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The race is on

Three file on Republican ticket

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

Three Howard County officials will seek re-election on the Republican ticket, as filing in this year's political party primaries got under way Monday morning.

Sheriff Stan Parker, Precinct 3 Commissioner Jimmie Long and Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Place 1 Bennie Green all filed to run for re-election with Republican Party Chairman Craig Bailey Monday morning, the first day for political hopefuls to throw their hats in the ring for 2012.

Parker, who is finishing his first four-year term in office, said the decision to run for re-election was a fairly simple one for him.

"It wasn't a hard decision at all for me. I've enjoyed what I've done as sheriff, and I feel like my family and the community are behind me on this," Parker said. "This



Green



Long

done on the other side of the department, with the deputies," Parker said. "However, we were able to accomplish a lot. We were able to get a 24-hour patrol back up and running, something we knew all along was 100 percent necessary"

With the construction of a new \$2.7 million joint law enforcement center expected to begin in the coming months, Parker said the working relationship between the Howard County Sheriff's Office and Big Spring Police Department will grow stronger in the coming years.

"I really feel like all that relationship can do at this point is get stronger," Parker said firmly. "We're already sharing so many resources, including animal control and the crime scene unit. When we first started this, there were some personality issues, however, now I feel

See **FILING**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Howard County Sheriff Stan Parker has filed for another term on the Republican ticket, as have commissioners Bennie Green and Jimmy Long.



File photo
 The Christmas season officially arrives in Big Spring this weekend, as a variety of traditional holiday events are planned. The first of these events is the VA Medical Center's annual Lighting of the Lights Friday evening.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

The Scrooges among us might want to find shelter this weekend — a figurative storm of Christmas activities are on tap.

From parades to caroling to multiple visits from a certain jolly man dressed in red, the holiday season begins in earnest with several annual events this weekend, officials said.

The first of these events will be

Friday evening, when the local VA Medical Center hosts its annual tree lighting ceremony at 6 p.m.

Daniel L. Marsh, medical center director for the West Texas VA Health Care System, assisted by area children, will throw the switch on the VA Medical Center's holiday lights, according to VA officials.

Community Relations Director Iva Jo Hanslik said the fun

See **HOLIDAYS**, Page 3



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Obituaries

Cheryl Yvonne Johnson Clark



Cheryl Yvonne Johnson Clark, 55, of Big Spring, formerly of San Angelo, died Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2011, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock, Texas. The family will receive friends Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Miracle Temple Church of God in Christ in San Johnny Allen officiating. Burial will follow in Lawnhaven Cemetery.

She was born Jan. 6, 1956, in San Angelo, Texas, to Emma (Giddings) Johnson and Earl T. Johnson. She was a 1974 graduate of Central High School. She married Clyde Clark on May 10, 2007, in San Angelo.

She was employed by HEB as a cake decorator in San Angelo and Big Spring for a total of 18 years. She was a member of Miracle Temple Church of God in Christ while in San Angelo. She had been a resident of Big Spring for four years and was a member of New Life Ministry.

She is survived by her husband, Clyde Clark of Big Spring; one son, Aaron Henderson of Coleman; stepdaughter, Scefenia Clark of Dallas; stepson, Malachi Clark of Dallas; seven grandchildren; her mother, Emma Johnson of San Angelo; a sister, Cecelia Johnson of San Angelo; a favorite nephew, Dorian Johnson of Dallas; four uncles and two aunts.

She was preceded in death by her father, Earl T. Johnson.

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

Paid obituary

Tony H. Guzman Sr.

Tony H. Guzman Sr., 75, of Big Spring died Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Vigil services will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with Monsignor Bernard L. Gully officiating. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born May 6, 1936, in El Paso, Texas, to Guadalupe and Clemente Guzman. He was a veteran of the United States Army. He retired from the Veterans Administration Medical Center as an environmental supervisor.

He is survived by one daughter, Cathy Guzman of Big Spring; four sons, Tony Guzman Jr. of Big Spring, Danny Guzman and wife Sylvia of Midland, Robert Guzman and wife Annalisa of Big Spring and Andy Guzman of Big Spring; one sister, Luz G. Martinez of Big Spring; three brothers, Clemente Guzman Jr. of Oregon, Henry Guzman Sr. of Midland and Armando Guzman Sr. of El Monte, Calif.; 19 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Irene E. Guzman; and siblings, Simon, Juanita, Elena, Victoria and Jeannie.

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

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Police blotter

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

- JESSE RAY ARMENDARIZ, 20, of Bastrop, was arrested Monday on warrants for public intoxication and failure to appear.
- DAVID FRANCO, 33, of 1407 E. 18th St., was arrested Monday on charges of disorderly conduct – language (two counts).
- FABIAN MIGUEL GALAN, 26, of 1002 N. Gregg St., was arrested Monday on warrants for no driver's license – when unlicensed and criminal mischief.
- TONY DELAGARZA, 46, of 1002 E. 16th St., was arrested Monday on charges of public intoxication and assault by contact.
- ASSAULT was reported:
In the 1400 block of Oriole.
In the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 2500 block of Carleton.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 1500 block of W. Fourth Street.
- THEFT was reported:
In the 100 block of N. First Street in Coahoma.
In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 2600 block of Fairchild.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 66 inmates at the time of this report.

- VINCENT FERNANDEZ JR., 66, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- JESSE RAY ARMENDARIZ, 20, was booked into the county jail Monday by the BSPD on municipal warrant for public intoxication and failure to appear.
- DANIEL GONZALES, 31, was booked into the county jail Monday on a Bernalillo County warrant for failure to appear – drug trafficking charges.
- DAVID FRANCO, 33, was booked into the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of disorderly conduct – language and a municipal warrant for disorderly conduct – language.
- PAUL DANIEL LEE, 33, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility, expired registration, possession of drug paraphernalia and disregarding a stop sign.
- ANTHONY DELAGARZA, 46, was booked into the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication and a municipal warrant for assault – physical contact.
- FABIAN MIGUEL GALAN, 26, was booked into the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief and a municipal warrant for no driver's license.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 2000 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of Craigmont. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of

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Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 11/30	Thu 12/1	Fri 12/2	Sat 12/3	Sun 12/4
 64/41 Mainly sunny. High 64F. Winds S at 10 to 20 mph.	 66/33 Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 30s.	 41/38 Windy with showers. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the upper 30s.	 51/31 Chance of showers. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 30s.	 45/29 Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the upper 20s.
Sunrise: 7:28 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:29 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:30 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:31 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:31 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM



Texas At A Glance



Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of N. FM 700. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Hilltop. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported near the 163 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 200 block of W. FM 700. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Cherokee. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 800 block of E. 15th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Lindberg. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of W. Utah. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Albroom. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Cherokee. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of E. Sixth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Morrison. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of N. Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.

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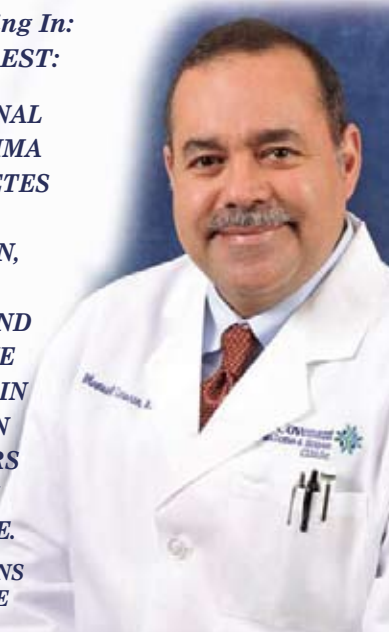
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► State briefs

Texas asks Supreme Court to block redistricting

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas’ attorney general asked the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday to block a federal court from implementing temporary, new political maps as candidates for elected offices in Texas started filing for election.

Some candidates already changed their plans — and a handful announced retirements — after a federal court in San Antonio shook things up last week by drawing new political maps for the state to use while its redistricting fight continues. A stay issued by the nation’s highest court could cause more upheaval and possibly result in the March 6 primary being delayed until May.

Lawmakers redraw districts every 10 years to reflect changes in population reported by the census. Texas’ Republican-controlled Legislature drew up new maps earlier this year, but minority groups sued in federal court in San Antonio, claiming the plan didn’t reflect the growth in the state’s Hispanic and black population.

The court has not yet ruled, but it issued new maps that could be used in the meantime that would likely lead to greater minority representation and give Democrats a chance to add as many as a dozen seats in the Legislature.

Meanwhile, a federal court in Washington has refused to approve the Legislature’s redistricting plan without a trial, agreeing with the Justice Department that there was sufficient evidence to question whether it hurt minority representation. Texas, along with other states with a history of racial discrimination, can’t implement its redistricting plan or other changes to voting practices without federal approval under the Voting Rights Act.

But Attorney General Greg Abbott’s office has argued the legislative maps should be implemented while the Washington court’s ruling is pending.

American Airlines parent seeks Ch. 11 protection

FORT WORTH (AP) — American Airlines and its parent company are filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection

as they seek to cut costs and unload massive debt built up by years of high jet fuel prices and labor struggles.

The nation’s third-largest airline also said Tuesday that CEO Gerard Arpey had stepped down and was replaced by company president Thomas W. Horton.

AMR Corp. has continued to lose money while other U.S. airlines returned to profitability in the last two years.

2 Texas soldiers die in apparent domestic dispute

EL PASO (AP) — Police say two Fort Bliss soldiers have died in separate shootings during an apparent domestic dispute that left another man wounded.

El Paso police did not immediately release the names of the man and the woman who died or further details on what allegedly linked Monday’s shootings.

Police have recovered a weapon believed to have been used in the shootings and say no suspects are sought.

Police say the woman was fatally shot and a man was wounded Monday morning while at their home. She died at the scene. He was transported to a hospital.

Police about two hours later responded to a report of a man shot at an apartment complex in another part of El Paso. He died Monday afternoon.

Suspect arrested in abandoned pot flight

HEMPSTEAD (AP) — Authorities have arrested a man they suspect was the pilot of a small plane abandoned at a small Southeast Texas airstrip with about 100 pounds of marijuana onboard.

A Waller County Sheriff’s Office statement says deputies and federal Homeland Security agents arrested 33-year-old Barrington Carl Slack late Monday afternoon outside an Italian restaurant in the Houston suburb of Humble (UHM’-buhl).

Slack was booked into the Waller County Jail in Hempstead, about 50 miles northwest of Houston. No bond has been set for the felony marijuana possession charge. Jail records list no hometown or attorney for Slack.

HOLIDAYS

Continued from Page 1

doesn’t stop with the lights, which will not only illuminate the Christmas tree located inside the medical center’s lobby, but also much of the facility’s outside, as well.

“Santa Claus will be taking time out of his busy schedule to be with us,” Hanslik said. “He’ll be there to visit with all of the children. Refreshments will be served, as well. We hope everyone in the community will come out and be a part of this wonderful celebration.”

For more information, call 264-4824.

- Looking for a unique Christmas gift? If so, you probably want to check out Canterbury’s annual Christmas Bazaar, scheduled for Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Canterbury South, 1700 Lancaster.

Vendors will offer all sorts of arts and crafts items, baked goods and other holiday-themed gifts. In addition, the Canterbury Auxiliary (which plans social activities for residents) will have homemade burritos for sale.

For more information, call 263-1265.

- A near-record number of entries will highlight the *Big Spring Herald’s* annual Community Christmas Parade Saturday evening.

Parade Coordinator Rick Nunez said 60 entries have been registered for the parade, which will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the intersection of Gregg and 24th streets. The parade will proceed north on Gregg to Eighth, east to Scurry, north to Fourth, then east to Main.

Awards will be pre-

sented in the following categories: Best of Show (best interpretation of the parade’s theme of “A Wild West Christmas”); Publisher’s Award (best use of lighting); and Grand Marshal’s Award (for best costuming). Also, certificates will be awarded to the best entries in the following categories — individual/family; civic/school; commercial; industrial; and mounted.

“I think this will be one of the best parades we’ve ever had,” Nunez said. “It’s certainly generating a lot of excitement and we hope everyone can come watch.”

For more information, contact the *Herald* at 263-7331.

- The Living Christmas Tree, a Big Spring holiday tradition for more than 30 years, will be held at 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at First United Methodist Church.

The event is free to the public, but tickets must be obtained at the church office. A dress rehearsal at 2 p.m. Saturday also is open to the public and no ticket is required for that performance.

The Living Christmas Tree, for the uninitiated, is exactly that — a 2,000-pound Christmas tree populated by more than 130 singers dressed as ornaments.

While the event will be familiar to those who have attended before, the program is tweaked every year to provide something new. Aside from long-time classics, newer holiday standards will be performed.

For more information, contact the church office at 267-6394.

- Santa and Mrs. Claus will be stopping at the Heritage Museum Saturday.

FILING

Continued from Page 1

like the working environment is improved, and that’s just going to spill over into the community.”

Long will be making his first bid for re-election to the Precinct 3 seat on the commissioners court following his freshman term on the government body, a decision he said came easily.

“I really want to continue serving the people of Howard County. It wasn’t a hard decision to make,” Long said.

Long, who, along with the rest of the commissioners court has been vital to the growing relationship between the city and county law enforcement, said there are challenges facing the county in the next few years he would like to be on the forefront of.

“I’m hoping we’ll have the new law enforcement center wrapped up by the end of my current term,” Long said.

“There’s still a lot to do, however. The county roads are going to need our attention, especially with the increase in oil-field traffic. That is going to be a big challenge facing the commissioners court in the next few years.

“Also, the computer software the county uses is coming to the end of its lifespan. Tyler Technologies has told us they will stop servicing it soon, so we are going to have to look for a viable replacement. Texas Association of Counties (TAC) has been working on a replacement for a while now, and we’re hoping it will be ready soon. These are just a couple of the challenges I hope to assist with if I’m re-elected.”

Green, who was appointed to an unfinished term and is about to complete his second full term in office, said he, too, had an easy time deciding whether or not to run for re-election.

“I feel like I’ve really learned the job now,”

Green said. “I would hate to give it up at this point.”

Green said he sees truancy as a major challenge facing his office in the next several years, a subject he plans to take head-on.

“In the end, it all depends on the law,” Green said. “It all depends on what gets filed and how it gets filed. However, we’re going to look at all of that very closely and deal with it in the best way we can.”

Other seats up for election in the 2012 election will be district attorney, currently held by Hardy Wilkerson; county attorney, held by Joshua Hamby; tax assessor collector, held by Kathy

Sayles; and Precinct 1 county commissioner, held by Emma Brown.

To file candidacy with the Republican party, contact Chairman Craig Bailey at 267-2464. To file with the Democratic party, contact Chairman Walter Shipman at 264-6660. The deadline for local candidates to file is Dec. 15.

According to Sandra Bloom, Howard County elections administrator, the filing period for this year’s political primaries is much shorter than in years past.



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This won’t just be a normal stop though, the Claus’ will be having breakfast with the children of Big Spring, helping them decorate a gingerbread house and Christmas ornaments.

“This went over really well last year and we figured we would bring it back this year and give more kids the opportunity to have breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus,” said Nancy Raney, museum director.

The cost is \$3 per child plus one canned good, which will benefit the First Baptist Church food pantry. There are 30-minute time slots from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. that parents can sign their children up for.

“We are expecting to have about 200 to 250 kids come through,” Raney said. “We are expecting to have a really good time.”

Later that day, the museum will hold its annual Parade Watching Party beginning at 4:30 p.m.

To make reservations, call the museum at 267-8255 or send an email to heritagemus@gmail.com.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Wanda Taylor, 75, of Big Spring, died Friday, November 18, 2011. Graveside services were at 10 a.m. today at Mount Olive Memorial Park. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Deborah Ann Lewis, 46, of Big Spring, died Sunday, November 20, 2011. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Cheryl Yvonne Johnson Clark, 55, of Big Spring died Wednesday, November 23, 2011. The family will receive friends tonight from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Miracle Temple Church of God in Christ in San Angelo, Texas with burial in Lawnhaven Cemetery.

Tony H. Guzman, Sr., 75, of Big Spring, died Saturday. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, December 1, 2011 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

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.

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Amanda Moreno Staff Writer	Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer	

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DONNIE BAKER —

Home: 267-5325.

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Home: 466-0793.

JOHN CLINE —

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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:

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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we hold onto Your love, Lord, and not get our feathers ruffled.

Amen

The Right's health care fantasies

A real conservative would say: "Government should stay out of health care. Let Americans meet their medical needs in the free market." I respectfully disagree, but thanks for being clear.

The political problem for Republicans is that this ideal stands at odds with what the public wants. Rather than admit it, they drag the issue through their hall of funny mirrors — arguing that government shouldn't have a role in health care while simultaneously grumbling that government doesn't do enough.

It reminds me of the Jewish joke about the hotel guest who complains, "The food is lousy, and the portions are small."

Consider the Republican position in the not-at-all-funny matter of breast cancer treatments. The Food and Drug Administration recently denied approval of the hugely expensive drug Avastin for treating breast cancer that has spread to other organs. It cited stringent studies showing that Avastin does not extend life for these patients, while producing awful side effects.

Spending \$90,000 a year on an ineffective treatment would seem enormously wasteful, would it not? It shouldn't matter whether the check-writer is a private insurer, the government or an individual. But a Wall Street Journal editorial blasts the FDA's decision as "another

way of imposing a blanket government abstraction over the individual choices of a patient and her physicians."

Thus, after having consistently opposed expanding Washington's role in health care, the Journal now demands that the government spend \$90,000 a year on a useless drug regimen because a patient says she wants it. (Yes, these are the same guys who rail against "high taxes.")

You know the Republican refrain: "Do you want a government bureaucrat telling you what treatments you may have?" Well, it lacks all logic in a capitalist system. Government can only tell you what the taxpayers will subsidize.

You are free to buy any medical care you want with your own money.

The above would seem an exemplary conservative argument. Responsible people should save for such contingencies, it might add.

But Republicans oddly insist that if the government pays for anything in health care, it must pay for everything. And they push the fairy tale that while government may deny your wishes, private insurers will cover your every want. (Actually, skimping on care is how insurance executives become billionaires.)

Here's the adult-world reality: When private insurers must cover treatments that don't work or cost more than equally good ones, they simply jack up premiums. Rising health care costs act as a virtual tax hike on employers and the workers they cover.

Now try to untangle Rep. Sue Myrick's, R-N.C., response to the

FDA's Avastin decision. "When a drug can help save patients' lives, they should be able to do that affordably," she told a reporter. "Insurers now could cut off coverage and not pay for the drug."

Never mind that Avastin does not help save these patients' lives, according to the studies, and its side effects may actually shorten them. What does Myrick mean by "affordably"? She presumably means forcing taxpayers and private insurers to subsidize unproductive treatments. Wouldn't the money be best spent developing treatments that could actually help these suffering women?

Myrick, of course, voted against the health care reforms that would have guaranteed Americans coverage. Wonder what uninsured breast cancer patients are finding "affordable" these days. By the way, if Myrick believes that the free market preserves consumer choice, why is she worried that private insurers will deny coverage for a drug that patients "choose"?

Makes you miss the principled conservative who lays out the alternatives in a chilling but honest way. Republicans won't because, frankly, most voters aren't real conservatives. Better to confuse them.

To find out more about Froma Harrop, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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A quick look at the GOP field

The GOP presidential nomination process is a roller-coaster ride — sometimes uplifting, other times discouraging, but we press forward.

President Obama and his agenda are unspeakably disastrous for the nation, so this election matters more than any in my lifetime. The national debt clock is ticking faster than Obama's heart beats for big government, and his re-election would guarantee virtual national bankruptcy. That's why the grass-roots tea party phenomenon sprouted, and it's why there is so much scrutiny of the GOP candidates.

Every month or so, a new front-runner emerges in this volatile race. We've gone from Sarah Palin (in theory) to Donald Trump (for some, anyway) to Tim Pawlenty (sort of) to Michele Bachmann to Rick Perry to Herman Cain to Newt Gingrich, with Mitt Romney persistently vying with the "generic Republican" as the first choice of an unenthusiastic, default plurality. Throughout, some have hoped in vain that Palin, Mitch Daniels, Chris Christie or Paul Ryan would agree to be drafted.

Conservatives began this election season fiercely determined to prevent the Republican Party from nominating another uninspiring, ideologically lukewarm candidate whose claim was based more on entitlement than merit. There would be no more Bob Doles or John McCains, whose centrism alone would be disqualifying.

The conservative base wants to know it can rely on the nominee to have the character and courage to govern as a conservative, and that's assuming he or she meets the essential threshold of electability.

At the dawn of the campaign, few thought Cain or Newt, for different reasons, would be serious contenders, but as it has unfolded, they both have exceeded expectations and have led the pack for an appreciable time.

The same is true for Bachmann, though her star faded more rapidly than the others.

Perry's trajectory has been exactly the opposite. He burst onto the scene as an immediate front-runner, with apparent credentials, charisma and a mostly conservative record. But his early debate performances were so substandard that he knocked himself out of serious contention almost as quickly as he'd gotten there.

When Cain captured the lead, a group of women surfaced, accusing him of sexual misconduct sufficiently troublesome to seriously damage any Republican — as opposed to Democratic — candidate. Because of the doubt cast on those allegations and Cain's emphatic denials, they didn't, on their own, sabotage his candidacy (though this latest one might).

But when the accusations were coupled with concerns about Cain's range of knowledge, mostly on foreign policy issues, his numbers began to fall sharply.

Newt's surprising ascendancy is a function both of the disappointing field and his stellar debate performances, the latter being especially refreshing in view of Perry's debate-related implosion. But concerns remain, not just about his so-called personal baggage but also about positions he's taken and statements he's made in the past, from global warming to health care.

Romney is a man of mostly even temperament and few gaffes, and for a few years he has been saying mostly the "right" things. But his reputation as a flip-flopper, doubt about his true positions on social issues, and his stubborn refusal to denounce Romneycare inspire anxiety and distrust about whether in the end he would govern as a conservative.

Those of us who remain undecided are not making the perfect the enemy of the good. But we have to be sure that we nominate a candidate who not only could defeat Obama but also would take the dramatic steps necessary to reverse his agenda. Anything less might not be enough to rescue the republic from financial ruin.

The way I see the current field, Rick Santorum and Bachmann could be trusted to govern as consistent, bold conservatives with the courage, convictions and competence to roll back Obama's assault. But at this point, neither seems to be able to garner enough support to make it above the second tier. Whether they would be electable against Obama is moot if they can't generate more support from their own party.

Cain is also a reliable conservative with an impressive record as a competent and innovative businessman with strong leadership skills. But many remain concerned about his depth of knowledge on the issues, as well as yet more women-related allegations. Perry seems to be mostly conservative, with exceptions, and has a record as an effective executive in Texas. But many now fear that his debate performances either are indicative of greater intellectual weaknesses or would severely impair his electability against Obama.

So we have a few fine candidates who are getting no traction, a few who are strong conservatives with perceived substantive weaknesses, and a few who are overflowing with competency and ideas but who generate grave doubts as to whether they would govern as conservatively as they've campaigned.

Despite the rigorous vetting, there is more to come, but no matter how many further weaknesses they expose, I will enthusiastically support the last GOP man or woman standing.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His latest book, "Crimes Against Liberty," was No. 1 on the New York Times best-seller list for nonfiction for its first two weeks. Follow him on Twitter @davidlimbaugh and his website at www.davidlimbaugh.com. To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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FROMA HARROP



DAVID LIMBAUGH

Take these broken wings ...

Every acre or two, he checked the traps. Whether on U.S. Highway 87, two-lane paved stretches, or barely maintained dirt streaks, he worked his way along what seemed like endless miles dotted with occasional greenish-yellow containers.

At times, far away from any signs of human habitation, he had relished the sudden appearance of a badger waddling slowly down the depth of a furrow. Sometimes a jackrabbit would startle him as it darted across his path.

Indicating the changing seasons, and always pleasant to see, was the variety of birds. Playful ravens in winter, soaring hawks and vultures during summer, and a variety of raptors, shore and water birds during fall, enlivened his long, daily drives.

Sitting behind a desk had never appealed to him. At least this job allowed him to enjoy whatever nature had to offer as he participated in the boll weevil eradication program.

Leaving his truck and walking the short distance to a trap, he was envious of the landowners. At times, no matter in which direction he looked, he saw no structures and heard no sounds. Sunrise and sunset could be seen in their entirety and only the wind interrupted the silence.

After entering his findings, he continued toward the next trap. Leaving plowed land, he noticed miles of stubble remaining upright in the next acreage.

“The sooner they plow that under, the better,” he thought. To make the program successful, that effort was another factor in addition to traps and chemicals.

At a strange angle to the ground, the next trap had apparently been knocked askew by stripping equipment. As he tried to right the post, he barely noticed a movement to his right. Probably another rabbit, he

thought.

With the trap almost vertical, he turned to go back to his truck. Then he saw it.

Not far into the field a large, brown hawk stared back at him. Why it hadn’t flown was puzzling.

Thinking it appeared to be the kind of hawk he normally saw in late spring and throughout summer, he wondered why it was still hanging around. Having seen that same specie in another part of the county on a hot, July afternoon, he had watched it snatch grasshoppers from the tall grasses lining a fencerow.

Deciding to walk toward the hawk, he took only three steps before it attempted to fly. Gaining only about a foot and a half elevation, the raptor traveled some 20 to 30 feet before landing.

Sensing something was wrong, the man felt he could not leave it in the cotton fields. Sure of his identification of its being a “summer hawk,” he realized with the eradication program, few if any insects had survived the chemical applications. In a sterile environment, the bird might starve.

Soon, it was his will against the bird’s. Each time he approached, the hawk took flight. Determined, the man realized it was tiring. Running with what little breath he had left, he overcame the raptor.

Barehanded, he quickly forced the bird’s wings to its body. With its flailing feet forward and talons extended, the hawk was a struggling handful of feathers. Only then did the man realize how cold he was.

Not having anticipated wrestling with a hawk, he had left his coat in the truck for a quick look at the trap. The first week of December was far colder than he had realized.

Once inside the cab, he held the hawk against the passenger seat with one hand while he wrapped his coat around it with the other. Confined within the lined jacket, the bird settled down in the surrounding darkness.

When the man told me he had a summer hawk, I was doubtful. However, after his

arrival, the removal of his heavy coat revealed he was correct.

Having the most noticeable identifying marks of its specie, the Swainson’s hawk wore a chestnut-brown bib across its creamy upper chest. Its brown upper parts and head were a sharp contrast to its pale belly. Dark bands accented its grayish tail. With its light wing linings contrasting against its dark flight feathers, the raptor was an outstanding specimen.

It was, however, extremely thin. Having felt the length of its breastbone, I knew it was depleted of body fat. The frayed ends of its tail feathers indicated it must have been down for some time.

Extending one wing, I found no breaks. As my fingers followed the bones down the other, a small lump was detectable.

Nature is thoroughly capable of healing some fractures if enough time is afforded for calcification to occur. During the “down time,” however, and until the process is completed, the bird must have a sustainable food source.

With no insects, only a ground squirrel or mouse just happening by could have provided sustenance, but the likelihood of a continued procession of small mammals was slim. And the danger of predators would be continuous.

For five days, the Swainson’s left each platter of mice empty. No longer passive, it became alert and feisty.

At the wildlife center in Lubbock, Gail Barnes also felt its calcification. “That’s an old injury,” she said. “There’s something else,” she offered as she wrote a request for an x-ray.

Later in the day, she called to say the pictures had shown an old break that had calcified and was considered



Courtesy photo

A summer raptor, the Swainson’s hawk is found in open country, either soaring on thermal updrafts, or perched atop telephone poles and fence posts. Arriving sometime between March and May, it begins its migration southward in late August or early September.

healed. Not far from that injury was a hairline fracture caused by a gunshot.

“That’s the reason it couldn’t fly,” she noted. Allowing the hawk time to recuperate from its man-made grounding, they would monitor its progress and see if it were releasable.

Upon being told of the hawk’s possible return to the wild, the man said the bird belonged back out there, just like he did. His appreciation of what the natural environ-

ment had to offer reminded me of the thoughts of Malcolm Muggeridge, who spent most of his life as a journalist: “What the wilderness offers is its emptiness and barrenness ... and silence ... the world seems far away ... Just an arid haven of refuge, a dusty paradise.”

Bebe McCasland is author of *The Scoop From Bird Poop*. She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

Gratitude — it’s good for you

Thanksgiving as a season is now over but as a way of life it should never be over. We all enjoy being thanked.

It’s a great feeling to have someone, especially someone with nothing to gain, tell us that we made a difference in their lives.

Being thanked and having reason to thank others are two sides of the same gratefulness coin. Both exemplify the positive in human behavior and provide us with a positive charge that boosts our emotional balance.

It might be reassuring to learn that the expression of thanks can be its own reward. Both to the giver as well as the receiver. Everyone benefits when thanks are freely given and just as

freely acknowledged.

What would happen if we extended the tradition of giving thanks throughout the entire year? Researchers say such gratitude would be rewarded with better health.

It may be a dramatic departure from what we’ve been taught, but the connection between gratitude and health actually goes back a long way.

Thousands of years of literature talk about the benefits of cultivating gratefulness as a virtue. Throughout history, philosophers and religious leaders have extolled gratitude as a virtue integral to health and well-being.

Now, through a recent movement called positive psychology, professionals are taking a close look at how virtues such as gratitude can benefit our health. They are finding that grateful people — those who perceive gratitude as a permanent trait rather than a temporary state of mind — have an edge on the

not-so-grateful when it comes to health.

Gratitude research is beginning to suggest that feelings of thankfulness have tremendous positive value in helping people cope with daily problems. Grateful people tend to be more optimistic, a characteristic that truly boosts the immune system. Optimism also has a positive health impact

on people with compromised health.

Even in the face of tremendous loss or tragedy, it’s possible to feel gratitude. In fact, adversity can even boost gratitude, but I wonder if Archie Bunker would agree?

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for Big Spring Independent School District.

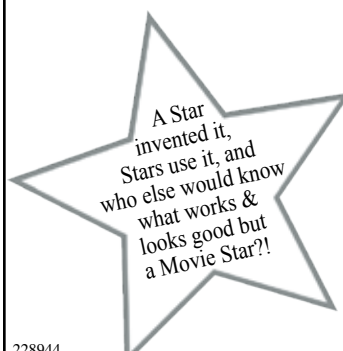


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News in brief

French pressing for joint bonds among strongest euro economies despite German resistance

PARIS (AP) — A French official says France may propose joint bonds among the eurozone's strongest economies as part of a package of measures to save the shared currency, despite German resistance.

The official said Tuesday that discussions over joint bonds by top-rated triple A eurozone economies is under discussion as the French government prepares for an EU summit next week.

Proponents say the proceeds of the so-called elite bonds could be used to help the eurozone's weaker countries deal with their debts, in return for strict conditions being imposed on their budgets.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the sensitive, closed-door talks are still under way.

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble dismissed reports of joint bonds Monday, saying they were "completely made up."

'Here we go again': Cain denies Ga. woman's allegation of 13-year extramarital affair

ATLANTA (AP) — Republican candidate Herman Cain declared "Here we go again" as he faced the latest crisis in his presidential campaign: an accusation of a 13-year extramarital affair with an Atlanta businesswoman.

On Monday, Ginger White said in an interview with Fox 5 Atlanta that her affair with Cain ended not long before the former businessman from Georgia announced his candidacy for the White House.

"It was fun," said White, 46, as she described how Cain had bought her plane tickets for a rendezvous in Palm Springs, Calif. "It was something that took me away from my sort of humdrum life at the time. And it was exciting."

Cain went on television to deny White's claims even before the report aired. It was a faster and more deliberate response than he had managed when it was reported that three women alleged he had sexually harassed or groped them when he was the president of the National Restaurant Association in the mid- to late 1990s. The trade group paid settlements to two women who had worked there.

"Here we go again," Cain told CNN as he denied White's accusation. "I didn't do anything wrong."

International force in Afghanistan will shrink by 40,000 by end of next year

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Drawdown plans announced by the U.S. and more than a dozen other nations will shrink the foreign military footprint in Afghanistan by 40,000 troops at the close of next year, leaving Afghan forces increasingly on the frontlines of the decade-long war.

The United States is pulling out the most — 33,000 by the end of 2012. That's one-third of 101,000 American troops who were in Afghanistan in June — the peak of U.S. military presence in the war, according to figures provided by the Pentagon.

Others in the 49-nation coalition

have announced withdrawal plans too, even as they insist they are not rushing to leave. Many nations have vowed to keep troops in Afghanistan to continue training the Afghan police and army in the years to come. And many have pledged to keep sending aid to the impoverished country after the international combat mission ends in 2014.

Still, the exit is making Afghans nervous.

They fear their nation could plunge into civil war once the foreign forces go home. Their confidence in the Afghan security forces has risen, but they don't share the U.S.-led coalition's stated belief that the Afghan soldiers and policemen will be ready to secure the entire nation in three years. Others worry the Afghan economy will collapse if foreigners leave and donors get stingy with aid.

LA protesters successfully defy efforts to remove camps, head to court for help

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Occupy Wall Street protesters who defied a deadline to remove their weeks-old encampment on the Los Angeles City Hall lawn stood their ground Tuesday as they faced uncertainty over when or if police would push them out of the park — and if an eviction could happen without the kind of violence that has engulfed the removal of protest sites in other cities.

Protesters in the nation's second largest city have turned to the federal courts to keep officers away after disobeying a city-imposed 12:01 a.m. deadline Monday to take down their camp. They argue that the City Council passed a resolution in support of the movement and that the city's mayor and police did not have the authority to evict them.

The chances that protesters will get an injunction appear slim, constitutional experts say.

Meanwhile, city officials said they will only move in on the camp when conditions are safest not just for protesters and officers but also the roughly 100 homeless people who had joined the encampment.

China's vaccine makers gear up for overseas markets; product safety image still a concern

BEIJING (AP) — The world should get ready for a new Made in China product — vaccines.

China's vaccine makers are gearing up over the next few years to push exports in a move that should lower costs of lifesaving immunizations for the world's poor and provide major new competition for the big Western pharmaceutical companies.

However, it may take some time before some parts of the world are ready to embrace Chinese products when safety is as sensitive an issue as it is with vaccines — especially given the food, drug and other scandals the country has seen.

Still, China's entry into this market will be a "game changer," said Nina Schwalbe, head of policy at the GAVI Alliance, which buys vaccines for 50 million children a year worldwide.

Fired band director: top school officials failed to

act on hazing warnings

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — The fired director of Florida A&M's famed "Marching 100" band said he repeatedly warned university leaders over two decades about the dangers of hazing and that he's been made the scapegoat for a band member's death in which the practice is suspected.

Julian White, 71, said he suspended 26 band members for hazing two weeks before drum major Robert Champion's death on Nov. 19. He reported his actions to university administrators, he said.

Hazing has been "rampant on university campuses," and the suspensions would serve notice it wouldn't be tolerated at A&M, he said.

But instead of being supported, White said, he was second-guessed, particularly from some parents of band members, and said the punishments were akin to suspending star football players.

"And so the band members were apprehensive. 'Doc, you think we can go without 19 trombone players?'" said White, who replaced "Marching 100" founder William P. Foster as director in 1998. "And other folks. 'Doc, do you thing you can do it without them?' My comment was, it doesn't matter, I am not going to sacrifice the performance for the principle."

Egyptians vote for 2nd day in landmark parliamentary elections

CAIRO (AP) — Polls opened Tuesday for a second day of voting in Egypt's landmark parliamentary elections, the first since Hosni Mubarak's ouster in a popular uprising earlier this year.

The historic election — which promises to be the fairest and cleanest in Egypt in living memory — will show whether the country that is one of America's most important Middle East allies will remain secular or move down a more Islamic path as have other nations swept up in the Arab Spring.

The turnout Monday, the first voting day, was massive despite security concerns and turmoil over a deadly spate of violence in the week before the balloting. It reflects the Egyptians' determination to break away

from the past after 10 months of frustration over how the military rulers who took over from Mubarak have been handling the transition.

"I am voting for this country's sake. We want a new beginning," said Zeinab Saad, 50, who brought her young daughter to a polling station in Cairo. "It's a great thing to feel like your vote matters."

The voting process, long and complicated, is staggered over the next six weeks across 27 provinces, divided into thirds with runoffs held a week after the first round in each location.

Romney campaigns in Florida; rivals fight to win in earlier-primary states

MEDLEY, Fla. (AP) — If there's any Republican presidential candidate who can afford to spend precious time and money focusing on winning in Florida, it's the one campaigning here Tuesday.

While others focus on Iowa's caucuses or the early primaries in New Hampshire and South Carolina, Mitt Romney is set to spend the day in the state welcoming endorsements from three top Cuban-American Republicans, attending several fundraisers and visiting the port in Tampa to discuss trade policy.

It's the only early primary state Romney's visiting this week, little more than a month before voters start weighing in on the GOP nominating contest.

Contrast that with his rivals, who have spent most of primary campaign jockeying to become the consensus conservative alternative to the former Massachusetts governor — and probably need to win at least one earlier-than-Florida primary to stand a chance of competing with Romney. Florida votes Jan. 31 and is likely to play a key role in deciding the GOP nominee.

Newt Gingrich is spending three days in South Carolina this week. Rick Perry and Jon Huntsman are campaigning in New Hampshire. Rick Santorum and Michele Bachmann are both in Iowa. Herman Cain is scheduled to make stops in Michigan and Ohio, though his campaign is now battling new accusations that he had an extramarital affair.

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Saints roll past Giants

Leaving Cowboys all alone atop NFC East

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — On their own 12-yard line with 1:09 left in the first half, there was no way Drew Brees and the Saints were simply going to run out the clock.

That’s not how their offense works, and the New York Giants weren’t putting up much resistance anyway.

Only 34 seconds elapsed before a third touchdown drive of 80-plus yards gave the Saints a 21-3 halftime lead, and they were well on their way to a third-straight win, 49-24 over the slumping Giants.

“What it comes down to is we have a lot of confidence and we play very aggressively,” Brees said. “Is there risk involved? Yes. When you do it as much as we do with the mentality we do, you make it part of the way you operate.”

Brees operated with surgical precision through most of Monday night’s matchup with New York, finishing with 363 yards and four touchdowns passing to go with one TD rushing.

“There’s that confidence that players around him have, and obviously we have in him,” Saints coach Sean Payton said of Brees. “He made some fantastic throws tonight.”

Tight end Jimmy Graham had five catches for 84 yards, including touchdowns of 5 and 29 yards. Brees’ two other scoring strikes went to Lance Moore, who had five catches for 54 yards.

“Things were just clicking tonight and seemed like anything we tried, it seemed to work,” Graham said. “Tonight was definitely a fun night.”

New York was desperate to win after losing its previous two, to San Francisco and Philadelphia.

Instead, the Giants (6-5) dropped a game behind first-place Dallas in the NFC East

and face the possibility of a four-game losing streak when they host the unbeaten Green Bay Packers next weekend.

The Saints (8-3), meanwhile, maintained a one-game lead over Atlanta in the NFC South.

They also padded their rushing stats with 205 yards on the ground, including touchdown runs of 12 yards by Pierre Thomas and 35 yards by rookie Mark Ingram.

“We didn’t stop them. How much further explanation do you want?” said Giants coach Tom Coughlin, whose defense was unable to sack Brees. “We prepared well, but when we got in the game we didn’t cover well. When we don’t get to the passer, we have trouble.”

Marques Colston had three catches for 78 yards, all on the Saints’ 34-second, 88-yard touchdown drive late in the second quarter that gave New Orleans a 21-3 halftime lead. Colston’s longest reception went for 50 yards when he caught a pass along the left sideline, slipped a tackle and raced up field.

The Giants took a beating on the scoreboard and on the field.

Defensive end Osi Umenyiora went out with a sprained ankle and receiver Hakeem Nicks was rocked on a vicious hit by Saints rookie safety Isa Abdul-Quddus.

Nicks bruised ribs.

New York already was missing two key players because of injuries: leading rusher Ahmad Bradshaw and wide receiver Mario Manningham.

Back home in the Big Easy, Eli Manning passed for 406 yards completed 21 straight passes for the Giants — mostly after the outcome was decided. He was intercepted by linebacker Will Herring on New York’s opening drive.

The only scoring the Giants

managed in the first half was Lawrence Tynes’ 42-yard field goal.

The Giants, who have been struggling to run the ball all season, gained only 73 yards on the ground all game.

New York did not get into the end zone until Brandon Jacobs steamrolled safety Roman Harper on an 8-yard scoring run that made it 21-10 in the third quarter, but the Saints went right back down the field and scored on Brees’ 8-yard scramble.

After Giants running back Da’Rell Scott fumbled on his own 29, Brees connected with Graham, who rumbled down the left sideline and dove for the pylon for his second TD of the game, and his team-leading eighth receiving score of the season.

Although very little went wrong for New Orleans, Brees, as usual, made a point of not sounding too satisfied.

“We can always get better. There’s always something to prove. The challenges only get greater as you move through the season,” Brees said. “Sunday night football next week, we got Detroit coming to town, on a short week, so we’re going to have to get ourselves back on track out here pretty quick and ready for that game.”

Notes: Brees took back the NFL passing lead from Tom Brady. Brees now has 3,689 yards, keeping him on pace to break Dan Marino’s single-season mark of 5,084 set in 1984.

Brees has passed for at least one TD in 38 straight games, the second-longest streak in NFL history.

The Saints’ total of 577 yards was the second-highest in franchise history.

The Giants lowered their already anemic rushing average to a league worst 82.3 yards per game.

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Utility Back — Devin Roberson

Honorable Mention Offense

Center — Sawyer Roberts

Second Team Defense

Defensive Line — Chris Nunez
Safety — Devin Roberson
Punter — Devin Roberson

Honorable Mention Defense

Defensive End — Isaac Garza



Devin Roberson

District 2-2A district football honors

Newcomer of the Year — Caige Miller, Coahoma

Utility Player of the Year — Ty Johnson, Forsan

First Team Offense

Quarterback — Tanner Ruiz, Coahoma
Fullback — Justin Coker, Coahoma
Receiver — Trevor Burchett, Forsan
Tight End — Ethan Mauldin, Stanton
Linemen — Jacob Echavarria, Coahoma; Logan Fryar, Stanton
Kicker — Andres Chavez, Stanton

First Team defense

Defensive End — Ethan Mauldin, Stanton; Marco Molina, Coahoma
Defensive Linemen — Logan Fryar, Stanton; Copeland Riddell, Forsan
Linebacker — Patrick Robles, Forsan; Justin Coker, Coahoma
Secondary — Oscar Reyna, Stanton; Tanner Ruiz, Coahoma

Second Team Offense

Quarterback — Foster Burchett, Forsan
Running Back — Brendan Roman, Forsan; Aaron Acevedo, Coahoma
Receiver — Ryan Reid, Coahoma; Dalton Doss, Forsan; Oscar Reyna, Stanton
Linemen — Peyton Rodriguez, Coahoma; Bryson Phillips, Forsan

Second Team Defense

Defensive End — Nathen Koonce, Stanton; Kade Fannin, Forsan
Defensive Linemen — Gabriel Lopez, Coahoma; Ausden Medrano, Forsan
Linebacker — Alex Hill, Coahoma
Secondary — Aaron Acevedo, Coahoma; Jacob Nichols, Stanton; Marcus Cervantes, Forsan

Honorable Mention

Offensive Line — Blaise Coffman, Forsan



Aaron Acevedo

Take note

• A benefit account for the Arguello family, who lost two family members and their home in a recent fire in Coahoma, has been established at Western Bank. Interested persons can contribute to the account at any of the bank's three locations (two in Big Spring; one in Coahoma). For more information, call 432-394-4256.

• An account has been established at Wells Fargo to help defray medical expenses for 4-year-old Zayde Stallings, who recently died of a rare heart condition. She was the daughter of Kenny and Renea Stallings of Big Spring. If you need more information, contact Four Seasons Insulation and Siding at 264-8610. The account number is 7938527277.

• A fund has been set up at Myers & Smith Funeral Home for Mike Williams, 39, a lifetime resident of Big Spring who died Nov. 1. He leaves behind a wife and seven children. Any donations can be brought to the funeral home office at 301 E. 24th St. For more information, call 267-8288.

• American Cancer Society will have its board meetings at noon on the second Tuesday of the month through April. Lunch will be furnished. Meetings will take place at Home Hospice, located at 111 E. Seventh.

• Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Training will be provided and geared to your time frame. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Sherry Hodnett at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.

• Every 10 years, Texas requires that marks and brands be re-registered in the county or counties in which you operate. The re-registration period began Aug. 31 and runs through Feb. 29, 2012. At the conclusion date, all marks and brands that have not been re-registered are automatically available for registration by another party. For additional information, contact the Howard County Clerk's Office at 264-2214 or 264-2213.

sudoku

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

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Think First, Play Later

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ K 9 5 2
♥ K 8 7
♦ K 10 8 6 5
♣ 10

EAST
♠ Q 8 4
♥ Q 5 4 3
♦ 9 2
♣ J 9 8 5

SOUTH
♠ 7
♥ J 9 2
♦ Q J 4
♣ A Q 7 6 3 2

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

Opening lead — six of diamonds.
To play in haste and repent at leisure is a paraphrase of the ancient proverb on the institution of marriage, but the admonition is worth its weight in aces and kings when applied to bridge.

Consider this deal where West led a diamond against three notrump. South took East's nine with the queen, played a club to the king and then led another club to the ace, on

which West showed out.

This unexpected development had a profound effect on the outcome. South could establish his clubs by continuing the suit, but since he had no entry back to his hand to cash them, the contract was doomed.

Despite the unlucky club split, the unhappy outcome was actually South's own fault. Instead of assuming a 3-2 club division — the normal expectancy — he should have allowed for the possibility of a 4-1 break. This could have been done by winning the opening diamond lead with dummy's ace, cashing the K-A of clubs and continuing with a low club, discarding a spade from dummy.

East would win the third round of clubs but could not prevent declarer from sooner or later gaining entry to his hand with a diamond to score at least nine tricks.

By keeping his Q-J of diamonds intact on the opening lead, South would have ensured the contract with a normal 3-2 club division and at the same time would have protected himself against an unfriendly 4-1 club division. By taking more time at trick one, South would have eliminated the possibility of later having to repent at leisure.

Tomorrow: Two chances are better.

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• Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help! We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions such as tour guides, front desk, clerical, events, and many others. Set your hours and days of the week you are available. Meet new people and enjoy a rewarding experience. For more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.

• Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union is raising money to benefit Maurine Pittman, who is undergoing cancer treatment in a Dallas-area hospital. For more information, call the credit union at 263-8393.

• A benefit fund has been established at Western Bank for Eric Kelly, a 24-year-old Big Spring resident with cystic fibrosis who is recovering from a double lung transplant in Dallas. All donations are appreciated. For more information, call 432-213-0795

• The Salvation Army is holding its annual heater drive and is in dire need of heaters. Community members can donate new or used heaters. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

• The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop foreclosure and are in need of foreclosure help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. The Homeowner's HOPE hotline is a counseling service provided by HPF to work with you to find a solution to your problem. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Free free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

• Fridays are live band dance nights at Big Spring Senior Center, 1901 Simler. Senior adults are invited to an evening of fellowship (and good exercise) from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. each Friday. Cost is \$8 per person. For more information or to find out what band is playing, call the Senior Center at 432-267-1628.

• A benefit fund for Chris Johnson (account 5945033396) has been established at Wells Fargo Bank to help defray expenses from a house fire. All donations are appreciated.

• The Salvation Army has funding for Texas Military Personnel now serving or has served in Iraq or Afghanistan. The military member or their family member may apply at 811 W. Fifth St. or call 267-8239. The grant is funded by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.

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

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We currently have 55 children in foster care without a volunteer. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering please contact Suzy Milliken at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

• Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seek-

ing legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

• HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915 or the local ACS office at 432-683-6375.

• Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call (877) 277-1618, the High Plains American Cancer Group Report Center. Anyone wishing to volunteer to drive in this program should call Sherry Hodnett, president of the Big Spring ACS Board, at 264-7599 at her office at Home Hospice.

• All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue has an account set up with Big Spring Salvage at 3608 N. Hwy. 87 for all types of metals and aluminum cans. Please tell them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina brand dog foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles, to A.C.S.&R. at P.O. Box 871, Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is still accepting old and used cell phones and ink jet cartridges, for drop off locations in Big Spring and Coahoma, call Melanie at 267-7387.

• New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.

• The Pet Patrol helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

• Do you have a minute? An hour? How about making a difference in someone's life? Become a hospice volunteer. One hour a month can make a difference.

Whether it visiting a patient, or working in the office, or helping with a craft, you can make a difference. We can work around your schedule. If interested, please call Michelle Coutermarsh, at Compass Hospice, 263-5999 or apply in person at 1003 E. FM 700 in Big Spring.

• Big Spring resident Matt Fowler was involved in a vehicle accident June 20 and is still in the recovery stages. He has undergone several procedures. The family is in need of assistance with medical expenses. They ask for anyone wanting to help to send donations to P.O. Box 3315, Big Spring, 79720, Attn: Angela Morrow. The family extends its gratitude for all gifts.

Support groups

WEDNESDAY

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

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

THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anony-

mous, 615 Settles, open
discussion noon to 1
p.m.; women's meeting;
6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-
smoking closed discus-
sion meeting, 8 p.m. un-
til 9 p.m.

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

classes take place at
Spring Tabernacle Min-
istries, located at 1209
Wright St.

FRIDAY

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

• Celebrate Recovery,
a Christ-centered recov-
ery program, is held at
Cornerstone Covenant
Church, 706 E. 12th St.

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anony-
mous open discussion
meeting, 615 Settles,
noon to 1 p.m. Open po-
dium/speakers meeting
8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open
birthday night, no smok-
ing meeting the last Sat-
urday of each month at
8 p.m.

SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anony-
mous closed meeting
from 11 a.m. to noon at
615 Settles. Open meet-
ing 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

MONDAY

• Alcoholics Anony-
mous open discussion
meeting, noon-1 p.m.,
615 Settles.

• Alcoholics Anony-
mous 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



I WANT YOU TO CALL

Roofs by Nicholas

"THE ROOFING COMPANY YOU RELY ON"

432-520-7348

Thank you, Big Spring, for the trust you've placed in us to roof your homes and businesses! If you've been waiting to replace your roof, now is an excellent time to get on our schedule. Most roofs completed in 1 - 2 days.

Mention this ad for up to \$250.00 OFF a complete roofing job!

100% Financing Available

222098

BIG SPRING HERALD

710 Scurry

263-7331

www.bigspringherald.com

Business Opportunity

OUTDOOR SIGN for Rent-10x40. Corner of FM 700 & 80. \$350 Monthly. (432)263-6514.

Help Wanted

****ATTENTION DRIVERS****

Duncan Disposal- Coahoma- Now hiring a driver for our Coahoma area, need at least a Class B CDL. Experience Preferred for a driver's position Drivers must be able to pass a mandatory DOT and a corporate drug testing requirements. The job includes 40+ hours weekly Mon-Fri, with some Sat mornings and can earn a weekly incentive bonus. Please send resume to LucasR@repsrv.com or apply at 8220 W. Hwy 80, Midland, TX 79706 no phone calls please Equal Opportunity Employer

AAA TUBING TESTING now hiring. Good Benefits. Prefer CDL & need Operator. Will train. Call Jesse (432)267-7821.

BACKHOE OPERATOR with at least 1 year experience. Call or go by Rusty's Oilfield Service in Stanton. Call (432)756-2821.

COCKTAIL WAITRESSES. Outgoing & Enthusiastic? No experience necessary. Must be 18 or older. Call 432-213-0946 for application, San Franciscan Bar & Grill.

ATTENTION

THE BIG SPRING
HERALD APPRECIATES
YOUR BUSINESS

Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

Help Wanted

COASTAL TRANSPORT is seeking **Owner-operators** with a Class A CDL. Must be 23 years, X endorsement with one year tractor trailer experience. **For More Information, Call 877-314-0700 between 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday.**

Coastal Transport
We now have a
\$2000.00
Sign On Bonus!

We are now hiring drivers to deliver petroleum products in and around the Permian Basin. Qualifications:

*Class A CDL drivers w/hazmat and tanker endorsements
*23 years of age or older
*1 year verifiable tractor/trailer experience
*Scheduled Days Off
*Home Everyday
Please contact
1-888-527-7221

DRIVERS NEEDED

Professional Transportation, Inc. is seeking local drivers for 7-passenger mini-vans in the Big Spring, TX area. Drug screen, driving record and criminal background check required. 800-471-2440. www.professionaltransportationinc.com



Due to the continued trust being placed in our staff by Big Spring residents & physicians, Crossroads Hospice is hiring for the position of **RN** full-time. We will gladly train the candidate who is selected for this position to OUR STANDARD OF CARE. Bilingual a plus.

Please fax your resume to
Debbie Read
(432)263-5304
or come by the office.

Great Horn Carriers, Inc.

Tanker Driver Needed
REQUIRES:
Class A CDL with Haz-Mat
2 years Tanker/ Fuel Preferred
Local Hauling, No Nights.
Good Pay with Benefits
\$400.00 Sign-On Bonus.
FMI:

(432)683-2868, (432)288-3761

NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE
Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

Help Wanted

THOMAS PETROLEUM HIRING

Class A & B CDL Drivers
w / X Endorsement
Top Pay, Local Deliveries,
Benefits
10918 West 1-20 East
in Odessa
\$1000 Sign-On Bonus
Market Premium Now Available
(361)582-5196
thomaspetro.com

HIRING TRUCK dispatcher, will be dispatching 20 belly dumps and 8 low boys. Fast pace Job. Salary DOE. Please email resume to jan@priceconstruction.com or fax resume to 432-267-1694. Apply at Price Construction 2701 Hwy. 350, Big Spring, TX 79720. EOE.

IMMEDIATE OPENING

for customer service rep. in Big Spring.
Must be able to work M-F 8am-7p Sat. 9am-2pm. Bilingual a plus.
Computer skills required.
Candidates must be energetic, organized and independent.
Pleasant personality and professional appearance are a must.
We offer comprehensive benefits such as health insurance & 401K.
Must have at least one year experience in customer service.
Apply in person at:
1001 S. Gregg

Join our professional cleaning team! \$10/Hrs. & advancement opportunities. We provide paid training, all necessary supplies & uniform. Must have own transportation & speak English. All cleaners are drug tested & background checked. Bonded and insured. Call **J. Williams Management** at 432-699-2090 M-F 8-4.

LEGAL SECRETARY- resume required. Excellent computer skills. Send resumes to 608 Scurry, Big Spring, TX 79720 or Fax to 432-267-1043.

MAINTENANCE PERSON needed for apartment complex. Must be HVAC certified and have their own tools. Come by 3304 W. Hwy 80., Big Spring.

Now hiring **ACCOUNTING CLERK.** Must have one year of accounting or bookkeeping experience. Apply online at bsisd.esc18.net

NOW HIRING Smiling Faces!

Woodforest National Bank, a leader in the Retail Banking Industry, is looking for enthusiastic individuals with exceptional customer service skills to join our team.
Great Work Environment
Benefits
Advancement Opportunities
Instore Retail Banker
Woodforest National Bank
201 West Marcy
Big Spring TX 79720
Must be at least 18 years old with HS diploma or Equivalent
1 year Customer Service Experience
Retail Sales/ Marketing Experience
Apply online at:
www.Woodforest.com
Woodforest is proud to be an EEO/AA employer
M/F/D/V

SHOP HAND and Full-time CDL Driver needed. Call (432)267-4700.

Help Wanted

PARKVIEW NURSING and Rehabilitation is accepting applications for evening dietary personnel. You may apply in person at 3200 Parkway or on-line at www.parkviewnursing.net

PART-TIME MAINT Tech needed for property in Big Spring. Applicant must have strong organizational skills and enjoy working outdoors. 20 hrs/week plus Vacation. Fax resume to (432)264-1761.

PIZZA INN

NOW HIRING DELIVERY DRIVERS. MUST HAVE CLEAN DRIVING RECORD AND INSURANCE. MUST BE ABLE TO PASS DRUG TEST. MAKE UP TO \$12.00 PER HOUR. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG.

RUSTY'S OILFIELD Service In Stanton has immediate openings for CDL Driver, roustabout pushers and helpers. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person at 3327 W I20 in Stanton. 432-756-2821.

SECURITY OFFICERS

Needed for Hospital Federal Inmate Protection detail. All positions are Part-time and PRN.

Physical Requirements: Must be in general good health and vision must be correctable to 20/30 (SNELLEN) in one eye. The ability to distinguish basic colors is required. Emotional and mental stability is required.
Other Requirements: Must be able to pass State and Federal Backgrounds and Credit Checks.
Experience Requirements: One year (2040) hours of experience in the armed forces or coast guard which involved significant performance of guard duty of detainees or prisoners; or the equivalent experience in a federal, state, or local government, or private organization which involved protecting/police duties, or college level training in courses such as corrections or police science may be substituted for experience at the ratio of two hours of instructions for one hour of experience.
Apply at Workforce Center (in the Post Office), KEYWORD: PARAGON. EOE.

STELLAR AUTOMATION Inc. is now hiring for an office manager. Quickbooks, AR, AP experience needed.
Send resume to malexander@stellarpartners.net

STERLING COUNTY Nursing Home now hiring for the following-

Director of Nursing
LVN's
CNA's & Med. Aides.
Experience preferred, Please call Carmen Rios (325)378-2134 for more information.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY

Wanted for local Rental Store. Benefits include paid vacation, retirement & health insurance. Requirements are background check, drug screening, good driving record and be at least 19 years old. Starting pay \$8.50 per hour. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

Items for Sale

FOR SALE Mesquite Firewood. \$160.00 for half cord. 50 pound sacks-\$20.00. Call Terry Jenkins at 432-270-3122.

FOR SALE: Lighted Christmas Poinsettias, Cactus, Trees and more decorations. All sizes. Call for more information (432)935-5307 or (432)264-6117. Come by 1433 Hilltop Rd.

SEASONED OAK Firewood. \$340.00 Full Cord & \$190.00 Half Cord. Delivered and Stacked. Call 325-648-2818 or 512-913-7406.

Pets

SCOTTISH TERRIER puppies, 1 male brindle (\$600.00), 2 females black (\$700.00), Available 12/7, CKC, family pets not a breeder. Call (432)528-4217, VISA/ MC accepted.

Real Estate for Rent

FOR RENT 2 bdrm/1bath, \$625. month, \$625. deposit, 1101 East 13th, References required, 432-517-0038, Agent/Owner.

1507 STADIUM 5 bedroom, 1 bath house w/stove & refrigerator, fenced yard. Near Schools & College. \$675 month, \$500 deposit. For more information call (432)263-7156.

FOR RENT 2 bdrm/1bath, \$625.00/month, \$625.00/deposit, 2008 Scurry, References required, 432-517-0038, Agent/Owner.

2515 ALBROOK, 2 bed/1bath, \$675 per month, \$300 deposit with good credit. Call 432-599-1778.

2612 ALBROOK, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$675.00 per month, \$300.00 deposit with good credit. Call 432-599-1778.

3 BDRM, 2 bath, game room, privacy fence. Very Nice, Near College, Quite Neighborhood. \$675.00 month. Call (432)816-5279 for more information..

BEAUTIFUL 2 bdr, 1 bath, washer, dryer, stove & refrigerator furnished. Carport, fenced backyard. Pets Okay. \$650.00 rent, \$625.00 deposit. Call 541-292-9825.

BUY/ RENT 2 thru 6 bdrm Homes, 24Hr. maintenance, Central Heat/Air, Pool, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, Washer/dryer connections, also 1 & 2 bdrm Apts, available, (432)263-3461-Rosa.

CORPORATE FURNISHED

2 bedroom, 1 bath, washer dryer, minimum 3 month stay, dishes & linens included. Call 432-599-17788.

FOR RENT: \$895.00 dep \$895.00 rent. 3/1, 1403 Tucson Road. Call 806-745-9965.

LARGE 3 Bdrm, 2 bath. New paint & flooring. \$800 month, \$800 deposit. **ALSO** 2 bdrm, 2 bath, \$500 month plus deposit. Call (432)263-4528, 296-0277.

NOW LEASING 1, 2 & 3 Bdrm Apts. Built in microwave, full-size Washer & Dryer included, private patio/balcony w/storage area, playground area, fitness center, and community center. Open Monday-Friday 9am-6pm. Call Knollwood Heights (432)264-1735.

OWNER FINANCE-144 Jonesboro. 3/1 Very large fenced yard, nice quite area, water well, out building and c/a. This one wont last long \$40,000 Call 325-277-4923.

PONDEROSA APARTMENT

Now Leasing
1 & 2 Bdrms
Pools & covered parking
No application fees
Senior Discounts
1425 East 6th Street
(432)263-6319

TANGLEWOOD GROVE APT.

Efficiency
1 & 2 Bedroom
3/1 & 3/2 Bedroom
AVAILABLE
PETS WELCOMED
3304 W. Hwy 80
(432)714-4840
*Varies Discounts
*HUD accepted

Real Estate for Sale

3/2 PLUS Bonus Room. 2403 Carleton. Under Remodel. Owner will Finance. \$15,000.00 Down. WILL NOT RENT. Call (432)264-9907 or 517-0062.

BY OWNER 1202 Buena Vista. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, shop on 1 acre of land. Coahoma ISD. Zoned area. Call 432-466-1616, 413-7400.

BY OWNER 3902 Hamilton, 3 bedroom, 2 bath Completely Remodeled. Quite neighborhood. CH/A. Fireplace and large backyard with shed. \$85K. No Owner Finance. Call 432-816-6783.

BY OWNER: 1004 Baylor, 3 bdrm, 2 bath brick, attached garage, separate large 6 car garage. New AC & heating. No owner finance. (432)270-0851, (432)213-0741.

FOR SALE- 4 Bedroom, 2 bath, big yard. New tile & plumbing. Needs work. \$18,000.00 Cash. 209 East 4th St., Forsan. Call Freddy 432-213-7754.

HOUSE FOR Sale, 3215 Auburn, 4 bdrm/1bath, remodeled, \$64,000.00, No owner finance, Agent/Owner, 432-517-0038.

LOCAL INVESTOR

Total Cash Transaction
Quick Closing
Call Lisa
432-935-5409

MINERAL RIGHTS for Sale in Howard and Martin County. For more info. call (985)859-2464.

OWNER FINANCE- 1404 East 14th. 2 Bed, 1 bath, attached garage. Payments under \$450 after downpymt, \$28k. Call 325-277-4923.

OWNER WILL finance- 2412 Runnels, 3 bdr, CH/A. New carpet and tile. \$3000. Down, \$450. month. Call Patience (432)349-5242.

WILL PAY cash for small 3 Bdrm in nice neighborhood. No Mobiles. Must be reasonably priced. Within 20 miles of Big Spring. 817/980-9446.

Legals

INVITATION TO BID

The Colorado River Municipal Water District and Garney Companies are soliciting supplier participation including those that qualify as SWMBE's for the following: Bid Package 3 Roads for a Ward County Water Supply Expansion Project. Bid Deadline is December 1, 2011 at 3:30pm. Bids will be received at CRMWD 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, TX 79721-0869 For more information contact Marcus Grace at (816)536-6485 or email mgrace@garney.com Garney Companies, Inc. is an Equal Employment/ Opportunity Employer. #7173 November 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30 and December 1, 2011

Legals

Notice of Estray Cows:
Howard County Sheriff Office has three black cows. Color black one Baldy, age unknown. Ownership not determined by 5th of December will be sold at public auction at Big Spring Livestock 500 N. Birdwell Lane. Please contact the Howard County Sheriff at 432-264-2231 for more information.
#7180 November 22 & 29, 2011



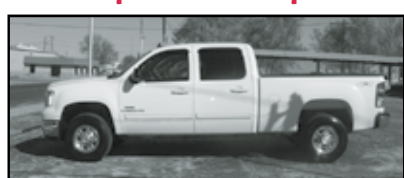
EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1988 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Shroyer Motor Co.

"The Home Of Almost Perfect Service"



2009 2500 HD SLT 4X4 Duramax
50,000 Miles

\$44,995



**2003 Pontiac
Grand AM**

23,000 Miles.

\$9,995



2011 Acadia

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

When the planet of abundance and the planet of limitations polarize, the financial tension is palpable. Jupiter and Saturn are threatening to oppose each other, but they don't make good on those threats. Think of this as a test to keep you honest with your budget. The aspect peaks now and will be felt until Feb. 3, 2012, never to become exact.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Anyone who has something to teach will gravitate toward you because you appear eager

to learn and are tenacious enough to apply what you learn until it works for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You know about human nature, and you plan your approach accordingly. You realize that even the most selfless

people won't be compelled to move



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

forward until they know what's in it for them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll bask in the warmth and attention of an affectionate someone. And though it's wonderful to feel acknowledged, you'll move quickly on because there's so much you want to do with this day.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Keep your message short and to the point. When your communication is punchy and easy to remember, it will be acted upon. People

will move in the way you want them to go.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll use affirmations early in the day to improve the quality of your thoughts on a personal level. You'll notice immediately that the world responds positively to your attractive and amenable personality.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's not about fitting in right now. You'll note that those around you have different strengths, beliefs and modes of self-expression. And yet you see how you can work together. You still feel very much a part of the cosmic whole.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You sense what will make money, get attention or do both. You're willing to do what works, even if the opinion leaders don't quite get it. You would rather be "hot" than "cool" anyway.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The day may seem long, but the week will seem short. So revel in the drawn-out moments, especially if your loved ones are near. You will only be this age once.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Knowing what makes you happy is one thing -- and quite a useless thing, too, unless you're also willing to act on what you know. You are! In fact, you won't hesitate to follow through.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Do not communicate your secrets to someone because you feel compelled to do so. The feeling is likely coming from an ego need for attention. The need will fade tomorrow, but secret knowledge will linger on.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-

Feb. 18). A friend has made a difference in your life, and you'll acknowledge the difference in your thoughts. If you let the friend know in writing, the gesture will be quite meaningful.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It may take a few hours to get yourself sorted out in the morning. But as soon as you get your priorities straight, you will handle what's important to you, and you will handle it well.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY: (Nov. 29). You'll buck tradition. In December, you'll make a decision that surprises loved ones. They will understand it better in the new year. In February, your job will require you to use imagination and artistry. Friendships grow closer through the spring. You'll travel to be with family. You'll accept a challenge and win in July. Cancer and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 14, 2, 40 and 18.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "What happened was that my husband found an extra cord in the wall, and he assumed that I was cheating with the cable guy. Don't try to make sense of this. Next, I came home from the grocery store, and he decided that I was cheating on him. Why? Because my hair was a mess. Well, my hair is always a mess. It's fine, and the weather is humid, and it all goes crazy. My husband is beside himself, looking at me like the end is near. What should I do? Me: Pisces Him: Gemini."

Consider seriously the psychological defense mechanism known as "projection," in which a person denies his own state of being and ascribes the condition on

others. It's not because you're a Pisces or because he's a Gemini. But due to your Pisces nature, you're sensitive and want to fix things. And his Gemini nature may lead him to explain away. He needs you to lead him to the center of the issue. Ask him what this is really about -- because it's not about a cable, and it's definitely not about your hair.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: From running a carpet business to stepping out onto the red carpets of Hollywood, Howie Mandel has made his deal with the limelight, and "No Deal" is no longer an option. The comedian and judge of "America's Got Talent" is a passionate Sagittarius with his moon, Mercury, Mars and Neptune in Scorpio, the sign of the truth. Note: The alchemist's formula for comedy: truth plus pain equals funny.

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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sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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Big Sister found a great new job...
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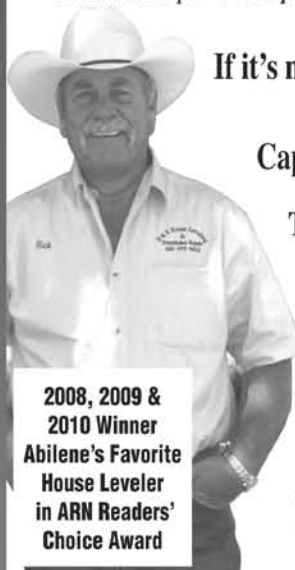
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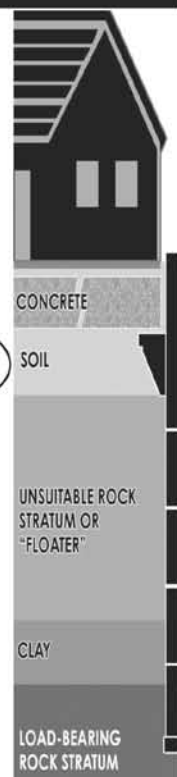
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Kid Scoop Together: Count Your Cash!

Find four items in the newspaper
that cost less than \$5.00.
Complete the charts below to
show the cash you would use to
pay for each item.

Thrifty & Fritter's Smart Holiday Shopping Spree!

Fritter, we're **not** going to go **totally** crazy during holiday shopping. We need to ...

Thrifty! Just **LOOK** at all the **sparkly** lights and decorations!

Two seconds later ...

WAHOOOO!!! I'm gonna get **THAT** and **THIS** and **THOSE** and **THESE** and ...

Fritter! What were we **just** talking about? Man, you need a **BUDGET**!

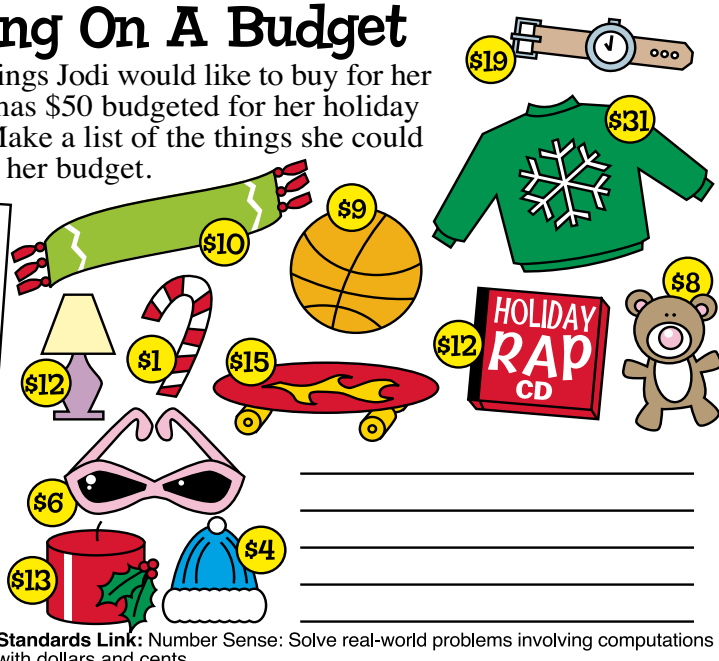
If you say so, Thrifty! But can **you** carry the budget? My arms are **totally** full!



A **budget** is a plan that helps you to spend **only** the amount of money you can **afford**.

Shopping On A Budget

Look at the things Jodi would like to buy for her family. She has \$50 budgeted for her holiday shopping. Make a list of the things she could buy on her budget.



Standards Link: Number Sense: Solve real-world problems involving computations with dollars and cents.

INCOME	
Allowance	\$15
Shovel Snow	\$20
Run Errands for Elves	\$15
TOTAL:	

EXPENSES	
Carrot Sticks	\$10
Flying Lessons	\$12
Reindeer Games Entry Fee	\$10
TOTAL:	

How much money does Thrifty have left over each month?

THINK ABOUT IT: What could Thrifty do to have **save** more money each month?

Standards Link: Economics: Students understand basic concepts of managing money.

Holiday Party Time!

Thrifty and Fritter are planning a holiday bash for family and friends. They have budgeted \$500 for the party!

They will need food, decorations and gifts. These are called **goods**.

They also need entertainment and perhaps folks to help set up and clean up. These are called **services**.

Look through today's newspaper and help Thrifty and Fritter find what they need. *Stay within their \$500 budget!*

GOODS:

SERVICES:

Standards Link: Economics: Understand the differences between goods and services.

How many silly things can you find at Thrifty and Fritter's holiday party?

Standards Link: Investigation: Identify objects that fit into a category and those that do not belong.

The Kid Scoop Puzzler

Who bought what? An ice cream cone costs \$1.50. A comic book is \$1.65. A deck of cards is \$1.10. Count each person's money to see what they bought.

Deb

Vanessa

Theresa



Standards Link: Mathematical Reasoning: Problem solving using money.



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www.kidscoop.com/kids

Double Double Word Search

THRIFTY
SPARKLY
SMART
BUDGET
HOLIDAY
SAVE
PARTY
COMIC
SALE
MONEY
SPEND
GIFTS
COUNT
TIME
PLAN

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

T	S	Y	E	N	O	M	M	A	S
R	E	T	A	S	D	N	E	P	S
S	H	G	T	D	S	M	A	R	T
O	P	F	D	A	I	R	P	E	R
C	I	F	V	U	K	L	S	U	Y
G	I	E	E	L	B	S	O	T	E
A	B	M	Y	T	F	I	R	H	T
U	I	D	O	E	L	A	S	G	E
T	N	U	O	C	P	L	A	N	T

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

What a Character!

Responsibility is ...



... not spending more than you can afford on gifts.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:
BUDGET

The noun **budget** means a plan for how much money will be spent and earned during a certain time period.

Lisa stuck carefully to her **budget** and saved enough money for a new bike.

Try to use the word **budget** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

Write On!

Free Gifts

Not all gifts have to cost money. Make a list of gifts you could offer family members that wouldn't cost you money.

What stays in bed most of the day but sometimes goes to the bank?

ANSWER: A river.

More kids skip school shots in 8 states

MIKE STOBBE

AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA — A rising number of parents in more than half of states are opting out of school shots for their kids. And in eight states, more than 1 in 20 public school kindergartners do not get all the vaccines required for attendance, an Associated Press analysis found.

That has health officials worried about possible new outbreaks of diseases that were all but stamped out.

The AP analysis found more than half of states have seen at least a slight rise in the rate of exemptions over the past five years. States with the highest exemption rates are in the West and Upper Midwest.

It's "really gotten much worse," said Mary Selecky, secretary of health for Washington state, where 6 percent of public school parents have opted out.

Rules for exemptions vary by state and can include medical, religious or — in some states — philosophical reasons.

Parents' reasons for skipping the shots vary. Some doubt that vaccines are essential. Others fear that vaccines carry their own risks. And some find it easier to check a box opting out than to get the shots and required paperwork.

Still others are ambivalent, believing in older vaccines but questioning newer shots against, say, chickenpox.

The number of shots is also giving some parents pause. By the time most children are 6, they will have been stuck with a needle about two dozen times — with many of those shots given in infancy. The cumulative effect of all those shots has not been studied enough, some parents say.

"Many of the vaccines are unnecessary, and public health officials don't honestly know" the effects of giving so many vaccines to such small children, said Jennifer Margulis, a mother of four and parenting book author in Ashland, Ore., a small liberal community that has unusually high vaccination exemption rates.

But few serious problems have turned up

over years of vaccinations, and several studies have shown no link between vaccines and autism, a theory from the 1990s that has been widely discredited.

To be sure, childhood vaccination rates remain high overall, at 90 percent or better for several vaccines, including those for polio, measles, hepatitis B and chickenpox. In many states, exemptions are filed for fewer than 1 percent of children entering school for the first time.

Health officials have not identified an exemption threshold that would likely lead to outbreaks. But they worry when some states have exemption rates climbing beyond 5 percent. The average state exemption rate has been estimated at less than half that.

Even more troubling are pockets in some states where exemption rates are much higher. In some rural counties in northeast Washington, for example, vaccination exemption rates in recent years have been above 20 percent and even as high as 50 percent.

"Vaccine refusers tend to cluster," said Saad Omer, an Emory University epidemiologist who has done extensive research on the issue.

Parents who let their kids skip some vaccines put others at risk, health officials say. Because no vaccine is completely effective, if an outbreak begins in an unvaccinated group of children, a vaccinated child may still be at some risk of getting sick.

Studies have found that measles has suddenly re-emerged in some communities with higher exemption rates. Vaccinated kids are sometimes among the cases, or children too young to be vaccinated.

And measles isn't the only risk. Last year, California had more

than 2,100 whooping cough cases, and 10 infants died. Only one had received a first dose of vaccine.

"Your child's risk of getting disease depends on what your neighbors do," Omer said.

While it seems unlikely that diseases like polio and diphtheria could make a comeback in the U.S., immunization expert Dr. Lance Rodewald says it's not impossible.

"Polio can come back. China was polio-free for two decades, and just this year, they were infected from Pakistan. And there is a big outbreak of polio in China now. The same could happen here," Rodewald, of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said in an email.

He cited outbreaks of Hib, a disease that can lead to meningitis, among the Amish who don't consistently vaccinate their children. Russia had a huge diphtheria outbreak in the early to mid-1990s, he said, because vaccine coverage declined.

For its review, the AP asked state health departments for kindergarten exemption rates for 2006-07 and 2010-11. The AP also looked at data states had previously reported to the federal government. (Most states do not have data for the current 2011-12 school year.)

Alaska had the highest exemption rate in 2010-11, at nearly 9 percent. Colorado's rate was 7 percent, Minnesota 6.5 percent, Vermont and Washington 6 percent, and Oregon, Michigan and Illinois were close behind.

Mississippi was lowest, at essentially 0 percent.

The AP found 10 states had exemption rate increases over the five years of about 1.5 percentage points or more, a range health officials say is troubling.

Those states, too, were in the West and Midwest

— Alaska, Kansas, Hawaii, Illinois, Michigan, Montana, Oregon, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin. Arizona saw an increase that put that state in the same ballpark.

Exemption seekers are often middle-class, college-educated white people, but there are often a mix of views and philosophies.

Exemption hot spots like Sedona, Ariz., and rural northeast Washington have concentrations of parents who prefer alternative medicine, as well as libertarians who fear giving government too much authority.

Opposition to vaccines "is putting people together that normally would not be together," observed Elizabeth Jacobs, a University of Arizona epidemiologist looking at that state's rising exemption rates.

A national survey of roughly 750 parents, published last month in the journal Pediatrics, found that more than 1 in 10 parents said they refused or delayed shots mainly because of safety concerns.

Many exemption-seeking parents conclude that the dangers posed by vaccine-preventable diseases are less important than the possible harm from vaccines.

"We are being told this by every government official, teacher, doctor that we need vaccines to keep us safe from these diseases. I simply don't believe that to be true. I believe all the diseases in question were up to 90 percent in decline before mass vaccines ever were given," said Sabrina Paulick of Ashland. She's a part-time caregiver for elderly people and mother of a 4-year-old daughter.

"I don't think vaccines are what saved the world from disease," she added. "I think effective sewer systems, nutrition and hand-

washing" are the reasons.

Parents say they would like to reserve the right to decide what vaccinations their children should get and when. Health officials reply that vaccinations are recommended at an early age to protect children before they encounter a dangerous infection. "If you delay, you're putting a child at risk," said Gerri Yett, a nurse who manages Alaska's immunization program.

Analyzing vaccination exemptions is difficult. States collect data differently. Some base their exemption rates on just a small sample of schools — Alaska, for example — while others rely on more comprehensive numbers. So the AP worked with researchers at the CDC, which statistically adjusted some states' 2010-11 data for a better comparison.

It's also not clear when an exemption was invoked against all vaccines and when it was used to excuse just one or two shots. CDC officials think the second scenario is more common.

Also, states differ on

some of the vaccines required and what's needed to get an exemption: Sometimes only a box on a form needs to be checked, while some states want letters or even signed statements from doctors.

Meanwhile, some parent groups and others have pushed legislators to make exemptions easier or do away with vaccination requirements altogether. The number of states allowing philosophical exemptions grew from 15 to 20 in the last decade.

Some in public health are exasperated by the trend.

"Every time we give them evidence (that vaccines are safe), they come back with a new hypothesis" for why vaccines could be dangerous, said Kacey Ernst, another University of Arizona researcher.

The exemption increases have come during a time when the government has been raising its estimates of how many children have autism and related disorders. Some parents believe the roster of recommended shots must be connected.

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