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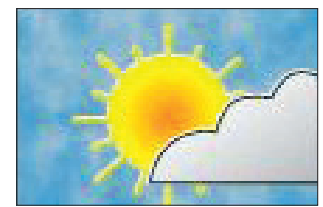
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H1 BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 6, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 314

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Olivarez pleads guilty to murder

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer
An 18-year-old Big Spring resident pleaded guilty to charges of murder and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in 118th District Court Friday morning, bringing the murder case of a local youth to a close.
Christopher Olivarez, 18, accepted a plea agreement that netted the young man 30 years for the murder charge and 10 years for the aggravated assault charge. The

two sentences will run concurrent, according to Howard County District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson.
Olivarez was indicted Oct. 8 by a Howard County grand jury for the May 30 shooting death of 16-year-old Big Spring youth Justin Hernandez during an altercation at a home in the 1600 block of Cardinal.
"This was a very complicated and confusing case. There were a lot of witnesses and a lot of confusion about

the factual issues that came about," said Wilkerson. "We had some factual concerns going into trial, and we also had some legal concerns. There was the potential this could become a manslaughter case and the maximum (sentence) would be 20 years. A 20-year conviction would be absolutely unacceptable in my view, and for the protection of the community and to do my job I felt I had to safely get the

"If you look at this case in its entirety, when it begins May 30 and we've wrapped it up and concluded it on Dec. 4. For a murder case in any area that's moving pretty fast."
—Hardy Wilkerson, district attorney



See **PLEA**, Page 3A

VA LIGHTS UP FOR HOLIDAYS



HERALD photos/Steve Reagan

At right, Joseph Mosino gives Santa Claus his Christmas wish list during the Big Spring VA Medical Center's holiday lighting ceremony Friday evening. Above, the facility's holiday greeting to the community is emblazoned in lights.



H1N1 shots available at local TDHS

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer
Vaccinations for the H1N1 flu strain are finally coming out in force.
Stephanie Ferguson of the Texas Department of Health Services Big Spring clinic, said the vaccine is now available for no charge at her facility.
Vaccinations, which will be by appointment only, can be reserved by calling 263-9782.
Persons currently eligible for the vaccine are pregnant women, children and young adults between 6 months and 24 years of age, persons 25 to 64 years of age with high risk health conditions, health care workers and those who have close contact with infants.
Vaccinations will be dispensed Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the DSHS clinic located at 501 Birdwell Lane. Future vaccination dates will depend on vaccine availability, Ferguson said.
"If you are not in one of those categories

What: Vaccinations for H1N1 flu strain.
Where: Texas Department of Health Services, College Park Shopping Center.
When: By appointment only from 9-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.
For reservations: Call 263-9782.

See **SHOTS**, Page 3A

Spring Tabernacle ready for annual 'toy' giveaway

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer
Officials with Spring Tabernacle Ministries say work on the local church's annual toy drive is under way, as the ministry hopes to top the 350-plus children reached last Christmas holiday.
Mona Lue Tonn, pastor of Spring Tabernacle Church, said she and other church volunteers are still sorting through a bevy of holiday goodies for area children and will be ready to begin handing them out Dec. 11.
"This is for the people who are having a hard time making ends meet," said Tonn. "We don't want any children to



have to go without this Christmas holiday, and we know the demand will be even more this year. There are a lot of local families that are struggling because of the economy."
Tonn said the ministry provided several gifts apiece for 354 children last holiday season, items ranging from toys to coats.

"Each child received four presents during last year's giveaway," said Tonn. "They chose from toys, clothes, coats, belts and a lot of other things. This year we're gathering the same type of items, and

See **TOYS**, Page 3A

KEEP YOUR EYES TOWARD THE SKY IN DOWNTOWN BIG SPRING FOR A HOLIDAY SURPRISE.



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A&M Aggies snap Akron's 4-game win streak

Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION — Texas A&M started slowly in its previous game. The 19th-ranked Aggies were convinced not to let it happen again.

On Friday night, they started fast and then held on for a 74-62 victory over Akron that snapped the Zips' four-game winning streak.

Donald Sloan had 17 points, including a 3-pointer in the game-changing 7-0 run for the Aggies (7-1).

Texas A&M led 56-7 with 7:35 to play when David Loubeau scored inside, Sloan hit his 3 and B.J. Holmes

scored on a fastbreak layup to make it a 13-point lead in just over a minute.

"We were just missing a lot of shots," A&M guard Derrick Roland said when asked why Akron was able to still be hanging around late in the game. "We missed a lot of 3-pointers and a lot of layups, too. Not to take anything away from Akron, they were playing good defense, but we were also missing shots."

Darryl Roberts and Chris McKnight both had 12 points for the Zips (4-3), who committed 17 turnovers that the Aggies turned into 19 points.

"We were concerned about their

toughness," said Akron coach Keith Dambrot, whose team allowed 11 steals. "That's their deal — playing on their home court. We just got a little sloppy, really."

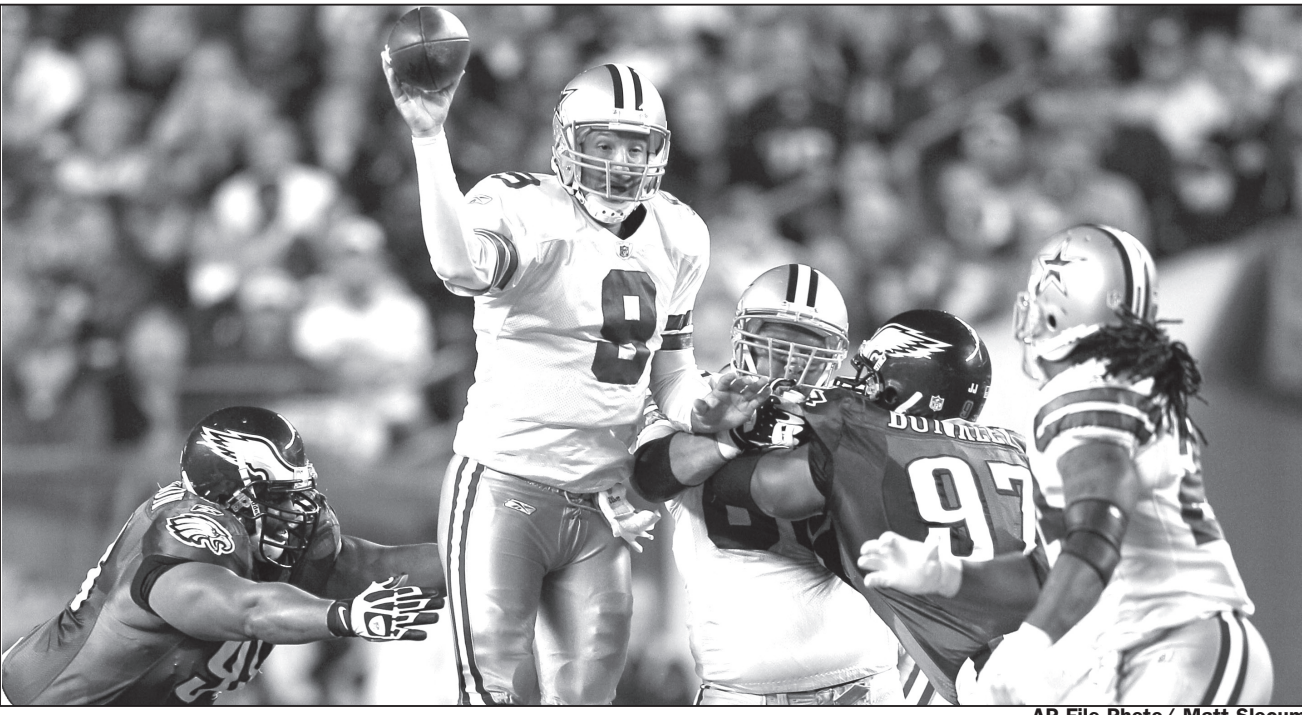
On Wednesday night, the Aggies started slowly against Prairie View A&M, trailing 15-6 4 minutes in on the way to an 84-59 victory.

On Friday, A&M followed a different path, taking a 13-2 lead a little more than 4 minutes into the game. The Zips slowly climbed back, thanks in part to eight first-half points from

See **A&M**, Page 4B



AP Photo/Steve Campbell
Texas A&M's Donald Sloan scores against Akron on Friday. A&M won 74-62.



AP File Photo/ Matt Slocum
Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo passes to running back Marion Barber as Philadelphia Eagles defensive tackle Mike Patterson reaches for Romo in Philadelphia on Nov. 8.

Cowboys can push Giants to brink

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Bradie James reached into the past for a little inspiration as the Dallas Cowboys head into their most uncertain time of year: December.

The linebacker spoke with Tony Dorsett, the Hall of Fame running back who was part of the first wave of Dallas glory days. The kind of days James and his teammates are trying to relive.

"He was talking about one mystique they had when he was here was that when they put on the blue jerseys, they would lose," James said of Dorsett, who won a Super Bowl with Dallas in his rookie season, 1977. "The only way that they could right that wrong was to go out there and kick people's tails in the blue jerseys."

"So for us, in December, the only way we can get through December is to win. Point-blank. Simple."

Not so simple.

Heading into Sunday's game at the Meadowlands with the Giants, the Cowboys are 5-10

after Thanksgiving with Tony Romo as quarterback. That includes some January games, regular season and postseason.

Plus, the Cowboys last won a playoff game in the 1996 season. No, not quite as far back as Dorsett's tenure, but certainly a long drought.

Romo doesn't want to hear any of that. He knows the Cowboys lead the NFC East at 8-3, the Giants are two games back, and handing them a sixth loss Sunday pretty much would make the Giants an afterthought in the division.

"We don't look at other seasons," Romo said. "This is this season, it's a brand new football team. Nothing that happened in 1999 and 2004 or 2008 has any bearing on what is going to happen this December."

What the Giants need to happen this December is a turnaround. A quick one, too, because they host Philadelphia and visit Washington in the next two weeks. A sweep would put them in position to win the division, or at the least be solidly in the wild-card mix.

But winning lately has not

been so simple for New York. After starting 5-0, including a victory after Dallas in the regular-season opener for Cowboys Stadium, the Giants have gone 1-5, with the victory coming in overtime against Atlanta. Quality opponents New Orleans, San Diego, Arizona, Denver and Philly beat them.

If ever there was a time to recapture what worked for the first five games, it's now. In fact, if it doesn't happen now, the Giants won't be making any playoff appearances.

"Every game from now on is like a playoff game," linebacker Chase Blackburn said. "We have to win them to get to the playoffs. We've got to make our run right now. It's a five-game season."

Dallas still has San Diego and New Orleans on tap, along with the Redskins and Eagles. The Giants' final two games are against Carolina and at Minnesota. Neither of those schedules is easy.

So if you want to drag out the old must-win description, go

See **DALLAS**, Page 4B

Mayo's 25 points beats Mavs on road

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The Dallas Mavericks will start dreading coming to Memphis.

Zach Randolph had 24 points and 15 rebounds, and O.J. Mayo added 25 points to help the Memphis Grizzlies beat Dallas 98-82 on Friday night.

The victory marked the third straight loss for Dallas in Memphis, and the 82 points was a season low for the Mavericks.

Dallas, which shot 58 percent Wednesday night against New Jersey, including 81 percent in the first half, shot a season-low 35.2 against the Grizzlies.

"I just think our body language was really soft," said Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki, who had 16 points and 10 rebounds, but was 7 of 22 from the floor. "I think we had good looks. We didn't set picks, but we got some good shots we usually like. The overall energy and body language wasn't great."

Rudy Gay added 18 points for the Grizzlies, who won their second straight. Mike Conley finished with 10 points. Memphis shot 46 percent on the night, but was 9 of 17 outside the arc for 53 percent.

"We haven't been a 3-point shooting team," Memphis coach Lionel Hollins said. "Dallas went zone on us because they figured they could take away our inside points. But we attacked it just enough where they couldn't stay in it."

Jason Terry led Dallas with 18 points, while Jason Kidd had 13 points and seven assists. Nowitzki's 16 points snapped his streak of 14 straight games with at least 20 points.

Mayo led by 20 in the fourth period, leading the Dallas starters to the bench in the final minutes.

"It seems like everything we did out there was kind of lethargic," said Dallas forward Shawn Marion, who was limited to four points, but grabbed 11 rebounds.

Memphis led by 13 in the first half before carrying a 58-51 lead into the locker room.

Dallas didn't come close to maintaining the shooting pace it had against New Jersey, hitting 44 percent before halftime.

Memphis, meanwhile, was shooting the better percentage, hitting 54 percent, as Mayo connected on his first six shots en route to 17 points in the half. Randolph added 16, hitting 7 of his 10 shots.

Nowitzki had 10 to lead the Mavericks, although he was 4 of 12 from the field.

The Mavericks held a 6-point lead early in the second period when Memphis scored 17 straight points for its first double-digit lead.

"We didn't defend well enough at the beginning of the game or really at any point or any stretch of the game," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "They were shooting around 60 percent most

See **MAVS**, Page 4B

Sports in brief

Area tournaments resume play

The Big Spring, Coahoma, Stanton and Sands basketball teams are back in action today at the Gym Bice Classic and Coahoma Invitational tournaments, respectively.

The tournaments will wrap up tonight. Check Monday's Herald for results.

Big Spring's boys won its first game against Lamesa 60-55. The girls team lost 61-28 to Abernathy. Coahoma's boys and girls teams won their first games of the tournament, beating Sands.

Garden City in semifinal tonight against Follett

The Garden City Bearkats will take on Follett tonight at 6:30 p.m. in Plainview, not Sundown, as was reported in Friday's Herald.

The Bearkats defeated then No. 1-ranked Throckmorton last week 84-80, and is one win away from an appearance in the state championship. Garden City is 12-1 on the season.

Follett is also 12-1 on the season, its only loss coming to Throckmorton.

Check Monday's Herald for game results.

Borden County in hunt for consecutive state titles

The Borden County Coyotes will make a push to make it back to the state championship Saturday as they play Motley County at Lowrey Field in Lubbock.

The Coyotes are winners of 27 straight games, their last loss dating back to November of 2007.

The Coyotes knocked Sands out of the playoffs last week in Lubbock with an 86-36 victory.

Motley County is 10-3 on the season. It defeated Miami 62-58 last week in Silverton.



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Holiday Jewelry

BUYING BASICS

FAMILY FEATURES

Jewelry can be a great holiday gift to receive, but for many, buying jewelry to give is intimidating. Here's what you need to know so you can buy just the right gift for that special someone.

Determine your budget.

While some save for months to make a jewelry purchase, buying a bauble for that special someone doesn't have to be expensive. Your budget will determine if you can purchase an entire jewelry "look," including a necklace, bracelet and earrings, or just one piece that can be built upon later. For those on a modest budget, consider buying a great pair of earrings now and the accompanying necklace or ring for a future gift-giving occasion. Bonnie Kelly and Teresa Walsh, co-founders of Silpada Designs, a direct sales company specializing in handcrafted sterling silver jewelry, say it's possible to find something to fit every budget. "You can buy without breaking the bank by investing in a few quality pieces of jewelry that she can wear in a variety of ways," says Kelly. "The easiest way to get that 'wow factor' is with a classic statement piece of jewelry that she can wear with a little black dress or a fitted T-shirt and jeans."

Get to know her personal style.

Take cues from her personality and wardrobe to select jewelry that is sure to please. Use the style categories below that take her individuality into account.

Sporty: Casual and comfortable are the hallmarks of sporty style. Simple jewelry, such as small earrings on posts or short chain necklaces make perfect gifts for the sporty woman in your life.

Trendy: A person with a trendy personality has the latest looks and likes to stand out in the crowd. Striking accessories, such as bold statement necklaces and layered bangle bracelets, will please her.

Classic: Elegant, traditional and timeless are the fiber of a classic look. Trends may come and go, but elements like pearls and sterling silver will always be in style, making them an exquisite gift for someone with a classic look.

Romantic: A soft, feminine and glamorous wardrobe could mean she has a romantic style. Therefore, she may love sparkly jewelry such as a cubic zirconia necklace or feminine dangling earrings.

Pay attention to the favorite pieces she wears over and over — they'll be a big clue as to the kind of jewelry she loves already.



Sporty small earrings on posts



Trendy bold statement necklaces



Classic pearl bracelets



Romantic dangling earrings

Still stumped?

Ask her friends and family if she's got her eye on a particular piece of jewelry. They may even be able to tell you her favorite brands she's been eyeing. Kelly also recommends having her create a wish list. "Show her pictures or a jewelry catalog and ask her to identify her favorites," she says. "Keep the list — then when a jewelry-buying occasion comes up, you'll know exactly what will make her happy." If you're still stumped, pick a great pair of earrings or necklace that she can mix and match with a variety of outfits. Sterling silver jewelry is always a good choice because of its timeless nature. "Sterling silver jewelry is classic and timeless and will always be in style," says Walsh. "It has a crisp, classic look that brings out the best in any outfit."

Do your homework.

You want your jewelry gift to last. Be sure to shop around to find a jewelry company that stands behind their product.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has a Jewelry Shopper's Checklist to help you make good purchasing decisions.

- Ask about the refund and return policy before you buy.
- Check for the appropriate markings on metal jewelry. For example, .925 on a sterling silver piece of jewelry means it's the highest-quality silver you can purchase.
- Shop with companies you know or do some homework before buying to make sure a company is legitimate before doing business with it.
- Get the details about the product, as well as the merchant's refund and return policies, before you buy.
- Look for an address to write to or a phone number to call if you have a question, a problem or need help.

Now that you have the basics, you can shop with confidence and pick out something that you know she'll love.



Have a shopping experience you'll never forget

Forget the crowds and the stress of holiday shopping. Men and women alike can actually have a good time picking out the perfect gifts at a Silpada Designs home party.

"Silpada home parties can be fun holiday gatherings with friends," says Kelly. "They're no-pressure parties that bring the boutique to you letting you complete your shopping without hitting the mall."

And guys — guess what? There are home parties just for you. "Representatives are scheduling home parties in conjunction with college football game days, bowling leagues and even poker nights," says Walsh, "allowing men to miss the crowded mall, avoid parking lots and take the uncertainty out of gift giving."

Another option is for the woman to attend the Silpada party where she can create a wish list that can later be shared with the man in her life. This approach takes all of the guesswork out of the gift giving equation.

Silpada jewelry is an affordable yet high-quality gift that appeals to women of all ages and walks of life. Prices range from \$12 to \$275. To learn how you can host your own home party, visit silpada.com.

Birthstones 101

Birthstone jewelry is a perfect gift because it is personal and meaningful in nature. It is often thought that birthstones bring good luck to the person wearing it. Below is a birthstone guide that will make jewelry selection a breeze.

January — Garnet. A durable and brilliant semi-precious stone, garnet is commonly available in colors such as green, red and yellowish-orange.

February — Amethyst. A purple variant of quartz, it's available in colors from deep burgundy to pale lilac.

March — Jasper. An opaque stone with wide color variations. There are more than 50 different types of Jasper, categorized according to pattern, including

Dalmatian, Lemon, Leopard, Picture and Yellow Jasper.

April — Cubic Zirconia. A brilliantly transparent, colorless or white substitute for diamonds. It can also be colored to resemble semi-precious stones.

May — Agate. A form of quartz that comes in many colors and patterns.

June — Pearl. Freshwater pearls occur naturally in mussels found in rivers throughout the world. Cultured pearls come from oysters that have been artificially stimulated to produce pearls.

July — Onyx. Known for its smooth, fine texture, onyx is almost always black, but can be a deep brown, tan or white.

August — Peridot. A volcanic gem with rich green colors.

September — Lapis. A natural and intense blue stone that sometimes has small, sparkling gold- or silver-colored flecks.

October — Faux Opal. A substitute for Opal, a gemstone that shines with a wide play of colors.

November — Citrine, Yellow Topaz. Citrine is a pale yellow or amber member of the quartz family. Yellow Topaz can range from bright yellow to golden brown.

December — Stabilized Turquoise. Natural turquoise that has been injected with a clear resin to improve color and hardness and to protect against fading.

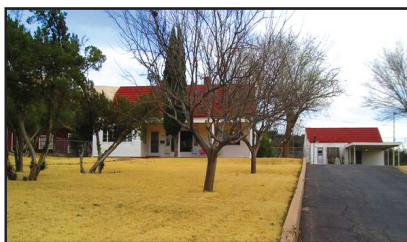


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Obituaries

O.T. Teague



O.T. Teague, 89, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Brent Teague Austin, a pastor of Crossroads Fellowship in Raleigh, N.C., officiating.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

He was born Feb. 9, 1920, in Mount Pleasant and married Nollie K. Teague on Sept. 10, 1940, in Big Spring. She preceded him in death on Dec. 7, 2004.

Mr. Teague came to Big Spring with his family in 1935. He served in the United States Army during World War II in the European Theater. For his service during the war he received the American Theater Campaign Medal, EAME Campaign Medal with five Bronze Stars, Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Ribbon. Mr. Teague worked at Cosden Oil and Chemical Refinery for many years until he retired in October of 1969. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include one daughter and son-in-law, Sue and Russell Austin of Fresno, Calif.; two grandsons, Stephen R. Austin and wife Laurie of California and Brent T. Austin of Raleigh, N.C.; a great-grandson, Shadoe Austin of California; his brothers and sisters, Wynn Shottlekorb and Peggy Graff of Las Vegas, Nev., Lynn Nelson of Alameda, Calif., Betty Hank and husband Charles of Brentwood, Calif., Bob Teague of Yuba City, Calif., Kenneth Teague and wife Sarah of Placerville, Calif., and Charles Teague of San Angelo; a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Frank and Ollie Stallcup of Odessa; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by his parents; and one brother, Jackie Teague while he was in the service during World War II.

The family suggests memorials to a hospice organization of your choice.

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

Paid obituary

Patsy Ophilia Horn

Patsy Ophilia Horn, 60, of Big Spring died Friday, Dec. 4, 2009, at her residence following a lengthy illness. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2009, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow in Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009, at the funeral home. The family will be at 100 Canyon Drive.

Mrs. Horn was born July 14, 1949, in Lubbock to Mable Ophilia and James William Hale. She was called home by her Lord and Savior at her home surrounded by her husband, children and siblings.

She was preceded in death by her father, James William Hale; her mother, Mabel Ophilia Hale; and one sister, Barbara Sue Hale.

A life long resident of Big Spring, she married Claudie Joe Horn Jan. 20, 1967, at the Primitive Baptist Church of Big Spring. They shared 42 wonderful years together.

From 1966 to 1979 she was an employee of the Wagon Wheel Drive In and from the early 1980s, she was employed at the VA Hospital.

She enjoyed arts and crafts, crocheting, camping and fishing and family get-togethers of cards and games. She loved watching the Dallas Cowboys' games and NASCAR on television.

Survivors include her husband, Claudie Horn of Big Spring; two daughters, Tammie Horn of Big Spring and Lisa Harshbarger and husband, David, of Lubbock; one son, Claudie Joe Horn II and wife, Sarah, of Big Spring; seven grandchildren, Michael, Marshall, Anisha, Christopher, Cameron, Corey and Courtney, all of Big Spring; one brother, James Hale of Big Spring; four sisters, Linda Hale, Diane Farmer, Tina Word and Lorretta Wilson, all of Big Spring; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Eddie Word, Marshall Horn, John Farmer, Joshua Wells, Michael Horn and David Harshbarger.

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

Paid obituary

Teresa Barber

Teresa Barber, 54, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2009, at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Robert Turner, minister of Anderson Street Church of Christ, officiating.

She was born July 9, 1955, in Big Spring and married Jackie Barber on Feb. 12, 1977, in Paint Rock. He preceded her in death on July 20, 2008.

Teresa was a lifetime resident of Big Spring, graduating from Big Spring High School in 1974. She was a Baptist and a homemaker.

Survivors include two sons, Kaman Barber of Kalamazoo, Mich., and Donovan Barber of Big Spring; her mother, Verlene Atkinson of Big Spring; one brother, Roger Atkinson and wife Mary Ellen of Big Spring; a niece, Ginger Atkinson of Dallas; a nephew, Greg Atkinson and wife Angele of Gilbert, Ariz.; and two great nephews, Braden and Caleb Atkinson of Gilbert, Ariz.

She was also preceded in death by her father, Vernon Atkinson.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Cancer Society, in care of Carolyn Brooks, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring 79721-2121.

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

Paid obituary

Shirley Callison

Shirley Callison, 73, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2009, in a local nursing home. No services are planned.

She was born Dec. 27, 1935, in Holstein, Neb., and married Howard Callison on April 3, 1955, in Lincoln County, Neb.

She came to Big Spring in 1971 and worked as a secretary.

Survivors include her husband, Howard Callison of Big Spring; three sons, Blain Callison of Big Spring, Dirk Callison of McKinney and Randy Callison of Decatur, Ill.; two brothers, Larry Preston and Wayne Ray Preston; and four grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Lanny Lynn Preston.

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

John Stephen Edgar Jr.

John Stephen Edgar Jr., 79, of Big Spring, died Friday, Dec. 4, 2009, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Friday:

- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 800 block of Lorilla.
- HARASSMENT was reported in the 4200 block of Muir.
- THEFT was reported in the 1100 block of Gregg.

Contact the Herald at
editor@bigspringherald.com

Lottery

Here are the winning numbers selected Friday in the Mega loMillions lottery: 4-33-41-51-56, Mega Ball: 38.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 9-28-32-34-37.
Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-4-2-5. Sum It Up: 19.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-9-4. Sum It Up: 16.

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Sun 12/6	Mon 12/7	Tue 12/8
61/29 Partly cloudy skies. High 61F. Winds SW at 15 to 25 mph.	54/41 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 40s.	68/32 Windy with morning clouds, then afternoon sun. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise: 7:33 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:34 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:35 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM

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Texas At A Glance



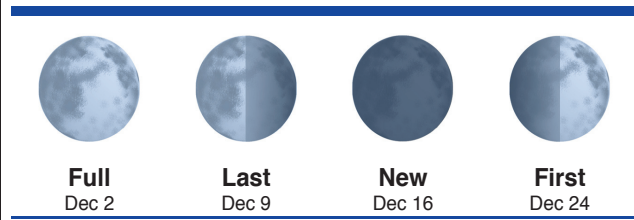
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	60	30	pt sunny	Kingsville	70	54	t-storm
Amarillo	40	13	pt sunny	Livingston	56	47	t-storm
Austin	57	41	rain	Longview	51	42	rain
Beaumont	60	55	t-storm	Lubbock	52	23	pt sunny
Brownsville	73	62	t-storm	Lufkin	55	47	t-storm
Brownwood	60	36	pt sunny	Midland	62	32	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	67	54	t-storm	Raymondville	73	58	t-storm
Corsicana	49	37	rain	Rosenberg	61	51	t-storm
Dallas	49	37	rain	San Antonio	63	45	rain
Del Rio	64	42	pt sunny	San Marcos	57	41	rain
El Paso	58	36	sunny	Sulphur Springs	48	36	rain
Fort Stockton	66	38	sunny	Sweetwater	61	31	pt sunny
Gainesville	47	27	rain	Tyler	51	40	rain
Greenville	46	35	rain	Weatherford	52	31	rain
Houston	61	51	t-storm	Wichita Falls	55	23	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	49	34	pt sunny	Minneapolis	24	14	pt sunny
Boston	38	27	pt sunny	New York	43	32	sunny
Chicago	39	29	sn shower	Phoenix	60	48	pt sunny
Dallas	49	37	rain	San Francisco	52	38	mst sunny
Denver	18	10	snow	Seattle	38	23	sunny
Houston	61	51	t-storm	St. Louis	44	30	cloudy
Los Angeles	60	45	pt sunny	Washington, DC	43	33	mst sunny
Miami	75	70	cloudy				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Sun 12/6	Mon 12/7	Tue 12/8
3	3	3
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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

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AP Source: Pacquiao, Mayweather close to fight deal

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr. have signed off on the major issues in the negotiation for a megafight on March 13, and contracts could be signed in the next few days, a person with knowledge of the discussions told The Associated Press.

Top Rank promoter Bob Arum met with Pacquiao in his native Philippines on Friday and the charismatic champion agreed to terms with only minor changes, said the person, who requested anonymity because the sides agreed not to speak publicly during negotiations.

Arum planned to return to the United States on Sunday and present the amended terms to Golden Boy chief executive Richard Schaefer, the person said. Schaefer is negotiating on behalf of Mayweather and his promotional company.

An announcement could come Tuesday, Arum's 78th birthday.

No site has been determined, but Top Rank plans to send a survey team to Dallas next week to examine the new, \$1.2 billion Cowboys Stadium, the person said. Team owner Jerry Jones said Wednesday that the Cowboys "are still desirous of looking at what we can do."

The other possibilities are the New Orleans

Superdome and venues in Las Vegas, including the MGM Grand and a temporary outdoor stadium on the Strip.

The fight would be at 147 pounds for Pacquiao's WBO welterweight title, which he won in November with an impressive 12th-round stoppage of Miguel Cotto in Las Vegas.

Michael Koncz, who is advising Pacquiao, said Friday that the contracts need "fine tuning" but declined to elaborate. Koncz added that Pacquiao is "very comfortable" with March 13, even though it is only four months after his last fight.

"Manny has some additional requirements, requests, which Arum

didn't think was a problem," Koncz said. "The requests of Manny were so realistic that Arum doesn't feel it's a problem and it's pretty much a done deal."

The bout could be the richest ever, assuming projections are accurate. Pacquiao's fight against Cotto sold 1.25 million pay-per-views, while Mayweather's comeback victory over Juan Manuel Marquez in September did 1.05 million.

The richest fight ever was in May 2007, when Mayweather's split-decision win over Oscar De La Hoya generated 2.4 million buys for \$120 million in pay-per-view revenue.

The potential

Pacquiao-Mayweather fight certainly would generate widespread international appeal, pitting the flamboyant Mayweather against the man who most believe replaced him on the mythical mantle as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world.

Pacquiao has won an unprecedented seven titles in seven weight divisions, although his popularity has grown far beyond the sport. He was featured on the cover of the Asian version of Time magazine, is wrapping up filming of an action movie called "Wapakman," and submitted his candidacy for the 2010 elections on Tuesday.

The difference

between Floyd and others I have fought is that Floyd makes a lot of trash talk that should not be imitated by young people," Pacquiao told GMA television, when asked about the potential matchup.

Pacquiao's political ambitions are the reason the fight was moved up to mid-March. He plans to start campaigning in April in his second attempt at a congressional seat.

"March 13 is OK," Pacquiao told GMA.

"Nobody knows his body better than Manny," Koncz said. "If Manny feels that that's plenty of time to rest and recover, then you know, he has to do what he feels is right."

SCHOOLBOY SCORES

Eules Trinity 47, Arlington 17
Cypress Woods (11-2) vs. Round Rock Stony Point (12-1), 6 p.m. Saturday, Cypress' Berry Center
Katy Cinco Ranch (12-1) vs. Brazoswood (10-3), 1 p.m. Saturday, Houston's Rice Stadium
Austin Westlake (11-2) vs. SA Clark (13-0), 2 p.m. Saturday, San Antonio's Heroes Stadium
State Semifinals
Eules Trinity (12-2) vs. Cypress Woods-Round Rock Stony Point winner, TBD
Katy Cinco Ranch-Brazoswood winner vs. Austin Westlake-SA Clark winner, TBD

DIVISION II
State Quarterfinals
Abilene 35, Arlington Bowie 7
Tyler (12-1) vs. Klein (10-3), 2 p.m. Saturday, Waco ISD Stadium
Katy (12-1) vs. League City Clear Springs (11-2), 1 p.m. Saturday, Houston's Tully Stadium
New Braunfels (10-3) vs. SA Brandeis (12-1), 2 p.m.

Saturday, San Marcos' Bobcat Stadium
State Semifinals
Abilene (13-0) vs. Tyler-Klein winner, TBD
Katy-League City Clear Springs winner vs. New Braunfels-SA Brandeis winner, TBD

CLASS 4A
DIVISION I
State Quarterfinals
Denton Ryan (12-1) vs. Denton Guyer (12-1), 2 p.m. Saturday, Denton's Collins Complex
Longview (12-1) vs. Waxahachie (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dallas' Kincaide Stadium
Pearland Dawson (11-2) vs. Friendswood (10-3), 2 p.m. Saturday, Galena Park ISD Stadium
Lake Travis 27, SA Alamo Heights 13
State Semifinals
Denton Ryan-Denton Guyer winner vs. Longview-Waxahachie winner, TBD
Pearland Dawson-Friendswood winner vs. Lake Travis (14-0), TBD

DIVISION II
State Quarterfinals
Everman (11-2) vs. Aledo (12-1), 2 p.m. Saturday, Burleson
Denison (12-1) vs. Sulphur Springs (10-3), 2 p.m. Saturday, SMU's Ford Stadium
Dayton (10-2) vs. Brenham (11-2), 6 p.m. Saturday, Katy's Rhodes Stadium
Kerrville Tivy 38, Port Lavaca Calhoun 31
State Semifinals
Everman-Aledo winner vs. Denison-Sulphur Springs winner, TBD
Dayton-Brenham winner vs. Kerrville Tivy (9-4), TBD

CLASS 3A
DIVISION I
State Semifinals
Abilene Wylie (11-1) vs. Lucas Lovejoy (12-1), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Waco ISD Stadium
Gilmer (13-0) vs. Cuero (13-0), 6 p.m. Saturday, Huntsville's Bowers Stadium
State Championship
Abilene Wylie-Lucas Lovejoy winner vs. Gilmer-Cuero winner, TBD

DIVISION II
State Quarterfinals
Graham 48, Wimberley 7
Pittsburg 55, Texarkana Pleasant Grove 34
Carthage 28, Lorena 21
Sinton (12-1) vs. La Grange (11-2), 7 p.m. Saturday, Converse
State Semifinals
Graham (13-1) vs. Pittsburg (12-1), TBD
Carthage (14-0) vs. Sinton-La Grange winner, TBD

CLASS 2A
DIVISION I
State Semifinals
Brady (13-0) vs. Pilot Point (13-0), 2 p.m. Saturday, Stephenville
Kirbyville (11-2) vs. Comfort (8-5), 6 p.m. Saturday, Waco's Floyd Casey Stadium
State Championship
Brady-Pilot Point winner vs. Kirbyville-Comfort winner, TBD

DIVISION II
State Quarterfinals
Bushland (13-0) vs. Crane (12-1), 2 p.m. Saturday,

Wolfforth
Gainesville Callisburg (11-2) vs. McGregor (13-0), 6 p.m. Saturday, Midlothian
Daingerfield (12-1) vs. Newton (12-1), 2 p.m. Saturday, Nacogdoches' Homer Bryce Stadium
Refugio 22, Blanco 14
State Semifinals
Bushland-Crane winner vs. Gainesville Callisburgh-McGregor winner, TBD
Daingerfield-Newton winner vs. Refugio (14-0), TBD

CLASS 1A
DIVISION I
State Semifinals
Canadian (11-1) vs. Haskell (9-4), 2 p.m. Saturday, Canyon's Kimbrough Stadium
Joaquin (11-2) vs. Goldthwaite (13-0), 5 p.m. Saturday, Ennis
State Championship
Canadian-Haskell winner vs. Joaquin-Goldthwaite winner, TBD

DIVISION II
State Quarterfinals
Stratford 38, New Deal 28
Albany 52, Lindsay 13

Cayuga (11-1) vs. Mart (9-4), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Corsicana
Falls City (13-0) vs. Ganado (8-4), 6 p.m. Saturday, New Braunfels Canyon HS
State Semifinals
Stratford (11-2) vs. Albany (14-0), TBD
Cayuga-Mart winner vs. Falls City-Ganado winner, TBD

SIX-MAN
DIVISION I
State Semifinals
Follett (11-1) vs. Garden City (12-1), 6 p.m. Saturday, Plainview
Strawn 84, Calvert 35
State Championship
Follett-Garden City winner vs. Strawn (13-1), TBD

DIVISION II
State Semifinals
Motley County (10-3) vs. Borden County (13-0), 6 p.m. Saturday, Lubbock's Lowrey Field
Roscoe Highland 74, Walnut Springs 38
State Championship
Motley County-Borden County winner vs. Roscoe Highland (13-0), TBD

From All Of Us At
The Big Spring Herald

Thank You To All The Individuals Who Participated And Attended The Big Spring Herald Christmas Parade

Hope It Was As Enjoyable For You As It Was For Us.



► Weddings



Mr. and Mrs. Michael Brandon Lee

Grant and Lee

Kelly Diane Grant and Michael Brandon Lee, both of Big Spring, exchanged wedding vows in a private ceremony in the Dora Roberts Lake Room at Comanche Trail Lake on Friday, Nov. 20 at 6:30

p.m.

Given in marriage by her parents, the bride was escorted by her father, Keith Grant. The bride wore a champagne-colored chiffon wedding gown with crystal beaded bodice, and carried an autumn inspired bouquet.

The groom and the couple's son both wore black suits with gold accents and autumn boutonnieres. The colors of fall and an autumn theme were the backdrop for the ceremony and reception.

Family of the bride and groom were in attendance and the couple's pastor, Bro. Jim Binnix of Midway Baptist Church, performed the wedding ceremony. Following the reception, the couple honeymooned in Fredericksburg.

The bride is the daughter of Keith and Sharon Grant of Big Spring. She attended Greenwood High School, received her associates degree in business in 2007 from the University of Phoenix and is currently working on her bachelor's degree in business management. She is employed as an administrative assistant with the city of Big Spring, and has one son, Kaden.

She is the granddaughter of the late Albert Grant and Gertrude Grant, both formerly of Coahoma, and the late Ralph Thorp Sr. and Bonnie Thorp, both formerly of Big Spring.

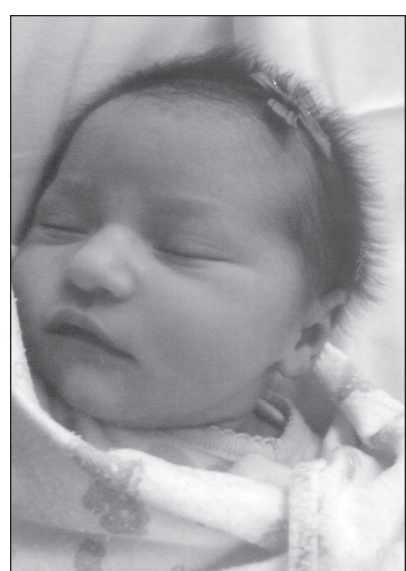
The groom is the son of Ronnie Lee and the late Carolyn Lee, both of Big Spring. He graduated from Big Spring High School in 1998 and is employed as a shift supervisor for Innotek Powder Coatings LLC. He is the grandson of the late H.O. Lee and Geraldine Lee, and the late John R. Walling and DeLavernge Walling, all formerly of Big Spring.

► Births

Catalina Nicole Rios, a girl, was born Nov. 18, 2009, at 3:41 a.m. She weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20 inches long.

She is the daughter of Amber Torres of Lamar, Colo., and Isaac Rios of Big Spring.

She is the granddaughter of Dolores and Lorenzo Torres of Big Spring, Amador Rios Sr. of Big Spring and Corrina Franco of Midland.



Catalina Nicole Rios



Bella Mee Baker

Bella Mee Baker, a girl, was born Sept. 21, 2009, at 2:11 p.m. She weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and was 20 inches in length.

She is the daughter of Marc and Sandy Baker of Big Spring.

She is the granddaughter of Debbie and Audry Brummett and Donnie and Linda Baker, all of Big Spring.

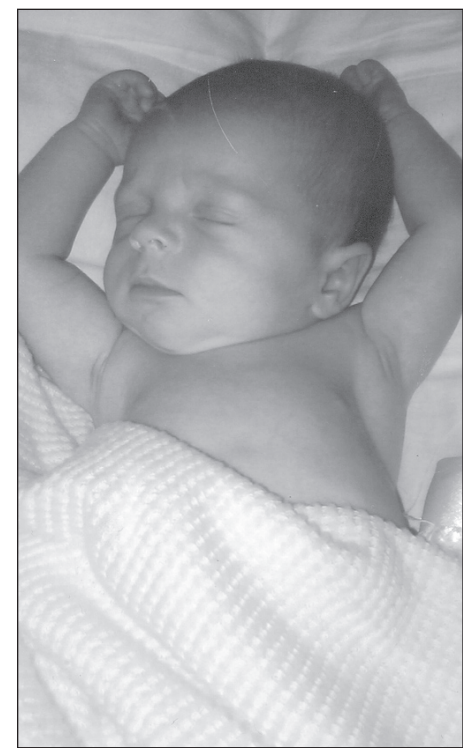
She was welcomed home by her

sibling, Kelby Miller.

Hunter Shane Morningstar, a boy, was born Nov. 3, 2009, at 5:20 p.m. He weighed 7 pounds, 3.9 ounces and was 20 inches long.

He is the son of Brandi Morningstar of Big Spring and Robert Morningstar of Jacksonville, Fla.

His grandparents are Flint Wrye of Big Spring, Connie Hogg of Odessa and Hazel Morningstar of Jacksonville, Fla. Great-grandparents are Mickie Haynes and Vic and Vorda Wrye, all of Big Spring, and James and Mary Thomas of Jacksonville, Fla.



Hunter Shane Morningstar

David Forrest Sigmon

David Forrest Sigmon, a boy, was born Nov. 23, 2009, at 2:27 p.m. He weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces, and was 19 3/4 inches long.

He is the son of Josh Sigmon and Paige McCluskey of Big Spring.

He is the grandson of Dan and Margaret Newsom and the late Neal McCluskey and Scott Sigmon and Deborah Hodnett.

Send Births to
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PLEA

Continued from Page 1A

maximum number of years possible, and we came to the decision 30 years was going to be acceptable.”

Hernandez was pronounced dead shortly after 10 a.m. at a Lubbock area hospital, police records show. According to law enforcement officials, Hernandez and a second victim — later identified as 17-year-old Richard Pineda of Big Spring — were shot during an altercation in the roadway in front of the home.

Wilkerson said Friday’s plea agreement will officially close the books on the case, but plenty of questions remain.

“There are unanswered questions in this thing,” said Wilkerson. “And there will continue to be unanswered questions. There was a lot of confusion about the events that transpired at 1610 Cardinal, and the press was privy to a lot of the rumors that were flying around rather irresponsibly. People came to conclusions that were, quite frankly, incorrect. It was through the diligent work of the Big Spring Police Department, which spent a lot of time and a lot of man hours, that the truth ultimately came out.

“There were several fights and altercations that oc-

curred at that residence or in the proximity of the residence that night. This was actually the fourth altercation and it was totally unrelated to the previous three. We think there were two groups, two musical groups, who were clashing and agreed to fight it out — it was supposed to be a fist fight — at the Howard County Fair Barns. The group that was at the Cardinal Street residence didn’t make it to the fair barn, most likely because of the altercations that were taking place there. Ultimately, the group that was waiting to fight it out at the fair barns came to the residence on Cardinal. They got out and one of them produced a gun.

Wilkerson said Olivarez’s involvement in the clash is still somewhat unclear.

“Strangely enough, Chris Olivarez was not a member of either group and had no dog in the fight, so to speak,” said Wilkerson. “He seems to have joined in to even up the manpower. We do believe from the evidence gleaned from the interviews that he (Olivarez) had gotten cross with someone at the residence, and perhaps he had his own ax to grind over earlier altercations at the house, and that perhaps that was the driving motivation for him to bring a gun and shoot toward the crowd of people.”

Investigators with the BSPD came under fire from the victim’s mother, local resident Nicole Harbour, who alleged the investigation — prior to Olivarez’s arrest — was not a top priority for the law enforcement agency. Wilkerson said he felt the case moved along swiftly.

“The police office came over with some preliminary reports, and quite naturally she (Nicole Harbour) wanted action as fast as possible,” said Wilkerson. “However, the initial reports they brought back were not enough for me to go forward for an indictment. We knew there was additional evidence out there than needed to be found. It took a few weeks to get those interviews and lock it down to where we felt comfortable amidst all the confusion. Once we felt comfortable we could go forward with it and the investigation began to wind itself up, then we did in fact seek an indictment. If you look at this case in its entirety, when it begins May 30 and we’ve wrapped it up and concluded it on Dec. 4. For a murder case in any area that’s moving pretty fast.”

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

News briefs

Victim’s brother: We’re satisfied with conviction but no cause for celebration

PERUGIA, Italy (AP) — The family of a slain British woman said Saturday they were pleased with the murder conviction of American student Amanda Knox but said there was no sense of celebration.

Meredith Kercher’s relatives made their first comments since a jury in Perugia, Italy, announced early Saturday that they had convicted Knox and sentenced her to 26 years in prison for the 2007 murder.

The court also convicted Knox’s co-defendant and former boyfriend, Italian Raffaele Sollecito, and gave him a 25-year jail term.

“Ultimately we are pleased with the decision, pleased that we’ve got a decision, but it’s not a time for celebration,” Lyle Kercher, the victim’s brother, said.

Kercher, 21, was Knox’s roommate while they studied in Perugia.

Her body was found in a pool of blood with her throat slit on Nov. 2, 2007 at the apartment they shared. Prosecutors said the Leeds University student was murdered the previous night.

103 die overcome by smoke or crushed in nightclub fire reportedly caused by fireworks

PERM, Russia (AP) — Panicked clubgoers crushed each other to death in a popular Russian nightspot as they tried to flee a fast-moving fire that one eyewitness told The Associated Press was started by pyrotechnic fountains set up on the stage.

Officials said 103 people died when the fire tore through the popular Lane Horse nightclub in the city of Perm late Friday, filling the crowded barracks-like building with thick black smoke. Authorities said they arrested the registered owner of the club and the manager.

Officials said the club managers ignored repeated demands from authorities to change the club’s interior to comply with fire safety standards. “They have neither brains, nor conscience,” Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said, urging a tough punishment for the culprits.

Officials said most of the dead suffocated or were crushed at the exit.

SHOTS

Continued from Page 1A

or unable to get an appointment, please be

patient with us,” Ferguson said. “These are our priority patients, as defined by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Due to manu-

facturing delays, quantities are limited for now. As the vaccine supply increases, it will be directed to more priority groups and later to the general popula-

tion.” As always, Ferguson added, check with your local healthcare provider to see if they have the vaccine available. DSHS is using a Google-

powered Flu Vaccine Locator service to help people find the H1N1 vaccine in their communities. This can be found at www.texasflu.org

TOYS

Continued from Page 1A

we’re hoping to reach even more children.”

Tonn said the drive has also drawn assistance from far away, as a pair of couples from Canada have once again made the trip to Big Spring to help out.

“Brother Terry Miller and his wife, Ingrid, are from Canada,” said Tonn. “They made the trip to Big Spring last

year to help out, and they are here again this year. Also, Wayne and Lois Peters, who also came last year, are here to help, and they are also from Canada. It’s really a special thing to have people travel so far just to help brighten these children’s Christmas.”

Tonn invited parents and “grandparents who are raising their grandchildren” to take part in the church’s annual toy drive, which targets children 13 years of age

and younger. “They just need to show up at the church Dec. 11 — that’s a Friday — at 10 a.m.,” said Tonn. “They will be able to pick up presents for the children right then and there.”

Tonn said the annual drive wouldn’t be possible without the help of volunteers and the community.

“We applaud the wonderful people of Big Spring for their generosity and giving,” said

Tonn. “We’ve put together wonderful presents that have been donated for the children. It’s been a lot of work, but it’s so rewarding. We also give praise and honor to the Lord for all his goodness and love He’s bestowed on His people. What a mighty God we serve.”

The church is located at 1209 Wright St. For more information, contact Tonn at (432) 267-5321.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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Patsy Ophelia Horn, 60, died Friday. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Blind Side, The (PG-13)
Sun.: 1:20 4:10 7:10
Old Dogs (PG)
Sun.: 1:30 4:20 7:20
Twilight Saga: New Moon, The (PG-13)
Sun.: 1:10 4:00 7:00
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World Cup contenders plot route to final appearance

Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Now that the 32 World Cup teams know who they are playing in the first round, the leading contenders are plotting a route to the final.

The top five teams in the FIFA rankings — Spain, Brazil, the Netherlands, Italy and Portugal — are all in the same half of a somewhat lopsided draw, so they could meet each other sooner than expected. Brazil and Portugal were drawn into the same group, so they will play in the first round, and one of them is likely to face Spain in the second round.

“I’m hoping not to face Spain too soon in the championship, not least because we’d be facing Iker (Casillas) in goal,” Brazil playmaker Kaka said. “I prefer playing with him in Real Madrid than against him in the World Cup.”

Kaka will also come up against Real Madrid teammate Cristiano Ronaldo when Brazil and Portugal face each other in Durban on June 25. By then, both will have come through tough games against Ivory Coast and the unknown North Koreans.

“It’s a complicated group. I’m not overjoyed but we’ll be playing against great teams,” Ronaldo said. “Brazil is very strong, Ivory Coast is really tough and Korea runs a lot. If we get as far as meeting Spain, I’d be happy. We’d have played a good World Cup.”

Portugal beat the North Koreans in one of the World Cup’s most famous games in 1966. Having knocked out Italy in the group phase, the North Koreans were ahead 3-0 inside 24 min-

utes at Goodison Park before Portugal, inspired by four goals from Eusebio, won the game.

Unless they both win their groups, defending champion Italy and the Netherlands could meet in the last 16 with the possibility of then facing either Brazil or Spain in the quarter-finals.

England goes into the competition with its highest hopes since 1970, when it failed to defend the title it won four years earlier. But it has an old score to settle against the United States in the group phase and could face two of its traditional World Cup foes, Germany and Argentina, in the first two knock-out rounds.

In their only previous World Cup meeting in 1950, the Americans stunned a star-studded England 1-0.

“What I didn’t want was to come up against the unknown and we have avoided that and we have avoided some of the really hard groups, like the one Brazil find themselves in,” England midfielder Steven Gerrard said. “We have played two of the sides in our group under Fabio Capello (United States and Slovenia) and beaten them. So we know what to expect and we know what we have to do to beat them.”

Facing Slovenia and Algeria, who both advanced through playoffs, the English and Americans should qualify for the last 16. Whoever wins that group is likely to avoid three-time champion Germany, which is in one of the toughest groups along with Australia, Serbia and Ghana, any of whom are capable of reaching the second round.



AP Photo/ Alvaro Barrientos

Real Madrid’s international players, left to right, Rafael Van der Vaart, from the Netherlands; Karim Benzema, from France; Iker Casillas, from Spain; Ronaldo, from Portugal; Kaka, from Brazil; Gonzalo Higuain, from Argentina; and Cristoph Metzelder, from Germany. They pose with their country’s shirts during a press conference in Madrid on Friday.

Winner in 1978 and ‘86, Argentina hoped that the appointment of Diego Maradona as coach would inspire the team to another triumph. But the team failed to find any form in qualifying, only made it as the fourth-place finisher in South America and now has a tough group against Nigeria, South Korea and 2004 European champion Greece.

“It’s not an easy group,” Argentina general manager Carlos Bilardo said. “On the contrary, I think it’s very difficult. In 1990, everybody thought that Cameroon was easy and we ended up losing the first match. Korea are strong, but we know them very well.

Nigeria are difficult, too, and Greece have shown in recent years that they can compete against big teams.

“If it wasn’t Greece, it could have been Portugal or France, so we can’t complain.”

Argentina could then meet 1998 world champion France in the second round.

After being embarrassed by Thierry Henry’s handball in the playoffs against Ireland, France now has a comparatively easy group alongside host South Africa, Mexico and Uruguay.

France beat South Africa 3-0 in their only World Cup meeting and went on to win the title.



Courtesy Photo

The Cyclones U-14 soccer team. From back row left to right: assistant coach Micheal Nairn, coach Bryan Kligora, assistant coach John Nalley. Second row: Brian Ortiz, Tyler Nalley, Daniel Rodriguez, Santana Maldonado, Garrett Kligora, John Minjuarez, Eric Garza, Richard Martinez, Jalin Gilbert. Front row: Stacia Hudgins, Marc Ybbara, Tyler Nairn, Diego Rodriguez.

Local soccer team wins San Angelo tourney

Herald Staff Report

The Big Spring U-14 soccer team, the Cyclones, won the San Angelo Fall Classic Soccer Tournament on Nov. 21 and 22.

The team played four games in the tournament to capture the championship.

The team won the first game 3-0 over the San Angelo Sharks.

The Cyclones were led by Tyler Narin, Diego Rodriguez and Daniel Rodriguez, each nab-

bing a goal.

In game two against the San Angelo Quakes, the Cyclones again took charge early and pulled away for the victory. The final score was 5-0.

The Cyclones were again led by Diego Rodriguez, Tyler Narin, Daniel Rodriguez, Eric Garza and Santana Maldonado, each pushing a goal past the goalie.

In their third game of the day, the Cyclones took their only loss of the tournament, fall-

ing to the San Angelo Inferno 1-0.

The Cyclones came back the next day for a rematch with the Inferno, and came out on top 4-0, winning the championship.

Deigo Rodriguez again led the way with two goals, with Jalen Gilbert and Daniel Rodriguez also netting scores. Defense was the name of the game for the Cyclones, led by goalie Garrett Kligora who allowed only one goal the entire tourna-

ment.

Assisting Garrett was the the defense in front of him, Stacia Hudgins (the only girl on the team), Mark Ybarra, Tyler Nalley, Brian Ortiz, Richard Martinez and John Minjuarez. Coach Bryan Kilgora said it’s the first time he can remember a Big Spring team winning an out of town tournament.

Mike Narin and John Nalley are the assistant coaches for the Cyclones.

Switzer, Bowden to coach USO football game for troops

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Barry Switzer and Tommy Bowden are heading back to sidelines, but in Iraq instead of the U.S.

Switzer, who led

Oklahoma to an NCAA championship and the Dallas Cowboys to a Super Bowl title, will lead a flag-football team made up of former college stars and military personnel in a game against a similar squad led by former Auburn coach Bowden. The Salute to The Troops

is being staged by the USO.

Switzer, an Arkansas native, leaves Dec. 27 for Kuwait City.

“American soldiers, they love college football,” Switzer said. “We’re taking a bowl game to them.”

The game is to be played at a U.S. base on a

date still unannounced. The time and location are being kept secret for security purposes.

Highlights of the game are to be shown on television during halftime of the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 4.

Former Cowboy Raghil Ishmail is among the participants.

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Menus

Big Spring Senior Center

Monday: Ham, buttered lima beans, okra and tomatoes, cornbread, angel cake with blueberries, milk, V8 juice.

Tuesday: Meatloaf, oven roasted potatoes, english pea salad, apricot halves, rolls, milk, V8 juice.

Wednesday: Chicken enchiladas, Spanish rice, tossed salad and dressing, tortilla chips and salsa, pudding, milk.

Thursday: Hamburger steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, lime pineapple gelatin, milk.

Friday: Cod fish fillet on a bun, tartar sauce, oven baked french fries, creamy coleslaw, frozen strawberries, milk, VA juice.

Coahoma ISD

Monday: Breakfast-French toast, sausage, syrup, apple juice, milk; Lunch- Grilled cheese, baked beans, apple, milk, barbecue on bun.

Tuesday: Breakfast-Oatmeal, sausage, grape juice, milk; Lunch- Sub sandwiches, salad trays, chips, pickle spears, milk, corn dogs.

Wednesday: Breakfast-Pancake sausage on a stick, syrup, orange juice, milk; Lunch- Chicken patty, green beans, creamed potatoes, rolls, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast-Biscuits, sausage, gravy, apple juice, jelly, milk; Lunch- Tacos, mixed fruit, salad, ranch beans, milk, McRib/bread.

Friday: Breakfast- Pop Tarts, fruit, sausage, milk; Lunch- Cheeseburger, chips, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, oranges, milk.

Forsan ISD

Monday: Breakfast- Biscuit, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch- Chicken fajitas, refried beans, seasoned corn, fruit, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast-PG&J uncrustable, juice, milk; Lunch- Chicken Patty sandwich, lettuce, tomato and pickle, tater tots, baby carrots with ranch dressing, sliced peaches, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast-Sausage on a stick, juice, milk; Lunch- Taco salad, pinto beans, orange smiles, brownie, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast-Cinnamon roll, yogurt, juice, milk; Lunch- Sloppy Joe, Funyuns, corn on the cob, pickle spears, sparkly apple, milk.

Friday: Breakfast- Cereal, toast, juice, milk; Lunch- Popcorn chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, roll, frozen strawberry cup, milk.

Big Spring ISD

Monday: Breakfast- Cereal, colby cheese portion, fruit juice, milk; Lunch- Pizza, carrots, apple sauce, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast-Sausage roll, fruit juice, milk; Lunch- Chicken spaghetti, garden salad, green peas, apricots, rolls, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast-Tortilla, cheese omelets, fruit cup, milk; Lunch- Beef taco, corn, Spanish rice, lettuce and tomato salad, orange smiles, salsa, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast-French toast sticks, syrup, fruit juice, milk; Lunch- Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, pineapple chunks, rolls, milk.

Friday: Breakfast- Ham/cheese biscuits, fruit juice, milk; Lunch- Barbecue beef, lettuce, tomato, pickles, french fries, strawberries, fresh fruit, milk.



John Northcutt

John Northcutt graduated from Great Lakes Navy Recruit Training Command Nov. 13, 2009.

John is the son of Rebecca Northcutt of Kerrville, the late Roger (Bear) Northcutt and the nephew of Cory and Gaylon Beevers of Big Spring. He was born in Big Spring and moved to Kerrville. His wife Chantel and son Kayden reside in Belton.

He is on his way to Pensacola, Fla. for more advanced training in search and rescue.

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Crystal Leanne Wingert and Michael Daniel Hutchinson

Wingert and Hutchinson

Crystal Leanne Wingert and Michael Daniel Hutchinson, both of College Station, are planning to exchange wedding vows in the spring.

Crystal is the daughter of Chris and Karen Wingert of Big Spring and the granddaughter of Charles and Linda Towne of Houston and Cad and Anne Wingert of Big Spring.

Michael is the son of Bob and Kathy Hutchinson of Spring and the grandson of Jimmy and Nancy Boney of Jackson, Miss., and Dan and Mary Hutchinson of Meridian, Miss.

Crystal graduated from Big Spring High School in 2004 and Texas A&M University in 2008. She is currently a physical education teacher at Oakwood Intermediate School in College Station.

Michael graduated from Northlake Christian School in Covington, La., in 2002 and Mississippi College in 2006. He received his master's degree from Texas A&M in 2007 and will receive his PhD in sports marketing from A&M in 2010.

They are planning an April wedding in 2010.



Cody earns Spirit Award at 'Miss Youth of Texas'

Angelique Violet Cody of Big Spring was recently named a Distinguished Youth of Texas.

Cody was one of 225 Texas girls in grades 5 through 7 to receive the designation.

Cody, a sixth grader at Goliad Intermediate School, competed for the title of "Miss Youth of Texas," a competition based on academics, community service, interviewing skills and confidence/stage presence.

Although she didn't win the title, Cody was named winner of the Spirit Award, according to her mother, Judith.

The family thanks the many community members and businesses that supported Angelique during this competition.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Open Meetings Law doesn't need to be weakened by TML

In Texas the law is clear. Governing bodies must conduct the people's business in public or else face some serious penalties. This statute has protected the public and elected representatives alike for the past 42 years with a basic premise: public bodies should deliberate in public.

The days of making backroom good ol' boy deals in private are a thing of the past because the Texas Legislature outlawed it by passing the Open Meetings Act in 1967, and strengthening it in 1973 after the infamous "Sharpstown Scandal."

Yet, there are some serious and troubling attempts underway that could open the door for that very thing to occur. At least three Texas cities and the Texas Municipal League are endorsing a legal challenge in the courts that will render Texas' Open Meetings laws ineffective. TML, which is supported by your tax money in the form of membership fees, is urging more than 1,100 Texas cities to sign on to a federal lawsuit.

The details of the challenge are stated simply: These public officials claim the Texas Open Meetings Act unconstitutionally restricts their right of free speech under the First Amendment. Of course, they are free to say anything they wish to anyone they wish at any time they wish.

However, when they are meeting as a quorum of a governmental body, they must say it in front of the public at an open meeting.

Even more importantly, the First Amendment cannot be a shield to prevent accountability of public officials, but guarantees access to the workings of these governmental bodies just like it does to our courts.

TML wants criminal penalties such as jail time stripped from the law that has protected the public for more than four decades. They believe the current language is too punitive and argue "...less restrictive penalties would not only continue to preserve the integrity of the Texas Open Meetings Act but would also recognize the fundamental right of city officials to free speech."

In other words, if public officials break the law in the future by conducting business in secret — i.e., exercising their rights to "free speech" behind closed doors, a slap on the wrist should be punishment enough.

It simply defies logic and apparently not all of TML's own members agree with this position. As reported in The Brownsville Herald, Nov. 21, 2009, TML board member and Mercedes Mayor Joel Quintanilla said, "Either I misunderstood the entire meeting or something is happening. The way I understood it, we all (board members) voted in favor of keeping the restrictive penalties, not lessening them." Quintanilla went on to say, "We didn't want elected officials to get comfortable."

He's not the only one apparently confused by TML's action. Mercedes Commissioner Ruben Guajardo is also quoted as saying, "The consensus (of the TML Resolutions Committee) was that things were fine the way they were (with the Texas Open Meetings Act) and that trying to reinvent the wheel was not in the best interest of everyone involved... We (the resolutions committee) felt that to change something (in the meetings act) was just not correct. It really wasn't right. The consensus was to leave the Texas Meetings Act the way it is."

I couldn't agree with Commissioner Guajardo or Mayor Quintanilla more. As a member of the public, I am left confused by what is happening, and why. But I do know this. I don't want elected officials to get too comfortable either because I have seen firsthand what can happen if they do.

See **HOBBY**, Page 5A

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we know that although we may not be rich, Lord, we are wealthy with Your blessings.

Amen

Local controversy's fireworks

Few things in this world are as polarizing as religion, and when the Almighty meets politics, anyone with half a brain knows to brace themselves for the inevitable fireworks.

Needless to say, I braced myself this week when I was assigned the story on the Salvation Army bell ringer being exorcised from the Big Spring Post Office lobby, a subject that drew letters to the editor and comments on the Herald website the likes of which I've never seen.

As a reporter, the First Amendment is something I hold dear, and the participation of the public in these matters is, in my opinion, crucial to the growth and health of a community, no matter how large or small it is. Gary Wills, an author and historian hailing from Northwestern University, once said, "The whole point of free speech is not to make ideas exempt from criticism, but to expose them to it."

Needless to say, Alan Conroy, who complained to the local post office that the bell ringer was on government property illegally, made his idea on the issue a public matter. According to him, he had gone through the proper channels at the post office and felt he was being ignored, so he decided to take the issue to the press.

With that, the story landed on my desk courtesy of the Herald's managing editor, and I began making phone calls to get at the truth of the matter.

And, in all honesty, the truth was fairly simple, as the local postmaster — who was not present the week the complaints were initially made, if that's worth noting — confirmed, it was against federal law for the bell ringers to collect donations on government property.

The matter was then handled

by the postmaster and the bell ringer was asked to move down to the sidewalk in front of the post office.

Unfortunately, the issue was far from resolved at that point, as local residents, spurred by whatever convictions they held true began writing letters to the editor and commenting on the Herald Web site. Some of them were innocuous at best, simply wishing Conroy and his family a Merry Christmas — some with milder undertones than others — while others threatened boycotts and even physical violence against the local resident.

"Good for Mr. Conroy. This is a clear example of an issue of separation of church and state. Clearly unconstitutional," posted John V.

"This also means that citizens continue to have the right not to do business wherever Mr. Conroy is employed. Anyone know where that is?" posted Jerry.

"Congratulations John Alan Conroy, you picked an argument with an elderly citizen volunteering her time to help people less fortunate. You should be proud of yourself," commented Reba S.

"I think we should all take the time to drive to the Salvation Army and donate. It doesn't matter how little or big, and be sure you tell them it's to make up the difference. I'll be praying for you Mr. Conroy," Marie posted on the Web site.

Separation of church and state is nothing new to the American public, and it has been challenged and affirmed time after time by countless courts in this great land.

And while I certainly support the separation of these two great entities — we need only look to the American Revolution to understand what happens when the two are not kept separated — I can't help but feel like the words of our founding fathers are being ignored.

"The religion and public liberty of a people are so intimately connected, their interests are interwoven, and cannot exist

separately." These words were spoken by Samuel Adams, a statesman and former governor of Massachusetts, in 1772.

As Americans, we are provided with a system to address our grievances, both small and large. We can write our congressmen, senators and other governmental representatives to protest laws we feel do not serve the best interests of our nation. We can write letters to the editor, contact media outlets and be just as outspoken as we would like.

Conroy expressed his grievance, first to the post office and later to the media, and regardless of his motives, handled the situation the way our Constitution outlines. His success stands as proof the system does, for the most part, work.

As a reporter, I would certainly hope our readers follow the same system to express their grievances without resorting to mindless physical and fiscal threats. While each of us is passionate about religion in our own way, I can hardly believe any man or woman of the cloth — insert your own terminology for the religious leader of your choice here — would condone the persecution of someone for standing up for what they feel is right.

In the end, I think it's hard to say either side in this matter is right or wrong. While I would hope we'd strive to follow federal laws, I can't help but think of this nation's founding fathers, defiant men who stood up for what they believed in by breaking English law.

Maybe those interwoven interests Sam Adams referred to can someday be spun into laws that both protect us and serve the best interests of our citizens, all at the same time.

Until that happens, however, I believe we'll continue to see arguments like these, full of emotions and fireworks, stirring the passion of our very souls.

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



BILL HOBBY



YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

Every morning I get up, check the weather and read *The Big Spring Herald* in my apartment in Seoul, Korea. It's my way of keeping in touch with what is happening back home.

This morning, Sunday in Seoul, Saturday in Big Spring, I checked the weather in Seoul, clicked on the newspaper in Big Spring and got to watch the Steers' playoff game in the live stream. Although the Steers didn't do as well as we all had hoped, it was exciting to be a part of the crowd.

After reading the paper — how I will miss a Big Spring Christmas with lights and music and whole town atmosphere — I got to the bottom of the screen and was given a further treat in being able to read *Living*. The magazine was just getting started when I left Big Spring and I was hoping it was still going on. I enjoyed the articles and the pictures throughout.

Thank you for making this all available to an expat, as we are called here by other non-Koreans, or foreigner, as we are called by Koreans. I am going to forward your site to friends, especially

those who ask, "Why do you live in Big Spring?"

I am looking forward to returning home in April and your site just reminds me of so many of the reasons why.

NANCY MICHAELIS
SEOUL, S. KOREA

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a foster home developer with A World For Children. I have been in a Big Spring resident since 2002, president of the Big Spring Youth Soccer Association and volunteer my time with our local agencies, including CASA of West Texas and The Optimist Club.

I want to publicly thank Tim Walsh and our local Walmart for donating \$1,000 to our agency, A World For Children. The agency, trains, licenses and supports local foster families as they provide foster and foster adopt homes for the state's foster children.

Tim and I first met at the Optimist Clubs meetings, and he is truly someone who cares about the children of the Permian Basin — so much, in fact, he has helped me with school supplies

and now a generous donation just in time for Christmas.

Many people give at Christmas to various organizations and groups, which is wonderful. Walmart and Tim have chosen to give to our foster children who live in and around Howard County, who go to our schools. I think that is pretty special.

ISAAC MIRAMONTES
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

My daughter lives in Kerrville. Last night a friend of hers had a different kind of Christmas party. She called it "a party with a purpose." Instead of all the preparations and glitz normally needed for the event and presents for each other, each person was to select an angel from the trees scattered all over town. They were also to bring a jar of peanut butter and any other non-parishables for the Salvation Army food bank.

They then took an appetizer or drink and paper goods to the party.

They had a great time. The

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

Central Mich. takes MAC title with 20-10 win

Associated Press

DETROIT — The Mid-American Conference has produced quarterbacks good enough to play in the NFL over the past decade: Ben Roethlisberger, Byron Leftwich and Chad Pennington.

Dan LeFevour looks ready to join the list.

LeFevour had a pair of record-breaking touchdown passes in the first half, helping Central Michigan beat Ohio 20-10 on Friday night in the MAC championship game.

He set a major college football mark for combined touchdowns passing, rushing and receiving in the first quarter with his 147th. He threw for another score late in the first half to break Pennington's MAC record and give the Chippewas a 17-7 lead.

"He'll definitely leave his legacy," Central Michigan coach Butch Jones said.

LeFevour's 14-yard TD pass to Cody Wilson in the first quarter broke the mark set by Hawaii's Colt Brennan in 2007 and matched by Texas Tech's Graham Harrell in 2008.

The senior from Downers Grove, Ill., has rushed for 46 touchdowns and caught one TD pass.

"When you play four years in a spread offense, you're going to get a shot at some of those," said LeFevour, who obliged

university president Kathy Wilbur and several others by stopping to pose for postgame pictures on the field.

When you win as much as Jones has over the past three years at Central Michigan, schools with openings — perhaps such as Marshall — are going to try to hire him away.

Would it be tough to leave? "Central Michigan means something to me," Jones said, dodging a reporter's question.

The Chippewas (11-2) are expected to play in the GMAC Bowl on Jan. 6.

Central Michigan didn't do much offensively after halftime against Ohio, but held on to win the conference title for the third time in four years and MAC-best seventh since 1975.

"It wasn't pretty, but we found a way to win," Jones said.

LeFevour was 28 of 39 for 255 yards with two TDs and an interception. He also ran for 51 yards.

Central Michigan's Bryan Anderson extended his NCAA all-division record with a catch in his 53rd straight game and finished with seven receptions for 54 yards and a TD.

Ohio (9-4) likely will make a return trip to Detroit for the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl on Dec. 26.

"We obviously would like to come back," said coach Frank Solich, who has revived his



AP Photo/ Carlos Osorio
Central Michigan's Dan LeFevour throws a touchdown pass Friday against Ohio in the MAC Championship in Detroit.

career by turning around the Bobcats after getting fired at Nebraska.

Theo Scott was 10 of 23 for 138 yards and Terrence McCrae had seven receptions for 141 yards and caught a 29-yard pass from wide receiver Taylor Price on a trick play that pulled Ohio within three late in the first quarter.

Ohio's Noah Keller had 16

tackles, setting a MAC championship game record, and freshman Matt Weller matched the school's single-season record with his 20th field goal that made it 20-10 in the third.

"Our kids made it a ballgame," Solich said.

Ohio had a chance to win its first MAC title since 1968.

"We're not too far off and we're making progress," Solich

A&M

Continued from 1B

Roberts.

The Aggies limited the Zips' leading scorer, guard Anthony Hitchens, to two points on 1-of-10 shooting. Hitchens entered the game averaging 10.7 points per game.

"We knew he liked to look for his shot," said A&M guard Dash Harris, who tallied a career high in assists (8) and steals (4). "I wanted to keep a hand in his face and bother him — I wanted him to make plays for other people."

A&M, which led 26-23 at halftime, has won 47 consecutive nonconference home games.

"This was a game I was nervous about," A&M coach Mark Turgeon said. "Akron is picked to win its league. Then you walk in at halftime and you're only up by three."

Akron and Texas A&M had not played since 1949.

DALLAS

Continued from 1B

ahead.

"People have been saying that this is their season, what they're playing for," James noted. "This is our season, too, because if we go in and beat these guys, we don't have to worry about them coming back to haunt us."

The Giants haunted the Cowboys two years ago on their way to winning the Super Bowl as a wild card. Oddly, it's the only late-season game Romo has lost to New York; he's 2-0 against New York in December.

"We don't talk about that stuff," he said. "When you lose, you learn from it. When you win, you learn from it and improve on it. That is what this team has been able to do is put blinders on and continue to go forward. And we are going to keep doing the same thing."

In contrast to the Giants, who can't keep doing the same thing. They're also banged-up in the backfield, with only starter Brandon Jacobs and rookie Gartrell Johnson healthy at running back. Eli Manning's performances have been spotty since he sustained a foot injury, and he now has a stress reaction that developed from the first problem.

New York also is without defensive leader Antonio Pierce. The middle linebacker was placed on injured reserve this week.

That doesn't bode well against Dallas, which has a formidable running back trio of Marion Barber, Felix Jones and Tashard Choice, and one of the league's best tight ends, Jason Witten, although he's battling a foot problem.

Do such matchup woes worry the Giants?

"There's no fear at all," linebacker Michael Boley said. "You can't play the game with fear. In every aspect of the game, you get hit, you've got to get right back up."

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.

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

MAVS

Continued from 1B

of the first half, and it was a cycle we never were able to withstand. ... You definitely can't win on the road playing like that."

NOTES: Mavericks G/F Quinton Ross, who played for Memphis last season, missed his sixth game with tightness in his lower back. Officials reviewed Mayo's shot at 10:18 of the second quarter, changing it from the original call of a 2-point basket to a 3-pointer. Later in the quarter, they would check to see where Kidd's feet were on the 3-point line when he was fouled by the Grizzlies Sam Young. They ruled Kidd's feet were on the line, giving him two shots. Memphis, which played 12 of its first 19 on the road, is 5-3 at home. There was only one foul called on either team in the fourth quarter an offensive foul on Grizzlies G Jamaal Tinsley with 10:49 left in the game. ... The Mavericks hit all 10 of their free throws in the first half, and didn't go to the line in the second half. ... The Mavericks



AP Photo/ Nikki Boertman
Dallas Maverick Dirk Nowitzki lays up over the Grizzlies' Marc Gasol on Friday in Memphis. The Mavericks lost the game 98-92. Nowitzki scored 16 points and was 7 of 22 from the floor.

previous low shooting percentage on the year was Nov. 11 against San Antonio when they shot 35.4 percent. ... The 16-point loss matched the season's worst for Dallas. The Mavericks lost 111-95 at Cleveland on Nov. 28.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Maximum Mileage

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 6 5
♥ J 7 3 2
♦ K 9
♣ K Q 10 6

WEST

♠ J 8
♥ 9 4
♦ J 8 7 5 4
♣ 9 8 4 3

EAST

♠ Q 10 2
♥ A K Q 10 8 5
♦ A 10 2
♣ 2

SOUTH

♠ K 9 7 4 3
♥ 6
♦ Q 6 3
♣ A J 7 5

The bidding:

North East South West

1♣ 1♥ 1♠ Pass

2♠ 3♥ 4♠

Opening lead — nine of hearts.

Some hands are much more difficult to play correctly than others. Here is one of the tougher variety. South arrived at four spades on the bidding shown. East had overcalled and taken a second bid at the three-level, marking him with the ace of diamonds as well as a powerful heart suit.

A heart was led and continued, declarer ruffing the second one. Since a spade and a diamond loser were inevitable, the entire problem centered on how to avoid a second diamond loser.

Declarer realized that if he led a diamond to the king without drawing trumps — in order to later ruff his

third diamond in dummy — he would be subject to an overruff by West when East played a third round of hearts.

So declarer first drew two rounds of trumps and then led a diamond, losing the king to the ace. But when East won and cashed the spade queen, South had to lose another diamond to go down one.

Perfect play makes the contract. After ruffing the second heart lead, the king and ace of spades are cashed, followed by the lead of the nine of diamonds from dummy. If East goes up with the ace, declarer makes the contract easily, so let's assume East ducks, and South wins with the queen.

South still has the 9-7 of trumps left, and all he has to do is utilize them to best advantage. He plays a low club to the ten and ruffs a heart.

Next he leads a club to the queen, which East may ruff or not, as he pleases. If East does not ruff, South trumps dummy's last heart and keeps on leading clubs. The net effect is that 10 tricks are made, only a spade, a heart and a diamond being lost.

If East ruffs the queen of clubs, the result is the same. South still has a trump left in each hand to handle dummy's last heart and his last diamond.

The suggested line of play would also succeed if West were the player with the three trumps. It's all a matter of getting maximum mileage out of the trump suit.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.

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This season's 'must have?' Free shipping

CANDICE CHOI

AP Personal Finance Writer

NEW YORK — There was a time when free shipping was a rare deal. This holiday season, you might feel it's your right as a paying customer.

With so many discounts up for grabs online, a hefty shipping charge at checkout can be an unwelcome surprise. You might even be annoyed enough to cancel the order and look for a better deal elsewhere. Your chances of succeeding wouldn't be half bad.

If you can't bear the thought of paying for delivery, here's how to get around it.

GET THE DEAL

FreeShipping.org lists about 1,900 stores (and counting) that offer delivery deals. Minimum purchase requirements, coupon codes and expiration dates are noted when applicable.

If you're scrolling through the site and spot an offer that ends soon, don't feel rushed into buying. Free shipping is becoming an increasingly popular way to drive sales. So even after one promotion ends, another could be around the corner, said Luke Knowles, founder of FreeShipping.org.

Dec. 17 is also the site's second annual Free Shipping Day. Participating retailers guarantee that purchases made on the day will be delivered by Dec. 24. The idea is to keep people shopping online in mid-December, when some worry it's too late place or-



AP photo
FedEx workers sort packages along a conveyor belt before loading them into delivery trucks.

ders for Christmas.

A recent check of FreeShippingDay.com showed 449 retailers signed up so far, including Anne Klein, Kmart, Macy's and Sephora.

Another site, Istobe.com, lists around 500 retailers, whether they offer free shipping, and how much you need to spend to qualify. You can find the list at istobe.com/free-shipping.html.

The most direct way to learn about free shipping deals is to

sign up for e-mail alerts on the retailer's Web site. This is a good route if you're a fan of a certain store, and want to stay on top of other promotions it runs.

KNOW THE CATCHES

Before you leap at a free shipping offer, check the policy on returns. You may have to pay to mail back unwanted items. If it's an exchange, you might need to foot the bill for shipping on the new item too.

Some sites, such as online shoe and clothing retailer Zappos.com, offer free returns. All you have to do is print a return label, stick it on the box, and drop it in the mail. You get a year at Zappos to return items, but most stores generally have shorter policies.

You can usually return items bought online at a local store too. Just be sure to bring along the receipt that was included with the order.

As the holidays draw closer, some retailers may offer free expedited shipping. But in general, free shipping usually applies to the standard delivery method. It varies by retailer, but that means it could take as many as 10 days to get your order.

There are also times when buying online — and paying a shipping charge — is smarter than buying from a nearby store. This could be the case if it's a gift you plan to mail anyway. Go to www.usps.com for an estimate of what it would cost to mail the item yourself; it might turn out the store's shipping fee is a bargain.

Energy Watch



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

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



With apologies to Shakespeare, we feel a little like Hamlet when he asked, "Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, or to take arms against a sea of troubles, and by opposing, end them?" Basically, for an investment strategist the question becomes, should we succumb to the many uncertainties our country and economy face and take our profits out of the stock market? Or should we respect and stay with the action of the stock market, which has been "taking arms against a sea of troubles" and has rallied a big 62 percent from the March 9 lows?

The bears use a long list of "outrageous fortune" to make their case, and they do have a great number of valid arguments. The most basic is the outlook for the economy. Current data continues to show that the economy is in a recovery mode. However, the economic recovery is fragile, and there remains plenty of downside risk. The labor market remains very soft, and business executives face many uncertainties that could keep them very cautious about future hiring. For example, what health-care and cap and trade costs will they face in the future? A real donnybrook is ready to break out in the Senate as work begins on a sweeping health care plan estimated at \$848 billion, the biggest change in the U.S. health care system since Medicare was created in 1965.

Also, the desire to expand one's business is certainly not helped when the Secretary of the Treasury is under attack and there is a move on in Congress to reduce the power of the Federal Reserve. Add to all of this a major dislike of Wall Street by Washington and Main Street and an extremely divisive mood in Washington.

No one knows how all these problems will work out, but we do know that the stock market hates uncertainty and usually heads south when the environment is very grey. But that's not the case today. Everyone with a TV is aware of all the troubles out there, and yet the stock market acts well. Why? First, you should know that the rally from the deeply oversold level reached on March 9 has not been that unusual in the history of post-recession bottoms. Today, the S&P 500 is selling at about 14.5 times earnings estimated for 2010. Ten years ago, the multiple was closer to 40. Also, stocks still look attractively valued as compared to alternative assets.

The stock market has done well because of confidence in the resilience of our country and economy, and we share that optimism. Hamlet said, "To be, or not to be — that is the question." We advise investors "to be" in the stock market and "not to be" surprised by normal corrections.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Portions of this article were produced Nov. 24 by Al Goldman, Wells Fargo Advisors chief market strategist. Wells Fargo Advisors did not assist in the preparation of this article, and its accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed. The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of Wells Fargo or its affiliates. The material has been prepared or is distributed solely for informational purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy any security or instrumental to participate in any trading strategy. Additional information is available upon request at (432) 684-7335. Wells Fargo Advisors LLC, member SIPC is a registered broker dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

GM Chair urges risk taking, names new executives

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors Co. Chairman Ed Whitacre Jr. urged the troubled automaker's employees to forget their old bureaucratic culture, telling them Friday not to fear being fired for taking risks.

Whitacre, who also announced key management changes, wants to speed up the automaker's shift to an entrepreneurial culture where decisions are made quickly.

"We want you to step up. We don't want any bureaucracy," Whitacre told employees, strolling back and forth across a stage at the company's headquarters here. "We're not going to make it if you won't take a risk," he told the audience of 800.

In a 45-minute presentation that was broadcast to employees on internal television networks and over the Internet, Whitacre also unveiled a mission statement to design, build and sell the world's best vehicles.

Whitacre, who peppered his address with self-deprecating humor, named Vice Chairman Bob Lutz, who has long advocated for a more risk-taking culture, as his adviser for product development.

Whitacre also said he is recombining sales and marketing, placing them under Susan Docherty.



AP photo
President Barack Obama gestures while making remarks at Lehigh Carbon Community College in Schnecksville, Pa.

Obama: Jobs plan will jump-start hiring

ANDREW TAYLOR and PHILIP ELLIOTT

Associated Press Writers

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — Even as he trumpeted a slowdown in the nation's job losses, President Barack Obama put finishing touches Friday on a proposal he'll unveil next week to "jump-start" business hiring across America.

In a speech from Washington on Tuesday, Obama plans to send Congress a list of ideas he supports for a new jobs bill. He will endorse sending the biggest chunk of fresh money to cash-strapped state and local governments to stem their layoffs and on expanding a program that gives people cash incentives to fix up their homes with energy-saving materials, a senior administration official said.

Obama will also endorse new tax breaks for small businesses that hire workers, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the package, and Obama's speech, are still being crafted. The president will support some new spending on construction of roads, bridges and other construction, but prefers to

see that as a smaller portion of the package because administration economists calculate it doesn't give as quick a boost to job creation as the other measures, the official said.

"We need to grow jobs and get America back to work as quickly as we can," Obama said Friday at a metal works plant in Allentown, where he visited with hard-hat workers. "On Tuesday, I'm going to speak in greater detail about the ideas I'll be sending to Congress to help jump-start private sector hiring and get Americans back to work."

Job losses in the U.S. have been the worst since the 1930s, but new statistics out Friday showed a relatively moderate shedding of 11,000 jobs last month. The unemployment rate dipped from 10.2 percent in October to 10 percent in November. Obama called that "good news, just in time for the season of hope."

But, even with the best jobs report the country has had since 2007, Obama said the situation was still dire.

"I still consider one job lost one job too many," he said. "Good trends don't pay the rent."

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

hostess had no preparation and at the end of the night, 50 angels had gifts and the food bank inventory went up.

I thought I have to pass this on. I know Big Spring has a lot of thoughtful, caring people.

JOANNE TOMERLIN
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

What a tremendous asset to our community! I cannot begin to express how impressed I am with the staff at the Heritage Museum and all the talent they bring to their exhibits.

With the incredible success of the "100 years of the Fire Department" exhibit that recently completed its tour, I have discovered a newfound sense of achievement and pride in our local museum and our fire department, as well.

Tammy, Nancy, Cheryl and all the gang at the Heritage Museum really pulled out all the stops on making this display come to life. The amount of research they did was beyond belief and they really brought to life the spirit and essence of our department's rich heritage. Just the volume of display items was overwhelming to index and arrange.

It is true that we did have the first motorized fire truck in Texas, and although we don't still possess it, the gals did a great job in producing top rate photos and documentation that gave us a glimpse of its life and history.

We also have a lot to be proud of in the growth and abilities of our department. From those early beginnings a century ago, we have developed into one of the top rated departments of any town our size and many that are larger. Our mission has adapted with the changing needs of our community. We have had to be flexible during the many hardships that have fallen on our town from the closure of the Air Force base to the many ups and downs of the oil industry, but we have never failed to provide the services

called for by the citizens we serve.

In fact these events have lead to even more capabilities that the museum chronicled. We have expanded our services in many new and bold directions such as EMS, training and public education, and all of this is due to the hard work and support of our members and the citizens that support us in providing for their needs.

This is the spirit that Tammy and her crew brought to the exhibit and this is the reason I hope all our community can share my pride in the fine museum we enjoy in our own town. I think it truly can hold its own anywhere.

It was a great deal of fun working with all the firefighters, both present and past, that offered their personal artifacts and knowledge of our department. I wish to thank Chief Brian Jensen and the members of BSFD, retired BSFD personnel Bo Clawson and Burr Lea Settles, the Rayford Harrison family and all those who made this event such a success. May God bless us all in the next 100 years.

CARL CONDRAY
FIRE MARSHALL
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I realize that there are two sides to every story, but upon reading the Herald's Tuesday reporting of Mr. Conroy's reaction to the Salvation Army representative, several thoughts come to mind. It is Mr. Conroy's right to raise the question of charity requests on government property but having brought his complaint to the postmaster should it not have been the post office to handle the situation from that point on?

Just because Mr. Conroy returned in a few days to find the kettle volunteer still present does not mean the post office did not address the issue and the postmaster is not bound to work on Mr. Conroy's time table.

I do not believe that the bell ringer in question should have confronted him, but she is human and for her to remember you out of all the people who visit the post office indicates that something more must have occurred between the two parties.

In regard to the Christmas music that you found offensive, perhaps you

should consider that the bell ringer is giving her time (paid or volunteer) and as long as the music is of suitable volume to the postmaster and does not contain profanity, the style of music to help pass the time is her choice not yours. It seems that during this holiday season, Christian music would be appropriate, as He is the reason for the season. The music may not offend others who visit the post office.

It is regrettable that Mr. Conroy's children were caught up in the argument with this bell ringer. Perhaps a discussion with them concerning their father's views and the idea of volunteers with the long established organization like the Salvation Army trying to raise money for more unfortunate individuals during the season of giving would be a more productive endeavor.

Yes, I agree this has gotten ridiculous.

JUDY TERELETSKY
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I wish to comment about the article in Tuesday's paper. It is about what Mr. Conroy had to say that was highlighted in green.

I feel sorry for him. It seems it only takes one complaint to take things away — mainly when it comes to Christians,

You know, we have our rights as well, so what gives someone the right to complain about the the Salvation Army putting its kettle there?

It is there to help people that are having a hard time to give to their family

ing the holiday season. They are not as lucky as some seem to be.

This reminds me of Target stores, because they also have done away with the bell ringers and that is very sad.

I feel sorry for those who do not believe in God, because he is in my heart and without Him, I would be nothing.

I give thanks to Him daily for what I have in my life. He blessed me when I found my husband and then again with two daughters, and then again with three grandchildren.

I just feel sorry for people that don't know Him, and I pray for them.

I hope that you and your family have a great Christmas.

MARILLYN GROESBECK
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I was saddened to read about the Salvation Army kettle being banned from the post office. It seems the intolerance of a few members of society so often push aside the needs and desires of the many. I understand that federal laws took the decision out of the hands of the local postmaster once a complaint was raised.

Salvation Army volunteers work tirelessly and often thanklessly to help the less fortunate among us, yet now they must do it outside in the cold.

I am not surprised that the volunteer was playing Christian music, since the Salvation Army is a Christian-based organization.

See LETTERS, Page 6A

HOBBY

Continued from Page 4A

I hope you will join me in supporting the idea that the Open Meetings Act should be left intact and open government, without any strings attached, should continue to be the law in Texas. I also urge you to contact your city leaders and encourage them not to join in this effort that could weaken the Texas Open meetings laws.

If clarifications are needed to address modern day changes such as electronic and digital communications, then they should be made at the statehouse — not city hall. And, at a minimum, you should point out to your public servants that any discussion on this or any other issue involving "free speech" should be debated in a public meeting instead of a rubber-stamp style vote to please Austin lobbyists.

Bill Hobby served as Texas lieutenant governor from 1973-91.

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 Bryan Layton Allison, 1100 College Circle, Ranger
 Demetrio Alva, 11520 Arrow Rock, El Paso
 Terica Alvarado, 1100 E. 61st St., Odessa
 Daniel Antrim, 120 N. 22nd Pl., Lamesa
 Nancy Ramirez Banuelos, 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 1, Big Spring
 Christine Avalos Bara, of 1405 N. Sixth, Lamesa
 Amy Barber, 2602 Ent, Big Spring
 Toby Barnett, 1713 Dwayne Barnett, Lubbock
 Christopher Barrera, 1704 Goliad, Big Spring
 Teresa Baumann, 1509 E. Sixth, Big Spring
 Amy Benavides, 3001 N. Midland Dr., Big Spring
 Casey D. Bernal, 901 Grand, Hereford
 Crystal Biles, 15885 S. Quartz, Odessa
 Vern Black, 329 W. Tennessee, Floydada
 Jeremy Bolton, 506 N. Ave. L., Lamesa
 Alexis A. Bowie, 2811 Lawton, Amarillo
 Dave Bracken, 2720 42nd St., Lubbock
 Wanda Heron Brown, 538 Westover Rd. Apt. 113, Big Spring
 Richard Henry Burk, PO Box 171933, Arlington
 Cristal Cabello, 1314 65th Drive Apt. C, Lubbock
 Melissa Camargo, 2100 Ave. N, Tahoka
 Wendell Campbell, 600 N.W. Eight St., Big Spring
 Latonya Campbell, 5948 Callaston Lane, Fort Worth
 Donna J. Abbott Cantwell, 538 Westover Rd. Apt. 101, Big Spring
 Lenard Carson Jr., 102 S. Peach, Pecos
 Scott S. Carter, 3223 Cornell, Big Spring
 Amy Castillo, 1806 Morrison, Big Spring
 Krisha Nicole Castillo, 905 Walnut, Colorado City
 Antonia Castillo, 206 Fuller St., Hereford
 Weldon Montague Cheatham, 4502 Denison, Snyder
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 Ramona Davila, 2143 Texas Ave, San Antonio
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 Richard Wayne Rains, 4501 Parkway, Big Spring
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 Paula Valdez, 2220 S. First, Lamesa
 Jimmy Vasquez, 4000 W. Illinois, Midland
 Liandro Ventura, 1905 Wasson No. 23, Big Spring
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 Rene Villa, 106 Circle, Big Spring
 Amy Wagner, PO Box 784, Blanco
 Michael Wagner, P.O. Box 428, Denver City
 Jim Bob White, 412 Davis Rd., Big Spring
 Candida Lynn Whitehead, 1405 Runnels, Big Spring
 Tina Diane Whitlow, 1407.5 Settles, Big Spring
 Brandi Woodard, 642 Westview Dr., Abilene
 Chad Matthew Wright, 211 E. Robinson, Big Spring
 Jerry Lee Wrightsil Jr., 2816 Ridge Road, Fort Worth

Marriage Licenses:
 Lonnie G. Lovell, 27, of Big Spring, and Terri L. Clark, 21, of Carrollton.
 Cody R. Chandler, 20, of Big Spring, and Patsy L. Chambers, 21, of Georgia.
 Bobby Gene Bricker, 37, and Jolene McNutt Deel, 35, both of Big Spring.
 Michael Anthony Juarez, 24, and Eugina Latoya Olague, 21, both of Big Spring.
 Rodger Ray Hall, 53, of Big Spring, and Corazon Luayon, 44.
 Manuel Hewtty, 56, and Alicia Parras, 56, both of Big Spring.
 Rian J. Jensen, 26, and Jodi N. Eaton, 23, both of Colorado City.
 William Russell Parks, 41, and Lisa Ann Parks, 39, both of Big Spring.

Warranty Deeds:
 Grantor: William A Bonner Jr. and John Currie
 Grantee: Gail W. Legg
 Property: Lot 7, Block 7, College Park Estates.
 Date: Nov. 19, 2009

Grantor: Eric Mark Reeh and Erin Meagan Reeh Taggart
 Grantee: David and Christi Daniel
 Property: 12.5 acre tract out of northwest quarter of Section 44, Block 323, T-1-S, T&P survey
 Date: Nov. 19, 2009

Grantor: Steven and Sydney Dickson
 Grantee: Lee Harris
 Property: Lots 1 and 2, Block D, Earle's Addition
 Date: Nov. 20, 2009

Grantor: Jo Ann Staulcup
 Grantee: Marcellous Weaver
 Property: Lot 4, Block 6, Parkhill Addition
 Date: Nov. 24, 2009

Grantor: Mary Jones
 Grantee: Jack Jones Jr. DBA Jaguar Bearing Supply
 Property: Portion of Lots 5 and 6, Block 5, Boydston Addition
 Date: Nov. 25, 2009

Grantor: David and Shelia Richardson
 Grantee: Rose Marie Teeler
 Property: Tract of land out of Section 44, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P survey
 Date: Nov. 24, 2009

Grantor: Sandy Castillo
 Grantee: Dillard Teal
 Property: Lot 2, Block 9, Stanford Park Addition
 Date: Nov. 24, 2009

Grantor: Swartz and Brough Inc.
 Grantee: Tierra Group LLC
 Property: Lot 3, Block 25, Monticello Addition
 Date: Nov. 24, 2009

Grantor: Cecil and Carol Stephens
 Grantee: J. Rutledge Realty LLC
 Property: Tract of land out of Section 5, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P survey
 Date: Nov. 27, 2009

Grantor: New Covenant Christian Worship Center
 Grantee: Cornerstone Covenant Church
 Property: Lots 2 through 8, Block 6, Cole & Strayhorn Addition, and Lot 7, Block 3, Cole & Strayhorn Addition
 Date: Dec. 1, 2009

Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien:
 Grantor: John Keller Jr. et. al.
 Grantee: Dennis Lee Wilcox et. al.
 Property: Three tracts in the northeast quarter of Section 44, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P survey.
 Date: Nov. 17, 2009

Grantor: Michael and Laura Holm
 Grantee: Dominick and April Boiles
 Property: Lot 14, Block 1, Highland South Addition
 Date: Nov. 19, 2009

Grantor: Troy Koenig
 Grantee: Megan L. Salazar
 Property: Lot 24, block 5, Douglass Addition
 Date: Nov. 20, 2009

Grantor: Marcellous Weaver
 Grantee: Adolfo and Patricia Salinas
 Property: Tract of land out of north-

east quarter of Section 25, Block 33, T-1-N, T&P survey
 Date: Nov. 13, 2009

Grantor: Larry and Juanita Lestikow
 Grantee: Matthew E. Jackson
 Property: Lot 13, block 4, Kentwood Addition
 Date: Nov. 19, 2009

Grantor: Jordy and Vanessa Jordan
 Grantee: John and Carolyn Sue Keller
 Property: Tract of land out of southeast quarter of Section 1, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P survey
 Date: Nov. 23, 2009

Grantor: John and Andrea Lyons
 Grantee: Guy Prater
 Property: Tract of land out of Block 2, Parkview Addition
 Date: Nov. 23, 2009

Grantor: Jimmy and Janis Ramey
 Grantee: Braeson Ramey
 Property: Southwest quarter of Section 10, Block 33, T-1-N, T&P survey
 Date: Nov. 24, 2009

Grantor: George and Irene Wilson
 Grantee: Delfino and Marta Carrillo
 Property: Lots 4, 5 and 6, Subdivision D, Block 11, Fairview Heights Addition
 Date: Nov. 24, 2009

Grantor: Kathy McDonough
 Grantee: Flora Gonzalez
 Property: Lots 4 and 5, Subdivision A, Block 18, Amended Fairview Heights Addition
 Date: Nov. 23, 2009

Grantor: Fred and Sue Holguin
 Grantee: Peter Boen
 Property: Lots 1 through 9, Block 61 and Lot 15, Block 52, Original Forsan Township
 Date: Sept. 1, 2009

Grantor: Blake and Jennifer Lance
 Grantee: James Roddenberry
 Property: Tract of land out of northeast quarter, Section 17, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P survey
 Date: Nov. 30, 2009

Grantor: Ronald and Charlotte Reagan
 Grantee: Walter and Namiqa Shipman
 Property: Lot 1, Block 2, Indian Hills Addition
 Date: Nov. 30, 2009

Grantor: Sharp Image Energy Inc.
 Grantee: Cassidy and Vaden Wennik
 Property: Tract of land out of northeast quarter of Section 33, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P survey
 Date: Nov. 30, 2009

Grantor: Gregg and Jessica Roman
 Grantee: Ray DeLeon Jr.
 Property: Lot 21, Block 6, Washington Place Addition
 Date: Nov. 30, 2009

Grantor: Ray and Joann DeLeon
 Grantee: Jose and Gabriela Vilagrana
 Property: Lot 2, Block 1, E. Highland Park Addition
 Date: Nov. 30, 2009

Grantor: Judith Grant
 Grantee: Cody and Sara Griffin
 Property: Lot 3, Block 5, Hillcrest Terrace Addition
 Date: Nov. 30, 2009

Grantor: Charles and Melba Driver
 Grantee: John and Jayne Earp
 Property: Tract of land out of northeast quarter of Section 20, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P survey
 Date: Nov. 23, 2009

Grantor: Carla Jo Bauer
 Grantee: Angela Markunas
 Property: Lot 6, block 3, Barnes Subdivision
 Date: Nov. 30, 2009

Grantor: Danny Cujar
 Grantee: George and Lanita Karibian
 Property: Lots 3 through 6, Block 4, Subdivision B, Fairview Heights Addition
 Date: Nov. 25, 2009

GM

Continued from Page 4C

She became head of sales when former CEO Fritz Henderson separated the roles of sales and marketing. Henderson left the company earlier this week.

Lutz, 77, who had been in charge of marketing, will help Whitacre learn about the business, he said.

In another key move, the chairman, who joined GM in June, promoted

engineering chief Mark Reuss to run North American operations. Reuss recently was named head of engineering, and before that ran the company's Holden operations in Australia.

GM board member Stephen Girsky, a former auto analyst with Morgan Stanley, also will be an adviser to Whitacre. Girsky worked briefly as an analyst in the treasurer's office at GM in the late 1980s, and also was an adviser to former CEO Rick Wagoner in 2005 and 2006.

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CHEVY

LETTERS

Continued from Page 5A

Alan Conroy was quoted in the article as the person who objected to the kettle in the post office. I wonder if perhaps Mr. Conroy's interpretation of the volunteer's comments as a "taunt" might have been colored by his own anger and intolerance.

In any case, it is volunteers for the Salvation Army and countless other Christian organizations who reach out to hurting individuals in

this season and throughout the year.

The instances where Christians reach out to help others greatly outnumber the instances where atheistic organizations do so and it is because of Christ's love in us. I wonder how many homeless people might not have been helped in California because contributions were less after volunteers were forced to leave the post office in a similar incident.

I hope this incident in Big Spring has the reverse effect and I plan to make a larger donation

than usual to the Salvation Army. I hope others will do the same. I wish to thank the volunteers for their willingness to serve — in warmth or in the cold.

It saddens me that the well-meaning and selfless efforts of these volunteers are rewarded by being banned from the federal property of a country which, by historical fact, was founded on God and Christian principles with tolerance for those who do not believe.

Indeed, it is those who do not believe in God who seem to be most in-

tolerant.

I appreciate the Christian attitude shown in the comments of Salvation Army Capt. Ed Cheshire, who was quoted in the news story and made it plain that the organization only wants to serve the community.

May God bless all who were involved in this incident — the captain and volunteer, the postmaster and especially Mr. Conroy. I pray that someday soon Mr. Conroy experiences firsthand the saving love of Jesus Christ who was born and crucified for

Alan Conroy, just as he was for me. I pray he chooses to accept this wonderful free gift. I hope he is showered with undeserved loving-kindness, just as I was and am every day.

I thank God that Jesus Christ was born in a manger, died for my sins and then was raised to life eternal so that I might be able to follow and live eternally with Him.

CARLA HARROLD
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:
I don't like what Alan

Conroy did, but I put my life on the line in Korea and Vietnam for the freedom that made it possible for him to do what he did.

All he had to do was ignore the music at the post office, as all the Salvation Army is trying to do is help people who are less fortunate to have food and make the children happy in this holiday season.

It takes a pretty small person to spoil things for others. I, for one, am glad I don't have someone like that for a neighbor.

There are things that go on I don't like either, but I don't make a big issue of it.

Mr. Conroy, I hope you feel really good about yourself now.

DONALD SCHEIBER
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:
The Salvation Army bell ringers are a part of Christmas in our community, as are the Christmas carols that are played in our places of business at this time of year.

Christmas is when we, as Christians worldwide, celebrate the birth of our Savior of the world, Jesus Christ.

I have resided in this community for more than 50 years and not once have I ever heard a Salvation Army bell ringer heckle or harass anyone for money. They may say "Hello," "Merry Christmas" and "Thank you," and maybe "God bless you." If they say anything other than that, they probably have been heckled by a non-Christian passerby.

I personally miss the bell ringer at the post office. I enjoyed the Christmas music that was played last year and thanked the bell ringer. The Salvation Army does much good for our community and people in need.

I encourage others to stand in support of freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

The bell ringers have been in the post office for years and there have been no problems. They should not be made to be outside in the cold weather which hinders the funding needed to help people.

Let's not allow one complainer to strip another thread of freedom away from our community at our local post office.

Could it be that the ACLU has raised its ugly head again?

WANDA ARCHER
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:
Monday evening's article on the banning of the Salvation Army kettle in the post office was very disturbing to me. At first I was very angry, but then I realized Mr. Conroy does not realize what he is doing.

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Christ. Christ is God's ultimate gift to us. Christ died for our sins, so we, though believing in him and confessing him as our Lord and Savior, may have eternal life. As believers we are called to share the Gospel. We should pray for Mr. Conroy that his heart be open to receiving the gift of eternal


See LETTERS, Page 7A

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210072

LETTERS

Continued from Page 6A

life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Salvation Army provides not only for our community, but for people all over the nation. The spare change we drop in those kettles provides food and clothing to the less fortunate. They provide toys this time of year to children whose parents can't provide them.

My store is fortunate to have an Angel Tree. It is very humbling to look at the wants and needs of the children and elderly angels hanging on these trees. Many of the things we take for granted are the Christmas gifts they desire.

I encourage people to take the time to stop by one of these trees and select an angel. My wife and I started selecting angels with our children last year and the experience was very rewarding.

This Christmas season finds many in need. This past year has been a rough year for our nation. Many people find themselves unemployed with very few jobs out there. I manage a business and we are visited daily with people looking for work. Some of the applications list layoffs from jobs where people had been employed for 10, 15 and 20 years.

I would like to extend a thank you to the Salvation Army for providing what it does. I also think this Christmas we should remember the real reason for Christmas. Nothing can top God's gift to us!

Merry Christmas to all and may God bless you and yours.

LOYD F. MASHBURN
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I was outraged by the article in the Dec. 1 edition concerning the Salvation Army kettle at the post office.

I go to the post office every day, and every day the lady mentioned in the article greeted me with a "Good morning" and offered a "Have a nice day" as I left. I cannot imagine her "heckling" anyone, especially children.

According to Mr. Conroy's quote, it sounds as if she was addressing him. And one might ask, who started harassing whom?

As far as returning Monday to find an even more offensive set up, the CD player was present every day. And it played a variety of music, some not Christmas related at all.

Concerning the quote

"Christian-based Christmas music," am I the only one that sees that as ludicrous? What does Mr. Conroy think we celebrate on Dec. 25? I am sure he has a "Christmas" tree at his house every year, as well as "Christmas" presents under it. And I am sure he is offended when he has to take off work on Dec. 25 for "Christmas." Maybe he will try to do away with the holiday altogether, so as not to offend anyone. Of course, doing so would offend Christians.

Every day in my morning prayers one of the things I ask God for is tolerance. And I believe He grants me this. He keeps me from confronting people who offend me. However, I could not keep quiet on this one.

If people are so offended by Christianity, they should take a stand by not buying gifts or decorating their homes at Christmas time. They shouldn't decorate Easter eggs or cook that big Easter dinner. But they do not have the right to keep others from their beliefs.

The Salvation Army is a great Christian-based organization that does great work. I hope Mr. Conroy's family is never unfortunate enough to have a fire destroy their home or some other catastrophe. But you can bet Christians such as the Salvation Army and area churches will be there to lend a hand if that should occur.

Shame on you, Mr. Conroy.

WANDA MUNDELL
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Being as I am also a citizen of Big Spring, I would like to put a word in about Mrs. Albert, the bell ringer at the post office.

I do not know what happened between Mrs. Albert and Alan Conroy, but I do not believe it is all her fault. I have known her for several years and I have never known her to heckle anyone and I have never heard her ask anybody for a penny.

This is a fine Christian lady and very dedicated in what she does. True, she plays her music. It is not all religious and some are Christmas carols, but I'm sure anybody who does not believe in Christ does not celebrate Christmas either.

I have been in places they play western music. Some places play rap music and some play hard rock, but I have learned pretty much to tune out what I don't want to hear.

I can say one thing

about her music, I have heard her sing along with the songs and she has a beautiful voice. And being in the post office every day, I have never heard one complaint about her or her music.

I do not believe Alan Conroy at all, but I do know one thing for certain, Mrs. Albert is a Christian. You can tell by her actions.

She will be missed at the post office not only by me, but a lot of Big Spring people. There are people that respect her a lot. She is within her constitutional right to express herself and to people. Also, her music was never loud.

As for Mr. Conroy, he will be prayed for. God's will will be done in the end.

KENNETH C. CARSON
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

My heart goes out to Deloris Albert, donating her time to make live a little more pleasant for those who need help during these very difficult times. Also, Andy Lopez, our postmaster, who though no fault of his own, wound up in the middle of a ridiculous situation. All he did was try to be kind and considerate to a lady on a mission.

I can't help comparing those who love their neighbor and express their consideration of others vs. Mr. Bah! Humbug Alan Conroy and his poor victimized children. How can a parent go out of the way to teach their children to be mean and Godless and cruel?

OK, so we all know how the law reads about government buildings, and I am not promoting breaking laws, but Big Spring residents are all heart when it comes

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

to helping people temporarily "down," and lovingly look the other way. Then people like Mr. Conroy come along, completely consumed with "me, me, me syndrome."

In my opinion, the cause of situations like this is that for some reason, which I can't comprehend, our country allows the minority to rule the majority on everything.

I do have a question, though. Why do people

live in a country that was created as a Christian nation and then declare that they are "offended" over anything that depicts Christianity? What, pray tell, do they expect?

MARGIE MYERS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:
It seems so stupid or ridiculous that Mr. Conroy felt the need to

See **LETTERS**, Page 8A

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Area roundup

FORT STOCKTON Family, friends seeking answers in Canadian's death

The investigation into the death of a wheelchair-bound Canadian man shot by a Pecos County deputy Nov. 20 is continuing, according to a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Public Safety in Austin. Tela Mange said Monday the inquiry by the Texas Rangers into the death of Thomas Andrew Reid, 37, of Fredericton, New Brunswick, during an altercation with two Pecos County deputies could take as long as three months.

Rep. Rodriguez calls health care 'values' issue

Ultimately, says U.S. Rep. Ciro Rodriguez (D-Texas), it's about our values.

Throwing aside all the financial figures being thrown around, all the bill numbers, all the competing claims and counterclaims about what's in or not in a particular version of a particular health-care

reform bill, it's about who we are, Rodriguez said.

"I think this is important," Rodriguez said during a Congress on Your Corner Nov. 24 at the Pecos County Courthouse.

For more information on either of these stories, please go to the Fort Stockton Pioneer Web site: www.fortstockton-pioneer.com.

ALPINE Spirit of Christmas alive, well in Big Bend

If you're a kid in need in Brewster County, you will receive a Christmas present thanks to organizations like the Brown and Blue Santas.

Maybe it's a sign of the times, but that's not necessarily the case in at least one of the state's bigger cities.

Some Houston charities are asking whether people are in the country legally before giving them and/or their children toys.

And some programs require at least one member of the household to be a U.S. citizen.

Others ask for proof of income.

Straus to address Sul Ross graduates

Texas House Speaker Joe Straus will deliver the fall commencement address Dec. 12 at Sul Ross State University.

Commencement exercises will be at 10 a.m. in the Pete P. Gallego Center on the Alpine campus, and at 7:30 p.m. at Uvalde High School for Rio Grande College graduates.

For more information on either of these

stories, please go to the Alpine Avalanche Web site: <http://www.alpine-avalanche.com>.

MIDLAND Council to settle disputes at Tuesday's meeting

Compromises have been reached on some parts of the proposed oil and gas drilling ordinance that oilmen and homebuilders had disagreed on, but other key features will go to an up or down City Council vote on Tuesday.

Leaders of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association and Permian Basin Homebuilders Association held a series of intense negotiating sessions after the Council passed the ordinance on first reading on Nov. 10.

MC-Sul Ross science partnership expanding

Sul Ross State University is now offering more math and science-related courses — and gaining more students — through its agreement with Midland College.

Although students get their four-year degrees from the Alpine campus, they can do it all from MC through distance education.

Courses are mainly taught by Sul Ross faculty, but Midland College professors also instruct and are familiar enough with the program to help students, officials said of the program.

For more information on either of these stories, please go to the Midland Reporter-Telegram Web site: <http://www.mywest-texas.com>

LETTERS

Continued from Page 7A

prove to his children and others that he could get that old lady booted out of the post office lobby.

I think it's really unfair because this year, like last year, she truly has done nothing wrong. She stood in the post office collecting donations to help others in need.

The soft sweet sounds of the Christian music playing on her CD player only stood to remind one of why we celebrate Christmas anyway.

Now, because of Mr. Conroy, she will have to stand out in the cold.

LANA F. ANGUIANO
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I have been trying to understand the stance of pro-choice advocates and I am wondering ... Do babies cry and scream as they are being killed?

ORAND CARROLL
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

The rationing of health care for the elderly is already taking place. I am an 80-year-old veteran and I recently heard that the VA Hospital was giving out swine flu shots.

I went and registered to get the shot and was informed that the shot was given to certain groups of people. The No. 1 priority was pregnant women and children, which I agree with wholeheartedly.

The nurse then informed me that the second priority was for men that are less than 65 years of age and have congestive heart failure. I told her that I have congestive heart failure and have an implanted pacemaker and defibrillator.

She asked me what my age was, and when I told her, she said I was too old to get the shot. I was told to check later and if they were able to get any extras, I might be able to get one.

I just want everyone to be warned that when the health care plan is passed, anyone over the age of 65 will be left out.

I beg you to call our senators and congressman and urge them to vote against this legislative bill or they will be sent home by the voters.

ROLAND BEAL
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Leo moon is a performer who, like all good performers, wants to please the audience. She casts an exaggerated glow on things, heightening the contrast and directing our attention to the most interesting part of the action. The humor seems funnier; the drama, more profound. Put on your



Holiday Mathis

"costume" and join in the pantomime. **ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Though you may feel you need a

drastic change in your life, a series of small adjustments will get you closer to your goals. Decide on three small steps you can take to align with your destiny.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your environment should comply with your wishes. Making this happen could be as simple as rethinking the design of your workspace. Make sure the tools you need are readily available.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are a handful of tasks begging for your attention, but not all of them are worthy of it. Take a moment to

consider which endeavor you feel the most enthusiasm for. That's the one for you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Resolve not to take anything personally — not criticism or praise. People will respond to a circumstance or outcome that involves you, but it's not really about you. Objectivity will be constructive.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Welcome and listen to different points of view. You don't have to agree with them in order to gain wisdom from them. You're on track toward being a highly evolved human.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have a way of stirring passion in others. There will be a point when you'll want someone to calm down. Let him or her go on and on uninterrupted. Soon this person will come to a conclusion you can agree with.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). World peace begins with you. You will choose to be friendly whether or not it's your first instinct. It's easy for you to promote goodwill. A smile and a helping hand are your best tools.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Saying "yes" to every interesting offer is not a good idea right now. What's important is that you establish a clear direction. Buy time with a "maybe." Give some thought to your destination, and then revisit your options.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Though inwardly you recognize that some of the things you've accomplished are pretty great, when publicly praised, you will wisely choose modesty. You come across as ingratiating and loveable.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Allowing a different person into your circle will spice things up. It changes the rhythm. Those you know well have a fresh and surprising reaction to the

unfamiliar influence. The whole scenario will be strangely heartwarming.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Beware of your urge to fix broken people! It is impossible to do so, as you've learned time and time again. You can, however, inspire others to improve by being a shining example of self-betterment.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You and a partner agree on many matters. It's worth mentioning and perhaps enumerating. Once you start to count the ways in which you concur, the small areas of disagreement you encounter will seem minimal.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 6). The focus is on you for the next 10 weeks. You learn how to better cater to your own particular sensitivities, likes and dislikes. This self-knowledge leads you toward acts of generosity. Your soul will be full, and you'll have more to give. Your talent for teaching and public speaking will be used frequently in 2010. Capricorn and Aquarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 1, 22, 49 and 18.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Sagittarius is the sign of taking trips, but the travel is not always physical in nature. Sometimes just listening to another point of view is enough to transport a person into an unfamiliar headspace, and this is what often happens to listeners of the comedy of Sagittarian Steven Wright. This Oscar-winning artist has communication planet Mercury in expansive and "trippy" Sagittarius, as well.

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.

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West Texas Centers for MHMR

MR Licensed Vocational Nurse: Provides nursing for clients and training for clients, families, and staff. Licensed as an LVN by the State of Texas/Salary \$14.71 (\$30,588 annually). Benefits.

MR Part time Direct Care Staff: Responsible for training clients in work and social related skills. Must be proficient in reading and writing. High School Diploma or GED preferred but not required. Salary \$8.20/hr. hours vary.

MR Vocational Service Tech: Provides instruction and directs the trainee in the accomplishment of a specific job. Must be proficient in reading and writing. High School Diploma or GED preferred but not required. Hours vary. Salary \$8.20-8.75 hr (\$17,052.00-18,192.00 annually). Benefits.

MH Mobile Crisis Outreach Worker: This position will respond to the crisis hotline and provide face to face care for in-crisis mental health consumers. Requires Bachelor's degree in Social Work field or Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 24 hours in psychology, sociology or other human service hours. Personal vehicle required - mileage reimbursement. Hours are Mon.-Fri. Salary \$14.71-\$15.72 hr. (\$30,588-\$32,700.00 annually) plus benefits.

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

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DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED
ADOBE OILFIELD SERVICES
1073 N. FM 1936 • ODESSA, TX
INSPECTION: PRIOR TO SALE BEGINNING AT 9:00 A.M.

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1993 KRUPP MKM5 160/175 TON ALL TERRAIN CRANE
W/151' BOOM — 33'-59' JIP
1962 CORSAIR W32840 WORKOVER RIG ON CRANE CARRIER

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<p>ROOFING</p> <p>Timmy D's Roofing Patch Jobs/Whole Roof Metal, Shingle, Tile & Flat FREE ESTIMATE Satisfaction Guaranteed Call Monday-Friday (432) 935-1835 Call Saturday & Sunday (432) 816-1855</p>	<p>REALTY</p> <p>J. RUTLEDGE REALTY</p> <p>Jeannie Rutledge Broker / Owner 1600 S. Gregg 432-714-4900</p> <p>Leah Hughes 432.270.2416</p> <p>Christie Larson 432.213.4647</p> <p>Vanessa Jordan 432.816.5490</p> <p>Zac Hall 806.544.9211</p> <p>Janet Higgins 432.213.5454</p> <p>Pat Rutledge 432.270.7706</p> <p>Pat Hardison 432.270.8277</p>	<p>ROOFING</p> <p>FULLMOON, INC. ROOFING Commercial, Residential, Industrial Insured • Bonded \$500,000 General Liability FREE ESTIMATES (432) 267-5478 Big Spring, Texas HENRY BACKES</p>	<p>ROOFING</p> <p>JOHNNY FLORES ROOFING Shingles, Hot Tar & Gravel. All type of repairs! Work Guaranteed. Specializing in Hot Tar Roofs and Doctor of Repairs! Free Estimates!! Big Spring & Surrounding Areas. 267-1110</p>	<p>SEWING</p> <p>Kids Can Sew Uniquely Yours Custom Embroidery And Sewing</p> <p>Girls and Boy's (Ages 6 and Up) Licensed Kids Can Sew Instructor Bobbi King (432) 267-1296</p>
<p>TREE TRIMMING</p> <p>LUPE'S TREE TRIMMING More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and removal. Call Lupe Villalpando 432-268-6406</p>	<p>TREE TRIMMING</p> <p>TOP NOTCH LANDSCAPING</p> <p>TREE TRIMMING 432-213-0031 Free Estimates</p>	<p>WATER WELLS</p> <p>Choate Well Service For all your water well needs. All major credit cards accepted Call (432) 393-5231 Family Owned Business For 51 Yrs.</p>	<p>WEB DESIGNS</p> <p>Bond Web Designs web designing and hosting www.bondwebs.com Lane Bond 2605 Ann Drive Big Spring, TX 79720 (432) 263-4033 (432) 213-0391 cell lane@bondwebs.com</p>	<p>WINDOW TINT</p> <p>C & D Truck Accessories 2706 N. HWY 87 432-263-3600</p> <p>Solar Gaurd Window Tint 5 year limited warranty</p>

Legals

NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE
(REAL PROPERTY)

BY VIRTUE OF A Writ of Execution issued out of the District Court of Howard County, State of Texas, in a certain cause numbered: #40357 on a judgment rendered in said Court on the 5th day of November A.D. 2009, and directed and delivered to me, as Sheriff of Howard County, Texas, I have on the 20th day of November 2009 levied upon and will offer for sale on the 5th day of January A.D. 2010 between the hours prescribed by law (at approximately 10:00 A.M.), at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash in hand, at 300 Main, Howard County, Texas, all the rights, title and interest, if any, of on-half interest in property owned by Dustie Nalley and to the following real property, to wit:

The above property is levied on one-half undivided interest in the following real property of Dustie Nalley.
Lot Not 3, Block No. 5, Suburban Heights Addition to the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof of record in Plat 98/A, Plat Records, in the Office of the County Clerk in and for Howard County, Texas.

FOR THE PRINCIPAL, INTEREST AND ALL COSTS ACCRUING BY VIRTUE OF SAID SUIT THE TOTAL SUM OF \$11578.66 DOLLARS.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND on this 20th day of November A.D. 2009.

Stan Parker
Sheriff
Howard County, Texas
By Dean Restelli, Civil Deputy
(432)264-2231

#6345 November 29, 2009 and December 6, 13 & 20, 2009

Legals

NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS FOR WIND ENERGY TRANSMISSION TEXAS, LLC 345 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECTS

MIDLAND CENTER & CENTENNIAL PLAZA
105 NORTH MAIN
MIDLAND, TEXAS 79701
DECEMBER 7, 2009
ANYTIME BETWEEN 5:30 - 8:00 PM
THE COLISEUM
900 EAST COLISEUM DRIVE
SNYDER, TEXAS 79549
DECEMBER 8, 2009
ANYTIME BETWEEN 5:30 - 8:00 PM
DORA ROBERTS COMMUNITY CENTER
100 WHIPKEY DRIVE
BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720
DECEMBER 9, 2009
ANYTIME BETWEEN 5:30 - 8:00 PM

Wind Energy Transmission Texas, LLC (WETT) is proposing to construct three new 345 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line projects, as part of the Competitive Renewable Energy Zones (CREZ) Program directed by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to increase the transmission capacity necessary to deliver renewable energy. These projects consist of:

Scurry County South to Long Draw 345 kV Transmission Line is approximately 45 miles of a double-circuit transmission line located in Scurry, Mitchell, Howard, and Borden counties. It will connect the Onco Scurry County South Switching Station in Scurry County to the WETT Long Draw Switching Station in Borden County.

Long Draw to Grelton 345 kV Transmission Line is approximately 40 miles of a single-circuit, double-circuit-capable transmission line located in Borden, Howard, Dawson, and Martin counties. It will connect the WETT Long Draw Switching Station in Borden County to the WETT Grelton Switching Station in Martin County.

Grelton to Odessa 345 kV Transmission Line is approximately 34 miles of a single-circuit, double-circuit-capable transmission line located in Martin, Midland, and Ector counties. It will connect the WETT Grelton Switching Station in Martin County to the Onco Odessa Switching Station in Ector County.

The proposed route segments were identified by TRC, a consulting company retained by WETT for the project, in compliance with the rules and regulations of the PUC, the Texas Utilities Code, and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT). Final mileage of each transmission line project will depend on the route selected by the PUC.

As part of the on-going routing process, WETT will host three Public Open House Meetings to display the proposed route segments for the projects, allowing individuals to provide comments and ask questions about the proposed project. WETT is committed to working closely with local communities and addressing the values and concerns of the public during the routing process. Detailed maps and information will be available at the meetings for review anytime between 5:30pm and 8:00pm.

Please note there are no formal presentations at the Open Houses. Materials displayed will also be available for reference at the Scurry County Library, Mitchell County Public Library, Howard County Library, Borden County Courthouse, Dawson County Library, Martin County Library, Midland County Library, and Ector County Public Library.

If you have any questions concerning the Open Houses, please contact WETT on the internet at <http://www.windenergyoftexas.com> or by calling toll free (877)899-WETT (9388).
#6346 November 29, and December 6, 2009

Legals

ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of Big Spring is soliciting sealed bid proposals for 2006 Bond Project Streetscape Improvements. Contractors may submit bids for Base Bids and three Alternates. A pre-bid conference is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at City Hall. Bid opening will be at City Hall, 310 Nolan Street, Big Spring, Texas at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 22, 2009. Bid security in the amount of five percent of the bid submitted is required. Bidders are expected to inspect the job site and to inform themselves of all local conditions. Payment and performance bonds will be required in accordance with Article 5160, V.A.T.C.S., as amended by House Bill 344 passed by the 56th Legislature, Regular session 1959. Copies of the plans, specifications and contract documents may be obtained from Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., 4222 85th Street, Lubbock, Texas 79423 upon a refundable deposit of \$50.00 for each set of documents.

Big Spring, Texas
Honorable Russ McEwen, Mayor
#6348 December 6 & 13, 2009

Legals

AMERICAN SELF STORAGE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, American Self Storage which is located at 3314 E. FM 700 Big Spring, TX 79720 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 11:00 o'clock A.M. on Saturday, December 19, 2009, at American Self Storage 3314 East F.M. 700 Big Spring, Texas. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property may be sold item by item or in batches, or by the space. All sales are subject to Texas State Sales Tax. Sale is on the contents of: Tenant: Manuel Ontiveros Unit #161
Consisting of: Mattresses, boxes, old rocking chair, wheel chair, plastic container, microwave, bed railing.
#6349 December 6 & 13, 2009

Legals

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TXDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TXDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)
Dist/Div: Odessa
Contract 6197-11-001 for ROAD-SIDE MOWING in MARTIN County, etc will be opened on January 12, 2010 at 2:00 pm at the District Office for an estimate of \$111,672.00.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TXDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TXDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 31536

State Office
Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540
Dist/Div Office(s)
Odessa District
District Engineer
3901 E. U.S. Hwy 80
Odessa, Texas 79761
Phone: 432-332-0501

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.
#6350 December 6 & 7, 2009

Legals

Advertisement for Sealed Bids
The Howard County Junior College District is now accepting bids for the following:

RFB# 10-002 STEEL PLATES

Documents may be obtained from Jason Mims, Director of Business Services, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432)264-5167. Responses will be accepted through 4:00 PM on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, in the Administration A-Wing, room 131, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, at which time they will be read into record. Vendors are instructed that a formal opening will not occur. The college will negotiate with qualified vendors concerning bids submitted. The final determination of vendor award will be made at a future board meeting. There will be no pre-submittal conference. All questions should be directed to Jason Mims, Director of Business Services, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, e-mail jmims@howardcollege.edu (432)264-5167. Howard County Junior College District reserves the right to reject any and all responses.
#6359 December 6 & 13, 2009

Legals

CITATION BY PUBLICATION IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

TO: Cynthia R. Schaffer
if living, and if any or all of the above named Defendants be dead, the unknown heirs of the unknown heirs of said above named persons, and the unknown owner or owners of the hereinafter described land, and the executors, administrators, guardians, legal representatives, legatees and devisees of the above named persons, and any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the land described in Plaintiffs' petition on file in this cause, to-wit:

E/32' of Lt 13 and W/27' of Lt 14, Bk 1, La Loma Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: \$618.77, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and cost thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL as Plaintiffs, against CYNTHIA R. SCHAFFER and others, as Defendant(s), by petition filed on April 30, 2009, in a certain suit styled HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. CYNTHIA R. SCHAFFER, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 5669 that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are NONE.

Plaintiffs and all other taxing units who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property hereinabove described, thereon up to and including the day of judgment herein, and the establishment and foreclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as provided by law.

All parties to this suit, including Plaintiffs, Defendant(s), and Intervenor, shall take notice that claims not only for any taxes which were delinquent on said property at the time this suit was filed but all taxes becoming delinquent thereon at any time thereafter up to the day of judgment, including all interest, penalties, and cost allowed by law thereon, may, upon request therefore, be recovered herein without further citation or notice to any parties herein, all said parties shall take notice of and plead and answer to all claims and pleadings now on file in said causes by all other parties herein and all of those taxing units above named who may intervene herein and set up their respective tax claims against said property.

You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 18th day of January, 2010 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 1st day of December, A.D. 2009.

Brandie Martinez,
Clerk of the District Court
Howard County, Texas,
118th Judicial District.
#6351 December 6 & 13, 2009

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Howard County Commissioner's Court will conduct a public hearing on Monday December 14, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Howard County Commissioner's Court Room located at 300 Main Street, County Court House, Big Spring, TX to act on the Applications and consider Tax Abatement Agreements for the purpose of granting tax abatement to the following companies:

Amerimex Rig Movers, Ltd. & Amerimex Drilling, Ltd.
Plains Cotton Cooperative Association

All interested parties are encouraged to attend and present their views.
JUDGE MARK J. BARR
County Judge
#6357 December 6 and 13, 2009

Answer to previous puzzle

DEALT FLAM HAMS
YALEU LAMA URGE
EVANS ETON NEST
SENDSPACKING
LASH CARNAC
TOTTER RUDYARD
ALAS SHARI VCR
GIVESTHEHEAVEHO
EVE TIERS SLIM
NIRVANA NOOSES
DANISH ASAP
SHOWSTHEDOOR
MIMI RAKE RUMBA
BLOT NITE ANNOY
ALPS SLOP SKIES

Legals

CITATION BY PUBLICATION IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

TO: Leroy Phillips, Elbert Wilson
Mike Jevon Phillips

if living, and if any or all of the above named Defendants be dead, the unknown heirs of the unknown heirs of said above named persons, and the unknown owner or owners of the hereinafter described land, and the executors, administrators, guardians, legal representatives, legatees and devisees of the above named persons, and any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the land described in Plaintiffs' petition on file in this cause, to-wit:

A parcel of land out of Sc 41, Bk 32, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas described as Tract 1 on Exhibit "B" attached hereto; SAVE AND EXCEPT a 1.219 acre tract of land out of the SE/4 of Sc 41, Bk 32, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas, deeded to Daniel Kerr, September 30, 1994, volume 704, pg 670; Assessed Value-\$31,770.00 Amt. owed-\$3,915.31

A strip of land 15 feet in width out of Section 41, Bk 32, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas described as Tract 2 on Exhibit "B" attached hereto; Assessed Value-\$1,500.00 Amt. owed-\$491.48

E/51' of W/120' of Bk 55, Government Heights to Bauer (also know as Bauer) Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas; Assessed Value-\$5,029.00 Amt. owed-\$1,622.24

The West 2 acres of that tract of land out of the S/2 of Sc 27, Bk 32, T-1-N, T&P Ry. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas; described by metes and bounds of Exhibit "C" attached hereto;

CITATION BY PUBLICATION IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

TO: Paul Flores

if living, and if any or all of the above named Defendants be dead, the unknown heirs of the unknown heirs of said above named persons, and the unknown owner or owners of the hereinafter described land, and the executors, administrators, guardians, legal representatives, legatees and devisees of the above named persons, and any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the land described in Plaintiffs' petition on file in this cause, to-wit:

E/2' of N. 85' of Lot 17, (50x88) Blk 99, Original Townsite of the city of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: \$2,058.52, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and cost thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL as Plaintiffs, against PAUL FLORES and others, as Defendant(s), by petition filed on December 27, 2006, in a certain

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

Howard County will hold a silent auction on December 11, 2009 for general office equipment, computers and furniture. The auction will be held in the basement of the Courthouse, from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. The County will list larger items as they become available online at www.GovDeals.com Please check the website periodically as the County will not advertise each item.
#6355 December 6, 2009

tached hereto; Assessed Value-\$3,000.00 Amt. owed-\$1,569.99

Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: \$7,599.02, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and cost thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL as Plaintiffs, against LEROY PHILLIPS, ELBERT WILSON AND MIKE JEVON PHILLIPS and others, as Defendant(s), by petition filed on June 28, 2007, in a certain suit styled HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. ILEROY PHILLIPS, ELBERT WILSON AND MIKE JEVON PHILLIPS, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 5397 that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are NONE.

Plaintiffs and all other taxing units who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property hereinabove described, thereon up to and including the day of judgment herein, and the establishment and foreclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as provided by law.

All parties to this suit, including Plaintiffs, Defendant(s), and Intervenor, shall take notice that claims not only for any taxes which were delinquent on said property at the time this suit was filed but all taxes becoming delinquent thereon

Legals

suit styled HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. PAUL FLORES, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 5290 that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are NONE.

Plaintiffs and all other taxing units who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property hereinabove described, thereon up to and including the day of judgment herein, and the establishment and foreclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as provided by law.

All parties to this suit, including Plaintiffs, Defendant(s), and Intervenor, shall take notice that claims not only for any taxes which were delinquent on said property at the time this suit was filed but all taxes becoming delinquent thereon at any time thereafter up to the day of judgment, including all interest, penalties, and cost allowed by law thereon, may, upon request therefore, be recovered herein without further citation or notice to any parties herein, all said parties shall take notice of and plead and answer to all claims and pleadings now on file in said causes by all

at any time thereafter up to the day of judgment, including all interest, penalties, and cost allowed by law thereon, may, upon request therefore, be recovered herein without further citation or notice to any parties herein, all said parties shall take notice of and plead and answer to all claims and pleadings now on file in said causes by all other parties herein and all of those taxing units above named who may intervene herein and set up their respective tax claims against said property.

You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 18th day of January, 2010 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 1st day of December, A.D. 2009.

Brandie Martinez,
Clerk of the District Court
Howard County, Texas,
118th Judicial District.
#6352 December 6 & 13, 2009

other parties herein and all of those taxing units above named who may intervene herein and set up their respective tax claims against said property.

You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 18th day of January, 2010 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 1st day of December, A.D. 2009.

Brandie Martinez,
Clerk of the District Court
Howard County, Texas,
118th Judicial District.
#6353 December 6 & 13, 2009

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Howard College Board of Trustees will conduct a public hearing on Friday December 18, 2009 at 12:30 p.m. in the Howard College Board Room located in the Student Union Building, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX to act on the Applications and consider Tax Abatement Agreements for the purpose of granting tax abatement to the following companies:

Amerimex Rig Movers, Ltd. & Amerimex Drilling, Ltd.
Plains Cotton Cooperative Association

All interested parties are encouraged to attend and present their views.
DR. CHERYL SPARKS
President
#6358 December 6 and 13, 2009

the following companies:

Amerimex Rig Movers, Ltd. & Amerimex Drilling, Ltd.
Plains Cotton Cooperative Association

All interested parties are encouraged to attend and present their views.
DR. CHERYL SPARKS
President
#6358 December 6 and 13, 2009

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Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Merle Baker

Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
1 One of Maryland's state symbols
10 "Can you explain?"
15 Nevertheless
16 Leopard prey
17 Unlikely
18 Phi Betes
19 Audit
19 Symbols of industry
20 Lather
21 Comics
22 Vertical lines in math
24 Detroit River destination
26 Not bright
27 Bonding agents?
30 Genevieve, MO
31 Beans
35 Fruit favored by Jefferson
37 Terrestrially
38 Self-service practitioner
39 Home-sale aides
41 They're obvious
42 Words of doubt
43 Do again
45 Most helpful
47 The Sopranos actor
48 "Clair de lune" key
53 First American literature Nobel
55 One not making good
- DOWN**
1 Sort of driver
2 Lost
3 Glove material
4 Unavailable
5 Fred's partner in Silk Stockings
6 Raw materials
7 Food processors
8 Duds
9 It's often spoken into microphones
10 Buckaroo's ride
11 Vouching for
12 Skimming gear
13 Occult belief
14 Smooth applications
23 Star Trek Nemesis star
25 Volatile solvents
28 Kirilenko of the NBA
29 Continued at once
31 Fight ender, perhaps
32 Precariously
33 Frequent fast-food giveaways
34 Shut up
36 Le ___ Lear (Berlioz overture)
40 Stain
41 Having no more use for
44 Upgrade one's alarm
46 Like the slalom
49 Look down (on)
50 "___ Bohème" (Rent song)
51 Make ___ of
52 Computes net weight
54 Grounded fliers
56 Pause that refreshes
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Illustrations by Tom McFarland

Medicare Q&A

What you need to know to get the best coverage

FAMILY FEATURES

Understanding healthcare coverage can be overwhelming. And keeping up with changes in Medicare benefits is no different. For many people, that translates into doing nothing about updating their current coverage.

- A majority (55 percent) of Medicare beneficiaries believe their health benefits will stay the same in 2010, according to The "Medicare Beneficiary Insights" poll by Suffolk University and Silverlink Communications.
- The poll also showed that 85 percent of Medicare beneficiaries are not currently planning to switch plans this year, and the majority will spend only minimal time (two hours or less) researching health plan options.

But experts say it isn't wise to blindly re-enroll in existing Medicare plans. Medicare and its private sector plans typically make annual changes to:

- Medical benefits
- Prescription benefits
- Coverage limits
- Consumer premiums
- Out-of-pocket expenses

So current users and new enrollees need to take the time to review plan options in order to get the best coverage possible.

- Make sure you know current enrollment dates.
- For 2009, the window is November 15 through December 31. Those eligible for Medicare can review and — if necessary — adjust their Medicare coverage, which consists of traditional Medicare or private sector plan options licensed to operate in Medicare; Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D.
- If you do not choose new coverage, you will be automatically re-enrolled in the same coverage you had.

To help you evaluate your options, Chris Hakim, the Director of eHealthMedicare.com, encourages people to answer these questions.

Does my coverage match my changing healthcare needs?

"If you're managing a chronic condition, like diabetes, heart disease or cancer," says Hakim, "make sure your coverage keeps pace with your needs for new or existing medications. You also want to be sure you can continue to see your primary care physician or specialist." Hakim also recommends that if you're having elective surgery in the coming year, make sure it's covered in your existing plan or your coverage.

In many cases spouses have the same plan. But, if your health care needs changed this year, or if your spouse's needs changed, be sure to review your coverage. "If you're used to getting insurance from an employer, then you're likely to think of your health insurance as a family policy where you're all on one plan. But, Medicare allows you and your spouse to have different plans that are 'right-sized' for each of your individual needs," says Hakim. Choosing the right plan for your individual needs can help you save money.

Will I have my same doctor?

Check with your primary care physician, specialists and your private plan to make sure you can continue to see your doctors. Medicare's contracted networks of doctors and hospitals are subject to change, so find out if your doctor will be in the plan. "If you elect traditional Medicare, which allows you to see any doctor or visit any hospital that accepts Medicare," says Hakim, "it's still a good idea to confirm your doctors are participating in Medicare."

Will my premiums and deductibles increase?

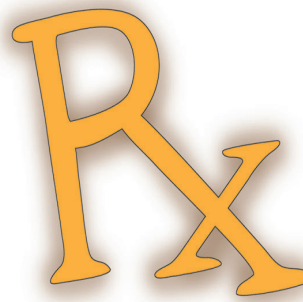
Traditional Medicare (Parts A & B), private sector plans in the Medicare Advantage program (Part C), and the Prescription Drug (Part D) program are likely to have changes in 2010. They may result in either savings or additional cost to consumers based on the coverage you select. Make sure you understand how these changes impact you.

Get the Right Prescription Drug Coverage

Medicare Part D provides coverage for name-brand and generic prescriptions. Review your current medications with your doctor and ask about potential medication changes for next year. Then, review Part D coverage to make sure it covers what you need.

"eHealthMedicare.com has a 'Doughnut Hole' Calculator, powered by Destination Rx, to help calculate the money you could be required to pay out of your own pocket for prescription drugs," says Hakim. "Medicare Part D typically covers an initial portion of your prescription drug costs, up to a pre-set limit. Once the limit is reached, you'll pay out of pocket until you reach the 'catastrophic coverage threshold.' Once the threshold is reached, Part D coverage kicks back in to cover the remaining costs.

"It's important to confirm the coverage you have and to research other name brand or generic-equivalent medications that may be less expensive. The 'Doughnut Hole' Calculator is an easy-to-use tool to help you maximize your Part D benefit."



Get Knowledgeable Advice

There are many resources available to you, including these:

- Medicare: www.medicare.gov; 800-MEDICARE
- The National Council on Aging: www.ncoa.org
- The Medicare Rights Center: www.medicarerights.org
- eHealth: www.eHealthMedicare.com

You can also check out the State Health Insurance Plans (SHIPs), which are part of a federal network of State Health Insurance Assistance Programs located in every state.

Hakim also encourages people to try www.eHealthMedicare.com, a Web site with information about traditional Medicare and private Medicare options.

"At eHealthMedicare.com we're offering comprehensive Medicare information, in easy-to-navigate Web pages and straightforward language," says Hakim. "We also provide access to quality Medicare carriers and phone support with trained professionals."

The difference between picking a plan that's right for you and one that isn't could be thousands of dollars per year. Take the time now to study your choices so you can get the coverage you need next year.

Changing Medicare Plans?

If you're changing Medicare plans, the Medicare Rights Center recommends enrolling in the new plan without disenrolling from your old one. Enroll by calling 800-MEDICARE — you will be automatically disenrolled from your previous Medicare private plan with your new coverage starts. Find out more at www.medicarerights.org.

Enrolling for Medicare

Most people who are 65 and older, some younger people with disabilities can get Medicare. If you aren't sure if you can get Medicare, call the Social Security Administration toll-free at 800-772-1213. You'll need to provide your Social Security number and date of birth when you call.

Maximizing Your Prescription Drug Coverage

Use a "Doughnut Hole" Calculator to confirm the prescription drug coverage you have under Medicare Part D. Research other name brand or generic-equivalent medications that may be less expensive with the calculator at eHealthMedicare.com.

Annie's Mailbox®

If you want marriage, look elsewhere

Dear Annie: For more than two years, I have been dating "Gary," a guy who lost his wife to cancer when she was in her late 30s.

Gary has warned me not to get too close, saying he will never marry again. Of course, marriage is what I want, but I love him, so I won't push it. I figure one day he might see how much I care and get over his fears.

We recently broke up because he started doing things to make me believe he doesn't want me around. He says he's not interested in me "at this moment." He admits he cannot handle the pain of losing anyone else ever again. Is this normal? I don't want to spend the rest of my life waiting for him to decide to take a chance, but if there is a chance, I don't want to miss it. — Still Waiting



**KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR**

she made sure to go before us so she could tell me what's what. She then tells all our friends that it's her "find." This also applies to hotels, trips, our kids' part-time jobs and her husband's hobbies.

Of course I realize my annoyance is my own problem, but how can I enjoy Rose's company if I feel she is only looking to outdo me? I have heard that the best way to win a power play is not to play, so I have stopped sharing information with her. This, unfortunately, leads to tedious visits where she tells me in great detail how to do something and where to buy it, and gives a play-by-play of the boring TV show she watched the night before. What can I do? — Save Me in Ventura, Calif.

Dear Ventura: We're trying to figure out what you like about Rose. When she isn't trying to outshine you, she bores you to death. We feel sorry for her. Apparently, her life is so dull, she feels the only way to liven it up is to take over yours. She may be unaware of how she comes across, and you might be doing her a favor by explaining that her attitude is wearing thin. Meanwhile, ask Rose to sign up for an activity that neither of you has tried before — a pottery class, museum trip, political lecture, tap dancing instruction, whatever. Go together. It will be an adventure you can share and talk about later.

Dear Annie: I read your response to "The Other Charlie Brown in Louisville, Ky.," who says his children are showered with so many gifts at Christmas that they are losing touch with the meaning of the holiday. You

suggested donating some of those gifts to charity.

When my son was in the hospital awaiting a transplant, people around the globe sent him cards and gifts. It was a lovely showing of concern, but we had too many presents and many were duplicates. My husband and I took them to our local police department, and they were taken to the children's hospitals. This way, the gifts could be enjoyed by sick children who were missing the holidays and didn't have family to visit or bring them presents. We actually felt better donating these things than keeping them. I thought this would help. — L

ful and compassionate suggestion. We hope our readers will keep it in mind.

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

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Dear L: Bless you for the wonder-

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Hunger in America 2005 Report

**FOOD FOR FRIENDS
FOOD DRIVE CAMPAIGN**

Please donate your non-perishable food items. All items will benefit our community and be distributed locally.

The Big Spring Leadership Class of 2009-2010 is coordinating efforts this holiday season with local charities for a local food drive. Big Spring is known for its great people and the big generous hearts of its residents. Please consider giving to help local neighbors in need this holiday season.

Food drop-off locations

Big Spring Chamber of Commerce
215 West Third Street

Howard College Outreach Department
Big Spring Campus

Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center
306 West Third Street

Taco Villa
All three locations, receive a free bean burrito with a donation of three can goods

Please submit your favorite Big Spring photo to photos@mybigspring.com

Community Shout Out

Recognize a city employee, city official or citizen for a job well done or a kind deed in the Community Shout Out. shoutout@mybigspring.com for submission.

Reminders

All City offices will be closed December 24 and 25 and January 1 for the holidays. Normal office hours will resume the following business day.

By the Code...

Disposal of Brush, Remodeling Materials and Other Waste Not Collected by the City

This City ordinance states that "refuse," to include construction materials, large tree shrubs and cuttings and all other waste not collected by the City, must be kept in a suitable receptacle separate from the garbage container provided to residents by the City. These items should not be dumped in alleys or kept on the premises so as to become a nuisance to others; refuse should be disposed of promptly by the owner of the property. Refuse is not considered "garbage" and will not be picked up by the garbage trucks of the City. Refuse should be hauled away from the premises by the property owner at his expense and by his own means. Any collection of refuse on a premise should be transported, in a covered vehicle, to the city compost facility. If a covered vehicle is not available, refuse must be tied down, covered or secured to the vehicle in some manner to avoid spillage on to City streets. If garbage of this type is not properly secured and falls on to our City streets, it presents a serious hazard to other City residents and their vehicles.

As residents, we are proud of our community and want only what is best for everyone. With the help of our citizens, we can accomplish our goal. If you have any questions or complaints please call, e-mail or stop by our office and will help in any way we can.

Chad Averette
Code Enforcement Supervisor
501 Rannels
Phone: 432-264-2505
Email: caverette@mybigspring.com

**Upcoming Activities:
Festival of Lights**

When: December 15 to 31
Times: Daily 6 to 10 p.m.
Where: Comanche Trail Park

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Reinterpretations and romance

Dear Margo: How much is a person supposed to overlook or adapt to in a boyfriend if he has other great

qualities? I'm dating a really nice guy (divorced), who is smart and interesting and has good values, but

is extremely passive — to the point where he lets people push him around. I find that a total turnoff. For

example, if a colleague starts yelling at him for a mistake that was the colleague's fault, he just shrugs and tells her she made the mistake. He is so conflict-averse that he'd rather let it go and believes that being easy-going is the way to be. The other thing is that he's really a lousy kisser, though friends say that can be worked on. I guess I'm used to the man being dominant and aggressive, which is more of a turn-on. On the other hand, I've been accused of being too picky, and I don't want to get rid of a good guy just to see him snapped up by plenty of other women. I've been divorced twice. My first husband was too sweet and passive for me, and my

second had too much of a temper and was abusive. I'm 61 and have been single for many years, but I'd rather be in a relationship. What do you think? — Trying To Decide

Dear De: Mr. Right For Now sounds like your No. 1 ... which to my mind is better than a replay of No. 2. I assume you've looked for a man who is somewhere between these extremes but have not found him. As for your example of workplace war, his approach sounds pretty sensible to me. What you really need to keep in mind is how he makes you feel. When you say you are 61 and imagine "plenty of women" ready to "snap him up," you are right on the money there. If I were you, I would work on interpreting his conflict-averse qualities as a plus, and think of them as way better than being hooked up with a drill sergeant. As for the kissing, your friends are right. — Margo, purposefully

Dear Margo: I am a high-school senior. There's a girl named "May" who I thoroughly dislike, but she persists in trying to be my best friend. We became friends in freshman year because we were both hyper and our bus ride was long. She was, and is, cheerful, kind

and friendly. However, over the past three years, I have realized that we have nothing in common anymore, if we ever did, and I am very tired of having things that are important to me shot down as stupid or boring. Sometimes I talk about things I find interesting, like current events or books — never with her, but in groups of which she is a part. If it has even a vague whiff of intellectual activity (except "Pride and Prejudice"), May shoots me down in the most contemptuous tone I have ever heard, saying, "That's boring. Let's talk about (pick one: her love life or movies, though, to give her some credit, more often movies)." I don't know what to say to someone who thinks that "The Time Traveler's Wife" was a brilliant movie. — Please Go Away, from Virginia

Dear Please: This sounds like one for my pal Roger Ebert, but the underlying problem is actually not about movies. The basis for your friendship — that you were both hyper and it was a long bus ride — does not sound like a rock-solid foundation for closeness. This girl may be cheerful, but she sounds neither kind nor friendly. If you have nothing in common anymore, just keep some distance between you and know that you have moved on. — Margo, developmentally

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LETTERS TO SANTA

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Sunday, December 20, 2009

Area Schools Students, Submit Their
Letters To Santa Claus

"DEADLINE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2009"

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Dear Santa,
I have been very good most of this year. Will you wake me up when you come? I have a gift for you and something for the raindeer. Can you bring a football for another so he can stop mine? I sent 2 stuff I want you Santa.

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the gifts that I got last year. I still have most of them. I'd like a puppy, a game and a new bike. If you want to bring more stuff it's ok with me. I know I sent a letter before but this new list is what I really want. Thank you Santa.

With Love,
Sam

Roman Polanski's house arrest is a splendid captivity

BRADLEY S. KLAPPER
Associated Press Writer

GSTAAD, Switzerland — Roman Polanski's life took a dramatic turn for the better Friday as he traded a Swiss jail for house arrest surrounded by family in his luxury Alpine chalet.

It's not clear how long this splendid captivity will last — the threat of extradition to the United States and a possible prison term there still hang over the 76-year-old director.

But surely there are worse fates than being stuck in the tony resort of Gstaad, gazing up at the snow-covered Swiss Alps with your wife and two children by your side — especially after two months in a Swiss jail.

Polanski cannot leave the three-story house and its garden while Swiss authorities decide whether to send him to Los Angeles to face sentencing in a 32-year-old sex case.

The United States wants Polanski to face sentencing for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl.

Still, it's a vast improvement over his small detention cell in Winterthur, near Zurich, which had only a sink, bed, toilet, television and storage compartment.

In jail, he was allowed

outside for one hour of daily exercise, could occasionally use the telephone but could only see family and friends for one hour each week. In Gstaad, Polanski can organize his days as he likes, working on his films and phoning and e-mailing whenever he wants.

The Oscar-winning director can receive guests or hold parties at the house and order in gourmet meals. He has views of snowcapped Alpine peaks, spacious rooms and all the amenities of a town known for its skill at catering to the wishes of the rich and famous.

Of course, there's the minor inconvenience of the electronic monitoring ankle bracelet, which ensures that Polanski doesn't flee like he did from U.S. justice 31 years ago.

If Polanski breaks the conditions for his bail, the Swiss government confiscates the \$4.5 million he deposited. That substantial bail amount was a key element in granting the house arrest — a first in Switzerland for a detainee in an extradition case.

Polanski's two children — Elvis, 9, and Morgane, 16 — and his wife, French actress Emmanuelle Seigner, eagerly awaited his arrival Friday morning.