't a viable source of portable water in the Big Spring area.

The next time you drive by the sewer plant on FM 700 and see the ongoing construction of the water recycling plant, maybe you'll get a new understanding of why the need to conserve what fresh water we have.

Ball park grass and tree-lined boulevards or water for homes and fire protection, what's more important to you?

DAN SHELburnE
EX-CITY COUNCILMAN
COAHOMA

Warning

TO THE EDITOR:
With baseball/softball season approaching I feel that any and all individuals visiting the Sports Complex need to be aware of pit bulls running loose just feet away from that area.

On Jan. 10, my parents, Charles and Jewell Matthews, lost their beloved pet "Dapper" to two pit bulls that mauled this small dog.

Animal Control was called and assisted, only to find that no one at the home where the pit bulls resided would answer the door.

These animals should not be allowed to run loose in an area that is so close to a facility used for activities for children.

It would be a bigger tragedy for a child, adult or another animal be mulled by these dogs.

KATRINA SCHULTZE
CONNECTICUT

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We can do anything, Lord, with You
by our side.

Amen

Time for a lament for linemen

No, this isn't about Super Bowl "grunt" players "duking it out" in the football trenches.

I'm referencing Glen Campbell, who is crooning around the country on his well-earned "farewell tour" to cap off a career spanning 50+ years.

The Alzheimer victim is singing our old favorites, including "Wichita Lineman," one of lyricist Jimmy Webb's best songs. Every time I hear it, thoughts turn to my dear old dad. He, too, was a "lineman" — literally — but that's where comparison to the vaunted vocalist ends.

They worked for two different utilities — Glen sang of main road telephone lines. My dad was a "do everything" guy for a small natural gas company serving rural clientele in Brown County, Texas. He was a "lineman" who walked gas pipelines, mostly in the country and often in pastures. His customers loved him, though. Before he and natural gas came along, they were sentenced to fireplace-and-wood-stove days.

Dad earned what now would be considered a half-notch above minimum wage. Not a guitarist or passable vocalist, he was better suited for humming. And that's what he did as he walked the gas lines, many of which were above ground in the 1940s.

He'd take along a bottle of soapy water and an old toothbrush, his ears cocked to detect hissing sounds and his nose at "full sniff," ever alert for escaping gas. Often he'd take me along on short treks. I remember his



Dr.
DON
NEWBURY

slathering soap suds on pipe connections to detect leaks — "just to play it safe," as he put it. Sometimes he'd send me back to the truck for "such and such" wrench. Occasionally I returned with the correct tool; usually I didn't.

Later, as a newspaper reporter in college and in higher education media relations during the first half of my professional career, I considered myself a "lineman," too. I made a tad more money than Dad, but fell several million dollars short of Campbell. Dad's "play it safe" admonition still rings in my memory, even though he died two decades ago. I seek a continuation of the high roads he always sought.

Dad read newspapers, as he said, "kivver to kivver." Even in his final days, he'd comment on the news. Upon finishing, he'd reflect on the pressing issues, commenting on what he'd do, "just to play it safe."

Today, he'd wonder why so many high roads are untaken, particularly on matters of monumental importance. A current example is the proposed Keystone pipeline, the multi-billion dollar project stretching from Canada to Texas — the one recently delayed by President Obama. Dad might say something like, "There's more to this than meets the eye. On the 'tuther end,' the president may eventually be viewed as the ultimate 'Keystone Kop' or 'Keystone Cop-out.'" And Dad would pray that high roads be taken.

Speaking of linemen (and "linewomen"), I sympathize greatly with Carnival Cruise Lines media relations people who are busy calming media waters in an industry whose safety record is remarkable, despite ABC-TV's "hatchet job" that suggests otherwise.

The network account was as

one-sided as any I've ever seen.

ABC didn't "take the high road," airing what might be expected from disgruntled former cruise line employees. Surely the inclusion of comments from "gruntled" employees would have added balance.

Cruise "linepersons," so much in "tread-water mode" fielding media inquiries, must ignore ongoing Internet social media lampoons aimed at the ill-fated, clueless ship captain who was not cut from "just-to-be-safe" cloth.

"Tweets" I've heard — some second, third or even "ump-teenth hand" — drag details of the tragic event into the alleys of questionable taste. One claims the captain to be "an avid rock hound who can hardly wait for the club's next meeting to tell about the big one he found." Another said that at his initial hearing, there wasn't a "wet eye in the place." Then there was the "boat for sale" on some Internet site: "As is" on coast of Italy. Clearly a 'fixer-upper,' buyer assumes cost of shipping/handling."

The world cries for people up and down the line who'll "walk it and talk it." That line is common sense and it doesn't even require soapy water or toothbrush.

Really, we can all be "linepersons," not just for the county, but across our beloved country. There's a clarion call for volunteers on the main roads, side roads, country roads and brambly lanes. If we take the task seriously, countless lifelines will be thrown to millions of folks now hung out to dry.

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Metroplex. To contact him, send email to him at newbury@speakerdoc.com. Also find out more by visiting his website at www.speakerdoc.com.

A year to build better credit

A new year often brings resolutions — such as endeavoring to spend less, save more or repair bad credit. Maintaining a good credit report can translate into quicker loan approvals, competitive interest rates and a strong financial foundation. Whatever the motivation, Texans have an interest in obtaining and maintaining a good credit rating. A few simple steps can help borrowers repair bad credit.



GREG
ABBOTT

Most importantly, borrowers should always do their best to pay their bills on time.

Making timely payments ensures borrowers have a positive payment history, which creditors weigh heavily when they make lending decisions.

All Texans should periodically examine their credit reports and take quick action to address any disputed or incorrect information. It is particularly important to address any inaccurate information on a credit report. Federal law requires each of the nationwide credit reporting bureaus — Equifax, Experian and TransUnion — to provide one free credit report per year to borrowers who request a copy of their report.

The credit reporting bureaus must provide the borrower with everything in his or her credit report and a list of everyone who has requested the report within the past year.

Under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, both the credit bureau and any organization responsible for reporting inaccurate information must correct errors or incomplete information on credit reports. Texans who discover errors on their credit reports should send a written dispute letter to both the credit reporting bureau and the creditor who filed the

information.

Dispute letters seeking corrections should very specifically describe the facts and circumstances surrounding the mistake.

In addition to providing their complete name and address, borrowers should include copies (not originals) of any supporting documentation, such as receipts, statements that verify payments and a copy of the inaccurate credit report.

Each error on the report should be circled or highlighted and accompanied by a detailed explanation clarifying why the information is inaccurate. Borrowers should send their dispute letter by certified mail, return receipt requested, so they can document that the credit bureau and creditor received their correction request.

Borrowers should keep copies of the dispute letter and any enclosures.

Once a credit bureau is notified of a dispute, it must investigate the items in question (unless it considers the dispute to be frivolous).

The credit bureau also must forward all relevant data the borrower provided about the inaccuracy to the appropriate creditor.

Upon receiving the information, the creditor must review the dispute and report the results back to the credit bureau. If the reporting creditor discovers the disputed information is inaccurate, it must notify all three credit bureaus so corrections can be made to the information in the complainant's file.

Once its investigation is complete, the credit reporting bureau must notify the borrower of the results in writing.

If the dispute led the credit reporting bureau to correct the mistake, the bureau must also provide the borrower a free copy of the corrected credit report.

(Note: A corrected credit report does not count as the

borrower's annual free report.) If an item is changed or deleted, the credit reporting bureau cannot put the disputed information back in the borrower's file unless the creditor verifies that the information is accurate and complete.

The credit bureau also must send the borrower written notice that includes the creditor's name, address and phone number.

If the credit reporting bureau's investigation does not resolve a borrower's dispute, the borrower may request that a statement of the dispute be included in his or her file and in future credit reports.

Borrowers may also ask the credit bureau to provide the dispute statement to anyone who previously received a copy of the report. Credit bureaus may charge a fee for this service.

When negative information in a credit report is accurate and correctly includes a deficiency in the borrower's payment history, that negative information will remain on the books for seven years.

Bankruptcies are included for 10 years, while information about unpaid judgments against the borrower can be reported for seven years — or until the statute of limitations expires, whichever is longer.

Borrowers with negative items on their credit report should be wary of advertisements promising to wipe credit reports clean, because there is not a legal way to remove accurately reported negative information.

If a credit reporting agency or creditor refuses to correct inaccurate, incomplete or outdated information, Texans should file a complaint with the Texas Attorney General's Office or the Federal Trade Commission.

Greg Abbott is the Texas Attorney General. To find out more, visit <https://www.oag.state.tx.us>.

► State News

Celebrity pot busts put tiny Texas county on map

SIERRA BLANCA, Texas (AP) — Nestled among the few remaining businesses that dot a rundown highway in this dusty West Texas town stands what's become a surprise destination for marijuana-toting celebrities: the Hudspeth County Jail.

Willie Nelson, Snoop Dogg and actor Armie Hammer have been among the thousands of people busted for possession at a Border Patrol checkpoint outside town in recent years, bringing a bit of notoriety to one of Texas' most sparsely populated counties.

"Once I was in Arizona, and when I said where I was from, they said, 'That's where Willie Nelson was busted,'" said Louise Barantley, manager at the Coyote Sunset souvenir shop in Sierra Blanca.

Hudspeth County cameos aren't only for outlaws: Action movie star Steven Seagal, who's already deputized in Louisiana and Arizona for his reality show "Steven Seagal Lawman" on A&E, has signed on to become a county officer.

Locals already have found ways to rub shoulders with their celebrity guests.

Deputies posed for pictures with Snoop Dogg after authorities said they found several joints on his bus earlier this month. When Nelson was busted here in 2010, the county's lead prosecutor suggested the singer settle his marijuana charges by performing "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain" for the court. Nelson paid a fine instead, but not before county commissioner Wayne West played one of his own songs for the country music legend.

West acknowledged he's a big fan of Nelson and wanted to capitalize on a golden chance to perform for such a noted "captive audience."

"Willie loved the song, he is a real outgoing individual" he added.

The once-thriving town of Sierra Blanca began to shrink to its current 1,000-person population after the construction of nearby Interstate 10 — a main artery linking cities from California to Florida — offered an easy way to bypass the community.

Now the highway is sending thousands of drug bust cases Sierra Blanca's way, courtesy of a Border Patrol checkpoint just outside of town where drug-sniffing dogs inspect more than 17,000 trucks, travelers — and tour buses — daily for whiffs of contraband that may have made its wait inland from the border.

Hudspeth County Sheriff Arvin West, younger brother of the musically inclined commissioner, said his office handled about 2,000 cases last year, most of them having to do with drugs seized at the checkpoint.

Border Patrol agents say people busted with small amounts of pot often say they have medical marijuana licenses from California, Arizona or New Mexico — three states along I-10 that, unlike Texas, allow for medicinal pot prescriptions — and claim to believe the licenses were valid nationwide.

Nelson's publicists declined to comment about the specifics of the singer's case. Representatives for Snoop Dogg, who will pay a fine and court costs after being cited for possession of marijuana paraphernalia, did not return several messages seeking comment.

County authorities have not yet decided whether to prosecute or issue a citation for Hammer, who starred in the 2010 film "The Social Network" and more recently played FBI's number two man in "Edgar J." He was arrested in November after authorities said they found marijuana-laced brownies and cookies on his way to his wife's bakery in San Antonio. His attorney Kent Schaffer has called the case a "total non-issue."

Local officials say they're not on a celebrity witch hunt, but some residents are enjoying the publicity from the high-profile arrests. They say the once forgotten town of Sierra Blanca should take pride in not pandering to famous people caught breaking the law.

"We get attention because something is being done right," resident Adolfo Gonzalez said while shopping at a local convenience store. "It'd be worse if we'd let them go because they are celebrities."

That's not expected to change when Segal comes to town. Sheriff West insists the "Under Siege" star hasn't indicated any plans to film his show here — but the sheriff isn't ruling it out.

"If he wants to, we can do it but that's not what he said this was about," West said.

West's spokesman, Rusty Flemming, said Seagal will patrol the area and train colleagues in martial arts and weapons techniques. The actor is expected to arrive in Hudspeth County within months, once he's done filming a new movie in Canada.

Segal's management agency did not return calls and emails seeking comment about his plans in Texas.

Commissioner West, meanwhile, is keeping his musical skills sharp — just in case another performer pays a surprise visit to the county jail. The lead guitarist and vocalist of a local band, West said he regrets not having a chance to sing for Snoop Dogg, but wasn't sure if the rapper would have enjoyed the performance anyway.

"Our stuff is laid back," he said. "Mas o menos (more or less) country."

Beer, chip run ends in four arrests

EL PASO — A beer run (and a bag of chips) ended with the arrest of four teenagers this week in the Lower Valley.

El Paso police said the teens allegedly stole a six-pack, two other cans of beer and a bag of chips at 1 a.m. Wednesday from the 7-Eleven at 850 N. Zaragoza. Store employees chased the teens, who dropped the items and left in a waiting car allegedly driven by Eduardo Talamantes. Police found the car nearby.

Talamantes, 18; Francisco Castro, 18; Celia Michelle Hernandez, 17, and an unnamed juvenile girl were arrested on suspicion of misdemeanor theft.

Hernandez faces an added charge for allegedly having drug paraphernalia and less than two ounces of marijuana in her purse.

Sheriff's deputy recovering from shooting

ORANGE — An Orange County Sheriff's Deputy is listed in stable condition after he was shot twice after a struggle with a juvenile outside the Minnie Rogers Juvenile Detention Center Thursday morning.

Deputy Fred Ashworth underwent surgery at Christus Hospital-St. Elizabeth in Beaumont to remove one of two bullets that struck him in the upper chest area, Jefferson County Sheriff Mitch Woods said. Ashworth may have a second surgery at a later date to remove the second bullet.

The 16-year-old juvenile is in custody at the detention center.

"The outlook for him (Ashworth) is very good," Woods said. "We are very fortunate considering the circumstances."

The teen, who had been housed at the center, was returning from a hearing in Orange County shortly after 10 a.m. Jan. 26 when the incident occurred, Woods said during a brief press conference outside the facility

shortly after the shooting. The deputy and juvenile were at the "sally port" and outside the deputy's vehicle when a struggle ensued.

"The juvenile somehow got hold of the deputy's weapon and fired a shot, wounding the deputy," Woods said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the deputy and his family."

Behind Woods, crime scene tape marked off the entrance to the law enforcement gate and officers from Jefferson and Orange counties, as well as Port Arthur, Beaumont, Groves and the Texas Rangers, gathered near the gated side of the facility. A second crowd of law enforcement officials were grouped on the side of the building near a set of doors.

Woods explained during a subsequent phone interview that the teen was confined inside the sally port area within the facility with no way to get out. Entry and exit are controlled by personnel at the detention center.

"An entry team of officers was preparing to make entry to the sally port area when the juvenile put the handgun down and surrendered," he said.

Deputy Rod Carroll, spokesperson with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, said the teen was taken into custody without further incident.

Tactical paramedics with the Sheriff's Office and Beaumont EMS treated the officer on-scene, Carroll said.

Woods said the Sheriff's Office is extremely elated the officer will recover and added that the large response from other law enforcement agencies was appreciated.

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office is the lead investigators in the incident and are receiving assistance from other agencies including Orange County Sheriff's Office and Beaumont Police Department.

The teen could face attempted capital murder charges, Woods said.

Indictment issued in kidnapping case

COMMERCE — A Commerce man has been indicted on a charge of aggravated kidnapping in connection with an alleged domestic violence incident in October.

Christopher Benard Alex, 26, was formally indicted by the Hunt County grand jury on January 20 on one count of aggravated kidnapping. An arraignment hearing concerning the indictment had not been scheduled as of Thursday.

According to information from the Commerce Police Department, shortly after 9 a.m. October 13, 2011 officers responded to a domestic dispute call at an apartment complex in the 100 block of Maple Avenue.

Once at the location, an officer saw a woman being taken in a car away

from the apartment complex by force. According to the officer, the woman was clearly distraught and was attempting to get the officer's attention. The officer told Alex to pull over but he drove away. Officers then began a search for the vehicle.

While officers were attempting to locate the vehicle, according to the report, Alex released the woman unharmed and left the car. She was able to drive herself to the Commerce Police Department where officers made sure she and the young infant child with her were safe.

A manhunt was started to attempt to locate Alex and after a brief foot pursuit and a search of a wooded area he was taken into custody.

Alex is being held in custody at the Hunt County Jail in lieu of a total of \$45,000 bond.

Aggravated kidnapping is a first degree felony, punishable upon conviction by a maximum sentence of from five to 99 years to life in prison.

Alex previously served a term in prison in connection with a 2003 armed robbery and possession of a prohibited weapon.

Alex, who was living in Greenville at the time, was indicted in November 2003 on one count of aggravated robbery. Alex was one of two people charged with assaulting a male victim with fists, feet and unknown objects while in the course of stealing a backpack, duffel bag and wallet.

In July 2004, a jury found Alex guilty of the charge and sentenced him to six years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Institutional Division. Alex later pleaded guilty to a separate count of possession of a short barreled firearm and was sentenced to another six-year prison term, with the sentences running concurrently.

Alleged animal abuse reported at ranch

EL PASO — The El Paso County Sheriff's Office is investigating a report of possible animal abuse involving horses at a ranch in east El Paso County, officials said Friday.

Sheriff's officials said the horses apparently came from a Native American reservation in Arizona or New Mexico. About 65 horses were being taken to Mexico to be slaughtered, but Mexican authorities did not allow the horses to enter because they appeared to be sick, malnourished and injured.

The horses ended up in the ranch in El Paso County. A hold order was placed on the horses at the ranch. A veterinarian found the horses were thin but in relatively good condition. Authorities are trying to arrange a flight over the ranch to look at an additional 50 or so horses, sheriff's officials said.

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► World News

All about the L-word: GOP rivals ask voters to follow the leader — and they don't mean Obama

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican presidential contenders are making a pitch to voters that sounds a lot like a children's game: Follow the leader.

When Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich aren't puffing up their own leadership credentials, they're running down the leadership skills of one another and President Barack Obama.

If anyone missed Monday's conference call from the Romney campaign about Gingrich's record as a "failed leader," not to worry. They could have tuned in to Tuesday's conference call. Or Wednesday's. Or Thursday's. Or checked out the "unreliable leader" banner splashed across a Romney news release that labeled Gingrich "unhinged." Romney's political biography, meanwhile, is all about his leadership as a businessman, Massachusetts governor and savior of the 2002 Olympic Games.

It's hard to miss Gingrich's frequent broadsides at Romney, meanwhile, for failing to provide consistent, visionary leadership. Or the former House speaker's pronouncements that he, by contrast, offers "exactly the kind of bold, tough leader the American people want." Or Gingrich's muscular descriptions of all that was accomplished in his four years as speaker in the 1990s.

Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, lagging them in the polls, keeps trying to muscle his way into the leader palooza by offering himself as the steady bet who can be counted on to offer more reliable conservative leadership than "erratic" Gingrich or "moderate" Romney.

Feisty Gingrich stakes campaign on ability to beat Obama

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — Newt Gingrich has staked his presidential bid on one idea: that he is best positioned to defeat President Barack Obama. Even some of his supporters seem to be struggling to buy the former House speaker's claim, an indication that chief rival Mitt Romney's efforts to undercut him may be working.

"Beating Obama is more important than everything else," Patrick Roehl, a 51-year-old computer software engineer, said in the midst of a packed Gingrich rally inside a Sarasota airport hangar this week. "Can Newt win? I'm not sure. He's got a lot of high negatives. The elections are won and lost in the middle. I'm not sure he appeals to the middle."

John Grainger, a 44-year-old assistant golf pro, doesn't like Romney. But he's having trouble shaking skepticism about Gingrich.

"I want to be a Newt supporter," he said. "This guy's going to have the guts to stand up and speak his piece — no holds barred." But Grainger said he

wasn't quite ready to back the former House speaker.

Interviews with more than a dozen Republican voters at Gingrich's overflowing rallies this week suggest that while many Florida voters love his brash style as they look for someone to take it to Obama, they also have lingering doubts about whether the Republican's intellectual bomb-throwing alone will make him the strongest Obama opponent.

AP Interview: Economist who predicted 2008 crash sees even more tough times ahead

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP) — Economist Nouriel Roubini, nicknamed "Dr. Doom" for his gloomy predictions in the run-up to the financial meltdown four years ago, says the fallout from that crisis could last the rest of this decade.

Roubini, widely acknowledged to have predicted the crash of 2008, sees tough times ahead for the global economy and is warning that without major policy changes things can still get much worse.

Until Europe radically reforms itself and the U.S. gets serious about its own debt mountain, he said, the world economy will continue to stumble along to the detriment of large chunks of the world's population who will continue to see their living standards under pressure, even if they have a job.

Roubini, a professor of economics and international business at New York University, spoke in an interview this week with The Associated Press at a dinner on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum, where he is one of the hotly pursued stars.

Looking at economic prospects this year, he agreed with the International Monetary Fund's latest forecast that the global economy is weakening and said he might be "even slightly more bearish" on its prediction of 3.3 percent growth in 2012.

Afghan lawmaker criticizes early French withdrawal, says 2013 NATO pullout would be 'mistake'

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — An Afghan lawmaker has sharply criticized France's plans to hand over security in her troubled province to Afghan troops within a few months, saying that her country's forces are unprepared to handle the job and more violence would result.

Tahira Mujadedi, a member of parliament from Kapisa province, also criticized France's decision to withdraw all of its troops from Afghanistan early.

She said Saturday that it would be "a big mistake" for President Hamid Karzai to back a French proposal to speed up the overall NATO timetable for handing all combat operations to Afghan forces to 2013, a year earlier than now planned.

Mujadedi argued that Afghan forces in Kapisa are not ready to go it alone in fighting the Taliban insurgency, which is especially strong in several of the province's districts. She warned that if NATO forces pull back from Kapisa, it could also destabi-

lize nearby Kabul, the Afghan capital.

"We have had so many attacks, ambushes and also suicide attacks in Kapisa," Mujadedi said. "Unfortunately, our national police and army, while present in Kapisa, are unable to provide good security for people."

From self-immolations to mass protests: China crackdowns breed heightened violence in Tibet

BEIJING (AP) — A young man posts his photo with a leaflet demanding freedom for Tibet and telling Chinese police, come and get me. Protesters rise up to defend him, and demonstrations break out in two other Tibetan areas of western China to support the same cause.

Each time, police respond with bullets.

The three clashes, all in the past week, killed several Tibetans and injured dozens. They mark an escalation of a protest movement that for months expressed itself mainly through scattered individual self-immolations.

It's the result of growing desperation among Tibetans and a harsh crackdown by security forces that scholars and pro-Tibet activists contend only breeds more rage and despair.

That leaves authorities with the stark choice of either cracking down even harder or meeting Tibetan demands for greater freedom and a return of their Buddhist spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama — something Beijing has shown zero willingness to do.

Need for court sketch artists fades away, with cameras taking their place, as states lift bans

CHICAGO (AP) — One marker in hand and one in his mouth, Lou Chukman glances up and down from a sketchpad to a reputed Chicago mobster across the courtroom — drawing feverishly to capture the drama of the judge's verdict before the moment passes.

Sketch artists have been the public's eyes at high-profile trials for decades — a remnant of an age when drawings in broadsheet papers, school books or travel chronicles were how people glimpsed the world beyond their own.

Today, their ranks are thinning swiftly as states move to lift longstanding bans on cameras in courtrooms. As of a year ago, 14 states still had them — but at least three, including Illinois this month, have taken steps since then to end the prohibitions.

"When people say to me, 'Wow, you are a courtroom artist' — I always say, 'One day, you can tell your grandchildren you met a Stegosaurus,'" Chukman, 56, explained outside court. "We're an anachronism now, like blacksmiths."

Cutbacks in news budgets and shifts in aesthetic sensibilities toward digitized graphics have all contributed to the form's decline, said sketch artist Art Lien.

Obama meets with George H.W. and Jeb Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama met with former President George H.W. Bush and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush in the Oval Office on Friday, joining in a bipartisan gathering in an election year.

The White House said the three men enjoyed a personal visit in the Oval Office as they have in the past when the former president is visiting Washington.

Obama is scheduled to speak Saturday at the Alfalfa Club dinner, an annual event for Washington's movers and shakers. The former president and his son planned to attend the dinner.

The 87-year-old former president used a wheelchair during the meeting. Bush spokesman Jim McGrath said Bush is in

"fine health and he's not in any pain" but has become increasingly reliant upon using a wheelchair and a scooter.

"His legs don't work the way he wants them to," McGrath said.

Obama, who succeeded President George W. Bush in the White House, has maintained good relations with the Bush family.

He awarded George H.W. Bush the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor for contributions to society.

During the ceremony, Obama called Bush a "gentleman" and said the former president's life has been "a testament that public service is a noble calling."

Last March, Obama joined with Jeb Bush at a Miami high school

to tout his education agenda, sounding themes of empowering teachers, demanding accountability and enticing states to raise their academic standards.

The former Florida governor has been a champion of education reform.

The Bush family has been courted by Republicans seeking the nomination to challenge Obama. George H.W. Bush told the Houston Chronicle in December that he supported Mitt Romney, telling his hometown newspaper that the former Massachusetts governor exhibited "stability, experience and principles."

Neither Jeb Bush nor George W. Bush has endorsed a Republican candidate.

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PRTs

Texas Guard unit provides security for Provincial Reconstruction Teams

By Staff Sgt. David Bruce
Public Affairs

Atterbury-Muscatatuck
EDINBURGH, Ind. —

The notion of security for Americans may entail locking our homes and cars, questioning whether our children are safe or if our bank accounts have been hacked. For an Afghan, that notion could be expanded to include stumbling upon a roadside bomb or militants with hostile intent. For the people of Afghanistan and the troops deployed there, security takes on added dimensions and is a serious concern.

Providing security for the next rotation of Provincial Reconstruction Teams falls to 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry (Airborne), which is composed of soldiers from the Alaska, Rhode Island and Texas Army National Guard.

The mission of the security force is to allow the PRTs to be successful in their mission, said Lt. Col. Shawn McGrath, of Lacoste, Texas, and commander of the battalion. The security elements provide the tactical expertise to allow the specialists of the PRTs to oversee various projects in the reconstruction efforts under way in their assigned province, he said.

By providing freedom of movement for the PRTs and Afghan people, the security force enables the teams to meet their goals.

"Each of the PRTs have a tactical advisor embedded with them to assist with decisions involving security and

force protection," said McGrath.

The PRTs are joint service units drawn from the Air Force, Army (both active and reserve components), Navy and National Guard. Each team is assigned to a specific province in Afghanistan with the function to act as a bridge between the Afghan government and the people.

Working with the other branches can pose challenges as the Navy and Air Force have their own way of doing things, but McGrath says it has been a positive experience working with the other branches.

"They have a wide variety of command experiences," said McGrath. "There are ship commanders, F16 and F18 pilots; a lot of different backgrounds. We try to help the PRT commanders develop their own command environment to ensure they have a successful mission."

To prepare the battalion for their mission of providing security for the teams, McGrath said his troops were receiving updated counterinsurgency training, cultural training, running operations, convoy security and patrols.

"We receive constant updates from units in Afghanistan, so we can focus on what is current there," he said. "Normally, the train-up for a deployment is 45 days. We have 70 days to maximize and refine our training for Afghanistan."

2nd Lt. Timothy Manges, of Killeen, Texas, platoon leader, said



Photo by Staff Sgt. David Bruce, Atterbury-Muscatatuck Public Affairs

Soldiers with Headquarters Company 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry (Airborne) of the Texas Army National Guard plan how they are going to navigate an intersection with a suspected improvised explosive device while on a foot patrol during training at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, Ind., Jan. 14. The Texas National Guard battalion has been tasked with providing security for the next rotation of Provincial Reconstruction Teams bound for Afghanistan this spring.

that his noncommissioned officers are a key factor to his platoon's strength.

"We couldn't do this without the experience of our noncommissioned officers; some of them have had three or four mobilizations," said Manges. "We have a pretty good team. The experienced noncommissioned officers help facilitate the training and help the younger

soldiers learn and know what to expect down-range."

Manges said his platoon will be operating in the Kabul area.

"This is truly a counterinsurgency operation," he said. "We will be interacting with people around the forward operating base and establishing friendships, but at the same time we have to be able to respond quickly to

threats."

McGrath said developing these relationships are key to building stability in Afghanistan.

"I think it's in everyone's best interest to have a successful Afghanistan," said McGrath. "The important thing is to give them a system that is

sustainable. If we give them things that they cannot maintain, then those tools are ineffective. We want to give them systems that can carry Afghanistan into the future and at least return them to prosperity that existed in the early '70s before the Soviets."

To provide the security necessary for the PRTs to accomplish their mission, Manges said the battalion has been split up.

"Each team has a rifle platoon assigned to it from the battalion's line companies," he said.

To fulfill their mission of providing security to the PRTs, the soldiers received training on patrols, both in vehicles and on foot, improvised explosive devices, first-aid, using biometric devices, weapons training, counterinsurgency doctrine, cultural understanding and language training, said Manges.

With the world marking the 2014 withdrawal from Afghanistan on their respective calendars, that far-off event doesn't change the mission for the soldiers of the 1st, 143rd Infantry (Airborne).

"We are going to continue our mission," said Manges. "In any conflict you have a political and military aspect. My goal is keep my guys focused on the mission and let the powers-that-be worry about the rest. I'm going to do everything I can to get my guys home safe."

Afghans blast French plan to withdraw troops early

By KAY JOHNSON
and RAHIM FAIEZ

Associated Press Writers
KABUL, Afghanistan — France's plans to withdraw its combat troops from Afghanistan a year early drew harsh words Saturday in the Afghan capital, with critics accusing French President Nicolas Sarkozy of putting domestic politics ahead of Afghans' safety.

A wider proposal by Sarkozy for NATO to hand over all security to Afghans by the end of next year also came under fire, with one Afghan lawmaker saying it would be "a big mistake" that would leave security forces unprepared to fight the Taliban insurgency and threaten a new descent into violence in the 10-year-old war.

Sarkozy's decision, which came a week after four French troops were shot dead by an Afghan army trainee suspected

of being a Taliban infiltrator, raises new questions about the unity of the U.S.-led military coalition.

It also reopens the debate over whether setting a deadline for troop withdrawals will allow the Taliban to run out the clock and seize more territory once foreign forces are gone.

"Afghan forces are not self-sufficient yet. They still need more training, more equipment and they need to be stronger," said military analyst Abdul Hadi Khalid, Afghanistan's former minister of interior.

Khalid said the decision by Sarkozy was clearly political. His conservative party faces a tough election this year, and the population's already deep discontent with the Afghan war only intensified when unarmed French troops were gunned down by a supposed ally Jan. 20 at a joint base in

the eastern province of Kapisa.

Sarkozy announced France's new timetable on Friday alongside Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who was in Paris for a previously planned visit. He also said Karzai had agreed with him to ask for all international forces to hand security over to the Afghan army and police in 2013, a plan he would present it at a Feb. 2-3 meeting of NATO defense ministers in Brussels. He said he would call President Barack Obama about his plan on Saturday.

Afghan lawmaker Tahira Mujadedi said Afghan security forces will not be ready in time for any early NATO withdrawal, saying the current timetable already is rushing the training of national forces.

"That would be a big mistake by the Afghan government if they accept it," she said of Sarkozy's plan. "In my

view, they should extend 2014 by more years instead of cutting it short to 2013."

She said she sympathizes in the matter of the French soldiers' deaths, but argued that they present no logical reason for France to deviate from the U.S. timetable for NATO to hand over security by 2014.

"When military forces are present in a war zone, anything can happen," Mujadedi said. The French troops "are not here for a holiday," she added.

France now has about 3,600 soldiers in the international force.

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Steers, Lady Steers fall to Wylie

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

ABILENE — It was a Friday to forget for both Big Spring basketball teams as they were swept by Abilene Wylie in District 5-3A basketball action Friday night.

In the girls' game, Wylie played up to its No. 1 state ranking, taking a 69-48 victory over the Lady Steers. Then, in the nightcap, Wylie

stifled the Steers' offense en route to a 54-34 win.

The Lady Steers fell to 19-8 overall and 2-3 in district play, while the BSHS boys dropped to 12-16 overall and 2-2 in league play with the loss.

Girls' game

The Lady Steers entered Friday's game faced with a mammoth puzzle — what

to do about Wylie's leading scorer Peyton Little — but didn't find any satisfactory solutions.

"There was just too much Peyton," BSHS Coach Mark Warren said. "We held her to 24, which is pretty good, considering, but every time we double-teamed her, they'd find an open shooter."

The Lady Steers stayed close to Wylie for one quarter, trail-

ing 21-15 after the first eight minutes, but the wheels fell off after that. The Lady Bulldogs outscored BSHS 19-8 in the second quarter and were never threatened after that.

"We played well in the first quarter, but then we started turning the ball over and Wylie got hot," Warren said.

Little had 24 points and Kylie Jenkins 15 to lead Wylie, which improved to

26-5 and 6-0 with the victory.

Bridgette and Yaneria Tuitt led the Lady Steers with 16 and 12 points, respectively.

Despite the loss, the Lady Steers remain in full control of their playoff destiny — they are currently in third place in the district standings, one game behind Brownwood and a game ahead of Sweetwater.

See **BSHS**, Page 9A



Courtesy photo/Shirley Lee

Howard College's Marion Lemonnier (24) attempts a three-point shot during the Hawks' game with Odessa College Friday night.

Howard women drop nail-biter vs. OC Wranglers

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

For the Howard College women's basketball team, the equation is fairly simple — the defense feeds the offense, which feeds the scoreboard, which leads to wins.

Knock the first peg out of that formula, however, and things get dicey.

The Odessa College Wranglers capitalized on a second-half Howard meltdown to claim a 63-61 come-from-behind victory in Western Junior College Athletic Conference action Friday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The Hawks (14-6 overall, 1-2 in WJCAC play) were cruising toward an apparent victory, holding a 10-point lead with 12 minutes left to play. At that point, however, Howard suffered a power outage on offense, going eight minutes without scoring a field goal and allowing Odessa to claw its way back into the game.

To Howard College Coach Earl Diddle, the offensive breakdown could be blamed on failures on the other end of the court.

"Our defense feeds our offense," Diddle said. "But we had too many breakdowns on defense and we put them on the free throw line too often and

we couldn't generate any offense off of our defense."

Odessa indeed benefited from Howard charity, outscoring the Hawks 16-8 at the free throw line. In fact, it was free throws that finally gave the Wranglers the lead for good.

Despite the scoring drought, the Hawks held a 61-57 lead with 90 seconds remaining, thanks to a turn-around jumper and subsequent foul shot by Zeslie Johnson. But OC's J'Tierra Brown responded with a three-point play of her own to cut the lead to one, then gave the Wranglers the lead with three free throws in the final minute.

Howard had a last-ditch chance to force overtime, but Brushea Daniels' shot with a second remaining failed to draw iron.

Johnson had 21 points and Kali Jerrel and Carolyn Taylor each added 11 to lead the Hawks, who return to action Monday in Levelland against South Plains College.

Friday's loss ended a bad week for the Hawks, who fell to both Midland Col-

See **HOWARD**, Page 9A

Area basketball roundup

GIRLS

Stanton 49, Coahoma 29

COAHOMA — The Stanton Lady Buffalos rallied from an early deficit to take a convincing 49-29 victory over the Coahoma Bulldogettes in District 3-2A action Friday.

Coahoma led, 6-4, after one quarter, but Stanton rallied to tally 32 points over the course of the next two quarters to take command of the game.

Tera Patterson scored 21 points to lead Stanton, which improved to 10-18 overall and 5-6 in district play. Minnie Goodblanket and Savannah Neff each scored eight points to lead the Bulldogettes, who fell to 6-21 and 1-10 with the loss.

Stanton 4 16 16 13 — 49
Coahoma 6 7 4 12 — 29

Forsan 37, Post 31

POST — The Forsan Lady Buffaloes earned

their second straight District 3-2A win by rallying from a first-half deficit to claim a 37-31 victory over Post Friday.

Forsan led 23-19 at the half, but outscored Post 18-8 over the course of the final two quarters to secure the win.

"It was another good defensive effort," FHS Coach Robert Hillger said. "We just waited until the second half to do it."

Cheyenne Galloway scored 13 points to lead the Lady Buffs, who improved to 14-12 overall and 4-7 in league play. Ali Knight and Brittney Hergert each had eight points for Forsan.

The Lady Buffs return to action Tuesday at home vs. Denver City. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

Forsan 12 7 4 14 — 37
Post 8 15 4 4 — 31

Garden City 49 Veribest 15

GARDEN CITY — The No. 9-ranked Garden City Lady Bearkats had little trouble with Veribest Friday, romping to a 49-15 win in District 12-1A Div. II action.

See **AREA**, Page 10A

In brief

Roberson, Robles earn all-state nods

Two Howard County players received recognition in the recently released Texas Sports Writers Association all-state football team.

Big Spring sophomore Devin Roberson was named the Class 3A third team punter, while Forsan senior Patrick Robles was selected to the Class 2A second team defense as a linebacker.

Both players were named to their respective all-district teams earlier this school year. In addition, Roberson received second-team recognition on the Maxpreps U.S. Air Force All-American team earlier this month.

"He's one of the best young punters in the state," BSHS Athletic Director Philip Ritchey said. "He made a couple of all-state teams this year ... and his future is really bright."

Robles was not particularly large for his po-

sition — he stands 5-foot-9 and weighs only 150 pounds — but FHS Head Coach Jason Phillips said Robles compensated for that with great football instincts.

"He's not the biggest linebacker you'll see, and he's not the quickest linebacker you'll see, but he's got a great mind for football," Phillips said. "It's like he almost sees the plays before they develop ... it's like having another coach out on the field."

Junior high squads win at Andrews tourney

ANDREWS — Both Big Spring Junior High School girls' basketball teams won their first round games at the Andrews Junior High School tournament this week.

See **BRIEF**, Page 9A



File photo

Led by reigning conference MVP Olive Naotala, the Howard College Hawks opened their 2012 softball campaign Saturday vs. Cisco Junior College.

HC opens softball campaign

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

The Howard College softball team made history last season by making its first-ever trip to the National Junior College Athletic Association national tournament.

So, the obvious question is: What do the Hawks have planned for an encore?

Howard Coach Kelly Raines has a direct answer to that question: "I expect to go back to the national tournament with this team."

At first, that claim might seem like little more than bravado, especially considering the Western Junior College Athletic Conference features such traditional powerhouses like Odessa College and Midland College, which are expected to make a return trip to nationals difficult if not impossible for the Hawks.

See **HAWKS**, Page 9A

BRIEF

Continued from Page 8A

In the eighth-grade game, Diamonique Mayes scored 11 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to lead BSJH to a 23-15 win over Monahans. In seventh-grade action, the BSJH A team downed Monahans 23-15. Danielle Conner and Ysabel Soliz led Big Spring with seven points apiece. Conner was the top rebounder with seven boards.

Little League
baseball signups

Big Spring Little League will have signups from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the following Saturdays — Jan. 28 and Feb. 4, 11 and 18 — and on Feb. 13-17 at the Big Spring Mall.

Little League baseball is open to youths ages 4 through 15. Registration fee is \$80 and a birth certificate is required.

The league will furnish jerseys, pants, belts and socks. For more information, call Paige Jackson at 213-2066.

Coahoma softball
signups Feb. 11

COAHOMA — The Coahoma Girls' Softball League will hold "early bird" registration for players from

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 11 in the Coahoma Junior High School gym.

The league is open to girls ages 3 to 18. Cost is \$50 per child.

For more information, call Billy Newton at 325-207-2640 or Amy Overton at 432-816-1968.

Dominguez tops
at USBC
men's tourney

John Dominguez of Snyder won all-around honors at the recent United States Bowling Congress men's tournament at Big Spring's Bowl-a-Rama.

Dominguez placed first in the "all events" category and teamed with Joe Castillo to win the doubles event.

Placing second in the all-events category was Daniel Escobedo of Snyder, while John Dodd of Big Spring placed third.

In doubles, the team of Luis Davila and Buck Grigg of Big Spring placed second, while David Renteria and Josh Rochelle, also of Big Spring, were third.

Singles was won by Daniel Escobedo of Snyder, while Pete Garcia Jr. and Steve Barker, both of Big Spring, placed second and third, respectively.

Complete standings and results can be found at www.bigspringbowlarama.com

Woods shares lead at Abu Dhabi tourney

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Tiger Woods shot a 6-under 66 Saturday to grab a share of the lead at the Abu Dhabi Golf Championship, the latest sign that the 14-time major winner is returning to form after ending a two-year victory drought.

There wasn't a lot of fist pumping from Woods, who traded drama for consistency in racking up six birdies in a

bogey-free round.

It was a memorable performance by the American, mostly for his ability to hit the fairways, tame the par 5s and sink clutch putts — including a six-footer for birdie on the final hole.

"It just seemed like I didn't do a lot of things right but I didn't do a lot of things wrong today, it was just very consistent," Woods said.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 8A

But a look at Howard's roster shows reason to back Raines' optimism.

Start with perhaps the biggest gun in her arsenal — sophomore shortstop Olive Naotala, who was the most outstanding player in both the conference and region last year. Surround Naotala with returning infielders Carlyn Teichmann (at first base) and Faith Korla (at second) and throw in returning pitchers Selina Mitchell and Sandra Serna, and you have a squad that has proven offensive and defensive capabilities.

Raines also has high hopes for newcomers to the squad, such as catcher/third baseman Megan Granado and freshman pitcher Nikki Diaz.

"With Diaz, I feel like we'll have three very solid pitchers

this season," Raines said.

Raines, however, concedes there are some questions to be answered this season, starting with the outfield.

"We're going to have a really young outfield," she said. "I'm not sure how that's going to hold up. Other than that, though, we should have a pretty solid infield and pitching staff."

In 2011, Howard finished third in the WJCAC behind Odessa and Midland before winning the Region V West tournament to advance to nationals. This season, Raines expects the same three teams to battle it out for conference supremacy.

"Midland and Odessa are going to be right there," she said, and they're always going to be hard to beat."

The Hawks opened their season Saturday with a doubleheader at home against Cisco Junior College. Results were not available at press time.

HOWARD

Continued from Page 8A

lege and OC.

"Those two teams are certainly among the four or five best teams in the conference," Diddle said. "And it won't get any easier ... it's going to be like this just about every game we play."

ODESSA (63) — Chanel Lockhart 2 3-4 7; Kristyn Wilson 3 0-0 6; Meagan Bell 1 0-0 3; Tina Bozicek 1 0-0 3; J'Tierra Brown 3 4-5 10; Angenay Williams 5 5-8 16; Lauren Berry 6 2-4 14; Caroline Adesulu 1 2-4 4; totals 22 16-25 63.

HOWARD (61) — Porsche Young 1 2-3 4; Kali Jerrel 4 2-2 11; Tori Tucker 1 0-0 2; Zeslie Johnson 8 1-2 17; Kelli Merrick 2 0-0 4; Marion Lemonnier 1 2-3 4; Carolyn Taylor 5 1-3 11; Brushea Daniels 3 0-0 4; Ja'Keyma Williams 2 0-0 4; totals 26 8-13 61.

Halftime — Howard 38, Odessa 31; Three-point goals — Odessa (Bell, Bozicek), Howard (Jerrel); Rebounds — Odessa 36, Howard 32; Assists — Odessa 12, Howard 12; Total fouls — Odessa 16, Howard 18; Fouled out — none; Technical — Odessa (Lockhart).

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

BSHS

Continued from Page 8A

The Lady Steers return to action Tuesday at home when they host Sweetwater in a crucial district matchup. Game time is 6 p.m.

BIG SPRING (19-8, 2-3 5-3A) — Ambra Hill 1 1-2 3, Yaneria Tuitt 4 4-6 12, Bridgette Tuitt 6 4-7 16, Cerbi Ritchey 1 4-4 6, Diamond Mayes 1 3-5 5, Logan

Yarbar 0 1-2 1, Lashaunte Anderson 1 0-0 2, Mackenzie Stone 0 0-0 0, Mary King 0 0-0 0. Totals 15 18-30 48.

WYLIE (26-5, 6-0 5-3A) — Hailey Brown 3 0-0 8, Kylie Jenkins 5 0-0 11, Bailey Turner 1 2-2 4, Punkin Mack 2 2-3 6, Peyton Little 8 5-8 24, Brittany McPherson 4 0-0 9, Taylor Rickman 1 0-0 2, Kinsey Christian 0 0-0 0, Shelby Tucker 0 0-0 0, Makenley Lunsford 0 3-4 3, Taylor Bernal 0 2-2 2, Alexis Lane 0 0-0 0. Totals 24 14-19 69.

BSHS 15 8 6 19 — 48
Wylie 21 19 18 11 — 69
3-Point Goals — Big Spring 0, Wylie 7 (Little 3, Brown 2, Jen-

kins, McPherson). Fouled Out — None. Technical Fouls — None. Total Fouls — Big Spring 17, Wylie 20.

Boys' game

The shots definitely were not falling for the Steers Friday.

Wylie's defense put in a stellar effort, limiting Big Spring to less than 30 percent from the field. That defensive pressure resulted in the Steers managing only eight points in the first

half, which ended with the Bulldogs holding a 14-point lead.

Marc Segundo was the lone BSHS player in double figures, scoring 11 points, while Chazzell Robinson added nine for the Steers. Mike Lopez led a trio of Wylie players in double figures with 15 points.

The Steers return to action Tuesday when they host Sweetwater at Steer Gym. Game time

is 7:30 p.m.

BIG SPRING (12-15, 2-2 5-3A) — Marc Segundo 4 1-3 11, Tyler Graves 0 1-2 1, Tavaris Walker 0 0-0 0, Ty Sealy 0 0-0 0, Chazzell Robinson 3 3-4 9, Ty'ral Menefield 2 0-0 4, Ryan Pollard 0 0-0 0, Morgan Ausbie 0 0-0 0, Tyler Wigington 1 0-0 3, Richard Lewis 2 0-0 6, Chris Nunez 0 0-0 0. Totals 12 5-9 34.

WYLIE (19-7, 4-0 5-3A) — Duane Hopper 4 2-3 10, Hunter Musgrave 2 0-0 6, Bryson Fowlkes 1 0-0 2, Tyler Hicks 0 0-0 0, Mike Lopez 5 2-2 15, Caleb Perkins 0 0-0 0, Paul Goodrich 0 2-2 2, Patrick Walker 0 1-4 1, Sterling Bristow 2 0-0 4, DeAn-

dre Key 3 8-12 14, Miller Davis 0 0-0 0, Hunter Herrera 0 0-0 0. Totals 17 15-23 54.

BSHS 3 5 8 18 — 34
Wylie 7 15 15 17 — 54
3-Point Goals — Big Spring 5 (Segundo 2, Lewis 2, Wigington), Wylie 5 (Lopez 3, Musgrave 2). Fouled Out — None. Technical Fouls — None. Total Fouls — Big Spring 18, Wylie 12.

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

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AREA

Continued from Page 8A

The Lady 'Kats scored as many points in the first quarter (15) had in the entire game. Cassie Hirt scored 10 points to lead Garden City (24-4 overall, 11-0 in district), who return to action at Blackwell Tuesday. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

Veribest	3	2	5	5	15
G-City	15	6	14	14	49

Grady 41 O'Donnell 38

LENORAH — The Grady Lady Wildcats took control of matters in the first half, then held on to claim a 41-38 win over O'Donnell in District 8-1A Div. II action Friday. Grady saw its 20-10 halftime lead disappear heading into the final quarter, but outscored O'Donnell 12-9 in the final eight minutes to claim the win. Lupita Jimenez and Sarah Clay led the Lady Wildcats with 18 and 12 points, respectively. Grady returns to action Tuesday at Dawson. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

O'Donnell	3	7	19	9	38
Grady	6	14	9	12	41

BOYS

Stanton 43, Coahoma 39 (OT)

COAHOMA — The Coahoma Bulldogs came about as close to winning a basketball game — without actually winning — as one could manage Friday.

The Bulldogs were leading Stanton 36-34 with less than one second remaining when the Buffalos' A.J. Glaspie was fouled while attempting a three-point shot. Glaspie made two of the three free throws to force overtime and Stanton went on to the victory. Nathan Koonce had 13 points to lead the Buffalos, who improved to 15-11 overall and 5-4 in District 3-2A play. Coahoma, which fell to 10-15 overall and 1-8, was paced by Tanner Ruiz, who scored 18 points, and Sheigh Cravens, who added 11.

Stanton	7	16	6	7	7	43
Coahoma	3	9	15	9	3	39

Post 47 Forsan 37

POST — The Post Antelopes broke open a tight game in the fourth quarter to claim a 47-37 win in District 3-2A basketball action Friday. Post led by just four points entering the final quarter, but outscored the Buffs 17-11 in the final stanza to take the victory. Aric Hernandez and Dillon Bagnall led Forsan with nine and eight points, respectively. The Buffs (12-12 overall, 3-6 in district) return to action Tuesday at home against Denver City. Game time is 8 p.m.

Forsan	10	6	10	11	37
Post	9	11	10	17	47

Garden City 76 Veribest 26

GARDEN CITY — The Garden City Bearkats had no trouble dispatching Veribest in District 12-1A Div. II basketball action Friday night. The 'Kats raced out to a 13-2 lead after one quar-

ter and things only got worse for Veribest from there. Corbin Davis scored 23 points to lead Garden City, which improved to 16-10 overall and 7-2 in district with the win. The Bearkats return to action Tuesday at Blackwell. Tip-off is scheduled for 8 p.m.

Veribest	2	6	9	9	26
G-City	13	27	18	18	76

Grady 78 O'Donnell 36

LENORAH — The first quarter set the tone, as Grady raced out to a 20-point lead after the first eight minutes en route to an easy 78-36 win over O'Donnell in District 8-1A Div. II play Friday. E.J. Rodriguez and Michael Jimenez led the Wildcats with 14 and 10 points, respectively. Grady returns to action at Dawson Tuesday. Game time is 8 p.m.

O'Donnell	7	12	6	11	36
Grady	27	24	15	12	78

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All-natural and preservative-free Wholly Guacamole brings a whole new dimension of tastiness to Asian Chicken Salad and Grilled Chicken Fettuccini — and it cuts down on the bad fats typically found in these dishes. The Salsa Salmon recipe gets a healthful zip of flavor from Wholly Salsa — and you can make it as spicy as you like.

Here are some other super swaps you can do to make a big difference in how you eat:

- **Breakfast:** Instead of high-fat cheese, add a dollop of guacamole to eggs.
- **Lunch:** Skip the mayo and add guac to your ham or turkey sandwich.
- **Snack:** Dip carrots or other veggies in salsa to keep you going until dinner.
- **Dinner:** Lose the high-fat dressing and sauces and try spicy guac on burgers, chicken, fish and, of course, tacos.

Find more recipes to help you make the swap at www.eatwholly.com.

Grilled Chicken Fettuccini

Yield: 4 servings

- 3/4 teaspoon salt, divided
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 tablespoon ground cumin
- 3 chicken breasts
- 1/2 pound fettuccini, uncooked
- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- 1 yellow bell pepper, seeded, julienned
- 1/3 cup green onion
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 1 cup Roma tomatoes, seeded, cored and diced
- 3/4 cup Wholly Guacamole

Mix 1/4 teaspoon salt, pepper and cumin together. Toss over chicken to coat.

Grill chicken for 2 minutes, then turn 45 degrees and cook for another 2 minutes. Flip chicken over and repeat. Allow to cool for 5 minutes, then slice the partially cooked chicken into strips. Start boiling water for fettuccini. Add 1/4 teaspoon salt if desired. Follow directions on packaging for cooking time. Drain and set aside. Add canola oil to large pan over medium-high heat. Sauté pepper strips. Add chicken and cook for at least 4 minutes. Add green onion, lemon juice, remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt and diced tomatoes. After 1 minute, remove pan from heat and fold in guacamole mix and cooked fettuccini.

Suggested garnishes: crumbled queso fresco or cotija cheese.



Asian Chicken Salad

Yield: 3 servings

- Juice from half a lime
- 1/3 cup cilantro, chopped
- 4 teaspoons toasted sesame oil
- 2/3 cup Wholly Guacamole
- 3 tablespoons rice wine vinegar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 5 tablespoons water
- 2 tablespoons low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 5-ounce package spring salad mix
- 1/4 cup red onion, diced
- 1/4 cup tomato, diced
- 1/2 of a 15-ounce can mandarin oranges, drained
- 2 tablespoons cilantro, rough chopped
- 3 grilled chicken breasts
- Crispy chow mein noodles, for garnish

Add lime juice, 1/3 cup chopped cilantro, sesame oil, guacamole, rice wine vinegar, salt, water and soy sauce to blender. Blend until uniform. Place dressing in refrigerator for at least 30 minutes to let flavors meld. Toss salad mix, onion, tomato, oranges, dressing and 2 tablespoons rough-chopped cilantro in a bowl. Divide salad between 3 plates and top with sliced grilled chicken and chow mein noodles.

Enjoy Guac Any Time You Want

It's not always possible to make fresh guacamole, because ripe avocados aren't always available. Pre-made guacamole is a great alternative, and you can freeze it for later.

But not all guacs are created equal. Make sure the first ingredient is avocado. Wholly Guacamole, for example, is 90 percent avocado with all natural spices.

To thaw frozen guac, move it from freezer to fridge for 24 hours, or place unopened package in a bowl of cold water.

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Births



AdaLynn Cecilia Galvan

AdaLynn Cecilia Galvan, daughter of Maria Margarita Lopez of Greeley, Colo., and Daniel Esteban Galvan of Big Spring, was born Jan. 14, 2012 at 8:30 p.m.

She weighed 7 pounds 2 ounces and measured 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long.

Her maternal grandparents are Ada Robles of Greeley, Colo., and Jeremy Armstrong of Big Spring, Texas.

Her paternal grandparents are Juan and Cecilia Galvan of Big Spring.



Maddox Lee Guzman

Maddox Lee Guzman, son of Valerie Dominguez and Adam Guzman of Big Spring, was born Dec. 29, 2011, at 6 p.m.

He weighed 8 pounds and measured at 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

His maternal grandparents are Rose Dominguez and Ruben Dominguez.

His paternal grandparents are Alicia Guzman and Epijoe Guzman.

Ashlyn Marae McPherson

Ashlyn Marae McPherson, daughter of Cassi Massingill and Kenneth McPherson was born at Cogdell Memorial Hospital Jan. 17, 2012 at 6:59 p.m.

She weighed six pounds eight ounces and measured 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches long.

Her paternal grandparents are Melissa Wells and Gilbert McPherson, both of Big Spring.

Her maternal grandparents are Lori Massingill and Jimmy Massingill Jr., both of Big Spring.

She was welcomed home by her sibling, BreAnna Kaye McPherson.

Jessica Bella Marie Sosa, daughter of Kori Yanez and Manual Sosa of Big Spring, was born Dec. 29, 2011, at 8:12 p.m.

She weighed 6 pounds 8 ounces and measured 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long.

Her maternal grandparents are David and Michelle Yanez of Big Spring.

Paternal grandparents are Ariel and Diana Perez and Manual and Angela Sosa of Big Spring.

Her maternal great-grandparents Tony and Lupe Castillo of Big



Jessica Bella Marie Sosa

Spring. Her paternal great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Celestino Hernandez and Virginia Sosa.

She was welcomed home by her siblings, Manual Sosa V and Arianna Sosa, as well as her cousin, Jennifer Shae Partlow.

~Dear Margo~

Our family's bad seed

Dear Margo: For more than 20 years, my extended family has been putting up with my brother's wife. She's a negative, nasty, miserable person who blames everyone else for her problems. Lots of drama has been created time and time again because everything is about her. She's managed to alienate everyone in the family -- some, including myself, permanently. And I used to be one of her staunchest defenders in the interest of family harmony. Obviously, she has "issues," but she won't deal with them. Doing so would be admitting she wasn't perfect.

Recently, this woman left a longtime job and went to work for a hospital -- the hospital my mother, my other relatives and I have been going to for years. We are concerned about the access she will have to our medical records. Not to sound paranoid, but is there anything we can do to protect ourselves? Is there any way to ensure she doesn't see our records? Do we call the hospital and fill them in? We honestly believe this woman is capable of justifying anything she does -- with 20-plus years of experience to back us up. — **On Edge**



MARGO
HOWARD

Dear On: I don't know what this troublesome s-i-l would gain by viewing everyone's medical recs, but I suppose anything is possible. The way you'll know, however, is if she casually brings up, say, Uncle Albert's vasectomy, in which case she will have breached HIPAA regulations and can be fired. Several hospital personnel recently were sacked for snooping in celebrities' records in California hospitals. So I guess you all just wait for her to drop something into the conversation that you believe to be medically privileged. There really is no phoning the hospital to say you have a wretched relative who will probably snoop in the records. — **Margo, vigilantly**

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via the online form at www.creators.com/dearmargo. Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.

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WELCOME TO BIG SPRING



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Lauren Garduno, left, Texas Department of Transportation Abilene District engineer, spoke with Jesse Mendoza, P.E., new TxDOT engineer for the Big Spring Area office, during a reception welcoming Mendoza on Thursday afternoon.

EQIP ranking period will close on Tuesday

Special to the Herald

Final warning!
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist Eddy Spurgin wants to remind agriculture producers that the ranking period cut-off date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program is Tuesday.

Producers interested in EQIP should submit applications to the Howard County NRCS office by the deadline so their applications can be considered during the first ranking period of 2012.

EQIP — one of the largest programs in the Farm Bill — is a

voluntary conservation program that promotes environmental quality and assists producers to meet local, state and federal regulations.

“EQIP is a valuable tool to help Howard County’s agricultural producers implement conservation practices that provide environmental benefits to help sustain agricultural operations,” said Spurgin.

EQIP is a continuous sign-up program that allows landowners or operators to apply for financial and technical assistance for the application of specific conservation practices; but the deadline for the first 2012 funding is Feb. 3.

Contracts are offered periodically depending on budgetary allocations. Applications made after the deadline will be considered in the next funding cycle. Higher priority will be given to those applications that address national, state and local priorities and provide higher cost efficiency.

For more information, including eligibility requirements, call the USDA Service Center office in Big Spring at 432-267-1871, ext. 3.

Service center locations and program information can be found on the Texas NRCS Web site at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov.

Myka Blissard, a 4-H member from Big Spring, exhibited the reserve grand champion female in the Junior Shorthorn Heifer show at the 2012 Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo held earlier this month.
The 2012 Show is hosting nearly 10,000 junior exhibitors from across Texas, competing for prizes and \$94,065.00 in premiums. Since 1896, the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo has remained a prominent figure in the livestock industry. The nation’s oldest livestock show will see nearly 22,000 head of world-class livestock roll through “cowtown” between Jan. 13 and Feb. 4.

Barron Photografix



U.S. gov’t to extend and expand foreclosure program

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration said Friday that will expand its signature foreclosure-prevention program to try to help those with heavy debt loads avoid losing their homes.

The Home Affordable Modification Program will also be extended through 2013.

The government will triple the financial in-

centives for private lenders to reduce the principal amount of mortgages for homeowners at risk of losing their homes. And for the first time, the government will offer incentives for principal reductions to government-controlled mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

The three-year old program has strived to help those at risk of foreclo-

sure lower their monthly payments. But it has failed to help more than half of those who have applied lower their payments on a permanent basis. Many have complained that the program is a bureaucratic nightmare.

The government has tried several different approaches to help struggling homeowners.

In his State of the Union address Tuesday, President Barack Obama said many Americans have suffered steep losses because of the housing crisis. And while he didn’t address the criticism of his administration’s efforts, Obama suggested the government could do a better job.

“While government

See **FORECLOSE**, Page 4B

Energy Watch



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



Bill Franks, AAMS, is a senior registered client associate and the senior associate to the branch manager.

Three months ago, we added up the major components of real GDP for the third quarter and predicted a solid annualized growth rate of 3.5 percent. Instead, the advance report came in at 2.5 percent and was later revised down to a tepid 1.8 percent.

We were too high on inventories as well as government purchases, and that made our overall forecast too high. However, our estimates of consumer spending, business investment, home building and the trade balance were all pretty darn close to the mark. Final sales (GDP excluding inventories) grew at a 3.2 percent annualized rate.

So, while we missed on overall GDP, the underlying pace of final sales to the private sector made it clear that the economy did not need more government spending, temporary Keynesian-style tax cuts or more quantitative easing.

Now, once again, we have added up the major parts of GDP and are forecasting ... a 3.5 percent annual pace of growth in Q4. Be aware up front, however, that our predictions for consumer spending, business investment and home building are quite modest. Much of the growth we see in Q4 is due to our forecast that a surprising drop in business inventories during Q3 will be offset by a rebound in Q4. Another check on the forecast is that hours worked in the private sector were up at a 3 percent annual rate in Q4, so even modest productivity growth (growth in output per hour) suggests more than 3 percent increases in output.

Consumption: Auto sales were up at a 36 percent annual rate in Q4 while retail sales ex-autos were up at a 5.1 percent rate. Services, a major part of consumption, were not up as much, but it looks like real personal consumption — goods and services combined — probably climbed at a 2.3 percent annual rate in Q4, contributing 1.6 points to the real GDP growth rate (2.3 times the consumption share of GDP, which is 71 percent, equals 1.6).

Business Investment: Business investment in equipment and software as well as commercial construction appear to have grown at an annualized 5 percent rate in Q4. This should add about 0.5 points to the real GDP growth rate (5 times the business investment share of GDP, which is 10 percent, equals 0.5).

Home Building: Residential construction appears to have grown at about a 5 percent annual rate in Q4. This translates into 0.1 point added to the real GDP growth rate (5 times the home building share of GDP, which is 2 percent, equals 0.1).

Government: Due to the wind-down of operations in Iraq, defense outlays were unusually soft in Q4. So, despite signs of a bottom in government construction — think schools and bridges — real government purchases shrank at about a 3.5 percent rate in Q4, which should subtract about 0.7 percentage points from the real GDP growth rate (-3.5 times the government purchase share of GDP, which is 20 percent, equals -0.7).

Trade: In the last five years, the trade sector has added an average of 1.2 points to the real GDP growth rate in Q4. We probably won’t get the same size boost this time, but do expect a modest add of about 0.3 points on the growth of real GDP.

Inventories: As always, inventories are a wild card. Inventories actually fell in Q3, which is rare for an economic expansion. We think businesses were way too cautious. They didn’t want to get caught holding too much merchandise just in case the pessimists were right about a “double-dip” recession. Now that it’s clear they were wrong, we look for a solid build to inventories in Q4 of about \$55 billion at an annual rate. This translates into an additional 1.7 points for real GDP growth.

Add them up and you get 3.5 percent real GDP growth for Q4, although with final sales (GDP excluding inventories) growing at a more modest 1.8 percent pace.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. This article was written by Brian S. Wesbury, chief economist for First Trust Advisors L.P., on Jan. 17, 2012, and provided courtesy of Bhupen Agrawal, managing director/branch manager of Wells Fargo Advisors’ Midland office. The report was prepared by First Trust Advisors L.P., and reflects the current opinion of the authors. It is based upon sources and data believed to be accurate and reliable. Opinions and forward-looking statements expressed are subject to change without notice. The material has been prepared or is distributed solely for informational purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy or sell any security, or instrumental to participate in any trading strategy. Additional information is available upon request at 432-684-7335. Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC, member SIPC, is a registered broker-dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

FORECLOSE

Continued from Page 4B

can't fix the problem on its own, responsible homeowners shouldn't have to sit and wait for the housing market to hit bottom to get some relief," Obama said in his speech.

His administration has promised to unveil new legislation in the coming days to allow more homeowners to refinance their mortgages under a separate program, the Home Affordable Refinance Program.

Throughout the history of the \$29 billion mortgage modification program, homeowners have complained that they were disqualified after banks lost their documents and failed to return phone calls. Banks have blamed homeowners for failing to submit needed paperwork.

Homeowners who are accepted into the pro-

gram receive interest rates as low as 2 percent for five years. They can repay their loans over a longer period. The average savings for those who remain in the program is about \$500 per month.

More than 1.7 million troubled homeowners received trial modifications over the past two years. Less than half of those who applied, or more than 900,000, have had their mortgage permanently lowered. A majority of the applicants have dropped out of the program altogether.

The Obama administration has blamed some of the nation's biggest mortgage lenders for not doing enough to help Americans avoid foreclosures. In June, the Treasury Department criticized four lenders — JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Wells Fargo and Ocwen Loan Servicing — and began withholding financial incentives of up to \$1,000 per modification.



Courtesy photo

Family Faith Center had its ribbon cutting earlier this month. Several chamber board members, Family Faith members and community members were present to share in the occasion.

Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

Gregory Aguilar Jr., 1508 Sunset Ave., Big Spring
Irene Lopez Alaniz, 774 E. Highway 80, Abilene
Brian Layton Allison, 1100 College Circle, Ranger
Demetrio Alva, 11520 Arrow Rock, El Paso
Terica Alvarado, 1100 E. 61st St., Odessa
Anthony G. Anderson, 3401 Cammelia Dr., Temple
Daniel Antrim, 120 N. 22nd Pl., Lamesa
Nancy Ramirez Banuelos, 1515 A Sycamore, Big Spring
Christine Avalos Bara, of 1405 N. Sixth, Lamesa
Amy Barber, 2602 Ent, Big Spring
Samantha Ann Barrera, 606 Lamar, Sweetwater
Daniel B. Barron, 507 N. Ave. F, Lamesa
Tim Beck, 709 W. Seventh St., Big Spring
Amy Benavides, 3001 N. Midland Dr., Big Spring
Crystal Biles, 15885 S. Quartz, Odessa
Vern Black, 329 W. Tennessee, Floydada
Jeremy Bolton, 506 N. Ave. L, Lamesa
Edward Bourland, 229 Edgewood Dr., San Angelo
Alexis A. Bowie, 2811 Lawton, Amarillo
Dave Bracken, 2720 42nd St., Lubbock
Johnny William Brown, 507 E. Sixth, Big Spring
Wanda Heron Brown, 538 Westover Rd. Apt. 113, Big Spring
Melinda Burns, 2218 Carlton Way, San Angelo
Cristal Cabello, 1314 65th Drive Apt. C, Lubbock
Melissa Camargo, 2100 Ave. N, Tahoka
Latonya Campbell, 7549 Ashcroft Circle, Fort Worth
Antonia Castillo, 206 Fuller St., Hereford
Donald Cervantes, 1211 Lloyd, Big Spring
Weldon Montague Cheatham, 4502 Denison, Snyder
Jared Kendero Coby, 901 S. High Street # 802, Longview
Vanessa Conatser, 3218 Fordham, Big Spring
Wesley Wayne Crow, 2400 Robb Lane, Big Spring
Stephen Cruz, 1501 Hilltop Rd., Big Spring
Ramona Davila, 2143 Texas Ave, San Antonio
Julie E. Davis, 5202 Bangor Ave. Apt. K301, Lubbock
Clarissa Dean, 2516 Gunter, Big Spring
Brandee A. Eberhardt, 197 Briarwood Lane, Big Spring
Constance A. Elledge, 1709 Scotland Ave., Azle
Kristi L. Elliot, 603 E. 12th St., Big Spring
Alfredo Flores Jr., PO Box 272, Laredo
Irene Paredes Flores, 1000 E. 20th St., Big Spring
Kenneth L. Freeman, 1401 San Andres, Odessa
Danny Frias, 207 W. 17th St., Georgetown
Hilda Fuentes, 502 S. Seventh, Lamesa
Carlos Garcia, 1211 S. Third St., Brownfield

James Randal Gardner, P.O. Box 1490, Lyons, Colo.
Joe Nick Garfias Jr., of 1309 Runnels, Big Spring
Claudet Garza, 3106 E. Elm No. 10, Laredo
Joseph Garza Jr., 17811 Vail No. 18, Dallas
Misty Goldston, 2429 20th St., Lubbock
Benito Oscar Gonzales, 101 S. Reynolds, Coahoma
James E. Gonzalez, 604 Neff St., Sweetwater
Jeffrey Grams, 224 Lelon Lane, Springtown
Nora Gutierrez, 606 N. Eighth Street, Lamesa
Edna J. Hale, 510 Milton Ave., Brownwood
Sharon Marquis Hanson, 1201 E. Co. Rd. 34, Big Spring
Clifford Arvin Hart Jr., 3234 Drexel, Big Spring
Dana Havink, 600 Star Linda Ct., Arlington
Chris Henry, 3520 28th St., Lubbock
Isaul Hernandez, 523 W. Noble, Falfurrias
Veronica Cervantes Hernandez, 1005 N. 17th St., Lamesa
Gerald Hodges, 4312 Crane, Houston
Allen Hoey, 1401 N. Highway 87 No. 1502, Big Spring
Herman Hokes, 1303 Sycamore, Big Spring
Danny Holt, of 125 Farney Rd., Lorena
Bradley Ryan Horton, of Linda Lane, Big Spring
Shameka Houston, 1905 Wasson No. 49, Big Spring
Jeanie Renee Ivey, 5326 Old Highway 71, LaGrange
Brandy Johnson, 24327 Pleasonton, San Antonio
Rene M. Johnson, 9205 W. County Road 174, Midland
Steven Daniel Johnson, 1509 142nd St., Lubbock
Johnny Ray Jones, 501 E. 17th St., Big Spring
Katie Lynn Junkin, 1410 Lancaster, Big Spring
Paige Morgan Kenas, 1003-2 Lake County Rd. 175, Colorado City
Kimberly K. King, 1711 Young, Big Spring
Robert Michael Kleck, P.O. Box 35, Rotan
Lindsey Kay Lee, 1405 S. Benton, Big Spring
Patricia Luttrell, 2726 Redwood, Odessa
Jenny Marie Hamilton Lyon, 4201 W. Highway 80 Apt. 6, Big Spring
Joshua David Mackenstein, 414 Hickory/3417 N. Midland Drive, Midland
Christopher Max Martinez, 2870 S. Highway, Snyder
Jarrod Martinez, 61 E. Eighth St., San Angelo
Sandy Martinez, P.O. Box 43, Stanton
Thomas M. McKellen, 2010 Sierra, Kenah
Ebaline Mendoza, P.O. Box 291, Mertzon
Daniel Mercado Jr., 5611 Lancaster, Houston
Chad K. Merrill, 3300 Manor Rd. Apt. 174, Austin
Alicia Morales, 606 Holbert, Big Spring
Anna Marie Moreno, 4656 St. Frances Ave., Dallas
Jose Munoz III, 1425 E. Sixth St. Apt. 7, Big Spring
Michael Todd McClinton, 1003 S. Midkiff, Midland

Ricky L. Nava, 707 Willa, Big Spring
William Leslie Neal, 2100 Alabama, Big Spring
Pernell Earl Parker, 400 N.E. 12th St., Big Spring
Benson Nelson Payne, 1117 Toby Lane, San Angelo
Katherine Hardin Perez, 4908 Parkway, Big Spring
Joshua Plaia, 1401 E. 18th, Big Spring
Lisa M. Portillo, 1200 Stanford Ave, Big Spring
Richard Wayne Rains, 4501 Parkway, Big Spring
Patricia Ramos, 538 Westover Road #226, Big Spring
Anna D. Rich, PO Box 1321, Denver City
Jerrall Ray Richardson, 1481 Highway 81, Bowie
Alfredo Riojas Jr., 255, S. 11th St., Lubbock
Roberta Garza Rodriguez, 1103 Stanford, Big Spring
Robert Rosamond, 801 Lancaster, Big Spring
Thomas Ross, 1206 Lela St., Jasper
Thomas Castillo Ruiz, 1306 W. Tennessee, Midland
Rudy Andrew Salazar, PO Box 1275, Stanton
Nancy Carolina Sauseda, 1707 N. 11th St., Lamesa
Monica Serbine, 304 E. 20th, Big Spring
Harl Bradford Shaffer, 5603 Gail Hwy., Big Spring
Curtis W. Shelton, 3714 Millbrook Road, Big Spring
Brian Paul Siverson, 589c Stoddard, Odessa
Donna Smith, P.O. Box 716, Coahoma
Lisa D. Smith, 2010 Sierra Dr., League City
Andrew Sommers, 3110 W. Kansas Ave., Midland
Janie Spurgeion, 1212 Wadley, Midland
Shawn Spurgeon, 106 N. Adams, Denver City
Mickey Jermain Starnes, 402 Holly Oak Dr., Tyler
Misty D. Sternadel, 457 Seventh St., Scotland TX
Andrew Bernard Taylor, 5651 Flamingo, Houston
Tonya D. Conner Taylor, 1111 Moseley Circle, Hobb, N.M.
Ashley Lauren Teagarden, 6002 103rd St., Big Spring
Molly E. Turner, 1905 Wasson Rd., Big Spring
Paula Valdez, 2220 S. First, Lamesa
Jimmy Vasquez, 4000 W. Illinois No. 16, Midland
Tyler Voss, Fannin Co. Rd. 4925, Leonard
Michael Wagner, P.O. Box 428, Denver City
Irshaad A. Walee, 1306 S. Detroit, Lamesa
Marie Wells, 2507 Rebecca, Big Spring
Candida Lynn Whitehead, 1405 Runnels, Big Spring
Tina Diane Whitlow, 1407.5 Settles, Big Spring
Denise L. Williams, 1715 Hwy. 350, Big Spring
Calvin Williams, 1313 Mulberry, Big Spring
Mandy Shae Wilson, 210 10th St., Sterling City
Brandi Woodard, 642 Westview Dr., Abilene
Jerry Lee Wrightsil, 2816 Ridge Rd., Fort Worth
Lorenzo Ferrera Yanez, 211 Channing St., Big Spring

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County Court Decisions:

Probated Judgment: Bonnie Kennedy Miers, theft of property - more than \$50 and less than \$500, \$100 fine, \$282 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 6 months probation).

Probated Judgment: Joshua William Lucero, driving while intoxicated - open container, \$750 fine, \$457 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).

Probated Judgment: Julian Jay Torres, deadly conduct, \$1,500 fine, \$332 court costs, 365 days in jail (jail time suspended, 24 months probation).

Judgment and Sentence: John Michael Wilkinson, theft of property - more than \$500 and less than \$1,500, \$750 fine, \$332 court costs, 30 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: John Michael Wilkinson, theft of property - more than \$500 and less than \$1,500, \$750 fine, \$332 court costs, 30 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: John Michael Wilkinson, theft of property - more than \$500 and less than \$1,500, \$750 fine, \$332 court costs, 30 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: Jamey Scott Johnson, criminal trespass, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 90 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: Jamey Scott Johnson, resisting arrest, search or transportation, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 90 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: Antonio Jarrod Moore, possession of marijuana, \$500 fine, \$342 court costs, 30 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: Alberto Rivas, assault causing bodily injury, \$100 fine, \$282 court costs, 30 days in jail.

Marriage Licenses:

Daniel Valle, 39, and Joann Hilario, 37, both of Big Spring.
Clark Ashley Caskey, 36, and Leslie Dianne Stevens, 41, both of Big Spring.

Adam C. Platt, 24, and Teresa Silva, 28, both of Big Spring.

District Court Filings:

Glynnna Mouton (trustee) vs. Kenneth L. Maxwell, accounts, notes and contracts. Capital One Bank vs. Vanessa L. Garvin, accounts, notes and contracts.

Wind Energy Transmissions Texas LLC vs. Ruby Christian, civil.

Jaime Lee Warner vs. Peter John Warner, divorce.

Anastacia Marie Gaitan vs. Jimi Lee Paredes, protective order.

In Re Hunter James Mills, family.

Scenic Mountain Medical Center vs. Janet Falkner and Riley Falkner, accounts, notes and contracts.

Chesapeake Exploration LLC vs. Marcelline Buchanan, accounts, notes and contracts.

Warranty Deeds:

Grantor: Lane Griffin and Dian Griffin

Grantee: Ben Griffin
Property: The E/61 feet of Lot 212, Tarrytown Addition of Lubbock
Date: Dec. 29, 2011

Grantor: Everado Alvarez

Grantee: Connie Lou Sherman and Adam James Flores
Property: Lots 33-34, Block 15, Tract 15, Washington Place
Date: Dec. 28, 2011

Grantor: Clyde McMahon Jr. and Beverly McMahon

Grantee: Frank Parker
Property: The W/50 of Lot 1, Block 13, Original Town of Big Spring
Date: Dec. 28, 2011

Grantor: Ernest C. Dunson Jr. and Gwendolyn K. Dunson

Grantee: Kristi Taylor
Property: Lot 1, Block 2, Western Hills Addition
Date: Dec. 22, 2011

Grantor: Lori Metcalf

Grantee: Chuck Rosenbaum
Property: Lot 4, Block 5, Hall Addition

Date: Dec. 22, 2011

Grantor: ACTT Properties LLC

Grantee: Michael Nairn
Property: Lot 14, Block 3, Muir Heights Addition
Date: Dec. 7, 2011

Grantor: Sandra G. Cox and Hubert Cox

Grantee: Gerald Hall and Frances Hall
Property: Lot 14 Block 1, Hillcrest Terrace
Date: Dec. 7, 2011

Grantor: Charlene Land and Mary Frances Walker

Grantee: Kerr Manage
Property: Lot 10, Block 1, College Park Estates
Date: Dec. 7, 2011

Grantor: Catarina Franco

Grantee: Henry T. Franco
Property: Lot 4, Block 10, McDowell Heights Addition
Date: Dec. 7, 2011

Grantor: Eugenia Phillips and Connie Strickland

Grantee: Brenda Edwards
Property: Lot L, Village at the Springs, Section 2
Date: Dec. 6, 2011

Grantor: Robert F. Madigan and Jane Madigan

Grantee: Matthew S. Alexander
Property: A 2.79-acre tract out of Section 19, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 6, 2011

Grantor: Robert F. Madigan and Jane Madigan

Grantee: Matthew S. Alexander
Property: A tract out of Section 19, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 6, 2011

Warranty Deeds

with Vendor's Lien:

Grantor: Delbert Bray and Glenda Bray

Grantee: Ricky L. Brown and Angela Brown

Property: A 4.5-acre tract out of Section 105, Block 29, W&NW RR Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 21, 2011

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Legals

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY
THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF HOWARD §
By virtue of a ORDER OF SALE issued out of the District Court of Howard County, Texas, pursuant to judgment rendered in 118th Judicial District Court of Howard County, Texas, by the District Clerk of said Court, in the hereinafter numbered and styled suits and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff of said County, I did on the 3rd day of January, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., levy upon and will proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder at public auction on the 7th day of February, 2012, being the first Tuesday of said month beginning at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on said day, at the North Courthouse door of said County, all the right, title, and interest of the Defendants in such suits in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said Defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Howard and the State of Texas, to-wit:

CAUSE NO. _____
STYLE _____
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION _____

5219
Howard County, et al vs. Donald Overton
A 55'x165' tract of land out of and part of a 5.9 acre tract of land out of Sc 5, Bk 32 T1S, T&P Ry. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas

5219
Howard County, et al vs. Donald Overton
A 55'x155' tract of land out of and part of a 5.9 acre tract of land out of Sc 5, Bk 32 T1S, T&P Ry. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas

5533
Howard County, et al vs. Verna Ashford
Lts 11 & 12, Bk E, Moore's Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

5605
Howard County, et al vs. Raul Vasquez and Rene Vasquez
A tract of land out of Sc 31, Bk 33, T1N, Howard County, Texas

5781
Howard County, et al vs. Paul R. Ronk and Misty D. Ronk
Lt 10, Bk 1, Highland Park Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

5799
Howard County, et al vs. James Spangler
Lt 6, Bk 20, Cole & Strayhorn Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

5856
Howard County, et al vs. Timothy Rios and Sindy Rios
Lt 2, Bk 7, Settles Heights Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

5856
Howard County, et al vs. Timothy Rios and Sindy Rios
Lt 16, Bk 12, Settles Heights Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas;

5877
Howard County, et al vs. Juan T. Moreno aka Juan Moreno, Marie Rodriguez, Jose Moreno, Luis Perez, Katie Perez Schill and Katherine Perez
Being a 2.0 acre tract of land out of the SW/4 of Sc. 24, Bk 33, T1S, T&P Ry. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas

5986
Howard County, et al vs. Irene C. Flores, Alfredo Flores, Jr. and Evelyn Gray and all natural children of Evelyn Gray
Lts 1, 2 & 3, Bk 21-A, Amended Fairview Heights Addn, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

5986
Howard County, et al vs. Irene C. Flores, Alfredo Flores, Jr. and Evelyn Gray and all natural children of Evelyn Gray
Lts 4, 5 & 6, and 10' of alley adjacent to Lt 6, Subdivision "A", Bk 21, Fairview Heights Addn, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

6046
Howard County, et al vs. Bobby W. Gaskins, St.
Lts 14-15, Bk 6, Settles Heights Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment(s) rendered in the above styled and numbered cause(s), together with interest, penalties and costs of suit, and the proceeds of said sales to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2012.
STAN PARKER
SHERIFF OF
HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS
BY:

Deputy
PROPERTY ADDRESSES
SHOWN ARE NOT GUARANTEED, PROSPECTIVE BUYERS SHOULD SATISFY THEMSELVES AS TO THE ACTUAL LOCATION OF THE PROPERTY

PROSPECTIVE BUYERS
SHOULD CHECK TITLE RECORDS FOR METES AND BOUNDS DESCRIPTIONS OF PROPERTY AND TO DETERMINE STATUS OF TITLE

PURCHASERS AT THIS SALE WILL RECEIVE A DEED TO THE PROPERTY 'AS IS', WITHOUT WARRANTY OF TITLE

EACH PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO ANY RIGHT OF REDEMPTION PURSUANT TO VTCA PROPERTY TAX CODE § 34.21.

#7224 January 15, 22 & 29, 2012

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Coahoma Independent School District will accept sealed bids to replace the roofs on the high school science room and the administration office. The bids shall be in the Superintendent's office at 500 N. Main in Coahoma, no later than 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2012. A walk-through conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at the Coahoma ISD Administration Building. The Proposal forms and

specifications may be obtained at the walk-through conference or at the Coahoma ISD Administration Building located at 500 N. Main, Coahoma, TX 79511. The bids will be presented to the school board at their regular meeting on Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Coahoma ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in the best interest of the Coahoma ISD. #7245 January 29, 2012 and February 5, 2012.

Mercury is still at it. Yesterday he sassed Saturn, and today he takes a shot at Jupiter, the planet of abundance. What you say will affect what people feel like giving you. This could have to do with affection and attention, but it also has to do with cold, hard cash. Do you make an impression that inspires

Legals

LEGAL NOTICE:
These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on February 3, 2012. You have until August 1, 2012, to redeem any tickets for these games: **#1300 20X The Money** (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 3.61, **#1329 Scorching 7's** (\$7) overall odds are 1 in 3.42. This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on February 6, 2012. You have until August 4, 2012, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#1368 Merry Millionaire** (\$20) overall odds are 1 in 3.07. This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on March 3, 2012. You have until August 30, 2012, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#1375 Merry Crossword** (\$3) overall odds are 1 in 3.36. These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on April 4, 2012. You have until October 1, 2012, to redeem any tickets for these games: **#1297 Red Hot Cherries** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.46, **#1369 Happy Holidays!** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.45, **#1353 9's In A Line** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.93, **#1321 Veterans Cash** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.29, **#1365 Haunted Halloween** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.15, **#1367 Black Onyx 7's** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.84, **#1028 Super Set For Life II** (\$20) overall odds are 1 in 3.08. The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including \$599. Prizes of \$600 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form; however, annuity prizes or prizes over \$1,000,000 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at **1-800-37LOTTO** or visit the Lottery Web site at **www.txlottery.org** for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, transactions, players, and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A Scratch-Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. **PLAY RESPONSIBLY.** The Texas Lottery Supports Texas Education. #7247 January 29, 2012

Tomorrow's Horoscope

generosity in others?
ARIES (March 21-April 19). Being a good friend takes a lot of effort, most but not all of which is joyful. Your expectations of your friends will make a difference now. Dare to set a precedent.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll do interesting and respectable work. Look at what you've accomplished, and appreciate it. Your solid character is what makes this all possible.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGES IN ELECTION PRECINCTS
Pursuant to §42.035, Texas Election Code, the Commissioners Court of Glasscock County, Texas herein provides notice of changes in County political boundaries as adopted by the Commissioners Court, and as precleared by the United States Department of Justice on the 15th day of December, 2011. Interested individuals may review the adopted changes in the office of the County Clerk during regular business hours. The changes in county election precincts were necessitated by re-districting of County Commissioners Court precincts in compliance with the United States Constitution and 42 U.S.C. §1973, also known as the Voting Rights Act, following the release of 2010 census data. Changes in county election precincts were designed to achieve numerical balance between the four commissioners court precincts, and to insure the voting rights of all citizens of Glasscock County, Texas. Rebecca Bath Glasscock County Clerk
AVISO PUBLICO DE CAMBIOS EN ELECCION RECINTOS
Conforme a §42.035, Tejas Eleccion Codigo, la Corte de Comisario, Condado Glasscock, Tejas, avisa cambio en las fronteras politicas de condados segun se adopto por las corte de comisario y aprobado por Estado Unidos Ministerio Justicia el 15th de diciembre 2011. Los individuos interesados pueden repasar los cambios adoptados en la oficina del oficial Condado durante horas de ofician regulares. Los cambios en recintos de la elccion del condado fueron hechos necesario por cambios de los recintos de comisiones del condando en conformidad con la constitucion de Estados Unidos y 42 U.S.C. §1973, tambien sabido como Derechos Al Voto, despues del desbloquear do los datos 2000 de censo. Cambios en eleccion recintos del condado fueron disenados para alcanzar el equilibrio numerico entre los cuatro recintos de la corte de las comisioners, y para asegurar los derechos al voto de todos los ciudadanos del condado Glasscock de Tejas. Rebecca Bath Glasscock County Clerk
#7240 January 22, 29 and February 5, 2012

Acknowledge yourself.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Lately, many businesses want you to take a survey and give a good score regarding your experience. Does anyone really receive prize money from giving an opinion? Well, if anyone will, it's you.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your life stories are interesting and varied. You should write them down. Really, you should! A story you've told many times will now find its best audience.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Whatever you put in, so shall you get out. Actually, that's not entirely true. You're putting such intensity into your work now that you're likely to get out three times what you put in.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your sense of loyalty will be highlighted as you work in a small group. There's a deal on the table to consider. Unless the arrangement will benefit the entire group, you have no interest.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Close your eyes and soften your heart. Your receptivity will now add what your logical brain could not: a certain kind of sweetness that helps you experience a more vivid and joyful world.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You were given a very special gift that you haven't yet had time to investigate. If only your gift had come with explicit instructions that included timing. Alas, it's on you to take initiative and follow the impetus to move.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have distanced yourself from the one who has acted in self-interest, much to your dismay. Your friend senses that he's done something to upset you, but he'll never fully "get it" unless you spell things out.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Filter out the superfluous, and focus on

what is truly important. Much of the cosmic racket is caused by others giving their opinion just to feel heard. It makes for some unnecessary distractions.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You will be quick to sort out what is going on inside you, be it in your family, education or social life. However, maintaining a willingness to take action to direct the process consciously will be a challenge.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll enjoy money management as an activity in its own right. You like to feel on top of financial affairs, and it will feel good to know, to the exact number, what you have to work with.
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 28). You know the right course of action because you feel it in your bones. It's as though your skeleton is magnetized to success. Seek supportive personal relationships in February. Build your team. You'll be a hero in March. May is your chance to bond with kin. June brings domestic improvement. Capricorn and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 1, 43, 19 and 50.



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

number, what you have to work with.

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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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22 Touched
23 One of the Titans
24 "The Imp of the Perverse" author
25 Cru chief's concern
27 800 is the top of its scale: Abbr.
28 Brace complement
29 Dude
30 Book prophesying Jerusalem's destruction
32 Sordid
33 Where Pamplona is capital
34 Unbelted dress
37 Glockenspiel accessory
38 Origin of many drafts
40 Badger
41 Upholder of rights
42 First customer for the Boeing 787
43 Remote targets
46 Something raised by aerobic exercise: Abbr.
47 Casting need
48 Broadcast debut of June 1980

DOWN

1 Lost at logrolling
2 Back-to-back
3 This way
4 Bill-passing watchdogs
5 Energy Star program creator
6 Razzie Award, for instance
7 Ogle
8 Patron of Titian
9 Garland's sister in *Summer Stock*
10 GI Bill of Rights advocate
11 Not renewed
12 "Brava!"
13 Crony
14 Growth-factor source
21 Oscar/Emmy/ Tony winner
24 Milieu for expert driving
26 Pat Nixon, originally
31 Do-re-mi
32 Feather tip
34 Columbus sighting of 1493
35 Jacket wearer
36 Plot resolver, often
39 Residents, e.g.
40 Ray heating stoves
43 Olympian portrayed by Lancaster
44 Word from the Latin for "public"
45 Dog groomer's goals
51 Cork locale
53 Furnish for free
54 Son of Marge and Homer
56 Slippers in Theodore Roosevelt's White House
58 Chance

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Photo courtesy of Getty Images

TECH HELP WANTED

FAMILY FEATURES

Smartphones, laptops, tablets, wireless, broadband or satellite connections — the amount of technology available to people today is astonishing. And many people embrace it wholeheartedly, some owning 14 or more consumer electronic devices, according to a 2011 survey conducted by Accenture. But even those “super users” need some technical help now and then. The Accenture survey also found that:

- One in two consumers (51 percent) turns to family members or friends when they need computer maintenance or support.
- Taking a computer into a retail or computer-repair store was the least favorite method of maintenance (28 percent).
- One in two consumers (53 percent) would welcome the opportunity to have one company provide technical support for most or all of their home and mobile consumer electronics devices.

Getting the help you need at home

Where to Get Help

With the number of household devices on the rise, there is an increasing need for tech support for those devices. It’s not uncommon for PCs and laptops to have to be repaired or replaced within only a few years of purchase. In terms of help options there are several to consider — including manufacturer tech support, free do-it-yourself options and third-party help services.

Manufacturer Support

Although many computer manufacturers offer free tech-support programs, most end after one year, or even sooner. Additionally, the tech support staff for the manufacturer is there to provide basic help for manufacturer defects or system failures. It’s unlikely that when you unbox that brand new Internet connected HD TV and wireless router the customer service rep for either company will patiently walk you through set up and make sure everything works well before ending the call.

DIY Sources

Check out newsgroups or user forums where you can find other users who have had similar problems to yours, and you can get tips on what to do about it. To find them, simply run a keyword search on your favorite search engine, then subscribe to the newsgroup or join the relevant forum. You will be able to ask questions and another forum member will answer with key tips. From there — you’re on your own. Free software tools that help diagnose computer problems are also available online, but make sure you download one from a reputable vendor you can trust. Norton PC Checkup (www.nortonlive.com), for example, lets you scan for problems, assess risks, identify performance problems and check for security weaknesses in your wireless network.

Third Party Services

A survey by HDI (formerly known as the Help Desk Institute), found that more people than ever are calling help desks for assistance. The number of incidents reported is rising, with 67 percent of all help desk services increasing in 2010. There are several circumstances when going to an independent service may be your best bet:

- When the source of the problem isn’t obvious. Most manufacturers only consider the pre-installed hardware and software covered by the original warranty. An independent service, such as NortonLive’s Ultimate Help Desk, will evaluate much more than that. It can look at networks, peripheral equipment, applications and software drivers.
- If a virus or spyware might be the problem. Manufacturer tech support tends to find the source of these problems far less often than independent services do.
- If you want no-hassle phone service. Calling a remote service often costs less than getting someone to come to your home. And if you’re having multiple issues or have multiple devices to deal with, it can be very time consuming and frustrating to try and deal with each device’s manufacturer and policies separately. With a service such as NortonLive Ultimate Help Desk, you get broad-based support for

virtually any computer and digital device you have, including PCs, Macs, wireless routers, smartphones, printers, MP3 players and digital cameras. And you get that help any time you need it — not just during regular business hours. If you do choose a third-party service, keep these things in mind:

- Check their reputation. Before giving anyone remote access to your computer, make sure the service provider is reputable. Read reputation websites and reviews online, and find out whether the company does background checks on technicians sent to your home.
- Ask about tech certification. Look for technicians with trade certifications to ensure they have the relevant training and expertise required for troubleshooting computer problems.
- Ask for a guarantee. Some guarantees vary with the type of service purchased. Make sure you understand what you can expect.
- Protect your warranty. If your device is under warranty be sure that using another service won’t nullify it.
- Get organized. Before you call for help write down key information such as your computer’s serial number, basic specs and anything you have installed. Be able to tell the technician what the problem is and when it started.

Survey says: It’s overwhelming!

Consumers responding to two separate surveys conducted by Harris Interactive and StrategyOne revealed that they are sometimes overwhelmed by technology.

The October 2011 Strategy One survey showed that:

- Eleven percent of U.S. households use a combination of PC and Mac based computer systems at home.
- Both PC and Mac users cited performance degradation and Internet connection problems as the most common issues encountered.

The December 2010 Harris survey revealed that:

- Sixty-four percent of respondents have experienced problems with their computers, while 56 percent have experienced problems with their digital devices.
- Thirty-one percent said they usually make things worse when they try to fix things themselves.

To find out how to get these types of services, and more, with NortonLive’s Ultimate Help Desk, visit www.nortonlive.com.

Tech problems may seem overwhelming at times, but you can get the help you need, protect your investments and make life a little more hassle free.

Poetry contest; entry deadline set for April 1

LAMESA — Calling all poets of all ages. Submissions are being accepted for the 12th Peggy Lynch Poetry Contest.

This year there are three divisions, with a division being added for those 14 to 17 years of age. Other divisions include 12 and younger and adult division for those 18 and older. For those placing first in each division, a prize of \$75 will be awarded.

Poems submitted need to be 32 lines or less and labeled for which division it is being submitted for. According to Williams, email is the best form of submission, but those mailed in will also be accepted. All poems must be received by April 1 to qualify for judging. Winners will read their poems at Forrest Fest 2012, which is to take place at the end of April.

“The competition is open to anyone and provides a great opportunity to share and see cultures from other areas,” Williams said.

For those wanting to email their submission, send to forrestpoetry@live.com and for those wanting to mail submissions send them to Connie Williams, 301 N. 19th Street, Lamesa, Texas 79331.

“As our mission statement says, we are aimed at providing literacy and education opportunities for culturally diverse, economically depressed rural communities,” Williams said.

For more information, contact Williams at 806-549-4635.

United Way set for upcoming year



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

United Way of Big Spring and Howard County held its annual meeting this past week. New board members, as well as new officers for the 2012 year were installed. The 15 agencies supported by the United Way were recognized and informed of their allotted allocations for the upcoming year. The 2012 goal was set at \$275,000 and was surpassed at \$295,000. The goal for 2013 has yet to be announced.

Life Policies

The Big Spring Herald has instituted a 600 word limit for all wedding submissions. All wedding articles will be edited to fit the above listed policy.

All submissions for Sunday's life section must be turned in by noon Wednesday to be published in Sunday's edition.

Submitting articles by the deadline does not guarantee publication in the Sunday Life Section.

The *Herald* attempts to publish articles in a timely manner but because of space limitations submissions may held until the following week.

For more information, call 263-7331

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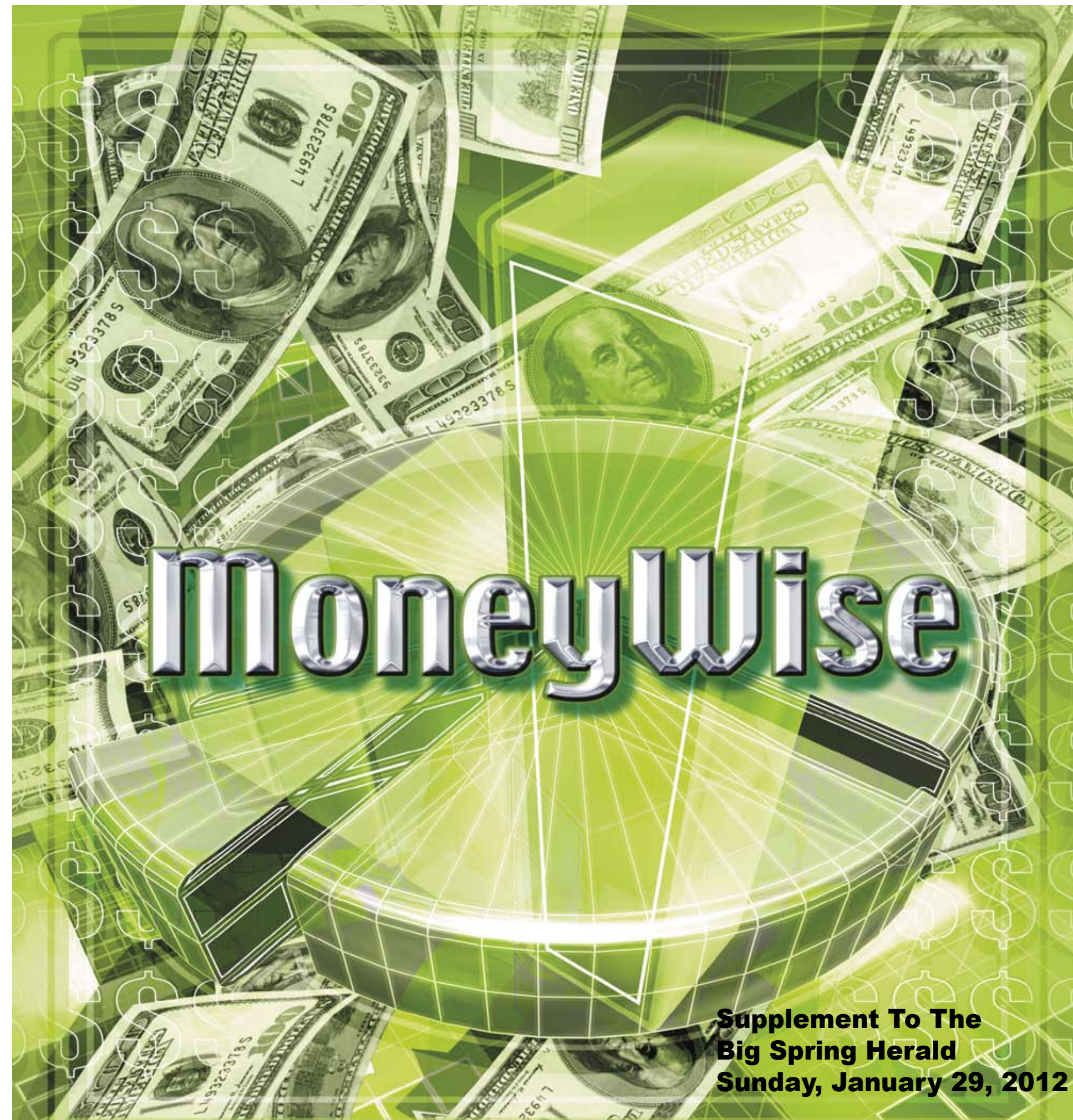
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Midland Office

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Sunday, January 29, 2012**

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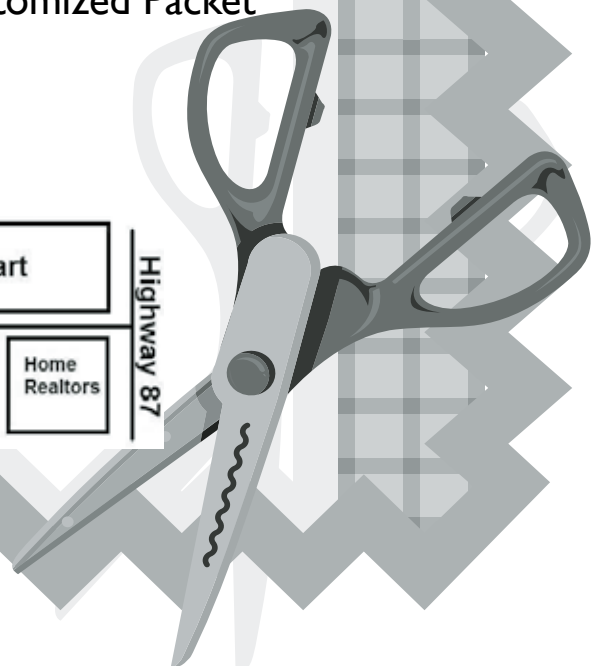
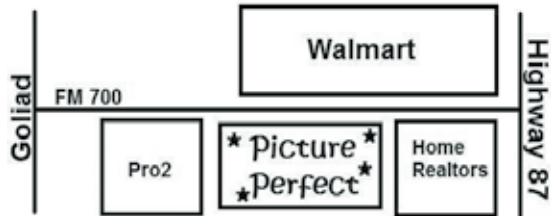
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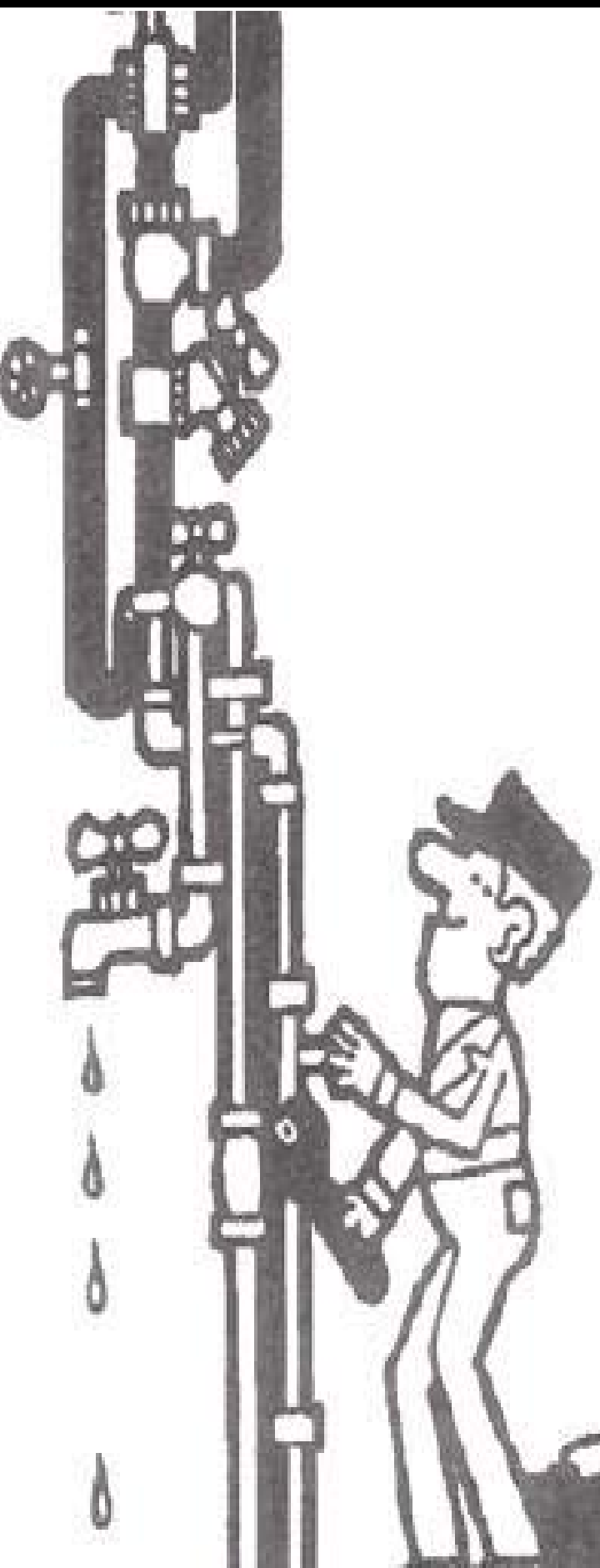
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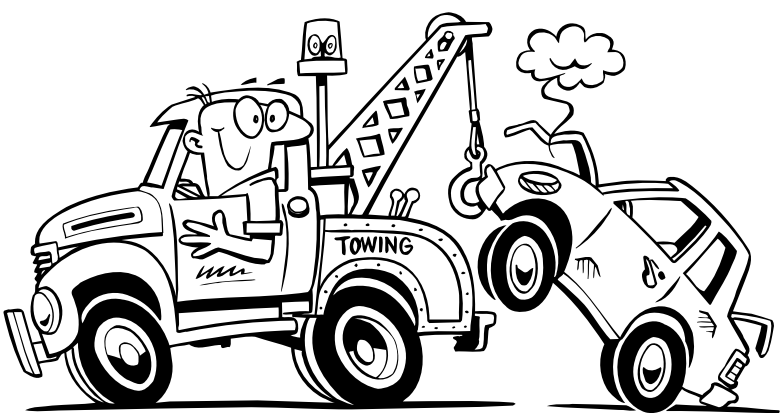
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Under New Ownership

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230098



“Opera 101” - Study Mozart’s opera “Cosi fan tutte.” The 4-week course will be offered at both Odessa College (Mondays) and Midland College (Thursdays). Each class will be a DVD lecture with live discussion lasting 2 hours. The class in Odessa will begin on Monday, January 30th at 7 p.m. and the class in Midland will begin on Thursday, February 2nd at 7 p.m.

“Opera Live” - Mozart’s “Cosi fan tutte” 7 p.m. Saturday, March 31, 2012 Wagner-Noel Performing Arts Center featuring the Texas Tech University Music Theatre & Orchestra.

“Opera on the Road” - Come with us to Santa Fe Opera July 5 - 8, 2012, to see Bizet’s “The Pearl Fishers” and Puccini’s “Tosca.” Call 432-269-0398 by February 10th to reserve your place on the trip.

“Opera on DVD” - Come enjoy opera in a casual, social setting at the Blakemore Planetarium Thursday, June 14th and Thursday, July 19th beginning at 5:30 p.m.

“Susan Graham Day” - Come celebrate the accomplishments of former Midlander and world-renowned mezzo-soprano Susan Graham. Monday, September 3rd.



For more information
call **432-269-0398**,
Email midlandtxopera@gmail.com
or go to www.midlandoperatheater.org.

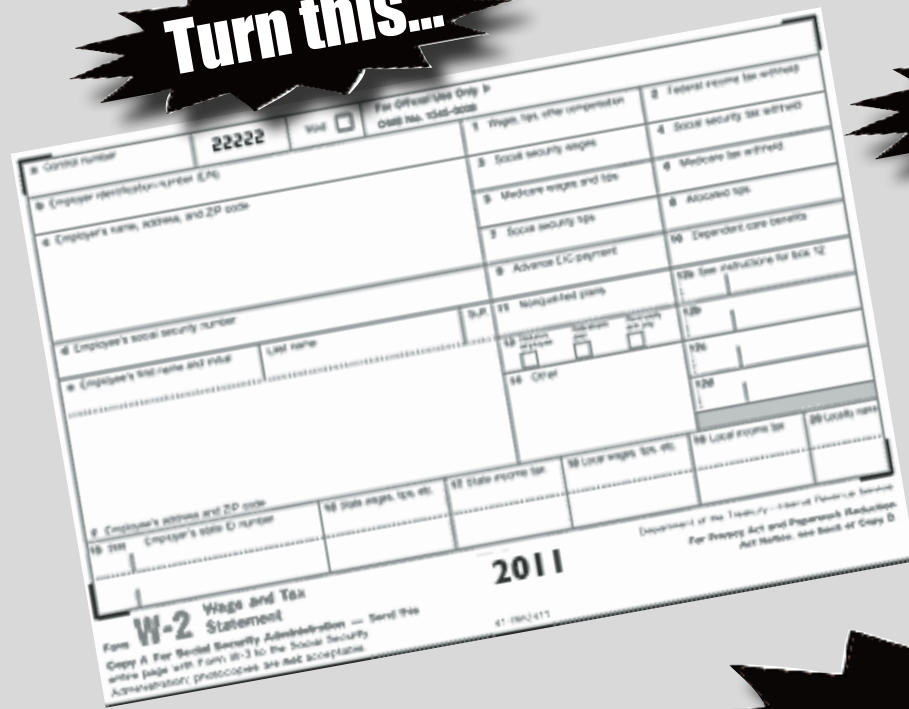


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