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VOLUME 108, NUMBER 92

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Get a CO monitor, officials say

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

While smoke and fire are often thought of as the most dangerous killers in a house fire, Big Spring Fire Department officials say carbon monoxide can be the "silent killer."

According to Big Spring Fire Chief Craig Ferguson, area residents can avoid be-

coming a victim and protect their families by educating themselves on the dangers of the gas and where it comes from.

"Each year in America, more than 150 people die from accidental non-fire related carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning associated with consumer products," Ferguson said. "These products in-

clude faulty, improperly-used or incorrectly-vented fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, stoves, water heaters and fireplaces. It's a gas you cannot see, taste or smell and can be created when fossil fuels — such as kerosene, gasoline, coal, natural gas, propane, methane or wood — do not burn properly.

"Carbon monoxide poison-

ing can result from faulty furnaces or other heating appliances, portable generators, water heaters, clothes dryers or cars left running in garages. Symptoms of CO poisoning include headache, nausea and drowsiness. Exposure to undetected high levels of carbon monoxide can be fatal."

Ferguson said the best way for residents to protect them-

selves and their families is by employing carbon monoxide detectors in their home.

"Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Install and maintain CO alarms inside your home to provide early warning of carbon monoxide," Ferguson said.

See **CO**, Page 3

Infrastructure upgrades, tax cuts proposed

WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Gov. Rick Perry on Tuesday credited spending restraint for igniting the Texas economy but also proposed digging into the state's cash reserves to pay for \$3.7 billion in water and road improvements while returning any excess revenue directly to taxpayers.

"Our bank balance is healthy, our economy is growing, our future is limitless."

—Gov. Rick Perry



calls from the business community to improve the state's infrastructure but signals a dramatic departure for Perry, who spent years building tea party support by imploring the Legislature not to touch the fund.

"Our bank balance is healthy, our economy is growing, our future is limitless," Perry told a joint session of the Legislature.

The longest-serving governor in state history, Perry also ignored calls from Democrats to use the fund to restore \$5.4 billion in cuts to public education passed in 2011 amid a \$27 billion budget shortfall sparked by a then-sluggish economy.

With unemployment down, state sales tax receipts up and the economy humming, Perry urged lawmakers to cut taxes, saying "providing at least \$1.8 billion" over the next two years "is a good place to start."

He also wants to amend the Texas Constitution to allow the state to return tax money it collects but doesn't spend.

"Today, I'm calling for a mechanism to be put in place so when we do bring in more than we need, we'll have the option of returning tax money directly to the people who paid it," Perry said. "Currently, that's not something our constitution allows. We need to fix that."

About 64 percent of state revenues come from sales tax, so it's not clear how money could be returned proportionately. The rest of the revenue

See **PERRY**, Page 3



High winds are the suspected cause behind a tree toppling and hitting a U.S. Postal Service truck near the intersection of Dallas and Pennsylvania Tuesday afternoon. No injuries were reported.

United Way allocations presented, officers named

By AMANDA DUFORAT
Special to the Herald

Sixteen local organizations had something to be thankful for Tuesday evening.

United Way of Big Spring and Howard County board of directors held its annual meeting at Dora Roberts Community Center, where the supported agencies were presented with their portion of \$300,000 in allocations for the year, from the 2013 campaign.

The agencies are the American Red Cross, West Texas Chapter; Buffalo Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America; Christian Woman's Job Corp Spring of Siloam; CASA of West Texas; Council on Aging Mobile Meals, Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, Emergency Services Chaplains Corp, Girl Scouts of the

Desert Southwest, Howard County Humane Society, Isaiah 58, Northside Commu-



nity Center, Rape Crisis/Victim Services of Big Spring, The Salvation Army, The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club, Westside Community Day Care Center and YMCA of Big Spring.

"This has been an amazing year and I look forward to

continuing to serve with the United Way for the upcoming year," Debbie Wegman, outgoing president of United Way of Big Spring and Howard County, said.

Several fundraising events were held throughout 2012, bringing in much-needed support. The annual kickoff for the 2013 campaign — Boots and Bling — brought in \$7,000 while Empty Bowls brought in 250 people and raised \$6,000. The annual golf tournament will be held this spring and is expected to bring in additional revenue.

"The question we have to ask ourselves is 'who is going to make a difference in our community? Who's it going to be?' It's not going to be someone outside the

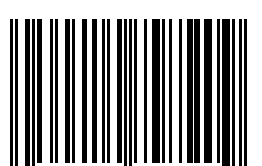
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WEDNESDAY

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

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

• Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at the Gold Rush Tobacco Shop, 800 E. Third Street. Open meeting at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY

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

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

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

• Circle of Hope, a Celebrate Recovery group, meets at 6:30-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship, located in the College Park Shopping Center. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program dealing with life's hang-ups, hurts and habits, covering many areas. Circle of Hope group is a ministry of Spring Creek Fellowship. For further information, contact Dale at 432-270-8462.

• Overcomer's: Recovery & Restoration (R&R), a Christ-centered recovery program is held at Cornerstone Covenant Church from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the "Green Room" of the East Wing.

For more convenient access to the meeting room, park in the back of the church and enter through the metal door across from the fellowship hall. If you need more information, contact the church

secretary at 432-264-0015.

FRIDAY

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

• Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at the Gold Rush Tobacco Shop, 800 E. Third Street. Open meeting at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

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

Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

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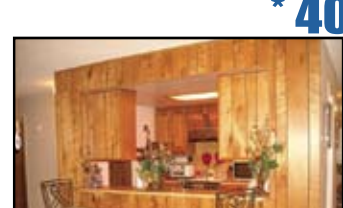
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PERRY

Continued from Page 1

comes from the business margins tax and state fees.

The governor skipped some of his signature issues, not mentioning abortion, gun ownership rights or illegal immigration. He vowed again that his state would not expand Medicaid as directed under the White House's health care reform law, but Perry also refrained from his usual Washington-bashing.

He even said "Texas stands ready to do our part" and answer President Barack Obama's calls for unity as he started his second term. That wasn't as big a shift as turning away from his past stance on the Rainy Day Fund, though.

"While we cannot — and will not — raid the fund to meet ongoing expenses, we also shouldn't accumulate billions more than necessary," Perry said. "That's why I support a move to utilize \$3.7 billion from the Rainy Day Fund for a one-time investment in infrastructure programs."

Forcing the governor's hand a bit is the fact that the fund is nearing a maximum value imposed by the state constitution, after which money begins automatically flowing back into the state budget.

Perry's address made some leading tea party lawmakers uneasy. Republican Rep. David Simpson of Longview said the call to return tax money needs scrutiny.

"I heard the word 'mechanism,' that reminds me of force," Simpson said. "Certainly, if we brought in the taxes, it should be used for public purposes. My concern is that I don't want to see more corporate welfare."

Perry also focused on education, call-

ing again for a four-year tuition freeze at state universities while proposing tying a minimum of 10 percent of state funding to the number of students universities graduate. He said it was important to expand university education to South Texas and along the state's border with Mexico saying: "I'm proud that Texas is a place where anyone can make a difference, regardless of where you're from or how you might spell your last name."

Rep. Trey Martinez-Fischer, a San Antonio Democrat who chairs the Mexican American Legislative Caucus, was not impressed.

"Every community in our state has felt the pain of the governor's obsession with harsh budget cuts and so-called tax relief," Martinez-Fischer said in a statement. "The measure that our constituents hold us to is not how big or small government is, but whether it works."

It was the seventh time Perry has given the biannual State of the State. Two years ago, he declared there would be "no sacred cows" immune to deep budget cuts amid an economy still feeling the effects of The Great Recession. Lawmakers responded by slashing funding from schools and many other state services.

"The tough decisions we faced last session tested our resolve and our dedication to the principles that brought us here," Perry said Tuesday.

But Democrats panned the address as willfully blind to the needs of low-income Texans and school districts.

"What I heard was a lot about investing in infrastructure, roads and water, but not enough about investing in people," said first-year Democratic Rep. Gene Wu of Houston.

Police/EMS

- The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:
- PRINCESS MARIE TREVINO, 24, 3607 Hamilton, was arrested on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility, no driver's license and failure to appear.
 - LAUREN RACINE SMITH, 25, 1501 Scurry, was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance, theft and assault/family violence.
 - JACOB RAY ALVARADO, 20, 300 Tulane, was arrested on a charge of evading arrest/detention.
 - JOSEPHINE GUADALUPE TORRES, 23, Coahoma, was arrested on a charge of assault by contact.
 - FRANK CASTILLO JR., 33, Coahoma, was arrested on a charge of assault by contact.
 - DARRIN JAY CROOKS, 53, 4200 Bilger, was arrested on a warrant from another agency.
 - THEFT was reported in the 200 block of W. FM 700, the 2800 block of FM 700, the 2000 block of Gregg and the 400 block of Gregg.
 - BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 800 block of Culp in Coahoma and the 700 block of Douglas..
 - HARASSMENT was reported in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.

Because of computer problems, a booking report from the Howard County Sheriff's Office was unavailable this morning (76 prisoners were reported in the county jail).

- The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity:
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transferred to SMMC.
 - MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of S. Lancaster. One person was transferred to SMMC.
 - MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of E. Sixth. One person was transferred to SMMC.
 - MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of N.E. Interstate 20. One person was transferred to SMMC.
 - MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of Donley. One person was transferred to SMMC.
 - GRASS FIRE was reported in the 2800 block of S. Gregg. One person was transferred to SMMC.

CO

Continued from Page 1

"CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each separate sleeping area, on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards.

"For the best protection, have CO alarms that are interconnected throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound. Also, follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height. Carbon monoxide alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms and vice versa. Know the difference between the sound of your smoke alarms and the sound of your CO alarms."

Ferguson said it's not enough to simply install the alarms throughout your home, as they require regular maintenance and testing for

optimal performance.

"Test your CO alarms at least once a month and replace them if they fail to respond correctly. The sensors in these alarms have a limited life," he said. "Replace the alarm according to manufacturer's instructions or when the end-of-life signal sounds.

"Know the difference between the sound of the CO alarm and the smoke alarm, and their low-battery signals. If the audible low-battery signal sounds, replace the batteries or replace the device. If the CO alarm still sounds, get to fresh air and call 911 or the fire department. Also, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning."

Residents can also prevent carbon monoxide poisoning at its source by making sure the possible sources of the gas are regularly inspected and maintained, as well as used properly.

"Have fuel-burning heating equipment — fireplaces, furnaces, water heaters, wood stoves, coal stoves, space heaters — and chimneys inspected by a professional once a year," Ferguson said. "Also, be sure to open the damper on your fireplace before you use it so it can properly ventilate.

"Never use your oven or stovetop to heat your home, as the carbon monoxide could be fatal to the people and pets in the home. When purchasing new heating and cooking equipment, select products tested and labeled by a recognized testing laboratory, as well. Make sure all fuel-burning, vented equipment is vented to the outside to avoid CO poisoning. Keep the venting for exhaust clear and unblocked."

Ferguson said one of the most common sources of carbon dioxide today is automo-

biles, which can pose a rather unique problem if it's kept in a garage attached to the home.

"If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it," he said firmly. "Never run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if the garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not blocked with snow, ice or other materials.

"Only use barbecue grills outside, away from all doors, windows, vents and other building openings. Some grills can produce CO gas. Never use grills inside the home or the garage, even if the doors are open. Also, use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows, vents and other building openings to prevent exhaust fumes from entering the home."

If a carbon monoxide

alarm does sound in your home — or if you suspect you are being poisoned — Ferguson said don't delay: Get out of the house.

"Immediately move to a fresh air location — outdoors or by an open window or door — and make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for," he said. "Call 911 or the fire department from a fresh air location and remain there until emergency personnel arrive to assist you."

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

MYERS & SMITH

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Gilbert Webb, 87, died Sunday. Funeral services with Military Honors will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Hermينيا Martinez, 74, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Meredith Kendall, 38, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

David Cortez Chavarria, 57, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

UW

Continued from Page 1

agency; it's not going to be some handout from someone outside without a vested interest in Howard County. It is going to be us," Larry Rodgers, first vice president of United Way of Big Spring and Howard County, said.

Rodgers said to the agency representatives, "Because of you ... you are enhancing the qual-

ity of life of a lot of folks who are helpless, scared and without means. You sit there and say I am going to make a difference. I know that sometimes the stories can be hard, but there are so many more success stories and fewer tragedies because of you."

During the meeting new members Raul Benavides and Jill McCleod were installed. Newly elected officers for 2013, president Ann McClarty, first vice presi-

dent Larry Rodgers, second vice president Jessica Rivera, secretary Donna Wright and treasurer Linda Adams, were also installed.

Anyone wanting to contribute to the United Way, can do so at www.unitedwaybshc.org or by calling 432-267-5201

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EDITORIAL

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

—FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Brian McCormack Sports Editor	Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer	

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HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Lord we ask that You give us abundant rain, if it be Your will.

Amen

Going the second mile

If you are now, or ever have been, employed and had co-workers, you know there are always those who want to do as little as possible and still get a paycheck, joyfully allowing you, or anyone else who is willing, to do as much of their work for them as possible. Sadly, that mindset seems to be present in every arena of life.

Even with America on the brink of financial collapse, society's misconception about what people are entitled to has reached an embarrassing level in America. In fact, the application of the word entitlement, as it relates to government taxpayer involvement, is an injustice to truth.

Lest I be misunderstood, I certainly believe there are many people who deserve special care because of situations or circumstances beyond their control. I am glad I live in a nation that cares about the poor and unfortunate and has a commitment to provide for genuinely needy citizens. I want the deserving to be well cared for and if it means I foot part of the bill, I am willing. In fact, as a Christian American, I believe I should not only be willing to go the first mile, but the second as well.

Jesus taught the second mile philosophy through the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37). The Good Samaritan sees the needy stranger and has compassion on him. He then picks him up, tends to his wounds, and then carries him to a place of safety and pays the bill for his care. That is the second mile philosophy in action. I absolutely believe in helping those who really need help but there is a thin line between helping and enabling. Zig Ziglar said, "There is no traffic jam on the second mile."

A New Testament professor was lecturing on the parables. After teaching on the parable of the Good Samaritan, he posted a notice on the board telling the students that that day's class was being moved to the other side of the campus. On the only route to the new class room, he staged a drunk lying on the ground asking for help. Not one of the students stopped to help this man. They all were in too big of a hurry to get to class lest

they be penalized for being late.

I realize that sometimes the second mile is not appreciated and sometimes our efforts are even abused. I love the story of a priest who is walking down the street one day when he notices a very small boy trying to press a doorbell on a house across the street. The boy is very small and the doorbell is too high for him to reach. After watching the boy's efforts for some time, the priest moves closer to the boy's position. He steps smartly across the street, walks up behind the little fellow and, placing his hand kindly on the child's shoulder leans over and gives the doorbell a firm ring. Crouching down to the child's level, the priest smiles compassionately and asks, "And now what, my little man?" To which the boy replies, "Now we run!"

Generally speaking, God-fearing patriotic folks will always go the second mile when it is merited, and do so with joy. That is evidenced every time a tragedy or disaster occurs anywhere in our nation or around the world. But enabling laziness at taxpayer expense is unquestionably a form of socialism that is seriously being abused in America. The problem was well stated by Margaret Thacker when she said, "The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money."

This generation, especially President Obama and his cohorts, toss the word "entitlements" around frequently because they know it tickles the ears of voters, millions of which are misguided and misinformed recipients of your money and mine. Entitlement programs have grown almost 19 percent under this administration's guidance and encouragement. In that kind of social and political environment, it is not surprising that the younger generation has taken this concept further. Now they want to include basic needs for all Americans, such as "entitlement" to free water, free electricity, a job, free food, and "affordable" housing. Their thinking is that if the government enacts health care as an entitlement, why not these other basic items? At whose expense, I wonder?

The Constitution talks about "entitlements." One is that everyone's entitled to a fair and speedy trial, a writ of Habeas Corpus (what charges are against the accused), and that of a no bill of attainder (passing

a law that makes doing something that was legal to now being retroactively illegal). In time, "entitlements" included voting rights for women, freedom for all (regardless of race), and voting rights for those over the age of 18.

Have you noticed the difference between the Constitutional "entitlements" and those that politicians embrace? All the true Constitutional "entitlements" have to do with protecting the freedom of citizens within the United States, and nothing else. There are no other items of entitlements for anything, other than to make sure the freedom of the American people is not infringed upon.

A politician says, "Americans are 'entitled' to free education." How is it supposed to occur? Are the teachers going to work for free? Are the buildings containing well-equipped classrooms going to magically appear? Only a naive simpleton would believe such nonsense.

States and local municipalities tax our homes to pay for teacher's salaries and the school buildings being built. Students will be able to walk in, out and learn without paying a dime. But somebody is paying for it. Money is sent from the US Government to the states (again, taxpayer money going to "free" education) to help cover costs. Is the education free? Just talk to any home owner and see if they are happy with the taxes they have to pay to support this "free" education.

The real issue then, is the role of government, and ours seems very confused about theirs. Does government have the constitutionally mandated power to take property from those who earned it in order to give it to those who did not earn it? And do those who did not earn it have more right to it than those who did earn it? Do illegals and foreigners deserve more benefits than natural born citizens? I don't mind going the second mile. It's being compelled to go that third and fourth to support lazy people that's getting to me. I can't wait for 2016.

You may not agree with anything I've said, but I column as I see 'em.

Eddy Prince is senior pastor at Grace Fellowship Church of God in Big Spring. He can be reached by email at pastorprince@msn.com.

Ploy of voter preregistration

California state Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson has introduced a bill to allow 15-year-olds to preregister to vote.

"I would like to engage young people in the political process at the earliest point in time. If young people get invested in the process earlier, they'll be likelier to vote," Jackson said Monday.

To my mind, the reason Jackson is pushing this bill is clear. She's a Democrat. She wants to boost Democratic voter registration. What better way to find Democrats than to recruit kids before they have earned a paycheck or paid a dime in income taxes?

Not to mention: They're not old enough to vote, not old enough to enlist in the military and years from being old enough to buy alcohol or cigarettes.

Jackson told me I'm wrong. Her Senate Bill 113 is not a means to increase Democratic ranks. Both parties will have an opportunity to earn the affiliation of new voters. SB 113 should increase the number of young adults who participate in elections.

It's true that younger voters are underrepresented. The Pub-

lic Policy Institute of California reported last year that 86 percent of adults who are 65 or older are registered; among adults younger than 25, only 54 percent are registered voters.

"We aren't doing a very good job at registering 18-year-olds," said Mindy Romano, director of the California Civic Engagement Project.

OK, but it's not as if it's difficult to register to vote in California. You can do it at the Department of Motor Vehicles. You can fill out a form at the library. You can do it online. If young adults aren't registering, I figure they probably don't care enough to keep informed.

Besides, though younger people are less likely to vote, at least when they grow older and wiser they are likelier to participate.

I asked Romano why young adults don't register.

She answered, "Registering has costs to it, even online registration." Those who don't register often have "fewer resources."

What does that mean? Romano answered that some adults aren't familiar with voting. They need outreach to become invested in elections. They need someone or something to "walk them through the system."

She added, "A fundamental element of our democracy is representation." When too many voters are not represented, democracy suffers.

Will Gov. Jerry Brown sign the bill if it makes it to his desk? Jackson thinks Brown will because he's a "visionary."

I share Romano's belief that it is not good for democracy if poor people are less likely to vote than members of the middle class. But I do not share Jackson's belief that California should preregister 15-year-olds, at the Department of Motor Vehicles or elsewhere, to entice them to the ballot box when they're old enough to vote.

(Besides, what if 18-year-olds think they're registered because of SB 113 but are not on the voter rolls because they moved? "That's part of the support that they would need," Romano answered.)

To recap: It's not enough that California makes it easy for citizens to register. The state needs to preregister 15-year-olds in case they don't register when they're old enough to vote. Then the state needs to remind 18-year-olds to make sure they're registered to vote and to vote, because they're old enough to vote — but not to remember.

Email Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.



EDDY PRINCE



DEBRA SAUNDERS

State eyes ban on texting and driving

AUSTIN — Shannon Teague lost her son Dustin Teague in a traffic crash that occurred when he was sending a text message while driving.

Her daughter-in-law had just sent a text that she, Dustin and their son were on their way home one night in October 2010.

The car crashed at least in part because of that text, Shannon Teague said.

The wife survived, as did their son, but Dustin Teague died.

“We have a grandson growing up without a dad,” Shannon Teague said in a lawmaker’s office Tuesday.

Shannon Teague and her husband traveled to Austin to speak with lawmakers about

banning texting while driving.

In a conference room at the Capitol, they stood with others behind pictures of loved ones who died in incidents related to texting while driving. Outside, people could try an AT&T Texting While Driving Simulator.

“In 2009, 5,474 people were killed on U.S. roadways and an estimated additional 448,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes that were reported to have involved distracted driving,” a 2010 U.S. Department of Transportation study states. “Of those people killed in distracted-driving-related crashes, 995 involved reports of a cellphone as a distraction.”

The conference followed the announcement that state Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, and state Rep. Tom Craddick, R-Midland, have filed bills in the Texas House and Senate that would ban texting while driving statewide.

A statewide ban passed the Senate and House during the last legislative session in 2011, but Gov. Rick Perry vetoed the bill after it reached his desk.

“Gov. Perry continues to believe that texting while driving is reckless and irresponsible, and as he noted last session, current law already prohibits drivers under the age of 18 from texting or using a cellphone while driving,” Josh Havens, deputy press

secretary with the governor’s office, said in an email. “The key to dissuading drivers from texting while driving is information and education, not government micromanagement.”

This time the bill may pass more easily, state Rep. Tryon Lewis, R-Odessa, told parents who had lost children to distracted driving or texting while driving.

Cities can establish their own laws regarding texting while driving. San Angelo has no overall ban, but Austin makes texting while driving a Class C misdemeanor. State law prohibits cellphone use in a car in school zones. So far, 39 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Vir-

gin Islands ban texting while driving, according to the Governor’s Highway Safety Association.

A texting driver is 23 times more likely to get into a crash than a nondistracted driver, compared with a crash risk four times greater for an intoxicated driver just over the blood-alcohol content limit, Shannon Teague’s talking points state, citing a Virginia Tech study.

“It was my honor to host the families with Sen. Zaffirini as they shared their tragic stories with lawmakers,” Craddick said in a release. “These families ... who have lost a loved one know all too well the dangers of texting while driving.”

► Texas Briefs

Female Texas trooper in body search faces firing

DALLAS (AP) — A Texas trooper faces dismissal amid the investigation of her videotaped body cavity search of two women along a Dallas-area highway.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Tom Vinger says agency director Steve McCraw has made a preliminary determination to terminate Trooper Kelly Helleson. Vinger, in a statement Wednesday, said Helleson will have the opportunity to meet with McCraw before her firing is final.

Helleson and Trooper David Ferrell in December were put on paid suspension as the case awaits review by a Dallas County grand jury.

Texas Rangers helped investigate last July’s traffic stop in Irving. An Irving woman and her adult niece on Dec. 17 sued both troopers and McCraw claiming the search was illegal and humiliating. No drugs were found.

Vinger did not have contact information for Helleson.

3 Texans accused of travel agency payment fraud

DALLAS (AP) — Federal prosecutors in Texas say three Dallas residents have been indicted in an investigation of nearly \$280,000 in travel agency payment fraud.

Jorge Armando Flores, his wife Roxana Flores and her son Julio C. Funes-Alas were arrested Tuesday in Amityville, N.Y., and remain in custody pending their return to Dallas. They face conspiracy and mail fraud charges.

The indictment unsealed Tuesday says Jorge and Roxana Flores were sales agents for an international wholesale travel agent, U.S.A. Gateway Inc. of Dallas. Gateway legally purchased tickets directly from airlines and then sold the tickets to retail travel agencies.

The suspects since 2007 allegedly conspired to convert payment checks from agencies in Texas, Rhode Island and Massachusetts to their own personal use.

Prosecutors didn’t immediately provide information on attorneys for the suspects.

Fort Worth officer shot, fleeing suspect killed

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Investigators say a North Texas police officer has been shot and a suspect killed following a drug-related pursuit.

Fort Worth police on Wednesday did not immediately update the wounded officer’s condition. Authorities Tuesday night described the officer’s injuries as not life-threatening and said

he was hospitalized in serious condition.

Haltom City police on Tuesday afternoon stopped a vehicle during a narcotics investigation and a chase ensued. The driver ditched the car and ran. Haltom City police then searched nearby neighborhoods.

Some Fort Worth officers who were at an automotive business learned a suspicious man was behind the building. Those officers went to investigate and the suspect opened fire, wounding one officer. Officers shot the suspect, who died Tuesday night.

Names of the wounded officer and the suspect weren’t immediately released.

Ex-South Texas teacher gets prison for child porn

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — A former South Texas high school teacher has been sentenced to more than nine years in federal prison for having child pornography at his home.

Prosecutors in Corpus Christi say 41-year-old Jesus Orta was sentenced Tuesday. Orta, who was an English as a second language teacher, pleaded guilty in November to possession of child pornography.

Orta was arrested after a September disturbance in which he claimed a relative was trespassing. Orta initially refused to let officers search his home and was later seen discarding child porn-related items in a public trash bin. An eventual search of his apartment turned up pornography-related items on a computer.

Orta was suspended from teaching at Corpus Christi Carroll High School following his arrest. He also helped at a shelter for runaway youths.

Homeland Security panel head talks port security

HOUSTON (AP) — The head of the U.S. House Homeland Security Committee is meeting with Houston port officials and other Houston-area law enforcement representatives to discuss security at the port and the surrounding petrochemical complex.

U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul is a Houston-area Republican who chairs the committee. A Port of Houston Authority statement says he’ll discuss port security and recent Middle East development that could influence national security with port, law enforcement and industry representatives on Wednesday.

The authority statement says the Port of Houston brings in more imports than any other U.S. harbor and moves the second highest level of all maritime tonnage. More than 8,000 vessels call at port annually, and

about 25 percent of U.S. oil imports flow through the port.

Man with ties to hacking group appears in court

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas man with ties to the hacking group Anonymous and now under federal indictment is to appear before a judge to determine if he’s competent to stand trial.

According to U.S. District Judge Sam Lindsay’s scheduling order, prison medical staff believe Barrett Lancaster Brown to be competent for trial.

Brown has been linked to Anonymous and has previously acted as a de facto spokesman for the group. The 31-year-old Brown was first charged in October with making Internet threats and retaliating against law enforcement in YouTube videos he posted.

Two later indictments accuse Brown of making public an Internet link with access to stolen credit card information and concealing evidence by hiding two laptop computers from authorities.

Brown is to appear in federal court in Dallas federal court Wednesday.

3 days of hearings set in Fort Hood shooting case

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — The new judge in the Fort Hood shooting case is to decide this week whether to spare Maj. Nidal Hasan a possible death sentence and let him plead guilty in the worst mass shooting on a U.S. military installation.

Pretrial hearings are scheduled

Wednesday through Friday so the new military judge, Col. Tara Osborn, can reconsider several defense requests previously rejected by the former judge.

Defense attorneys say Hasan wants to plead guilty to 13 counts of premeditated murder in the 2009 attack on the Texas Army post. But military rules prohibit a judge from accepting a guilty plea in a death penalty case.

Without a death penalty option, the punishment is life without parole — which Hasan already faces if convicted of the 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder.

Dallas man faces federal count for pointing laser

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas man appeared in federal court to hear himself accused of pointing a green laser beam at a police helicopter flying nearby during an investigation.

A federal magistrate on Tuesday scheduled a Thursday detention hearing for Kenneth Santodomingo. He’s accused of pointing a laser pointer at the aircraft from his home Monday. If convicted of aiming a laser pointer at an aircraft, he could be sentenced to up to five years in prison.

Authorities say the 22-year-old man pointed the laser several times at the helicopter as it assisted officers looking for a suspect in a burglary. The pilot found where the light was coming from and directed officers on the ground to the location.

See **TEXAS**, Page 6



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Gilbert Webb



Gilbert Webb, 87, died Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013, at his residence. Funeral services with military honors will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born March 23, 1925, in Dialville, Texas, to Venie and Matthew Webb. He married Alice Ann Ashley, March 24, 1950, in Big Spring. She preceded him in death June 7, 2005.

He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and a member of East Fourth Baptist Church. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Army Air

Corps in Europe. He was a mechanic on the B-17 and B-25 bombers. He was a field maintenance supervisor at Webb Air Force Base until it closed.

He is survived by two sons, David Webb and his wife Rebecca of Austin and Paul Webb of Big Spring; two granddaughters, Errin Chastain and her husband Marc of Palo Pinto and Kirby Jones and her husband Jarret of Odessa; and two great-grandchildren, Jackson Chastain of Midland and Jinger Sunshine Jones of Odessa.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by one grandson, Matthew Webb; one brother, Vernon Webb; and one sister, Velma Myrick.

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

Paid obituary

David Cortez Chavarria

David Cortez Chavarria, 57, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2013, Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Meredith Kendall

Meredith Kendall, 38, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2013, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Herminia Martinez

Herminia Martinez, 74, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2013, at Medical Arts Hospital in Lamesa. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

William Edward Huttegger



William Edward Huttegger, 63 of San Antonio died Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013.

Bill was a Vietnam veteran and served his country in the U.S. Air Force as a machinist. He retired in 1991 from the service as CMSgt. Bill then went on to work for the Civil Service as an aircraft mechanic and retired in 2011.

He was a life member of the VFW Post 4676 in Universal

City. Bill loved water skiing, fishing and camping with his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edwin H. Huttegger and Irene Lohmann Huttegger; brothers, Paul Huttegger and Timothy Huttegger; and sister, Debbie Huttegger Frienza.

William is survived by his wife of 42 years, Col-

leen Huttegger; son, Edwin L. Huttegger and wife Rosanne; daughter, Paula D. Huttegger and husband James; grandson, Justin Huttegger; granddaughter, Harmony Huttegger; brothers, Robert Huttegger and wife Kathie, Larry Huttegger and wife Peggy and Stanley Huttegger and wife Carol; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Porter Loring on McCullough.

Service will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1, 2013, at Porter Loring Chapel.

Graveside service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 7 at Fort Sam Houston Cemetery, 1520 Harry Worzbach Road, San Antonio, Texas, with the Rev. Marilyn G. Lange officiating.

You are invited to sign the guestbook at www.porterloring.com.

Arrangements are under the direction of Porter Loring Mortuary, 1101 McCullough Ave.

Paid obituary

Evelyn Hall McGuire



Evelyn Hall McGuire, 86, of Big Spring, died Monday, Jan. 28, 2013, at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013, at the First Church of the Nazarene with the Rev. Jerry McGuire officiating and the Rev. Calvary Callender assisting. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2013, at the funeral home.

Evelyn was born Jan. 24, 1927, in Abernathy, Texas, and married Dell J. McGuire Aug. 22, 1948, in Plainview, Texas. They moved to Big Spring in 1954 and she had worked as a lab technician at the Malone and Hogan Hospital and the Veterans Administration Medical Center, retiring in October of

1988.

She was a member of First Church of the Nazarene.

Survivors include her husband, Dell McGuire of Big Spring; two sons and daughters-in-law, Jerry and Clare McGuire of Belton and Gordon and Pam McGuire of Lampoc, Calif.; one daughter and son-in-law, DiAnn and David Fowler of Midland; one sister, Arlyse Speed of Midland; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lloyd and Gladys (Fox) Hall; and two sisters, Loydene Dickinson and Nheva Hall.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Evelyn McGuire Memorial Building Fund, in care of the First Church of the Nazarene, 1400 S. Lancaster, Big Spring, TX 79720.

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

TEXAS

Continued from Page 5

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Rancher admits to shooting at crop-dusting plane

WICHITA FALLS, Texas (AP) — A northwest Texas rancher has admitted that he opened fire on a crop-dusting airplane flying overhead.

Stephen Paul Riley of Olney, 120 miles northwest of Dallas, pleaded guilty Tuesday in federal court in Wichita Falls to a count of aircraft destruction. He could be sentenced to up to 20 years in federal prison and fined \$250,000 when he's sentenced May 21.

According to court records, a crop-dusting pilot flew over property adjacent to Riley's Flying Lead Ranch around midday on Feb. 22, 2008. Riley fired multiple times on the aircraft, striking and nearly severing the rudder cable and striking a wing strut.

Court records showed Riley had previously threatened the owner of the company that leased the plane, saying that he would shoot down any plane flying over the ranch.

Grandson of oil tycoon T. Boone Pickens dies

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A 21-year-old grandson of Texas oil tycoon T. Boone Pickens died Tuesday after being rushed to a hospital in Fort Worth, according to police and a family spokesman.

Thomas Boone Pickens IV, who went by Ty, was a junior at Texas Christian University. Pickens' spokesman, Jay Rosser, called the death an "unspeakable family tragedy" and asked that the family be allowed to grieve in private.

Neither Rosser nor Fort Worth police have said what may have caused the death.

Officers were dispatched after getting a report of a dead person at an off-campus location around 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, police spokeswoman Cpl. Tracey Knight said. Police said Ty Pickens was transported to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Knight said the Tarrant County medical examiner would determine the cause of death. She declined further comment.

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Historical society unveils Leon Russell collection

By JUSTIN JUOZAPAVICIUS
Associated Press
TULSA, Okla. (AP) — The Master of Space and Time could soon have his own museum.

The Oklahoma Historical Society announced Tuesday it had acquired a collection of more than 4,500 items connected to legendary musician and native Oklahoman Leon Russell that are intended for a planned pop culture museum in Tulsa.

The donated collection features thousands of photos, more than 1,300 audio recordings, 100 video recordings and old concert programs, posters and tickets, among other things. But the display is contingent on the Legislature passing a \$42.5 million bond issue to build the so-called OKPOP Museum in downtown Tulsa.

The 70-year-old Russell — with his trademark long white hair and scraggly white beard, thick sunglasses and cowboyhat—appeared on stage at a news conference that announced the collection to a standing ovation, walking slowly and aided by a cane.

Russell’s responsible for helping pioneer the Tulsa Sound and worked with musicians ranging from Frank Sinatra to Elton John. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2011. Along the way, the funky and flamboyant “Master of Space and Time” title stuck.

“I usually got arrested in this area and now I get a museum?” Russell quipped. “Who knew? And now the good people of Oklahoma want to build a magnificent museum to honor me and others like me. God is good, amen and amen.”

The museum, which has been in the planning stages for several years, will be a 75,000-square-foot, four story building dedi-

cated to Oklahoma artists and their impact on popular culture.

Bond proposals, especially for museums, have faced fierce resistance from a growing group of conservative lawmakers opposed to the idea of adding to state debt. Last year, a proposed \$20 million bond issue to fund the museum narrowly passed the Senate before getting derailed in the House.

It’ll likely be the same this year in the House, where Republicans now enjoy a 72-29 advantage. But Democrats also have said they will refuse to support any bond issue.

But supporters of the museum gathered at Tuesday’s news conference said they were

confident they would have support from lawmakers who realize the economic and social importance the museum could have in northeastern Oklahoma and the entire state.

“This is not just a Tulsa museum; this is not just a historical society museum,” said Bob Blackburn, executive director of the state’s historical soci-

ety. “This will represent the creativity across the state.”

Mike Neal, president and CEO of the Tulsa Regional Chamber, said 700 jobs would be created over the four years it would take to build the museum. He also said museum and parking garage would generate \$3.7 million in sales tax alone.

Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett said Russell’s music put Tulsa on the map.

“You gave us relevancy at the time, Leon, when we didn’t have any as far as a music scene,” Bartlett said.

Capitol Correspondent Sean Murphy in Oklahoma City contributed to this report.



Annie’s Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: I’ve been with a wonderful guy for five years. After two abusive marriages, I am finally being treated right.

“Bud” and I have only two issues: money and kids. We have broken up a few times over our problems, but honestly, I can’t live without him.

Bud is 44 years old and owns his own business, but he does not save money. When I met him, he had nothing. Now he has \$20,000 in a retirement account and another \$5,000 in savings. He finally has his two kids pretty well straightened out, although they will never be exactly normal.

Bud still doesn’t manage his money well. He needs so many things in his house, yet he went out and bought a truck he doesn’t need. He now has six years of payments on it, his auto insurance went up, and if he ever needs new tires, we are talking thousands of dollars. I want him to sell it and get a reasonably priced truck. He says he will lose money on the sale, which is true, but why sink even more into it?

Both of my marriages involved men who overspent on themselves, so I know I have a tendency to be extra cautious. How can I convince Bud that he did the wrong thing by buying the truck, but that he still has time to fix it? I won’t marry a man I can’t trust with my money. Not again. — *Thrice Shy*

Dear Thrice: You can’t treat Bud like a child, even if he makes poor financial decisions. He will resent it and push back. Instead, approach all such matters jointly, being respectful of each other’s opinions, even when you disagree.

You also could offer to take over the handling of finances for the household, keeping everyone within a reasonable budget. But you are wise not to commingle your money if you don’t trust Bud’s ability to handle it. Before marrying, consider financial counseling together through your bank or the National Foundation for Credit Counseling (nfcc.org).

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married 27 years. We each have grown children from previous marriages.

My husband’s 42-year-old unmarried son lives out of state. “Mike” is self-supporting, but the only time we hear from him is when he needs some extra money. He lives alone except for his dogs. For the past three years, Mike has spent Christmas with us, staying three or four days. We are always happy to see him, even though we only have two bedrooms and he brings the dogs — even one who is incontinent.

Last year, my daughter (who also lives out of state) visited with her two children. We hadn’t seen her in two years. My husband also was scheduled for knee replacement surgery the following week.

So when Mike asked to come with his dogs and a new puppy, we explained that it wasn’t a good time. We asked him to come in February or March, while his father recuperated — and hopefully, the puppy would be housebroken.

We have not heard from him since, even though I have left numerous messages on his voicemail. What more can I do to mend this fragile relationship? — *In the Middle*

Dear Middle: Not much. You have explained, and you have called. We trust you will keep all of the kids informed of Dad’s progress, including Mike. But it is up to him to make the next move. We suspect when he needs money, he will get in touch again.

Dear Annie: Most women who responded to “Your Husband” do not understand men very well. Without sex, men feel incomplete. It’s part of how we feel loved. Women should realize how important sex is to a man simply by seeing that he is willing to risk everything — his wife, family and assets — to fill this void. — *Feeling the Void in Indiana*

Annie’s Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie’s Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. 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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KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

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Timbuktu, ancient seat of Islamic learning

KRISTA LARSON
Associated Press

SEVARE, Mali — Timbuktu, the fabled desert city where retreating Muslim extremists destroyed ancient manuscripts, was a center of Islamic learning hundreds of years before Columbus landed in the Americas.

It is not known how many of the priceless documents were destroyed by al Qaida-linked fighters who set ablaze a state-of-the-art library built with South African funding to conserve the brittle, camel-hide bound manuscripts from the harshness of the Sahara

Desert climate and preserve them so researchers can study them.

News of the destruction came on Monday from the mayor of Timbuktu. With its Islamic treasures and centuries-old mud-walled buildings including an iconic mosque, Timbuktu is a U.N.-designated World Heritage Site.

The damage caused by the fleeing Islamists was limited, but irreplaceable treasures were lost.

Most of the manuscripts, which are as many as 900 years old, were gathered between the 1980s and 2000

from all over Mali for the Ahmed Baba Institute for Higher Learning and Islamic Research, which moved into its new home in 2009.

The library held about 30,000 manuscripts of which only about one third had been catalogued, according to its Web site.

The world may never know what it has lost.

The manuscripts cover subjects ranging from science, astrology and medicine to history, theology, grammar and geography.

All are in Arabic script, in the Arabic language and African languages.

They date

back to the late 12th century, the start of a 300-year golden age for Timbuktu as a spiritual and intellectual capital for the propagation of Islam on the continent.

Michael Covitt, chairman of the Malian Manuscript Foundation, called them “the most important find since the Dead Sea Scrolls.”

Tens of thousands more manuscripts — no one knows how many — were kept at other libraries and private homes in Timbuktu. Some are believed to have been secreted against the Islamist fighters, who began their desecration of the city by systematically razing the 15th-century mausoleums of several Sufi saints in July.

Among the tombs they destroyed is that of Sidi Mahmoudou, a saint who died in 955, according to a UNESCO website.

The International Criminal Court at The Hague has described the destruction of Timbuktu’s heritage as a possible

war crime.

Timbuktu has been attacked and conquered in the past, most recently in 1591 by Moroccan troops who sacked the city and burned libraries. But the city recovered and gained fame as a place where people from different races and creeds could live together harmoniously.

Even before Europeans landed in the Americas, Timbuktu had a population of 30,000.

The nomadic Tuareg tribe first set up their camel-skin and palm-mat tents there in the dry season, attracted by its location where the Niger River flows toward the southern brink of the Sahara Desert, prompting some to call it the point where “the camel meets the canoe.” The tents gave way to sun-dried terracotta-colored mud brick buildings built in the Moorish style as traders, medical doctors, clerics, artists, poets and others settled there.

The city is on an old caravan route where Arab traders brought salt and other goods that reached North Africa’s Mediterranean shores and traded it in

Charles Myers
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Ward & Myers, L.L.P.

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sudoku

ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

After multiple disasters, Caddo County, Oklahoma struggles against drought

SEAN MURPHY

Associated Press

BINGER, Okla. — In the gently rolling hills of Oklahoma ranch country is a place that has seen more than its share of destructive weather — tornadoes, ice storms and floods, year after year, for half of the last decade.

In fact, Caddo County has been declared a federal disaster area nine times since 2007, making it one of the nation's most ill-

fated locations. But even here, farmers and ranchers say, no one has endured anything as crippling as the ongoing drought, which has dried out ponds, withered crops in the field and decimated the water table.

"It makes you become humble," said Charlie Opitz, who began his farming career selling peanut seeds in 1959 and grew his operation to more than 2,500 acres near the small town of Binger, about 60 miles

west of Oklahoma City. "You realize there's something out there much greater than you are."

Oklahomans know better than most Americans about the perils of bad weather. Their state practically blew away during the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, and they live in the heart of tornado alley — a wide corridor in the central United States where twisters are common.

Caddo County has endured all that and more. Its recent history reads like a storm chaser's logbook or some punishment inflicted by a vengeful god.

The area was hit by no fewer than five federal disasters in 2007 alone, including ice storms, violent winds, tornadoes and flooding. Then the county suffered a disaster each year for the next four, including more tornadoes and flooding in 2008, a blizzard in 2009, another ice storm in 2010 and torna-



does and flooding again in 2011.

By comparison, the county suffered only five federal disasters during the entire decade of the 1990s.

Now comes the drought, a ceaseless dry spell that began last summer and could persist through much of 2013.

Rainfall totals for 2012 were more than 10 inches below normal, and the two-year total of 51 inches is the fourth-lowest since record keeping began in 1895, according to the Oklahoma Climatological Survey.

A few scattered showers have brought much-needed rain to the region in recent weeks, but the entire county remains locked in extreme drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, a government service.

Karen Krehbiel, who raises sheep and grows wheat and milo near Hinton, said her farm's utility expenses more than doubled from about \$15,000 in 2010 to \$33,000 in 2012, mostly because

of increased costs to irrigate parched fields. Sheep that traditionally would graze on pasture land must be fed hay, making the operation still more expensive.

"Because it was so hot and dry, even running irrigation all day, you couldn't produce enough water," said Krehbiel, who had to let 30 acres of alfalfa die in the field because she couldn't afford to irrigate it.

A pond on Krehbiel's property still hasn't returned to normal since the 2007 flood burst a dam and sent the pond gushing downstream. And an apple, pear and peach orchard near her in-law's home still bears the scars of an ice storm that took out dozens of trees.

Cattle rancher Scott Brower said the drought is easily the worst natural disaster he's experienced.

Even during the ice storm, his ranch was calving 100 heifers. But the drought "gets old in a hurry," he said, citing the challenge of hauling a thousand gallons

of water at a time out to pasture.

Opitz said much of the land that he and his sons work is still recovering from the 2007 flood that sent the nearby Sugar Creek out of its banks.

"This whole valley was underwater, from hill to hill," said Opitz, whose grandfather started a grain elevator in Binger in 1903.

The family had to buy a bulldozer to repair all the ponds that were washed away, and the fields where they grow wheat and other crops still have deep gulleys carved into them as a result of the flooding.

If the drought doesn't break soon, valuable grazing grass could die.

"It will put several producers out of business," Opitz said. "That's not just speculation. That's

a fact."

Across Oklahoma, the costs for various types of insurance — homeowners, automobile and crop — are going up because of the state's proclivity for disasters.

The higher rates are "the result of the exposures that exist here," said John Wiscaver, a spokesman for Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance.

As for Brower, he tries to stay upbeat and wait for relief that's bound to come, eventually.

"You just do the best you can do every day and hope it gets better," he said. "We'll get some moisture sooner or later. It will be our turn."

Sean Murphy can be reached at www.twitter.com/apseanmurphy

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In *Sunday's*
Big Spring Herald



Knock 'Em Down

Americans have been rolling balls down wooden lanes for more than a century, bowling strikes—and gutter balls—at some of the nation's oldest alleys, including the ones we feature in this week's cover story.

AmericanProfile



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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Keep Your Eye on the Ball

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A Q 9 4
♥ 4 2
♦ A 8 4 3
♣ Q 8 5

WEST
♠ 8
♥ K 9 8 6 3
♦ K Q 10 7
♣ A J 2

EAST
♠ —
♥ Q 10 7
♦ J 9 6 5 2
♣ 10 9 6 4 3

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

The bidding:
West North East South
1♥ Dble 2♥ 6♠

Opening lead — king of diamonds.
Assume you're in six spades and West leads the king of diamonds. When dummy comes down, it looks as though you've bitten off a bit more than you can chew. You seem destined to lose a heart and a club and go down one.

However, when you think about the matter more objectively, all you really needed was for partner to have

a singleton heart, a distinct possibility on the bidding.

But this isn't the time to be grieving about what might have been. Instead, you should be thinking about how to make the slam.

And if you think hard enough, you realize that the slam can almost surely be made. West could hardly have opened the bidding without the ace of clubs, and if he has that card, you can't be stopped from fulfilling your assignment.

Accordingly, you ruff the king of diamonds at trick one rather than take dummy's ace (if you played the ace, you'd go down one). Then, after cashing the king of spades, you lead the seven of clubs toward dummy.

This puts West in an impossible position. If he goes up with the ace, you can later discard the J-5 of hearts on dummy's queen of clubs and ace of diamonds.

If instead West plays low on the club lead, you win with dummy's queen, discard the king of clubs on the ace of diamonds and later lose only a heart trick. Provided you keep your wits about you at the outset, there's no escape for West.

Tomorrow: Bridge is a partnership game.

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Do you, a friend or family member know of someone who has an interesting hobby or story to tell? The Big Spring Herald is gathering material for its annual 'Profiles' edition which will be published March 31. If you know someone who might be an interesting topic for a short story, contact the Herald at 432-263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

sudoku

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

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Big Spring no match for ranked Wylie

By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Sports Editor
Big Spring

Girls

It took the Lady Steers (16-14, 4-4) over five minutes to score during Tuesday's meeting with No. 17 Abilene Wylie. Meanwhile, the Lady Bulldogs seemed as if they couldn't miss a shot, outscoring Big Spring 32-5 in the first half.

With about four minutes remaining before halftime, a fire alarm was tripped, halting the action for about 10 minutes. It was just a false alarm, but unfortunately for Big Spring it didn't interrupt Wylie's rhythm. The Lady Bulldogs went home with their perfect District 4-3A record intact after a 60-24 blowout win.

Dyrshae Vanderbilt broke the ice with a two-point basket for BSHS and Logan Yarbar — the lone senior on the team who was honored at the intermission for her contributions to high school sports — sank a three-point shot, but that was all the Lady Steers could muster in the opening quarters.

"It's hard to play (Wylie)," BSHS Head Coach Mike Warren said. "They are ranked No. 17 and they are legitimate. They probably should even be ranked higher. They are definitely the best team in our district. They jumped on us early and played great defense, but I felt we had a good third quarter and good fourth



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton/visit www.claxtonphotography.com

Big Spring's Dyrshae Vanderbilt goes on a fast break after a steal during Tuesday's 60-24 home loss to Abilene Wylie. The Lady Steers are still in the District 4-3A playoff race and will be back in action Friday against Greenwood.

See **HOOPS**, Page 15

Blazers come from behind to beat Mavs

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge's buzzer-beating shot had barely left his hands when teammate Nicolas Batum raised his arms in victory.

Aldridge's turnaround jumper fell as time ran out and the Portland Trail Blazers came back from a 21-point third-quarter deficit to beat the Dallas Mavericks 106-104 on Tuesday night.

"I knew," Batum said. "I knew he was going to make it."

Aldridge finished with 29 points and 13 rebounds for Portland, which trailed 101-94 with 2:18 left. J.J. Hickson had a season-high 26 points and 15 rebounds for his 25th double-double.

After Wesley Matthews made two free

throws to pull the Blazers to 101-98 with 52 seconds to go, Batum's 3-pointer tied the score.

Dirk Nowitzki answered with his own 3 before Aldridge also had a 3 — the first one he's made this season — to tie it at 104 with 4.9 seconds left. O.J. Mayo was called for charging with 1.5 seconds to go, and Aldridge hit his jumper after the inbound from Matthews with 0.2 seconds left for the victory.

"He (Batum) has his hand up. He said he had a lot of faith in me," said Aldridge, recently named to an All-Star reserve for the second straight year. "I had to watch it go in."

As the confetti streamed down from the rafters of the Rose Garden, Aldridge was

tackled by his teammates.

"He was smiling like a rookie," Batum said about Aldridge afterward. "We needed those two shots (the 3-pointer and the game-winner). They show people that he really is an All-Star. He is an All Star. He's a go-to guy."

Dirk Nowitzki finished with 26 points for Dallas, which had won six of its last eight games.

"We cannot let Aldridge get set on the block 10 feet from the basket and let him turn around and shoot a wide-open shot," Nowitzki said. "We make those mistakes, especially on the road, and you are going to get bit."

The Mavericks were

without center Chris Kaman, who sustained a concussion in a collision during practice on Monday, according to coach Rick Carlisle. There was no timetable for Kaman's return. He is averaging 12.4 points and 6.2 rebounds this season.

The injury comes as the Mavericks have juggled their centers, starting a different one in each of their last three games. Kaman, Elton Brand and rookie Bernard James have each taken turns. Brandon Wright also plays at center for the Mavs.

James made his second straight start against the Blazers.

"It helps to have depth," Carlisle said. "We need all those guys but this (Kaman's injury) is a big hit for us."

Ray Lewis avoids talk of report on deer spray

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Of all the topics Baltimore Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis wanted to talk about at Super Bowl media day, deer-antler spray probably was not on the list.

He declined to directly address in any detail Tuesday questions about a Sports Illustrated report that he sought help from a company that makes the unorthodox product to speed his recovery from a torn right triceps. Lewis was the NFL's leading tackler in the playoffs after missing 10 regular-season games with the injury.

The company, Sports With Alternatives To Steroids (SWATS), says its deer-antler substance contains a banned performance-enhancer connected to human growth hormone.

The 37-year-old Lewis, who has announced he will retire after playing against the San Francisco 49ers in Sunday's Super Bowl, dismissed the report as "stupidity."

Sport Illustrated reported that SWATS owner Mitch Ross recorded a call with Lewis hours after the player hurt his arm in an October game against Dallas. According to the report, Lewis asked Ross to send him deer-antler spray and pills, along with other products made by the company.

The magazine also said that when it spoke to Lewis for its story, he acknowledged asking Ross for "some more of the regular stuff" on the night of the injury and that he has been associated with the company "for a couple years through Hue Jackson."

Jackson is a former Ravens quarterback coach — and later head coach of the Oakland Raiders. Two years ago

he stopped endorsing SWATS because his ties to the company violated NFL rules.

"That was a 2-year-old story that you want me to refresh ... so I won't even speak about it," Lewis said Tuesday. "Because I've been in this business 17 years, and nobody has ever got up with me every morning and trained with me. Every test I've ever took in the NFL — there's never been a question of if I ever even thought about using anything. So to even entertain stupidity like that. ..."

The NFL didn't immediately respond to a request for comment, and NFL Players Association spokesman George Atallah declined comment.

"The team knew about this report. Ray denies taking anything and has always passed tests," Ravens spokesman Kevin Byrne said.

Baltimore coach John Harbaugh said he found out about the SI story during the team's bus ride to the Superdome for media day.

"I have not talked to Ray about that personally," Harbaugh said. "What I do know about that is Ray has worked incredibly and extremely hard to get back, so I hate to see anything diminish the work ethic that he's put in to get to where he is right now. And my understanding is Ray has passed every random, you know, substance test that he's taken throughout the course of his whole career. So there's never been a test that's shown up anything along those lines."

All in all, the topic only added to what already was a week filled with plot lines connected to Lewis.

Will rule changes turn NFL into flag football league?

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Making the game safer is making NFL players unsure what's a legal hit.

Players on both Super Bowl teams say they are confused about which hits are considered clean and which ones could lead to a fine. And it's not just the guys on defense who are wondering about the future of pro football.

"I think the rules will change a lot," San Francisco 49ers tight end Vernon Davis said Tuesday. "There's already no helmet to helmet. Might be flag football, maybe."

Baltimore Ravens safety Bernard Pollard, one of the league's hardest hitters, warned against trying to take collisions out of the game, as long as they are clean.

"You can't play this game and not expect it to be physical," said Pollard, who was fined \$15,250 for a hit on Patriots receiver Wes Welker in the AFC championship game that Pollard believes was within the rules. "There will be injuries in football. There's a car crash on every play."

His 49ers counterpart, All-Pro Dashon Goldson, says defenders keep this in mind when they take the field:

"Do your best and then hope you don't get a letter (with a fine) in your locker on Wednesday."

The NFL has sought to eliminate any hits to the head and neck area of defenseless players, particularly in the last three years. It also has banned players launching themselves helmet-first toward an opponent.

Yet, every week, players are fined for those actions, and there have been suspensions. Baltimore safety Ed Reed drew a one-game suspension this season that was lifted by the NFL on appeal and turned into a \$50,000 fine for repeated illegal tackles. The 5-foot-11, 205-pound Reed is not considered a vicious hitter.

Reed admits he can't be sure what's a true tackle these days and what crosses the line.

"A lot needs to be done with it. I don't think every fine is right," he said. "You have to go back and really look at how guys play the game before you judge them, is what I'm trying to say."

While still recognizing the importance of keeping games as safe as possible, defensive players have complained for years about the league's crackdown on hits. The 49ers and Ravens have two of the most physical defenses in the NFL, and they are proud of their violent nature.

"You can't play timid," Goldson said.

But even offensive players concede that defenses are at a disadvantage to the point of confusion.

Baltimore's Anquan Boldin, one of the more physical wide receivers in the league, doesn't feel sorry for anyone trying to tackle him. But he understands their plight as they close in.

"All defensive players have to deal with that," Boldin said. "It's tough on defensive players on those defenseless receiver calls because they come in and then the receiver drops his shoulder and they hit in the (head). And they get a penalty."

"So maybe they aren't sure and that's bad. This game is played too fast to worry about that, but they do have to worry."

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DAY'S INN needs Front Desk and Housekeeping person. Apply at Front Office @ 2701 South Gregg Street.

Help Wanted

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South Plains Rural Health Services is in need of two Certified Pharmacy Technicians at Howard County Community Health Center in Big Spring. The Pharmacy Tech assists the Pharmacist in the operations of the pharmacy in conjunction with the health services provided within the community health center. Primary duties include maintaining all quality control and inventory control records on pharmaceuticals as outlined by the pharmacist in charge. Assists the Pharmacist, under direct supervision, in the practice of Pharmacy, in accordance to local, state, federal, and company regulations. Educational requirements include High School Diploma and a Pharmacy Technician Certification. This full-time position offers a competitive salary, benefits, and holidays. Please mail resume/ applications to Dale Moore, South Plains Rural Health Services, Inc. 1000 FM 300, Levelland TX 79336, or fax to (806)894-3378. Or apply online at www.sprhs.org EOE. No phone calls please.

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is hiring for the position of Volunteer/Bereavement Coordinator. This is a part-time position... approximately 20-24 hrs/week. Application can be completed at 421 Main St or fax resume to 432.263.5304 attention Debbie Read.

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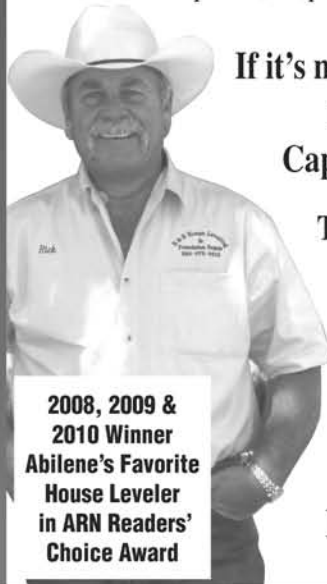
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Pet Talk

Springtime gardening and pet safety



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Spring is the season for being outdoors. For many that mean slipping on their rubber boots and gloves, grabbing their shovel, and planting seeds in the hope of an ample garden in the near future.

While preparing your plot, it's important to take steps to ensure that it's safe for your pets to enjoy as well.

"When planting your garden it is important to note that there are numerous house and garden plants which can be toxic to animals," said James Barr, Assistant Professor at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. "Some include brunnfelsia, oleander, and even lilies."

Brunfelsia, also known as the "yesterday, today & tomorrow" plant, causes convulsive seizures in dogs, while cycads, low growing palm trees used indoors and outdoors, are toxic to the liver of dogs and they

trend to chew on the roots.

"When the liver is contaminated, the dog's body stops producing the normal clotting factors and the dog starts bleeding excessively. This can progress to the point where the dog bleeds to death," said Barr.

While brunnfelsia and cycads have not been known to cause problems in cats, lilies are especially harmful to them.

Once ingested, cats develop symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, depression, and will stop eating altogether.

Once ingested, the cat must be treated by a veterinarian, preferably within 24 hours and not later than 48 hours," said Barr. "The toxin(s) present in the lilies are very toxic to the kidneys."

Kolanchoe is a house plant that is known to be toxic. It contains a chemical which is similar to the human heart medication, digoxin.

"The garden plant oleander also contains digoxin-like compounds. Both kolanchoe and oleander can be toxic to all animals, including dogs and cats, if ingested," said Barr.

Spring is a great time to enjoy the outdoors. Taking the time to make sure that everything you put in your yard is safe for your pet will ensure this time is special for the entire family.

ABOUT PET TALK

Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

Animal shelters are the real winners of 'Puppy Bowl'

By SUE MANNING

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — There will be a winner and a loser every Super Bowl Sunday. But at the "Puppy Bowl," it's always a win for animal shelters.

The show provides national exposure to the shelters across the country that provide the puppy athletes and the kittens that star in the halftime show, and introduces viewers to the different breeds and animals that need homes, animal workers say. Many shelters see bumps in visits from viewers who are inspired to adopt a pet.

"It raises awareness for our shelter and others that take part," said Madeline Bernstein, president and CEO of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Los Angeles. "It shows dogs in a happy, playful, fun way, which makes people think, 'Gee, I could play with a dog too.' You hope it will also stimulate adoptions, and if not, at least a positive attitude toward dogs, rather than they are just hairy and smelly."

The "Puppy Bowl," an annual two-hour TV special that mimics a football game with canine players, made its debut eight years ago on The Animal Planet.

Dogs score touchdowns on a 10-by-19-foot gridiron carpet when they cross the goal line with a toy. There is a Most Valuable Pup award, a water bowl cam, a new lipstick cam (it's in the lips of the toys), slow-motion cameras, a hedgehog referees, a puppy hot tub and a blimp with a crew of hamsters.

Bios on each puppy player flash across the screen during close-ups of the action, letting viewers know how to find each animal for adoption.

Most of the puppies, however, are usually adopted by airtime

since the show is filmed months ahead, said executive producer Melinda Toporoff, who is working on her fifth "Puppy Bowl." But Bernstein said the point is to show that animals just like the ones on the show can be found at any shelter at any time.

"A lot of people have come in during the last year and said, 'I want a dog just like Fumble,'" she said, referring to spcaLA's player entry in "Puppy Bowl VIII" who earned the game's Most Valuable Pup crown.

About 300 puppies and kittens have been featured on "Puppy Bowl" over the last decade, according to Petfinder.com, the country's largest online pet adoption database that helps cast the show's animal stars.

"Shelters and rescues are at capacity, and pet adoption is the responsible way to add to your family," said Sara Kent, who oversees outreach to the 14,000 shelters and rescues that Petfinder works with.

The inaugural "Puppy Bowl," which was promoted as an alternative to the Super Bowl, had 22 puppies and was watched by nearly 6 million viewers. Nearly 9 million tuned in last year and another 1.4 million watched via video streams, Toporoff said. "Puppy Bowl IX" will feature 84 animals, including 21 kittens from a New York shelter for the halftime show, and 63 puppies from 23 shelters.

Only four of the puppies have yet to find new homes, Toporoff said. They include Tyson, Daphne and Sacha — three pit bull mixes from the Pitter Patter Animal Rescue in Silver Lake, Wis., — and Jenny, a terrier mix from the Pitty Love Rescue in Rochester, N.Y.

"I don't know if there's any bigger forum for getting something out on

adoption. We make sure the message gets out there. We make clear that these dogs need homes and that all animals have come to us during the adoption process," Toporoff said.

Fumble, last year's MVP winner, was adopted before the show aired. Michael Wright, of New York, said he found out about Fumble's participation toward the end of the adoption process. He planned to watch this year's show to catch any flashbacks of last year's MVP playing his heart out.

"I'm not really a fan of football," he said, adding that he has renamed Fumble to Toby. "He fits the name Toby. He is so cute. I like the name Fumble, but I pictured someone dropping the ball. He wasn't a Fumble," Wright said.

Each year, recruiting for the show is a logistical challenge for Kent and her crew of 80-plus. This year's show was particularly worrisome because taping was scheduled for October 2012 — just after Superstorm Sandy hit the East Coast.

"We worried about the puppies, kittens and hedgehogs that may have been directly impacted or unable to travel due to Sandy," Kent said.

The New York studio where the game was supposed to be taped lost power, but the taping couldn't be postponed for too long given how quickly puppies grow.

Another studio further uptown that had both power and space was found, and "amazingly, the crew was able to reschedule the shoot for only a week later and all the animals were still able to attend," Kent said.

Bernstein said they try to find rambunctious, energetic puppies to enter in the bowl though even if a dog falls asleep on its way to the end zone, it can be funny. Puppies

chosen for the show have to be between 10 and 15 weeks old, healthy and sturdy enough to be on the field with playmates. All breeds are considered because "we try to reflect what's out there in the adoption world. A lot of those breeds are mixed," Toporoff said.

Producers also were trying to find ways to incorporate older animals into the show, since shelters have more trouble finding homes for them than they do puppies and kittens, Toporoff said.

As with all reality TV shows, the behind-the-scenes casting can lead to problems. Viewers often come in seeking a dog just like one on the show, and "then the lawyer brain kicks in, and you have to make sure you let everybody know not every dog plays football," said Bernstein, who is also an attorney. "People will adopt the kind of dog they see in the movie and they'll expect their Dalmatian to know how to use a word processor and not understand that was a cartoon."

"Some dogs like to play more than others. But don't come in thinking every Chihuahua can play football," she said.

The "Puppy Bowl" airs on Feb. 3 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in all time zones and will keep repeating until 3 a.m. The Super Bowl starts at 6:30 p.m. ET and 3:30 p.m. PT.

Online:
animal.discovery.com/tv-shows/puppy-bowl
www.spcaLA.com
www.petfinder.com/petdetail/24414038 (Tyson)
www.petfinder.com/petdetail/24413997 (Daphne)
www.petfinder.com/petdetail/24413979 (Sacha)
www.petfinder.com/petdetail/24393351 (Jenny)

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Big Daddy Goes Direct

As Jupiter stations to go direct, we adopt a more empowering perspective on our numerous responsibilities. Do they really have to weigh so heavily on us? Maybe there's a way to set them down, compartmentalize — stick them in a locker and carry the key instead. We can always return later to pick up only as much as is reasonable to carry.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Questions of loyalty arise, and you sort them out as such. You are loyal to those who have proved loyal to you. As for the others, you don't promise much, but you're sure to deliver on whatever those promises may be.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). As much as you try to stay out of it, power struggles that are going on in the higher ranks will affect you. This is a time to focus on the elements that are within your control.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Matters of timing will become matters of identity. For instance, those who are always late will be stuck with that stigma, and those who are usually ahead of the trend will be lauded for their progressive tendencies.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You can't take a leap of faith and simultaneously stay in the same place. Put some energy behind your choice. If you just let go, you'll fall. Your best chance at success comes when you run and jump.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A loved one's schedule affects yours, and his or her opinions have a way of rubbing off on you, too. This is a fine day to create some space to listen to your own uninfluenced thoughts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may be reasonably certain that you're right, but you'll be sorry if you make statements to that end. It only gives others the impulse to prove you wrong. Better to tone it down and slip under the radar.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll gather evidence of your social habits. Aware that your time is a gift, when people crave your company, it's a sign that you are being selfless in your hours with them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Maybe you won't exactly say "my way or the highway," but you'll think it. Then you'll walk away, calm down and consider whether other ways really would work after all.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Sometimes conflicts arise to show us that everyone is wrong. When no one has the right answer, go back to the drawing board for a brainstorming session that will break the problem wide open.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What will you do for family? The answer is: a lot more than you would do for anyone who doesn't fall into the category. You take care of your own whether or not they deserve it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Someone wants your contribution. Consider this carefully. The challenge issued to you will rock your world for the next few weeks if you choose to take it on.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When you're struck with inspiration, it often feels like a magical, mystical experience. Where do these ideas come from? In today's case, it certainly feels as though you are channeling them from on high.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 30). You know what you're good at, and you'll prove it this year. With the sun, Mercury and Mars invigorating your sense of purpose, you feel empowered to lay claim to a shining goal and tell everyone you know about it until you get the support you need to proceed. February brings romance. March brings money. Pisces and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 18, 3, 27, 41 and 49.

ASTROLOGICAL ADVICE FOR JUPITER DIRECT 2013: Remember when Superman turned back time for the selfish reason of saving Lois Lane?

Well, maybe it wasn't so selfish, but he broke the rules of his power, thereby unleashing enough evil into the galaxy to fuel a couple of sequels. In a similar vein, James Bond has a weakness for evil beauty, Harry Potter is too quick to anger, and Edward Cullen is a manipulative bloodsucker. (But, hey, what vampire isn't?) My point is that a flawed hero makes for a good story. As the Mack Daddy of the zodiac, Jupiter definitely falls into the category.

The good-fortune planet represents abundance, freedom and dumb luck. A well-aspected Jupiter is definitely something to look forward to, akin to winning money or having a wish granted. And yet it can't be denied that many lottery winners fail disastrously at being rich, and that so many answered wishes have led to unforeseen negative circumstances that "be careful what you wish for" is now a well-worn cliché.

So during this Jupiter transit in the communication realm of Gemini, enjoy the wealth of information, trendy fun and amped-up payoffs that come from being vocal about what you want and need in your life. By the same token, go slow; be thoughtful and wise. It is definitely possible to have too much of a good thing.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Christian Bale's ability to transform his body and disappear into a character has made for an impressively eclectic mix of film roles. True to his astrological nature (Bale's natal sun, Mercury and Jupiter are all in philanthropic Aquarius), the Academy Award-winning actor devotes his time and money to Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund.

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5 :PM :30	News ABC	Casa Notic.	Two Men	News CBS	Noticias	News	King Seinfeld	Shepherd's Heart	Charlie Rose	King '70s	Moonshiners	CSI: Miami	Auction	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good Jessie	College Basketball	SportsCenter
6 :PM :30	Jeopardy!	Corona de Lágrimas	Big Bang	News Ent	Caso Car-rado	News	Seinfeld	Mani	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld Rules	Moonshiners	CSI: Miami	Auction	Castle		Austin Shake It		NBA
7 :PM :30	Middle Neighbors	Por Ella Soy Eva	American Idol	Super Bowl's	Pasión Prohibida	Whitney	Seinfeld	Andrew Upd	Nature (DVS)	Arrow	Moonshiners	Movie: Mrs. Doubtfire, Pierce Brosnan	Auction	Castle	Husbands Second	Good Austin	College Basketball	NBA Basketball: Miami Heat at Brooklyn Nets.
8 :PM :30	Mod Fam Suburg.	Amores Verdaderos		Criminal Minds	La Patrona (SS)	Guys- Law & Order: SVU	Big Bang	Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	NOVA	Supernatural	Moonshiners	Auction	Castle	Movie: Friday After Next	Dog Jessie		
9 :PM :30	Nashville	Amor Bravo (SS)	Simpsons How I Met	CSI: Crime Scene	Escobar Rostro de	Chicago Fire	Big Bang	Big Bang		Life on Fire	Cops Seinfeld	Moonshiners	Diggers	Castle		ANT Farm Good	Soccer: Teams TBA.	NBA Basketball: Lakers at Suns
10 :PM :30	News Jimmy Kimmel Live	Impacto Noticiero	How I Met	News Letterman	Noticias Victorinos (SS)	News Jay Leno	Conan	Rik McDonald	Charlie Rose	Rules '70s	Moonshiners	(:01) Movie: Jumanji, Kirsten Dunst	Diggers	CSI: NY	Husbands	Austin Jessie		
11 :PM :30	Nightline	AI Diablo	Law Order: CI	Ferguson	Decisiones (SS)	Jimmy Fallon	Office	R. Shap Upd	World (Off Air)	King	Moonshiners		Auction	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Wizards	SportsCenter	
12 :AM :30	Extra Super	Mar de Amor (SS)	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Light.		'Til Death Browns	Moonshiners	Movie: Mrs. Doubtfire, Pierce Brosnan	Diggers	Cold Case	Movie: Next Day Air, Wood Harris	Deck Good	NBA	SportsCenter
1 :AM :30	Paid Paid	La Jaula Par Ases	TMZ	Meals	Pagado	(:06) Today	Movie: King's Ran-dom	Light of the Southwest					Entourage	The Closer		Good	NBA	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I'll look forward to your FAREWELL TOUR."

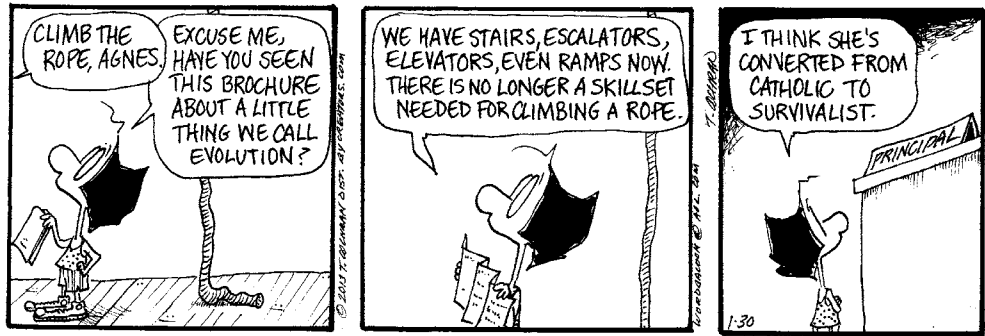
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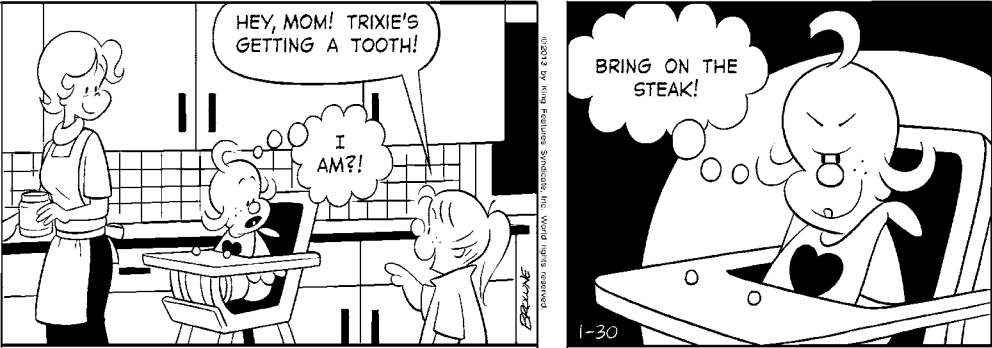
WIZARD OF ID



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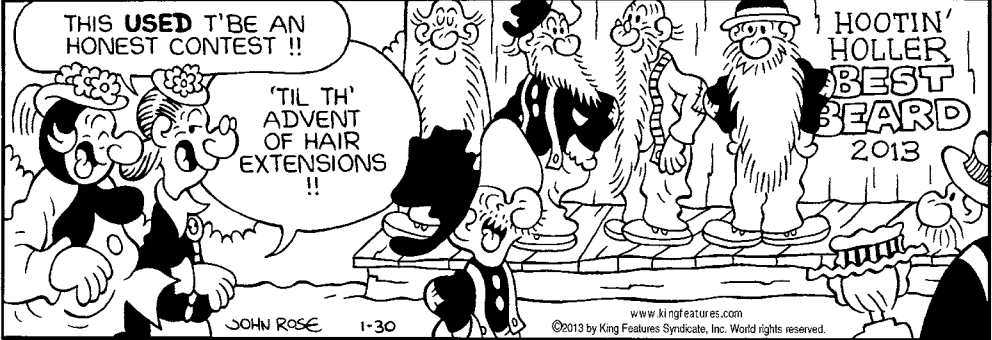
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



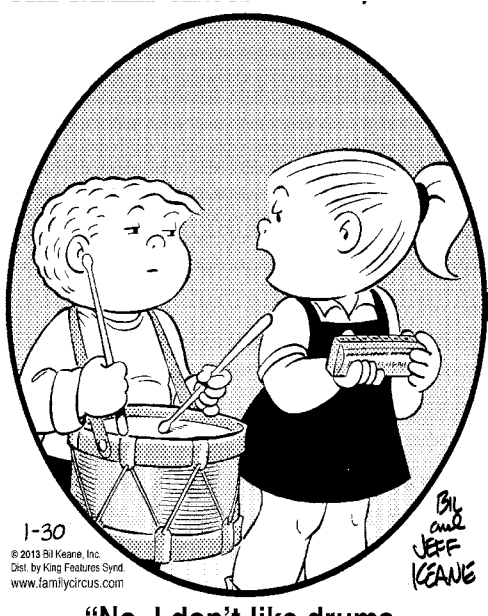
SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY

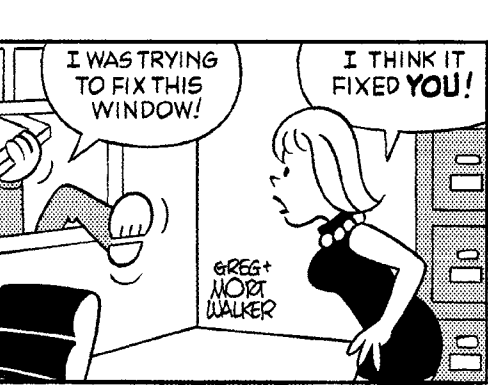
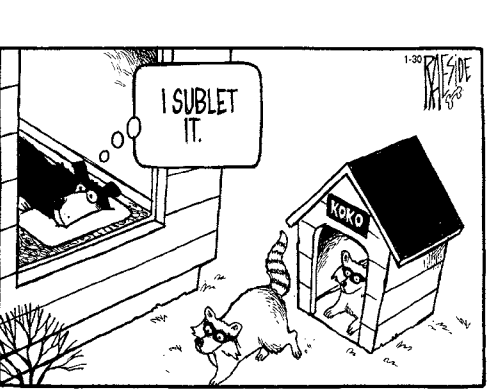
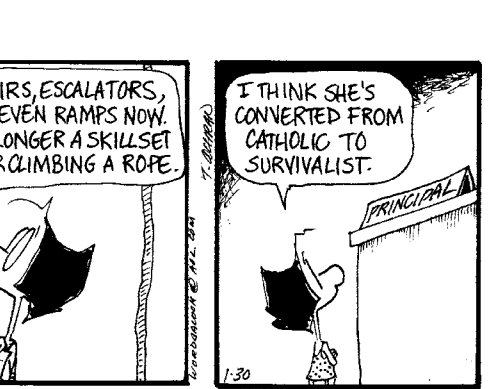
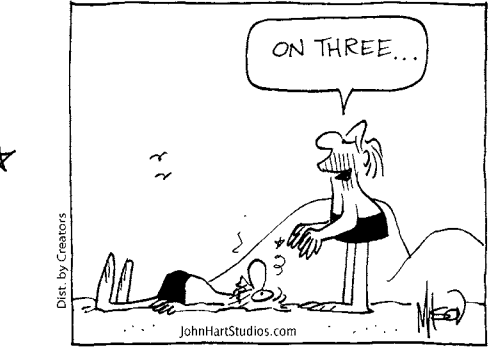


THE FAMILY CIRCUS

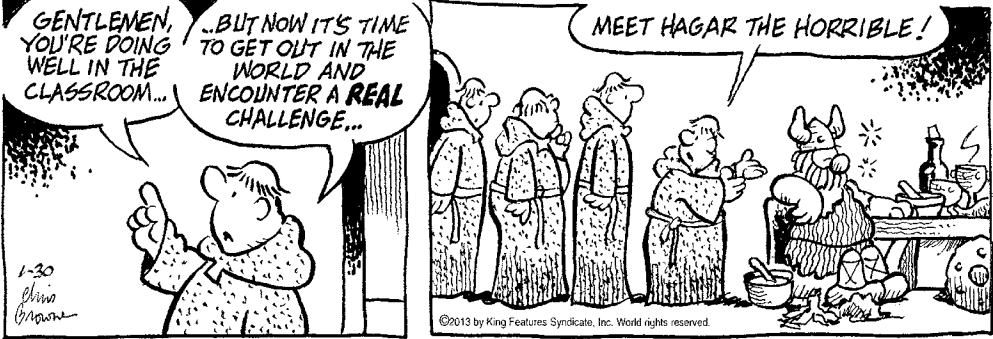


"No, I don't like drums. They only play one note."

Blondie



HAGAR



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 30, the 30th day of 2013. There are 335 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Jan. 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany. The first episode of the "Lone Ranger" radio program was broadcast on station WXYZ in Detroit.

On this date:

In 1649, England's King Charles I was beheaded.

In 1862, the ironclad USS Monitor was launched from the Continental Iron Works in Greenpoint, N.Y., during the Civil War.

In 1882, the 32nd president of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was born in Hyde Park, N.Y.

In 1948, Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi, 78, was shot and killed in New Delhi by Nathuram Godse (neh-too-RAHM' gahd-SAY'), a Hindu extremist (Godse and a co-conspirator

were later executed.)

In 1962, two members of "The Flying Wallendas" high-wire act were killed when their seven-person pyramid collapsed during a performance at the State Fair Coliseum in Detroit.

In 1963, French composer Francis Poulenc died in Paris at age 64.

In 1964, the United States launched Ranger 6, an unmanned spacecraft carrying television cameras that crash-landed on the moon, but failed to send back images.

In 1968, the Tet Offensive began during the Vietnam War as Communist forces launched surprise attacks against South Vietnamese provincial capitals.

In 1972, 13 Roman Catholic civil rights marchers were shot to death by British soldiers in Northern Ireland on what became known as "Bloody Sunday."

In 1973, the rock group KISS performed its first show at a club in Queens, N.Y.

In 1981, an estimated 2 million New Yorkers turned out for a ticker-tape parade honoring the freed American hostages from Iran.

In 1993, Los Angeles inaugu-

rated its Metro Red Line, the city's first modern subway.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Dorothy Malone is 88. Producer-director Harold Prince is 85. Actor Gene Hackman is 83. Actress Tammy Grimes is 79. Actress Vanessa Redgrave is 76. Chess grandmaster Boris Spassky is 76. Country singer Jeanne Pruett is 76. Country singer Norma Jean is 75. Former Vice President Dick Cheney is 72. Rock singer Marty Balin is 71. Rhythm-and-blues musician William King (The Commodores) is 64. Singer Phil Collins is 62. Actor Charles S. Dutton is 62. World Golf Hall of Famer Curtis Strange is 58. Actress-comedian Brett Butler is 55. Singer Jody Watley is 54.

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Answer to previous puzzle

MERIT	SLAT	MASS
ORATE	ACHY	AHME
BIGSPENDER	MEAN	
SEE	END	MAMMALS
JET	NODDLE	
LIEU	RATATAT	
ADAM	ATOM	THROW
SERB	PATIO	CAPE
HANOI	LULL	ACES
SCALPED	VENT	
ETCHED	HOE	
TEARSAT	KAN	MOI
ITEM	GIANT	STEPS
CHOP	SLAW	TRADE

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 68 Nation on the Caspian
- 69 World-weary
- 70 Raced
- 71 Fender flaw
- DOWN
- 1 Preliminary text
- 2 Back in fashion
- 3 Under way
- 4 Gucci's Tokyo locale
- 5 Prayer conclusion
- 6 Liquid rock
- 7 Corporate officer
- 8 About, before a date
- 9 Neaten
- 10 Monetary metal
- 11 "___ It Romantic?"
- 12 Government agents
- 13 Proofs of age
- 21 Yuletide worker
- 22 Poet's planet
- 26 ___ aside (abandon)
- 27 Rowboat pair
- 28 Sharpens
- 30 Start the pot
- 31 Letters delivered
- 32 Senses of self
- 33 Big racket
- 34 Diva's performance
- 35 Tax write-off
- 36 Cruise stop
- 38 Trash-hauling boat
- 40 Super, in the '60s
- 41 Precedent setter
- 42 Clean-air org.
- 47 Prefix for color or cycle
- 49 Turkey Day, e.g.: Abbr.
- 51 Cloth quantities
- 53 Spanish national hero
- 54 Think the world of
- 55 Aired again
- 56 Former senator Lott
- 57 Fundraising target
- 58 Tibetan priest
- 59 Pub round
- 60 Aerial stunt
- 61 Dog treat
- 62 Signed off on
- 63 USSR's CIA

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63							64					65			
66							67					68			
69							70					71			

HOOPS

Continued from Page 9

quarter to make it a respectable game."

Signs of offensive life finally came in the third period; as Vanderbilt, Yarbar, Julianna Rodriguez and Alexis Cansino each scored, but the Lady Bulldogs couldn't be slowed down.

Vanderbilt accounted for all eight of Big Spring's points in the final quarter and 13 total.

"She was our leading scorer," Warren said. "She hasn't scored much lately, but last night she seemed to find her touch."

Warren also praised Yarbar for her time on the court.

"I'm so proud of her," Warren added. "She's a four-year letterman and we put her on the best player because she's such a hard worker. She has a good attitude and that's why she's had so much success this year. Her scoring has picked up and she is more accurate with her three-point shots. We will be sad to see her go."

Though it was an ugly showing for the Lady Steers, they are still likely to earn a postseason berth if they can finish strong on the road against Monahans on Friday and Greenwood on Tuesday.

Boys

The Steers were looking at an 18-point deficit before sophomore Ty Sealy put points on the board for BSHS, and that would set the tone for Friday's dismal, 84-35 outing against No. 5 ranked Abilene Wylie.

Tavaris Walker led the Steers' anemic offense with nine points, Tyler Wigington added seven and Tobyn Tanehill hit six.

The Steers aren't completely out of the playoff picture. With a 2-4 District 4-3A record, a strong finish could be enough to propel them to the postseason. Three-of-four teams remaining on the schedule have struggled

against Big Spring — Greenwood — who won by only four points at their last meeting — and Sweetwater and Snyder — both of which BSHS have defeated.

First, they will try to avenge a loss against Monahans on Tuesday on the road.

Forsan

Girls

PLAINS — After last week's stunning win over then No. 5-ranked Smyer and a road victory against Sundown, the Lady Buffs (19-9, 5-3) felt pretty good going into their rematch with now No. 4-ranked Plains on Tuesday.

Trailing by only seven at

the halfway mark, the game seemed within reach for the Lady Buffaloes, but Plains caught fire, outscoring Forsan 36-18 in the final two quarters of play to take a 69-44 win.

"We got down early," said FHS Head Coach Lindsey Schmidt.

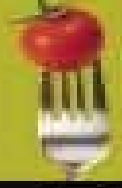
"We got into some foul trouble, but the effort was tremendous. We actually went ahead in the third quarter, 34-32 after being down 17 points in the first. They played hard, but in the second half of the third quarter, we got away from what we were doing well and

See **HOOPS** Page 16

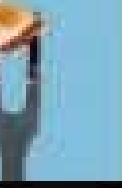
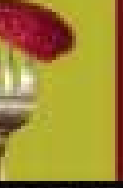
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HOOPS

Continued from Page 15

didn't play very disciplined."

Ali Knight led FHS Schmidt's team has

with 17 points and Maria Ortiz put up 13.

"(Knight) had a big game for us," Schmidt said. "She really stepped up. She scored 17 points and really hustled on defense and did a lot of good things last night."

already guaranteed themselves a playoff spot and looks forward to the possibility of facing either Smyer or Plains for a third time.

"I hope we do get to play Plains again," Schmidt added. "Or Smyer. It wouldn't hurt my feelings a bit."

The Lady Buffs will host Seagraves on Friday.

Boys
PLAINS — The Buffaloes fared well on the road against Plains, defeating the Cowboys 71-55 to improve to 16-8 on the season and 6-1 in district play.

Aric Hernandez siz-

zled for Forsan and had a game-high 19 points. Kade Fannin added 15 points and got 14 boards and Matthew Mims registered 14 for the Buffs, who have secured a postseason berth.

"Plains maintained intense pressure throughout the game," Head Coach Gary Huckabee said. "but the Buffs were able to stay composed and hit some good shots."

The Buffs will try to keep rolling against Seagraves on Friday.

Coahoma-Stanton Girls

COAHOMA — The Lady Buffaloes (10-

20, 5-3) edged District 4-2A rival Coahoma on Tuesday, defeating the Bulldogettes 32-29 to keep their playoff hopes alive.

Jennifer Henley's 10 points led Stanton while Savannah Neff scored a game-high 11 points for Coahoma, who led by three at the half.

"It was a great defensive game," CHS Head Coach Paul hartman said. "We just couldn't hit the shots last in the game when we needed to."

The Bulldogettes will travel to Colorado City on Friday, while the Lady Buffs will host

Brownfield.

Boys

COAHOMA — Up 17 at the half, the Buffaloes piled on too many points for the Bulldogs to overcome as Stanton defeated district foe Coahoma on Tuesday, 46-34.

Three Buffaloes scored in double-digits; Cole Schroyer and Scott Smith each registered 14 points and K.J. Glaspie added 10.

Tanner Ruiz led the Bulldogs with 10.

Coahoma will be on the road against Colorado City on Friday.

Stanton will welcome district leader Brownfield.

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History of the Chamber of Commerce

Origin of the Chamber concept

The concept of various businesses joining together in a mutual effort to increase commerce had its beginnings in Europe hundreds of years ago. Primarily as a defensive tactic, traders banded together for protection against common enemies and to establish policies to govern trade. This was eventually extended as a means to exert influence on governments and legislation.

The first organization of businesses was evidently in Marseilles, France, where the first use of the term, "Chamber of Commerce" has been documented. This fledgling group was established by the city council in 1599 — more than four centuries ago. The idea caught on and spread to Germany and eventually throughout Europe.

The concept comes to America

The modern Chamber of Commerce is more of an American development. The New York State Chamber is the oldest Chamber

of Commerce in America, formed in 1768 and chartered by King George III in 1770. That makes it older than the Declaration of Independence, so Chambers of Commerce are not a new development.

Local chambers

The first local chamber was founded in Charleston, S.C., in 1773. This was followed by New Haven, Conn., and then to Philadelphia, Pa., in 1800. The trend spread rapidly across the country soon after. By 1870 there were 40 local Chambers of Commerce in the United States. Today there are more than 5,000 Chambers of Commerce.

The primary function of protecting commerce remains the same, but it is interesting to follow the changes and adaptations of the Chamber functions through the years as chambers have adjusted to the changing needs of society. Today the role of Chambers of Commerce has expanded to address socioeconomic concerns and social needs, going far beyond its original intent several centuries

ago.

The prosperity of individual businesses depends on the development of the community. The success of individual businesses serves to increase the prosperity of the community and the resulting prosperity bounces back to the benefit of the local business owner. It's a win-win deal.

National chamber

President William Howard Taft sent a letter to Congress in 1911 addressing the need for a "central organization" in order to "keep purely American interests in a closer touch with different phases of commercial affairs." A few months later the U. S. Chamber was born.

The U. S. Chamber of Commerce began in 1912 and today claims a direct membership of 300,000 businesses and 3 million in state and local chambers. The U. S. Chamber of Commerce is not the same as local and state chambers, which focus on local and state issues. The U.S. Chamber is concerned with national issues and dealing

with the federal government.

International chamber

The chamber concept functions on a global scale as well. The International Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organization in the world. Founded in 1919, it now has hundreds of thousands of companies under its umbrella in over 130 countries. With headquarters in Paris, it is a watchdog of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization.

The primary purpose of the ICC is to promote trade and investment, an open market for goods and services and encourage the free flow of capital.

Chambers require free enterprise and private initiative

America as a nation stands

for freedom and the Chamber concept can only be found where private initiative and free enterprise exist. Chambers of Commerce serve a function internationally, nationally and locally, with a proven record of success for the benefit of local business and commerce, as well as on a much larger scale.

Your chamber

Historically and to this day the Chamber of Commerce remains the most trusted source of information on local businesses and services and the most dependable ally in commerce. There is no better partner for success than your local Chamber of Commerce.

By Ralph Higgins, a writer for the Green Business Chamber and contributor to ChamberMe.



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Herald file photos

Clockwise, from above, chamber officials network during a Breakfast Blitz at Jake Witzel; volunteers help organize items for the chamber's annual toy drive; local dignitaries prepare for the State of the Community Series on government; and guests and chamber members look over programs at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet.



Chamber focus: Quality of life

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce has been advancing "the civic, cultural and social betterment and interest of the people of Howard County" since 1919.

Information about the city, various civic groups and businesses can be obtained at the office, located at 215 W. Third.

The Chamber currently boasts a membership of 362 local businesses and groups, and with the help of its board of directors and many different committees, strives to improve the quality of life and business climate in the Big Spring area.

The staff consists of Debbye ValVerde, executive director, Nancy Davenport, executive assistant and receptionist Vicki Stewart.

The Chamber of Commerce sponsors many different activities and events throughout the year, including the Business Before Hours and Business After Hours programs, designed to bring local merchants together for socializing and networking at different locations.

Annually, the Chamber hosts a banquet designed to recognize its members for their hard work throughout the year, and presentation of the Man and Woman of the Year awards.



The Chamber also sponsors such events as a toy drive, Pops In The Park, the Health Fair, West Texas Ag Luncheon and the State of the Community Series.

Leadership Big Spring, Junior Leadership and Senior Leadership are also sponsored and hosted through the Chamber.

For information on any of the Chamber's activities or services, call 432-263-7641.

Do you, a friend or family member know of someone who has an interesting hobby or story to tell? The Big Spring Herald is gathering material for its annual 'Profiles' edition which will be published March 31. If you know someone who might be an interesting topic for a short story, contact the Herald at 432-263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

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Baylee Howell, left, David Juarez and other members of the Big Spring High School choral group “Rhapsody” perform for guests at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce holiday open house.

Herald file photo

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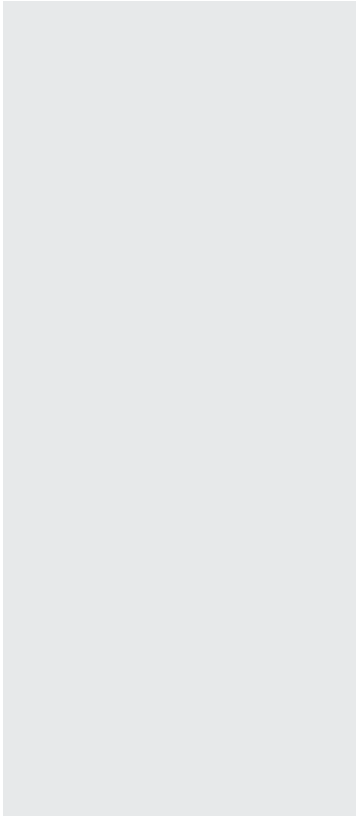
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Challenges of 2013

I am honored and excited to have this opportunity to serve our community through the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. We are so fortunate to have the leadership and staff in place who have a vision and an enthusiasm for achieving great things in our community. Thankfully, this also includes the many volunteers who serve the Big Spring area in so many important and diverse ways. Our strength is our people and our people are our strength.

We all recognize that it takes that strength and that diversity to move forward and it takes courage and hard work to embrace change. Our area communities. Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan, have all been built on a solid foundation based on those very tenets. The pioneers who saw potential in this West Texas prairie, those forefathers who weathered the elements and scratched out a living, those good folks who came before us and brought us to this place in time, have



given us a great wealth of potential. As we move forward into our limitless future we must remember our good fortune and look forward to the many opportunities that await us. We will all be called upon to support this community through our ideas, our service, and our commitment. The greatest gift you can give is your positive attitude when faced with the vast possibilities of becoming involved. I believe we stand on the precipice of a unique and historic time in our history. If only half of the predictions for economic growth in our area come true, the population of Howard County could easily double in less than five years. So whether your role is small or large, I look forward to your enthusiasm and commitment to making our community a better place for our children, our parents, our families. “Moving Forward With Every Step” is an apt theme for 2013. We will be moving forward in education, business, recreation, commerce, growth and construction. But it will take all of us, working together with a spirit of teamwork and pride to truly achieve the greatness our community is destined for. Welcome to the challenges of 2013! Sincerely,

**JIM CLEMENTS
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1927 S.R. Weaver	1975 Ken Perry
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1929 Edwin A. Kelly	1977 Roger D. Brown
1930 Dr. E.O. Ellington	1978 Ray Don Williams
1931 Joe Edwards	1979 Johnnie Lou Avery
1932 T.W. Ashley	1980 Jimmy Taylor
1933 Wendell Bedichek	1981 Winston Wrinkle
1934 D.W. Webber	1982 Sidney T. Clark
1935 George White	1983 Bill E. Read
1936 G.C. Dunham	1984 Paul L. Shaffer
1937 R.F. Schermerhorn	1985 Granville Hahn
1938 Dr. P.W. Malone	1986 John Arrick
1939 Calvin Boykin	1987 Troy Fraser
1940 Ted O. Grobel	1988 Clyde McMahon Jr.
1941 R.W. Whipkey	1989 Hooper Sanders
1942 B.L. LeFever	1990 Don Reynolds
1943 Willard Sullivan	1991 Steve Fraser
1944 A.S. Darby	1992 James Welch
1945 R.T. Piner	1993 Ben Bancroft
1946 Joe Pickle	1994 Jeff Morris
1947 K.H. McGibbon	1995 Jim Weaver
1948 Elmo Wasson	1996 Frances Wheat
1949 Douglas Orme	1997 Curt Millins
1950 Adolf Swartz	1998 Ray Kennedy
1951 Dr. M.H. Bennett	1999 Chuck Williams
1952 Truman Jones	2000 Jim Purcell
1953 Dr. R.B.G. Cowper	2001 John Freeman
1954 Champ Rainwater	2002 Cheryl Sparks
1955 Marvin Miller	2003 Terry McDaniel
1956 Ira L. Thurman	2004 John Weeks
1957 Jimmie Beale	2005 Joe Conciencie
1958 Dr. J.E. Hogan	2006 Virginia Belew
1959 Clyde McMahon Sr.	2007 Lee George
1960 Cliff Fisher	2008 Lynda Elrod
1961 Horace Garrett	2009 Steve Herren
1962 Roy B. Reeder	2010 David Justice
1963 Dr. Carl Marcum	2011 Terri Johansen
1964 John L. Taylor	2012 Jan Foresyth
1965 Ike Robb	2013 Jim Clements
1966 John A. Currie	
1967 Dr. Lee Rogers	
1968 Dr. M.W. Talbort Jr.	
1969 M.R. Koger	

What is the Chamber, anyway?

Your chamber of commerce is a voluntary organization of citizens who are investing their time and money in a community development program — working together to improve the economic, civic, and cultural well-being of the area.

There are two primary functions of a chamber of commerce: 1) it acts as a spokesman for the business and professional community and translates into action the group thinking of its members; and 2) it renders specific services of a type that can be most effectively rendered by a community organization, both to its members and to the area as a whole.

How does it function?

Your chamber functions through the working committees of the organization. Money, planning, inspiration, and guidance are useless unless the members work vigorously on the committee of their choice.

The goal of the program of work is always to create more dollars for more people and to improve the economic welfare of the community.

Every member has a voice in determining the policies and projects and every member is needed to work on active committees to get the job done.

Who is the chamber?

- Members — Businesses, organizations, professionals and individuals working together for the betterment of the community.
- Board of directors — Elected by the membership, these individuals are charged with determining the policies which direct the affairs of the chamber. Directors do not implement policy; they employ an administrator to carry out board



decisions.

- Officers — The executive committee ordinarily includes the president of the board, president elect, one or more vice presidents, treasurer and past president. The officers provide direction and leadership to the board.
- Staff — The executive vice president is hired by the board to be responsible for the daily management of the chamber and for employing and managing the staff.
- Committees — The organization's objectives are best achieved by small groups of the membership engaged in common effort.

What are the benefits?

- Refers businesses to visitors and callers.
- Helps promote a business of

the chamber.

- Maintains awareness of key issues at the local, state, and federal level by coordinating with the Texas Chamber and U.S. Chamber.
- Provides businesses with education through seminars and increases awareness of the importance of buying locally.
- Hosts quarterly luncheons, Ag Expo and Health Fair to provide programs, business information, and networking.
- Offers support and awareness of all areas of art.
- Works to increase growth of tourism in Howard County and support local attractions and events.
- Advertises businesses in the membership directory.
- Works with city, county,

Moore Development, and other entities for the betterment of the community.

- Publishes a monthly newsletter to keep the community aware of happenings.
- Offers promotion and links to business through a Web site.

Membership investment

Membership investment for small businesses is \$250 per year with an additional \$30 processing fee the first year.

For more information

The chamber office is located at 215 W. Third. Or, contact Debbye ValVerde at (432) 263-7641 or write P.O. Box 1319, Big Spring 79721.

Chamber works on a democratic system

Board members elected by chamber members

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce works on a democratic system, with board of directors members selected for three-year terms.

President-elect is selected by the current and past president. That recommendation is presented to the board of directors, who then vote on approval of the incoming president.

Officers for each division of the chamber are selected by the president and incoming president, who make their recommendations to the executive committee. An affirmative vote brings the recommendations to the board of directors, who then also vote their approval of the officers.

Each year, new members are selected through a nominating process that allows the general membership population to submit nominations. These nominations are then voted on by all chamber members, and new members are selected.

Annually, five new board members are placed on the chamber board and five members retire.

Once a vice president has been selected, it is that officer's respon-



Jan Foresyth, right, takes the gavel from outgoing board president Terri Johansen during last year's Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet. This year, Foresyth will pass the gavel to incoming president Jim Clements.

sibility to form a committee comprised of chamber of commerce members.

The chamber of commerce leadership structure is divided into

officers, vice presidents, retiring directors, ex-officio directors and directors who are grouped into three-year increments.

Vice presidents are responsible

for such programs as business development, governmental affairs, membership development, cultural development and community development.

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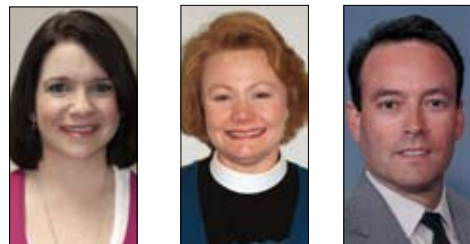
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2011-2013

Jerry Duenes
2012-2014

Manny Negron
2012-2014



Tessa Reid
2012-2014

Barbara
Kirk-Norris
2012-2014

Raul Benavides
2013-2015



Eric Chambers
2013-2015

Jonna Morgan
2013-2015

Mike Thomas
2013-2015

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Assistant Director



Vicki Stewart
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Tommy Duncan



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Terry Wegman

MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR



HERALD file photo

Marc Marchesseault and Sherry Hodnett were named 2011 Man and Woman of the Year during the 2012 Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet. The 2012 recipients will be announced during this week's banquet.

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