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BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 31, 2010

VOLUME 106, NUMBER 25

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Healthy Woman celebration set for January 27

Anniversary 'party' will include expo, entertainment

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Healthy Woman Program is two years old, so of course a party is in the works.


Howell

Organizers are planning a "Wild About Healthy Woman" gala to celebrate the second anniversary of the program beginning at 4:30 p.m. Jan. 27 at Dora Roberts Community Center.

The celebration will be split into two parts — a free "health expo" from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., followed by the main event/dinner, which costs $25 per person.

Kim Howell, Healthy Woman co-director, said the program has grown dramatically since its inception in 2009.

"We're thrilled with our growth, especially since we thought we'd be happy with 300 members when we started, and now we have more than 900. So we're pretty fired up about that."

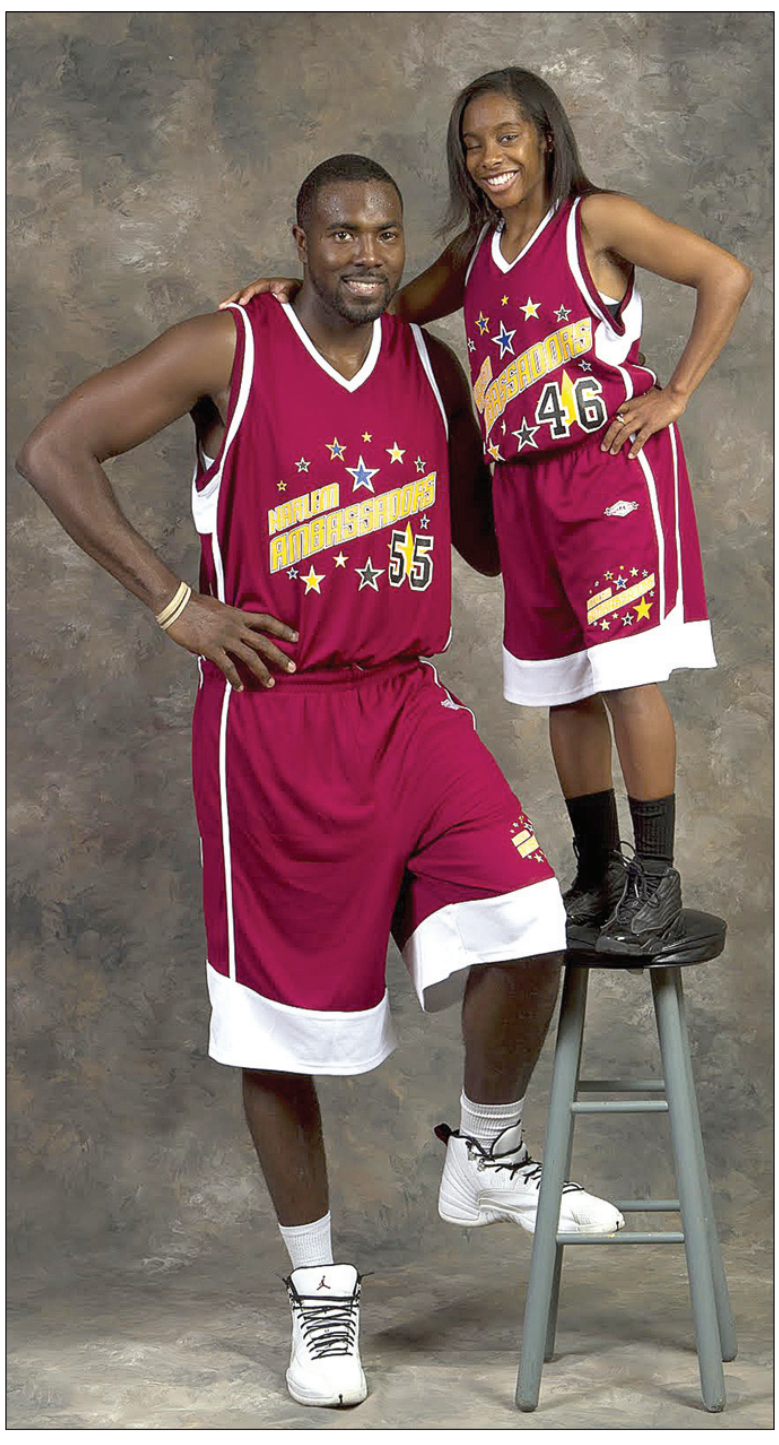
Howell describes Healthy Woman as "an educational resource designed to empower women with the information they need to make healthcare decisions for themselves and their loved ones."

The health expo portion of the celebration will feature a wide variety of vendors offering products and services, Howell said.

The main event will feature a gourmet meal catered by Moss Lake Ranch. The guest speaker will be author and comedienne Lisa Smartt, whose address will be entitled, "Hope for women who can't find their keys" and is described as "the confessions from the queen of imperfection." The main theme of the address is to encourage people to laugh at their absurdities and imperfections and "give each other a much-needed break."

Howell said Healthy Woman provides a variety of services to area residents, including

See **WOMAN**, Page 3A



Courtesy photo/Harlem Ambassadors

The tall and short of it — 6-foot-10 Corey Thompson and 4-foot-6 Tiffara Steward are two members of the Harlem Ambassadors basketball team scheduled to face a group of local players in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Feb. 23. Proceeds from the contest will go to the Boys and Girls Club of Big Spring.

Coming up short

Club needs more donations to secure the Ambassadors

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

The director of the local Boys and Girls Club said donations are still needed to bring the Harlem Ambassadors to town in February.

Sonnett Hildebrand said the club plans to stage a basketball game between the Ambassadors and a group of local players Feb. 23 at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Aside from displaying their basketball skills, the Ambassadors will also visit local schools and present their "Stay in School, Stay Off Drugs" program, Hildebrand said.

But the catch is that bringing the team to Big Spring won't be cheap — Hildebrand estimates it will cost almost $5,000 to pay all the bills related to bringing the Ambassadors to town.

"Any donations we receive will be great," Hildebrand said. "We still need to pay for the hotel, T-shirts … just about everything for this event."

She added that it would be money well spent.

"The kids in the com-

See **DONATE**, Page 3A

2010: The Year of the Tear

DAN SEWELL
Associated Press

CINCINNATI — When pro football player Cedric Benson led his Cincinnati Bengals to a long-awaited victory that ended a 10-game losing streak, his eyes grew wet and a tear ran down his cheek as he stood before his locker afterward.

The running back said he felt wonderful, tremendous, joyful. So why the public cry? Relief, strong emotions after a lot of tough times for him and the team, and … well, why not?

After all, Rep. John Boehner, who lives just north of Cincinnati, wept on national TV the night Republican election victories assured he will be the nation's next speaker of the House. And from the neighboring state to the south, Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., choked up as he bid farewell this month to a retiring colleague.

Just a few examples of well-known males turning on the waterworks in a Year of the Tear, four decades after Marvin Gaye sang that "I know a man ain't supposed to cry" and a Democratic presidential contender's campaign foundered under the weight of reports he teared up.

Maine Sen. Edmund Muskie had plans that morning in 1972 to call out the publisher of the Manchester (N.H.) Union Leader over criticism of his wife. But reports that he had tears in his eyes — which Muskie went to his grave insisting were melted snowflakes — raised questions about whether he could handle crises or stare down the Russians.

See **TEAR**, Page 3A

INSIDE

2010 Year in Review
A look back at what happened this year in Howard County.

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No pardon for Billy the Kid

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Billy the Kid, the Old West outlaw who killed at least three lawmen and tried to cut a deal from jail with territorial authorities, won't be pardoned, Gov. Bill Richardson said Friday, nearly 130 years after the gunslinger's death.

The prospect of a pardon for the notorious frontier figure drew international attention to New Mexico, centering on whether Billy the Kid had been promised a pardon from New Mexico's territorial governor in return for testimony in killings he had witnessed.

But the facts of the case didn't support a pardon, Richardson said Friday on ABC's "Good Morning America." He had been formally petitioned to grant one.

The proposed pardon covered the 1878 killing of Lincoln County Sheriff William Brady. Billy the Kid was shot to death

See **PARDON**, Page 3A





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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Adam Coleman at 263-7331, Ext. 237. E-mail results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 1B
Friday, December 31, 2010

Hawks back on court after layoff



File Photo

Twyla Ards hopes to continue being one of the go-to players for the Howard College women's basketball team as it enters the second half of the season.



HERALD Photo/Adam Coleman

Jerry Dixon and the Howard College men's basketball team starts the second half of the season today in the 2010 Fiesta Bowl Junior College Shootout at Mesa Community College in Mesa, Ariz.

BY ADAM COLEMAN
Sports Editor

Earl Diddle's voice was hoarse after all the screaming he did in each of the five practices the Hawks have had the last three days.

The Howard College women's basketball coach said the Hawks have been working hard, evidenced from Diddle's hoarse voice. But it's probably warranted considering the 27 days in between games for the Hawks.

The drought ends against South Mountain Community College at 2 p.m. Saturday in Phoenix. It's the first of three games in Phoenix. Matchups against Phoenix College at 2 p.m. Sunday and Glenndale Community College at 1 p.m. Monday follow the South Mountain CC game.

"They'll be three tough games before we start conference," Diddle said. "We've had three really good days of practice. We're looking forward to just playing and getting ready to get our conference season going."

With the layoff in between games, the Hawks (11-3) are now entering the second part of the season and probably the home stretch. The WJCAC conference opener against South Plains follows the games in Arizona.

The past few days have given the Hawks a chance to work on some of their pressing issues, too. There are two in Diddle's opinion: rebounding and shots in the paint.

Diddle said the Hawks have been out-rebounded in their losses, particularly pointing out the Midland and South Plains games in the WJCAC Pre-Conference Tournament right before the break.

He said his players have to grab more offensive and defensive boards, but it's a team issue, not necessarily directed toward one group of players. Everyone, from the post players to the guards, has to get more rebounds.

Points in the paint, however, are something the post players have to work on. Diddle said posting up and finishing in the lane is something that needs to continuously improve.

The Hawks are without center Jackie Bartleson, who is out for the season because of injury.

Twyla Ards, Tasha Tubbs and Porsche Young are just three standouts for the Hawks this season, but Diddle said neither of them are the go-to player. The key has been getting the ball to whoever is playing well, which ensures any number of players could contribute on any given night.

"Our program is not built on a star or a go-to person," he said. 'We try to get the ball to the person who has the hot hand. We try to distribute the shot. We're more team-oriented than anything, but I know Tubbs had 28 against Midland. She was hot and our players did a good job of getting her the ball."

Howard College men

The Howard College men's basketball team is also in Arizona for the

See **HOWARD**, Page 2B

Duncan, Neal lift Spurs past Dirk-less Mavs

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Beating the Dallas Mavericks without Dirk Nowitzki on the court just wasn't as much fun for the San Antonio Spurs.

At least, that's what San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich claimed.

Tim Duncan bounced back from one of the least productive games of his career to score 17 points and reserve Gary Neal had 21, sending the Spurs to a 99-93 victory over the Nowitzki-less Mavericks on Thursday night in a showdown between the top two teams in the Western Conference.

"We don't take too much out of the win," Popovich said. "We didn't show very much. We didn't improve as a team, that's for sure."

Nowitzki missed a second straight game because of a sprained knee, and Dallas has lost them both after winning 17 of 18 with its leading scorer in the lineup. The only solace for the Mavericks was playing harder than they did while getting whipped by Toronto and hanging close against the mighty Spurs.

Caron Butler scored a season-high 30 points and Jason Kidd had a 12 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds, but Dallas blew an early lead and never regained the lead. The Mavericks got close plenty of times, especially in the third quarter, but Duncan would make a shot or Neal would hit a 3-pointer to keep San Antonio ahead.

"We just couldn't get over the hump," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "It was tough, it was frustrating, but our guys kept battling. I take the positives out of it, but right now we've got to really work together. Without Dirk in the lineup, the margins for error are extremely slim."

San Antonio won for the 12th time in 14 games and improved to 28-4, extending the best start in franchise history and the best record in the NBA. Coming off a thorough victory over the Lakers, this was a pretty good way to end 2010.

The Spurs broke the game open with a 21-2 run that started late in the first quarter. They avenged one of their few losses this season and ended a four-game, regular-season losing streak to their division rivals.

Duncan, who tied a career low with two points last game, opened the game with his trademark bank shot. In keeping with the way San Antonio has played this season, the ball didn't go through him much but he showed he could still be effective. When Dallas tightened things up in the third quarter, Tony Parker fed him the ball on three straight possessions and he delivered every time.

"Timmy played great," Parker said. "He got some big baskets for us. He was drawing double-teams. He was huge in the third quarter."

Duncan was 5 of 9 from the field and 7 of 7 from the line. He also had 11 rebounds.

See **SPURS**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Big Spring Fall Banquet for athletics

Big Spring High School will host its athletic banquet for fall sports at 6 p.m. Jan. 8 in the high school cafeteria. Tickets are $12 and can be purchased at the door. Football players, volleyball players and cross country runners will be recognized at the annual event. If there are any questions, call Denise Carillo at 432-816-1685.

Men's city bowling tournament

This tournament takes place Jan. 23rd and 24 at Bowl-A-Rama in Big Spring. The entry forms are to be turned in by Jan. 17. Entry forms can be picked up at the Bowl-A-Rama. The local USBC Chapter is donating $150 to the prize fund. For more information contact Diana Ewing at 432-816-7631, Claud Fryar at 432-517-0475, or Sheila Armstrong at 432-270-7596.

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Obituaries

Robert F. Fallon



Robert F. Fallon, known by some as Billy Bob, died Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2010, at the age of 84. He was born in Goldthwaite to Johnny Claude and Julia Elizabeth Bohannon Fallon. The youngest of five children, Mr. Fallon's family moved to Big Spring when he was 4 years old. He remained there until 1963, when T&P Railroad was bought by Missouri-Pacific. At that time, he transferred to St. Louis, Mo., where he met and married his wife of 45 years, Judith Marie (Pizzella) Fallon. Bob was employed by Union Pacific Railroad and had responsibility for the western United States. He also designed software for freight movement and served the company at Big Spring, Little Rock, Ark., and St. Louis, Mo.

Bob was a member of the Merchant Marine, serving from 1944 through 1946.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, James and Berlie Fallon.

Survivors include his wife, Judy Fallon; three daughters, Patricia Murdock and husband Charles and Sue Gage, both of San Antonio, Julia McConahy and husband Michael of Grass Valley, Calif.; seven grandchildren and a number of great-grandchildren; a brother, Kenneth Fallon of Idaho Falls, Idaho; and a sister, Charlene Lamb of Alvin.

In lieu of flowers, it is suggested that a donation be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research or a charity of your choice.

A memorial service and life celebration will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011, in the chapel of Ramsey Funeral Home with Chaplain Dean Hamilton officiating. Burial will be held at Trinity Memorial Cemetery in Big Spring.

Arrangements are under the care and guidance of Ramsey Funeral Home in Georgetown.

The family invites you to leave a message or memory in the memorial guestbook at www.ramseyfuneral.com.

Jeremy Ryan Bronaugh



Jeremy Ryan Bronaugh, born Oct. 22, 2010, died Dec. 28, 2010. Jeremy was the beloved son of Noelle Marie Bronaugh of Chester Springs, Pa., and Jeremy Paul Bronaugh of Chester Springs, Pa., formerly of Big Spring.

During his brief stay on Earth, Jeremy brought a lifetime of love and joy to his parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends. Jeremy is deeply loved by all who met him and is greatly missed.

Jeremy is survived by his parents; maternal grandparents, Steve and MaryAnne Paolucci of Spring City, Pa.; his paternal grandparents, Chuck and Rhonda Bronaugh and Joe and Sharon Adams, all of Big Spring; great-grandmothers, Fern Bronaugh and Nell Clark, both of Big Spring; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

A memorial service will be held Friday, Dec. 31, 2010, at St. Joseph's Church in Spring City, Pa. Graveside services will be held Monday, Jan. 3, 2011, at SS Peter and Paul Cemetary in Springfield, Pa.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions in memory of Jeremy to the NICU at A.I. duPont Hospital for Children. Contributions should be sent to: Nemours Fund for Children's Health. Shands House, 1600 Rockland Road, Wilmington-ton, Del. 19803.

Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 20-31-4-7. Bonus Ball: 3.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1. Prize: $225,000.

Ticket sold in: South Houston.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 30-29-24-21-11.

Number matching five of five: 2. Prize: $11,333.

Winning tickets sold in: San Antonio, El Paso.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-2-4-8. Sum It Up: 15.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-0-3. Sum It Up: 6.

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Thursday and early Friday:

• LYNDON TRENT FRALEY, 50, 1425 E. Sixth No. 6, was arrested on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

• CHRISTOPHER WELSH, 38, 613 Steakley, was arrested on a warrant charging public intoxication and failure to appear.

• TARA RACHELLE CAMDEN, 18, 3215 Cornell, was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone, possession of marijuana (less than 2 ounces) in a drug free zone and possession of drug paraphernalia.

• JESUS ACOSTA TARIN, 50, 811 Lorilla, was arrested on a charge of theft under $0 (shoplifting).

• STEVEN PAUL RIORDAN, 60, 1103 Barnes, was arrested on a warrant charging possession of marijuana less than 2 ounces in a drug free zone.

• RANDY W. WALLER, 46, Baton Rouge, La., was arrested on a warrant from another agency.

• JOHN DAVID GAY, 29, 1513 Wood, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• ROBBIN LYNN BARNES, 21, 801 E. 16th, was arrested on a warrant charging criminal mischief over $1,500 but less than $20,000 and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

• JON COLE MCLEOD, 21, 618 Tulane, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• SHANE ALAN KNOWLTON, 24, 1902 Mittel, was arrested on a warrant charging failure to report change of address/name and failure to appear.

• STEPHEN KYLE GAY, 26, 1409 Wood, was arrested on a warrant charging bail jumping/failure to appear.

• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 3200 block of Auburn.

• THEFT was reported in the 200 block of W. FM 700 (three reports) and the 1200 block of E. 16th.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 100 block of E. 24th and the 3600 block of Calvin.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity Thursday and early Friday (69 prisoners were reported in the county jail):

• LYNDON TRENT FRALEY, 50, was jailed on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

• CHRISTOPHER LYNN WELSH, 38, was jailed on charges of public intoxication and failure to appear.

• TARA RACHELLE CAMDEN, 18, was jailed on charges of possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone, possession of marijuana in a drug free zone and possession of drug paraphernalia.

• JOHNNY TREVINO JR., 20, was jailed on a charge of burglary of a habitation.

• STEVEN RIORDAN, 60, was jailed on a charge of possession of marijuana in a drug free zone.

• JESSE ACOSTA TARIN, 50, was jailed on charges of theft under $50 and theft over $50 but less than $500.

• RANDY WAYNE WALLER, 46, was jailed on a charge of failure to appear.

• SHANE ALAN KNOWLTON, 24, was jailed on charges of failure to report change of address and failure to appear.

• STEPHEN KYLE GAY, 26, was jailed on a charge of bail jumping/failure to appear.

• ROBBIN LYNN BARNES, 21, was jailed on motions to revoke probation for unauthorized use of a vehicle and criminal mischief over $1,500 but less than $20,000.

• JON COLE MCLEOD, 21, was jailed on a charge of public intoxication.

• JOHN DAVID GAY, 29, was jailed on a charge of public intoxication.

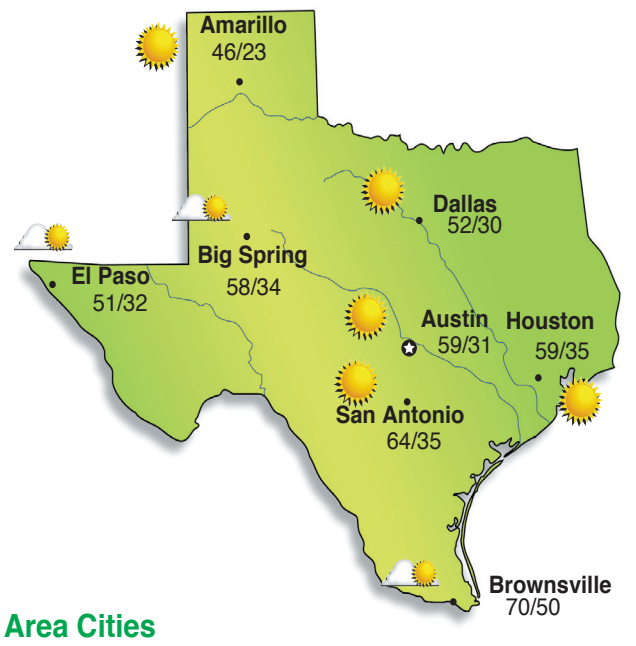
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58/34	63/36	68/37	69/40	66/40
Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	Considerable cloudiness. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 40s.
Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 5:53 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 5:54 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:54 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:55 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:56 PM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	53	35	mst sunny	Kingsville	69	42	sunny
Amarillo	46	23	sunny	Livingston	58	28	sunny
Austin	59	31	sunny	Longview	52	28	sunny
Beaumont	58	33	sunny	Lubbock	51	27	sunny
Brownsville	70	50	pt sunny	Lufkin	58	27	sunny
Brownwood	56	32	pt sunny	Midland	57	35	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	65	43	sunny	Raymondville	71	47	mst sunny
Corsicana	52	29	sunny	Rosenberg	60	35	sunny
Dallas	52	30	sunny	San Antonio	64	35	sunny
Del Rio	62	36	mst sunny	San Marcos	60	31	sunny
El Paso	51	32	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	51	29	sunny
Fort Stockton	58	37	pt sunny	Sweetwater	55	34	pt sunny
Gainesville	48	26	sunny	Tyler	51	27	sunny
Greenville	49	26	sunny	Weatherford	51	27	sunny
Houston	59	35	sunny	Wichita Falls	49	25	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	53	26	pt sunny	Minneapolis	13	6	pt sunny
Boston	44	26	rain	New York	43	28	rain
Chicago	23	19	cloudy	Phoenix	54	39	pt sunny
Dallas	52	30	sunny	San Francisco	54	48	rain

Fire/EMS

Because of the New Year's holiday, the daily report from the Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service was unavailable today.

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Area basketball scores and tournament results

Slaton tournament

Big Spring girls

SLATON — The Big Spring Lady Steers won first place in the Slaton tournament after a 44-42 win over the Lubbock Titans Thursday.

Cerbi Ritchey exploded for 20 points, one of the performances that earned her tournament MVP. Diamond Mayes and Bridgette Tuitt earned spots on the All-Tournament.

The Lady Steers have a few days off before starting District 5-3A play and they have an interesting first two games. Trips to Abilene Wylie and Brownwood are on deck, but in between those is an open date.

Big Spring 44, Lubbock Titan 42

Big Spring — Cerbi Ritchey 20, Mackenzie Stone 6, LaShaunte Anderson 5, Diamond Mayes 4, Bridgette Tuitt 3, Taryn Kennedy 1

3-point field goals — Big Spring 3 (Stone 2, Anderson 1)

Records: Big Spring (15-3)

Next game: Big Spring vs. Abilene Wylie at 6 p.m. Tuesday

Mary Tatum Holiday Classic at Reagan County High School

Coahoma boys

BIG LAKE — Coahoma head coach Kim Nichols was honest about his team's performance in the opening game of the Mary Tatum Holiday Classic Wednesday.

There wasn't much good to say about the 74-45 loss to Ballinger, but bouncing back for the 55-37 win over Grape Creek Thursday made up for it.

Tanner Ruiz had 17 points and right behind him was Keaton Martin with 14 as the Bulldogs clinched a spot in the consolation final of the tournament.

Like most teams in the area, Nichols said the Bulldogs' motive is to play as well they can heading into a part of the season with no more tournaments, just district games.

With Stanton — a team Nichols believes is a perennial favorite — coming up Tuesday, the head coach want to leave Big lake on a good note.

Coahoma 55 Grape Creek 37

Grape Creek 5 5 14 13 - 37

Coahoma 12 11 16 16 - 55

Coahoma — Tanner Ruiz 17, Keaton Martin 14, Sheigh Cravens 7, Hunter Williams 6, Ryan Reid 5, Aaron Acevedo 3, Reagan Reid 3

3-point field goals — Coahoma 4 (Martin 1, Acevedo 1, Cravens 1, Reid 1)

Records: Coahoma (8-6)

Next game: Coahoma vs. Ozona at noon today

Mary Tatum Holiday Classic at Reagan County High School

Coahoma girls

Monahans 65, Coahoma 38

Next game: Coahoma vs. Ozona at 1:30 p.m. today

Men's Caprock Report

The first half of the Men's Caprock bowling league has come to a end. Congratulations to Team 12 sponsored by Pollard Chevrolet for winning the first half. The top five teams are: Pollard with 90 wins and 46 loses; Team 8 with 80 wins and 56 loses; Frickin' 10-Pin with 76 wins and 60 loses; Claibornes with 75 wins and 61 loses; and Team And 1 with 73 wins and 63 loses.

The bowlers of the week are: Sammy Torres 220 game; Claud Fryar 213 game; Chris Munoz 222, 203, 205 games 630 series; Adrian Zarate 236 game; Ronnie Midkiff 206 game; Simon Saldana 225 game; Tony Saldana 201 game; James Gilbert 236 game; Kyle Lacey 210, 205 games; Randy Nix 216 game; Don Ewing 245, 215 games 647 series; Stephen Ewing 233 game 620 series; Ray Gutierrez 201 game; John Dodd 220, 226 games 627 series; Jackie Lacroy 209 game; Steve Barker 224 game; Greg Clarke 200 game; Jimmie Wood 222 game 614 series; Jeff Kellner 201, 203 games; Tony Sarmiento 240, 215 games 640 series; Eddie Gonzales Jr. 221 game; Charles Garcia 245, 245, 213 games 703 series; Phillip Ringener 201, 222, 254 games 677 series; Richard Rowden 224 game; James Gaither 226, 221 games 642 series. Good bowling and good luck in the second half.

SPURS

Continued from Page 1B

"It's nice to get some baskets to go down, get some rebounds and play a little better to help the team," he said. "We can attack in different ways. That's what we've been hanging our hat on all season."

Neal is the latest breakout player uncovered by the Spurs — an NBA rookie after spending the last three years playing in Italy, Spain and Turkey. He's scored 22 points twice in the last two weeks and just missed doing so again.

HOWARD

Continued from Page 1B

New Year, competing in the 2010 Fiesta Bowl Junior College Shootout at Mesa Community College in Mesa, Ariz.

WJCAC play doesn't start until Jan. 10 against South Plains for the defending national champions, but this is the last bundle of non-conference games the Hawks will play in before then.

The 2010 Fiesta Bowl Junior College Shootout lasts through Sunday and the Hawks start off against Scottsdale Community College at 2 p.m. MST.

The Hawks (10-1) have been hampered by injuries all season and depth has been an issue with the dismissal of players such as Will Bunton. They'll try to bounce back from that and keep winning as conference play approaches.

UConn's win streak ends at 90 in loss to Stanford

The Associated Press

STANFORD, Calif. — Stanford really does have UConn's number.

Top-ranked Connecticut's record 90-game winning streak in women's basketball ended Thursday night when No. 9 Stanford outplayed the Huskies from the start in a 71-59 victory at Maples Pavilion — where the Cardinal have their own streak going.

Stanford hasn't lost in 52 games at home. The Cardinal took an early 13-point lead, never trailed and didn't let the mighty Huskies back in it after halftime in this one. They kept pounding the ball inside and banging the boards.

UConn fans accustomed to watching coach Geno Auriemma's team blow past opponents hadn't seen a loss since the 2008 NCAA semifinals — Stanford got the Huskies that time, too, 82-73 in the Final Four at Tampa, Fla.

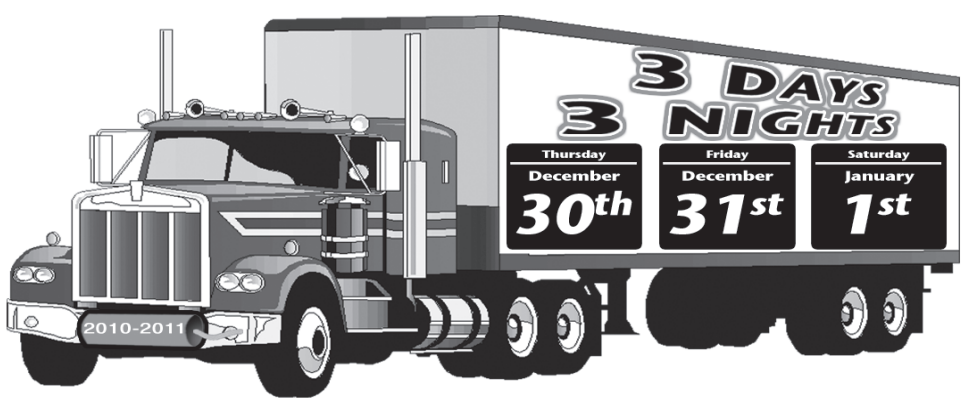
"At some point reality had to set in, and today reality set in," Auriemma said. "I'm not destroyed about it. Winning that many games in a row, it's unheard of."

These teams have a bit of a history. Last season, Stanford almost beat Maya Moore and UConn in the national championship game before losing 53-47.

That the Cardinal won in the rematch shouldn't have been a total surprise.

Stanford was unbeatable at home, had given the Huskies fits in past meetings, and UConn came close to losing to then-No. 2 Baylor last month.

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DONATE

Continued from Page 1A

munity deserve to experience the kind of show the Ambassadors bring with them. They deserve to be spoiled just a little from time to time. That's why we decided to bring the Ambassadors to Big Spring, and we're also hoping to be able to take the children in the Boys and Girls Club program on some educational and fun reward trips."

The Ambassadors, who last visited two years ago, are well-known throughout the country for both their basketball skills and the message they deliver to schoolchildren.

"The Harlem Ambassadors are young men and women who have attended college, played college basketball, and are drug-free," Ambassadors creator Dale Moss said. "The Ambassadors have college degrees in a variety of disciplines, such as exercise science, elementary education, and criminal justice. Some of our performers have even earned advanced degrees. The athletes selected to be Harlem Ambassadors have made positive choices to maintain healthy lifestyles and make great role models for young people."

Advance tickets for the game are $3 for seniors, $4 for students and $5 for adults. Tickets purchased at the coliseum will be $4 for seniors, $5 for students and $6 for adults. Children 4 and under will be admitted free, Hildebrand said.

For more information, contact Hildebrand at 264-0455.

WOMAN

Continued from Page 1A

an online members' database.

"It's very similar to Facebook in that it allows members to interact with each other," Howell said.

For more information on Healthy Woman or the upcoming celebration, contact Howell at 268-4842 or Anita Cline at 268-4721.

TEAR

Continued from Page 1A

"Back in the early '70s, it was male machoism — men were not supposed to publicly display emotions; it was viewed as a sign of weakness," said Severin Beliveau, an Augusta, Maine, attorney who was a Muskie campaign adviser.

But stoicism gave way over the years to sensitivity as a desirable male trait, and by 2010, there were few fears for tears left among well-known American men.

"With the passage of time, we've seen that demonstrations of emotions can be viewed as a quality to have as an asset," said Beliveau. "People see a more human side of the male."

Actor David Arquette told Howard Stern on the radio in October he had cried in the aftermath of having sex with another woman after his split with Courteney Cox. He lamented the loss of intimacy with the "Cougar Town" star; he didn't comment on his new partner's post-coital emotional state.

A country song title says "Cowboys Don't Cry," but it's not among Brad Paisley's many hits. He lowered his cowboy hat-wearing head as he choked up, recalling his grandfather's advice to learn the guitar, after receiving the Country Music Association's Entertainer of the Year award.

"There's no crying in baseball!" Sorry, gruff, old-school manager played by Tom Hanks in "A League of Their Own," but today there is, and by some of the game's best players.

Most Valuable Player Josh Hamilton said he was fighting tears as his Texas Rangers neared the American League championship while he thought about his long struggle to come back successfully from cocaine abuse.

On the National League side, Cincinnati's Joey Votto acknowledged that he cried after receiving word he had won the MVP award, a year after depression over his father's death temporarily sidelined him.

Even Rahm Emanuel, whose take-no-prisoners political style earned the nickname "Rahmbo," teared up on the day he announced his resignation as President Barack Obama's White House chief of staff.

Conservative commentator Glenn Beck has cried publicly about many things, from past personal struggles to "caring an awful lot about my country," but he was particularly dramatic in July while disclosing an eye disease he said threatens his sight. He told a tour audience first, then showed a replay on his Fox News show for those who missed it the first time.

But it's Boehner who cried in public so often he's already been dubbed "Weeper of the House."

On election morning Nov. 2, a reporter shouted a question to Boehner outside his West Chester polling station about how his late parents would feel seeing their son's success: "Aw, now you're just trying to make me cry," Boehner replied with a smile.

Turns out it wasn't hard to do.

That night, Boehner choked up as he recounted his bootstraps climb from blue-collar family of 12 children, working his way through college. Then came this month's broadcast of a "60 Minutes" interview in which he broke down repeatedly — over his humble rise, about his concerns for children's chances at the American dream, when his wife praised him. That led to some ridicule by detractors, some questioning his sincerity or emotional stability.

Asked for response, Boehner's office referred to his explanation to the CBS interviewer Lesley Stahl: "What you see is what you get. I know who I am. I'm comfortable in my own skin. And everybody who knows me knows that I get emotional about certain things."

Colleagues and other people who've known Boehner for years agree that he's long worn his emotions on his natty sleeve.

"It's not anything new with Speaker-elect Boehner," said Gene Beaupre, Xavier University political scientist. "I've seen him, years ago, in front of several hundred people at a conference get pretty emotional, talking about his own life and the chances he got."

Beaupre thinks that people accept such displays as long as they seem genuine, and can even admire politicians who have deep feelings and aren't afraid to express them. And, the more males who cry in public, the more who are likely to follow.

"I do think when you see people in power showing their emotions the way these gentlemen have, I think it makes it easier for others to do the same," Beaupre said.

Among those not crying in public? Boehner's predecessor, Democratic speaker Nancy Pelosi, and other prominent women, some of whom wondered aloud about whether women would still be accused today of being too emotional and soft. Former Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin recently took a break from shooting caribou, climbing mountains, and camping out in the Alaskan wilderness to ponder that point.

"I don't know if a woman would be given a pass necessarily," the former governor told ABC News, while saying she respects Boehner for showing his feelings about things that are important to him.

"But that's one of those things where a double standard certainly is applied," she added. "I'm sure if I got up there and did a speech and I started breaking down and cried about how important it is to me that our children and our grandchildren are provided great opportunities, I'm sure that I would be knocked a little bit for that."

PARDON

Continued from Page 1A

by Sheriff Pat Garrett in 1881, a few months after escaping from the jail.

According to legend, Billy the Kid killed 21 people, one for each year of his life. But the New Mexico Tourism Department puts the total closer to nine.

Richardson, the former U.N. ambassador and Democratic presidential candidate, waited until the last minute to announce his decision. His term ends at midnight Friday.

The historical record on the pardon is unclear, and Richardson staff members told him in August there are no written documents "pertaining in any way" to a pardon in the papers of the territorial governor, Lew Wallace, who served in office from 1878 to 1881.

Richardson said he decided against a pardon "because of a lack of conclusiveness and the historical ambiguity as to why Gov. Wallace reneged on his promise."

Sheriff Pat Garrett's grandson J.P. Garrett and Wallace's great-grandson William Wallace expressed outrage over a pardon after Richardson set up a website in mid-December to hear from the public.

The website was established after Albuquerque attorney Randi McGinn submitted a formal petition for a pardon. Richardson's successor has criticized him for considering the pardon.

"We should not neglect the historical record and the history of the American West," Richardson said.

His office received 809 e-mails and letters in the survey that ended Sunday, with 430 favoring a pardon and 379 opposed. Comments came from all over the world.

McGinn argued that Lew Wallace promised to pardon the Kid, also known as William Bonney or Henry McCarty.

She said the Kid kept his end of the bargain, but the territorial governor did not.

The Kid was a ranch hand and gunslinger in the bloody Lincoln County War, a feud between factions vying to dominate the dry goods business and cattle trading in southern New Mexico.

Richardson has said the Kid is part of New Mexico history and he's been interested in the case for years. He's also pointed to the "good publicity" the state received over the pardon.

J.P. Garrett of Albuquerque said there's no proof Gov. Wallace offered a pardon — and may have tricked the Kid into testifying.

"The big picture is that Wallace obviously had no intent to pardon Billy — even telling a reporter that fact in an interview on April 28, 1881," he wrote. "So there was no 'pardon promise' that Wallace broke. But I do think there was a pardon 'trick,' in that Wallace led Billy on to get his testimony."

He also said that when the Kid was awaiting trial in Brady's killing, "he wrote four letters for aid, but never used the word 'pardon.'"

William Wallace of Westport, Conn., said his ancestor never promised a pardon and that pardoning the Kid "would declare Lew Wallace to have been a dishonorable liar."

Billy the Kid killed two deputies while escaping jail. McGinn's request did not cover those deaths, but Richardson said he had to consider them in his decision.

The Kid wrote Wallace in 1879, volunteering to testify if Wallace would annul pending charges against him, including a murder indictment in Brady's death.

A tantalizing part of the question is a clandestine meeting Wallace had with the Kid in Lincoln in March 1879. The Kid's letters leave no doubt he wanted Wallace to at least grant him immunity from prosecution.

Wallace, in arranging the meeting, responded: "I have authority to exempt you from prosecution if you will testify to what you say you know."

"It seems to me that when the government makes a deal with you, it should keep its promise," McGinn said after filing the request.

But when the Las Vegas, N.M., Gazette asked Wallace shortly before he left office about prospects he would spare the Kid's life, Wallace replied: "I can't see how a fellow like him should expect any clemency from me."

Maxine Hinsley, 85, died Wednesday. Graveside services will be at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Coahoma Cemetery.

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

Please party with caution this evening

Area law enforcement officers have a message for would-be partygoers as we close 2010 and welcome in 2011 tonight: Don't drink and drive. That warning is issued every year and we devote a couple of editorials to it every year at this time. That's because anyone who has been drinking and takes the chance of getting behind the wheel is endangering lives — not just their own, but ours too.

Call us stuffed shirts, if you must, but we simply find that unacceptable.

Oh, yes, it should be noted that those who drink and get behind the wheel also run a better than usual chance of getting stopped and taken to jail because extra law officers will be on the street.

That's true for both the city and state, because both the Big Spring Police Department and the Department of Public Safety are taking advantage of grant money to pay overtime for peace officers to be on patrol.

As Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith has noted, there is always have a "zero tolerance" policy for both those who drink and drive and those who are not wearing seatbelts.

Once again, we'll be honest, we're not asking that you don't drink and drive so that you won't wind up in jail. No, there's a lot more to it than that.

We all enjoy celebrations and the end of a year has always been an acceptable cause to celebrate. But it's not reason enough to endanger lives, and that's a point that can't be driven home enough.

If your driving is impaired, the chances of your having an accident are greater — that's a fact. While you may be able to keep a vehicle "between the lines" so to speak, your ability to react to sudden changes is diminished. Your defensive driving skills simply aren't what they should be.

In other words, it's not worth it. It's not worth the embarrassment; it's not worth the fine and jail time; it's not worth a chance having it on your record; it's not worth the chance of endangering your life, the lives of those with you or the lives of other motorists or pedestrians.

Please, please, please ... if you are planning on drinking and being out tonight, appoint a designated driver.

Make sure you are around to celebrate again next year.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

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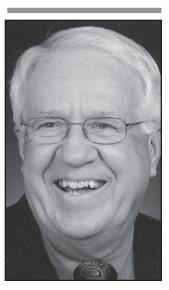
by K. Rae Anderson

With a diligent work ethic and You, Lord, we can do anything.

Amen

Looking back at Christmas...

Post-Christmas feelings are vastly different from the warm fuzzy dreams fluffing up our nighttime slumber leading up to the festive holiday. Sort of like confetti. Views of folks dropping it from tall buildings to the parade below are at variance with the clean-up crew wading in the stuff on snowy streets.



DR. DON NEWBURY

Among many sobering thoughts are:

1) Adornments, both inside and out, must soon come down. (And much "disassembly" is required.)

2) Pounds added at sumptuous meals — enlivened by "we-only-live-once" banter that drowns out reason's flimsy voice — will be voided only by exercise and dietary drudgery shrouding long stretches of time. Pyramids went up faster.

3) Attitudes of resolve are not easily mustered. One guy remembers a Christmas past when post-holiday depression tugged mightily. "I was so low I could walk under a bathtub with a fireman's helmet on," he groaned.

Fans of the Texas Rangers are still moping about pitching ace Cliff Lee opting to play henceforth (or at least for five years) for the Philadelphia Phillies. And a Philadelphia newspaper "rubbed it in" with headline cleverness: "Merry CLIFFmas!"

Lee's decision to retreat to the National League saves would-be mathematicians a bunch of work. Had he stayed around, they'd be buzzing about how many thousand dollars he makes per pitch, etc.

My Uncle Mort claims he knew from the "git-go" that Lee would join a National League team. "I'm satisfied he wants to become the first modern day major leaguer to set the standard for both pitching AND batting."

Many of us can lay claim to memorable nuggets meriting laughter throughout the year simply by noting grandchildren's animated conversations. And this doesn't cost a thing.

I'm particularly fond of the banter of 3- to 4-year-olds. With minds like sponges, they "want to know" and are not hesitant to ask. (A few years up the way, feeling already "in the know," they'll be far more into telling than listening.)

Our f4-year-old Kedren, learning that seeds become plants, kittens grow into cats, colts soon are horses, etc., is wide-eyed at processes of growth all around him. He dreams of reaching "tall enough to" goals. The other day, he inquired about the age of his family's suburban. Learning that it was three years old when acquired two years ago, he questioned, "How big was it when we got it?

Equal time department: Grand niece Avery, at Christmastime last year, was asked to name her favorite among the reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh. "Olive," she answered.

Her family explained that when Santa's reindeer are harnessed for their annual flight, there's nary an "Olive" in the bunch.

The then 3-year-old wasn't convinced. "Yes there is," she maintained. "You know, Olive, the other reindeer."

I'm reaching back a couple of months for this nugget. My wife and I were in Brownwood for homecoming at Howard Payne University. (They let presidential "has beens" ride in the parade, in a convertible yet!)

Four grandchildren accompanied us, three of them yelling "HPU!" with the cheerleaders.

Addison, age 3, failed to grasp the concept. Besides, her mind overflowed with memories of media broadsides heralding the opening of a new grocery store in our town. A trio repeated yells of "HPU!" and one lone voice proclaimed "H-E-B!"

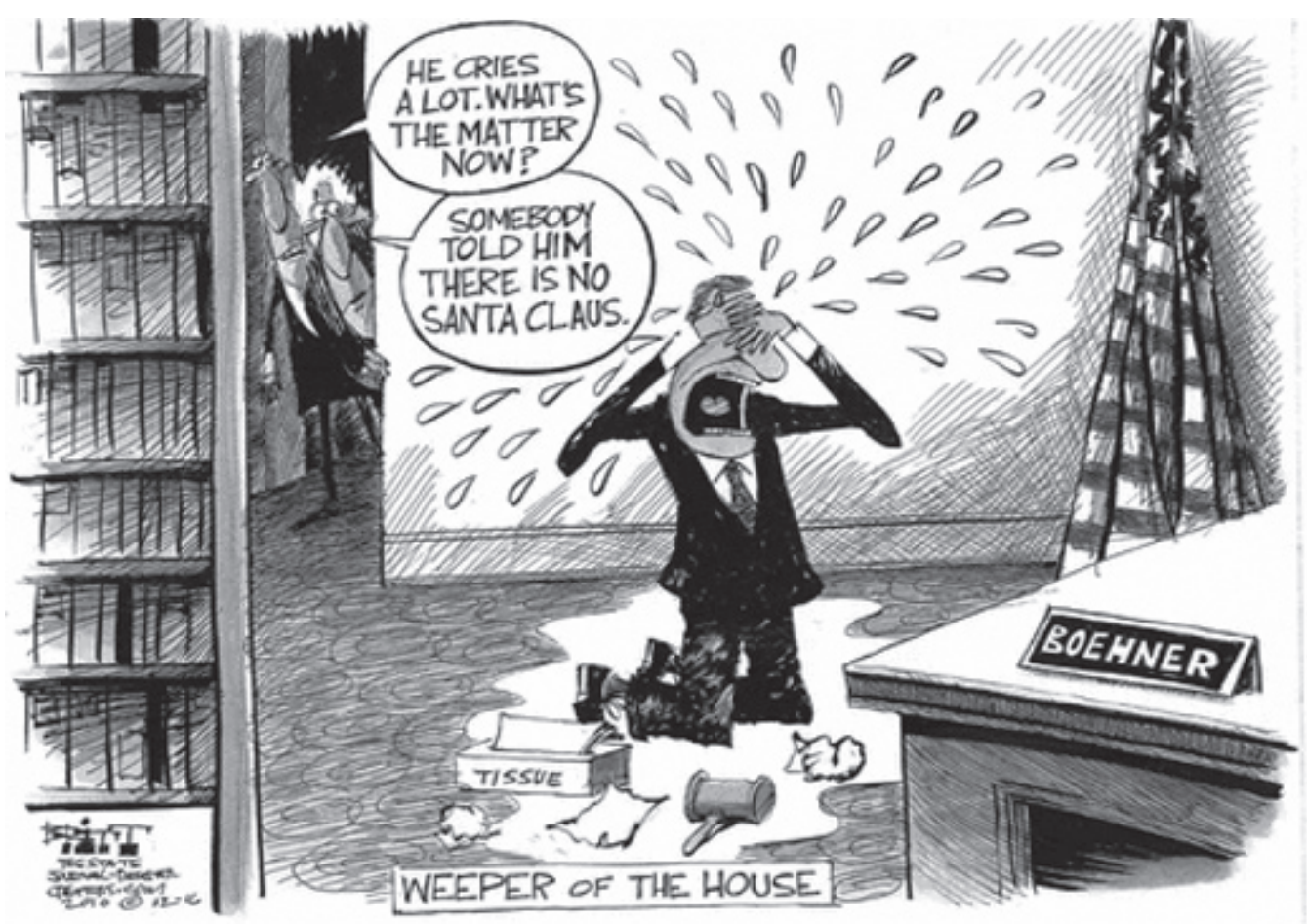
This year's final tale is attributed to Uncle Mort, my 98-year-old kin down in the thicket. He's bragging about successfully completing a short course he called "computers for old people."

On top of this, he may make Guinness World Records for having the longest computer password. Taught that the passwords require eight characters, he chose "curly/joe/moe/gabby/daffy/goofy/mickey/minnie."

I'm satisfied that my wife will be valedictorian of a similar class in our town. She has a distinct advantage, since she already knew the keyboard going in.

Happy New Year, one and all. Keep an ear out, and when you hear a good 'un, write it down! And then, share it.

Dr. Don Newbury is a speaker living in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Send inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com.



The right GOP immigration package

The controversial anti-immigration bill passed by Arizona lawmakers this year helped and hurt the Democrats in the November election. President Obama used it when he told Latinos that they should vote to "punish our enemies" and "reward our friends" by voting Democratic. In California and Nevada, Latino voters clearly heeded that advice.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

Pundits and GOP biggies have a tendency to focus only on the ways the Arizona controversy hurt the GOP, and not on the toll the issue took on Obama nationwide. Recently, veteran Republican strategist Rob Stutzman told Los Angeles Times columnist George Skelton that GOP gubernatorial nominee Meg Whitman lost big primarily because the issue of illegal immigration drove Latino voters to support Democrat Jerry Brown. Stutzman blamed Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner, who lost in the primary to Whitman, for pushing Whitman too far to the right on immigration.

Lo siento. (That's Spanish for "I'm sorry.") Non credo. (That's Latin for "horsepuckey.")

Republican Rick Scott won the Florida governor's race with as much as 50 percent of the Latino vote, and he supported the Arizona law.

Bettina Inclan was a spokesperson for Poizner before she worked for Scott. As the daughter of a Cuban mother and Mexican father, Inclan is quite aware of the hurdles Republicans face when trying to woo Latino votes. But, as Scott proved, it can be done.

Scott helped himself by not changing his position on immigration. Inclan noted, "He always gave the same message — and he talked about the issues that were really important to everyone in Florida, which is jobs."

And: "When we try to cater instead of tailoring, I think that's the problem." Rather than pander, a candidate needs to speak in a tone that conveys respect and commonality — not (these are my terms) condescension and opportunism.

Republican Lt. Gov. Abel Maldonado failed to win election to the office to which he was appointed. The son of a bracero, Maldonado was quick to point out that Latino voters in California tend to vote Democratic more than Floridians.

In California, he said, a politician can't oppose the Dream Act, which would grant legal status to children who came to America illegally before age 16, "and expect Hispanics to vote for you."

(Yes, Maldonado understands that Democrats like Obama talk up immigration issues without delivering tangible results. There is a double standard.)

Me? I see "comprehensive immigration reform" as code for amnesty and a reward for breaking the law, but I like the idea behind the Dream Act. Children don't choose to cross the border illegally — their parents do.

Indeed, an acceptable Dream Act, if tightly written, would extend a welcoming hand to immigrant children who go to school or join the military, without instantly rewarding adults who chose to flout federal immigration law. Eventually, naturalized Americans would be able to petition for legal residence of immediate family, but the process would take time. If Republicans write the bill, they can make sure the Dream does not include egregious loopholes.

It's wrong to punish children for the sins of their parents. There is a middle way that unites the right thing to do with smart politics.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com.

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(Phillippians 4:6)

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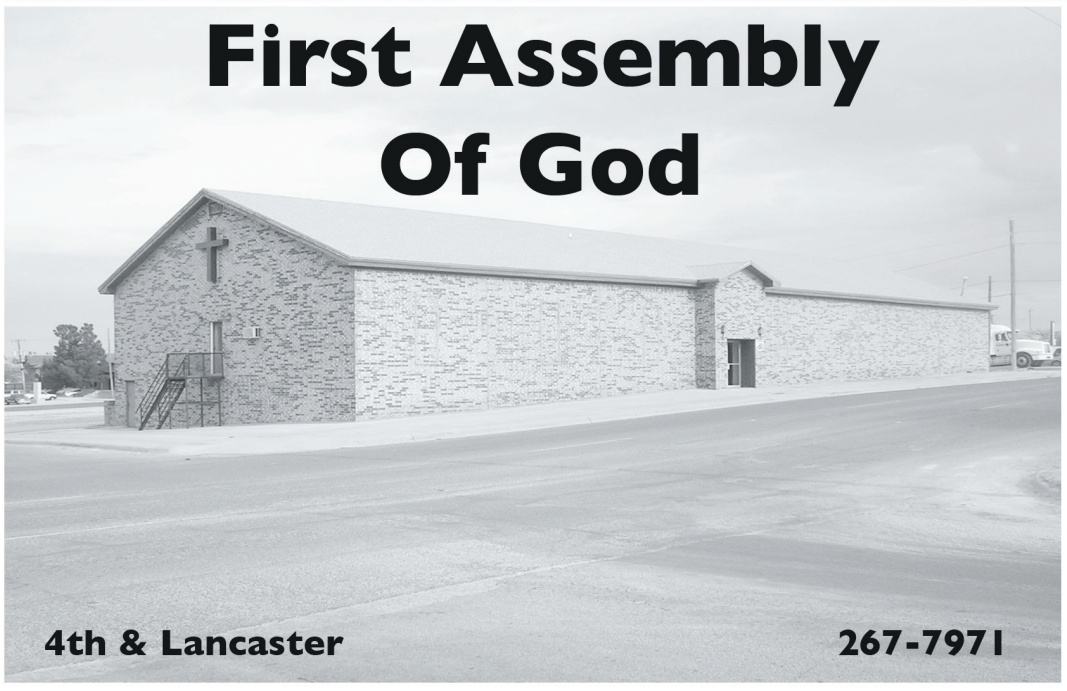
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(Romans 5:8)

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

(Psalm 91:1)

I will wait for the Lord to help us... My only hope is in him.

(Isaiah 8:17)

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Church News

First United Methodist Church

Greetings from the folks at First Methodist Church;our wish is that Christmas was all that you hoped it would be. Our love goes out to you and your family as we approach the end of 2010. Our area has seen many blessings this year and for that we extend special thanks to our Lord and Savior.

Services of worship are back to normal this week with two Sunday morning services — 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. Sunday School classes are at 9:45 a.m. You may pick up your poinsettias following the late service of worship.

Church offices will be closed through Monday; regular schedules will resume on the Tuesday. Both Noon Bible study and luncheon and Children's Day Out will begin the new season on Wednesday.

As this new semester begins, there are openings in each age group for more students. These classes meet on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Brenna Hoff or Becky Woodall for more information. That program is also seeking new teachers for this spring semester. Check the church office for more information.

The deadline for the next church paper is Jan. 11. Please contact Felicia with any information you want included in that first edition for 2011.

There will be an all-day meeting for church leadership in Snyder on Jan. 22. This is a day designed to empower lay leadership through spiritual disciplines and best practices for fruitful ministry in the local church. All newly elected leaders take their positions Jan. 1 and attendance at this program is encouraged.

Tomorrow is a new day and a new year, we pray that it will be a blessed one for you and your family. A great way to start the new year is by attending that first Sunday of the new year. If you don't have a church home we'd love to have you at ours — we're First Methodist, in the heart of downtown Big Spring at Fourth and Scurry.

Chapel of Faith

You are invited to attend Chapel of Faith church, located at the corner of E. 14th and Goliad streets, as we learn more about God's word and His love for each of us. Sunday services are at 10:30 a.m. each week and 5 p.m. Sundays, when we sing the old favorites and continue a Bible study of Genesis. The Rev. Scott Willis will be preaching this Sunday. The title of his sermon, "Reading The Signs," is based on Matthew 2:1-12. We will also be celebrating Holy Communion.

Encouraging words: "Ideals are like stars: you will not succeed in touching them with your hands. But like the seafaring man on the desert of waters, you choose them as your guides, and following them you will reach your destiny." — Carl Schurz

We encourage you to attend the church of your choice. However, if you are looking for a church home, we invite you to visit the Chapel of Faith. You will be warmly welcomed!

Remember, God loves each of us so much that He sent His son to die for our sins that we might live for Him now and with Him eternally.

East Fourth Street Baptist Church

Sunday our deacons are leading out on visitation after the morning services. Those who wish to go, contact C.G. Evans or the church office.

The prayer ministry will begin Monday. At present there are four prayer teams. Times are 7 a.m. Monday, 4 p.m. Tuesday, 8 p.m. Wednesday and 7 p.m. Thursday. Should you wish to be on a prayer team, contact the church office to get the name of who to contact.

Tuesday at 7 p.m. we urge all church members to be present for the Church Revitalization program. Speakers will be Robert Cuellar and Dennis Parrott. This is the SBTC EZEKIEL Project.

We invite you to come visit us at East Fourth. Opportunities to attend church services are Sunday school at 9:45 a.m., morning worship at 11, and evening service at 6. On Wednesday we have Adult Bible Study, Youth Bible Study and Children's Bible Study, all beginning at 7 p.m. East Fourth is located at 401 E. Fourth St. For more informaion, call 267-2291.

Signal Mountain Emmaus Community

The Signal Mountain Emmaus Community meets at Spring Creek Fellowship, 501 Birdwell Lane, on the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. Babe Chick meeting is at 6:30 p.m.

The next meeting is Jan. 13. Please mark your calendar.

At this month's meeting we will have a make-up reunion. We want to recognize all Pilgrims and LDs unable to attend their Walk Reunion and Pilgrims or LDs who attended walks from other communities. Please plan to attend. Bring a dish and join us at 6 p.m. for a potluck fellowship.

For more information, see our website at www.signal-emmaus.org

Cornerstone Covenant Church

The Cornerstone Covenant Church family would like to invite all our citizens to join us Friday at 10:30 p.m. for a night of worship. We will celebrate the coming of the New Year. We will begin the night's activities with a heart-felf welcome, faith-filled prayer, live praise and worship and dynamic word. We are believing that 2011 is the Year of Manifestation; Senior Pastor Michael Willard will be sharing his message entitled, "From The Pit, To the Palace."

Cornerstone Coveant Church is a unified, spirtled, purpose-driven church, that cultivates an atmosphere of faith so lives can be transformed by Jesus Christ. We meet on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. for Mid-week Bible Study and Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for worship.

CCC is located at 706 East 12th Street. For more information, contact our office at 264-0015 or visit us on the web at www.cccbigspring.org

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church

Our motto is "Celebrating and sharing God's love and grace in our lives." We are located at 2805 Lynn Drive in the Kentwood Subdivision in Big Spring. Our church phone number is 264-7818. Our website is www.lutheransonline.com/aliveinchristbstx.

We would love to have you join us for church Sundays at 9 a.m. with Sunday school following around 10:15 a.m.

Pastor Carroll Kohl will be preaching this Sunday. The sermon title will be "Expectations Make the Difference" from the Gospel.

Angela Newton is our organist. This week's acolyte will be Makayla Overton. Our elders for this week are Bobby Roever and Darren Byrd.

Saving Frosty the Snowman

"Always save the snowmen for January," my friend advised. "If you make snowmen in December, you won't have anything for your bulletin boards in January."



Bonnie Wheat

Many years ago, as a beginning elementary-school teacher, I was eager to try all the cute art projects that I had collected during my years of teacher training, including instructions for making a paper snowman on a background of blue construction paper with dabs of white tempera-paint snowflakes. Had it not been for a wiser, more experienced teacher, I might have started a new calendar year with bare walls in my second-grade classroom. But thanks to her advice, I saved Frosty the Snowman and all his cousins for the cold, blah days of January.

Having read a little bit about the origin of Frosty the Snowman, it somehow seems appropriate to save him for later. Following on the heels of Here Comes Santa Claus and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, Frosty danced into popularity with his corncob pipe and a broomstick in his hand in 1950. After creating the lively character with a button nose and two eyes made out of coal, songwriters Jack Nelson and Steve Rollins called on the singing cowboy, Gene Autry, to turn their fairytale character into a third Christmas hit recording for children.

Combining the magic of an old silk hat with a touch of reality, Frosty led his young followers through the streets of town right to the traffic cop, waving goodbye and saying, "Don't you cry. I'll be back again someday."

Like Frosty, some things are meant to melt away. As we say goodbye to the Christmas season once again, perhaps we should carry some of the laughter and playfulness of Frosty the Snowman into the new year. When the Christmas trees have been dismantled, the lights have been taken down, and all the decorations have been packed away, will the spirit of love and giving also be boxed up and shelved for another year, or will the "thumpety, thump, thump, thumpety, thump, thump" of Frosty the Snowman still echo in our minds and in our hearts? Will the spirit of Christmas still show on our faces?

In the Scripture, the apostle Paul admonishes us: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4 NASB).

Even though we can't prevent a snowman from melting away or control everything that will happen to us in the coming year, we still have a reason to rejoice. Jesus didn't come to bring happiness for the Christmas season; He came to bring a lifetime of joy to those who claim it.

Bonnie Wheat is an author and a minister's wife. She can be contacted at brwjeat@suddenlink.net

This week, the liturgy will be read by Dolline

See **CHURCH NEWS**, Page 6A

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HIGGINBOTHAM BARTLETT is now hiring for CDL driver and warehouse/rental positions. Both must have clean driving record and be able to pass drug screen and criminal background check. Warehouse/rental needs experience with small engine repair. No phone calls please. Apply in person at 1900 E. FM 700.

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Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: A year ago, I became ill and was in the hospital for a month. I was told that my children were there the entire time.

Since then, I have been declared legally disabled. There is some room for improvement in my condition, but it will take a lot of time.

I would love to have my old life back, but it isn't going to happen.

I always thought I was a good mother, but apparently I failed somewhere.

Two of my children are still living at home, and all I get is criticism from them that I don't do enough around the house. It's nearly impossible for me to cook and clean, and no one else even tries.

We are all adults living here. My daughter constantly complains about all she does for me. She wants to get paid for washing my clothes, doing the dishes and any other chores.

Mind you, both children live here rent-free. At present, my son is unemployed, but always has money to buy cigarettes and go out with his friends.

My children are constantly belittling me about things I cannot do, and my mother and brother add fuel to the fire by insisting that I am milking the situation. Neither of them lives in this area, and they don't visit.

I am improving little by little, but progress is slow. How can I make my family see that I am truly disabled? — *Did Something Wrong Raising My Kids*


KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Did Something: Your children may be lazy and ungrateful, but we also believe they are frightened by your disability and their complaints are their way of coping.

Ignore them. If they are not paying rent, their minimum contribution should be cooking, cleaning and doing chores — regardless of your physical ability.

Tell your mother and brother to visit and assess the situation before judging.

And when your daughter complains, reply sympathetically, "Life is tough." If they refuse to stop complaining and you can afford a caregiver, tell them they are free to move out.

Dear Annie: Over the past few years, we've been updating our home and installing hardwood floors.

After a family gathering this summer, our floors developed little round dents in the rooms. We realized that our future daughter-in-law, who always wears stilettos, was the culprit. The last time she was in our home, we could clearly see the dent trail she left.

How do we tactfully ask people to remove their shoes without hurting their feelings? — *Dimples*

Dear Dimples: Hardwood floors are not expected to remain pristine, and nicks and dents are the cost of entertaining. However, it is perfectly acceptable to ask guests to remove their shoes at the door, especially if you provide cozy little slippers for them to wear instead.

Some will refuse, which is OK, but your son should encourage his future wife to comply.

Dear Annie: You were way off in your response to "Spouse," whose wife is caring for their daughter's blind, incontinent dog and said if the dog goes, she goes.

The wife is not choosing the dog over her husband of 30 years. She is just continuing with the responsibility and commitment the daughter accepted.

Just because a pet becomes incontinent or blind doesn't mean it should be abandoned.

The wife did the right thing. Now she is seeing her husband's true colors, and she doesn't like it.

There are all kinds of compromises that could be made to make life easier for all of them — diapers, a crate, doggy daycare, etc. Abandoning the dog should not be one of them. — *Pet Lover in California*

Dear Pet Lover: Several readers responded to this letter. Some suggested the dog be euthanized. One recommended a rescue group that will place it in a loving foster home. A few, like you, thought the wife was right to put the dog first and were angry enough with the husband to suggest throwing away the marriage. We do not agree.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. 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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BIG SPRING HERALD

Cheap land helps draw Amish to northern Missouri



SCHUYLER COUNTY, Mo. (AP) — The abundance of cheap land is drawing Amish people to rural northern Missouri.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported Tuesday that about 10,000 Amish now call Missouri home, with many of them relocating to Schuyler County in a sparsely populated area at the Iowa border.

The majority of the nation's 250,000 Amish still live in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Indiana. But among states with more than 1,000 Amish, Missouri trailed only New York and Minnesota in the rate of population growth in the last year, according to a study by the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania.

The influx hasn't always been an easy one, and the Amish remain culturally isolated.

"People didn't think too much of them the first few years," said Robert Aldridge, Schuyler County's presiding commissioner.

Slowly, things have changed. While many residents say they enjoy cordial relations with their Amish neighbors, others have been slower to warm to the newcomers.

Conflict between the Amish and locals is not unusual, said Karen Johnson-Weiner, professor of anthropology at State University of New York at Potsdam, who has studied Amish migration.

The Amish practice a Christian faith and are known for a reluctance to adopt many modern conveniences. Community rules vary on technology, but many Amish groups forbid owning automobiles, tapping electricity from public utility lines, using self-propelled farm machinery or owning a television, computer or radio. They value separation from the wider world.

Often, those who move to new areas are among the most conservative, anxious to preserve their agrarian way of life, Johnson-Weiner said. Once in a new location, those Amish tend to remain isolated, focused on their own church community rather than building relations with neighbors.

Henry Miller was one of the first Amish to move to Schuyler County 11 years ago.

He and his wife and their nine children live on 17 acres outside of Downing. On a recent day, two fresh deer carcasses hung from an outbuilding on Miller's land. Inside, Miller and two of his sons operated a sawmill.

Miller, 43, said he moved to escape Wisconsin's winters. He never felt animosity from locals.

Longtime resident Maudie Oliver, 74, earns thousands of dollars each year driving Amish to weddings, funerals, shopping and elsewhere, and has gotten to know many members of the community. Still, she had concerns about Amish children being left alone when their parents leave town, the burden placed on Amish wives. And she took exception to the Amish being pacifists.

"They do not honor the flag or go to the military," she said, echoing criticisms by several county residents. "We're protecting them and all their kids, and that's not fair."

It's a complaint that Johnson-Weiner dismisses.

"That's the problem when you enshrine religious freedom in the Constitution: Some people take you up on it," she said.

Some locals also object to intermarriage. The Amish face great pressure to marry within their community. Marriages between first cousins are taboo, but sometimes second and third cousins marry.

Though some disagree with their ways, Lorraine Austin, editor of the weekly Schuyler County Times, said complaints about the Amish have quieted.

"They're here. They're good people," Austin said. "They're just accepted."

NC Council of Churches elects gay man as president to lead push for liberal goals

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The North Carolina Council of Churches, a social justice advocacy group that unites denominations and congregations, has elected an openly gay person as its president.

Stan Kimer, a retired IBM executive who lives in Raleigh, was elected this month to lead the organization. The council lobbies the General Assembly on topics such as immigration and the environment and tries to find common ground on social issues among Christian groups that might disagree on key theological issues.

Kimer, a lay leader in the Metropolitan Community Churches, which ministers to gays, says the vote is more a referendum on him as an individual rather than a desire to make a political point.

"Especially in the religious community, people are increasingly able to look beyond someone being GLBT," he said, using the common abbreviation for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. "People are looking more at the merits of a person as an individual, which is something we need more of in this country."

Although the election is groundbreaking in a Southern state where the religious landscape is dominated by theologically and socially conservative churches, it's not a particular surprise, said the Rev. George Reed, executive director of the state council of churches.



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

CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 1A

Budke. The readings for this week are Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-11(12-15), Ephesians 3:1-12 and Matthew 2:1-12.

Thank you to all the wonderful people who donated the beautiful poinsettias that adorn our altar area this Sunday. If you are interested in donating flowers, sign up on the flower chart. Flowers are $50 for both vases.

Sundays, the adults are still studying the meanings behind the various symbols of our church.

The youth lessons are still Bible-based material and are beginning with Genesis. This Sunday, the youth will again study Jacob's Dream (Genesis 27:41-28:22).

On Jan. 12 we will start up the Mid Week School classes, Wednesday evening suppers and possibly an adult information class at 7 p.m. held by Pastor Kohl. Another possibility is another DVD study by Dr. Paul Maier over the travels of Paul.

During Mid Week School in January, the youth will continue their focus on Daniel. The meals will be served from 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. beginning after the New Year. If you are interested with helping with a meal, contact Dana Byrd.

May God continue to bless you during this time of the coming New Year.

Scheduled meetings for January include: Monday, Jan. 10, the LWML will serve refreshments at the VA; the Board of Education will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, at the church; the LWML will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday , Jan. 13, at the church; and the Elders meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20.

First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma

The friendly folks at First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma, invite anyone to come and worship with us. We meet at 11 on Sunday morning to share the Scriptures, sing, pray and worship, led by Commissioned Lay Pastor Tom Koger.

The weekly Lectionary Bible Study, led by Tom and the Rev. Craig Holstedt, at FPC Big Spring at 5:17 p.m. on Wednesdays will resume Jan. 5.

The Session will meet at 5:57 p.m. in the church social hall Thursday.

The lectionary for Sunday is Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; and John 1:1-18.

We wish everyone a blessed New Year.

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

The Lectionary Bible study, led by the Rev. Craig Holstedt and Tom Koger, which usually meets at 5:17 p.m. in the church library on Wednesdays, did not meet this week. Both the Bible study and choir practice will resume Jan. 5.

The combined Youth Group, with our youth and those from St. Mary's Episcopal and First Christian, will meet in our Fellowship Hall on Wednesday. A sign-up sheet is available for people to offer to provide supper for the group each week.

The lectionary for Sunday is Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; and John 1:1-18. The Rev. Craig Holstedt will deliver the sermon. The choir will offer "See Amid the Winter's Snow" by John Goss; during the offertory, they will sing "God's Sign of Peace" by Eugene Butler. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated during worship. Following worship, everyone is asked to help take down the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary.

If you cannot attend worship, listen in on KBST-AM 1490 at 11 a.m. If you wish to have a printed bulletin for Sunday services, call the church office at 263-4211. You may also see what's happening at the church by visiting our website: www.fpcbs.org. There, you can find a link that will enable you to listen to several recent sermons by Rev. Holstedt.

Seventh Day Adventist Church

The Big Spring Seventh Day Adventist Church is faith based in Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins, that we may be cleansed. We meet every Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at 4319 S. Parkway in Big Spring. We extend to you our hands in love and worship. Every week we have a new and exciting sermon; this week Jose Garcia of Midland will be presenting a sermon on "Rich Diet/Poor Diet." We invite all to come out and share God's blessings. After our sermon, we invite you to come and bring a dish to share in our meal fest.

On Thursday at 6 p.m., we wil be presenting a "Folk Mountain Gospel Concert." Don and Donna Mohl of Fair Grove, Mo., will bring their unique style of music. They will bring blends of Bibical sweet tunes of a "down home country revival." Everyone is welcome to come and listen to heart-warming stories for inspiration and music turning our hearts to our beautiful Savior.

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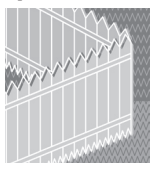
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News in brief

Man hurt in Austin musician's fatal shooting, dies

AUSTIN (AP) — A 63-year-old man injured in the fatal shooting of Austin musician Bill Leslie Maddox has died.

A Travis County sheriff's official says that John Joseph Debrecht died Thursday at University Medical Center Brackenridge.

Debrecht was a retired engineer who was shot during a struggle Monday morning at Maddox's home. The two men lived near each other but were strangers.

Authorities initially identified Debrecht as an intruder in the musician's home during an attempted burglary.

The *Austin-American Statesman* reported that friends and family members said the incident was probably not a burglary attempt but the result of a tragic misunderstanding possibly caused by medication Debrecht was taking for an illness.

Debrecht was a father of four, avid runner and longtime Catholic church member.

New Orleans moves to get rid of last FEMA trailers

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The era of the FEMA trailer — a symbol of the prolonged rebuilding from Hurricane Katrina — might be drawing to a close in New Orleans.

Citing the remaining 221 trailers as blight, New Orleans officials have told the last remaining residents to be out by the start of 2011 or face fines.

New Orleans once had more than 23,000 FEMA trailers, and for many people still living in them, they are akin to permanent homes. These residents say they will find it hard to make the city's deadline.

Edwin Weber Jr., 62, lives with his brother in a trailer crammed with stuff. He was seething at a "notice of violation" letter taped to his door shortly before Christmas.

The letter said he would be fined — up to $500 a day — unless he took "immediate action" to move out. He said the notice was "worthy of Ebenezer Scrooge himself."

Engulfed by vines, Weber's trailer looks like a permanent fixture in the Gentilly Woods neighborhood in front of a home his family has owned since the 1950s. The house, Weber acknowledged, is still in bad shape.

"I haven't got the gas on yet. But I got water and electricity, so it is livable," he said, looking at the battered home. He reckoned he could move into the house, if they were forced to.

The house was flooded by 6 feet of water, but after Katrina, he opted not to take federal housing aid, administered through the state's Road Home program, because he didn't trust the bureaucracy handling the money. Insurance claims have paid for some repairs to the house, he said.

He said the Federal Emergency Management Agency offered to house them outside the city, but they refused.

"I don't know what the big deal about trailers is," he said. "It's not like a hundred trailers is going to make the city look any worse than it is. It's not like the city has been fixed and repaired and these are the remaining eyesores."

Woman charged in 12-year-old Houston boy's death

HOUSTON (AP) — A woman charged with capital murder in the death of a 12-year-old Houston boy who disappeared Christmas Eve acknowledges dumping his badly burned body in a ditch but won't say whether she killed him, police said Thursday.

Mona Yvette Nelson, 44, who served time in prison for aggravated robbery more than two decades ago, was arrested Wednesday in the abduction and slaying of Jonathan Foster. She was jailed without bond, and authorities said she didn't attend a Thursday morning court hearing because of medical problems. Court records did not list an attorney for her.

Foster, who had been left alone, was taken from his home on Christmas Eve, killed and burned. Medical examiners used dental records to identify him, police said.

Investigators said they believe Nelson, a maintenance worker with welding expertise, took the child to her home, killed him and burned the body. Neither a specific cause of death nor a motive has been identified. Police initially considered the boy's disappearance a missing juvenile case but it soon became a homicide investigation.

A passing motorist spotted what looked like a body in a ditch Tuesday along a toll road feeder road in north Houston and several miles from the missing boy's home. A security camera outside a manufacturing plant captured an image of a silver pickup truck stopping and a woman dumping a body. Police questioning Nelson found she owned such a truck. Confronted with the video, "She admitted that it was her truck, was at that ditch and was the person that put the body in that ditch," said Capt. David Gott, chief of the police homicide division.

But, he said, she wouldn't say whether she killed the child.

Ex-mayor who brought Rangers to Texas dies at 84

DALLAS (AP) — Tom Vandergriff, the former Dallas-area mayor who lured the Texas Rangers out of Washington nearly 40 years ago, died Thursday. He was 84.

The former Arlington mayor's son, Victor Vandergriff, said his father died of natural causes at a Fort Worth hospital. Tom Vandergriff had Alzheimer's disease in recent years.

Vandergriff brought the Rangers to the city halfway between Dallas and Fort Worth in 1972. It took the Rangers almost 25 years to reach the playoffs, and another 14 to win a postseason series.

The younger Vandergriff said his father was in attendance when the Rangers beat the New York Yankees in October to win the AL pennant and advance to their first World Series.

The morning after that historic win, Tom Vandergriff fell and broke his hip, preventing from attending any World Series games, his son said. The Rangers lost the World Series to the San Francisco Giants in five games.

"If he had known he'd have to do that to watch the Rangers beat the Yankees, he would have done it in a minute," Victor Vandergriff said. "He'd have taken one for the team."

Born in Carrollton, another Dallas suburb, on Jan. 29, 1926, Vandergriff moved to Arlington when he was 11 and later planted the seeds for what many consider the entertainment center of Texas.

He was elected the city's youngest mayor at age 25 in 1951 and soon helped lure a General Motors plant to Arlington, then welcomed another developer's idea to build an amusement park for the plant's employees. Six Flags over Texas grew into one of the state's top tourist attractions.

Judge orders halt to radioactive waste dump

AUSTIN (AP) — A Texas judge ordered a temporary halt Thursday to a proposal that could allow three dozen states to dump their radioactive waste in far West Texas, a ruling that sided with environmentalists and caught the state attorney general's office off guard.

State District Judge Jon Wisser issued a temporary restraining order against the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission, which is scheduled to vote Jan. 4 on rules that could expand how much waste could be processed at a dump in remote Andrews County.

The injunction was issued in the judge's courtroom late Thursday morning, shortly after environmentalists filed the request, with nobody there representing the commission. A few minutes later, shocked lawyers from the Texas Attorney General's Office — which hadn't been officially notified of the pending court action — showed up and convinced the judge to order a new hearing on the injunction.

The hearing is set for Monday in Austin, one day before the commission's scheduled vote.

Environmentalists sought the ruling after accusing regulators and a politically connected company of rushing the waste expansion proposal past Texas residents who were too focused on the holidays to notice.

Waste Control Specialists, whose majority owner is Dallas billionaire and prolific political donor Harold Simmons, wants state regulators to approve its proposal to allow low-level radioactive waste at its West Texas dump site from three dozen states. As it stands, the compact site can only get waste from Texas, Vermont and the federal government.

The commission has six members from Texas and two from Vermont. The incoming governor of Vermont, Democrat Peter Shumlin, has publicly criticized the proposal, but he doesn't take office until Jan. 6. By then, the two commissioners appointed by his predecessor could vote in favor of the plan, given their past support of the rule allowing waste imports.

Texans will get free barbeque at inaugural event

AUSTIN (AP) — Organizers of Gov. Rick Perry's swearing-in ceremony are staging an event that combines Texas culinary sensibilities with the hard economic times: free barbeque.

Event planners stress that Texans still need tickets to get in to the Jan. 18 event, but they're free to those who sign up in advance on the Texas inaugural website.

Inaugural spokeswoman Sarah Beck said Thursday that organizers scaled down inaugural events, ditched the parade and are holding a free barbeque on the Capitol grounds to let "people keep more of their own money" in a tight economy. Four years ago, tickets to the barbeque were $8.

Perry, the longest serving governor in the U.S., will be sworn into an unprecedented third term. Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst is also taking the oath for a third time.

Texas gas prices at highest point in 2-plus years

IRVING (AP) — The statewide average gasoline price has crept up 6 cents and is at its highest point in more than two years.

The AAA Texas survey released Thursday says the price jumped to $2.91. That's the highest since Oct. 15, 2008, when a gallon of regular unleaded averaged $2.93.

The average in Texas has jumped 25 cents in the past month and is 44 cents higher than this time last year.

The most expensive gas this week is in Texarkana, up 4 cents to $2.93. The least expensive is El Paso at $2.85, a nickel higher than last week.

U.S. rig count down by 20 this week

HOUSTON (AP) — The number of rigs actively exploring for oil and natural gas in the U.S. declined by 20 this week to 1,694.

Houston-based Baker Hughes Inc. said Thursday 919 rigs were exploring for gas and 765 for oil. Ten were listed as miscellaneous. A year ago, the count was 1,189.

Of the major oil- and gas-producing states, Louisiana and Wyoming each gained three rigs, Oklahoma was up two and New Mexico and North Dakota rose by one.

Texas decreased by 15, Colorado lost four and Alaska one. Arkansas, California, Pennsylvania and West Virginia were unchanged.

Houston mayor orders city employee furloughs

HOUSTON (AP) — Mayor Annise Parker is ordering most Houston city workers to take six unpaid days off over the next six months as she tries to close an estimated $30 million budget shortfall.

Parker said police, firefighters, grant-funded positions and workers making less than $24,000 a year would be exempt.

Her order, after a request for voluntary furloughs for this month, is expected to save $5 million.

Parker is winding up her first year of a two-year term. She said Thursday the furloughs were not a solution to the city's budget problems but a tool the narrow the deficit.

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5			1		4			2
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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Bidding Quiz

Your partner opens Three Hearts (strong seven-card suit, no more than 10 high-card points), and the next player passes. Neither side is vulnerable. What would you bid with each of the following five hands?

1. ♠ K962 ♥ A5 ♦ A83 ♣ J872
2. ♠ AQ874 ♥ 93 ♦ KQ72 ♣ A10
3. ♠ 852 ♥ 9843 ♦ 6 ♣ AQ842
4. ♠ AJ73 ♥ J2 ♦ AKQ94 ♣ A7
5. ♠ AQ8765 ♥ 10 ♦ 853 ♣ A86

* * *

1. Pass. The three-heart bid announces a hand that does not qualify as a one-bid by ordinary standards. The high-card content is usually five to 10 points. It is essentially a pre-emptive action designed to make it more difficult for the opponents to reach their optimum contract.

At this vulnerability, opener typically expects to go down about three tricks if you hold no values (in which case the opponents would have a certain game or slam). The hand given here may provide just enough for your partner to make three hearts, but he is unlikely to take more than nine tricks.

2. Four hearts. This hand is likely to provide partner with the four tricks he needs to bring his total to 10, so you should raise to game. The fact that you have only two small trumps should not concern you.

3. Four hearts. This bid may seem rather strange, in view of what was said previously, but here the raise is entirely a tactical maneuver. The purpose of the bid is to establish an additional barricade in the hope of keeping the opponents — who can surely make a game or slam — out of the bidding. Essentially, you are trying to sell your adversaries the idea that you have a hand good enough (such as the one in problem 2) to make game opposite a pre-emptive opening.

4. Six hearts. No guarantees go with this bid, but you can take this action on the reasonable assumption that in the long run partner will make the slam more often than not. If partner has, say, the KQ10xxxx of hearts and a side king, he will almost surely make the slam. Moreover, even if the slam can be defeated, the opponents may not find their most effective opening lead.

5. Pass. There's no use fighting reality at this juncture. The chance for a game is next to nil, and a three-spade bid (forcing) would likely make matters worse.

It's important to bear in mind that partner has a relatively poor hand and that he's trying to gum up the works for the opponents. There's no need for you to make their task simpler by bidding with shaky values.

Tomorrow: A very common affliction.

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Fit at 50 can mean fit at 60, 70, 80 with changes

By LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

At 45, DeEtte Sauer was a dead woman walking.

She was morbidly obese, her heart disease so serious a doctor warned her to expect "an event at any time."

Eaten up by her marketing career, struggling to raise three kids, she smoked, drank and never, ever exercised.

Sauer remembers a vacation when —î at 5-foot-5 and 230 pounds — she couldn't make it onto a small boat for a day out with her family. "That's when it hit me. I was an elected cripple. I had done it to myself."

She got busy, slowly shedding the weight through sensible eating and exercise. She began to walk around her Houston neighborhood, then she discovered the pool. Now 69, the woman who once had a supermom complex is a competitive, medal-winning senior swimmer.

"It literally saved my life," Sauer said, adding that her best event is the butterfly — a stroke she learned at age 62.

To trainers with lots of clients well beyond 50, Sauer is the holy grail, somebody who works hard and efficiently, taking care to avoid injury while maintaining motivation, strength and endurance through careful workouts. Getting fit later in life is one thing, they said, but staying that way at 60, 70 and 80 is another.

"Going from running to walking, going from the treadmill to the elliptical as we age. It can be really frustrating, mentally debilitating," said Chris Freytag, a yoga and Pilates instructor and contributing fitness editor for Prevention magazine.

"Even for me. I'm 45 and say oh God, I can just see it coming. There's going to be some wear and tear. That doesn't mean I have to give up, but I have to make some changes."

Back, hips, knees, balance, cardio — all can be trouble spots and big blows to a positive attitude for seniors, said Freytag and fitness expert Denise Austin, who was Jack LaLanne's sidekick on television and went on to her own workout shows, DVDs and books. At 53, she has a new book out in January, "Get Energy!"

FLEXIBILITY

Pilates and yoga are great ways to stay strong and flexible beyond 50 because both can be easily modified, the experts said.

"I'm into the core as you age," Austin said. "Your spine is your lifeline. Keep it healthy, keep it strong. As we age we lose flexibility and it's really important to our tendons and ligaments to stay pliable and keep all the fluids in our joints going."

She suggests increasing floor work to take pressure off the knees. Can't touch your toes anymore? Use an elastic band for the same stretch, or to replace weight training that might grow dangerous.

Arthritis can make gripping difficult at a time when tissue is losing elasticity, which might mean giving up heavy free weights in each hand or on an overhead press. "The technique isn't there anymore, it falls down and they hurt a shoulder. I've seen it a million times before," Austin said.

Taking the time to stretch, to reopen joints and muscles after a workout, is increasingly important as we age — particularly crucial at 60, 70 or older, Freytag said. "The lower back and hip flexors get really tight. The two are correlated. What I tell people is you are no longer able to skip stretching after a workout."

Freytag recommends at least five to 10 minutes of stretching after a workout, when the muscles are warm. "Back when we were younger we could skip it."

BALANCE

Warming up BEFORE a workout is key to balance. For running seniors, Austin suggests five minutes of walking before getting into a gradual run, or intervals of walking and running.

"It's very important as you age to change it up more, to surprise your muscles and work them differently," she said.

Runners may need to balance workouts with more strength training and stretching to avoid hip and knee problems, adding muscle work for the abs so important for balance and flexibility. Add five minutes of strength training and five minutes of stretching, Austin suggests.

"Really concentrate on the center of your body. Your core. It is truly the powerhouse of your body. It affects how you walk, your flexors, it protects your back. That's why Pilates is great."

Balance issues don't have to put an end to staying fit. Work out in a chair or use one to lean on if you're feeling unsteady. "There's a ton you can do in a chair," Freytag said. "In a gym, there's a huge trend toward functional training, meaning doing things that kind of mimic the functionality of your daily activities."

Standing on a dome-shaped Bosu ball, for example. "You're creating your own passive range of motion, whereas a machine in a gym is a fixed range of motion," she said.

Freytag called balance a "use it or lose it" proposition. "There are so many classes at gyms for folks over 60," she said. "The biggest thing for people who are athletes already is to keep positive and just think about the fact that you're going to train smarter. You're not going to stop. It's just that you have to change."

CARDIO

With heart disease stalking both men and women, aging doesn't have to mean the end to a decent cardio workout.

Riding a bicycle is easier on the hips than running, for instance. Trim back on running to a couple of days a week and supplement on the bike.

"You can get on a bike and spin like heck," Freytag said. "You can still push yourself as hard as you would have but with less pain."

For runners who can't bring themselves to give it up, run slower, walk and run, or cross-train. She suggests cardio work four days a week but only at high energy twice in that period.

Dancing is also a good way to get the heart rate up, Austin said. "It changes movements and it changes your muscle twitchings."

At 93, Esther Robinson wouldn't give up her life of fitness for anything. Active all her life, she still hits her local gym ("I like to bench press"), but dancing is something she can enjoy with others.

"When I was 60 or something, I got into square dancing," the great-grandmother said. "I like the music and the movement of it."

Take a page from Sauer's story and hit the pool. "Swimming is easy on the joints. You'll keep your love of sports." Robinson also loves to swim.

Sauer didn't start training hard until 11 years ago. She knew how to splash around, keep from drowning, but "I never had a swim lesson in my life, nothing."

She showed up for her first session at a health club with a 23-year-old instructor "and I couldn't make it across the pool. I wanted to quit. I felt stupid," but he wouldn't let her give up.

"I'm stronger than I ever was at 45. I'm faster," said Sauer, who competes in the National Senior Games and U.S. Masters Swimming events.

Sauer said her 78-year-old husband is also extremely fit. At a water park with their grandson they spotted no seniors at the top of a water slide five flights up.

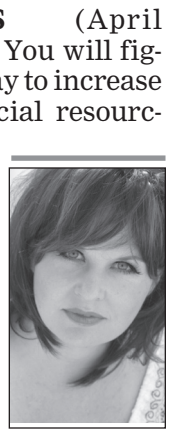
"They're missing out," she said. "I've never had so much fun in my life."

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Goodbye, 2010. The Capricorn sun lends a detached objectivity that is useful in assessing the highlights and lowlights of the past 12 months. The waning Scorpio moon gives poignancy to the New Year's Eve events. It's as though the entire occasion is a beautiful farewell dance to what has been an action-packed year.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're so funny. You see the truth in a situation and reflect on it in a way that's different from the way others around you see it. Write down your observations. You're a true original.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You will figure out a way to increase your financial resources. More money means more choices. And when you put your mind to it, you can think of choices that do not require more money.


Holiday Mathis

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Forgive someone — not because they deserve to be forgiven, but because it's better for you. It takes a massive effort to carry the weight of a grudge. Lighten your load. Drop it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You can slip into an overly serious mood from time to time, but you never stay there. You are, after all, able to laugh at yourself. Because of this, you will never want for entertainment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be in a position to decide whether or not to continue with an activity. Distinguish between minor flaws and tragic flaws. The former can be worked with and maybe fixed; the latter will never change.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Part of the reason you love to travel is that the unfamiliar environment makes you feel brand-new. Getting lost and finding your way out is exhilarating. Today you'll accomplish this without having to travel.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You think you want to take on a new position, but you're still not sure. So fake it for a while. Try on the role just to see what it feels like. As with most things you try on, you'll know right away whether or not it fits.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Being averse to controversy and drama, you often try to avoid conflict. Today you'll be better off inviting it in. You need to know exactly what's at stake here so you can deal with it head-on.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Not all of your experiments will produce conclusive evidence. This is the perfect afternoon to wander around and figure out precisely nothing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Good news. Wherever you go, you'll get the same lesson. So there's no need to fret about making the right decision. It's not the decision but the feeling behind your actions that counts.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Work with your environment instead of stubbornly clinging to your ideas about how this day is supposed to go. You'll find a funny way to lighten the mood and detach from all the tension.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When was the last time you called someone without a reason? It doesn't happen often because, as a rule, you do not enjoy the feeling of a meandering conversation. However, today you'll make an exception.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 31). You're not in competition this year. Instead, you are confident, offering that which only you can offer to the world. You'll be celebrated over the next three weeks and then again in a big way in July. You're let into an exclusive arrangement in February. Education leads to increased money in April. Libra and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 43, 48, 32 and 16.

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News in brief

Tail end of storms blast some Western states, others spend New Year's Eve digging out

DENVER (AP) — Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico struggled against the tail end of storms New Year's Eve that left more westerly states recovering from a wintertime onslaught of snow, rain and bitter wind.

Denver faced its heaviest snows of the season early Friday, while parts of Wyoming and New Mexico bundled up against stormy weather and frigid temperatures.

Phoenix braced for a subfreezing Friday morning, a rarity in the desert city.

Packing more punch, the storms Thursday blasted some states with fierce wind gusts and heavy rains or snows, closing hundreds of miles of roads and dumping a snowy mix of precipitation on the edges of Phoenix.

Officials closed a road into Yosemite National Park in California after a rock the size of a dump truck tumbled onto the road, and strong winds created snow dunes on rooftops, front yards and streets across mountainous areas of Arizona.

U.N. warns an attack by Gbagbo supporters on rival headquarters could reignite civil war

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — The United Nations has warned supporters of Ivory Coast incumbent leader Laurent Gbagbo that an attack on the hotel where internationally recognized winner Alassane Ouattara has set up a shadow government could reignite civil war.

A pro-Gbagbo youth leader has said that Ouattara and his supporters have until Saturday to "pack up their bags."

U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is "deeply alarmed" by these comments.

Ban said Thursday an attack on the hotel could provoke widespread violence that could re-ignite civil war, and he called on those planning to participate in the attack to "refrain from such dangerous irresponsible action," Nesirky said.

Under a peace deal after the 2002-2003 civil war, the U.N. was tasked with certifying the results of the Nov. 28 election. The U.N. declared Ouattara the winner, echoing the country's own electoral commission chief. Gbagbo insists he won, pointing out that the Ivory Coast constitutional council declared him the winner. The council, which is led by a Gbagbo ally, did so after invalidating half a million ballots from Ouattara strongholds in the north.

WikiLeaks reveal U.S. officials frustrated with Egypt's military; lack of shared goals

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's military, the biggest recipient of U.S. military aid after Israel, is in decline, according to American diplomats, who blame the Arab nation's top brass for failing to modernize and adapt to deal with new threats.

U.S. diplomatic memos leaked this month show previously unknown friction between the two allies over military assistance and strategy. Military cooperation has always been seen as an unshakable link between Egypt and the U.S., even as the political side of the alliance has gone through public ups and downs over Washington's on-and-off pressure on reform and human rights.

The disagreements, the memos show, are over a wide range of topics, with the U.S. pressing Egypt to focus its military toward terrorism, halting cross-border smuggling and helping out in regional crises. They also suggest that, to the dismay of the Americans, the Egyptian military continues to see Israel, its enemy in four wars spanning 25 years in the last century, as its primary adversary 31 years after the two neighbors signed a peace treaty.

"The United States has sought to interest the Egyptian military into expanding their mission in ways that reflect new regional and transnational security threats, such as piracy, border security, and counterterrorism," said a memo dated Dec. 21, 2008, released by WikiLeaks.

"But the aging leadership, however, has resisted our efforts and remained satisfied with continuing to do what they have done for years: train for force-on-force warfare with a premium on grounds forces and armor."

Floods in northeastern Australia strand 200,000 in area larger than France, Germany combined

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Military aircraft dropped supplies to towns cut off by floods in northeastern Australia as the prime minister promised new assistance Friday to the 200,000 people affected by waters covering an area larger than France and Germany combined.

Residents were stocking up on food or evacuating their homes as rising rivers inundated or isolated 22 towns in the state of Queensland.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard toured an evacuation center in the flood-stricken town of Bundaberg on Friday and announced that families whose homes had been flooded or damaged would be eligible for disaster relief payments of $1,000 per adult and $400 per child.

"My concern is for the people in these very difficult times," Gillard said.

A day earlier, she pledged $1 million Australian dollars (about $1 million) in federal aid to match a relief fund already set up by the state government.

U.S. helps Ukraine secretly send to Russia enough highly enriched uranium for 2 atomic bombs

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a secret operation to secure nuclear material, the United States has helped Ukraine send to Russia enough uranium to build two atomic bombs.

This week's removal of more than 110 pounds of highly enriched uranium followed a pledge by Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych to get rid of all of his country's highly enriched uranium by April 2012. The material will be blended down in Russia, rendering it useless for bomb making.

Details of the operation were provided to The Associated Press by the National Nuclear Safety Administration.

Yanukovych agreed to give up the uranium in a deal announced at a nuclear security summit hosted by President Barack Obama in April. As an incentive, the United States is providing replacement low-enriched uranium that can be used for Ukraine's research reactors.

The summit deal also has the United States building a $25 million "neutron source facility" nuclear research project for Ukraine, the administration said.

Australians gather to kick off worldwide celebrations welcoming 2011

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — Enthusiastic Australians camped out at parks alongside the Sydney Harbour Bridge to win the best view of Friday's spectacular New Year's Eve fireworks kicking off celebrations around the world.

As the clock ticked closer to 2011, cities across Asia readied for midnight events ranging from traditional prayers in Japan to a massive pyrotechnic display in the shape of a dragon in Taiwan. Europeans were looking forward to celebrations that could help them forget their economic worries.

In New York City, nearly a million revelers were expected to cram into the streets around Times Square to watch the traditional midnight ball drop. The 20-inch snowstorm that blanketed the city will be just a memory thanks to work crews and warmer temperatures.

At least 1.5 million people are expected to line the harbor in Sydney, the first major city where the new year arrives. Celebrations began with aerial displays by vintage aircraft and a parade of boats around the harbor, while spectators set up fold-out chairs, picnic blankets and blowup beds.

Lawyer for jailed Russian oil tycoon Khodorkovsky appeals his new prison sentence

MOSCOW (AP) — A lawyer for jailed Russian oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky says she has appealed his sentence of six more years in prison, a punishment seen as revenge for challenging Vladimir Putin's power.

Karinna Moskalenko said she launched the appeal Friday on the final work day before a 10-day New Year vacation.

Moskalenko says Khodorkovsky's conviction on charges of stealing almost $30 billion worth of oil between 1998 and 2003 from his Yukos company and laundering the proceeds had nothing to do with justice.

Khodorkovsky's business partner Platon Lebedev received the same sentence Thursday. His lawyer also appealed.

Cable subscribers could miss Penn State-Florida game on TV as contract nears expiration

CANTONMENT, Fla. (AP) — Montey Chapel and his family in Florida are among many planning to watch the Florida Gators and Penn State in Saturday's Outback Bowl.

But they and millions of others around the country could fall victim to a long-running feud in the TV industry over the fees that cable providers pay to carry channels.

As a midnight Friday deadline approaches, Sinclair Broadcast Group still doesn't have a deal with cable TV operators Time Warner Cable Inc. and Bright House Networks.

However, Time Warner Cable said late Thursday that it will continue to provide Big 4 network programming this weekend even if Sinclair pulls local programming.

Cossacks MC Permian Basin Chapter wishes to thank all of those who have contributed to our 2010 19th Annual Bykes for Tykes Christmas toy run. We greatly appreciate your help and assistance with our providing a Christmas to those who were a little unfortunate this past year. We cannot do the things we do for the local community without the assistance of people and businesses such as these great ones listed below.

THANKS AGAIN FROM ALL THE COSSACKS.

Harley Shop
Casey's Campers
Jimmy & Linda O'Rear
Rondy & Daury Booth
American Legion Post 506 Ladies Auxiliary
Big Mike's Farm Store
Brian Gordon, BSPD
City of Big Spring
Roland & Sally Gore
Chapel Of Faith Church
Shriners Club
Eagles Lodge Airie 3188 Ladies Auxiliary
Eloise C. Taylor
Matt Coates, HCSO
Scott and T Bennett
Tony Everett, BSPD
Wings of Grace #634
Mrs. Wright, BSISD
Pete & Renee
Ron (Santa) Sawyers
David Hammeke
Big Spring Herald
Josh & Autumn Spencer
Armando & Patricia Lozano
KBST
KBYG
Conoco Phillips Co.
Southwest Tool
Fuller Foods Colorado City
Andy Andrews
J & S Tubing Testers
Jana and Steve Hector
David Pool and Family
Jeremy Klaus and Family
Jimmie Johnson
Lonnie Smith, BSPD
Partee Enterprises
Thad Thomas, BSPD
Toys R US, Midland
Y-Bar Ranch
Cecil & Austin Bynum
Bobby Spigner

218665


Dr. Steve Ahmed, M.D. FAAP

Happy New Year!

Thank You for trusting us with your children's health for over 15 years!

MEDICAL CARE FOR NEWBORNS, TEEN & GENERAL PRACTICE

- Immunizations
- Asthma
- Sports Physicals
- Acne
- Sports Injuries
- A.D.H.D./A.D.D.
- Pre-Term Babies
- Skin Disease

Accepting New Patients

Dr. Steve Ahmed
Board Certified Pediatrics
Associate Professor
Texas Tech University

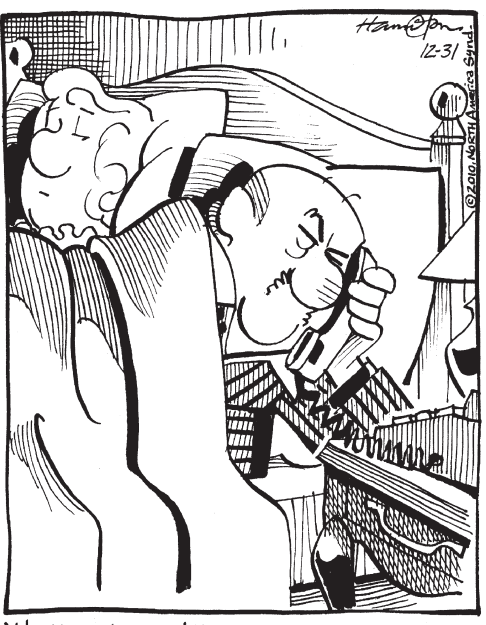
Steve Ahmed MD, PA We Care

1700 E. FM 700
264-1900

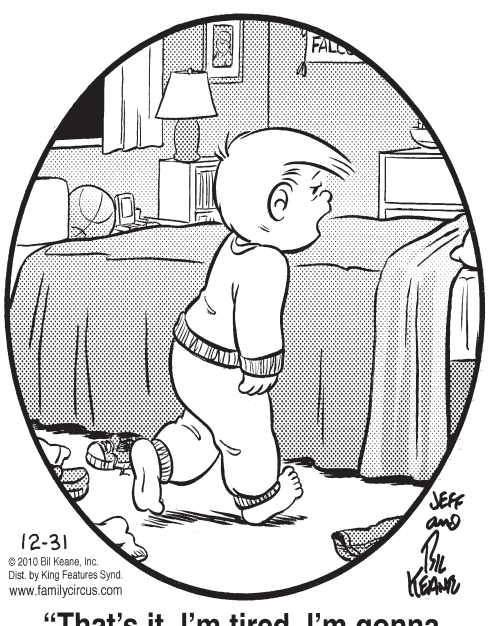
218662

	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5 :PM :30	News / ABC	Alma / Notic.	Lopez / Lopez	News / News	Noticias / Noticiero	News / News	King / King	Faye H. / Holmes	World / Business	Lyrics! / Lyrics!	Deadliest Catch	**Movie:** *Back to the Future, Crispin Glover*	Ways Die / Ways Die	Law & Order		Shake it / Shake it	College Basketball: Ohio State at Indiana.	Florida vs. Georgia.
6 :PM :30	Jeopardy! / Wheel	Paquita Barrio	Two Men / Two Men	News / Ent	**Pelicula:** *007 Otro Día Para Morir, Toby Stephens* **(SS)**	News / Millionaire	Seinfeld / Seinfeld	Door-Wis-dom	PBS News-Hour	70s Show / '70s	Deadliest Catch		Ways Die / Ways Die	Bones		Shake it / Shake it		Football
7 :PM :30	**Movie:** *Wild Hogs, Martin Lawrence*	Banda El Recodo en Concierto (SS)	**Movie:** *Rocky Bal-boa, Antonio Tarver*	NCIS		Minute to Win It	**Movie:** *Men in Black, Linda Fioren-tino*	Upd	Wash.	Smallville	Deadliest Catch		Ways Die	**Movie:** *Troy, Orlando Bloom*		**Movie:** *Camp Rock 2: The Final Jam*	College Basketball	College Football: Chick-fil-A Bowl -- Florida State vs. South Carolina.
8 :PM :30				CSI: NY		Dateline NBC		Alewine / Light of the Southwest	Live From Lincoln Center	Supernatural	Deadliest Catch	**Movie:** *Back to the Future Part II, Lea Thompson*	Ways Die / 1,000 Ways to Die					
9 :PM :30	Dick Clark	¡Feliz 2011!	Simpsons / How I Met	Blue Bloods	Celebrando Año Nuevo 2011 (SS)	New Year's	Office / Office			Paid / Paid	Deadliest Catch		Ways Die / Ways Die			Shake it / Shake it	College Basketball	
10 :PM :30	News / Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve With Ryan Seacrest 2011		How I Met / Raymond	News / Letterman		News / New Year's	Office / Office	Church / Cortes	Pioneers-Tele	King / King	Auction / Auction	**Movie:** *Back to the Future Part III, Mary Steenburgen*	Ways Die / Ways Die	(9:55) **Movie:** *300, David Wenham*	106 & Party: New Year's Eve Special 2010	Shake it / Shake it		New Year. No Limits
11 :PM :30			New Year's Eve Live	Late		Jay Leno	(10:50) Glory Daze	Charles / McGee	Pioneers-Tele / T. Smiley	South Pk / South Pk	Auction / Auction		Ways Die / MAN			Shake it / Shake it	SportsNation	SportsCenter
12 :AM :30			Faith	Insider	Pagado	Late Night	(11:50) **Movie:** *Road Trip, D. J. Qualls*	Upd / CCM	(Off Air)	Cops / Drive TV	Auction / Auction	**Movie:** *Back to the Future, Crispin Glover*	MAN / (:42) MAN-swers	(:25) **Movie:** *Mission: Im-possible III*	106 & Party: New Year's Eve Special 2010	Shake it / Shake it	NBA / College Football: Meineke Car Care Bowl	SportsCenter / SportsCenter
1 :AM :30	(:31) ABC World News		TMZ / King/Hill	Ent / Jewelry	Pagado / Pagado	TBA		Best of Light of the Southwest		Youthbyt / Passion	Oddities / Oddities		MAN			Shake it		

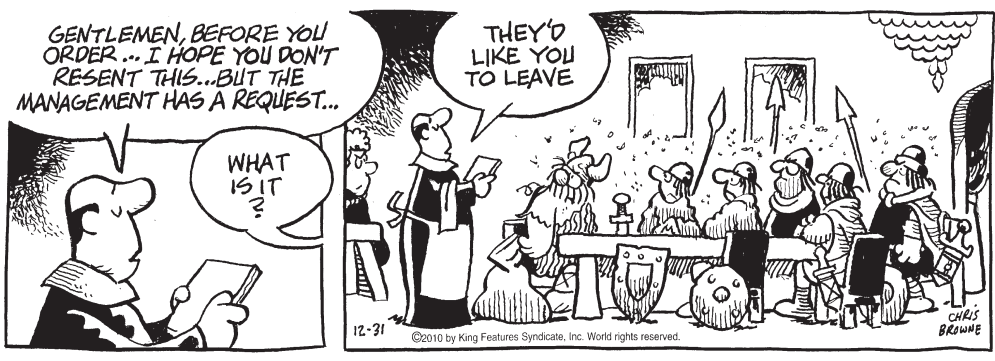
DENNIS THE MENACE



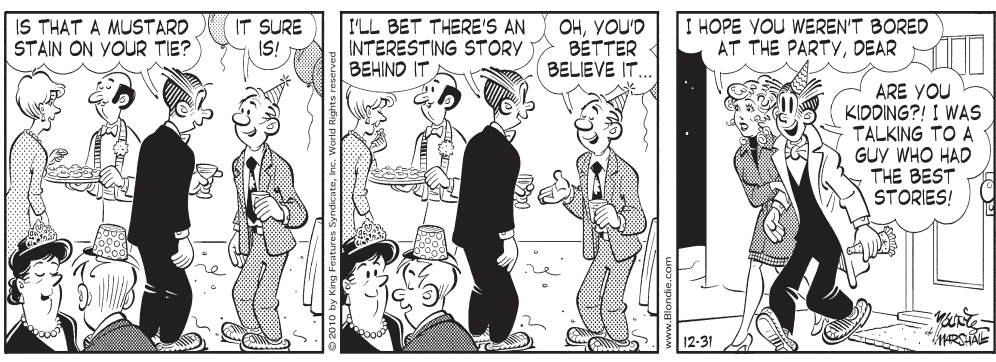
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



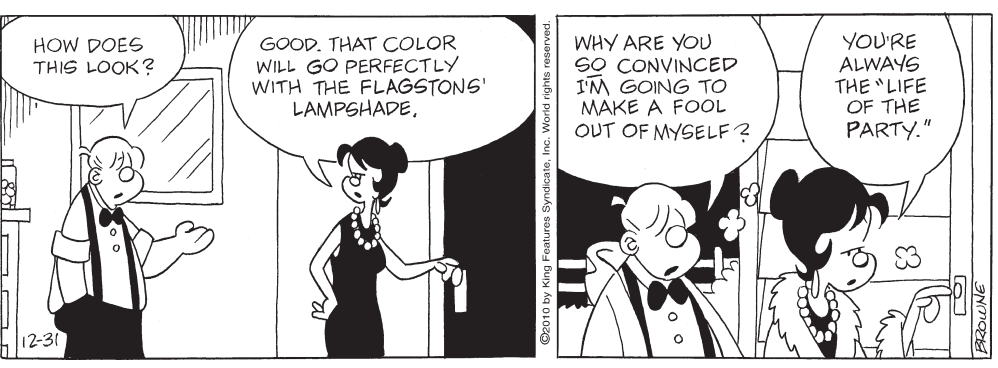
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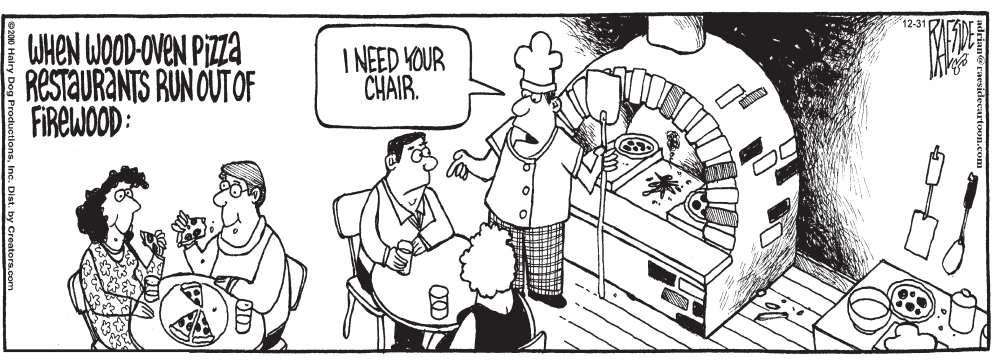
AGNES



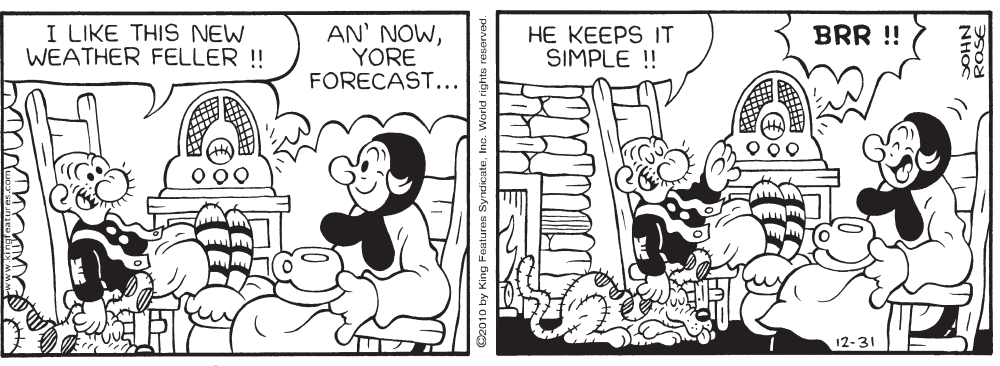
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Dec. 31, the 365th and final day of 2010.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 31, 1775, during the Revolutionary War, the British repulsed an attack by Continental Army generals Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold at Quebec; Montgomery was killed.

On this date:

In 1857, Britain's Queen Victoria decided to make Ottawa the capital of Canada.

In 1879, Thomas Edison first publicly demonstrated his electric incandescent light in Menlo Park, N.J.

In 1909, the Manhattan Bridge, spanning the East River between Manhattan and Brooklyn, was officially opened to vehicular traffic.

In 1946, President Harry S. Truman officially proclaimed the end of hostilities in World War II.

In 1969, Joseph A. Yablonski, an unsuccessful candidate for the presidency of the United Mine Workers of America, was shot to death along with his wife and daughter in their Clarksville, Pa., home by hit men acting under the orders of UMWA president Tony Boyle.

In 1970, Paul McCartney filed a lawsuit in London's High Court against his fellow Beatles to officially dissolve their partnership.

In 1985, singer Rick Nelson, 45, and six other people were killed when fire broke out aboard a DC-3 that was taking the group to a New Year's Eve performance in Dallas.

In 1986, 97 people were killed when fire broke out in the Dupont Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico. (Three hotel workers later pleaded guilty in connection with the blaze.)

In 1990, football coach George Allen died in Palos Verdes Estates, Calif., at age 72. (Allen was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2002.)

In 1997, Michael Kennedy, the 39-year-old son of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was killed in a skiing accident on Aspen Mountain in Colorado.

Today's Birthdays: TV producer George Schlatter is 81. Actor Sir Anthony Hopkins is 73. Actor Tim Considine ("My Three Sons") is 70. Actress Sarah Miles is 69. Rock musician Andy Summers is 68. Actor Sir Ben Kingsley is 67. Producer-director Taylor Hackford is 66. Fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg is 64. Actor Tim Matheson is 63. Pop singer Burton Cummings (The Guess Who) is 63. Singer Donna Summer is 62. Actor Joe Dallesandro is 62. Rock musician Tom Hamilton (Aerosmith) is 59. Actor James Remar is 57. Actress Bebe Neuwirth is 52. Actor Val Kilmer is 51. Singer Paul Westerberg is 51. Actor Don Diamont is 48. Rock musician Ric Ivanisevich (Oleander) is 48. Rock musician Scott Ian (Anthrax) is 47.

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Answer to previous puzzle

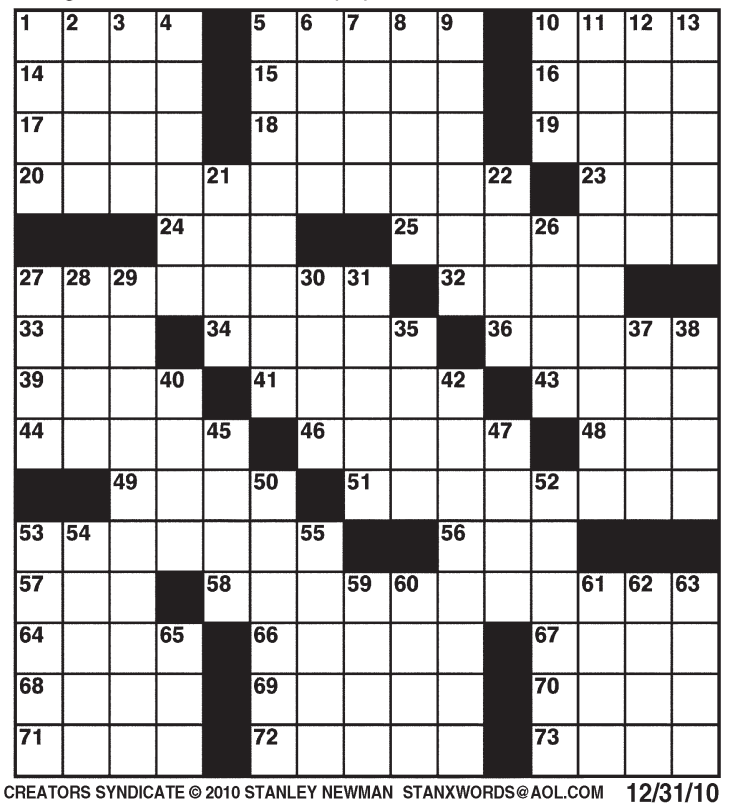
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Newsday Crossword

SPOUTING OFF by Merle Baker
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Go after a fly
5 Secret plot
10 Frost, e.g.
14 "No way!"
15 Turned up
16 Plot part, perhaps
17 Marquee time
18 Stir up
19 Jupiter's equivalent
20 Adolescent phase, often
23 Fitting
24 British record label
25 Some authority figures
27 Groups with washboards
32 Besmirches
33 *Simpsons* shopkeeper
34 Missile monitoring agcy.
36 "Uh-oh!"
39 Just sitting
41 Hopeless
43 *ER* actor La Salle
44 Choirs' quarters
46 Israeli president
48 Start for time or place
49 "Special" event
51 Too trusting
53 Illustrates, in a way
56 NBC show since '75
57 Pole-vault prop
58 Urban planner's concern
64 Part of BSA
66 Banishment
67 Take from the earth
68 Unwanted in-box stuff
69 Wind-powered devices
70 71 Across ender
71 Church song
72 Good thing
73 Fit one within another

DOWN
1 Belted out
2 Fan sound
3 "Self" starter
4 Surfer's destination
5 Take advantage of
6 They may be liberal
7 Betty the toon
8 Be hospitable, perhaps
9 Ogle
10 Mexican literature Nobelist
11 Maritime phenomenon
12 Burst forth
13 Dry runs
21 Certain Fed
22 Something to serve on
26 Pennsylvania port
27 Typical western set
28 Bun, for one
29 Factor in transatlantic navigation
30 Cease to consider
31 Cut wood
35 Calamitous
37 Berlin article
38 Wallpaper meas.
40 LAX listings
42 Most informative, in a way
45 Piggy-bank part
47 Together, with "in"
50 California's motto
52 *Spider-Man* soundtrack composer
53 Disconcert
54 Like Bette Midler concerts
55 Prepares for takeoff
59 Emotional outbursts
60 Hightail it
61 Bar garnish
62 White bills, in Monopoly
63 Took off
65 LBJ successor



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January

Howard College faces budget cuts

A new year brought new financial concerns for Howard College.

Because of the economic downturn, many state agencies, including community colleges, were asked to reduce their budgets by 5 percent, and the state axe didn't spare Howard College.

The college received a letter, cosigned by Gov. Rick Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and Speaker of the House Joe Straus, that definitely caught everyone's attention.

"We've been on notice ... that this could be possible ... They have suggested that each agency institute a plan including a 5 percent reduction in costs for the biennium by Feb. 15," HC President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said.

"They want us to find 'prudent, efficient reductions that minimize the impact on direct services.'"

In Howard's case, that meant finding 5 percent to cut without adversely effecting student instruction.

No specific guidelines accompanied the correspondence, leaving Sparks and others unsure as to what steps needed to be taken.

"At this point, we're awaiting information from the Texas Association of Community Colleges ... that is expected to give us some direction on this matter," Sparks said in January. "Right now, though, we really don't have that much information."

Losing 5 percent of the state's appropriation resulted in an economic hit of around $600,000 to Howard College and SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf, she estimated.

"We budget very conservatively and don't have a lot of waste ... so there will be an impact," she said in January.

"But building budgets is about making choices and if it comes to that, we certainly will choose accordingly."

The specter of further cuts in state aid would dog the college throughout the year.

In other January news:

• Howard College wasn't the only county taxing entity dealing with budget shortfalls in 2010.

The Big Spring City Council approved an order amending its 2009-2010 property tax revenues in hopes the municipality would be able to absorb a budgetary shortfall caused by a $9 million error in certified values issued by the Howard County Appraisal District in 2009.

According to city officials, the shortfall cost the city an estimated $91,000 in tax revenue.

City Attorney Linda Sjogren said the city had the option to go through the process of resetting the tax rate, but decided against it.

• Big Spring Independent School District officials were taking a wait-and-see attitude toward the unveiling of a new slate of state tests that will replace the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS).

Commissioner of Education Robert Scott announced that the next generation of student tests will be called the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, or STAAR.

The STAAR name, pronounced the same as "star," will be used for the 12 end-of-course assessments mandated by Senate Bill 1031 in 2007 and the new grade 3-8 assessments mandated by House Bill 3 in the 2009 legislative session.

The new tests will be used beginning in the 2011-2012 school year.

Steven Saldivar, superintendent for BSISD schools, said he wants to see more of the new tests before declaring STAAR either an improvement of step down from TAKS.

• A number of new laws concerning the state's appraisal process went into effect Jan. 1, laws Gov. Rick Perry heralded as reforms to help property taxpayers in the Lone Star State.



Clifford Anglin waits for the fish to start biting during the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club's annual youth fishing tournament Saturday at Comanche Trail Lake. Officials said 76 youngsters registered for the event.

HB 8 and 3612 by Rep. John Otto and SB 771 by Sen. Tommy Williams were among several bills designed to improve the appraisal process, and included provisions that imposed limits on what is considered a comparable sale for appraisal purposes; created an expedited arbitration process; and required substantial evidence to increase an appraisal after a successful appeal.

According to officials with Perry's office, the changes would improve the fairness and accuracy of the appraisal process and increase the oversight of appraisal districts to ensure they are following uniform appraisal practices and procedures.

• A 65-year-old Big Spring man was killed Jan. 11 after he and three co-workers were exposed to hydrogen sulfide gas at an oilfield site in Glasscock County, approximately 15 miles north of Garden City near FM 461.

Johnny Mills was pronounced dead just before noon, according to Glasscock County Sheriff Keith Burnett.

Mills was an employee of Garden City-based Sheridan Enterprises. Mills' co-worker, 27-year-old Steven Waters, was rushed to an Odessa hospital after the pair were exposed to hydrogen sulfide while working on a tank battery.

• An infant that was rushed to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center Jan. 13 with seizures and difficulty breathing died later that week, according to officials with the Big Spring Police Department.

Three-month-old Christopher Savell was taken to the emergency room from a home in the 4100 block of Parkway at approximately 7:46 a.m. Jan. 13, suffering from what police officials described as seizures and difficulty breathing.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD, the child was transferred to a hospital in Lubbock, where he later died.

• Law enforcement officials say at least seven people suffered minor injuries in a shooting at a home in the 700 block of Creighton early Jan. 17.

According to Everett, the shooting was reported at approximately 4:05 a.m. Jan. 17 after an altercation between two men turned violent.

• A Big Spring woman died after being life-flighted from the scene of a one-vehicle rollover near Elbow Elementary School Jan. 27.

According to law enforcement officials at the scene, 47-year-old Marcela Martinez Rivera was transported from the scene with what was believed to be serious but stable wounds from the crash.

Rivera was pronounced dead shortly after 1 p.m. at a hospital in Odessa, according to DPS Trooper Jared Bratcher.

Sports



File Photo

Luke Adams and the Big Spring Steers' 3-0 start in district play was one of the highlights of January.

A lot of local sports teams in the area started the new year off with a bang. Maybe none more than the Howard College men's basketball team. The Hawks got on a roll with 12 consecutive wins heading into their pivitol matchup against Midland College, which pitted two top 5 teams against each other. The Hawks ended up losing that game, but didn't let that slow them down.

Parents, fans and supporters alike came togther to celebrate the year in Big Spring High School athletics, too.

District play began for area high school basketball teams, including District 4-4A play for the Big Spring Steers and Lady Steers. Both of those teams, however, were struggling a little bit at this point in the year. The Steers were losers of seven straight games and things got off to a rocky start for the Lady Steers with a district opening loss to Frenship. The Steers beat Andrews on Jan. 12 to snap the skid, though. Things turned around quickly for the Steers, too, as they started district play with three consecutive victories.

Football player Anthony Garcia was selected for the Edwards Award and volleyball player Tiffany Garcia won the first ever Heart of a LadySteer award. Other accomplishments, especially the 10-win season from the Big Spring football team, were recognized as well.

Speaking of recognizing accomplishments, Howard College baseball coach Britt Smith was recognized before the Howard College men's basketball game on Jan. 25. Smith had won the 2009 Diamond/American Baseball Coaches Association NJCAA Division I National Coach of the Year award for leading the Hawk baseball team to a national championship. At the end of the month, the Howard College baseball team — ranked No. 1 in the nation — prepared to kick off the 2010 season.

The Big Spring powerlifting team also grabbed a first-place finish in its own meet in Big Spring.

It's Not Homestyle If You Can't Get Seconds



Thursday Night Buffet
All You Can Eat Steak and Shrimp
For $12.99/ per person + tax

$2.00 OFF Any Buffet
With This Coupon
EXPIRES 3/31/2011

Located At:
I-20 & Hwy. 87, Big Spring, TX.

TA TravelCenters
Country Fare Restaurant

218446

February

What's up with the water?

Big Spring residents received a rather confusing — and alarming — notice from the city concerning the quality and safety of drinking water in the Crossroads area in February, but city officials said the problems posed no dangers to consumers.

"The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) sets minimum water quality standards for public drinking water," read the notice, which was mailed out to city water customers. "These standards include enforceable treatment technique requirements for drinking water. Inadequately treated drinking water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

"The city of Big Spring Water Treatment Plant failed to meet the minimum treatment technique requirements for the month of December 2009. Specifically, our water system allowed the turbidity of the filtered water to exceed 0.3 Nephelometric Turbidity Units in more than 5 percent of the measurements made during the month. This violation is classified as a non-acute violation. The city is addressing the issues that contributed to the cause of the violation and will continue to work toward providing you the best quality product possible."

According to Assistant City Manager Todd Darden, the language used in the notices was dictated by the state and was designed to cover a number of situations that simply don't apply to the problems identified with the Big Spring water supply.

"The language we have to put in the notice is mandated by the state, and it's across the board for any entity that violates the quality issue for the treatment of water," said Darden. "There are certain constituents that could be harmful, but the constituents they are talking about aren't found in our source water. We test for those and we're on our 20th month of testing for those organisms and they are not found in our water. Our issue is only the quality of the water.

"The water we're putting out today is the same quality that met standards five years ago. However, they have raised the standards since then. We have some issues we feel like we can address that will get rid of these quality problems we're having with our treatment. We're visiting with some consultants that are very familiar with some of the constituents we're having to deal with now that we haven't had to deal with in the past."

In other February news:

• Representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Texas Department of State Health Services were at Big Spring Federal Correction Institute helping to track down the cause of a outbreak of pneumonia.

According to information released by the Big Spring FCI, officials from the CDC and Texas Department of State Health Services arrived at the prison Feb. 16 and worked with the Bureau of Prisons staff to collect data on the outbreak, which had effected between 35 and 40 of the facility's 1,707 inmates.

"Since November (2009) the institution has identified approximately 35-40 cases of probable pneumonia — from an inmate population of 1,707. Those diagnosed with pneumonia were housed apart from the general population, responded well to antibiotics, and all have either recovered or are in the process of recovering," an FCI news release stated.



Jeanie Knocke, right, receives the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Woman of the Year Award from Jan Hansen during the chamber's annual banquet at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum

• Big Spring Independent School District trustees unanimously voted to hold an election May 8 to ask district taxpayers to approve $60 million in facility improvements during a brief special meeting Feb. 25.

BSISD officials said they plan to use the bond money in the following manner: $43 million to construct new elementary campuses at the current sites of Washington, Marcy and Goliad schools, demolish those existing buildings along with Bauer Elementary, add a classroom wing and physical education gym to Moss Elementary and renovate Kentwood Elementary; $2.7 million to construct new classrooms at Big Spring Junior High to house BSISD sixth-graders, making BSJH a three-year campus; $12 million in improvements are planned at the high school, including installation of a new roof and fire suppression system and upgrading the building's science labs; and an additional $2.5 million is being asked to improve campus grounds, parking lots and driveways.

The bond issue would pass by a convincing margin May 10.

• Drew Mouton and Jeanie Knocke were named the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's Man and Woman of the Year for 2009 during the organization's annual banquet Feb. 11 in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Knocke, a Big Spring native and long-time employee at Wells Fargo Bank, was saluted as a "real angel" by Jan Hansen, who presented the award.

"Our Woman of the Year is a real angel, devoting herself to serving the needs of others," Hansen said. "She respects, values and motivates everyone she comes in contact with. While she cannot keep up with her own phone or documents and has been known to miss her own plane home, she never forgets anyone in need and is always there when they need her."

Mouton, a long-time local attorney, was described as a "Renaissance man" by presenter Terry Hansen.

"Few individuals have been as involved and made as many contributions as our Man of the Year," Hansen said.

"The list of organizations that have benefited from his involvement is lengthy, including United Way, the YMCA, the Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement and Boy Scouts of America."

• A Big Spring man was killed in a house fire early Feb. 1 at a home near the intersection of Gatesville and Eubanks Road, north of the city.

Ronald Edward Robey, 61, was reported dead at the scene of the fire, which was responded to by both Howard County Volunteer firefighters and personnel from the Big Spring Fire Department.

According to Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan, a neighbor reported the first at approximately 8 a.m., with firefighters arriving on the scene just minutes later.

"One of the first firefighters on the scene was Zach Johnson, who is a volunteer firefighter. He's also the son of the victim," said Sullivan.

Sports



File Photo

Grady High School basketball player Zane Robinson cuts a snippet of net from the goal at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum after the Wildcats defeated Water Valley 62-49 in a Class 1A playoff game.

It's one of the best times of the year in any sport — the postseason.

High school boys and girls' basketball teams in the area geared up for postseason play in hopes of making a deep run in the playoffs.

Forsan, Garden City and Stanton all earned berths in the playoffs on the girls side.

On the boys' side, it was Big Spring and Grady.

The Big Spring boys may have been one of the more intresting stories at this time of the year. The Steers won their first district championship since 1989, going 17-13 to get into the playoffs.

Grady is not to be forgotten, either. The Wildcats made an unprecedented run in the playoffs after losing the regional quarterfinals of the playoffs each of the last four seasons. Shane Teague and Jacob Rodriguez were just two oustanding players who helped fuel the run.

At this point, other sports seasons were under way for area teams, including Howard College baseball and softball, high school tennis, baseball, softball, power-lifiting and track.

Howard College baseball was looking to stay on top after its historic season as the team started the season with a No. 1 ranking. The Howard College softball team was looking to make a run of its own, too.

The Howard College men's and women's basketball teams continue to roll through the season, especially the Hawk men.

High school softball season in the area meant another year of some of the best teams in the state. Big Spring, Forsan and Coahoma have all been perinneal contenders. Forsan hoped to defend the state championship it won the previous season.

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March

Yeats wins judge election

Local attorney Tim Yeats took a convincing victory in the race for the Republican nomination for 118th District Court Judge March 2, while the GOP race for the Precinct 2 seat on the Howard County commissioners headed for a runoff election in mid-April.

Yeats, who ran against former County Attorney Mike Thomas for the Republican nod, took 2,662 ballots from Howard, Martin and Glasscock counties in the primary election, accounting for more than 60 percent of the vote. In Howard County alone, Yeats received 2,132 ballots, or 64.12 percent of the vote.

Thomas finished the night with 1,563 ballots in all three counties, more than 30 percent of the vote. In Howard County, Thomas received 1,193 ballots, or 35.88 percent of the vote.

Yeats said he and his campaign team worked right up until polls closed at 7 p.m. and was very happy to see the final tabulations.

"This is my first time running for office, so I was pretty nervous going into things tonight," said Yeats. "However, we really didn't have much time to think about it since we campaigned right up until the polls closed tonight. We worked hard on this election and I really feel like it paid off."

With no Democratic candidate to challenge him, Yeats was assured of succeeding Robert H. Moore III as district judge.

The Precinct 2 county commissioners GOP primary featured Donnie Baker coming out ahead in the contest, pulling in 617 ballots for 43.45 percent of the vote in the Republican contest. Incumbent candidate Jerry Kilgore came in second with 532 ballots, or 37.46 percent of the vote, while third-place finisher Melanie Gambrel garnered 271 ballots to make up the final 19.08 percent of the vote.

In the Democratic primary for the same seat, political newcomer Jim Sinclair took a narrow victory over his challenger with 80 ballots, or 55.56 percent of the vote. Fellow Dem candidate Richard Belew drew 64 ballots, or 44.44 percent of the vote.

In the race for Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Place 2 incumbent candidate Kathryn Wiseman took the GOP nod with 1,729 ballots, or 72.31 percent of the vote. Challenger David Baird received 662 ballots, or 27.69 percent of the vote.

Wiseman would face local businessman Ricky Hughes in the November election. Hughes ran unopposed on the Democratic ticket.

In other March news:

• Texans take pride in leading the nation in energy production. Maintaining that position, however, is going to take a lot of hard work.

That was the main message from the March 9 West Texas Energy Summit, which brought together Texas legislators and energy production businessmen from across the Permian Basin at the Dora Roberts Community Center.



Ken Darnell "milks" a rattlesnake of its venom during the first day of the American Business Club's 46th Rattlesnake Roundup.

Producers and lawmakers shared ideas, information and predictions for the future of the energy industry during the summit, which was the brainchild of Texas Rep. Joe Heflin, Big Spring's representative in the state House of Representatives, and Ben Sheppard, president of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association.

Heflin said the summit was designed to update West Texans on the status not only of the oil and gas industry, but other energy enterprises like wind, solar and nuclear.

"He and I were talking on the phone when we came up with the idea for a summit," Heflin said. "We wanted lawmakers and energy producers to share information and ideas to see what we can do to keep the oil and gas industry viable ... Ben said, 'Well, why don't we bring everybody? Not just oil and gas but other areas of energy production?'"

Aside from updating the audience on the state of Texas' oil and gas industry, speakers also details about ongoing efforts to develop alternative and renewable energy sources.

• City road and paving projects neared completion in March.

Of the three major street repaving projects, significant work remained only on Lancaster Street, Assistant City Manager Todd Darden said. Work on Scurry Street was complete in mid-March, while only a two-block section of Main Street awaited repaving.

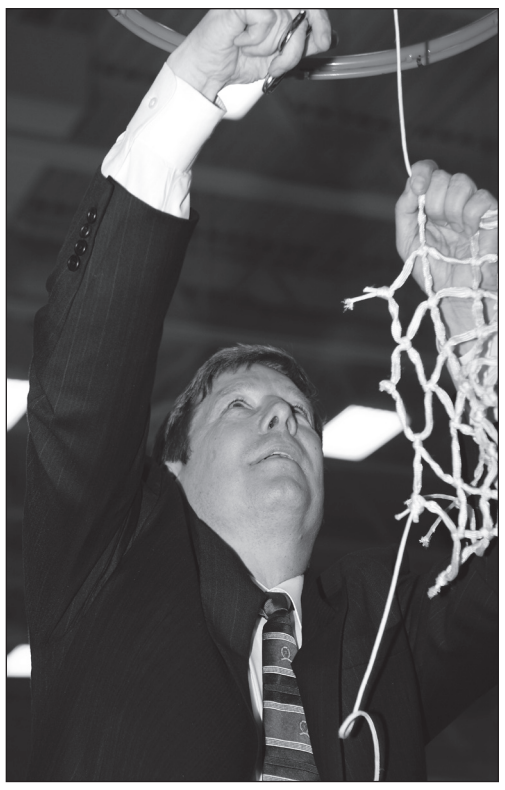
• Jim Rhodes, band director and academic director of University Interscholastic League activities at Forsan High School, joined a select group of instructors across Texas to receive the UIL's Sponsor Excellence Award, presented to teachers whose students achieve excellence in various UIL academic programs.

• Officials with the city of Big Spring described the recent lawsuit filed against the municipality by the Concerned Citizens Council as an attempt to "sneak the obviously invalid (rollback tax) petition through on a technicality" in a response filed in 118th District Court.

The lawsuit — which was filed on behalf of the Concerned Citizens Council with local residents Shannon Thomason, Steve Campbell, Thomas Tafuro, John Huckabee, Joe Hernandez and Mary Musik named as plaintiffs — alleges an emergency meeting of the Big Spring City Council held Jan. 7 violated the act, which requires 72 hours notice of meetings.

During the meeting, the Big Spring City Council declared a rollback tax petition submitted to the city in December as invalid. To be successful, the petition would have needed approximately 1,200 names. However, the final copy submitted to the city contained just one name, that of Thomason.

Sports



File Photo

Mark Adams gave Howard College something else to celebrate when the Hawk men's basketball team won its first ever NJCAA National Championship.

March was the month of the Howard College men's basketball team.

Just a few months after Howard College had the baseball team to celebrate, the men's basketball team came in and won the NJCAA National Championship for the first time ever.

The Hawks did it in impressive fashion, too.

They went 35-2 during the 2009-2010 season and beat Three Rivers (Mo.) Community College 85-80 in Hutchinson, Kan. The Hawks beat a Three Rivers (Mo.) Community College squad that is a two-time NJCAA National Champion.

This group of Hawks was a talented one to say the least.

There was Josh Watkins, who was named tournament MVP with 26 points in the national championship game. There was the explosive Jae Crowder, who was one of the catalysts on offense for the Hawks all season. He scored 27 points in that game and was named to the all-tournament team. Players such as Carlos Emory, Joe Bright and Lamont Austin can't be forgotten either.

When the Hawks beat Three Rivers (Mo.) Community College on March 20, they set a championship game record for most free throws attempted at 51 and most free throws made with 27.

"We've just really shown that this team has character to go ahead and find ways to get the job done," said head coach Mark Adams, who has taken the Hawks to two national tournament appearances — something that had not been accomplished in 36 years before he took the helm five seasons ago.

"Coach just said, 'Do what you do. Go,'" Watkins said. "I knew I had to attack, and once we got their big men in foul trouble, they only had two to put in the game, so we really worked on them."

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April

Baker wins runoff with Kilgore

Donnie Baker defeated longtime incumbent Jerry Kilgore for the Howard County Precinct 2 Commissioners Republican nomination in a primary runoff election April 12.

Baker took 440 ballots — 258 in early voting and 140 during the election — accounting for 62.86 percent of the vote. Kilgore received 260 ballots — 110 in early voting and 119 on election day — to pull in 37.14 percent of the vote.

Baker attributed his victory to meeting with voters in person, promoting an open-door policy he said he would carry into the office if elected.

"I talked to a lot of people," Baker said firmly. "I probably did more verbal campaigning than anything else. I know a lot of people and have visited with them. I'm glad it's over, but I will be accessible to the people of Howard County and anything they need to discuss concerning the commissioners court.

"I want to thank all of the voters for getting out and casting their votes. I'd also like to thank my opponent, Jerry (Kilgore), for running a clean race. I don't believe I've heard anything negative from any of the candidates running for the commissioners court this year."

Kilgore, who has served on the commissioners court for the past 16 years, said he's thankful for the many years of support from the voters of Howard County.

"It's just been a great ride," Kilgore said with a smile. "We've made an amazing amount of progress over the years I've been a part of the commissioners court. We solved the jail problem and managed to get the fund balances back up to a respectable level. We've certainly come a long way with it all."

Kilgore said he believes the lack of hard issues in the race was what cost him the nomination.

"We didn't have any really tough issues on the table when this election rolled around, so everyone pretty much ran on their name," said Kilgore.

"I suppose the people in Howard County just want a new face at this point. There's certainly a different feeling out there right now. It's a different arena than it was when I first ran 16 years ago."

Baker faced Democratic nominee Jim Sinclair in the November general election.

In other April news:

• A Big Spring man died April 1 following an oil rig drilling accident at a location between Midland and Gardendale.

William Ryan Locke, 35, was pronounced dead at approximately 1:35 p.m. after he was knocked from a ladder by a stream of high pressure water, according to reports issued by Midland County emergency officials.

According to law enforcement reports, the accident occurred just before 1 p.m. at a drilling location approximately one mile south of Highway 158 and FM 1788 in Midland County.



Contractors with Oncor Electric work to erect a street light in one of the medians located on Main Street. The lighting was part of the city's downtown street project, which called for streetscaping in and around the downtown area.

• A mix-up with mail delivery resulted in a number of Howard County residents not receiving their 2010 U.S. Census forms.

County Judge Mark Barr said in April that the delivery problem had resulted in no Forsan residents receiving their census forms.

"The Census Bureau had (the residents') street address on the forms, but no one in Forsan gets their mail delivered to their homes — they all pick up their mail at the post office," Barr said. "So, the post office wasn't able to deliver the forms and sent them back. That means no one in Forsan has had a chance to fill them out."

A solution followed a few days later, when Census Bureau officials announced that Forsan residents could pick up forms, or fill out the forms over the phone.

• Jim Little, manager of the Big Spring Airport, was named 2010 General Aviation Airport Manager of the Year by the Texas Department of Transportation Aviation Division during the Texas Aviation Conference at The Woodlands.

• A lawsuit settlement agreement between the Concerned Citizens Council and the city of Big Spring was finalized April 8, effectively drawing the issue — which centered around a city council meeting that violated the Texas Open Meetings Act — to a close.

According to City Attorney Linda Sjogren, the city signed off on the settlement one day, with officials from the CCC getting approval from its body and signing the arrangement by the end the next.

The agreement was reached March 29 during a preliminary hearing in 118th District Court with District Judge Robert H. Moore III presiding.

During the hearing Moore determined the city was in violation of the Texas Open Meetings Act when it held an emergency meeting Jan. 6.

• A Big Spring man died April 10 following a traffic accident near the intersection of U.S. Highway 350 and Rice Road, according to officials with the Texas Department of Public Safety.

John Wayne Murphy, 45, of Coahoma, was pronounced dead by a doctor at Scenic Mountain Medical Center at approximately 8:14 a.m after the vehicle he was traveling in was struck in the passenger side.

According to DPS Operator Matt Cockerell, Murphy was a passenger in a 1998 Ford Escort driven by 19-year-old Roy Garcia Jr. of Big Spring.

• Dr. Michael Stevens, who served as interim superintendent at Big Spring Independent School District and helped plan the successful $63 million construction bond issue, left the district April 23.

Sports



File Photo

Coahoma's Heather Newton and the Bulldogettes softball team made a lot of noise during the month of April on the way to a 24-8 finish.

It was a good time to be a baseball and softball fan in the area. The district races for softball started to heat up throughout the month of April.

Area softball teams were getting recognition throughout the state, too.

The Forsan Lady Buffaloes reached the No. 8 ranking in the state. Former Coahoma softball players Tara Sterling, Shana Earnest, Tori Elmore, Brandi Hart, Cassie Tindol, Kortney Kemper and Ruby Garcia were up for the UIL All-Century team.

Meanwhile, the Bulldogettes softball team cruised in District 5-2A play and so did the Forsan Lady Buffs. The Bulldogettes finished 24-8 on the year.

The Forsan, Coahoma and Big Spring baseball and softball teams all made the playoffs.

Baseball in the area was heading down the home stretch, too.

The Howard College rodeo season was back in full swing.

The Big Spring girls' track team finished third in the District 4-4A track meet. The Lady Steers did so with only one senior on the team. The Big Spring boys' track team finished second at the District 4-4A meet.

April was the time of football and softball signings for area high school teams.

Fresh off a 10-win season for the Big Spring Steers, football players Monte Anderson and Tevian Parnell took their game to the next level and signed with Cisco Junior College. Anderson was a standout running back for the Steers and Parnell was a talented wide receiver.

These two signings for the Big Spring football team were in addition to four other players signing collegiate letters of intent.

Matt Ritchey signed with Baylor, Kyler McGee with Eastern New Mexico, Thaddeus Straughter also with Cisco and Steven Henry signed with Oklahoma Panhandle State.



May

Elections bring a number of changes

The month of May got off to a hot start for law enforcement officials in the Crossroads area, as a six-month-long narcotics investigation led by the Big Spring Spring Police Department Narcotic Division yielded nearly two dozen arrests and netted a considerable amount of illegal drugs.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD, the narcotics division — with assistance from the Big Spring Police Department Criminal Investigation Division, Howard County Sheriff Department, Texas Department of Public Safety, Howard County District Attorney's Office and Immigration Custom Enforcement (ICE) San Angelo Office — executed at least 20 arrest warrants.

May was a rocky month for the Big Spring Refinery and its owner Alon USA, as a number of alleged safety violations at the local facility got the company in hot water with the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Part of an investigation that began Oct. 27, 2009, by OSHA's Lubbock District Office, the government agency alleged serious and repeat violations following an inspection at the company's crude oil refinery with penalties totaling more than $80,000.

May also marked the 40th annual Big Spring Kennel Club Dog Show. Dog owners, breeders and showers from all over the Permian Basin and abroad gathered for the competition to see who would win top dog in a number of different breeds, drawing more than 300 different canines of all shapes and sizes.

The month also included municipal elections, as a number of seats were up for grabs in Big Spring. Current Mayor Tommy Duncan unseated longtime incumbent Russ McEwen, while incumbent District 5 councilman Troy Tompkins lost his seat to newcomer Craig Olson. Tompkins would later call for a recount in the election following the discovery that 12 paper ballots had been misplaced during tabulations. However, the recount did not change the outcome of the election.

Also part of the area's municipal contests, voters in Coahoma gave the go-ahead for a new sales tax to establish a 4-B economic development corporation. The proposition called for the adoption of a sales and use tax within the city limits at the rate of one-half on one percent to be used and applied to projects authorized by section 4B of the Development Corporation Act of 1979. The tax can also be used for the maintenance and operation costs associated with such projects.

Voters were also asked to weigh in on a $60 million bond to build three new elementary campuses and finance renovations at other school buildings for Big Spring Independent School District. The final tally showed 1,788 people voting for the bond with 1,163 in opposition.

Projects the bond will finance include:

• $42 million to replace existing campuses at Washington, Goliad and Marcy, $7 million to renovate Moss and $1 million for infrastructure work at Kentwood. The district will then have four elementary campuses (Washington, Goliad, Marcy and Moss) housing students in grades kindergarten through 5, with Kentwood eventually being turned into a pre-kindergarten center.

Existing campuses at Washington and Marcy will be demolished, while the main building at Bauer Elementary, which was constructed almost 80 years ago, will be converted for use in staff training. Classroom wings at that campus will be torn down, officials said.

• $2.5 million to add 11 classrooms at Big Spring Junior High to accommodate the district's sixth graders, who will join seventh and eighth graders at the facility.

• $12 million for renovation at Big Spring High School, including roof replacement, new science labs and installation of a fire suppression system.

• $2.5 million for improvements to grounds, parking and driveways.

BSISD also welcomed a new school trustee in May, as Chad Wash polled 57.5 percent of the votes to win the District 5 race. He succeeded former board president Mike Dawson, who stepped down after five terms as a trustee.

Michael Brooks and Brandon Atkins won election to the Coahoma Independent School District Board of Trustees, out-polling three other candidates for two at-large seats.

Also in May, police investigated a shooting in the 1600 block of Cardinal that sent a local man — 33-year-old Toby Porter — to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center in critical condition.

A food drive conducted by the National Association of Letter Carriers in May netted more than 2,800 cans of food, according to officials with the Big Spring Salvation Army, going a long way to replenishing supplies for the local charity.

A Big Spring man severely injured in October 2009 when the maintainr he was driving struck a gas line and caught fire filed suit against the owners of the pipeline in 118th District Court during May.

Gary Harris, who was a maintainer operator for the Howard County Road Department at the time of the accident, suffered third-degree burns over nearly 30 percent of his body when the road grader he was operating struck a gas line at a work site southwest of Vealmore Oct. 20, 2009, according to county officials.

Also during May, search warrants executed at several Big Spring businesses led to the seizure of a number of machines allegedly being used for illegal gambling, according to police officials. Warrants were executed at Bedazzle, located at 1907 Birdwell Lane Suite G; Cherokee Internet Cafe, located at 1600 E. Fourth St.; and Gold Rush, located at 804 E. Third St. The search warrants would later lead to a number of arrests warrants being issued.

An Odessa motorcyclist traveling through Big Spring on Interstate Highway 20 was killed in late May after losing control of his vehicle. According to communications officials with the Texas Department Of Public Safety in Midland, Johnny Lee Pound, 56, of Odessa, was pronounced dead at Scenic Mountain Medical Center a little more than an hour after the traffic accident, which took place near the 195 mile marker on Interstate Highway 20.

The last day of May also marked the Memorial Day holiday in the Crossroads area, as people from all over the area gathered at the Vietnam Memorial to offer their thanks and gratitude to the fighting men and women of America that gave their lives in the name of freedom.

A memorial service was also held at Trinity Memorial Park later in the day.

During the ceremony the colors were posted by the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department Honor Guard, and a wreath was laid at the monument near the flag pole.



HERALD Photo

Don Boling, Vietnam War veteran and member of the Vietnam Memorial Committee, places a wreath during the Memorial Day ceremony.

Sports



File Photo

Ty Johnson and the Forsan track team sent the most athletes out of the three Howard County schools to the state meet.

Howard College baseball certainly wasn't as strong this year as it was in 2009, but the Hawks still clinched the WJCAC championship with a four-game sweep of Clarendon College.

Britt Smith wasn't happy with the way his team played at times, but he was proud of the way the Hawks pulled it together when it mattered the most.

"They made the commitment to play together and play unselfishly and support the guys who were playing, regardless if they were playing — and it showed all weekend," he said, follwing the four-game sweep.

Standout track star Mike Menefield punched his ticket to the state track meet in May. He finished second in the long jump with a leap of 23 inches, 8.5 inches. He also won the triple jump.

When it was all said and done, eight athletes from Howard County earned spots in the state track meet. Menefield was the only athlete to represent Big Spring High School.

Coahoma had two track athletes qualify for state — Ray Gutierrez and Lupe Abrego.

Forsan track was the winner at this point in the season, however. The Buffaloes and Lady Buffs sent the most athletes to state, with Ambra Hill, Shelby Jones, Amanda Longorio and the 400-meter relay team of Ty Johnson, Brendan Roman, Elgin Suazo and Mike Hill. Johnson also qualified in the 100-meter and 200-meter runs.

Meanwhile, the area's high school baseball and softball playoffs continued on. The Coahoma Bulldogettes' season fell a little bit short of what they wanted, losing to Alpine in the regional semifinal. It was the first time Coahoma softball hadn't made the regional finals in six seasons.

Forsan baseball and softball contiued its trek in the playoffs and all supporters of the Buffaloes had something else to celebrate — Forsan football began installing artifical turf on its football field.

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June

Arrests for gambling, home invasion

Following a failed vote to substantially scale back the $4.2 million water park designed to replace the municipal swimming pool in early June, the Big Spring City Council voted 6-1 in favor of moving forward with the project as previously designed.

A motion by newly elected District 5 Councilman Craig Olson to massively scale back the design of the water park — which was approved by the council unanimously prior to his election — was defeated 2-5, with only Olson and newly elected Mayor Tommy Duncan supporting the measure.

The vote was taken after more than one hour of testimony from local citizens and discussions among the council. However, Olson and Duncan's arguments failed to sway council members Stephanie Horton, Manuel Ramirez Jr., Joann Staulcup, Gloria McDonald and Terry Hansen, who all remained steadfast in their support of the proposed facility.

Also during June, Big Spring public school superintendent Steven Saldivar defended the district's actions concerning the censoring of the high school newspaper. Big Spring High School journalism instructor Bill Riggs resigned shortly after copies of The Corral student newspaper were pulled from circulation by school district officials. Administrators pulled the issue, the final one of the school year, because it contained a student editorial advocating the legalization of marijuana, BSISD Superintendent Steven Saldivar said.

Also in early June, a number of arrests were made in connection with a home invasion in the 400 block of State. "The family was relaxing at home when both the side and front doors of the house were kicked open and numerous suspects entered the home," Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, said. "The suspects were armed with handguns, except for one, who was armed with a shotgun. All of them were wearing masks or bandanas to conceal their faces.

"The suspects demanded money, and holding the family at gunpoint, ransacked the house. The suspects threatened the adults, and pointed their weapons at the couple's children, who are 2 and 3 years old. One suspect pistol-whipped the male victim in the head while his children were present."

Everett said the male victim suffered non-life threatening injuries in the attack, was taken to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, where he was treated and released.



HERALD Photo

Richard Hunsucker, left, shakes hands with local veteran Mike Tarpley while traveling through Big Spring on his way back from San Diego, Calif.

The Crossroads area got a visit from former Dallas Cowboys defensive tackle Randy "Manster" White in June, as White served as the keynote speaker during the local Salvation Army's annual dinner. White was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1994. He was a featured reporter for USA network's The Road to the Super Bowl and served as color analyst for the Cowboys pre-season games. Randy entertains audiences with his charm and anecdotes of the sports and business world.

Also in June, 52-year-old Green Bay, Wis., resident Richard Hunsucker once again made his way across the Lone Star State after having walked from Florida to San Diego, Calif., part of an effort to raise awareness for disabled American veterans.

The Big Spring Heritage Museum also held its annual Legends and Legacies fundraiser. The event also served as the kickoff for the museum's exhibit of a collection of western art painted by members of the Caboose Watercolor Society, a group of local artists including Kay Smith, Estelle Howard, Sue Bagwell, Linda Rupard, Carole Berry and Leada Wood.

A Big Spring man — indicted in March on a charge of injury to an elderly individual, a second-degree felony —was acquitted by a Howard County jury in June. Bryson O'Neil Vanderbilt, 25, a former Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veteran Home aide, was accused of injuring a patient in 2007.



HERALD Photo

The Six White Horses from Hardin Simmons University lead the rodeo parade down Third Street.

The Howard County Sheriff's Office made a number of arrests in connection with alleged gambling at three local businesses during June, including Karla Kay Nix, 45, on charges of keeping a gambling place, possession of gambling devices, equipment or paraphernalia and gambling promotion. Nix was released on a $6,000 bond, $2,000 for each charge.

Also arrested in June was George Scott Emerson, 41, who turned himself in to Howard County deputies on charges of possession of gambling device, keeping a gambling place, gambling promotion and possession of tobacco product where tax is due. According to Sheriff Stan Parker, Emerson was booked into the Howard County Jail, where bond was set at $7,000, which Emerson paid shortly after and was released.

In late June, John Wade Myatt, 35, was arrested by the HCSO on charges of keeping a gambling place, possession of gambling device/equipment/paraphernalia and gambling promotion. HCSO officials confirmed all of the charges against the three local residents were misdemeanors.

Two Robinson Drilling employees were rushed to Midland Memorial in mid-June following an accident at a oil derrick located 10 miles north of Midland in Glasscock County. According to Mike Robinson, spokesman for Robinson Drilling, two men suffered non-life threatening injuries when an oil derrick failed.

Also in June, officials with the annual Relay For Life held the make up date for the event at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum after having been rained out earlier in the year. Brett Barnes, community manager for ACS, said the 2010 Howard-Glasscock RFL raised $182,105, which was the largest amount raised per capita by any Relay event held in the seven-state region and seventh-most per capita in the United States.

Big Spring Independent School District students showed improvement over previous years according to Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) standardized testing results issued in June. Preliminary TAKS information released showed that BSISD students, on average, scored 77 percentage points better in 2009-2010 than during the previous school year, Superintendent Steven Saldivar said.

Sports



File Photo

As a standout pitcher and hitter, Amanda Longorio was one of the keys to the Forsan softball team winning another state championship during the month of June.

The Forsan softball team garnered all types of headlines in the month of June as the Lady Buffaloes won their second consecutive state championship at the University of Texas in Austin.

The Lady Buffaloes were tested often during the playoffs, but in every game in each round, they prevailed.

Some of the heroes of the run were Amandad Longorio, Brittany Roemer, Ambra Hill, Miranda Park and Shelby Jones. Head coach Shanna Roberts kept the team focused throughout the year-with the target on the players'backs as the defending state champions already.

The Lady Buffaloes beat Petrolia and Cross Roads to win the state championship for the second time.

With the Forsan baseball team coming off a historic season of its own — making it to the regional final — the tail end of the summer was a good one for Forsan athletics, to say the least.

Forsan baseball coach and athletic director Jason Phillips was proud of the progress the two programs have made.

"Especially being as young as both our programs are, this is a huge year for both of them. How successful we've been so quickly, it's just been a great deal for our school, our community and our fans," he said following the Lady Buffs' win in Austin. "We have a great group of fans and we owe a lot of our success to them. I think our softball team, our baseball team,are just going to continue to get better. We've got good young kids coming up in both programs, down even into the junior high."

The Big Spring Cowboy Reunion & Rodeo took place for the 77th year in the month of June, too.

At this event, which was for three nights, athletes from around the world participated in steers wrestling, bull-riding and saddle bronc riding, among other things. For all three nights, the event was well-attended.

Sherry Wegner Agency



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July

July off to a slow, soggy start

July should have started off with a bang in the Crossroads during 2010, but thanks to soggy weather the annual Pops in the Park Fourth of July celebration had to be rescheduled, with the musical portion of the performance taking place at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Despite the rainy conditions, the fireworks portion of the holiday extravaganza went off without a hitch, turning the Comanche Trail Amphitheater into a world of colorful lights and loud bangs for area residents' enjoyment.

The Independence Day holiday also brought out parade-goers in droves during July, as the Coahoma Freedom Parade and the Highland South Fourth of July Parade took to local streets during the first part of the month. Four veterans — Bo Bohannon, Jack Buchanan, Ronnie Reid and Charles Parrish — served as grand marshals of the Coahoma parade.

Also during July, the local Salvation Army began its annual effort to get Crossroads children ready to go back to school with its annual Back-to-School Supply Drive, gathering everything from pencils to pens, notebooks to backpacks for area students.

Supporters of a nature center at Big Spring State Park spent several hours in July enlisting the aid of state officials to their cause, the construction of a 5,000 square-foot facility at the Big Spring State Park.

Local residents, ranging from Big Spring Mayor Tommy Duncan and Howard County Judge Mark Barr to a group of Elbow Elementary students, displayed their support for the proposed center during a tour of the site. Escorted by Big Spring's representatives in the Texas Legislature — Rep. Joe Heflin (D-Crosbyton) and Sen. Kel Seliger (R-Amarillo) — Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Executive Director Carter Smith came away impressed by the show of support. "We want to have a strong partnership with local leaders for this center and we will have a strong partnership," Smith said. "We look forward to seeing this come to fruition."

The Pops in the Park celebration wasn't the only event planned for July that became a casualty of the weather, as officials with the Big Spring Film Society were forced to reschedule its screening of "Raiders of the Lost Ark" until the end of the month. Brandon Johnson, spokesman and coordinator for the film society, said weather reports calling for heavy rains in the Crossroads area convinced him and other society members to delay the screening, which was part of a Steven Spielberg retrospective.

However, the July 31 showing of the film was an immense success, drawing hundreds of local residents to the amphitheater at Comanche Trail Park.

Stanton and Martin County honored their pioneers with a reunion, parade and lots of food and games in July, as the Dwayne and Amelia Ory family was named Pioneer Family of the Year.

July wasn't all good news in the Big Spring area, as officials with the Howard County Fair Committee announced the annual event would be nixed in 2010, citing a lack of interest and local support. County Judge Mark Barr, who also serves on the fair committee, said the decision was a tough one to make.

"The fair board has been talking about this for several months now," Barr said grimly. "One of the problems is the people on the board pour so much of their time and energy into the fair each year, and we're at a point where nobody else wants to step up to the plate. You have the same people, year after year, working to put the fair on, and they are pretty much exhausted.

"We've also seen a decline in the exhibits over the past several years. That's everything from the animal judging to the local residents competing in the cooking and baking contests. The only thing that has even kept it alive the past several years is the carnival. Most people come in the front door of the fair barn and head right out the back to the rides and games."

Rain and wet roadways were not a contributing factor in the one-vehicle rollover that claimed the lives of two people from Mexico in mid-July, according to officials reports from the Texas Department of Public Safety. Antonio Herrera, 49, and Julieta Herrera, 46, both residents of Mexico, were killed when the Ford F350 they were traveling in crossed over into the center median of Interstate Highway 20 and rolled over near the 169 mile marker.

The driver of the truck, Ricardo Barrienbos of Midland, along with 36-year-old Ana Barrienbos, were both treated and released following the crash. A 7-year-old girl also traveling in the vehicle was treated and held at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, while a second child — a 5-year-old male — was treated and released.

A 118th District Court jury acquitted a Big Spring man of indecency with a child charges in connection with a 2005 incident in Howard County. Freddie, Hinojosa, 32, was found not guilty of the charge, a second degree felony that could have earned him between two and 20 years in prison if he had been convicted.



The Pops in the Park fireworks display may have come later in the month than usual, but that didn't stop local residents from coming out in droves to witness the annual Independence Day celebration at Comanche Trail park.

A Big Spring woman was arrested in mid-July and charged with kidnapping after law enforcement officials say she took a vehicle — and a sleeping infant — from a residence in the 1100 block of E. Highway 350. Cynthia Ann Morelion, 46, was arrested after law enforcement officers found her sleeping in the stolen vehicle in an alleyway near the 600 block of Aylesford and charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and kidnapping.

The Big Spring VA Medical Center celebrated its 60th birthday in understated yet dignified fashion in July, saluting the veterans who are its prime reason for existence. Among the dignitaries on hand for the ceremony were U.S. Congressman Mike Conaway (R-Midland), who serves 18 of the 33 counties in the VAMC catchment area, as well as representatives from the offices of Congressman Randy Neugebauer (R-Lubbock) and U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas).

A long-time champion of vocational education was honored during building dedication ceremonies on the Howard College campus in July. College officials honored the late Don McKinney, a former trustee and staunch advocate of workforce training programs, by renaming the campus' career technical education building in his honor. McKinney, who served 36 years as a college trustee prior to his death in 2008, was chairman of the HC board in 1981 when the idea for a new vocational training center was put forth by Dr. Charles Hays, the college president at the time.

Sports



File Photo

Big Spring's Bridgette Tuitt is pictured taking a shot during one of the Lady Steers' games last season. July was a time for area basketball teams to stay sharp in summer leagues, which most teams participated in.

July was a low-key month for sports in Howard County.

Area football teams were gearing up for two-a-day practices, and baseball, softball, track and basketball teams were just entering the offseason.

That doesn't necessarily mean everyone was idle.

Area basketball players were participating in summer leagues to make sure they stayed sharp. A lot of players from the Coahoma, Forsan and Big Spring High School teams crossed each other's paths at this point in the summer.

Big Spring girls' basketball coach Mike Warren said participation in summer league usually gives players that extra practice or edge they need to compete at a higher level.

"During the season, you're trying to put more emphasis on winning at the varsity level," he said. "Here it was just everybody gets to play and you get to develop some of your depth. The girls that are maybe your sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and 10th girls, they all got to play pretty much equally. I thought some of our girls that might start really got better during the summer."

Coahoma girls' basketball coach Mitzi Bell had some of the same ideas about summer league basketball.

"The more they can touch the ball throughout the offseason, the better," she said. "Especially if they're working with their own teammates that they're going to play with in the future. It definitely helps with the chemistry and the flow of a team and trusting each other.

Some football teams were busy with 7-on-7 games at this time of year, too.

"It's good in a way, but our guys do so many different things in the summer," Phillips said of 7-on-7's impact on his players. "We've got several that play summer baseball and summer basketball, so it's really hard to get our guys all together. It's got definite advantages."

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August

Schools get thumbs up, feds nab Conroy



HERALD Photo

A pilot competing in the U.S. Hang Gliding Championship takes to the air at McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

The school year got off to a good start in August, as area campuses passed muster in accountability ratings released by the Texas Education Agency. Two campuses — Coahoma Elementary and Elbow Elementary in Forsan — received ratings of Exemplary (the highest possible), while no campuses received a rating below Academically Acceptable.

"Academically Acceptable" was the order of the day for Big Spring Independent School District, as the district and all but one campus received that designation. Moss Elementary received a rating of Recognized, the second-highest possible. Perhaps the best news for the district, however, is that Big Spring Junior High, which had been designated as Academically Unacceptable — TEA's lowest rating — the past two years, climbed up to Acceptable status this year.

Officials with the Texas Rangers announced a Big Spring man was taken into federal custody on charges of manufacturing child pornography after being arrested in Howard County for aggravated sexual assault of a child.

John Alan Conroy, 31, was first arrested by law enforcement officials July 3 on a charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child. He would later be indicted on two counts of producing child pornography by a federal grand jury, pleading guilty to the charges in mid-December. He faces a statutory sentence of not less than 15 years or more than 50 years in prison, a $500,000 fine and a lifetime of supervised release, according to court officials.

Conroy has not yet been sentenced.

U.S. Congressman Randy Neugebauer's town hall meeting in early August focused on immigration and border security, two issues Crossroads residents made it clear they are concerned with. Neugebauer, who represents District 19 — which includes Howard, Borden and Nolan counties, just to name a few — in the nation's capitol, took questions from local residents during the town hall meeting, which was held on the Howard College campus in the Hall Center for the Arts.

Indictments for aggravated robbery were handed down by a Howard County grand jury in August for three local residents who allegedly took part in a June 3 home invasion that terrorized a Big Spring family. Clifford Leon Anglin, 26; Felix Lee Jaramillo, 31; and Phillip G. Martinez, 21 were all indicted on charges of aggravated robbery — a first-degree felony — by the grand jury. According to police reports, numerous suspects — witnesses stated there were between five and seven suspects involved — stormed the home of a Big Spring family, kicking in the side and front doors of the house during the late evening hours.

Also in August, the Big Spring City Council approved an ordinance repealing and replacing its ordinances dealing with animal control, a change that abolished the former animal control advisory committee. The new ordinance provides definitions and regulations for animal rescuers and commercial animal establishments, and requires custodians to reside on the premises with dogs or cats. The ordinance also requires pet owners with more than eight cats and/or dogs to procure a no-cost permit from the city, as well as place limitations on selling or giving away animals on public or government property.

During mid-August, Crossroads residents welcomed hang gliding pilots from all over the nation — and world — for the U.S. Hang Gliding Championship at McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark and the Big Spring Airport. Pitting the best and brightest wind-riders around the nation — and a few from foreign countries — against the West Texas sky, the annual championship has become something of a tradition in the Crossroads area, with several U.S. championships and one world competition having already been held in Big Spring.

A 118th District Court jury acquitted a Big Spring man of first-degree charges stemming from the April 2009 death of his 10-week-old son. Jesse James Collins, 22, was found not guilty of first-degree injury to a child charges at the conclusion of a three-day trial. If convicted, he would have faced a sentence of between five and 99 years or life in prison. Collins was charged in a relation to an incident that occurred in the 400 block of N. Scurry late in the evening of April 10, 2009.

Big Spring Fire Department paramedics responding to a "non-responsive child" call at that address found 10-week-old Bradley Collins not breathing. The child was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center, then to a Lubbock-area hospital, where he died the following day. A subsequent autopsy determined the cause of death to be severe trauma to the child's head and a medical examiner ruled the case a homicide.

A pair of oilfield workers were injured in mid-Augist when gas from an oil well near the Howard and Martin county lines ignited, causing an explosion. According to emergency response officials, the incident occurred at an oil well located near FM 3900 — approximately 15 miles north of Stanton — in Martin County while a Basic Energy crew was preparing to perform maintenance on the well's pulling unit.

The two men injured were identified as Fernando Zamor and Abel Garcia, according to Martin County officials. Both men were taken to the burn unit at University Medical Center in Lubbock, where they were listed in critical condition. Garcia succumbed to his wounds several weeks later.

The Big Spring Film Society wrapped up its Stephen Spielberg retrospect in late August with a screening of "Jurassic Park" at the Big Spring State park. The retrospect began more than a year earlier and featured classics such as "Jaws," "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "ET:The Extraterrestrial."

Also in August, investigators with the Big Spring Police Department began searching for a pair of suspects who allegedly robbed a 7-Eleven convenience store at gunpoint. Police officials have not yet announced any arrests in the stick-up.



HERALD photo

Children at Rainbow Christian Preschool on Goliad Street line up to participate in a bike-a-thon to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Sports



HERALD Photo

Two-a-day practices started for area football teams in the month of August, including Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan and Stanton.

As the school year was about to start, so was football season.

Two-a-days opened up across the area not only at schools in Howard County – Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan — but also at Stanton, Grady, Garden City and Sands.

There were a lot of interesting storylines to follow during two-a-days, too.

At Big Spring High School, the Steers were coming off a 10-win season — one of the ost successful campaigns ever. But this season, they were moving down to Class 3A and in a tough district at that. Perinneal powerhouses Abilene Wylie and Brownwood were in Big Spring's district. The Steers also lost a lot of talent from that 10-win team a year ago, such as Monte Anderson, so replacing them would be tough.

At Coahoma, the Bulldogs were ushering in a new era under first-year head coach Trey Gardner. After posting back-to-back 5-5 seasons with no playoffs, Gardner was brought in and he brought a brand new offensive scheme along with him. The Bulldogs switched from a spread offense to a Wing-T offense, which was a drastic change. Seeing how that would progress was one of the more interetsing storylines of the summer.

At Forsan, it was all about trying to turn things around.

The Buffaloes were coming off a season with no wins in district play and that was in Class A. Now, along with Coahoma, the Buffs were in Class 2A and seeing how both teams would handle the transistion was going to be one of the keys to how successful the programs would be in 2010.

There was also Garden City defending its state championship after going 14-1 in 2009.

Stanton brought back a senior-laden team geared up for a playoff run in 2010. Grady and Sands had some of the best six-man talent, too.



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September

CONSTRUCTION

Nailing it all together

As September began, officials with the Settles Hotel Development Company said renovation of the downtown landmark was between 20 to 30 percent completed, with plenty of contract work left.

According to Settles Hotel Development Company General Manager Kristopher Ryan, work between the fourth and 13th floors had steadily progressed during the previous several months.

"The metal framing on those floors has been completed," Ryan told the Herald at the time. "We've also managed to get all of the stuff out of the plumbing and installed a stand pipe, and installed all of the duct work. Last week, our plaster contractor began his work doing repairs on those floors as well."

The building, erected in 1930, was a destination of choice for travelers for many years — as well a center of activity for the community — but has been vacant and in an advanced state of dilapidation for more than two decades.

Speaking of construction projects, Big Spring Independent School District trustees got a close look at some of the nuts and bolts design ideas going into its proposed new school buildings during a special meeting early in the month.

Over the course of the next few years, three new school buildings will be built, while other campuses will receive extensive renovation, thanks to more than $50 million in bonds authorized by voters earlier in 2009. Actual groundbreaking on the myriad projects is not expected to begin until late April 2011 at the earliest.



HERALD photo

Attendees at a Tea Party rally display signs expressing their dissatisfaction with the current direction of the federal government. More than 100 people attended the event at Heart of the City Park.

In other news, two Big Spring men were sentenced to 60 years each in prison for their part in a June 3 home invasion of a local family.

Clifford Leon Anglin, 26, was found guilty by a Howard County jury on a charge of aggravated robbery early in the month in 118th District Court. Felix Lee Jaramillo, 31, was found guilty of aggravated robbery by another Howard County jury in late September. Both men had faced up to 99 years to life in prison for their part in a violent altercation in the 600 block of State Street.

Here are some other items of note that shaped the year's ninth month:

• An upward trend in mineral values had most Howard County taxing entities enjoying an increase in certified taxable values. Howard County saw an increase of $192,559,501 with a certified value of $2,102,914,462, compared to the $1,910,354,961 in 2009. Howard College saw a similar increase, up $184,618,271 with a certified value of $2,094,972,572, compared to $1,910,354,301 in 2009.



HERALD photo

Howard County Librarian Hollis McCright sorts through some of the items to be sold during the Friends of the Library's annual book sale.

• On a solemn note, funeral services for a native son who was killed in action in Afghanistan were held Sept. 7 in Big Spring.

U.S. Army Capt. Ellery R. "Ray" Wallace, 33, of Salt Lake City and formerly of Big Spring, died of wounds received Aug. 28 in the Nangahar province of Afghanistan.

• The United Way of Big Spring and Howard County announced its 2010 campaign goal of $250,000 during the organization's annual kickoff luncheon.

A capacity crowd filed into First United Methodist Church's Garrett Hall to hear the organization's plans for the coming campaign and to listen to featured speaker Jim Baum, a long-time Big Spring resident now living in Colorado City.

• It had been announced earlier in the year that there would be no Howard County Fair for 2010. However, an outpouring of public support led organizers to say the fair will return in 2011, though dates had not be set.

• Shelby Clark, escorted by her father, Craig, was crowned homecoming queen of Forsan High School. Mindy Ralston and Marcus Watson were named 2010 homecoming queen and king for Big Spring High School.

• Ed Meiser of the local chapter of the Disabled American Veterans again put together Memorial at the Mall. A large crowd of people attended the event to pay tribute to those who died in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and local soldiers who have died in action since that time.

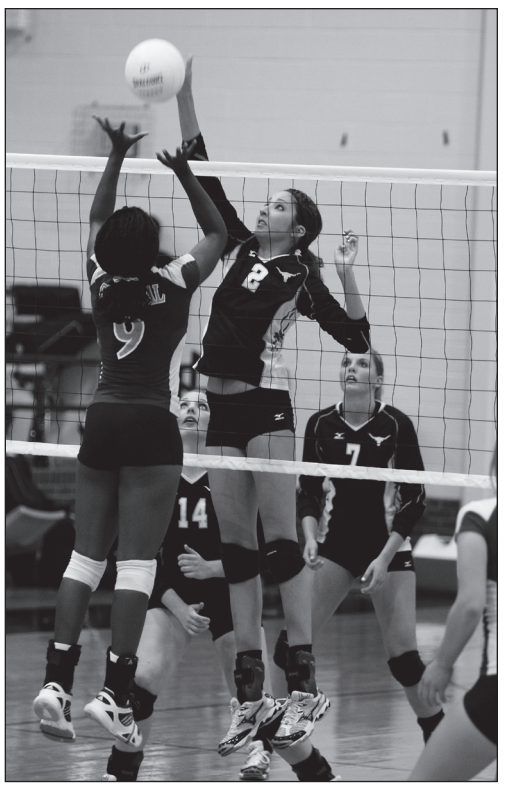
• Taking what they called the long-term view on the subject, Big Spring Independent School District trustees voted in September to spend $230,000 to install artificial turf at the high school baseball field.

• Fall 2010 enrollment numbers continued in fine tradition, showing yet another record enrollment for the Howard College District. After the 12th class day, non-certified total enrollment for the Fall 2010 semester tallied in at 4,784 which represents a 17 percent increase over the 2009 Fall semester certified numbers.

• Not unexpectedly, newly-elected Big Spring Mayor Tommy Duncan called for a committee to study possible revisions to the city charter, including term limits and initiative and referendum.

• Monroe Casey's Santa Claus totem pole was judged best in show at the 18th Annual Mustang Draw Woodcarvers Club Show and Sale.

Sports



File Photo

Taylor Seaton is pictured spiking the ball during one of the Big Spring volleyball team's matches this season.

By September, football season, cross country season and volleyball season were in full swing.

The Steers' football team took losses to Frenship and Monahans in the month of September, but also had wins over Plainview and Midland Christian.

Maybe the most excxiting out of all those games was the one against Midland Christian to close out the month of September.

The Steers rallied from a 16-point deficit to beat Midland Christian at home.

Midland Christian dominated the first half, but one of the keys in the comeback for the Steers was the what happened on the defensive side of the ball.

"In the first half, we just had a couple bad calls, we just weren't performing to our top potential," BSHS defensive end Devante Lloyd said. "Second half, we had a long talk, long speech. We came out and did our thing. I guess that's what motivated us. Being down by 16, that motivated us a lot."

Coahoma head coach Trey Gardner got his first win as a head coach when the Bulldogs beat Comanche at home.

It didn't stop there for Coahoma. The Bulldogs followed that win up with a 44-0 blowout of Wink. Things were headed in the right direction for the Bulldogs.

District 2-2A Division II play started for Coahoma, Stanton and Forsan, too.

The only volleyball team in the area was busy, as well.

The Lady Steers got into the thick of their schedule in the middle of the month with matches against Greenwood, Colorado City, Andrews, Pecos and district play started at the end of the month with contests against Sweetwater and Snyder.

The Lady Steers were up and down throughout non-district play, but they continued to make strides and it showed when district played finally hit. District wins over Sweetwater and Snyder and helped Big Spring to a 2-0 start.

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2007 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 V8 - Blue Granite, Stk#L051.....$26,495
2008 Chevrolet Silverado 1500-V8 - Silver, Stk#L157.....$24,995
2007 Chevrolet Silverado Classic 1500-V8 - Blue Granite, Stk#L089.....$23,495
2008 Chevrolet Silverado Classic 1500-V8 - Blue Granite, Stk#L142.....$22,995
2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500-V8 - White, Stk#L115.....$21,995
2006 Ford F150 SuperCrew-V8 - White, Stk#L144.....$21,995
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October

Aquatics center stays afloat

Disagreements among Big Spring City Council members regarding the construction of a new aquatics center took center stage in October, as the council voted 5-2 to award the construction bid to a Wisconsin company.

The $3.1 million bid was awarded to Neuman Pools Inc. of Beaver Dam, Wis., for $3.176 million, with a completion date of May 20.

The aquatics center will replace the municipal swimming pool, which was shut down a year ago after city officials learned the facility failed to meet federal requirements laid out in the Virginia Graeme Baker Act, as well as the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).



HERALD Photo

Joyce Gupton, right, and Cora Baker, both of Big Spring, wash their hands after making a symbolic offering at the Tabernacle Experience.

A controversial topic for a number of months, some citizens had spoken out against the proposed water park, and complained that it should have been weighed in on by voters. Despite political heat, the city moved forward with the project, issuing certificates of obligation — which do not require a bond election — for $4.2 million.

However, during later meetings the council decided to pare down the facility to $3.7 million, with the remainder of funds expected to be applied to the debt service on the certificates of obligation.

While the construction of the aquatics center was certainly a hot-button item during the May municipal elections — both Mayor Tommy Duncan and District 5 Councilman Craig Olson opposed the plan — the council eventually approved the expenditure on a 6-1 vote, with Olson the only member voting against it.

Disagreements among the council members on the matter flared up again in October, as Olson loudly proclaimed the aquatics center was a "monument to ourselves" and a "colossal waste of money."

Despite Olson's emotional outpouring, District 6 Councilman Terry Hansen defended the decision, saying it was in the best interest of the city's youth.

"We have to keep the city moving forward," Hansen told the council.

Also defending the decision was District 4 Councilwoman Gloria McDonald, who echoed Hansen's concerns about activities for Big Spring youth to take part in.

In addition to the city, Howard College was in the news a lot during the year's 10th month. The local community college announced that Robinson Drilling established a $100,000 endowment through the Howard College Foundation to support scholarships for students in the Career Technical Education program.

"We are very pleased and honored to receive this generous donation," said Bruce Griffith, Howard College Foundation president. "Robinson Drilling is a pillar of the community and this is just another way they are investing in the students of Howard County and providing educational opportunities for them to be successful."

The scholarships will provide tuition, fees and books for eligible students and will support them until they receive their certificate or associate degree, as long as all criteria are met.

And during their meeting Oct. 25, the Howard College Board of Trustees paid special recognition to the late G.C. Broughton, whose foundation had recently funded the construction of an agriculture facility estimated at approximately $400,000. An official ground breaking took place at the site of the new pavilion, between the east side of Memorial Stadium and the west side of Foundation Softball Field on the campus of Howard College.

Also, for the second time in the school's history, Howard College was selected to receive funding under the Title V Strengthening Institutions — Hispanic Serving Institutions Program, a part of the U.S. Department of Education.

The grant, $637,708 for the first year, is anticipated to continue for a five-year period at a total of approximately $3.1 million at current funding levels.

Here were some other "happenings" that took place in October:

• Itzel Gomez, escorted by her father Marcos, was named 2010 homecoming queen for Coahoma High School during halftime of the Coahoma-Hawley football game.

• James Gilbert, owner of Ag Services, accepted the 2010 Ag Business of the Year award and Marty Brooks accepted the 2010 Ag Producer of the Year award during the annual Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Ag Appreciation Luncheon.

Speaking of agriculture, for bringing in the county's first cotton bale, Craig Peterson and his wife, Terri, received $1,000 from Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce officials during a brief ceremony at the Howard County Courthouse on Oct. 8.

• The Tabernacle Experience came to Howard County for a little more than a week. Visitors took a self-guided, narrated tour, learning at each station about the tent that housed the Ark of the Covenant more than 3,000 years ago, as described in great detail in the book of Exodus.

Fifty-minute tours were available to the public from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily for a nominal fee. The event was presented by the Crossroads Baptist Association.

• Months of extra practice paid off for the Big Spring High School choir in October when eight members— M'Kalee Morgan, Shelby Crews, Diamond Mayes, Jason Golleher, Baylee Howell, Toby Schubert, Andrea Cervantez and Aron Rios — qualified for the Texas Music Educators' Association all-region choir.

Sports



File Photo

Big Spring quarterback DaVonte Anderson runs for a touchdown during the Steers' game at Abilene Wylie in October.

This was one of the busiest times of the year for sports fans in the area.

The football and volleyball teams were in the middle of district play, hoping to make a run at the playoffs.

The Steers had tough games against Brownwood, Sweetwater and Abilene Wylie in October. The two toughest of those three — vs. No. 1 Brownwood and powerhouse Abilene Wylie — were on the road.

Big Spring earned a win over Sweetwater, but couldn't matchup with Brownwood and Abilene Wylie, leaving the last game of the season against Snyder a must-win.

Meanwhile, Coahoma, Stanton and Forsan were in the thick of district play.

Ever since opening district play in October with a loss to Stanton, Coahoma beat Hawley, Post, Forsan and clicnhed a playoff spot at the end of the month against Anson. The Wing-T was working well for the Bulldogs and it gave them their first playoff berth in two seasons.

Stanton was a tough team to beat as well in October, led by Tyler Fulton at quarterback and Grayson Gray at linebacker.

The Garden City Bearkats continued to roll through the schedule, staying undefeated through the month.

The Big Spring volleyball ended the regular season in October and it may have been the most successful part of the year for the Lady Steers.

The only two losses the Lady Steers took in the last nine matches of the season came to No. 3 Abilene Wylie. At any rate, it was good enough for a second-place finish in the district and a playoff berth.

"The main thing is, it's not over yet," BSHS volleyball head coach Lynn Osborne said after the season ended. "I believe these girls are going to be around for a few weeks. That's exciting. Something they haven't done in a long time. This is a great group of kids."



November

GOP controls polls

November started off with a bang — for Republicans.

GOP politicians swept contested races countywide as the month began. In the race for Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Place 2, Republican incumbent Kathryn Wiseman held on to her seat with 2,819 ballots, accounting for 63.48 percent of the ballots cast. Democratic challenger Ricky Hughes garnered 36.52 percent of the vote with 1,622 ballots.

That was the trend as the Republican Party garnered a staggering 1,836 straight ticket ballots in Howard County, accounting for nearly one-third of the 6,359 ballots cast overall.

Democratic straight ticket votes clocked in at a tepid 720 ballots in Howard County during the general election, according to figures released by County Election Administrator Saundra Bloom.



HERALD photo

More than 100 people purchased tickets for the "Empty Bowls" fund-raiser held at First Christian Church. Money raised during the event went to the United Way.

GOP candidate Donnie Baker also pulled out a convincing win for the Precinct 2 seat on the Howard County commissioners court, bringing in 1,813 ballots — a whopping 77.05 percent of the vote — while Democrat challenger Jim Sinclair garnered only 540 ballots for 22.95 percent of the vote.

Baker's win came after the political newcomer defeated incumbent Jerry Kilgore in the March primaries.

Baker's won't be the only new face on the commissioners court, as Republican nominee John Cline took a convincing 66.29 percent win with 1,164 ballots, unseating Democrat incumbent Gary Simer, who garnered 592 ballots for 33.71 percent of the vote.

The trend of Republican-led upsets continued in the race for the District 85 State Representative seat, as GOP challenger Jim Landtroop took the win with 17,426 ballots, 62.26 percent of the vote. Incumbent Democrat Joe Heflin tallied 10,853 ballots, or 38.37 percent of the vote.

Republican incumbent Randy Neugebauer won a strong victory in the race for the District 19 seat on the U.S. House of Representatives, taking 105,818 ballots for 77.67 percent of the vote. Democrat challenger Andy Wilson walked away with just 26,082 ballots for 19.14 percent of the vote, while Libertarian Richard "Chip" Peterson came away with 4,331 ballots, just 3.17 percent of the vote.

While the pols were in action, there was a different kind of circus going on at city hall. Council members had revamped a new animal control ordinance but learned in November it prohibited such shows as traveling carnivals and circuses, including the popular Shrine Circus. Council members quickly corrected the problem.

Also in November, the Department of Family and Protective Services and Brazoria County law enforcement officials began an investigation into the death of a Howard County youth who died at a residential treatment center in Manvel. Michael Keith Owens, 16, died at a Houston-area hospital. The preliminary cause of death, officials said, was believed to be asphyxiation although a final determination was awaiting results of an autopsy. DFPS officials said a preliminary investigation showed evidence of "restraint techniques" being used on Owens prior to his death.

The boy had been a resident at the Daystar Residential Treatment Center in Manvel, about 25 miles south of Houston, since March 24, DFPS officials confirmed.

Owens had been under the conservatorship of Child Protective Services since June 4, 2008, when CPS petitioned a court for his removal from his Howard County home.

Other goings-on in November included the following:

• Fabian Duke Trejo, 26, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Sam R. Cummings to 87 months in prison, to be followed by a 40-year term of supervised release. Trejo must also register as a sex offender.

According to court records, Trejo pleaded guilty to one count of receipt of a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct. According to filed documents, Trejo admitted that in 2009, while living in Big Spring, he used a peer-to-peer file-sharing program on his computer to download images depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

• United States military veterans received a 300-person strong "thank you" from the community on Veterans Day. The annual community-wide event included patriotic music and speeches from local dignitaries. Most of all, however, attendees were urged to thank this country's veterans for their service and sacrifice.

"A sincere 'thank you' means more to veterans than any other reward," said John Fisher of the local VA Medical Center, who served as master of ceremonies at the event. "While I'm not the first to thank you for your service, I want to ensure that I certainly won't be the last."

Representatives from the community's business, church and education sectors took turns expressing their gratitude to those who have served in the military.

• Lee Lewis Construction of Lubbock was awarded the "construction manager at risk" contract over six other submissions by Big Spring Independent School District trustees during the month of November.

The firm will supervise more than $60 million in construction projects at BSISD the next two years, including construction of three new elementary buildings and extensive renovations at two other campuses.

• Eight area students received a major pat on the back as they were named winners of the Big Spring Optimist Club's annual Outstanding Student Awards.

DeAnna Clare and Andrew Fillingim of Big Spring High School, Rachel Kennedy and Brayden Iden of Coahoma High School, Regan Newsom and Zane Herrin of Forsan High School and Morgan Yarbrough and Blak Thomasson of Sands High School were named winners of the awards, club officials announced.

To be considered for the award, students had to excel in the areas of academics, extra-curricular activities and community service.

• Officials with the Big Spring Fire Department say a fire reported at the Fourth Street Dairy Queen late Nov. 23 was set to cover up a burglary at the local restaurant.

Big Spring Fire Marshall Carl Condray said the fire, which was reported just after 11 p.m., said it was ruled arson, an apparent attempt by the thief to cover his or her tracks.

"The fire was definitely set, and it looks like it was done so to cover up the burglary of the restaurant," Condray said.

"Right now it's hard to tell exactly what is missing and what was destroyed in the fire, but several items have already been identified as missing."

Sports



HERALD Photo/Bruce Schooler

Coahoma's Hunter Williams was one of the key components of Coahoma's run to the playoffs.

Fall sports in the area began entering the postseason in November.

A loss to Snyder at the end of the season knocked Big Spring out of playoff contention in football, and although the Sands Mustangs had a solid year, it wasn't enough to get them into the playoffs. Forsan got two wins in district play at the Class 2A level, but once again, the Buffs missed out on the playoffs.

That left Coahoma, Stanton, Grady and Garden City as the area football teams in the playoffs.

Stanton had the longest run out of the 11-man schools, going a round deep until the Buffs ran into Holliday.

Garden City seemed unstoppable and got an early test against Borden County in the playoffs. It ended in a 44-42 thriller which was decided on a fumbled snap on the conversion attempt to tie the game after Borden County had scored late in the fourth quarter.

The Big Spring volleyball team's season ended sooner than it wanted with a loss in the bi-district round of the playoffs to Vernon in Albany.

The Big Spring cross country team was represented well in the regional meet in November, but it was Forsan that made history with its cross country program, sending the most runners in school history to state.

It was time for basketball season to start again, too.

Fresh off a national championship, the Howard College men's basketball team got back on the court. The Howard College women's basketball team reloaded for another good year.

The Big Spring boys' basketball team welcomed a new coach, Cliff Thompson. Coahoma girls' basketball did the same with Mitzi Bell. Forsan had assistant coach Gary Huckabee take the head coaching position, too.

At the end of the month, area basketball teams competed the various tournaments throughout the area. The tournaments were considered the first tests of the year for players.

Thank you for a great 2010!!!

- The GEO Group, Inc. extends appreciation to all employees at the Big Spring Correctional Center for the excellent work performed by each to ensure high performance standards are maintained throughout the year.

Best wishes for a successful 2011.

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December

Tradition, tradition, tradition

The 12th month of the year began as it always does — a weekend of bright lights, brighter smiles and beautiful music.

The Big Spring VA Medical Center held its 18th annual "Lighting of the Lights" ceremony on the first Friday of the month. As usual, Santa attended and took note of toy requests from good little girls and boys.

More than 40 vendors participated in the Canterbury Christmas Bazaar the following day. Those who attended were able to find some unique gifts.

Saturday night, Dec. 4, the 25th annual Lighted Community Christmas Parade — hosted by the Big Spring Herald — made another highly successful run down Gregg Street.

The city of Big Spring and GEO Group came away with most of the awards in this year's parade. Both entries tied for first in Best in Show (for best interpretation of the parade's theme) and Publisher's Award (best use of lighting). The city of Big Spring made it a clean sweep of the major award categories by winning the Grand Marshal's Award (for workmanship and originality).

West Texas VA Healthcare System's entry finished third in both Best of Show and Publisher's Award categories, and tied GEO group for second in the Grand Marshal's Award voting.

In other categories the winner were:

• Individual — Jacy Blair, first.

• Commercial and industrial — City of Big Spring, first; Western Container, second.

• Civic/School/Church — West Texas VA Healthcare System, first, Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez, second; Salvation Army Boys/Girls Club, third.

The weekend closed with another tradition — the First United Methodist Church's Living Christmas Tree. Held Saturday and Sunday, the event was put on for the 32nd consecutive year.

Soon to follow would be other Crossroads area holiday classics — The Christmas Tree Forest at Heritage Museum, the Festival of Lights at Comanche Trail Park and the Drive Through Nativity at First Church of the Nazarene. It was the 24th year for the nativity.

At mid-month, a 118th District Court jury awarded three Howard County residents more than $350,000 for property repair and medical expenses incurred as a result of the February 2008 Alon Refinery explosion. It was a much-anticipated trial, as a number of individuals have lined up to try to get settlements from the long-time Howard County employer. How they will proceed was dependent, in part, on the December trial's outcome.

Plaintiffs Beverly Smithie and Ron and Debra Walker sued Alon USA to recoup property and medical expenses they sustained from the explosion, which occurred Feb. 18, 2008.



HERALD photo

First United Methodist Church's Living Christmas Tree.

The jury found that Alon had been negligent in assisting the plaintiffs and awarded the following damages: Smithie, $236,605 for property damage and $8,400 for medical expenses; and the Walkers, $105,200 for property damage and $10,200 for medical expenses. However, the jury declined to find Alon "grossly negligent" in their actions.

Also, but not lastly, Big Spring City Council approved on first reading a resolution allowing citizens to vote on term limits in the May 2011 elections. The controversial measure passed 4-3.

Among other news in the month:

• Big Spring gained about 2,000 temporary residents Dec. 14. Make that "very temporary." As part of an annual restocking effort, slightly more than 2,000 rainbow trout were released into Comanche Trail Lake Another 2,000 fish will be added in January.

• Big Spring's City Council, at the urging of Police Chief Lonnie Smith, unanimously approved an emergency reading of an ordinance making the sale, possession or use of salvia — a hallucinogenic plant native to Mexico — a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to $2,000.

• Marisa Torres became the first person to earn her high school diploma by way of the Big Spring High School Career Academy, a program designed to give students who drop out or fall behind their classmates a helping hand in achieving their educational goals.

• Big Spring Symphony Orchestra presented "Holiday of Holidays, a Symphonic Christmas" to a standing-room-only crowd at the Trinity Baptist Church. Featuring both religious and secular music, and energized by the Coahoma Choir Kids, soprano soprano Joyce Bradley and narrator Malinda Flenniken, the concert was a huge hit.

• A Big Spring man indicted on two counts of producing child pornography by a federal grand jury pleaded guilty in December. He faces up to 50 years in prison, according to officials with the U.S. Attorneys office.

John Alan Conroy, 36, was first arrested by law enforcement officials July 3 on a charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child. Conroy was later taken into federal custody — where he remains — after allegations tied to the Dec. 27, 2009, incident identified in the indictment were made.

Conroy pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Sam R. Cummings to one count of producing child pornography and one count of receipt of a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct. He faces a statutory sentence of 15 to 50 years in prison, a $500,000 fine and a lifetime of supervised release. Cummings ordered a pre-sentence report, with sentencing to be scheduled after the completion of the report.

According to documents filed in the case, Conroy lived with a woman and her two young children — a boy and a girl — in Big Spring in 2009. The girl turned 8 years old during that year,

• 118th District Court Judge Robert H. Moore III officially retired in December, handing the gavel to local attorney Tim Yeats. Moore had served almost 21 years on the bench.

• As the year was coming to a close, officials with the Howard County Sheriff's Office were investigating the discovery of what might be part of a human skull. Investigators sent the object for testing but remained tight-lipped on the case.

Sports



File Photo

Josh Colunga (left) and Blayne Batla kept the Garden City Bearkats rolling all the way to a second consecutive state championship in December.

December was when the Garden City Bearkats made program history by winning a second consecutive state championship. This time they did it undefeated, though.

The Bearkats ended up being the last team in the area left in the playoffs and even after a hard-gought battle against Borden County early in the playoffs, they still made it all the way to the state final and beat Throckmorton in Abilene for the crown.

Josh Colunga, Brett Chudej, Blayne Batla and Brian Hirt were just a few standouts on this team led by head coach Vance Jones.

Colunga said he was baffled by the accomplishment and at a loss for words.

"It's not hitting me as hard as it will hit me in a little bit or later down the road, but this is an awesome accomplishment that we did right now," he said following the game. "All the emotions are in the air, going through this again is awesome. It's just a great feeling."

Ian Schaefer had the same sentiment.

"I didn't know if we could do it or not," he said. "Everybody was asking me and I said 'Yeah, yeah.' Then at about the middle of the season, I was like 'You know, it's going to happen. We can do it again.'"

Meanwhile, area basketball teams continued to push through the season, with a few key matchups and a handful of tournaments.

As football season was coming to a close, the all-district honors for each team were being released.

Some of the standouts include Coahoma quarterback Tanner Ruiz, who was Offensive MVP of District 2-2A Division II. Big Spring's Mike Menefield was a first team wide receiver in Distrct 5-3A.

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