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# HIGH SPRING HERALD

**SUNDAY**

JANUARY 15, 2012



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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 79

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY



**A heater treater erupted into flames Saturday morning, causing a huge smoke streak across the city of Big Spring. The heater treater was located on the northwest portion of Howard County off FM 176. Howard County Volunteer Fire Department was on the scene, ensuring the fire did not spread to a nearby tank battery.**

HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

## Eagles cooking up ways to help children in need

Annual chili cook-off scheduled here Jan. 28.

### Special to the Herald

Terlingua may have its International Chili Championship and Nebraska its World Chili Cookoff Championship, but when it comes to warming the hearts of West Texans, nothing beats a bowl of chili from the Fraternal Order of Eagles Annual Chili Cook-off.

The Fraternal Order of Eagles will pull out its well-seasoned cast-iron pots and gather its secret stash of heated spices to host its 10th Annual Chili Cook-off Jan. 28, benefiting the West Texas Centers Children-In-Need Fund.

Cooking begins at 8 a.m. and judging at 11:30 a.m. at the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 3188 Lodge, 703 West Third St. in Big Spring.

"I can't believe it's here already," said West Texas

See **COOK-OFF**, Page 3A

## Best of the band

### Two BSHS students earn all-state honors

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Nick Conner continued a family tradition. Sebastian Hernandez started one of his own. Motivated in different ways, both Big Spring High School Band members over-

came tough competition and admitted cases of nerves to be named to the Association of Texas Small School Bands Class 3A All-State Band.

Hernandez, a senior percussionist, and Conner, a freshman trombonist, will perform with the Texas All-State Band at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center as part of the Texas Music Educators Association Convention in San Antonio Feb. 11.

Both qualified for the all-state band following tryouts at Lubbock Cooper High School this past weekend.

"Both of these kids, in my opinion, are at the top in their respective sections," BSHS Band Director Rocky Harris said. "Sebastian placed first at regional and area tryouts. Nick was first at regionals and third at area, but in my opinion, he was first."

Although they'd had a few

See **BAND**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

**Big Spring High School Band members Sebastian Hernandez, left, and Nick Conner were named to the Class 3A Texas All-State Band and will perform in concert Feb. 8 in San Antonio.**

## Hangar 25 members to convene

By **AMANDA MORENO**  
Staff Writer

Calling all members. Hangar 25 Air Museum will have its annual membership meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday at the hangar.

"It is important for members to be informed on what they are supporting," Museum Administrator Genevieve Stockburger said.

All members are encouraged to attend and find out what is new at Hangar 25. No reservations are needed. Food will be provided.

During the meeting —

See **MUSEUM**, Page 3A

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Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

**Entrants take part in the barrow competition Friday at the Howard County Junior Livestock Show. Coahoma FFA members Brody Coates and Anna Fontana show off their entries. Coates' barrow was named champion and Fontana's was named reserve champion of the class. The show was to wrap up with Saturday's auction.**

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**Today's Weather**

**Local 3-Day Forecast**

Sun 1/15	Mon 1/16	Tue 1/17
<b>66/47</b> Sunshine and clouds mixed. High 66F. Winds SSW at 10 to 20 mph.	<b>71/41</b> Windy with morning clouds, then afternoon sun. High in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.	<b>55/30</b> Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:47 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 6:03 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:47 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 6:04 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:47 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 6:05 PM

**Texas At A Glance**



**Area Cities**

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	68	52	mst sunny	Kingsville	75	63	rain
Amarillo	66	42	windy	Livingston	66	56	cloudy
Austin	64	55	cloudy	Longview	64	55	pt sunny
Beaumont	65	56	rain	Lubbock	66	42	mst sunny
Brownsville	76	63	rain	Lufkin	65	55	cloudy
Brownwood	69	54	windy	Midland	69	49	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	71	63	rain	Raymondville	75	59	rain
Corsicana	64	55	pt sunny	Rosenberg	67	61	rain
Dallas	66	54	pt sunny	San Antonio	67	57	cloudy
Del Rio	70	53	pt sunny	San Marcos	66	55	cloudy
El Paso	62	43	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	64	55	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	74	50	mst sunny	Sweetwater	67	50	windy
Gainesville	62	50	pt sunny	Tyler	63	54	pt sunny
Greenville	63	50	pt sunny	Weatherford	65	50	mst sunny
Houston	67	60	rain	Wichita Falls	64	49	pt sunny

**National Cities**

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	52	29	sunny	Minneapolis	39	18	pt sunny
Boston	23	8	sunny	New York	28	17	sunny
Chicago	33	29	mst sunny	Phoenix	66	48	cloudy
Dallas	66	54	pt sunny	San Francisco	54	37	pt sunny
Denver	55	31	cloudy	Seattle	37	28	sn shower
Houston	67	60	rain	St. Louis	46	39	mst sunny
Los Angeles	63	44	pt sunny	Washington, DC	35	23	mst sunny
Miami	73	57	sunny				

**Moon Phases**



**UV Index**

Sun 1/15	Mon 1/16	Tue 1/17
4	4	4
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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

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**Take Note**

• The Big Spring Art Association will have its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Howard County Library Community Room. The program will be "How to Gather and Prepare Natural Clay" by Dovie Shannon of Sand Springs. The meetings are open to the general public and anyone interested in the arts is cordially invited to attend.

• As the 8th annual Powwow is coming near, organizers are seeking people interested in native American culture. The group is a family oriented organization that is looking to expand. You do not have to be native American to join. For comments, questions and answers, call Richard "Indio" Lesser at 432-935-0125 or Connie Lesser at 432-816-6772.

• An organizational meeting for Visual Awareness Support Group will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad St.

VASG is a support group forming to provide help to individuals that have poor or deteriorating vision. The meeting is open to everyone but will focus on people who have significant vision problems, their family members, friends and care givers. It is the goal of this group to provide, through education, a sense of hope to people that have vision problems and help them and their care givers cope with vision loss. For more information, call 263-2501 or email eyeasocone@ccrom.net.

• Crossroads Friends of NRA Banquet will be held at 6 p.m. Jan. 28 at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Tickets are \$25. Funds raised at this and other FNRA events in West Texas support local youth shooting groups (Boy Scouts, 4-H, JROTC, etc.) law enforcement, education, safety and many other areas. Give-aways, games, and live and silent auctions will be held. For more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 432-270-

**Correction**

In the Jan. 13, 2012, edition of the Big Spring Herald Todd Darden was identified as city manager. His title should have read, Assistant City Manager Todd Darden.

7384.

• Spring of Siloam, a Christian women's job training group, will hold its next 12-week session beginning Feb. 6. Applications for the session, which is free to the public, will be accepted through Feb. 2. To submit an application, visit the group's web site at [www.springofsilaoam.org](http://www.springofsilaoam.org). For more information, call 432-213-2857.

• An account has been set up at T&P Credit Union for Herchel Lewis who is trying to rebuild his house at 904 E. 12<sup>th</sup> after a recent house fire claimed the house and the life of Doris Lewis. Lewis is asking for help to gather funds in order to rebuild the house, which his family has called home for more than 30 years. For more information, contact Lewis at 432-517-4308.

• A benefit account for the Arguello fam-

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

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

• American Cancer Society will have its board meetings at noon on the second Tuesday of the month through April. Meetings are at Home Hospice.

**Police blotter**

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

- SCOTTY RAY BLAND, 33, of 1900 Martin Luther King Blvd., was arrested Friday on a charge of driving while licenses suspended/invalid with previous conviction and warrant from other agency.
- APRIL NICOLE TURNER, 17, of 4215 Hamilton St., was arrested Friday charged as a runaway.
- JUSTIN IVAN SPEER, 36, of 1608 E. Fifth St., was arrested Friday on a warrant for driving while license invalid.
- JOE ERNEST VALENCIA JR., 28, of 202 N.E. Third St., was arrested Friday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- PAUL MORENO, 49, of 616 Caylor Dr., was arrested Friday on a charge of interference with emergency telephone call.
- CHARLES DEAN KELLEY, 62, of 268 CR 2281, was arrested Friday on a charge of criminal mischief more than \$50 and less than \$500.

• ADRIAN RAMIREZ ROCHA, 21, of 1111 Mulberry, was arrested Friday on warrants for cruelty to animals/fail to provide, fail to appear and failed to maintain financial responsibility.

• SHANNON DWAYNE HUDGINS, 34, of 604 S.E. Broadway was arrested Friday on a warrant for criminal mischief impair/interrupt/divert public water.

• BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported: In the 1900 block of E.25<sup>th</sup> Street.

• FORGERY was reported in the 600 block of Abrams Street.

• ASSAULT was reported in the 3200 block of Avenue C.

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# Texas crews excavate bones of purported ex-slaves

ANGELA K. BROWN

Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Crews of scientists with wooden spoons and small metal picks dig carefully around bones embedded in a dry lake bed, excavating what is believed to be the remains of freed slaves and their children buried in a long-forgotten cemetery.

More than two dozen graves were exposed this summer in a section of a reservoir that dried up in the severe Texas drought. Officials later organized a thorough excavation effort and were recently embroiled in a brief legal battle over where to rebury the bones.

With the legal issues resolved and the excavation effort two weeks from completion, the unidentified skeletal remains will soon be moved to a cemetery in Navarro County where other black families have been laid to rest.

"I'm pleased that we're able to finally move them to a place of dignity and honor," said Bruce McManus, chairman of the county's historical commission.

A memorial marker will be placed at the new burial site about 80 miles southeast of Fort Worth, but identifying the newly discovered remains likely will not happen. Crews

have found no nameplates on the wooden coffins that have long since deteriorated, and no headstones were in the cemetery on land that became Richland-Chambers Lake in the 1980s. No DNA testing is planned.

"I have talked to people who say they don't know where their grandmother is buried," McManus said. "I've done a lot of research, and I have a good idea of who could be buried there, but I don't know for sure."

The remains are being examined by an anthropologist after their removal, painstaking work that takes about a day for each grave, said Nick Trierweiler, program director for cultural resources at Ecological Communications Corp., an Austin company hired to excavate the cemetery.

Trierweiler said an anthropologist is measuring the bones — a process that can usually determine gender and race — but that may not be possible with the babies' remains because they were not as developed. Most remains found so far are those of infants, including one who was 6 to 9 months old.

"It's really a heartbreaking thought to know that all of these babies died on the Texas

frontier, although we have no way of knowing if they died at the same time," Trierweiler said.

Crews have found few personal items with the remains, including a few buttons and some beaded jewelry.

Recently scientists found an 1853 silver quarter in one grave and an 1860s coin that was pierced. McManus said his research shows that some slaves wore coins around their necks and sometimes placed them on their children's necks as charms to fight off evil and as a precaution for health concerns.

"We were excited to find the coins, but it doesn't mean they were placed in the graves in those years," Trierweiler said. "People will often place tokens of remembrance in coffins — things of value and things that were important to them."

The cemetery doesn't just contain children's graves. Scientists recently unearthed the remains of a woman, believed to be between 40 and 50 years old when she died, he said. Another skull found in the area in 2009 when waters receded during another dry spell was that of an adult black male.

Because many nails remain on the dried-up surface — too many for the 25 coffins that

have since rotted — McManus believes the cemetery was larger but that other adult remains have washed away. The area of Richland-Chambers Lake is on property formerly owned by a slave owner, and several black families worked in the cotton fields there, McManus said, adding that he believes the cemetery dates to the mid- to late-1800s.

The Tarrant Regional Water District, which owns the land, has said that surveys done before the land was flooded in the 1980s did not show any cemetery.

The district initially planned to bury the remains in a perpetual-care cemetery as required by state law, so it chose Resthaven Memorial, which happened to be a predominately white cemetery. But now the remains will be moved to Corsicana's Woodland Cemetery, after the City Council voted last month to make part of it a perpetual-care cemetery — on the heels of the Navarro County Historical Commission's lawsuit in state district court to stop the water district's plans.

"It's been a long ordeal, but this will be a beautiful site near a gazebo," McManus said. "They can finally rest in peace."

# Woman, 82, dies after break-in at her home

HOUSTON (AP) — Police are looking for a male suspect after a break-in at a house in southwest Houston that left an 82-year-old woman dead.

Police say the intruder beat Margaret Marie Gage with his hands after she tried to intervene as the intruder was kicking her husband in the head. Police Sgt. C.E. Elliott says the 84-year-old husband was treated at the scene.

Elliott says the couple's dog began to bark just before 9 p.m. Thursday and the husband went to open the back door to let it out when the man forced his way in.

The couple's daughter, Loa Glenn, tells KPRC-TV of Houston that the intruder went straight to her mother's jewelry and made off with it.

# COOK-OFF

Continued from Page 1A

Centers Chief Operating Officer Landon Sturdivant. He is the driving force behind the cook-off and has directed it into one of the more heavily attended chili cook-offs in West Texas — partly because of his organizational skills, ability to raise money and his love for Texas chili.

Sturdivant and his wife, Cindy, spend many

weekends traveling the country, participating and visiting chili cook-offs in other regions and bringing back the best of each event.

"I guess you could call it research," Sturdivant said laughingly.

In its 10 years, the Fraternal Order of Eagles piles more money into the Children in Need fund and keeps it going.

"I don't know how we would do it without the Eagles," West Texas Centers CEO Shelley Smith said.

Last year, the Eagles raised more than \$11,000 for the fund which provided Christmas for 134 children, school supplies for 192 children and also assisted with football, baseball and camp registrations, Smith said.

"We also helped with purchasing caps and gowns for graduation, music lessons, theater camp, science fair entry and swimming lessons," Smith said. "These are all tools that help our children boost their

self-esteem."

West Texas Centers is the state-designated center serving people and their families with mental health and intellectual and developmental disabilities in rural West Texas. The Children in Need Fund was established in 2001 to assist families and adolescents receiving mental health services with limited resources. The fund helps families with costs outside the ordinary day-to-day living expenses.

"The Children in Need fund has come to depend on the Fraternal Eagles Chili Cook-off," Smith said. "We can do so many things for our kids because of their willingness to put in the long hours planning and carrying out the chili cook-off. It doesn't hurt that it's so much fun. Everyone enjoys themselves so much."

Teams are limited to two people and pay an entry fee of \$10 per team. Those wanting to eat, pay \$5.

For more information, call Sturdivant at 432-264-3247 or [landon.sturdivant@wtcmhmr.org](mailto:landon.sturdivant@wtcmhmr.org)

First-time chili cooks are welcome, he said.

**To subscribe call 263-7331**

# MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Elisa A. Hart, 36, died Tuesday. The family will receive friends from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. today at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Memorial services were at 11 a.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Charles "Charlie" Trantham, 60, died Saturday, Jan. 7. Memorial services were at 2 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel.

# MUSEUM

Continued from Page 1A

which is designated by the by-laws of Hangar 25 to be held in January of

each year — an announcement regarding election of board members will be made as well as a discussion on Hangar 25 business.

"All we ask is that peo-

ple show up. They don't need to bring anything except themselves and their smiling faces," Stockburger said. "However, they might want to bring a jacket, it might

be cold."

Museum hours are 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The museum will be closed Saturdays until February.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at [life@bigspringherald.com](mailto:life@bigspringherald.com)

# BAND

Continued from Page 1A

days to absorb the news, Hernandez and Conner both admit the feat hasn't quite sunk in, yet.

"I was excited, shocked," Hernandez said. "Honestly, I didn't know what to think. I thought I might have had a shot (at making the all-state band) but I was still very nervous."

Conner was battling a case of nerves, also, but for a different reason.

"It was pretty crazy," Conner admitted. "I knew the pressure was on me to make all-state

as a freshman — my dad did the same thing when he was in high school — so it felt great that I was able to continue the family tradition."

As might be expected, the level of competition at tryouts was high, they said.

"I didn't go to area tryouts last year, so I really didn't know any of the people I was going up against," Hernandez said. "Then, when I saw them, I was intimidated by their play — they were good."

"Most of the people there were pretty good," Conner said. "So, the pressure was on; I knew I'd have to work really

hard to succeed."

Conner and Hernandez started their music career for different reasons.

"I wasn't very athletic, so I focused on music and academics," Hernandez said. "I always liked music ... as the years went by, I learned more and more, and I wanted to stand out, not just be average."

Despite having an all-state musician as a father, Conner said he never felt pressured to take up the trombone.

"My father gave me some of his thoughts about it ... but I wasn't forced to play trombone, I just liked it," he said.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at [reporter@bigspringherald.com](mailto:reporter@bigspringherald.com)

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The family of Marion Newton wishes to thank you for the amazing outpouring of love you've shown our family. What a tribute to a life well lived!!

**Sherry Newton, Gregg, Tracy, Falon and Granger Newton and Kelly, Bobby Joe, Turbo, Rachel and Hannah Tucker**

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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.

<b>Bill McClellan</b> Managing Editor	<b>Ron Midkiff</b> Publisher	<b>Steve Reagan</b> Staff Writer
<b>Amanda Moreno</b> Staff Writer	<b>Thomas Jenkins</b> Staff Writer	

## YOUR VIEWS

### EDC

TO THE EDITOR:

EDC, how many companies have you brought in, in the last five years? How many jobs? Are they still here and how much incentive did you give them? (example: Solitare Homes)

Is the salary of the EDC paid out of EDC funds? How much are they?

And don't say come to the meetings, a lot of people work and can't. Publish it in the paper so everyone can see your results.

JOHN LEONARDI  
BIG SPRING

### Voters will decide

TO THE EDITOR:

We all recognize the sales and use taxes used by the EDC are not property taxes. They are, however, taxes collected by businesses located in the city of Big Spring and for the most part are paid by the citizens of Big Spring.

One thing is certain, the voters of Big Spring have the authority to determine if these taxes are to be imposed and how they are to be spent.

The *Herald's* opinion about our mayor and his attempts to improve the quality of life in our community by improving the infrastructure are obvious. I just don't understand why you are so biased against him. But to the point at hand.

We can't attract business and industry, or even residents, if we do not have a viable water treatment and distribution system. Additionally, in this drought condition, we can't afford to have millions of gallons of water running down the street.

I, for one, can't afford to pay higher taxes and am certainly not willing to pay a nickel more for water after my water bill just doubled.

The voters will decide this issue, not the *Herald*.

NORMA GARCIA  
BIG SPRING

### Irresponsible government

TO THE EDITOR:

According to our government's own statistics, 47 percent of income earners pay no federal income tax. Some of those who pay no income tax receive income tax refunds from our government. That's money taken away from others who have earned it and given to those who have not.

Our government has now extended unemployment benefits to 99 weeks. Many of those who are receiving unemployment checks refuse to take available jobs because they get more money from the government than they would working. And some

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

## 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](mailto: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 submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to [newsdesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:newsdesk@bigspringherald.com)

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we cover all our bases, Lord, with  
Your love and understanding.  
Amen

# Not tornado, just din in the den

Our grandkids shred Christmas wrapping paper in seconds, joking about their dexterity in "baring gifts." Soon, though, they squirm with "indoor-itis."

Crowded into our den, they are ready to put aside month-long warnings about "Santa Claus watching them." Their deportment grades plunge, ranging from "gremlin to grinch." (Grades typically peg to the right of the latter than to the left of the former.)

We have six "grands" ranging from ages 4-10. They still qualify as "electric Chihuahuas"—ever ready to dare and accept dares, as well as take on challenges involving speed, athleticism and dogged determination.

Their competitive juices flow like Niagara Falls.

When the "din in the den" jiggles the Richter scale or sounds like the dull roar used to describe tornados, the "chil-lun" face backyard banishment. There, all six are under the surveillance of a keen-eyed adult.

I was so assigned recently. (That holiday afternoon, they waived the "keen-eyed" requisite.)

The kids scattered like quail, except for 7-year-old Jonah. He remained on the patio to jump on his new pogo stick.

Ten minutes later, he was still bouncing, albeit it with lessening control. The other five cousins gathered 'round, joining me in shock that this first-grader could be so tenacious.

"One thousand and 95 jumps," Jonah jawed joyfully.

Nine-year-old Juliana, herself a gymnast, offered a slight cor-

rection. "I was counting, too, Jonah, and it was 1,093 jumps."

One thing for sure and one "maybe:" This goes down in my memory book, and four other cousins—Ben, 10; Brittin, 7; Kedren, 5 and Addison, 4—will "practice up" for 2012 Christmas pogo stick-jumping.

Among memories that measure up, a visit to Galveston for the inaugural cruise on Carnival's Magic—its largest and newest vessel—holds "top shelf" status.

Who could have dreamed a dozen years ago that North America's fourth-busiest cruise port in 2012 would warrant not one but five cruise ships from four lines?

Carnival has two in place, and Royal Caribbean has one. Princess and Disney will add vessels this year.

Cruise line employees, trained to a fine edge, continue to amaze with their broad smiles and eagerness to assist. During the most recent cruise, their smiles seemed even broader. One cruise official credits technology.

"With the Internet, crew members have both oral and visual communication with their loved ones," he observed. "In previous years, it was common to have a dozen duffel bags filled with mail from home. Now, it's typically one bag, only partially full."

Each cruise offers opportunities to meet new and interesting people.

Several cruises ago, a guest claimed to work at a sardine factory, where his job was to "close their eyes before the cans were sealed."

On the Carnival Magic was an older man who had traversed the Mediterranean on several of the vessel's summer runs before its assignment to Galveston.

He offered valuable tips for the Lido deck. "Go straight to the Mongolian wok station," he

advised, noting that word of its popularity would get around in "tweet time." (He "made it big" printing individual "birth certificates" for Cabbage Patch Kids dolls when the craze started in the late 1970's.)

A small island "where the coast begins," Galveston is BIG in attractions easily "connected" with a few extra days on either end of cruises.

It is rich in history, entertainment and creativity, the latter underscored by wood sculptors who took over where Hurricane Ike left off. Stumps remaining where towering trees once stood now are carved, polished works of art, more than worthy of searches through neighborhoods.

The Galveston Island Convention and Visitors Bureau has all the "scoop" on what-to-see-and-do. (More information at [galvestoncvb.com](http://galvestoncvb.com)) I've never seen hosts and hostesses so passionate about their island attractions.

If they'd made lemonade of all the lemons they've been dealt, starting with the devastating Galveston Flood in 1900, there'd be hundreds of lemonade stands in place. Galvestonians are made of sturdy stuff.

Upon arrival of a press contingent there to greet the Magic, Santa Claus and a couple of elves parachuted into world-class Moody Gardens to signal the beginning of the Christmas season.

I spotted the popular threesome from time to time at the Festival of Lights, their heads bobbing above the masses.

Maybe they were "pogo-sticking" around the magical island....

*Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Metroplex. Inquiries/comments to: [newbury@speakerdoc.com](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com). Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: [www.speakerdoc.com](http://www.speakerdoc.com).*

# Building better credit this year

A new year often brings resolutions – such as endeavoring to spend less, save more or repair bad credit.

Maintaining a good credit report can translate into quicker loan approvals, competitive interest rates and a strong financial foundation. Whatever the motivation, Texans have an interest in obtaining and maintaining a good credit rating. A few simple steps can help borrowers repair bad credit.

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

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

All Texans should periodically examine their credit reports and take quick action to address any disputed or incorrect information.

It is particularly important to address any inaccurate information on a credit report. Federal law requires each of the nationwide credit reporting bureaus – Equifax, Experian and TransUnion – to provide one free credit report per year to borrowers who request a copy of their report.

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

Under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, both the credit bureau and any organization responsible for reporting inaccurate information must correct errors or incomplete information on credit reports.

Texans who discover errors on their credit reports should send

a written dispute letter to both the credit reporting bureau and the creditor who filed the information.

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

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

Each error on the report should be circled or highlighted and accompanied by a detailed explanation clarifying why the information is inaccurate.

Borrowers should send their dispute letter by certified mail, return receipt requested, so they can document that the credit bureau and creditor received their correction request. Borrowers should keep copies of the dispute letter and any enclosures.

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

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

Upon receiving the information, the creditor must review the dispute and report the results back to the credit bureau.

If the reporting creditor discovers the disputed information is inaccurate, it must notify all three credit bureaus so corrections can be made to the information in the complainant's file.

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

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

(Note: A corrected credit

report does not count as the borrower's annual free report.) If an item is changed or deleted, the credit reporting bureau cannot put the disputed information back in the borrower's file unless the creditor verifies that the information is accurate and complete. The credit bureau also must send the borrower written notice that includes the creditor's name, address and phone number.

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Greg Abbott is the Texas Attorney General. More information can be found by visiting his website at [www.texasattorney-general.gov](http://www.texasattorney-general.gov).*



DR.  
DON  
NEWBURY



GREG  
ABBOTT

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

don't look for jobs at all. Our founding fathers designed our constitution and government the way they did for a reason. They knew that if people could refuse to work and profit off that refusal, it would be the end of our country. Benjamin Franklin made that clear in November 1766. He said, "I am for doing good to the poor, but I differ in opinion of the means. I think the best way of doing good for the poor, is not making poverty easy to live with but leading or driving them out of it. I traveled much and I observed in different countries that the more public provisions were made for the poor, the less they provided for themselves and of course became poorer. And, on the contrary, the less was done for them, the more they did for themselves and became richer."

If you want real equality, you can always live in Cuba or North Korea where everyone is equal — equally poor — except for the government officials.

Almost 2,000 years ago, the Apostle Paul said, "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat." (2 Thessalonians 3:10-11)

Socialism works until you run out of other peoples' money.

If you are content with your government controlling the nation and your life, re-elect the current president for four more years.

MR. & MRS. CHARLES ARCHER  
BIG SPRING

Goodbye Jensens

TO THE EDITOR:  
When I read the Jan. 8 *Big Spring Herald* that Fire Chief Brian Jensen was retiring and the family would be moving to Denton this summer I felt sad because our town just won't be the same without the Jensens. They are truly a special family. They have given their hearts to Big Spring many times.

I met Debbie when she was a writer at the *Herald*. She touched my heart with her kindness, not just to me, but to others as well. When I met Chief Jensen, I again was touched by his kindness to all others. I remember their happiness at the birth of their daughter, Hannah. That same happiness was there when God blessed them with more children — children their hearts chose.

I think we all prayed for Chief Jensen when cancer touched him and we all smiled when God healed him.

I saw the Jensen family a few months ago at Wal-Mart, tears filled my eyes when they told me they were buying special treats and toys for the newest member of their family, a little dog they adopted from the shelter — a dog that others might not have wanted because he was missing some of his hair. But in the Jensen's eyes the little dog was special — because they see others as the Angels do, with their hearts and not their eyes.

The Jensen family is truly beautiful and one knows God must smile down at them for all the many good and kind things they do to make this world a better place.

Goodbye, Chief Jensen, Debbie and family. My heart will always remember your kindness and beautiful smiles.

LANA F. ANGUIANO  
BIG SPRING

Some facts?

TO THE EDITOR:  
I read an article (letter to the editor) in the *Herald* by Mr. Marquez that gave some inaccurate information about our water park. Mr. Jenkins also misstated facts about a supposed profit. Here are some facts for you.

The mayor and Mr. Olson opposed the water park but were outvoted by the other council members.

The mayor was able to convince the council to reduce the cost of the facility by \$500,000 by doing some work in-house and reducing the surrounding landscape areas. No portion of the pool was eliminated or changed.

The mayor then convinced the council that the pool should be managed in a way that ensures it will pay for its operations (not for construction), and although the council reluctantly agreed with the mayor and Mr. Olson on this issue, this year's revenue exceeded the operating expense by approximately \$100,000. However, bond payments were more than \$300,000! Therefore, the pool lost more than \$200,000 on the first year of operation. (Another thought — that \$300,000 bond payment would have gone a long way towards repairing our water plant.)

I don't know why the *Herald* continues to undermine the mayor but you do. I am very pleased with the direction of our city government; the *Herald* could be an asset to our community if you tried. Get over yourself and quit distorting facts, either support Big Spring or find a city you can support and go there.

BO BOKELMAN  
BIG SPRING

Be a friend: Support scouting

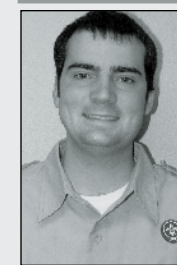
Growing up has never been easy. Each generation faces its own concerns and pressures. For the past 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America has provided young people with experiences which prepare them to meet challenges and conquer them.

Character, self-reliance, responsibility and leadership — scouting provides activities which are in sync with the interests of today's youth, but instill these timeless values. Scouting is the guiding light which leads to a responsible and rewarding adulthood.

Friends of Scouting is the annual fundraising campaign to raise the operating funds necessary to provide a quality scouting program. Every year there is a need for financial support to existing programs, developing programs and to ensure the council camp Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch remain.

This is the essence of the Family Friends of Scouting campaign, raising money to help the Buffalo Trail Council defray the actual cost of delivering and running the scouting program. Special events and fundraisers pay only a portion of the cost.

See SCOUTING, Page 6A



BRIAN SWEENEY

# Restaurant Guide



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# Review: Google docs, the perfect bridesmaid

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK — For do-most-of-it-yourself brides, wedding planning means lists, lists and more lists, with some spreadsheets thrown in for good measure. There are also the long, endlessly pored-over documents of vows, readings, even toasts. Did I mention lists?

Enter Google Docs, the search company's free, easy-to-use online document software. With templates for the spreadsheet-challenged and a slew of pretty Web tools, the service is like the perfect bridesmaid. She's calm, collected and full of good ideas but not overly pushy, letting you steer the ship. She's there when you need her.

I started earnestly planning my April 2011 wedding around this time last year. After lots of pen-on-paper scribbling, I decided to join the 21st century and move my planning online. Do you have a wedding, civil union or other commitment ceremony coming up this year? Let good old Google help.

I picked Google's tools over dedicated wedding-planning websites such as The Knot for a few reasons:

— I didn't want to be bombarded with girly girl ads, think-inside-the-box advice and expensive "must-have" lists. No flower girls, cutesy favors or bright bridesmaids' dresses for us (though we did have bridesmen's suits).

— I didn't want to join a site that asked for my full name, address and other personal information. I didn't see why I should have to provide all that. The Knot's privacy policy had not been updated since 2008. It says it participates in Facebook's Beacon sharing program, which was shut down more than two years ago over privacy complaints. Time for an update, perhaps?

— Finally, I've been using Gmail since 2004 with-

out a hitch (I'll just let Buzz slide). I saw no reason why I shouldn't let Google help me get hitched.

To start, I armed myself with a to-do checklist from the popular wedding blog Offbeat Bride — another invaluable Web tool for independently spirited brides.

With my fiance and now husband, I took to Google Docs for our first task. We listed friends and family members we hoped would share our special day. With a set budget and relatively small families, this wasn't too difficult.

The next step, a bit more so. Because so few people send cards and letters through the mail these days, one of the more annoying tasks in planning a wedding is hounding your friends and relatives for their mailing addresses.

Google Docs has automated this with a simple email template. Once you're on Google's weddings site at <http://www.google.com/weddings>, you can click "Plan" in the top right corner. This will take you to a set of planning documents. Select "Address Book" from that list, then click on "use this template."

You can use that to send a form email to your guests, complete with a pretty picture of a wedding cake or whatever else theme you pick ("Wall St." anyone?). The email has boxes that your guests can fill in with their street, city and other address information, along with their phone number and any comments. When friends and family send that back, Google automatically adds the information to a spreadsheet. You can then tweak the spreadsheet to add columns for meal choices and other such details.

Easy-peasy right? Sort of. Our young, tech-savvy friends responded quickly, and soon we had a spreadsheet with about half of our guests. But some people didn't seem to know what to do with the form. Others thought it was spam. I had to send regular emails, not pretty forms, to some people, saying hey, that form was not spam, please fill it out.

For many couples, there might also be those older folks who do not use the Internet at all and need to be called to get addresses.

The spreadsheet, once completed, proved invaluable. It's simple to share documents through Google by entering recipients' email addresses, or to restrict them so only you can see them. I shared the list with my fiance and with the people who were planning our bachelor and bachelorette parties. Over time, we added columns such as "invitation sent" and "gift description."

Besides a DJ and a photographer, we also hired an online officiant to help put together our ceremony. A friend of ours performed the actual ceremony after getting ordained over the Internet. Cobbling together the ceremony was much like collaborating on a script among four people in three locations.

Google Docs again proved invaluable. And because the documents are stored remotely, on Google's servers, there was no danger of losing them. That's what happened to a co-worker who was planning her wedding around the same time. Her computer died, and her carefully curated passages were gone.

Not everyone uses Google Docs, though. Our online officiant didn't, so she sent us attachments of her drafts using Microsoft Word. I converted those to Google Docs and shared them with my fiance and the friend who'd be performing the ceremony. We all tweaked the script until it was perfect.

Google lets you share documents with people as "can view" and "can edit." After the wedding, I shared the final document with my mom, so she could keep it for posterity — but not edit it, lest she insert some new vows she'd like my husband to keep.

You can download documents to store on your computer in various formats. These include PDF, Word or a text file. For those who didn't want to use Google Docs, I simply downloaded documents as Word and sent them as an attachment.

No biggie.

## SCOUTING

Continued from Page 5A

cost. Give scouts and volunteer scouters your support by helping the scouting program with your pledge.

Only through your support can we keep the scouting light burning brightly into the future. Why should you support scouting? Your gift to the Friends of Scouting campaign really does keep the light burning. Help us guide the youth of this generation as they grow to become the next leaders.

To make a contribution to the future of scouting, contact District Executive Brian Sweeney at [Brian.Sweeney@Scouting.org](mailto:Brian.Sweeney@Scouting.org) or call 432-212-3577 for more information.

*Brian Sweeney is the Lone Star district executive of the Boy Scouts of America Buffalo Trail Council. He can be reached by email at [Brian.Sweeney@scouting.org](mailto:Brian.Sweeney@scouting.org) or by phone at 432-212-3577.*

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## Dear Molly: Married man?

Dear Molly,

I have a problem and need advice.

I've lived in Austin for five years now and left a guy in California who I was having an affair with.

He was married and I was single. We met at work and things got hot and heavy quickly. We traveled together for work which made it "easy" to see each other. I always felt badly for his wife because from every-

thing I saw she was really sweet. He said the fire was gone and I believed him. I'll tell you he was 12 years older than me and I come from a divorced home. My friends said I was looking for a father figure because at the time I was 32. We were together for three years before I took the transfer to Austin.

Here's the problem, I miss him and he me. He says he's getting a divorce but I'm not seeing any paperwork (and I've asked). I know they are still in the house together and he says it's because of the kids. He has visited me consistently over the three years, but it's preventing me from having a life here. I hide him from my friends here because I'm embarrassed. It's making me sick. But I really do love him. ~ **What do I do?**~

Dear "What Do I Do",

You mentioned that the affair was "easy"; do the quotations tell a different story? You said you felt badly, so why question that.

I'm sure you know having an affair with a married man is wrong and there's nothing that can make it right. If a man will cheat with you, he will cheat on you.

Perhaps you know more about what you should do then you think. Maybe you are looking for a father figure, but is he really the kind of "figure" you respect and can value?

In my opinion there's a reason he's still living with his wife and you are not seeing the paperwork towards divorce. But this is not about him at all,



MOLLY MASON

this is about you. You moved but are stuck in California?

Start to live here and become the person you feel in your gut. All you have to do is listen to your instincts and then make changes according to how you feel. You will know you are living the right life when that sick awful feeling is gone.

My advice is to set some goals in your life, and start to live by them. Who do you want to be going forward? What values do you hold dear to your heart? How do you want to treat others in this world? What makes you happy? How do you define love?

I can imagine how awful living with this shame is for you. So the resolve in my opinion is to stop it. Change the way you are doing things, and start living authentically. If you can have one friend who you can tell all of this to it would be good to get it off your shoulders so you can heal. This person can hopefully help you on your new journey. If you don't have anyone I suggest you find a good therapist who will help guide you and love you unconditionally, until you begin to love yourself first.

~Molly~

Readers, how can she let this guy go? Any suggestions as to how to start a new life in Austin? How do you learn to listen to your gut?

*Molly is a writer and business professional with years of experience in finance, business development and management. Her lifelong passion and learning has been focused on the understanding and complexity of relationships as well as effective communication. Originally from Texas she has lived in many cities including St Louis and Portland finally settling in Boston where she raised her family and received her education in Business Administration. She is now living in Texas with her family and is excited to be home. Catch her daily relationship and advice column "Molly Mason- Let's Talk Love" on [www.austin.com](http://www.austin.com) and "Straight Talk" in print. You can contact Molly at [mollymasonst@gmail.com](mailto:mollymasonst@gmail.com).*

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# World Briefs

## Coast guard: cruise ship runs aground off Italy, 3 bodies found; helicopters rescue others

PORTO SANTO STEFANO, Italy (AP) — A luxury cruise ship ran aground off the coast of Tuscany, sending water pouring in through a 160-foot (50-meter) gash in the hull and forcing the evacuation of some 4,200 people from the listing vessel early Saturday, the Italian coast guard said.

Three bodies were recovered from the sea, said Coast Guard Cmdr. Francesco Paolillo. There were reports that three other people had died after the accident late Friday night near the tiny Tuscan island of Giglio, but those reports were not yet confirmed, he said.

Twelve hours after the accident, the ship was lying virtually flat, its right-hand side submerged in the water.

Passengers complained the crew failed to give instructions on how to evacuate the Costa Concordia and that the evacuation drill was only scheduled for Saturday afternoon. Authorities still hadn't counted all the survivors.

"It was so unorganized, our evacuation drill was scheduled for 5 p.m.," said Melissa Goduti, 28, of Wallingford, Connecticut, who had set out on the cruise of the Mediterranean hours earlier. "We had joked what if something had happened today."

## Analysts say S&P's downgrade of France and 8 other euro nations won't panic markets

WASHINGTON (AP) — The decision by Standard & Poor's to strip France of its prized AAA credit rating and downgrade eight other European countries slammed a continent struggling with a debt crisis and an economic slowdown.

But beleaguered Europeans can take some comfort: It could have been worse.

Investors had plenty of time to brace for the bad news. S&P put 15 countries, including Germany and France, on notice last month that they faced potential downgrades. The advance notice means the downgrades likely won't panic financial markets and drive up European governments' borrowing costs much higher than they already are.

"People knew it was coming, and it was only one rating agency," said Marc Chandler, head of global currency strategy at Brown Brothers Harriman. Moody's and Fitch Ratings have yet to follow S&P.

Stocks fell Friday as downgrade rumors reached the trading floors of Europe and the United States. But the declines were nothing like the wrenching swings of last summer and fall, when the debt crisis threw the markets into turmoil.

## Santorum's past marked with comments Democrats could exploit if he becomes Republican nominee

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rick Santorum is brash and blunt — and proudly so — but it's a trait that will make it easy for Democrats to use his own words against him if he becomes the Republican presidential nominee.

Far from apologetic, Santorum takes an "I-am-who-I-am" attitude. Lately, though, as he tries to emerge as the conservative alternative to front-runner Mitt Romney, the former Pennsylvania senator has been asking Republican voters to look beyond his verbal missteps.

"I'm a consistent conservative," Santorum often says these days. "I'm not a perfect conservative."

While his latest verbal miscue came as he campaigned in Iowa, his career is paved with them.

National civil rights groups recently thumped Santorum after video surfaced of him discussing Medicaid and food stamps. He appears to say: "I don't want to make black people's lives better by giving them somebody else's money. I want to give them the opportunity to go out and earn the money."

## As plans for Scottish independence vote gain steam, some look forward to Britain's breakup

STIRLING, Scotland (AP) — In this green swath of Scotland, you can stay at the King Robert Hotel, eat at Bruce's Bistro and drink in the William Wallace pub — all named for leaders who fought the English here 700 years ago.

For centuries Scotland was an independent kingdom, warding off English invaders in a series of bloody battles, but in 1707 the two united in a single country — Great Britain — that shares a monarch, a currency, and a London-based government.

Now a more peaceful, modern movement thinks its goal of regaining Scotland's independence is finally in sight.

This week Scottish authorities announced they will hold a referendum on independence in 2014, fir-

ing the starting pistol on a contest that could end with the breakup of Britain.

Many people around here can't wait.

## Egypt's hardline Islamists and secular parties in rare talks to balance Brotherhood power

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's ultraconservative Islamist party has reached out to rival secular and liberal political factions in an unusual, behind-the-scenes attempt to unify their ranks and counter the Muslim Brotherhood's power in the country's new parliament.

An alliance between the Salafis and nonreligious parties would be very difficult to reach and even harder to maintain, given the large differences in their ideologies. But the talks highlight the growing worries that the Brotherhood, fresh off its election victory, is starting to throw its weight around to dominate Egypt's politics and sideline others.

The talks, which took place over the past week, also show the strange bedfellows that can be brought together with Egypt's politics deeply in flux ahead of the convening later this month of the first parliament since the Feb. 11 fall of ousted President Hosni Mubarak.

As a consequence, parliament may not be controlled by a unified Islamist front, but a divided one making choices on political considerations not purely religious ones. The Brotherhood and the Salafis are both Islamist movements, but there have been frequent frictions between them during the election campaign.

The Salafi talks with liberals are startling because the movement is considerably more conservative than the Brotherhood and more aggressive in its vilification of secularism. Salafis call for a strict, literalist implementation of Islamic Shariah law in Egypt and practice a Saudi-style segregation of the sexes. During the election campaign, some Salafi sheikhs railed against secular parties, telling Egyptians that voting for them would be un-Islamic.

## Tunisians mark 1st anniversary of revolution that sparked Arab Spring with prudent optimism

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Tunisia is marking the one-year anniversary of the revolution that ended the dictatorship of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali — and sparked uprisings around the Arab world — with prudent optimism.

Worries over continued high unemployment cast a shadow over Tunisians' pride at transforming their country. Now a human rights activist is president, and a moderate Islamist jailed for years by the old regime is prime minister at the head of a diverse coalition.

The death of a fruit vendor who set himself on fire prompted protests that spread around Tunisia, unleashing years of pent-up frustration and anger. Under pressure from the street, Ben Ali fled to Saudi Arabia on Jan. 14.

Leading Arab dignitaries are joining Tunisia's leaders to commemorate Saturday's anniversary.

## Iraq officials: Bomb kills at least 30 Shiite pilgrims near southern city of Basra

ZUBAIR, Iraq (AP) — A bomb killed at least 30 Shiite pilgrims near the southern port city of Basra on Saturday, Iraqi officials said. It was the latest in a series of attacks during Shiite religious commemorations that threaten to further increase sectarian tensions just weeks after the U.S. withdrawal.

Basra hospitals have received 30 killed and 90 wounded after the blast, said Dr. Riyadh Abdul-Amir, the head of Basra Health Directorate. Witnesses said the attack occurred outside the town of Zubair, southwest of Basra, as pilgrims were making their way to a Shiite shrine nearby.

A police official confirmed the death toll. He spoke anonymously because he was not authorized to release details to the media.

The governor of Basra province's spokesman, Ayad al-Emarah, said it was not clear whether the

blast was caused by a suicide attacker or a roadside bomb.

Zubair is a predominantly Sunni enclave in Iraq's largely Shiite south.

## Russian tanker inching toward iced-in Alaska city prepares for final stretch to offload fuel

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A Russian tanker is preparing to off-load more than a million gallons of diesel and gasoline to fuel-starved Nome, but first it must position itself near the Alaska town's iced-in harbor to send that cargo through a mile-long hose without a spill.

Led by and a U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker, the vessel plowed through hundreds of miles of Bering Sea ice to reach Nome. It was holding steady about eight miles off shore Friday night.

The problem is Nome's harbor is iced-in, preventing the 370-foot tanker Renda from getting to the city dock. It will have to moor offshore to transfer its 1.3-million-gallon payload across the ice and to fuel headers that feed a nearby tank farm.

The Coast Guard Cutter Healy can only get so close to shore because of shallow waters.

Officials want to place the Renda "where there's enough water around it that the Healy can then break the Renda free once the delivery is done," Coast Guard spokesman David Mosley said.

## Miss America crowning new winner in Las Vegas; 53 beauty queens in hunt for title

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Miss America is getting ready to transfer her crown again to one of 53 pageant queens looking to prove they've got a winning combination of looks, talent and smarts to justify a yearlong run with the title.

A panel of seven judges was set to pick the next Miss America on Saturday night during a live telecast on ABC, the culmination of a week of preliminary competitions and months of preparations for the titleholders from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Teresa Scanlan, a Nebraskan who won Miss America last year at age 17 to become the pageant's youngest winner ever, said contestants nerves will likely be at their highest point just before the pageant.

But the young women have already given judges a first impression, she said, and largely shaped their fate through three nights of preliminary competitions at the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino on the Las Vegas Strip.

"You can always breathe a sigh of relief" once the live pageant begins, Scanlan said.

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## Friday the 13th double feature

### Fourth-quarter rally propels Brownwood past Steers

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

There were no black cats or broken mirrors in evidence, but there was plenty of bad mojo — not to mention the Brownwood Lions — working against the Big Spring Steers Friday night.

Oh, and it was Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, to boot.

Whatever reason is ultimately to blame, the end result was a fourth-quarter horror show for the Steers, who saw a 10-point lead in the final stanza evaporate en route to a 49-47 loss to the Lions in the District 5-3A opener for both teams Friday night in Steer Gym.

For the first three quarters, Big Spring's pressure defense gave the Lions fits and was the major catalyst behind Big Spring taking a 39-29 lead into the fourth.

In that final quarter, however, Brownwood finally solved the Steers'



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton  
**Big Spring's Richard Lewis, right, guards against Brownwood's Kaimon Ontiveros during their District 5-3A basketball game Friday in Steer Gym.**

See **STEERS**, Page 10A



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton  
**Big Spring's Diamond Mayes (52) shoots between a pair of Brownwood defenders during their District 5-3A basketball game Friday in Steer Gym.**

### No. 7 Lady Lions hold off BSHS

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

File this one under the "oh so close" category for the Big Spring Lady Steers.

The Lady Steers gave Brownwood, ranked No. 7 in the state Class 3A poll, all it wanted and more Friday night, but in the end, it was the Lady Lions' defensive pressure that made the difference as they held on for a 53-49 victory in District 5-3A basketball action in Steer Gym.

"I told the girls that if Brownwood's ranked No. 7, then we're eighth," BSHS Coach Mike Warren said. "The girls gave a great effort and I thought we played good defense ... we just had too many turnovers."

Turnovers were indeed the difference Friday night. Brownwood used a tenacious 2-3 zone to negate Big Spring's height advantage and harass the Lady Steers' ball handlers, and the strategy paid off handsomely for the Lady Lions to the tune of 24 Big Spring turnovers.

But, as Warren noted, Big Spring's defense was stout, as well, and it kept the Lady Steers in the game and gave them more

than one shot at pulling off the upset.

Then, there was Cerbi Ritchey. Brownwood had no answer for Big Spring's senior post player, who torched the Lady Lions for 20 points to lead all scorers.

Ritchey and Diamond Mayes were the instigators of an 8-1 run to open the second quarter and give the Lady Steers their biggest lead of the night at 18-9. During that stretch, it was Brownwood that was making the mistakes on offense, committing four turnovers in a stretch of less than four minutes.

Having absorbed the run, however, the Lady Lions commenced one of their own. Sydnie Darden nailed a three-pointer from the corner at the 3:50 mark of the second to launch a 16-2 run that ended with Brownwood holding a 25-20 halftime lead.

The Lady Lions stretched their lead to nine early in the third quarter and appeared to clamp down on the inside play of Ritchey and Mayes. But with the Lady Steers' height advantage checked, it was the team's smallest player who sparked a rally.

Guard Ambra Hill, a transfer from Forsan,

found her range from behind the three-point arc in the third, nailing two rainbows. That eased the defensive pressure on Ritchey and Mayes, who combined for nine points to cut the deficit back down to five heading into the final quarter.

The Lady Steers continued their rally in the fourth, twice cutting the deficit to a single point, and Hill's final three-pointer of the night tied the contest at 43-all with 4:12 remaining in the contest.

Just when it seemed the Lady Steers were primed to pull off the upset, however, the turnover bug bit them again — Brownwood forced Big Spring to cough up the ball on three consecutive trips down the floor and Dusty Harris scored three crucial baskets down the stretch which allowed the Lady Lions to hold on for the victory.

Brownwood improved to 18-7 overall and 2-1 in district play, while Big Spring fell to 16-7 overall and 0-2 in the league standings.

The Lady Steers' two district losses have come against state-ranked oppo-

See **BSHS**, Page 10A

## Howard hoops squads to open WJCAC play

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Now the games really count.

Both Howard College teams began Western Junior College Athletic Conference action on the road Monday at Western Texas College in Snyder, and both teams are anxious to start league play off on the right foot.

The women's game is scheduled to tip off at 5:45 p.m., with the men following at 7:45 p.m.

### Howard men

For the Hawks, the good

news is a "brutal" non-conference schedule is behind them. The bad news? Things aren't likely to get any easier from here.

Howard was ranked top in the nation in the National Junior College Athletic Association preseason poll, but injuries and the aforementioned non-conference gauntlet have moved them out of the national rankings, at least for the time being.

"We had a brutal opening schedule," Coach Mark Adams said. "Hopefully, that will help us down the road ... We had some setbacks, but I feel we're getting back to

where we should be.

"We've got a good chance to compete for the conference title, but we definitely need to get some people healthy," Adams added.

The injury bug has hit the 11-3 Hawks hard, as starters Jacob Thomas, a sophomore transfer from Long Beach State, and guard Jerry Dixon, a sophomore guard from Columbus, Ohio, have both missed extended time this season. Both are on the mend, Adams said, but they are questionable for Monday's game.

In their absence, sophomore swingman Shavon Cole-

man has picked up at least some of the scoring slack, as evidenced by his 22 points scored in Howard's most recent game, a 65-53 victory against North Lake College Thursday.

Monday's WJCAC opener looks to be the classic matchup between size (for Howard) and speed (for Western Texas).

"Western started the season with a new coach and an almost-new roster of players, but they're playing much better now," Adams said. "They've got good quickness and excellent perimeter shooters ... our biggest chal-

enges will be rebounding and taking care of the ball. We need to keep people off the glass and cut down on our turnovers."

Howard's first home conference game will be Thursday against New Mexico Military Institute.

### Howard women

Like their male counterparts, the Howard College women's team has finished a tough non-conference slate that Coach Earl Diddle believes has them prepared for WJCAC action.

See **HAWKS**, Page 10A



# Area basketball results

## BOYS

### C-City 55, Coahoma 36

COAHOMA — In a battle of long-time rivals, the Colorado City Wolves amped up their defense in the second half en route to a 55-36 victory over Coahoma in District 3-2A boys' basketball action Friday night.

Coahoma led by three points after the first quarter, and trailed by a single point at intermission, but the Bulldogs went cold in the second half, scoring only eight points in the final two quarters combined.

The loss left Coahoma still searching for its first district victory, as it fell to 0-5 in league play.

Aaron Acevedo scored nine points and Alex Hill added eight for the Bulldogs, who return to action at 8 p.m. Tuesday at Denver City.

Score by quarters	
C-City	15 14 10 16 — 55
Coahoma	18 10 2 6 — 36
Three-pointers: C-City (Spencer 2, Gainey 3, Lorenz 2, Rodriguez), Coahoma (Acevedo 2, Reid); Fouled out: none.	

### Slaton 64, Forsan 47

FORSAN — The third quar-

ter proved decisive for the Slaton Tigers, as they used a 21-8 advantage in the stanza to take a 64-47 victory over Forsan in District 3-2A basketball action Friday night.

The game was close in the first half, which ended with Slaton holding a slim 24-23 lead, but the Buffs were not able to recover from their cold third quarter.

Offensively, Forsan was led by Bryson Phillips, who scored 10 points, and Aric Hernandez, who added eight points. On the defensive end, Dillon Bagnall registered six steals and Kade Fannin had seven rebounds for Forsan.

The Buffaloes return to action Tuesday at home against Lubbock Roosevelt. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Score by quarters	
Slaton	17 7 21 19 — 64
Forsan	15 8 8 16 — 47

### Water Valley 57, Garden City 35

GARDEN CITY — The Water Valley Wildcats proved the validity of their No. 3 state ranking Friday night, as they jumped out to a 21-6 first quarter lead and never

looked back en route to a 57-35 victory over Garden City in District 12-1A Div. II basketball action Friday night.

Corbin Davis scored eight points and Dillon Koenig and Juan Bustos added seven apiece to lead the Bearkats, who fell to 12-10 overall and 3-2 in district action.

Garden City returns to action Tuesday when the 'Kats host Robert Lee. Game time is 8 p.m.

Score by quarters	
WVHS	21 13 11 12 — 57
G-City	6 10 7 12 — 35
Three-pointers: WVHS (Copley 4), G-City (Miller); Fouled out — Davis.	

## GIRLS

### Slaton 32, Forsan 19

FORSAN — The Forsan Lady Buffaloes must have thought the basket had a lid on it in the first half of their District 3-2A basketball game against Slaton Friday night.

Forsan was blanked in the first quarter and scored only five points in the next eight minutes as it fell, 32-19, to the Lady Tigers.

The Lady Buffs matched Slaton in the second half, but were not able to mount a se-

rious rally as they fell to 12-10 overall and 2-5 in district play.

Brittney Hergert and Ali Knight scored five points apiece to lead Forsan.

The Lady Buffs return to action Tuesday at home against Lubbock Roosevelt.

Score by quarters	
Slaton	8 10 7 7 — 32
Forsan	0 5 7 7 — 19
Three-pointers: Slaton (none), Forsan (Knight, Hergert); Fouled out — Hergert.	

### Garden City 43, Water Valley 32

GARDEN CITY — The No. 9-ranked Garden City Lady Bearkats overcame a tough challenge to take a 43-32 victory over Water Valley in District 12-1A Div. II basketball play Friday night.

The Lady 'Kats held a slim two-point lead after the first quarter, but outscored Water Valley by a 21-9 margin over the next two quarters to secure the win.

Taylor Hughes scored 13 points and Hannah Halfmann added nine to lead Garden City, which improved to 20-4 overall and 7-0 in district play.

The Lady Bearkats return to action Tuesday when they host Robert Lee. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

Score by quarters	
WVHS	16 2 7 7 — 32
G-City	18 9 12 4 — 43
Three-pointers: WVHS (Randolph), G-City (Halfmann 2, Schaefer 2, Hughes); Fouled out — Brown.	

### Borden Co. 51, Grady 27

GAIL — The Borden County Lady Coyotes, ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in the state Class 1A polls, had little trouble Friday night as they took a 51-27 victory over the Grady Lady Wildcats in District 8-1A Div. II basketball action.

The Lady Coyotes broke open a tight game in the second half, outscoring Grady 29-11 down the stretch.

Grady, which fell to 12-11 overall and 5-2 in district play, was led by Charmynee Arnold, who scored seven points.

The Lady Wildcats return to action Tuesday when they travel to Wellman Union. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

Score by quarter	
Grady	11 5 4 7 — 27
BCHS	13 9 10 19 — 51
Three-pointers: Grady (Blocker), BCHS (Lester); Fouled out — none.	

# Paterno admitted to hospital

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — Former Penn State coach Joe Paterno was admitted to the hospital Friday for observation due to minor complications from cancer treatments, his family said.

In a statement released to The Associated Press, his family said that the 85-year-old Paterno continues to undergo a "regimen of treatments" after being diagnosed two months ago with what they have termed a treatable form of lung cancer.

The family hoped his latest stay would be brief. He most recently was in the hospital last month after re-breaking his pelvis following a fall at home. That stay also

allowed Paterno to continue taking his cancer treatments, which have included radiation and chemotherapy.

Paterno had previously hurt his pelvis when he got accidentally hit in practice in August, forcing him to spend most of the regular season coaching from the press box.

"Although these issues have been challenging for Coach Paterno and his family, he has total confidence in his doctors and is determined to make a full recovery," the family said in the statement.

School trustees fired Paterno on Nov. 9 in the aftermath of child

sex abuse charges against retired defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky. Paterno, a witness before a grand jury investigating Sandusky, is not a target of the criminal investigation.

Sandusky has denied wrongdoing. He is out on a bail and confined to house arrest while awaiting trial.

The trustees' firing of Paterno has come under scrutiny from several former players, as well as some alumni critical at meetings this week.

Others have slammed trustees for what they have called a lack of communication and transparency.

# Nowitzki surpasses scoring milestone in Mavericks' win

DALLAS (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki went over 23,000 career points without having to play too much for the surging Dallas Mavericks.

The defending NBA champions are finally on a roll.

Nowitzki became the 23rd NBA player to score 23,000 points before he and the rest of the Dallas starters sat on the bench the entire fourth quarter in a 102-76 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Friday night. The Mavericks have won four in a row.

"Milestones are going to be great when I look back on my career in 10 or 15 years," Nowitzki said. "But as of right now, I'm trying to help this team, and franchise, win as many games as I can. We've been playing better. That's all I'm worried about right now."

The Mavericks (7-5) started the season with lopsided losses at home on consecutive days nearly three weeks ago, then lost their first road game for an 0-3 start.

They have since won five in a row at home. They matched their season high in scoring against the Bucks, who had the lowest-scoring game by a Dallas opponent.

"The first two games were poor to say the least. After that, we were all embarrassed. We had to bounce back and kind of snap out of

it," coach Rick Carlisle said. "We were in a two-game whatever you call it, hangover, Christmas funk. Reality hit us really quickly. ... It helped us get our mindset in the right direction. We came out fighting after that."

Jason Terry scored 17 points off the bench to lead the Mavs while starter Vince Carter had 16 for his highest-scoring game in Dallas. Roddy Beaubois had 15.

Nowitzki, a 10-time All-Star, has played all 1,005 of his career games over 14 seasons for Dallas.

He hit the milestone with 7:17 left in the first half. He played only 22 minutes and finished with 11 points, putting him at 23,008, third among active players behind Kobe Bryant and Kevin Garnett.

Brandon Jennings had 19 points and Shaun Livingston 15 for the Bucks (4-7), who are undefeated at home but now have an NBA-high seven road losses.

"We've been very energetic at home, but we board the plane and we're half-asleep out there," coach Scott Skiles said.

Milwaukee was without 7-foot center Andrew Bogut, who was out because of concussion-like symptoms.

Bogut fell backward and hit the back of his head on the floor while taking a charge during

Thursday night's victory over Detroit. Skiles said Bogut failed a pre-game check for concussion symptoms and was ruled out in accordance with the league's concussion policy.

With the Mavericks playing again at home Saturday night, before going to the West Coast to start a four-game road trip over six days, their starters got extended rest late with the game out of reach.

Carter had 11 of his 16 points while making his first five shots in the first 6½ minutes of the game.

"I was just trying to give our team a little life at the start," Carter said. "You have to hit first because we've seen teams hit us first and it's effective."

Carter, the 13th-year pro that signed with Dallas last month, had a slam dunk on the opening possession. He had a driving layup, another slam and a 3-pointer before a reverse layup with 5:36 left in the first quarter put the Mavs up 18-13.

Dallas pushed ahead 74-47 on a 3-pointer by Nowitzki that capped a 14-0 run over a 4-minute span early in the third quarter before Jennings made a jumper.

The Bucks had a spurt of 10 consecutive points to get to 77-61 with 2:18 left in the third quarter. That was the closest they got.

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**BSHS**

Continued from Page 8A

ments (Big Spring opened league play with a loss against No. 1-ranked Abilene Wylie), so Warren believes the team is still in good shape to make a run for a playoff spot.

"We're OK," he said. "We've got to go on the road the next two games (against Sweetwater and Snyder), and we just have to find a way to win those game ... If we're going to go to the playoffs, we'll need to win those two games."

The Lady Steers play at Sweetwater Tuesday. Game time is scheduled for 6 p.m.

Score by quarters				
Brownwood	8	17	15	13 - 53
Big Spring	10	10	15	14 - 49

**HAWKS**

Continued from Page 8A

"I was really happy with the performance of our players during the non-conference games," Diddle said. "We played a really, really tough schedule and we were on the road a lot ... There's an old basketball saying that one of the toughest things to do is win a college basketball game on the road. But, on the whole, I was pleased with the development and improvement we had."

Howard (12-4) was

*"I was really happy with the performance of our players during the non-conference games,"*

Earl Diddle,  
HC women's coach

picked to finished fourth in the conference, and Diddle believes his team is in the championship mix, along with favorites Midland College, Odessa College and New Mexico Junior College.

However, Diddle said his team will have a struggle on its hands against WTC Monday evening.

"They've probably got

the best team they've had in six years," Diddle said of WTC. "They're a very good ball club, and they've got a couple of players from California who are very solid. Their coach is very good and they run a good system, so we're going to have a tough game up there in Snyder Monday."

Monday's game is the

first of three straight WJ-CAC contests on the road for Howard and Diddle said it's imperative for the Hawks to notch some wins early in the conference schedule.

"These games are very important," he said. "Conference is a 12-game series, and any momentum we gain and the way we feel about ourselves after this stretch is going to go a long way to influence what kind of confidence we have."

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

**STEERS**

Continued from Page 8A

defensive puzzle, scoring almost as many points in the final eight minutes (20) as they had in the three previous quarters combined.

"We probably stayed in the press too long," BSHS Coach Cliff Thompson said. "Give Brownwood credit —

they did a good job adjusting, and we didn't do a good job of adjusting after that."

As the fourth quarter, opened, however, it looked like the Steers would continue their defensive mastery of Brownwood as they held the Lions scoreless through the first two minutes of the stanza.

At the 5:52 mark of the fourth, however, things changed — and they did

so in a hurry.

Brownwood post player Marquos Barnes, who finished the night with 14 points, ignited the rally with a pair of baskets to cut the lead to six points.

Big Spring's Ty'ral Menefield countered with a three-pointer with 4:42 remaining to push the lead back up to nine, but that proved to be the Steers' final field goal of the evening.

The Lions, however, weren't finished. Braxton Kilgo and Bryant McDaniel sandwiched a pair of jumpers around a Big Spring turnover to launch a run that resulted in Brownwood grabbing a 48-44 lead with a minute left in the contest.

Marc Segundo hit both ends of a 1-and-1 and Richard Lewis added a free throw as well to bring Big Spring back

within a point with 22 seconds left, but the Steers couldn't get any closer.

Menefield and Segundo each scored 9 points to lead the Steers, while Brownwood's Kaimon Ontiveros led all scorers with 16 points.

Big Spring (10-14 overall) returns to district play Tuesday at Sweetwater and Thompson said the team needs to put this loss behind

them quickly.

"Like I told them in the locker room — tomorrow's another day," he said. "We just need to find a way to keep our intensity level up for a full four quarters."

Game time in Sweetwater is 7:30 p.m.

Score by quarter				
Brownwood	10	10	9	20 - 49
Big Spring	15	16	8	8 - 47
Three-pointers:	Brownwood (Ontiveros 3), Big Spring (Menefield, Segundo, Walker 2); Fouled out: Segundo.			

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# From the Heart

## A Valentine's Day Jewelry Guide

### FAMILY FEATURES

Every day is a good day to tell someone how much they are loved, but Valentine's Day is a good day to show someone how much they are treasured. And many people choose to do that with a lovely piece of jewelry.

If you'd like to buy your loved one a special piece of jewelry this year, these tips will help you find the perfect gift.

### Personal Style

Before doing any shopping, make sure you know what style the recipient prefers. Notice if he or she wears only gold or silver jewelry. Does he or she prefer small, understated pieces or bigger, bolder jewelry? What type of jewelry do they wear most often — necklaces, bracelets, earrings?

If you're unsure about buying jewelry, consider bringing along a family member or friend who knows them well to help you pick something they would love.

### Gemstone Basics

To make sure you know what you're buying, here are some definitions from the American Gem Society:

- Natural gemstones are found in nature. With the exception of the pearl, they are created and mined from the earth. Sometimes natural gemstones are treated in some way to improve their color and/or clarity. Treatments and/or enhancements should always be disclosed by the seller, along with any special care that might be required.
- Laboratory-created gemstones are also known as laboratory-grown, manufacturer-created, or synthetic. They have the same physical, chemical and visual properties as natural gemstones, but they do not have the same rarity or value.
- Imitation gemstones look like natural gemstones in appearance only. They can be manmade or made from a natural stone. Both laboratory-created and imitation stones should be clearly labeled as such.

Gemstones can be measured by weight, size or both. The carat is the basic unit for weighing gemstones, and is equal to one-fifth of a gram. Carats are further divided into 100 units, called points. For example, a half-carat gemstone would weigh .50 carats or 50 points. When gemstones are measured by dimensions, the size is expressed in millimeters (for example, 7 x 5 millimeters).

The value of gemstones is determined by the 4 Cs — color, cut, clarity and carat weight. Color is the most important factor.

### About Pearls

Natural pearls are extremely rare. You'll most often encounter cultured and imitation pearls.

**Cultured Pearls** — Grown in pearl farms, these high-quality pearls can be found in saltwater and in freshwater. Different types of mollusks produce very different looking pearls.

**Imitation Pearls** — These are typically coated glass beads with a high luster. Most respected jewelers can tell the difference between imitation and cultured pearls.

There are various lengths of pearl necklaces available:

- Collar fits directly against the throat.
- Choker rests at the base of the neck.
- Princess rests near the collarbone.
- Matinee length is typically 20 to 24 inches.
- Opera length is between 30 and 36 inches.
- Rope length refers to all strands longer than 36 inches.

### Materials 101

To make sure you buy a quality piece that will last, you need to know a little about what jewelry is made of. The three most common metals used include gold, sterling silver and platinum. Here's what you need to know:

**Gold** — When you see the word "gold" by itself on a piece, it means all gold, or 24-karat gold. Twenty-four-karat gold is soft, so it's usually mixed with other metals to make it more durable. Fourteen-karat jewelry contains 14 parts gold mixed with 10 parts of a base metal. The higher the karat rating, the higher the proportion of gold.

**Sterling silver** — This term describes a piece that contains 92.5 percent silver. Sometimes they are marked "925," which means 925 parts per thousand are pure silver. "Coin silver" is used for compounds that contain 90 percent silver.

**Platinum** — Platinum is a natural, white-colored, precious metal that is often described as being strong, durable and corrosion resistant. It's usually mixed with other similar metals, such as iridium, palladium, ruthenium, rhodium and osmium.

### Choosing Necklaces

Most necklaces come in one of these lengths: 16, 18, 20, 22, 24 and 28 inches. How do you choose the right one to buy?

First, you need to know where the different lengths will fall on the wearer's body.

- 16 inches choker length
- 18 inches at collarbone
- 20 inches a few inches below collarbone
- 22 inches at or above neckline
- 24 inches below neckline
- 28 inches around the bustline

### Birthstones 101

Consider making your jewelry gift personal by including the recipient's birthstone:

- |                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| <b>January</b>   | Garnet     |
| <b>February</b>  | Amethyst   |
| <b>March</b>     | Aquamarine |
| <b>April</b>     | Diamond    |
| <b>May</b>       | Emerald    |
| <b>June</b>      | Pearl      |
| <b>July</b>      | Ruby       |
| <b>August</b>    | Peridot    |
| <b>September</b> | Sapphire   |
| <b>October</b>   | Opal       |
| <b>November</b>  | Topaz      |
| <b>December</b>  | Turquoise  |

### Protecting Your Purchase

- Know exactly what you're purchasing, and get all estimates of gem quality and treatments in writing.
- Be sure to ask about your jeweler's return policy before purchasing. If shopping online, be sure to buy only from reputable and researched sources.
- Losing valuable jewelry is always disappointing, but if the piece was a gift it likely had emotional value as well, which can make it heart-breaking to lose. Plan ahead to preserve your precious memories by having valuable gifts appraised and insured by a company that specializes in jewelry insurance, such as Jewelers Mutual Insurance Company.
- If you need jewelry insurance or would like a free, no-obligation quote, visit [www.insureyourjewelry.com](http://www.insureyourjewelry.com).

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# Menus

## Coahoma ISD

Monday: *Holiday*  
 Tuesday: Breakfast: french toast, sausage, apple juice, syrup, milk. Lunch: hamburgers, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, chips and orange smiles, chocolate chips cookies, milk.  
 Wednesday: Breakfast: biscuits, gravy, sausage, orange juice, milk. Lunch: cheeseburger pockets, potatoes salad, mixed fruit, milk. Hot pockets.  
 Thursday: Breakfast: pancakes, sausage, syrup, grape juice, milk. Lunch: pizza, corn, fruit, milk.  
 Friday: Breakfast: oatmeal, ham, variety juice, milk. Lunch: chicken party on a bun, salad, apples, chips, milk. Corn dog, pickle spears.

tuce and tomato topping, fruit cocktail, celery and peanut butter, milk.  
 Wednesday: Breakfast: sausage and gravy pizza, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: steak fingers, mashed potatoes/gravy, mixed vegetables, apricots, orange smiles, wheat roll, milk.  
 Thursday: Breakfast: breakfast burrito, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: chicken nuggets, mac and cheese, carrots, pears, roll, milk.  
 Friday: Breakfast: mini maple pancakes, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: Southwest chicken flatbread, tossed salad, ranch dressing, corn, applesauce, milk.

## Sands ISD

Monday: Breakfast: honey bun, juice and milk. Lunch: teriyaki chicken, rice pilaf, English peas, pineapple tidbits, hot roll and milk.  
 Tuesday: Breakfast: hot pocket, juice and milk. Lunch: chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, Texas toast, fancy jell-o and

salad, baby carrots dippers, pineapple orange salad, milk.  
 Thursday: Breakfast: cinnamon tarts, juice, milk. Alt. Cereal. Lunch: chicken quesadilla, Spanish rice, pinto beans, peaches and cream, brownie, milk.  
 Friday: Breakfast: cereal, toast, juice, milk. Lunch: steak fingers, mashed potatoes/gravy, savory green beans, whole wheat roll, frozen cherry fruit bar, milk.

## Senior Center

Monday: *Holiday*  
 Tuesday: chicken strips, macaroni and tomatoes, turnip greens, cornbread, apple pie, milk.  
 Wednesday: spaghetti and meatballs, broccoli, salad, bread sticks, peaches, milk.  
 Thursday: chicken and beef fajitas, Spanish rice, guacamole, tortilla chips/salsa, oranges, milk.  
 Friday: cheeseburger on wheat bun, baked potato chips, carrot coin salad, tropical fruit, milk.

## Big Spring ISD

Monday: *Holiday*  
 Tuesday: Breakfast: cocoa krispies, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: ground beef nachos, border beans, let-

# Who's Who

## Christopher Weihert of Big Spring Named to Fall Dean's List at Southwestern University

GEORGETOWN — Christopher Weihert of Big Spring has been named to the Dean's List at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, for the fall 2011 semester.

See Sudoku Answer Page 6B

# 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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

To be selected, students must have at least a 3.6 grade point average on a 4.0 scale with at least 12 graded hours and be in good standing with the university.

Southwestern University is a nationally recognized undergraduate liberal arts college with an enrollment of 1,350 students. It is the oldest institution of higher learning in Texas. For more information on Southwestern, visit www.southwestern.edu.

## Chelsea Watts Graduates from Hardin-Simmons University

ABILENE — Chelsea Watts of Big Spring, graduated from Hardin-Simmons University during commencement ceremonies held Saturday, Dec. 17, 2011, in HSU's Behrens Auditorium.

Watts graduated with a bachelor of science in nursing degree in nursing from the Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing during one of two commencement ceremonies.

### About Hardin-Simmons:

HSU has an enrollment of approximately 2,300 undergrad and graduate students from 29 states and 19 countries. HSU has a 13:1 student faculty ratio with a campus that sits on 209 acres. Seventy-nine

percent of HSU's faculty members hold the highest degree in their field.

The university is named by U.S. News and World Report as one of the best universities in the western region of the United States and is listed by The Princeton Review as a Top Ten Best in the West University. It is a member of the Colleges of Distinction, and the Chronicle of Higher Education named HSU to its honor roll as a "Great College to Work For."

Seven undergraduate degrees encompass 70 major fields including: athletic training, criminal justice, social work, counseling, psychology, molecular biology, biochemistry, environmental science, religion, music, art, teaching, history, communications, English, and sociology.


Ten graduate degrees include the Doctor of Ministry and the Doctor of Physical Therapy.

International study programs include England, Austria, Hong Kong, Spain, and Australia.

Hardin-Simmons University, founded in 1891, is a private Christian institution, and has been affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas (Texas Baptists) since 1941.

Watts is one of 282 graduates to receive degrees from Hardin-Simmons University this spring.

# Contract Bridge



By Steve Becker

## When to Draw Trumps

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ J 9  
 ♥ 7 4 3  
 ♦ 10 9 5  
 ♣ K J 7 6 2

**WEST**  
 ♠ 8 6 5 3  
 ♥ A K 10 9  
 ♦ Q 7 4  
 ♣ 10 4

**EAST**  
 ♠ 7 2  
 ♥ 8 6 5 2  
 ♦ 8 6 2  
 ♣ Q 9 8 5

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A K Q 10 4  
 ♥ Q J  
 ♦ A K J 3  
 ♣ A 3

The bidding:  
 South West North East  
 2 ♣ \* Pass 2 ♦ \*\* Pass  
 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♣ Pass  
 3 ♦ Pass 3 ♠ Pass  
 4 ♠

\* strong, artificial \*\* negative  
 Opening lead — king of hearts.

Whenever declarer plays a suit contract, he is faced with the problem of whether or not to draw trumps. There is no hard and fast rule that governs this recurring problem. The best declarer can do is to exercise his judgment in accordance with the circumstances he faces.

Take this deal where West leads the K-A-10 of hearts, declarer ruff-

ing the third round. If South draws trumps at this point, he runs himself out of them, since the trumps are divided 4-2.

Regardless of what he does next, South must now go down one as the cards lie. If, for example, he crosses to dummy with a club in order to try a diamond finesse, West wins with the queen and cashes the nine of hearts to score the setting trick.

But if South makes allowance for a 4-2 trump split (which occurs nearly half the time), he makes the contract. He simply delays drawing trumps because he is not yet ready to extract them.

Declarer's proper play is to ruff the third heart high and lead the four of trumps to dummy's nine. The ten of diamonds is then led and finessed, losing to the queen.

This leaves West in a hopeless position. If he returns a heart, declarer ruffs in dummy, crosses to the ace of clubs, draws trumps and easily makes the rest of the tricks. If West returns any other suit, South wins and draws trumps that much sooner to make the contract.

In effect, declarer makes it his first order of business to establish his 10th trick before drawing the missing trumps. In that way, he protects against the 4-2 trump division that is a primary threat to the contract.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.  
 ©2012 King Features Syndicate Inc.

# Club News

## The Big Spring Art Association

The Big Spring Art Association will have its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of the Howard County Library.

The program will be "How to Gather and Prepare Natural Clay" by Dovie Shannon of Sand Springs. The meetings are open to the public and anyone interested in the arts is cordially invited to attend.

The theme for the "Tipping of the Brush" for January is "New Beginnings." Each artist is encouraged to present a painting, photograph, drawing, etc. as their interpretation of that theme.

Refreshments will be served. Please bring your own beverage.

## Big Spring Retired Teachers Assoc.

The Big Spring Retired Teachers Association will meet Monday at 11:30 at the Cactus Room on Howard College's campus.

The program will be on the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation. The presenter will be Terry Wegman.

All retired school personnel are invited to attend and any other interested persons are also welcome.

Those in attendance will have a Dutch treat lunch provided by the college.

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# TxDOT names Mendoza Big Spring Area engineer

Special to the Herald

Jesse Mendoza, P.E., has been named area engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation's Abilene District Big Spring Area Office.

Mendoza, who began his new duties Jan. 2, will oversee transportation operations in Howard, Mitchell, Borden and Nolan counties.

He began his career with TxDOT in 1995 in the Hamlin Area Office,

working in design and construction, advancing to construction manager in 2001. He joined the design team in the Abilene District Office in 2008 and became a design resource coordinator for TxDOT's West Region Support Center in 2009. Most recently, he was appointed to the project management office as the statewide design resource



Mendoza

coordinator in 2010. Mendoza attended Tarleton State University in Stephenville and graduated from Texas A&M University in College Station with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering in 1994. He became licensed as a professional engineer in 2003.

A native of Hamlin, Mendoza is also a long-time resident of Anson. He and his wife, Anna, have two children, Miranda Renee and Jesse Aaron.

# Energy Watch



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

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



A year ago, we predicted 4 percent real GDP growth in 2011 and a 14,500 Dow by year-end. We were too optimistic.

Real GDP grew just 1.2 percent annualized during the first three quarters of 2011. This will climb to about 1.75 percent if the consensus forecast is right about Q4. The Dow finished the year at 12,218, well off its high for the year of 12,928.

This isn't the first time we have missed a forecast, and it won't be the last. And the good news is that our optimism actually paid off. Back in September, when the stock market had corrected by about 16 percent and conventional wisdom had completely bought into the idea of a double-dip recession, we held to our convictions. We begged investors to hold the line and maintain positions in stocks.

It worked. The economy avoided recession and accelerated, while the stock market had one of its best October's ever. Those who hung in there did no worse than money market funds. Yes, already over-valued gold was up 10 percent for the year, while municipal and Treasury bonds had nice returns, but holding a diversified stock portfolio, especially of dividend paying stocks, did not hurt anyone.

So here we go again. For 2012, we are forecasting 3 percent real GDP growth and an 18 percent rise in broad stock market prices. We expect the Dow Jones Industrial Average to rise to 14,500, with the S&P 500 targeted for 1475.

All the reasons for our optimism are still in place. The Fed is accommodative. Government spending has peaked and is declining as a share of GDP. And the most important driver of growth — technology and productivity (Schumpeter's creative destruction) — is robust and relevant.

We do not believe deleveraging is holding back the economy. The private sector is still paying down debt, but doing so more slowly than before. As a result, purchasing power can grow faster than income, not slower.

We do not worry about consumer confidence. We do not subscribe to the view that the US is on the cusp of a collapse in the dollar and hyperinflation. We don't believe that there is a fundamental weakness in the economy.

The story isn't complicated. When government tilts toward redistribution, the growth rate of potential GDP slows down. This hurts job creation. Big government always hurts economic performance. We should have more fully accounted for this in our forecast last year.

Some will ask: Then how can you forecast 3 percent growth in 2012? The answer is relatively simple. 1) The Fed is even more accommodative today than it was last year. 2) Government spending will be basically flat in 2012 for the third consecutive year. 3) Technology continues to advance. These developments mean the tailwinds are stronger at the same time the headwinds are diminishing.

That's enough reason for us to maintain our optimism for the year ahead. Let's try it again in 2012.

*Past performance is no guarantee of future results. This article was written by Brian S. Wesbury, chief economist for First Trust Advisors L.P., on Jan. 3, and provided courtesy of Bhupen Agrawal, managing director - branch manager of Wells Fargo Advisors' Midland office. The report was prepared by First Trust Advisors L.P., and reflects the current opinion of the authors. It is based upon sources and data believed to be accurate and reliable. Opinions and forward-looking statements expressed are subject to change without notice. The material has been prepared or is distributed solely for informational purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy or sell any security, or instrumental to participate in any trading strategy. Additional information is available upon request at 432-684-7335. Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC, member SIPC, is a registered broker-dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.*

# Unemployment up

## Jobless benefit applications jump to 399,000

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Applications for weekly unemployment benefits spiked last week, largely because companies let go of thousands of workers after the holiday season.

Weekly applications rose by 24,000 to a seasonally adjusted 399,000, the Labor Department said. That's the highest level in six weeks.

Economists said such a jump is typical in early January and downplayed the increase. It followed three months of steady declines that brought applications to their lowest level in more than three years. And weekly unemployment claims have been below 400,000 in nine of the past 10 weeks.

That's a "clear indication that the pace of layoffs has slowed," said Steven Wood, chief economist at Insight Economics.

Applications typically soar in the first two weeks of the year. That's because many companies lay off temporary workers who were brought on to help during the holidays. The department tries to adjust for those patterns. But the task is difficult because the data can be volatile.

"We would not read too much into the rebound in initial jobless claims," Paul Dales, an economist at Capital Economics, said in a note to clients. "There (are) always problems in seasonally adjusting the weekly data around the turn of the year. As it stands at the moment, the trend in claims remains downwards."

The four-week average, which attempts to smooth such fluctuations, also rose, to 381,750. It had fallen in the previous week to a three-and-a-half-year low.

When applications drop below 375,000 — consistently — that generally signals hiring is strong enough to reduce the unemployment rate. Prior to last week's spike, applications had been be-

### At a glance

Unemployment benefit applications jumped last week, largely because companies let go of thousands of temporary employees after the holiday season. Weekly applications rose by 24,000 to 399,000, the highest level in six weeks.

Here are the states with the biggest changes in the number of people seeking unemployment aid:

#### States with the biggest increases:

- Michigan: Up 10,364, no reason given
- Wisconsin: Up 10,203, no reason given
- Pennsylvania: Up 8,135, due to layoffs in the transportation, construction, wood products and metal industries
- New Jersey: Up 7,989, due to layoffs in services, transportation, manufacturing, retail and construction
- New York: Up 7,746, due to layoffs in services, transportation and construction
- Georgia: Up 7,707, due to layoffs in services, manufacturing, trade and construction
- North Carolina: Up 6,849, due to layoffs in the construction, textile, service, apparel and furniture industries

#### States with the biggest drops:

- California: Down 23,969, due to fewer layoffs in the construction, service and manufacturing industries
- Illinois: Down 4,696, no reason given
- Texas: Down 2,385, no reason given
- Nevada: Down 1,590, due to fewer layoffs over the holiday
- Kansas: Down 1,341, no reason given

low 375,000 for three of the past four weeks.

The unemployment rate fell in December to 8.5 percent, a three-year low. Employers added 200,000 net jobs, double November's 100,000 gain.

More people are receiving benefits. The total unemployment benefit rolls increased to 7.3 million in the week ending Dec. 24, the latest data available. That is 111,000 higher than the previous week.

The economy gained 1.6 million jobs last year, up from 940,000 in 2010. Economists forecast roughly 1.9 million more jobs will be added this year, according to a survey by The Associated Press.

Still, the job market has a long way to go before it recovers from the damage inflicted by the Great Recession, which wiped out 8.7 million jobs. There are still more than 13 million unemployed people in the United States. And

millions more who have given up looking and are no longer counted among those out of work.

The pickup in hiring reflects greater economic growth. The economy will likely expand by more than 3 percent at an annual rate in the final three months of last year, economists expect. Rising consumer spending will likely power much of the gain. That would be a sharp improvement over the 1.8 percent growth in the July-September quarter.

Even so, economists worry that growth could slow in the first half of 2012. Europe is almost certain to fall into recession because of its financial troubles.

And wages didn't keep pace with inflation last year. So without more jobs and higher pay, consumers may have to cut back on spending. That could drag on growth this year. Consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of economic activity.

# Criticism of conviction costs NJ woman her freedom

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — A judge has ordered the immediate imprisonment of a convicted Internet pirate after her online rants drew the ire of prosecutors.

Last week, 30-year-old Hana Beshara, known on the Internet as "Queen Phara," was sentenced to nearly two years in prison for her role running NinjaVideo, a website that enabled millions of illegal downloads of pirated movies and TV shows.

But the judge delayed imposition of Beshara's

sentence so she could get her affairs in order.

That changed after the New Jersey woman used the time to complain about her plight to online supporters.

At a hearing Friday in Alexandria, the judge said she obviously hadn't learned her lesson and ordered the sentence to begin immediately.

Her lawyer said she had the right to be unhappy about her conviction.

# Best in show: 6 gadgets that defined CES

PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

LAS VEGAS — Cheaper tablets, thinner laptops and an array of sleeker TVs stood out at this year's International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

More than 140,000 people gathered there this week, for an event that's growing despite the absence of Apple and more recently, the decision by Microsoft to make this the last year it participates. A bevy of celebrities, in-

cluding 50 Cent, Will.i.am, and Kelly Clarkson, stopped by to add glitz to the proceedings —but they were hardly the stars of the show. Here are some of the more significant gadgets that shined at CES:

Cheaper tablets — The industry's enthusiasm for tablets was considerably tempered this year compared to last, when more than a hundred manufacturers thought they could capitalize on the iPad's success with their

own models based on Google Inc.'s Android software. Sales were disappointing, in large part because Apple prices the iPad relatively low compared to the cost of making it. Then, See CES, Page 5B

# Public Records

## Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

Gregory Aguilar Jr., 1508 Sunset Ave., Big Spring  
Irene Lopez Alaniz, 774 E. Highway 80, Abilene  
Brian Layton Allison, 1100 College Circle, Ranger  
Demetrio Alva, 11520 Arrow Rock, El Paso  
Terica Alvarado, 1100 E. 61st St., Odessa  
Anthony G. Anderson, 3401 Cammelia Dr., Temple  
Daniel Antrim, 120 N. 22nd Pl., Lamesa  
Nancy Ramirez Banuelos, 1515 A Sycamore, Big Spring  
Christine Avalos Bara, of 1405 N. Sixth, Lamesa  
Amy Barber, 2602 Ent, Big Spring  
Samantha Ann Barrera, 606 Lamar, Sweetwater  
Daniel B. Barron, 507 N. Ave. F, Lamesa  
Tim Beck, 709 W. Seventh St., Big Spring  
Amy Benavides, 3001 N. Midland Dr., Big Spring  
Crystal Biles, 15885 S. Quartz, Odessa  
Vern Black, 329 W. Tennessee, Floydada  
Jeremy Bolton, 506 N. Ave. L, Lamesa  
Edward Bourland, 229 Edgewood Dr., San Angelo  
Alexis A. Bowie, 2811 Lawton, Amarillo  
Dave Bracken, 2720 42nd St., Lubbock  
Johnny William Brown, 507 E. Sixth, Big Spring  
Wanda Heron Brown, 538 Westover Rd. Apt. 113, Big Spring  
Melinda Burns, 2218 Carlton Way, San Angelo  
Cristal Cabello, 1314

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Melissa Camargo, 2100 Ave. N, Tahoka  
Latonya Campbell, 7549 Ashcroft Circle, Fort Worth  
Antonia Castillo, 206 Fuller St., Hereford  
Donald Cervantes, 1211 Lloyd, Big Spring  
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Jeffrey Grams, 224 Lelon Lane, Springtown  
Nora Gutierrez, 606 N. Eighth Street, Lamesa  
Edna J. Hale, 510 Milton Ave., Brownwood  
Sharon Marquis Hanson, 1201 E. Co. Rd. 34, Big Spring  
Clifford Arvin Hart Jr., 3234 Drexel, Big Spring  
Dana Havink, 600 Star Linda Ct., Arlington  
Chris Henry, 3520 28th St., Lubbock  
Isaul Hernandez, 523 W. Noble, Falfurrias  
Veronica Cervantes Hernandez, 1005 N. 17th St., Lamesa  
Gerald Hodges, 4312 Crane, Houston  
Allen Hoey, 1401 N. Highway 87 No. 1502, Big Spring  
Herman Hokes, 1303 Sycamore, Big Spring  
Danny Holt, of 125 Farney Rd., Lorena  
Bradley Ryan Horton, of Linda Lane, Big Spring  
Shameka Houston, 1905 Wasson No. 49, Big Spring  
Jeanie Renee Ivey, 5326 Old Highway 71, LaGrange  
Brandy Johnson, 24327 Pleasonton, San Antonio  
Rene M. Johnson, 9205 W. County Road 174, Midland  
Steven Daniel Johnson,

1509 142nd St., Lubbock  
Johnny Ray Jones, 501 E. 17th St., Big Spring  
Katie Lynn Junkin, 1410 Lancaster, Big Spring  
Paige Morgan Kenas, 1003-2 Lake County Rd. 175, Colorado City  
Kimberly K. King, 1711 Young, Big Spring  
Robert Michael Kleck, P.O. Box 35, Rotan  
Lindsey Kay Lee, 1405 S. Benton, Big Spring  
Patricia Lutrell, 2726 Redwood, Odessa  
Jenny Marie Hamilton Lyon, 4201 W. Highway 80 Apt. 6, Big Spring  
Joshua David Mackenstein, 414 Hickory/3417 N. Midland Drive, Midland  
Christopher Max Martinez, 2870 S. Highway, Snyder  
Jarrod Martinez, 61 E. Eighth St., San Angelo  
Sandy Martinez, P.O. Box 43, Stanton  
Thomas M. McKellen, 2010 Sierra, Kenah  
Ebaline Mendoza, P.O. Box 291, Mertzon  
Daniel Mercado Jr., 5611 Lancaster, Houston  
Chad K. Merrill, 3300 Manor Rd. Apt. 174, Austin  
Alicia Morales, 606 Holbert, Big Spring  
Anna Marie Moreno, 4656 St. Frances Ave., Dallas  
Jose Munoz III, 1425 E. Sixth St. Apt. 7, Big Spring  
Michael Todd McClinton, 1003 S. Midkiff, Midland  
Ricky L. Nava, 707 Willa, Big Spring  
William Leslie Neal, 2100 Alabama, Big Spring  
Pernell Earl Parker, 400 N.E. 12th St., Big Spring  
Benson Nelson Payne,

1117 Toby Lane, San Angelo  
Katherine Hardin Perez, 4908 Parkway, Big Spring  
Joshua Plaia, 1401 E. 18th, Big Spring  
Lisa M. Portillo, 1200 Stanford Ave, Big Spring  
Richard Wayne Rains, 4501 Parkway, Big Spring  
Patricia Ramos, 538 Westover Road #226, Big Spring  
Anna D. Rich, PO Box 1321, Denver City  
Jerrall Ray Richardson, 1481 Highway 81, Bowie  
Alfredo Riojas Jr., 255, S. 11th St., Lubbock  
Roberta Garza Rodriguez, 1103 Stanford, Big Spring  
Robert Rosamond, 801 Lancaster, Big Spring  
Thomas Ross, 1206 Lela St., Jasper  
Thomas Castillo Ruiz, 1306 W. Tennessee, Midland  
Rudy Andrew Salazar, PO Box 1275, Stanton  
Nancy Carolina Sauseda, 1707 N. 11th St., Lamesa  
Monica Serbine, 304 E. 20th, Big Spring  
Harl Bradford Shaffer, 5603 Gail Hwy., Big Spring  
Curtis W. Shelton, 3714 Millbrook Road, Big Spring  
Brian Paul Siverson, 589c Stoddard, Odessa  
Donna Smith, P.O. Box 716, Coahoma  
Lisa D. Smith, 2010 Sierra Dr., League City  
Andrew Sommers, 3110 W. Kansas Ave., Midland  
Janie Spurgeion, 1212 Wadley, Midland  
Shawn Spurgeion, 106 N. Adams, Denver City  
Mickey Jermain Starnes, 402 Holly Oak

Dr., Tyler  
Misty D. Sternadel, 457 Seventh St., Scotland TX  
Andrew Bernard Taylor, 5651 Flamingo, Houston  
Tonya D. Conner Taylor, 1111 Moseley Circle, Hobb, N.M.  
Ashley Lauren Teagarden, 6002 103rd St., Big Spring  
Molly E. Turner, 1905 Wasson Rd., Big Spring  
Paula Valdez, 2220 S. First, Lamesa  
Jimmy Vasquez, 4000 W. Illinois No. 16, Midland  
Tyler Voss, Fannin Co. Rd. 4925, Leonard  
Michael Wagner, P.O. Box 428, Denver City  
Irshaad A. Walee, 1306 S. Detroit, Lamesa  
Marie Wells, 2507 Rebecca, Big Spring  
Candida Lynn Whitehead, 1405 Runnels, Big Spring  
Tina Diane Whitlow, 1407.5 Settles, Big Spring  
Denise L. Williams, 1715 Hwy. 350, Big Spring  
Calvin Williams, 1313 Mulberry, Big Spring  
Mandy Shae Wilson, 210 10th St., Sterling City  
Brandi Woodard, 642 Westview Dr., Abilene  
Jerry Lee Wrightsil, 2816 Ridge Rd., Fort Worth  
Lorenzo Ferrera Yanez, 211 Channing St., Big Spring  
Dennis Anthony Zaragoza, 4534 Sinclair, Big Spring

### Marriage Licenses:

David Franco, 33, and Jovita Rodriguez, 32, both of Big Spring.  
Jason D. Canales, 31, Amber R. Williams, 30, Big Spring.

## “Productivity appraisal” may lower the property taxes on your farm, ranch or timberland!

Texas law allows farmers, ranchers and timber growers to pay property taxes based upon the “productivity value” of their land rather than on market value. This means qualified land is taxed based on its ability to produce crops, livestock or timber - not on its value on the real estate market. And it can mean substantial property tax savings.

### When is the application deadline?

If your land has never had a productivity appraisal or you are a new owner, you must apply to your local appraisal district before May 1 to take advantage of this benefit on your 2011 property taxes. You may get up to 60 extra days if you have a good reason and ask for it before May 1. If you miss this deadline, you may still be able to apply, but you will pay a penalty. Check with your appraisal district office.

### Do you need to reapply annually?

If your land already receives agricultural or timber productivity appraisal, you normally don't need to reapply unless the chief appraiser requires you to do so. If a new application is required, the appraisal district will notify you by mail.

### For more information, call or come by:

Howard County Appraisal District  
315 Main Street, PO Drawer 1151  
Big Spring, TX 79721-1151  
432-263-8301 FAX 432-263-8303  
cad@howardcad.org

OR CONTACT:  
Texas Comptroller Susan Combs  
Property Tax Assistance Division  
P.O. Box 13528  
Austin, Texas 78711-3528

or call: (800) 252-9121, Ext. 2

or on the Web at: [www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/](http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/)

229823

A public service announcement courtesy of your county appraisal district.

## A variety of homestead exemptions could lower your property taxes!

A homestead exemption lowers the property taxes on your home by lowering its taxable value. If your home is valued at \$50,000 and you receive a \$15,000 homestead exemption, your home will be taxed as if it were worth \$35,000.

### Who qualifies for an exemption?

Anyone who owns a home on Jan. 1 and uses it as a primary residence on that date is entitled to a \$15,000 homestead exemption to lower school taxes this year ... and it doesn't matter if your home is a house, condominium or mobile home. Counties, cities and special taxing districts may also offer homestead exemptions.

### Are other exemptions available?

If you're *disabled* - or if you're 65 years old or older - you are entitled to an *additional \$10,000 school tax exemption* on your home. And if you qualify for the 65 or older or disabled exemption, you're also entitled to a permanent, locked-in “ceiling” on the school property taxes on your home. (The county, city or junior college may adopt a tax ceiling to lock in 2011 taxes as the highest amount for 65 and older or disabled homeowners.) The age 65 or older homeowners school tax ceiling transfers to the surviving spouse, if the spouse is 55 years of age or older at the time of death and lives in and owns the home. The age 65 or older homeowners (or their surviving spouses 55 years of age or older) also may transfer the percentage of school tax paid, based on their former home's school tax ceiling, to a new home.

If you're a disabled veteran who receives from the Veterans Affairs (VA) - (1) 100 percent disability compensation due to a service connected disability and (2) a rating of 100 percent disabled or a determination of individual unemployability, you are entitled to an exemption from taxation of the total appraised value of your resident homestead. A surviving spouse does not qualify.

### Do I have to apply each year?

No. If you had a homestead exemption on your home in 2010, you won't need to reapply for 2011 unless your chief appraiser requires it. However, if you haven't received an exemption on your present home - or if you're moved to a new home - you'll need to file for an exemption for 2011. If you are 65 this year, you may file for the age 65 or older exemption up to one year after the date you turned 65. And if you became *disabled*, you need to file for the disabled person's exemption.

### When and where should I file?

File applications before May 1 at your appraisal district office. If you need more time, contact us at:

Howard County Appraisal District  
315 Main Street, PO Drawer 1151  
Big Spring, TX 79721-1151  
432-263-8301 FAX 432-263-8303  
cad@howardcad.org

OR CONTACT:  
Texas Comptroller Susan Combs  
Property Tax Assistance Division  
P.O. Box 13528  
Austin, Texas 78711-3528

or call: (800) 252-9121, Ext. 2

or on the Web at: [www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/](http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/)

A public service announcement courtesy of your county appraisal district.

## Don't get hit with a penalty! “Render” your taxable property by April 15.


A “rendition” is a report to your county appraisal district that lists all the taxable property you owned or controlled on Jan. 1 of this year.


### Who must file a rendition?


You must file a rendition if you own tangible personal property that is used to produce income - such as the inventory and equipment used by a business. If you render late, don't render or file an incomplete or false rendition, a 10 percent to 50 percent penalty may be imposed.

### Are there any advantages to you?

The advantages of filing a rendition are:

 You give your opinion of your property's value. The appraisal district must notify you in writing of any value change and explain how you can protest that value to the appraisal review board.

 You record your correct mailing address so your tax bills will go to the right address. If your bill is mailed to the wrong address, the law still holds you responsible for paying your taxes on time or paying extra charges for late payments.

 You can also file a “report of decreased value” to notify the appraisal district of significant depreciation of the value of your property in 2010. The district will look at your property before assigning a value in 2011.

### What's the deadline?

The last day for filing 2011 renditions is April 15. You can get an automatic extension to May 15 (or the next business day if a weekend) if you ask for it in writing on or before the April 15 deadline. The chief appraiser may grant an additional 15 days after the deadline for an owner who shows good cause in writing.

### Where do you file?

File renditions with your local appraisal district at:  
Howard County Appraisal District  
315 Main Street, PO Drawer 1151  
Big Spring, TX 79721-1151  
432-263-8301 FAX 432-263-8303  
cad@howardcad.org

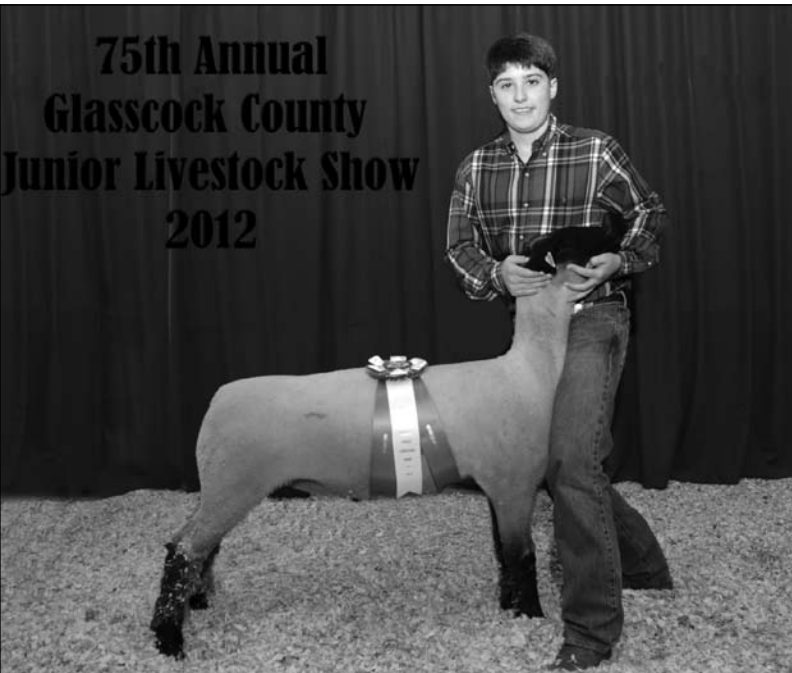
OR CONTACT:  
Texas Comptroller Susan Combs  
Property Tax Assistance Division  
P.O. Box 13528  
Austin, Texas 78711-3528

or call: (800) 252-9121, Ext. 2

or on the Web at: [www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/](http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/)

229824

A public service announcement courtesy of your county appraisal district.



# Glasscock County Junior Livestock Show 2012 Grand Champions

The 75th Glasscock County Junior Livestock Show recently wrapped up in Garden City. All youth who exhibit during the two-day show are members of the Glasscock 4-H Club.

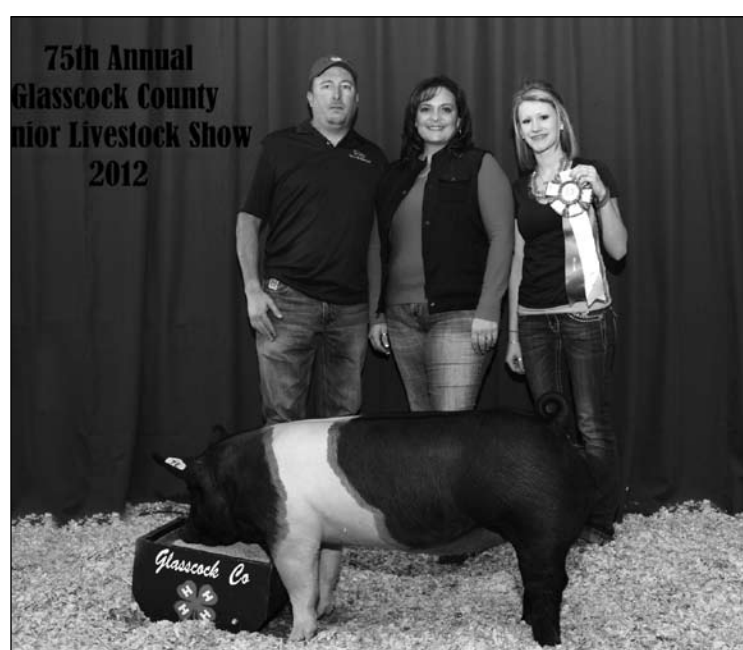
**Clockwise from top left**

- Grand Champion Lamb was exhibited by Brazos Hirt

- Grand Champion Rabbit was exhibited by Ally Burnett

- Grand Champion Swine was exhibited by Lexie Schaefer

- Grand Champion Goat was exhibited by Matthew Halfmann



## CES

Continued from Page 3B

late last year, Amazon.com Inc. demonstrated that you can take on Apple by selling a smaller, barebones tablet for \$199. Analysts believe Amazon sold millions of Kindle Fires in little more than a month.

Now, Asian manufacturers are hoping to jump on Amazon's bandwagon. One of those companies, Taiwan's AsusTek Computer Inc., showed off a tablet with a Fire-sized screen and said it would sell it for \$249. It's considerably more powerful than the Fire, sporting a premium "quadcore" processor. Still, one of the things that made the Fire a success — Amazon's library of e-books, music and movies — will be missing.

Nokia Lumia 900 — In recent years, the world's largest phone maker, Finland's Nokia Corp., has practically been a no-show in the U.S. market. That's hurt the company badly. Now, it hopes to come back with smartphones that run Microsoft Corp.'s Windows Phone software. The Lumia 900 is its first such phone for the AT&T network, and the first Nokia phone to use AT&T's faster wireless "LTE" network. In a sign of how much is riding on these phones, both the Microsoft and Nokia CEOs showed up for Monday's announcement. The companies didn't announce

price or availability. T-Mobile USA, a smaller carrier, started selling a more modest Lumia this week.

Lenovo K800 — While Nokia's been shut out of the U.S. phone market, Intel Corp., the world's largest chipmaker, has been shut out of phones entirely. Its PC chips use too much power to go into a smartphone: they'd drain the battery in no time. That's a big problem for the company, since PC sales are flat in the developed world, while smartphone sales are exploding. Now, Intel says a new line of chips is ready for smartphone use, and Lenovo Corp. of China is the first to take them up on it, with a smartphone to be sold in China in the second quarter. Outwardly, it's indistinguishable from any other touchscreen phone, and it runs Android.

Motorola Mobility, the phone maker that's being bought by Google, also committed to making phones and other devices with Intel chips. Without offering many details, the company said the new devices will be on the market in the second half of the year.

OLED TVs — Both LG and Samsung showed off 55-inch TVs with screens made from organic light-emitting diodes rather than the standard liquid crystals or plasma cells, and said they'll on sale this year. They didn't say what they would cost, but an-

alysts expect the price to be upwards of \$5,000.

The sets are long-awaited. OLED TVs have been on the horizon for some time, but they're difficult to manufacture in large sizes. They provide a high-contrast picture with highly saturated colors. They can also be very thin: LG's set is just 4 millimeters thick, or one-sixth of an inch.

Ultrabooks — Intel created the "ultrabook" as a marketing term for thin, light and powerful laptop computers. They're essentially the Windows versions of Apple's MacBook Air. PC makers have embraced the term enthusiastically. As a result, there were scores of ultrabook models on display at the show.

Two that stood out were the Lenovo Yoga, which has a touch-sensitive screen that bends backward to fold over completely, turning the device into a large tablet. It will launch with the new Windows 8 operating system later this year. The HP Envy 14 is a more conventional

luxury model, and goes on sale Feb. 8, but has two details that set it apart: a sensor for Near-Field Communications Chips (which means you can transfer information from a similarly equipped phone by tapping it to the PC) and an audio chip that can communicate with some headphones to provide much better audio quality than Bluetooth. The Envy 14 will cost \$1,400.

Bob O'Donnell, an analyst with research firm IDC, believes ultrabooks are "not a fad." "We absolutely see ultrabooks

as being the future of notebooks," he said. However, O'Donnell thinks ultrabooks will really take off once they are priced at about \$800, closer to the price of regular laptops.

Canon G1 X — The Japanese camera maker revealed a compact camera that pushes into professional camera territory. Its G line of relatively large compact cameras has been popular among enthusiasts, and the G1 X extends the range by including an image sensor that's more than six times larger than other

models in the range. Sensor size is the most important factor for a camera's image quality, far more than the number of megapixels — 14, for the G1 X. It's the first camera to use a sensor of this type, which is only 20 percent smaller than the "APS-C" sensors used in single-lens reflex cameras, or SLRs (though some luxury compacts from other manufacturers use APS-C sensors).

The G1 X will have a 4x zoom lens that retracts into the metal body, and will sell for \$800.

## Federal stalking statistics

In January, the Bureau of Justice Statistics released the largest-ever study of its kind on stalking, "[Stalking Victimization in the United States](#)," (pdf) an Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)-sponsored report based on supplemental data gathered from the National Crime Victimization Survey.

The report showed that technology, including Internet-based services like e-mail and instant messaging along with other technology such as GPS and computer spyware, have been used to harass one in four stalking victims. That translates into about 1.2 million victims whose stalkers used some form of technology to find them.

However, law enforcement remains under-equipped to deal with stalking. When it comes to technology use in the crime, the problem worsens. There are many reasons for this, but the end result, as revealed in the survey, is that victims have mixed feelings about police response to their problem.

### INTERNET SAFETY

Computers record everything you do. It is IMPOSSIBLE to clear your tracks completely. Your computer stores hundreds of bits of information about everything you do with your computer, including information about which websites you've visited, your passwords, and what your emails say. Your abuser can readily track the websites you visit or read your email messages.

**If you suspect your activities are being monitored, they probably are.** Abusive people are often controlling and want to know your every move. You don't need to be a computer programmer or have special skills to monitor someone's computer activities — anyone can do it and there are many ways to monitor your activities — even without having direct access to your computer.

If you must use a computer that your abuser knows about, we suggest "safer" Internet surfing. For example, if you are planning to flee to California, don't look just at California web pages for jobs, apartments, bus tickets, etc. Look for the same information in at least a half dozen other states too.

### EMAIL SAFETY

Email is not a safe or confidential way to communicate.

Sending email is like sending a postcard through the mail. Anyone along the path can read what it says. If you need to talk to someone about the danger or abuse in your life, if possible, please call a hotline instead.

If you must use email to discuss your situation we suggest you use an account that your abuser doesn't know about. Set up a new account with a free email service like hotmail, yahoo, or gmail.

### PASSWORD SAFETY

DO NOT use a name or password that contains any identifying information (no names, nicknames, initials, birthdates, zipcodes, etc.) Instead use a name and password that contains a random mix of letters, CAPITAL letters and numbers (for example, HJ3v67Tn) -

Make sure you can remember the user name and password. If you must write it down somewhere, put it in a place your abuser is unlikely to find it.

If the computer asks if you would like it to save your password or login information tell it NO.

Permalink:  
<http://www.stopfamilyviolence.org/pages/2>

**Victim Services Agency**  
**263-3312**

**sudoku**

ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

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Help Wanted

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Planning/preparing meals, supervising employees, purchasing food/supplies, etc. Must be certified dietary manager. Knowledge health dept. regs desirable & experience in medical facility preferred. EOE. Call our Administrator at (806) 872-2141, mail resume, or apply in person at SAGE HEALTH CARE CENTER, 1201 North 15th St, Lamesa, TX 79331.

Coastal Transport

We now have a \$2000.00 Sign On Bonus! We are now hiring drivers to deliver petroleum products in and around the Permian Basin. Qualifications: \*Class A CDL drivers w/hazmat and tanker endorsements \*23 years of age or older \*1 year verifiable tractor/trailer experience \*Scheduled Days Off \*Home Everyday Please contact 1-888-527-7221

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We offer an excellent salary. If you are a person dedicated to providing quality care please send a current resume or contact:

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HERALD

APPLICATIONS for a Sports Editor/Writer are being accepted at the Big Spring Herald. The full-time position requires coverage of sporting events involving high school and junior college teams and individuals. It requires someone who can build a rapport among coaches, booster clubs and others. Experience in Photoshop, Word and InDesign are preferred. Applicants must have reliable transportation, reside or be willing to relocate in Howard County and must be able to type. A benefits package is available.

Send resumes to Ron Midkiff, publisher P.O. Box 1431 Big Spring TX, 79720 or fax to 432-264-7205 Resumes may also be emailed to publisher@bigspringherald.com or editor@bigspringherald.com

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APPLICATOR DRIVER

Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for spray applicator driver. Class A- CDL license and farm experience helpful; but will consider training. Requires high school diploma or equivalent. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person: Helena Chemical Company 100 S. St. Peter Stanton, TX 79782 Pre-employment drug screen required. EOE M/F/V/H

ARE you interested in a Rewarding Nursing Career? Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation is now seeking a Charge Nurse that is motivated, caring and loves the elderly. Competitive pay, benefits and great family working environment. You may apply on-line at www.parkviewnursing.net or in person at 3200 Parkway.

DANLIN CHEMICALS is Hiring for Truck Driver/ Delivery Driver with CDL with Tank & Hazmat Endorsement for Big Spring and surrounding areas. Good Family and Employee Health Benefits. Must be self motivated. Call (325)226-5209.

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



RUSSELL CELLULAR in Big Spring Texas is hiring for the positions of Store Manager and Wireless Sales Representative. To learn more about Russell Cellular and to apply please visit: www.careerbuilder

Help Wanted

DRIVERS WANTED.

Find out why our average length of driver employment is 9 years. Reagent Chemical, a family owned company is dedicated to providing great service to our customers and taking care of our employees, is currently hiring professional drivers in Stanton, Texas. Requirements include Class A CDL with Tank and Hazmat endorsements. Minimum of 2 years driving or 1 year tanker experience. Paid weekly by check or direct deposit. Benefits include family health & dental insurance with no premium contribution by the employee. 401K with company match plus profit sharing. Company paid life insurance, short and long term disability, additional life and disability is available thru group coverage. Up to 10 days vacation starting first year plus 10 paid holidays. Uniforms provided. Call 432-458-3446 or 432-661-4079.



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To learn more about specific opportunities, visit our Big Spring location at: Basic Energy Services 2206 North Highway 87 Big Spring, Texas 79721

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Help Wanted

Howard County Appraisal District

is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Field Appraiser. The successful applicant will do office and field work associated with the appraisal of residential, rural, commercial and personal property in HCAD. Candidates must have organizational skills, along with effective communication and people skills. A high school diploma is the minimum educational requirement, college preferred. RPA registration with Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation is required. Previous appraisal experience and knowledge of a CAMA software system is preferred. Must be physically able to complete on site measurement and inspection of property over rough and uneven terrain, as well as stand and/or sit for extended periods of time. Position requires bending, reaching, lifting heavy file boxes and moving up and down steps and steep grades. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Howard County Appraisal District is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Resumes will be accepted until position is filled.

Mail resume to: Ronny Babcock, RPA, RTA/C Chief Appraiser Howard County Appraisal District PO Box 1151 Big Spring, TX 79720

Howard County Road Department Will Accept Applications from January 23, 2012 through January 27, 2012 ROLLER OPERATOR. Applications May Be Picked up and Returned from 8:00 Am to 5:00 Pm Monday through Friday at 1011B N. San Antonio St. ALL APPLICANTS WILL BE PRE-JOB DRUG TESTED. Eddy James County Road Administrator

IMMEDIATE KITCHEN Help needed. Must be Neat in Appearance. Honest and Dependable. Inquire at Wagon Wheel, 2010 Scurry St. No phone call Please!

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West Texas Centers

Case Manager for Mental Health: Assists individuals in gaining access to medical, social, vocational and educational services. Requires Bachelors degree in Social Work field or Bachelor s degree with a minimum of 24 hours in psychology, sociology or other human service hours. Base salary \$14.71-\$15.72 per hour (\$30,588.00-\$32,700.00 annually). DOE, plus excellent benefit package. Four day work week is possible. Flexible schedule offered. Crisis on-call rotation required. Applicants must live within 70-mile radius of duty site.

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Apply at Workforce Center (1001 Birdwell Ln., Howard College- Charles Warren Bld. 106), KEYWORD: PARAGON. EOE.

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**TEACHER AIDE** needed at Greater Opportunities of the Permian Basin, Inc. - Project Head Start. Duties include assisting the teacher and acting as an assistant teacher in guiding Head Start children. Will also serve as a bus monitor. Requires high school diploma or GED, and Child Development Associate (CDA) is preferred. Applications can be downloaded at: [www.gopb.org](http://www.gopb.org) or apply at GOPB's HR Department, 206 W. 5th St, Odessa TX 79760. GOPB is an equal opportunity employer.

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**THE GLASSCOCK** County Sheriff's Office has an immediate opening for a Deputy. Must be a licensed Peace Officer in the State of Texas and TCLOSE certified and must have a minimum of 3 years' experience. Please submit resumes to the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office at P.O. BOX 239 Garden City, TX 79739, fax to 432-354-2325 or email to [kayla.roberts@co.glasscock.tx.us](mailto:kayla.roberts@co.glasscock.tx.us)

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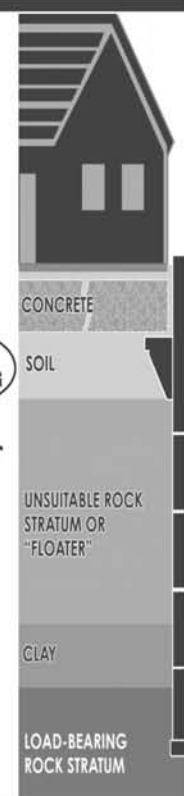
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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: Among my joys as President Barack Obama's Secretary of Veterans Affairs is the chance to see the expressions of gratitude from Americans of all walks of life for the service and sacrifices made by our military veterans. This happens every day — from small gestures of thanks to hours of volunteer service at our many veterans facilities.

As Americans, we owe a debt of gratitude to the men and women who have worn the uniform on our behalf. Veterans always appreciate heartfelt recognition of their service.

Each February, many of your readers join us in the National Salute to Veteran Patients.

This program encourages Americans to visit and volunteer at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and to send letters of thanks or valentines to those who have protected our nation.

This year's national salute is Feb. 12-18. Last year, more than 328,000 valentines were received at VA medical centers, and 21,330 people visited nearly 70,000 veteran patients.

That was an overwhelming increase from 2009, and I thank you and your readers for your work in bringing attention to this worthy cause.

The purpose of the national salute is threefold: to

pay tribute and express appreciation to veterans, to increase community awareness of the role of VA medical centers, and to encourage citizens to visit hospitalized veterans and become involved as volunteers.

Since 1978, the salute has presented Americans another opportunity to say "thank you" to our veterans and to those who give them care. I encourage your thoughtful readers to take some time this February to honor our veterans. And once again, Annie, thank you for your support of this outstanding program.

For more information regarding the National Salute to Veteran Patients and volunteer opportunities at a local VA medical center, please visit the VA Voluntary Service Web page at [www.volunteer.va.gov](http://www.volunteer.va.gov). — Sincerely, Eric K. Shinseki

Dear Secretary Shinseki: Every year, our readers make us proud with their outpouring of appreciation for our veterans through the Valentines for Vets program. We know they will come through again.

Support for our veterans transcends politics. These men and women deserve our thanks and appreciation. Sending a valentine or, better yet, visiting our veterans or volunteering at one of the VA medical facilities is a wonderful way to express our gratitude to those who have served our country.

The veterans would be especially thrilled if you could spend a few minutes visiting and talking about their families and hometowns.

Tell them how much you appreciate their service. Teachers, you have always been wonderfully supportive in making this a class project, especially

with those charming and much-appreciated handmade valentines. Encourage your students to express their creativity while learning the satisfaction of doing for others.

Every year, the dedicated members of Camp Fire USA participate in this VA program, and Salvation Army volunteers distribute valentines, gifts and refreshments at various VA facilities around the country. Concerts and other programs are held across the country as part of the National Salute to Veteran Patients week festivities.

If you do not live close enough to a VA facility to drop off your valentines in person, it's perfectly OK to put them in the mail. Simply check your phone book for the nearest VA facility, or go to the VA website at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

We can never repay these courageous veterans for the sacrifices they have made on our behalf, but we can take the time to let them know they have not been forgotten. Please remember our veterans this Valentine's Day. We know of nothing else that costs so little and brings so much happiness. — Marcy and Kathy

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](mailto: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](http://www.creators.com). © 2012 CREATORS.COM



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Those who don't believe in "soul mates" may think twice about the concept as Venus the love goddess moves into Pisces, the realm of spirit. The Libra moon chimes in with an opinion, too — maybe "soul mates" isn't always about passion and love. You feel somehow tied to your friends and partners of all kinds.



HOLIDAY  
MATHIS

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). This isn't the first time that others have tried to shift their responsibilities to you and your experience has made you wise. You can't be tricked into doing anything you don't want to do.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You'll gather the facts and then carefully think things through. It's perfectly acceptable not to make a move at all. Better to be sure than to

rush into a situation that will be difficult to get out of.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Be careful not to be so focused on your mission that you miss what else is happening around you. The scenery will be pretty great, and you'll enjoy watching people be themselves in different settings.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Your relationships are the most important to you. The action necessary to pursue your goals may not seem like a top priority as you do what's necessary to take care of your loved ones.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You may behave modestly because you don't want or need much attention on certain aspects of your life. However understated you may be, there will still be great curiosity and interest.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're very independent now. People want to help you, but you may not receive the assistance because you want the satisfaction of

knowing you did it all by yourself.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Just when you think things are running smoothly, family brings the kind of complications that make you laugh. What really matters is just being pleasantly together. The rest is icing on the cake.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Someone needs you to listen carefully and without distraction to what he or she wants to express. To give a high quality of attention is to show your love and respect.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The half man, half horse creature that represents your sign could be either wild or civil, depending on the circumstances and his mood. You'll express both of these sides of your nature.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There is nothing to be gained from self-punishment. If you haven't behaved in the way you wanted to, make a new choice and move on. Give yourself more

chances to get it right.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Good luck sometimes goes masquerading as bad luck. Though you believe the fortunes will favor you, you wisely don't presume to know exactly how.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You won't mind the heavy responsibilities of the day as long as it looks like you're going somewhere. Even minimal progress is something. Let every piece of evidence count.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Jan. 15). You'll be extremely good at picking out the person in the room who will benefit the most from knowing you and vice versa. Success depends on following through with contacts. Romantic relationships bring luck in February. Invest in March. April brings a windfall. Family additions will be featured in June. Sagittarius and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 1, 24, 38 and 4.

**FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:** There

are traditions that celebrate and liberate us, and then there are those that oppress and stifle. The difference between constructive and destructive tradition will be apparent as the solar influence changes from Capricorn to Aquarius this week. Matters of tradition, respect and lineage will figure into your decision making process, and it will be up to you just how much to let history influence your future. The sun's dance into Aquarius on the 20th will be like the passing of a torch from the past to the future.

The other hot topic of the week is love and its many forms. Sure, romance may happen naturally, but that doesn't make it easy as lady Venus moves into Pisces. Sometimes giving can show your love, and other times, it pushes the other person away. Sometimes opposites attract and they also can just antagonize one another until someone gives up. The symbol for Pisces, two fish swimming in

opposite directions, speaks to the complexity of relationships. You might feel connected to a person and still find his or her actions bewildering. During this transit, it's important to keep the faith.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Capricorn civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. changed the world through nonviolent methods. Communication planet Mercury was in the humanitarian sign of Aquarius at King's time of birth, and his natal moon was in spiritual Pisces. King famously suggested, "All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence."

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com) and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail.

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Newsday Crossword

**SATURDAY STUMPER** by Lester Ruff  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
[www.stanxwords.com](http://www.stanxwords.com)

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>ACROSS</b>  | <b>60</b> Spumoni alternative                    | <b>10</b> Ice Age novelist                        | <b>37</b> It's fun                                  |
| <b>1</b> For quite a while                             | <b>62</b> Poles are found there                  | <b>11</b> Century-ending year                     | <b>38</b> Result of soft-palate vibration           |
| <b>9</b> Museo de América locale                       | <b>63</b> Broadcasting now                       | <b>12</b> Subject taught by Aristotle             | <b>41</b> Cornmeal product                          |
| <b>15</b> World's largest volcano by volume            | <b>64</b> Sort of plain                          | <b>13</b> Federal job                             | <b>45</b> Place for slips                           |
| <b>16</b> Swindle                                      | <b>65</b> Give up                                | <b>14</b> Won't go anywhere near                  | <b>47</b> Zealot                                    |
| <b>17</b> Call from a cage                             | <b>DOWN</b>                                      | <b>21</b> Tracts                                  | <b>48</b> Word on São Paulo stamps                  |
| <b>18</b> Break in the proceedings                     | <b>1</b> Western plot element                    | <b>24</b> Whom a humor-writing prize is named for | <b>49</b> Foul                                      |
| <b>19</b> Onetime major news-photo source              | <b>2</b> Asian capital                           | <b>26</b> Gerald Ford alma mater                  | <b>51</b> Semicircular canal count per ear          |
| <b>20</b> 1776 character                               | <b>3</b> Drawing in                              | <b>28</b> Common sense                            | <b>55</b> British sluggard of the comics            |
| <b>22</b> Pick   | <b>4</b> Outcome                                 | <b>30</b> Star                                    | <b>56</b> Where <i>Lost</i> was filmed              |
| <b>23</b> On the way                                   | <b>5</b> Its Web site has an Ozone Resource Page | <b>32</b> Free TV spot                            | <b>59</b> DC designation                            |
| <b>25</b> Word on mazes                                | <b>6</b> Shapeless masses                        | <b>34</b> Shape of some office desks              | <b>61</b> Target audience for <i>Shave</i> magazine |
| <b>26</b> Toon bruin                                   | <b>7</b> Marquee time                            | <b>35</b> Gaps in typography                      |   |
| <b>27</b> Stock-market stats                           | <b>8</b> Drawn                                   | <b>36</b> Dealt                                   |   |
| <b>29</b> Shakespearean preposition                    | <b>9</b> Excellence                              |   |   |
| <b>30</b> Worries                                      |  |   |   |
| <b>31</b> Ruling source                                |  |   |   |
| <b>33</b> Article starter                              |  |   |   |
| <b>35</b> One of Victoria's titles                     |  |   |   |
| <b>39</b> Picks  |  |   |   |
| <b>40</b> <i>That's Not All, Folks!</i> autobiographer |  |   |   |
| <b>42</b> Teriyaki option                              |  |   |   |
| <b>43</b> Rule material                                |  |   |   |
| <b>44</b> Big name in electricity                      |  |   |   |
| <b>46</b> Disney's follow-up to <i>Dumbo</i>           |  |   |   |
| <b>50</b> Still-life subject                           |  |   |   |
| <b>51</b> Walk (on)                                    |  |   |   |
| <b>53</b> Cordial                                      |  |   |   |
| <b>54</b> Paid pitches                                 |  |   |   |
| <b>55</b> British toast                                |  |   |   |
| <b>57</b> Sort of break                                |  |   |   |
| <b>58</b> Western predator                             |  |   |   |

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Legals

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS

The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive proposals for the following services through the Universal Service Fund (E-Rate) until February 4, 2012:

- Internet Services
- Local Telephone Service
- Long Distance-Telephone Services
- Cellular Telephone Services
- WAN Service

Specifications and documents may be secured from the school district's Technology Coordinator, Corey Wood, located at 3600 East 11th Place Ext., Big Spring, Texas 79720, phone number (432)264-4155. The goods and services requested must qualify for E-Rate funding under the guidelines of the School and Libraries Division (SLD). Vendors submitting responses for the goods and services that qualify for E-Rate funding must be in full compliance with SLD requirements and follow all the policies and procedures set forth by the SLD for a service provider. The eligibility and purchases requested above are contingent upon funding from the E-Rate program. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.  
#7226 January 8 & 15, 2011

Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of FRANCES M. LOFTIS, Deceased, were issued on January 5th, 2012, in Cause No. P-14314, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to: CORINNE NILSEN.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: CORINNE NILSEN  
236 Ridgfield Circle  
Andover, Kansas 67002

DATED the 5th day of January, 2012.

GLYNNA MOUTON  
Attorney for  
CORINNE NILSEN  
State Bar No.: 14606500  
MOUTON & MOUTON, PC  
200 West Third Street  
Big Spring, TX 79720  
Telephone: (432)263-8397  
Facsimile: (432)263-8686  
#7230 January 15, 2012

Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of EMMA GENE CHANDLER, Deceased, were issued on January 5th, 2012, in Cause No. P-14034, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to: ELIZABETH JOY ALDRIDGE.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o:  
ELIZABETH JOY ALDRIDGE  
1104 E. 4th  
Big Spring, Texas 79720

DATED the 5th day of January, 2012.

GLYNNA MOUTON  
Attorney for  
ELIZABETH JOY ALDRIDGE  
State Bar No.: 14606500  
MOUTON & MOUTON, PC  
200 West Third Street  
Big Spring, TX 79720  
Telephone: (432)263-8397  
Facsimile: (432)263-8686  
#7231 January 15, 2012

Legals

Elderly or Disabled Homeowners May Defer Property Taxes

Texans who are 65 or older or who are disabled may postpone paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homes by signing a tax deferral affidavit at the Howard County Appraisal District office.

Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred- but not cancelled- as long as the owner continues to own and live in the home. Taxes continue to add up, along with 8 percent interest per year. The law extends the tax deferral to the surviving spouse of the person who deferred taxes on the homestead if the surviving spouse was at least 55 years old when the deceased spouse died.

If a tax deferral affidavit is on file, an older homeowner or one who is disabled cannot lose a homestead because of delinquent property taxes. A homeowner can halt a pending sale to foreclose on the homestead's tax lien. No taxing unit can start or continue a lawsuit to collect delinquent taxes. There are no penalties on delinquent taxes during the deferral period; however, a tax deferral does not cancel penalties that were already due.

All deferred taxes and interest become due when the homeowner or surviving spouse no longer own and live in the home. If the tax debt remains unpaid, penalties may be imposed and taxing units may take legal action to collect the past due amount.

For further details about property tax deferral, contact Howard County Appraisal District at 315 S. Main, P.O. Drawer 1151, Big Spring, Texas 79721-1151. Further information is also available on the Comptroller's website,

www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/

or by calling the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at (800)252-9121, ext. 2.  
#7234 January 15, 2012

Legals

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

THE STATE OF TEXAS & COUNTY OF HOWARD &

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

CAUSE NO. STYLE

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2012.

STAN PARKER  
SHERIFF OF  
HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS

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

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

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

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

#7224 January 15, 22 & 29, 2012

Dear Margo: More than a 13-year-old can handle

Dear Margo: I'm very worried about my friend. I'm 12, and she will be turning 13. She has casual sex, and unfortunately, she binge drinks and does drugs a lot.



MARGO HOWARD

She makes very bad choices regarding boys, and I worry for her health and safety. I doubt she uses protection, and I wouldn't be surprised if she got pregnant or an STD sooner or later.

I've tried to suggest nicely that she be more

careful, but she is set in her ways and thinks she is much more mature than she is. It doesn't help that her closest friends are also like that.

I'm sure others have told her these things, too, but she just doesn't listen. I feel like if she keeps this up, she'll end up having many problems with substances and a low opinion of men.

She's had some close calls, but she hasn't snapped out of it. I worry that the only way she'll see reason is if she hits rock bottom, but I obviously don't want her to be beyond repair when she realizes it. — *Worried in Michigan*

Legals

CITATION BY PUBLICATION IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS: TO: Thoai Van Quach and Quyen Le Quach

if living, and if any or all of the above named Defendants be dead, the unknown heirs of such person if he should be deceased, and any and all other persons, including adverse claimants, owning or claiming or having any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the land described in Plaintiffs' petition on file in this cause; and the executors, administrators, guardians, legal representatives, legatees, devisees, trustees, officers, directors, stockholders, partners, managers or other governing persons of the above named persons or entities, who own or claim some interest in the land described in Plaintiffs' petition on file in this cause, to-wit:

All of Lt 6, Bk 34, Cole & Strayhorn Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: \$1,162.08, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and cost thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL as Plaintiffs, against THOAI VAN QUACH AND QUYEN LE QUACH and others, as Defendant(s), by petition filed on July 29, 2010, in a certain suit styled HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. THOAI VAN QUACH AND QUYEN LE QUACH, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 5855 that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are NONE.

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

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

You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 13th day of February, 2012 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 29th day of December, A.D. 2011.

Brandie Boswell  
Deputy Clerk of the District Court  
Howard County, Texas,  
118th Judicial District.

#7228 January 8 & 15, 2012

Legals

Notice of Availability of Electronic Communications

(Big Spring): Under a new law, chief appraisers of county appraisal districts, appraisal districts, and appraisal review boards may communicate electronically through email or other methods with property owners or their designated representatives. Written agreements are required for notices and other documents to be delivered electronically in place of mailing.

How does it work? Certain guidelines must be followed for this local option communication: \*Written agreements with the county appraisal district must be entered first, ensuring what electronic means of delivery are acceptable. If you are interested in receiving communications in electronic format, you should contact your local appraisal district.

\* Public notice regarding the availability of agreement forms authorizing electronic communications may be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the district on or before Feb. 1 each year, or agreement forms may be delivered on or before Feb. 1 each year to property owners shown on the certified appraisal roll for the preceding tax year.

\* The chief appraiser may determine the medium, format, content and method to be used for electronic communications other than notices required by Section 25.19 of the Tax Code, which are prescribed by Comptroller rule.

\* A decision by the chief appraiser not to enter into agreements may not be the subject of an appraisal review board protest, a lawsuit or a complaint to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

For more information, contact us at:  
Howard County Appraisal District  
PO Box 1151  
Big Spring, TX 79720  
432/263/8301

#7235 January 15, 2012

Legals

Notice of Availability of Electronic Communications

(GARDEN CITY): Under a new law, chief appraisers of county appraisal districts, appraisal districts, and appraisal review boards may communicate electronically through email or other methods with property owners or their designated representatives. Written agreements are required for notices and other documents to be delivered electronically in place of mailing.

How does it work? Certain guidelines must be followed for this local option communication:

\*Written agreements with the county appraisal district must be entered first, ensuring what electronic means of delivery are acceptable. If you are interested in receiving communications in electronic format, you should contact your local appraisal district.

\* Public notice regarding the availability of agreement forms authorizing electronic communications may be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the district on or before Feb. 1 each year, or agreement forms may be delivered on or before Feb. 1 each year to property owners shown on the certified appraisal roll for the preceding tax year.

\* The chief appraiser may determine the medium, format, content and method to be used for electronic communications other than notices required by Section 25.19 of the Tax Code, which are prescribed by Comptroller rule.

\* A decision by the chief appraiser not to enter into agreements may not be the subject of an appraisal review board protest, a lawsuit or a complaint to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

For more information, contact us at:  
GLASSCOCK COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT  
PO BOX 155  
124 SOUTH MYRL STREET  
GARDEN CITY, TX 79739  
432-354-2580

#7237 January 15, 2012

Dear Wor: It is hard for me to believe that these things go on with 12- and 13-year-old kids, but I know that they do. Such a young girl clearly has little parental supervision and many problems. If I were you, I would go to the school nurse or counselor and tell this person of your worries. That adult may open the subject with your friend. The response may not be positive. Because you have "suggested" she modify her behavior and that has not helped, I fear it will take a pregnancy or an STD to wake her up, but you will have tried your best to be a friend. Sometimes we can only get so far in trying to save a friend from herself. — *Margo, historically*

A Sticky Wicket

Dear Margo: There are two men in my life for whom I have very strong feelings. One, "Tom," I have known for years. We dated previously, and I was deeply in love with him.

He broke my heart, though, and only in the past few months have we become close friends again. But recently, he's been trying to resurrect our romance. I am wary because of the past. The other man, "Carl," is very sweet and has become one of my best friends. We hang out every day and are close. I have developed very strong feelings for him and have heard, from mutual friends, that he feels the same.

The only problem is that he hasn't told me

directly how he feels. To make things more complicated, these two men are best friends.

I want to do what is right, but I don't want to sacrifice my friendship with either of them. I love Tom and always will.

He was my first love, but I don't know whether it's worth trying again. Meanwhile, I'm head over heels for Carl, and I could see us having a great relationship — if only one of us could get the courage to make a move. — *Hopeless Romantic*

Dear Hope: The best friends part is not so great. However, to get your bearings, I suggest you make the move and ask Carl if he envisions something more than being good buddies. It is hard to predict how this would play out, and there is the possibility that you might not be able to keep both men as friends. Or, worst-case scenario, they might be unable to maintain their closeness. In other words, it's a tossup. — *Margo, providentially*

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

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by TheShelterPetProject.org

INVITATION TO BID  
The Colorado River Municipal Water District and Garney Companies are soliciting General Contractor, Subcontractor and supplier participation including those that qualify as SWMBE's for the following: Bid Package 7 Big Spring Pump Station for the Ward County Water Supply Expansion Project. Bid Deadline is January 26th, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. Bids will be received at CRMWD 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, TX 79721-0869. For more information contact Marcus Grace at (816)536-6485 or email mgrace@garney.com

Garney Companies, Inc is an Equal Employment/Opportunity Employer.  
#7223 January 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22 & 23, 2012

Legals

Elderly or Disabled Homeowners May Defer Property Taxes

Garden City, Texas  
Texans who are 65 or older or who are disabled may postpone paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homes by signing a tax deferral affidavit at the Glasscock County Appraisal District office.

Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred- but not cancelled- as long as the owner continues to own and live in the home. Taxes continue to add up, along with 8 percent interest per year. The law extends the tax deferral to the surviving spouse of the person who deferred taxes on the homestead if the surviving spouse was at least 55 years old when the deceased spouse died.

If a tax deferral affidavit is on file, an older homeowner or one who is disabled cannot lose a homestead because of delinquent property taxes. A homeowner can halt a pending sale to foreclose on the homestead's tax lien. No taxing unit can start or continue a lawsuit to collect delinquent taxes. There are no penalties on delinquent taxes during the deferral period; however, a tax deferral does not cancel penalties that were already due.

All deferred taxes and interest become due when the homeowner or surviving spouse no longer own and live in the home. If the tax debt remains unpaid, penalties may be imposed and taxing units may take legal action to collect the past due amount.

For further details about property tax deferral, contact Glasscock County Appraisal District at 124 S. Myrl St., PO Box 155, Garden City, TX. PH: 432-354-2580. Further information is also available on the Comptroller's website,

www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/

or by calling the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at (800)252-9121, ext. 2.  
#7236 January 15, 2012

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!

VOTE!



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

# Living the good life, naturally

FAMILY FEATURES

Everyone has the power to make a positive impact on the world around them, whether it's choosing locally made products, making environmentally friendly home solutions or helping those in need. These actions can be beneficial to your family, your neighborhood and your local community. It's the simple things that make a difference.

Eco-expert and author Sarah Copeland blogs about her everyday food and lifestyle experiences on EdibleLiving.com, a website that helps readers discover easy and innovative ways to live the good life, naturally.

"For me, good, natural living starts with the little things," notes Copeland. "No matter how big or small the action, every one of us can take steps toward making the world a better place."

Copeland offers simple tips on how you can live good naturally, starting today.

## Be a Local

Copeland says, "Your neighborhood is full of inspiring people, places and things. Connect with and support those who surround you." This includes:

### Eating locally sourced food

Buying food that is grown and produced nearby cuts down on the number of miles between the food and your plate. It also means supporting local farmers and agricultural businesses. There are several ways to find locally sourced food:

- Shopping at farmers markets. You can find fresh local produce, flowers, honey, breads and more.
- Eating at restaurants that source ingredients from local farms.
- Joining a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). These are partnerships between community members and local growers. Through a CSA, you can buy what are essentially "shares" in the harvest each week. Pick up your goods from the farm or another pickup location, such as a grocery store, and enjoy fresh, seasonal ingredients.

### Hosting a community potluck

Ask neighbors to cook their favorite dishes with ingredients they've picked up from the farmers market. Good food creates good memories.

## The Natural Way

"Natural foods and products are better for you — and Mother Earth. Take time to think about what you're putting into your body and into the ground," recommends Copeland. For instance:

### Eat greener

Go green — literally — by growing your own herbs and vegetables. There's no faster way to enhance your meal than by adding freshly chopped chives, parsley or mint to your plate. Plant a windowsill herb garden so you can snip and serve up a bit of green in every meal you create.

### Choose wisely

Products made with sustainable practices give Mother Nature a bit of a break. Select brands and products that are continually improving their operations to help minimize their impact on the environment. Products like The Naked Grape wines not only taste good, but they do good, naturally. Created using 100 percent sustainable winery practices, The Naked Grape uses the highest quality fruit to craft honest expressions of the grape's natural flavor. Not to mention, it pairs perfectly with fresh-picked fruits and veggies. Learn more at [www.TheNakedGrapeWine.com](http://www.TheNakedGrapeWine.com).

### Do the most with compost

Help your garden grow by composting, nature's way of recycling. By biodegrading organic waste, such as food, grass trimmings, leaves and wood, you can create valuable organic fertilizer. Best of all — it's free. You can compost your waste by simply discarding kitchen scraps and yard clippings in a bin. Once it biodegrades, you'll have a dark, rich soil perfect for your own harvest.

### Clean naturally

Choose cleaning products that are effective but have less-harmful impacts on the environment.

## Do Good for Your 'Hood

"I support and create good in my community by volunteering my time and giving gently used items to others," says Copeland. Here are additional ways to live the good life.

### Donate

Food banks need non-perishable items throughout the year. Find a local food bank and see what will best fill its shelves. Other organizations take unwanted furniture, clothes and household goods — and many will come pick them up from your home. There's always a way to repurpose.

### Give your time

Volunteering is a great way to create good in your community, and you'll feel great doing it. Look for volunteer opportunities that fit your abilities, passions and schedule. Enjoy gardening? Get involved by planting and maintaining your local community garden. They always need help weeding and seeding.

### Show them the money

Support local charities and organizations with monetary donations. Financial support, big or small, helps them provide services to others and keeps organizations running.

"You can make a difference no matter where you live, for both yourself and your community," Copeland suggests. "Simple, thoughtful actions can help you live the good life, naturally."



For more fresh ideas on how to live the good life, check out Sarah Copeland's new book, "The Newlywed Cookbook: Fresh Ideas and Modern Recipes for Cooking With and For Each Other" (Chronicle, 2012).

## Rebuild, Reuse, Recycle

Make a positive impact on the environment and your lifestyle with these clever ways to keep things out of the landfill:

- Save your finished wine bottles to serve chilled tap water. Or, add a few tablespoons of elderflower syrup and a sprig of fresh thyme for an easy afternoon drink. It refreshes your kitchenware as well as your palate.
- Did you know you already have a wine cellar? Store wines in your basement or garage and cut back on the energy required to cool an overloaded fridge.
- Use reclaimed wood — it provides the perfect structure to grow vine plants like grapes or cucumbers.
- Up-cycle vintage plates from a yard sale. It uses 100 percent less energy than it takes to create a new set of plastic ware for your outdoor entertaining and adds charm to the table while conserving energy.

▶ **Wedding**

Kandace Joann Schuelke of Stanton, and Corbin Heath Young of Paradise, exchanged wedding vows Dec. 31, 2011 at Circle Six Tabernacle in Lenorah, Texas.

Kandace was given in marriage by her parents, Kenneth and Patty Schuelke. Kenneth escorted his daughter down the aisle, lifted her veil, kissed her and gave her hand to Corbin. Jeff Scott, brother-in-law of the bride, officiated the double ring exchange ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Corbin Young were presented to the crowd after prayer led by the bride's father.

The bride wore a Maggie Sottera Royal Satin luxurious gown fashioned in decadence diamond white with a sweetheart neckline and cap-sleeve shoulder treatment, handmade floral embellishments sprinkled with Swarovski crystals. The bodice was pleated and formed a deep waistline with skirt pick-ups, revealing an enchanting lace inset panel with overlays of lace above the scalloped hem. The back of the gown bodice was laced to form a deep V shape and billowed into folds the entire length of the dress forming a bubble hem train. Kandace wore her dark brunette hair down in

flowing curls pulled back from her face revealing beautiful, brown eyes. Her veil was of white tulle clipped to the back of her hair with a jeweled barrette. She carried a cascading bouquet of deep pink roses, purple and fuchsia orchids, blue delphinium, stepanotis studded with simulated diamonds. Corbin wore a black tuxedo, white shirt, diamond white vest and black bow tie. His boutonniere was deep pink rose with peacock feather.

Serving as maid of honor was Julia Schuelke, sister of the bride. Tarah Scott, sister of the bride, served as matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Brooke Schuelke, sister-in-law of the bride, Kirstyn Young, sister of the groom, Kaitlyn and Maegan Blocker, cousins of the bride, and Cassie Emerson, friend of the bride. The attendants wore pewter taffeta, full-length dresses with a left shoulder strap design and a rhinestone brooch. The gowns were pleated bodice and torso with a slim skirt. Each wore pewter and rhinestone drop earrings, a gift from the bride.

Serving as Corbin's best man was his father, Ren Young. He, as well as the groomsmen, wore a black tuxedo, pewter vest, white shirt and black bow tie. Groomsmen were Cody McKenzie, Cody Ham-



Mr. and Mrs. Corbin Young

brick, Lane Wakefield, Kolby McConnell, all friends of the groom, Clint Schuelke, brother of the bride, and Brian Christian, cousin of the groom.

Patty Schuelke, mother of the bride, wore a royal-blue, full-length dress with royal-blue shoes trimmed with a rhinestone bow. She was escorted by her son, Clint Schuelke. Leisha Young, mother of the groom, wore an iridescent turquoise gown, pewter shoes with a pewter rose bow. She was escorted by her son, Corbin Young.

Kristen Blocker, cousin of the bride, invited guests to register.

Ushers Lane Shands, cousin of the bride, and John Hoover, friend of the groom, were attired in black tuxedo, pewter vests, white shirts and black bow ties.

Stratton Scott, nephew of the bride, was the ring bearer. He wore identical attire as the groomsmen. He carried a small, satin pillow trimmed with a tiny peacock feather.

Flower girls — 14 young ladies ranging from early school age to two years — wore tea length dresses of white shantung with tulle skirts. The bodice was sleeveless with small peacock feather rosettes pinned to the front sash. They carried white baskets trimmed with ribbon and a tiny peacock feather and filled with shades of pink rose petals.

The bride is the granddaughter of Pauline Schuelke and Joann Peugh. The groom is the grandson of Loyce Lowery, Preston and Cathy Lowery.

The reception followed immediately after the ceremony in the tabernacle. A round table overlaid with puddled tulle, twinkling lights underneath a suspended glass circle held the seven-tiered wedding cake. Seven small cakes formed the base of the tiers. Between each tier deep pink roses encircled the cake round. Drapes and flourishes frosted the entire creation and an elegant letter Y was the topper.

A bride doll designed and created especially for Kandace by the groom's mother was on a companion table near the wedding cake.

The setting for the groom's cake was a backdrop of pewter satin with a screen of lighted candle votive cups. The double iced chocolate cake sat on an embossed pewter eight-inch deep circle platform. Chocolate covered strawberries circled the base of the cake. A Lenox bride and groom figurine placed on the table completed the arrangement.

Kandace is a 2008 graduate of Grady High. She attended Howard Payne University and will graduate in the spring of 2012. Corbin is a 2007 graduate of Paradise High. He received his degree in practical theology at Howard Payne University in 2010. He is an area representative for the Brownwood area Fellowship of Christian athletes.

Following a honeymoon cruise to the islands of St. Maartens, St. Lucia and St. Kitt, the couple will make their home in Brownwood.

*Bride's Choice*  
*Wedding Planner*

**Dora Roberts Community Center**



Dora Roberts Community Center is located on the bank of Comanche Trail Lake making it the perfect location for a wedding, engagement party, rehearsal dinner, or a bridal shower. We have several rooms to accommodate groups of 20 to 300 people. An Outdoor Pavilion is also available and the ideal location for a small outdoor wedding. Linens and table settings also available.

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