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SUNDAY
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SOLD OUT!

No room at the Silver Wings Ball

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
 Managing Editor
 Grounded!
 Tickets for next Saturday's Silver Wings Ball ran out more than a week ago and are no longer available, Hangar 25 Air Museum officials have announced.



"We're actually more than sold out. We've been tweaking things to fit more people than we had originally planned for," said Gloria McDonald, committee chairperson and Hangar 25 board vice president.

Helping boost ticket sales is the fact that the historic event — the ball has long been a reunion for those involved in Webb Air Force Base which closed in 1977 — will be held in the newly renovated Hotel Settles.

The hotel was built in the 1930s but has been closed since the 1970s. It reopened last Saturday, Dec. 29.

"This will be the first major event of the Settles after its restoration," said McDonald. "There have been some other events, but nothing of this size."

Ticket holders will be treated to free valet parking, though tips will be accepted.

See **BALL**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Heritage Museum Curator Tammy Schrecengost unfolds a section of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, which will be on display at the museum beginning Wednesday.

AIDS quilt display to open here

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

A moving memorial to victims of a horrifying disease will be on display at the Heritage Museum beginning Wednesday.

Eight blocks of the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed at the museum through the end of January, Curator Tammy Schrecengost said.

The quilt, which in its entirety weighs more than 54 tons, was first displayed in 1987 at the National Mall in Washington D.C. It consists of panels sewn by friends and family members of those who died from Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

The quilt consists of 48,000 panels and is more than 1 million square feet in size; the last time it was displayed in its entirety, it completely covered the National Mall. It was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 and remains the largest community art project in the world.

Schrecengost feels a personal connection to the quilt — one of the panels memorializes her brother, Richard Gregg Burrow, who died from the disease in 1995.

"I've always checked to see where it was displayed, but it was usually in

See **QUILT**, Page 3A

Neo-nazi group may rally here

Recruitment pamphlets distributed in Crossroads area

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

A neo-Nazis group based out of Detroit, Mich., may be planning a "fully uniformed rally" in the Crossroads area, according to local sources.

The National Socialist Movement — which the Big Spring Herald recently reported was leaving flyers and pamphlets at area residents' homes — will likely be

holding a rally in Big Spring, Midland or Odessa, according to a local resident speaking on the condition of anonymity.

"That's the word that is going around right now," the informant said. "It will be what they call a 'fully uniformed' rally, which means the members will be wearing their uniforms and carrying the NSM banner, both

of which include swastikas. These types of rallies are generally used to get the media's attention and to help the group with recruiting efforts in the area."

Flyers and pamphlets encouraging area residents to join the NSM cause have already been distributed in and around the Crossroads area, according to local residents.

"It was outside my home. I'm not sure when anyone dropped it off or where they may have been traveling to, but it was certainly there in the morning," one local man told the Herald this week. "The flyers identify the group and provides a phone number, e-mail and website for them. It was surprising,

See **RALLY**, Page 3A

Rocky Mountain High: Gasoline under \$3 per gallon

Special to the Herald

Current average price	Month ago	Year ago
CO \$2.89	\$3.31	\$3.00
ID \$2.99	\$3.47	\$3.04
MT \$3.06	\$3.35	\$3.02
UT \$2.92	\$3.45	\$2.92

WY \$2.88 \$3.29 \$2.99

CHICAGO — We should all be so lucky. Motorists in the Rocky Mountain region are enjoying considerably lower gas prices than the rest of the U.S. and it's due to healthy gasoline inventories; the availability of cheap Canadian crude and refineries that operate exceptionally well.

"The Rockies region is doing very well as they are insulated from the higher price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil and can capitalize on the less expensive crude from Canada. On the last day of 2012, WTI closed at \$91.82 per barrel while the Canadian crudes averaged \$72.11 on the same day," said Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst, GasBuddy.com.

"From a supply perspective the Rockies gasoline inventory has increased by 17 percent in the past month while the U.S. inventory increased by 11 percent over the same period. At the same time the region's refinery output during the month of December was 95.2 percent, while nationwide (including the Rocky Mountain region) refineries operated at 90

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Storm moves east after covering West Texas

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — West Texas residents were digging out of several inches of snow Friday after a winter storm stranded motorists, delayed businesses and buried El Paso in more than half its average annual snowfall.

The overnight storm was the region's first this season, leaving as much as 10 inches of snow overnight in some areas including Fort Stockton and Terlingua.

Most of the major roadways that were closed late Thursday because of snow and ice had reopened by Friday afternoon, including Interstate 10 from Fort Hancock to Van Horn.

"There were hundreds of people sleeping in their cars in my truck stop and every other place they could find in town," said Cary Robinson, manager at a Pilot truck stop in Van Horn.

"We have a Wendy's and it ran out of food."

In El Paso, which averages 6.6 inches of snow annually, 4 inches fell in less than 24 hours. The heavy snowfall covered the usually dirt-brown desert landscape with a thick white blanket.

"We've seen snow in El Paso before, but nothing like this. There is enough snow to play in and it's actually nice outside," Kelly Cano said while with her husband and two children at Memorial Park, which several visitors said is

among the few places in El Paso with hills fit for sliding.

"We drove about 30 minutes to get here, but my daughter is enjoying it," Robert Guevara said after descending a smooth slope.

The National Weather Service reports that between 4 and 8 inches of snow fell mountains and foothills, and up to 6 inches elsewhere in the region. But the storm fizzled before reaching northern and central Texas, where only light snow and sleet were reported.

The snowfall in El Paso prompted businesses and schools to send workers home early Thursday and start late Friday.

El Paso City Hall and the University of Texas at El Paso reopened Friday after a delay, and only essential personnel were required to work at Fort Bliss.

El Paso Independent School District also had a delay Friday but it only affected teachers and administrative workers because students were still on vacation. Children could be seen in parks and front yards throwing snowballs and making snowmen.

"It's nice, we don't see this very often. I lived in Wyoming two winters and that is rough," said 73-year-old Ray Flores as he removed snow from his truck Friday morning. "I knew it was com-

ing, I prepared so I don't have to drive today."

Along with Interstate 10, the Texas Department of Transportation reopened U.S. 62-180 after it was closed from El Paso to the New Mexico border for most of Thursday and Friday.

Sheriff: N.M. man arrested in pot plantation case

ESTANCIA, N.M. (AP) — Authorities say a man wanted in the case of a huge marijuana plantation that a couple of hunters stumbled upon in Manzano Mountains is now in custody.

KRQE-TV reports the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department says U.S. marshals recently arrested Joseph Hazle in Texas.

He will soon be extradited back to New Mexico to face charges for the illegal plants on his property.

In September, two hunters told deputies that they stumbled upon the plantation and four men started shooting at them.

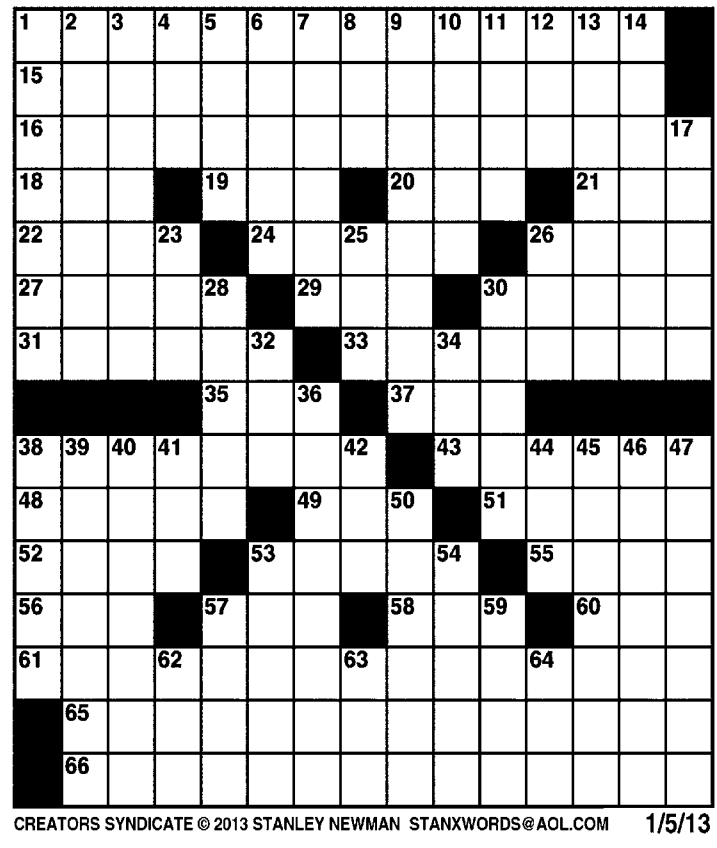
Tarrant County Sheriff Heath White says the plantation was powered by an elaborate set-up of generators and pumps. Authorities say Hazle is one of four men wanted in the case that may have Mexican drug cartel connections.

It was unclear if Hazle had an attorney.

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by S.N. Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| ACROSS | DOWN | |
| 1 DVDs, for example | 1 Unsettled | 10 Brilliant |
| 15 Tennis Hall of Fame inductee in '94 | 2 Sort of two-piece suit | 11 World's third-largest wood consumer |
| 16 Optimistically | 3 Groom in 1968 headlines | 12 Take in |
| 18 Sanctions | 4 The least bit | 13 Drawing out |
| 19 River through Fargo or Hanoi | 5 "Sine __, nihil est vita" | 14 Stuff |
| 20 Publisher of a World Leaders online directory | 6 Fills (up) | 17 They all hold one atom |
| 21 Disney Channel crime-fighting teen | 7 It's about 110 mi. from Wichita | 23 Shaver, e.g. |
| 22 Gently touched, in product names | 8 Banned organochloride | 25 Full rights, for short |
| 24 Compact | 9 Drew out | 26 Glee coach |
| 26 Where "Getting to Know You" is sung | | 28 Titled |
| 27 Compact | | 30 Strive for |
| 29 Tool | | 32 Imposture |
| 30 Family nickname | | 34 Take slowly |
| 31 Word from the Czech for "pipe" | | 36 Four+ cups |
| 33 Hounds | | 38 Summer 2012 Duke Law visiting professor |
| 35 Introduction to chemistry | | 39 Something expected of tyrants |
| 37 Faint | | |
| 38 Leonardo DiCaprio, by birth | | |
| 43 Student Accounts introducer in 2009 | | |
| 48 Free | | |
| 49 It may be slippery | | |
| 51 Blondie alternative | | |
| 52 DJ who sells salsa | | |
| 53 Give as an excuse | | |
| 55 Subjects of some tales | | |
| 56 __ bag | | |



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2013 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 1/5/13

QUILT

Continued from Page 1A

larger cities like Dallas," she said. "I checked into

whether we could display it here, and it turned out to be easier than I thought."

News of the exhibit has already sparked interest around the

area; Schreengost says she has received several calls from out-of-town residents inquiring about the event.

"This is just a very moving thing when

you go see it, because so many people have died from this horrible disease," she said. "I never thought I'd be touched by it, but then my brother got sick."

The exhibit will be available for public viewing when the museum opens at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday. For more information, call 267-8255.

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

BALL

Continued from Page 1A

The ball is to begin at 6 p.m. Jan. 12 with a cocktail hour in the Settles' Pharmacy Bar,

located where the drug store once was.

Activities include a cash bar, formal dinner, portraits and an auction with former State Rep. Joe Heflin as auctioneer. There will also be live music and dancing.

Event-goers will have the opportunity to win a one-night stay at the historic hotel for two.

"We're really looking forward to it. I think everyone will have a great time, enjoy themselves and enjoy the fact they

are giving a financial boost to the Hangar 25 Air Museum," McDonald added.

Bill McClellan can be reached at 432-263-7331, ext. 230 or by email at editor@bigspringherald.com

are giving a financial boost to the Hangar 25 Air Museum," McDonald added.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Carol Anderson, 66, died Friday. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with David Harp officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. Gerald F. "Jerry" Anderson, 70, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

RALLY

Continued from Page 1A

to say the least.

"The first thing you see when you go to the website is all of the swastikas. And if you read their propaganda, they are pretty straight forward regarding what they are after. It was sickening, to tell you the truth."

Similar flyers have been reported in the Odessa area, according to reports by television news group CBS 7. The

material also announces the NSM has a group in West Texas.

The NSM recently addressed local concerns the group's "hate speech" could have a negative impact on the Permian Basin area.

"To all West Texas, we are not a hate group," the release reads. "We are a political party for the best interest of white/European people. We are using our First Amendment right of free speech. You will never hear us use any type of foul language or hate speech. We just

want to get our message out to other like-minded, white americans."

According to the NSM website, the group was started in 1974 by Robert Brannen and Cliff Herrington, former members of the American Nazi Party and limits its membership strictly to non-Semitic heterosexuals of European descent. The group also touts a "Party Viking Youth Movement" for members less than 18 years of age.

In 2009 the NSM had 61 chapters in 35 states, making it the largest

neo-Nazi group in the United States, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, the NSM is one of the "most explicitly 'Nazi-like' neo-Nazi groups, which emulates the Third Reich. It has a vaguely paramilitary structure, with military ranks for its members."

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

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Texas Chainsaw 3D (R) Sun.: 2:35, 7:15 (Digital) 4:55

Parental Guidance (PG) Digital Sun.: 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40

GASOLINE

Continued from Page 1A

percent. Today's report from the Dept. of Energy has the region's refinery utilization rate at 96.9 percent, so it really doesn't get much better than that," he noted.

"Consequently, 60 percent of gas stations (2,848 out of 4,712) in the Rocky Mountain region have gas below \$3 per gallon. Only 24 percent of stations in the rest of the U.S. are below \$3," said Gregg Laskoski,

another senior petroleum analyst with GasBuddy. (For all 50 states, 26.1 percent are below \$3 this weekend.)

How long will the party last?

"The logistics of the region create a lag effect that keeps gasoline price trends there about two weeks behind what we see in the rest of the country," said DeHaan.

GasBuddy operates more than 250 similar websites that track gasoline prices at more than 140,000 gasoline stations in the United States and

Canada. In addition, GasBuddy offers a free smartphone app which has been downloaded over 25 million times to help motorists find the lowest gasoline prices

in their area.

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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.

Bill McClellan Managing Editor
Glenn Stifflemire Publisher
Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Brian McCormack Sports Editor
Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer

He was bigger than life

It was, hands down, the most remarkable athletic feat I've ever witnessed. The scene was Dallas' American Airlines Center, where some 20,000 fans watched the Mavericks/Phoenix Suns NBA game, April 5, 2009.



DR. DON NEWBURY

They saw a blow-out win by 26 points — and the Mavs' 140-point barrage could have been more. Memorable, too, was Josh Howard's 71-foot shot that beat the halftime buzzer.

Moments later, however, an intermission feature drew greater applause. Fisher Floyd, a man from the stands in street clothes, hit a lay-up, free throw, 3-pointer and half-court shots. Fisher's "swishers," made in 45 seconds, have never been duplicated. What are the odds?

His feat has gone viral on "YouTube;" 5.5 million "hits" — some 3 million the first year. I found him to be engaging, gracious and caring during a phone conversation later. He politely answered questions, but seemed most interested in whether I saw him "blowing kisses to Lindsey," his bride of a year. She was seated behind the Mavericks' bench, where several players, unaware that the kisses were directed slightly above their heads, blew them back!

Friends — and he had many — describe him only in superlatives. He was captain of his district champion Highland Park High School basketball team and was the league's offensive player of the year for 2000-2001. At the University of California-Santa Barbara, where he graduated with honors, he introduced a

new game — Frisbees — played with tennis rules.

Friends and family agree that his specialty was making virtually everything competitive, always "edge-searching." His adventurous spirit dates back to 1986, when Top Gun was a movie hit. Just 4 years old at the time, he was "hooked" — always probing, "what-iffing" and fixing whatever was broken.

Perhaps no one was ever more in love with life. His Christian principles and knack for making friends at warp speed were evident.

His checklist of "things to do" included flying in a fighter jet. A while back he won such a ride as the high bidder at a charity auction.

Dressed in aviation gear, he made three trips to a Lancaster airport for a flight with Noell Rather, himself a Highland Park High School graduate. (Rather flew 60-plus missions in Vietnam and was a former Braniff pilot. He loved the Delfin L-29 aircraft he'd spent years restoring and frequently offered rides to charity benefactors.) Weather scrubbed the first two efforts, but Dec. 13 dawned bright and clear.

A friend accompanied Fisher to the airport. There were exchanges of phone texts until take-off and animated, first-hand descriptions were anticipated upon return.

But it was not to be. There were no second or third-hand descriptions, either, or any kind of distress signals prior to the crash of the two-seater plane in Kaufman County, where both men perished about a half-hour after take-off.

The tragedy is inexplicable. Again, what are the odds?

Fisher Floyd's memorial service was held Dec. 18 at Highland Park United Methodist

Church, where he, his wife and two sons — Ryder, 2, and Hudson, 1 — had planned to become members in January.

Real friends, it is said, are counted not by hand, but by heart. Fisher, a picture of humility whose spirit brought out the best in others, must have had a giant heart. It would have taken a facility the size of the AAC to contain the mass of mourners. Seating at the church accommodates about 1,000 people; some 1,600 came.

The family has received hundreds of condolences. One referenced Fisher's being "kind, decent, happy." It was signed "Averill Mitchell, usher, Sections 117-118, AAC." Another mourner said Fisher made friends more quickly than anyone he'd ever known, and he was "an even better husband and father."

Dallas Coach Rick Carlisle was among the speakers. At the service — as well as at the Mavs' game the same evening — he chose the champagne-soaked red tie he'd worn when Dallas won the 2011 NBA title in Miami, mentioning "it would never be worn again." Fisher's memory was further honored with a tribute preceding the game; at halftime, the historic video of his four "swishers" was shown.

At the funeral, sister-in-law Lisa Cheney Moore, offered a consoling thought—God called Fisher home to help welcome 20 children from Connecticut.

Much in life baffles, exceeding our understanding. We pray for clarity on the other side of the river.

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Speaking inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Twitter: @donnewbury.

LETTERS

Seeking samaritan

TO THE EDITOR:

There are still honest people living among us! I would like for the man who found and returned my purse at Wal-Mart a couple of weeks ago to contact me. I had been shopping for the Festival of Lights at Wal-Mart twice that day and was buying something for myself.

I've always been careful about my purse, but that day after I drove off and had turned on Gregg I realized my purse was missing and did a turn onto the service road and to the spot where I had left. I looked in the back of my car and it was not there. This man got out of his car and called me by name I said yes I was Simmons. He gave me my purse and I don't think I properly thanked him. I have had it announced on the radio but no response. I was going to another Festival of Lights contact.

As the old saying goes, "haste makes waste" which it did in my case, and I am grateful for this honest man.

I found a purse in a basket at Wal-Mart a year or so ago and took it into the Customers Service Dept. They went through it and I actually knew the lady and we gave her a call.

PAT SIMMONS
BIG SPRING

My friend Bruce

TO THE EDITOR:

I had to write this letter in defense of a good doctor and a very good friend. If you did not really know him then you are not qualified to speak of my friend and old doctor, Dr. Bruce Cox. I, too, heard about all the rumors but they were dispelled by the rest of the story as follows:

Bruce, as I often called my friend, had been my family doctor for well over 30 years and I could "always" sit and talk to him and not just about my health but about real issues of the family.

I remember when he first started working with another doctor at 15th and Gregg and that went south so Bruce opened his own place right behind the local Taco Villa. This was about the time he delivered one of my daughters. I might be wrong but I believe that was about the time he met and married his angel of a wife, Cheryl. Whenever I or a family member became suddenly ill, we could always come in and he would see us, no matter what. We didn't need no stinking appointment!

He later had a place out on Highway 87 where we took our business, following him there. Bruce then moved to the old Hall-Bennett

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.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by **K. Rae Anderson**

May we remain diligent about reading
Your word, Lord, for our life.

Amen

The challenge of gun control

I was sitting at a table with a friend a few summers ago when he leaned forward and said to me in a whisper: "See that guy over there? He cut off his wife's head with a sword."

Then, prompted by me, he went down the rows of tables around us, one by one, and told me about each murder these guys had committed.

It was visiting day on death row. There were about 20 guys out of their cells, visiting friends or family, all wearing orange jumpsuits, including my friend — who had been convicted of a drug-induced murder years ago.

One of the most striking things I noticed on my first visit was that — in this room with almost two dozen convicted murderers — the guards had no firearms. Why? Well, I suspect that time and experience taught them that there are situations in which a gun puts everyone in greater danger.

This is, after all, the core argument for gun control. There are circumstances in which guns make everyone less safe, and there are circumstances in which certain types of guns make everyone a lot less safe. Adam Lanza's mother's guns proved deadly to their owner, their handler and 26 children and staff members at Sandy Hook School.

When President Barack Obama makes his State of the Union address later this month, he will present to Congress his proposals for new gun control legislation. Taking on this divisive topic amid all the other polarizing matters at a politically hostile time is going to provide a tough test of the president's political skills.

Seated with first lady Michelle Obama in the gallery will certainly be parents and teachers from Sandy Hook School who

lost sons and daughters and colleagues. The president will tell the most moving stories of tragedy and heroism — of children seeing their classmates killed, of teachers sacrificing their lives to try to stop the murder.

The whole assembly will be in tears or fighting them.

If the viewers at home could vote for a gun ban by remote device at that moment, the bill would pass in a landslide. The challenge of gun control advocates is to maintain, as much as they can, the climate the president creates during the State of the Union address as he talks about Sandy Hook.

The first element in the plan should be the continued presence of the parents and teachers of Sandy Hook. It's one of the noblest qualities of human beings that people who have suffered tragedy often find solace in trying to spare the same pain for others.

The members of Families of September 11, which formed after the tragedy of 9/11, helped one another with their grief but also put political pressure on Congress to pass the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. The Sandy Hook families can do the same.

The second element is the argument. It has to be clear, succinct and rational. There are many gun control groups in the country, many independent advocates and many more citizens and lawmakers who have their own views. The president's presentation needs to unify those disparate arguments and proposals. His message needs to be so clear that everyone can repeat it and so compelling that everyone will buy it. Ideally, the gun control proposals (independent of other possible measures, including in mental health) could be summarized in no more than three points. For example:

- 1) Close the gun show loophole on background checks.
- 2) Limit high-capacity ammunition magazines.
- 3) Ban the manufacture of

semi-automatic assault weapons for civilians.

The president's justification should be just as clear: Weapons are for self-defense or sport or hunting. The ability to fire 20 or 30 rounds without reloading has no role in any of those uses — unless you're hunting human beings.

The third element is tone. It needs to be cool and reasonable, not hateful. Extremists feed on hot rhetoric. The gun control advocates should not demonize the National Rifle Association's Wayne LaPierre or the leadership of other gun organizations. They should appeal directly to their more reasonable members. Pitch the message to them and force the LaPierres of the world to try to make the reasonable sound irrational.

LaPierre did his best on the Friday after the Sandy Hook massacre to confuse the issue; he wanted to talk about armed police officers in every school, school security plans and violent video games. He wanted to talk about everything — anything — but limiting the sales of the kinds of weapons used in the slaughter at Sandy Hook.

"The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun," he said in his most quoted line. That distinction between good guys and bad guys is a brilliant distraction that leaps past the crucial point: Guns that can fire 30 rounds without reloading make everyone less safe, and they should be banned.

If the message is clear, succinct, reasonable, focused, relentless — and backed by the families who suffered tragedy at Sandy Hook — the president can win this one.

Tom Rosshirt was a national security speechwriter for President Bill Clinton and a foreign affairs spokesman for Vice President Al Gore. Email him at tomrosshirt@gmail.com.

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News in brief

Google chief visit at odds with Obama administration effort to pressure North Korea

WASHINGTON (AP) — Google chief Eric Schmidt's plan to visit North Korea has put the Obama administration in the awkward position of opposing a champion of Internet freedom engaging with one of the most intensely censored countries.

But the Obama administration is wary for a reason: It fears Schmidt's trip could give a boost to North Korea's young leader, Kim Jong Un, just when Washington is trying to pressure him.

North Korea in December launched a long-range rocket in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions, and the U.S. and its allies are seeking tighter sanctions. That's proving difficult because of resistance from permanent council member China, which likely fears its troublesome ally could respond to punishment by conducting a nuclear test.

U.S. officials are also concerned that the high-profile visit could confuse partners in Asia and suggest a shift in U.S. policy as the administration prepares to install a new secretary of state to succeed Hillary Rodham Clinton. The nominee is Sen. John Kerry, the Democratic presidential candidate in 2004.

An imminent change of government in South

Korea is already raising questions about whether Washington and close ally Seoul can remain in lockstep in their dealings with Pyongyang. Newly elected leader Park Geun-hye is expected to seek a more conciliatory approach toward rival North Korea after she takes up the presidency in February.

Obama could round out national security team next week, with picks for Pentagon, CIA possible

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama may round out his new national security leadership team next week, with a nomination for defense secretary expected and a pick to lead the Central Intelligence Agency possible.

Former Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska is the front-runner for the top Pentagon post. Acting CIA director Michael Morell and Obama counterterrorism adviser John Brennan are leading contenders to head the spy agency.

White House aides said the president has not made a final decision on either post and won't until he returns from Hawaii, where he is vacationing with his family. Obama is due back in Washington Sunday morning.

Obama nominated Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., as his next secretary of state in December, his first step in filling out his second term Cabinet and national security team. Kerry, as well as the nominees for the Pentagon and CIA, must be confirmed by the Senate.

Hagel, the former senator from Nebraska, is a contrarian Republican moderate and decorated Vietnam combat veteran who is likely to support a more rapid withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. If confirmed, Hagel would give Obama a whiff of bipartisanship in his Cabinet if confirmed.

Some gun shows limiting displays, canceling in wake of scrutiny after Conn. school shooting

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. (AP) — Four gun shows, all about an hour's drive from Newtown, Conn., all canceled.

A show in White Plains, N.Y., — brought back a few years ago after being called off for a decade because of the Columbine shooting — is off because officials decided it didn't seem appropriate now, either. In Danbury, Conn. — about 10 miles west of Newtown — the venue backed out. Same with three other shows in New York's Hudson Valley, according to the organizer.

Gun advocates aren't backing down from their insistence on the right to keep and bear arms. But heightened sensitivities and raw nerves since the Newtown shooting have led to toned-down displays at gun shows and prompted some officials and sponsors to cancel the well-attended exhibitions altogether.

Some of the most popular guns will be missing from next weekend's gun show in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., after show organizers agreed to bar the display and sale of AR-15 military-style semiautomatic weapons and their large-clip magazines.

6 Russians killed, 2 injured when their snowmobile crashes on Italian slopes

ROME (AP) — Six Russians were killed and

two others were injured after their snowmobile slammed into a fence and flipped over into a ditch during a night run down an Italian ski slope.

RAI state radio reported early Saturday that the crash occurred on an unlit slope late Friday on Mount Cermis in northeast Italy.

The Russian consul general in Milan, Alexei Parmonov, said on Russian state television that he was in contact with Italian investigators, who he said suspect the crash was caused by excessive speed. They also were checking the possibility of a mechanical malfunction.

Parmonov identified the four men and two women who died in the crash. Five of them and also one of the injured men were tourists from Krasnodar, a city in southern Russia near Sochi, which is preparing to hold the 2014 Winter Olympics.

One of the dead women and the other injured man worked in Italy in the tourist industry.

Ailing Chavez could be sworn in later on before Supreme Court, Venezuela's vice president says

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez can take the oath of office for his next term before the Supreme Court at a later date if the ailing leader isn't fit to be sworn in next week, his vice president said.

Vice President Nicolas Maduro sent the strongest signal yet that the government may seek to postpone Chavez's inauguration as the 58-year-old president fights a severe respiratory infection more than three weeks after undergoing cancer surgery in Cuba.

Maduro's position in a televised interview on Friday night generated new friction between the government and opposition over the swearing-in, which the constitution says should occur next Thursday before the National Assembly. Some opposition leaders have argued that if Chavez doesn't make it back to Caracas by that date, the president of the National Assembly should take over as interim president.

Such brewing disagreements are likely to be aired on Saturday when the congress, which is controlled by a pro-Chavez majority, convenes to choose its president and other legislative leaders. Whoever is elected National Assembly president could potentially end up being the country's interim president if Chavez's illness forces him from office.

Speaking on television, Maduro held up a small blue copy of the constitution and read aloud passages as he argued that opponents were using erroneous interpretations to try to drive Chavez from power.

FDA: Proposed rules covering farms and processing plants will make food safer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration says its new guidelines would make the food Americans eat safer and help prevent the kinds of foodborne disease outbreaks that sicken or kill thousands of consumers each year.

The rules, the most sweeping food safety guidelines in decades, would require farmers to take new precautions against contamination, to include making sure workers' hands are washed, irrigation water is clean, and that animals stay out of fields. Food manufacturers will have to submit food safety plans to the government to show they are keeping their operations clean.

The long-overdue regulations could cost businesses close to half a billion dollars a year to implement, but are expected to reduce the estimated 3,000 deaths a year from foodborne illness. The new guidelines were announced Friday.

Contract
Bridge

By Steve Becker

Cutting Communications

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable and a partscore of 30.

NORTH
♠ K 6
♥ K 7 2
♦ A Q 10 7 6 5
♣ 7 4

WEST
♠ 8 3
♥ J 10 9
♦ J 8 2
♣ A J 10 5 3

EAST
♠ A 7 4
♥ A 4
♦ K 9 4
♣ K Q 9 8 2

SOUTH
♠ Q J 10 9 5 2
♥ Q 8 6 5 3
♦ 3
♣ 6

The bidding:
East South West North
1♣ 1♠ 2♣ 2♦
2NT 3♠ 4♣ 4♠
Opening lead — jack of hearts.

This hand was played in a rubber-bridge game more than half a century ago. The heroine was Ruth Sherman, winner of several national championships in the '40s and '50s.

Sherman reached four spades

doubled as shown, and West led the jack of hearts. Declarer played low from dummy, and East took the ace and returned a heart to dummy's king.

It was obvious to Sherman that East had started with a doubleton heart and was poised to ruff the next heart lead. Had declarer led a trump at this point, East would have taken the ace and put West in with a club to obtain the heart ruff that sets the contract.

But Sherman found a way to prevent West from ever gaining the lead and thereby circumvented the heart ruff. East's two-notrump bid marked him with both the king of diamonds and ace of spades. So at trick three, Sherman cashed the ace of diamonds and then led the queen. This forced East to cover with the king, whereupon declarer discarded her singleton club!

East returned a club, but the chicken had flown the coop. Sherman ruffed, forced out the ace of spades, ruffed the club return, drew trumps and ran her hearts to make the doubled contract. Her only losers were a heart, a spade and a diamond.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.
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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		3				
9	8		5			2		
6		7		1				
	3		7	2				1
	2					3		
1		8	4		9			
	7			9				4
	6		8		2			9
	5			6				

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BSHS hoopsters tripped up in wild home games

By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Sports Editor

Big Spring Boys

The crowd at Steer Gym on Friday wasn't happy with the officiating late in the game, which drew boos from Big Spring natives who thought a couple of traveling calls were omitted for Lubbock Cooper, while the Steers were being unfairly called for fouls.

In the end, the Pirates held on to defeat the Steers 59-51.

Cooper's Brent Carlson made 14-of-18 free throws during the game and the Pirates never relinquished the lead.

After a see-saw first half, the Steers found themselves trailing by 12 with under three minutes to play in the third stanza.

Tyler Graves led the charge for the Steers as they rallied in the final quarter, cutting the Pirates' lead to just four points twice.

It was too little, too late.

"We've done this all year," said BSBS Head Coach Cliff Thompson. "We did a good job of fighting back after falling behind, but we have to put four quarters together."

And that remains the focus as the Steers prepare for District 4-3A action.

"We played well," Thompon added. "Our big guys were out for disciplinary reasons, but I felt we had a strong inside presence, but we could have made some more stops."

Graves led the Steers scoring with 11 points. Tyler Wigington added 10.

The Steers will resume play Monday on the road against Andrews. Game time is slated for 7:30 p.m.

Girls

It was a wild game for the Lady Steers as well, who lost a close match to district foe Sweetwater, 35-33 — but not before taking the Lady Mustangs to the wire.

BSBS started strong, outscoring Sweetwater 11-8 in the first stanza and held an 11-5 early in the game.

In the second quarter, the Lady Steers' offense was silent, as SHS held them scoreless, while putting up 12 points of their own.

Big Spring wouldn't score again until three minutes left in the third period. Sweetwater went on a 19-0 run.

The Lady Steers weren't finished.

They matched the Lady Stangs' six-point third quarter and exploded in the fourth quarter, in which they outscored SHS 16-9.

It looked like BSBS had a chance to pull out a win when, with 1:29 left in the final period, Diamonique Mayes sank one to take a 33-32 lead.

Sweetwater's Kendra Crosson produced a three-point play after being fouled on a field goal and hitting the free throw to give the lead back to the Lady Mustangs.

It came down to the buzzer as Big Spring's Julianna Rodriguez went the length of the court unguarded but missed a running jump shot. Time expired before Rodriguez could attempt another shot.

The Lady Steers will face Snyder on Tuesday on the road at 7:30 p.m.

Forsan

Boys

FORSAN — Aric Hernandez put up 16 points and Kade Fannin chipped in 11 points and had nine rebounds, but it wasn't enough for the Buffs (10-7) as they lost to the visiting Buffaloes (16-3) of Stanton, 66-46.

Cole Schroyer had a game-high 21 points for Stanton as they outscored Forsan in the first three quarters. Scott Smith added 15 points, Jonathan Ramos — who returned from an injury — put up 14 points and Drew Snellgrove contributed 10.

According to FHS Head Coach Gary Huckabee, his Buffaloes didn't play up to their potential.

"We were out of sync from the get-go," Huckabee said. "(Hernandez) had a pretty good game. We kept fighting, I like that, but Stanton is a good team and they came out on fire and hit seven 3s on us. They played a great game."

Forsan will open district play against Sundown on Tuesday on the road.

"Sundown is always a good, solid team," Huckabee added. "They aren't as big as they usually are, but it

See **HOOPS**, Page 8A



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Ty'Ral Menefield takes a three-point shot during Friday's 59-51 home loss against the Lubbock Cooper Pirates. The Steers will meet Andrews on the road Monday at 7:30 p.m., while the Lady Steers will take on Snyder on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Manziel leads A&M to rout of Sooners

STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas — At one point early in the Cotton Bowl, with "Johnny B. Goode" blaring through the stadium speakers, Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Manziel peeked up at the accompanying highlights on the huge video board hanging over the field.

Texas A&M's exciting dual-threat quarterback sure known as Johnny Football put on a show worth watching.

"Best player I've ever played. He does so many good things. He's got magic," Oklahoma defensive coordinator Mike Stoops said. "He'll have a chance to win four (Heismans) if he stays healthy."

Manziel tiptoed down the sideline for a 23-yard TD on the game's opening drive and went on to an FBS bowl record for quarterbacks with 229 yards rushing on 17 carries. He also set a Cotton Bowl record with 516 total yards as the 10th-ranked Aggies beat No. 12 Oklahoma 41-13 on Friday night to wrap up their first SEC season.

With first-year coach Kevin Sumlin and their young star quarterback after leaving the Big 12 for the SEC, the Aggies (11-2) overwhelming won the only bowl game matching teams from those two power conferences. They won 11 games

for the first time since 1998, their only Big 12 title season.

The Aggies never trailed while winning their last six games and became the first SEC team with more than 7,000 total yards — 7,261 after gaining 633 in the Cotton Bowl.

"It's huge for this program, and for me especially, with all of the woes A&M has had over the past decade or however long it's been since they had 11 wins," Manziel said. "For us to get up tonight and watch them battle back, it's good when we strike first. That's what we like to do. It was good to do that and not really look back."

Texas A&M led by only a point at halftime, but scored on its first three drives of the second half — on drives of 91 and 89 yards before Manziel threw a short pass to Ryan Swope on fourth-and-5 that turned into a 33-yard TD and a 34-13 lead.

Oklahoma (10-3), which like the Aggies entered the game with a five-game winning streak, went three-and-out on its first three drives after halftime in what was quarterback Landry Jones' 50th and final career start.

"Feel just disappointed that he's going out this way, getting beat like that," Sooners center Gabe Iikard said.

Jones completed 35 of 48 passes

for 278 yards with a touchdown and an interception. He won 39 games and three bowls for the Sooners, in a career that started on the same field in the 2009 season opener when he replaced injured Heisman winner Sam Bradford in the first college game at Cowboys Stadium.

But Jones missed out becoming only the third NCAA quarterback to go 4-0 as a starter in bowl games.

"It was obvious tonight that we didn't play the way we should have played," said Jones, whose frustration was evident when he yelled at a teammate after a failed fourth-down play. "We couldn't run it. We couldn't throw it. It happens, you know."

SEC teams have won the last five Cotton Bowls, all against Big 12 teams, and nine out of 10. That included Texas A&M's loss to LSU only two years ago.

It had been six weeks since the Aggies played their last game, and four weeks since Manziel became the first freshman to win college football's highest individual award.

Manziel got it started with an electrifying 24-yard run on third down on the opening drive. Then on a third-and-10, Manziel rolled

See **ROUT**, Page 8A

Report: Disgraced Armstrong weighs doping admission

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The New York Times reported Friday that Lance Armstrong, who has strongly denied the doping charges that led to him being stripped of his seven Tour de France titles, has told associates he is considering admitting to the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

The report cited anonymous sources and said Armstrong was considering a confession to help restore his athletic career in triathlons and running events at age 41. Armstrong was banned for life from cycling and cannot compete in athletic events sanctioned by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency and the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Yet Armstrong attorney Tim Herman denied that Armstrong has reached out to USADA chief executive Travis Tygart and David Howman, director general of the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Herman told The Associated Press he had no knowledge of Armstrong considering a confession and said: "When, and if, Lance has something to say, there won't be any secret about it." Armstrong, who recovered from testicular cancer that had spread to his lungs and brain, won the Tour de France from 1999-2005.

Although he has vehemently denied doping,

See **DOPING**, Page 8A

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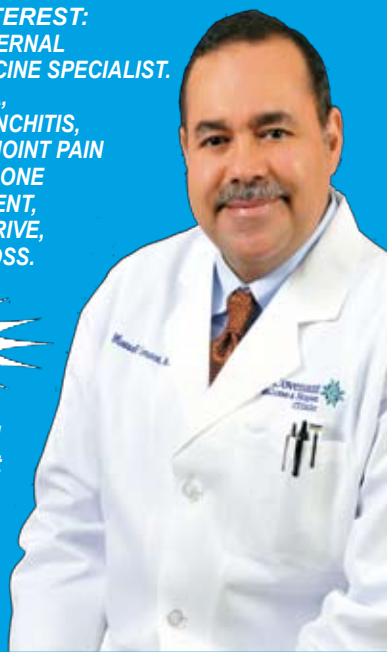
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DOPING

Continued from Page 7A

Armstrong's athletic career crumbled under the weight of a massive report by USADA detailing allegations of drug use by Armstrong and his teammates on his U.S. Postal Service teams.

The report caused Armstrong to lose most of his personal corporate sponsors and he recently stepped down from the board of Livestrong, the cancer-fighting charity he founded in 1997.

ROUT

Continued from Page 7A

to his left and took off, juke around a defender and got near the sideline. He tiptoed to stay in bounds and punctuated his 23-yard score with a high-step over the pylon for a quick lead.

Officials reviewed the play to make sure he did stay in bounds, and the replays showed clearly that he did.

"There is too much talk about how you perform after the Heisman and about the layoff and all of that," said Manziel, who set an SEC record with 4,600 total yards in the regular season. "There wasn't anything holding us back. No rust, there was no nothing. We played as a unit."

The chants of "S-E-C! S-E-C!" began after Swope's TD catch with 4 minutes left in the third quarter. They got louder and longer after that,

Armstrong is facing other legal hurdles.

The U.S. Department of Justice is considering whether to join a federal whistle-blower lawsuit filed by former Armstrong teammate Floyd Landis.

A Dallas-based promotions company has also said it wants to recover several million dollars paid to Armstrong in bonuses for winning the Tour de France.

The British newspaper The Sunday Times has sued Armstrong to recover \$500,000 paid to him to settle a libel lawsuit.

and Manziel spread both his arms out and ran off the field like he was flying.

Oklahoma was in the Cotton Bowl for only the second time. It was the first bowl matchup between the former Big 12 rivals, but the 17th consecutive season they have played each other.

The Sooners had won 11 of 13 in the series since Bob Stoops became their coach. That included a 77-0 Oklahoma win in 2003 that was the most-lopsided loss

in Texas A&M history.

Sumlin was the A&M offensive coordinator in 2002 when the Aggies upset the top-ranked Sooners. The next year, Sumlin was hired by Stoops as an assistant, and he stayed there five seasons before going to Houston as head coach and now the Aggies.

"I think tonight was really indicative of this season," Sumlin said. "It's one of the teams I thought in the country that truly got better every week."

HOOPS

Continued from Page 7A

will be another tough one."

Girls

SMYER — The Lady Buffs (14-7, 0-1) were also stymied Friday as they were bested by the Lady Bobcats, 54-40, despite a strong showing by Jahnia Willard (12 points) and Maria Ortiz — who had the unenviable task of guarding a 6'3" Smyer player for the duration of the outing — as well as putting up 10 points in the loss.

"(Ortiz) played a really good ball game," said Lindsey Schmidt, FHS head basketball coach. "I thought we played a good first half, but we got into some foul trouble. We had three good quarters, actually, and one not-so-good quarter."

The loss to Smyer didn't discourage Schmidt, as they are a perennially powerful squad.

"They have won state three out of the last five years," Schmidt added. "Right now I think they are No. 9 in the state. I was proud of the girls' effort. We had a really good post game. We can compete with anyone in our district if they all just come out and play."

Forsan will play Sunday on Tuesday on the road.

Coahoma Boys

COAHOMA — In the battle of the Bulldogs, Ira came out on top of

host Coahoma on Friday, defeating the 'Dogs — who were missing two starting players — 71-47.

Namen McCullough led CHS with 15 points in the Bulldogs' last outing before beginning District 4-2A play Friday at rival Stanton.

Girls

BROWNFIELD — The Bulldogettes were outscored by the Lady Cubs in the first three quarters, but despite a fourth quarter rally, Coahoma came home with a 47-37 loss.

Coahoma will welcome Lamesa on Tuesday.

Other scores:

- Temple College defeated Howard College, 63-55. Next vs. Midland College, Dorothy Garret Coliseum, HC campus, Monday, 5:45 p.m.

- Grady (boys) defeated Wellman-Union, 72-19. Glaze, 11; Rodriguez, 11; Lucas, 11. Next at Loop, Tuesday 8 p.m.

- Grady (girls) defeated Wellman-Union, 60-16. Avery, 17; Sawyer, 15; Opegard, 12; Arnold, 10. Next at Loop, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

- Garden City (boys) defeated Bronte, 60-40. Davis, 16; Miller, 11; Bustos, 10. Next at Robert Lee, Tuesday, 8 p.m.

- Garden City (girls) defeated Bronte, 46-27. H. Halfmann, 13; K. Halfmann, 10. Next at Robert Lee, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Contact Sports Editor Brian McCormack at 263-7331 ext. 237 or by e-mail at sports@bigspringherald.com

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Cupcakes

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FAMILY FEATURES

Maybe it's the single serve proportions, perfect cake-to-icing ratio or approachability of this iconic treat, but America's love affair with cupcakes is holding strong. These tasty treats can be adapted to any occasion, and whether it's a favorite holiday, birthday bash, girl's night out or just because, the color, sweetness and fun of cupcakes makes people smile.

Think of cupcakes as a blank canvas easily personalized with the right tools. For example, Wilton has products to make it easy for bakers and decorators of all skill levels to make their cupcakes amazing, no matter the occasion. Wilton's new book, "Cupcakes!" is available at your nearest craft store and www.wilton.com, and showcases unique tips, techniques and products for swirling your way into cupcake greatness.

- **Play Dress Up.** Add personality with playful baking cups — from vibrant stripes to pretty polka dots to festive flowers. Top off your favorite cupcakes with cookie decorations; try a Shamrock for St. Patrick's Day or an apple for an unexpected teacher's gift on the first day of school.
- **Entice with Icing.** Play with icing color to add visual interest — think icy blue for a wintry treat or pale yellow for autumn. Sprinkles are an easy way to make icing sparkle. Sugar gems create an eye-catching crystal effect, and seasonal toppings add an extra special touch.
- **It's Hip to be Square.** Round out your cupcake repertoire with Wilton's Square Cupcake Pan and baking cups; the square shape is a fresh take on everyone's favorite treat.

Swirl Like a Pro

To prepare, start with cupcakes that have been baked according to package directions, in the baking cup of your choice, and fully cooled. Place a coupler and a large round tip (like a 12 or 2A) on your Wilton decorating bag; fill with the icing of your choice.



1 Hold the decorating tip approximately 1/4 inch above the cupcake at a 90 degree angle to the cupcake. Starting at the center, pipe a large dot of icing onto cupcake top.

2 Pull the dot of icing to the outer edge of cupcake and begin piping a spiral around the cupcake top, working inward and upward.

3 Once at the center, stop pressure and pull tip away. It's as easy as that.



Colorful Cupcake Trio

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- Favorite cupcake recipe or mix
- Ready-to-use White Decorator Icing
- Rose Icing Color (Ombre Cupcakes)
- Pink Sugar Gems (Sugar Striped Square Cupcakes)
- Lemon Yellow Icing Color (Zebra Lace Cupcakes)
- Zebra Icing Decoration (Zebra Lace Cupcakes)

Preheat oven to 350°F. Place wave or solid black baking cup in standard muffin pan; place square baking cup in square cupcake pan.

Prepare cupcake batter per package or recipe instructions. Pour cupcake batter into prepared pan. Bake 18 to 20 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean when inserted in center of cupcake. Remove pan to cooling grid; let stand 10 minutes. Remove cupcakes from pan; cool completely.

Rose Ombre Cupcakes

Divide icing, and tint six shades of rose from dark to very light. On top of cooled cupcake, using a tip 12 and the darkest rose icing, pipe large dot in center; add ring around dot at edge of cupcake. Switch to a slightly lighter shade of rose icing and, with tip 12, add another large dot to center top of cupcake, make a second ring around the inside edge of the first ring. Continue piping next three shades of lighter rose icings with tip 12 and create smaller rings of icing on the inside edge of the previous ring. Once at the center using the lightest shade of rose icing, pipe one last ring around top with tip 12, adding a swirl.

Sugar Striped Square Cupcakes

Using white icing and tip 12, cover top of cooled cupcake with large zigzag. Top with Pink Sugar Gems.

Zebra Lace Cupcakes

Tint icing yellow. Add tip 12 swirl to top of cooled cupcake. Add Zebra Icing Decoration.

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Emergency unemployment insurance deadline extended

Special to the Herald

AUSTIN — The deadline for jobless Texans to qualify for emergency unemployment insurance benefits has been extended to Jan. 1, 2014. Federal legislation signed Wednesday by President Barack Obama extends benefits to approximately 120,000 Texans who would have otherwise exhausted their unemployment benefits on

Dec. 31, 2012. Claimants should continue to request unemployment benefit payments on their scheduled day.

The legislation did not add benefits for individuals who have already exhausted their regular state unemployment benefits, federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation, and Extended Benefits. Claimants who currently receive unemployment insurance (UI) benefits may find updated in-

formation on their claims by logging on to ui.texasworkforce.org, or by calling the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Tele-Serv at 800-558-8321 and selecting Option 2 (Claim Status). There is no need to call TWC to qualify for this extension unless claimants receive a letter telling them to do so.

Emergency unemployment benefits provide temporary income for those individuals who have lost their jobs

through no fault of their own. Benefits are federally funded, and Texas employers will not be charged for any claims paid on this extension.

TWC and the 28 local Workforce Development Boards are committed to providing work search assistance, training and other services to unemployed Texans. Thousands of job postings are available on WorkInTexas.com, TWC's online job-matching website.

Aps for conservation programs accepted at county NRCS office

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist Eddy Spurgin announces applications for funding opportunities with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) are currently being accepted at the NRCS offices located at the USDA Service Center in Big Spring, Texas.

NRCS in Texas has received its initial allocation of EQIP funding in 2013 and will begin ranking and obligating EQIP contracts after Feb. 15. All agriculture producers interested in submitting a contract application for 2013 should do so before this ranking deadline.

EQIP — one of the largest programs in the Farm Bill — is a voluntary conservation program that promotes environmental quality and assists producers to meet local, state and federal regulations.

"EQIP is a valuable tool to help Howard County's agricultural producers implement conservation practices that provide environmental benefits to help sustain agricultural operations," said Spurgin.

EQIP is a continuous sign-up program that allows landowners or operators to apply for financial and technical assistance for the application of specific conservation practices; but the deadline for the first 2013 funding is Feb. 15. Contracts are offered periodically depending on budgetary allocations. Applications made after the deadline will be considered in the next funding cycle. Higher priority will be given to those applications that address national, state and local priorities and provide higher cost efficiency.

EQIP offers technical and financial help to install or implement structural, vegetative and management practices that can benefit the soil, water, air, plants, livestock, and wildlife. Each county in the state is funded yearly to assist producers financially with these land management practices.

Last year, NRCS in Texas funded more than 4,000 EQIP contracts with \$76 million to accomplish conservation practices such as irrigation efficiency, minimum tillage, brush management and more on 2.1 million acres across the entire state. In addition to helping our environment, Farm Bill conservation program funds support rural communities. In Texas, it is estimated that each dollar of NRCS and private matching expenditures on NRCS conservation programs generates an additional \$2.54 in sales of goods and services.

For more information, including eligibility requirements, call the USDA Service Center office in Big Spring at 432-267-1871, ext. 3. Service center locations and program information can be found on the Texas NRCS Web site at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov.

Should lottery winners' names be kept secret?



to releasing information on the winners reflects a broader debate that is playing out in state legislatures and lottery offices nationwide: Should the winners' names be secret?

Lawmakers in Michigan and New Jersey think so, proposing bills to allow anonymity because winners are prone to falling victim to scams, shady businesses, greedy distant family members and violent criminals looking to shake them down.

Lotteries object, arguing that publicizing the winners' names drives sales and that having their names released ensures that people know there isn't something fishy afoot, like a game rigged so a lottery insider wins.



When players see that an actual person won, "it has a much greater impact than when they might read that the lottery paid a big prize to an anonymous player," said Andi Brancato, director of public relations for the Michigan state lottery.

Most states require the names of lottery winners be disclosed, albeit in different ways. Some states require the winner to appear at a press conference, like Missouri winners Mark and Cindy Hill did on Nov. 30.

Arizona and other states allow winners not

to appear in public, but their names can be obtained through public records laws.

The Arizona winner, Matthew Good, was not identified at the news conference a week after the Hills' came forward, and has not given interviews or appeared in public.

When news media learned of his name through records requests, TV crews and reporters flocked to Good's neighborhood to get reaction from the winner of a lottery that captivated the nation.

See **LOTTERY**, Page 3B

Depth-to-water measurements begin in Howard, Martin Counties

Special to the Herald

STANTON — Starting in early January, Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District personnel will conduct annual depth-to-water level measurements.

The data collected helps the PBUWCD determine the effect of the 2012 pumping on groundwater levels in the aquifers. Water level measurements are made in a network of 120 wells, most privately owned.

"It is important for producers to know that district personnel will be taking measurements from these observation well sites from early January until completion of this work effort,"

said PBUWCD Manager, Leatrice Adams. "The District begins measuring in January to obtain measurements from wells that are typically not being used during the first months of the year."

However, due to the drought conditions and the increase of oil production, more observation wells have been in use earlier in the year. The staff is unable to measure wells that are in use and presents a problem of obtaining the needed data. The staff may contact users of these wells and ask their cooperation in shutting off their observation well for a minimum of two hours and if possible 24 hours, in

order to obtain an accurate measurement.

The depth-to-water level measurement is made by lowering a steel tape to a pre-determined depth in the well. After the measurement is made, a blue vinyl sticker with the observation well number, the depth-to-water level measurement, and the date of the measurement is affixed to the well equipment or other appropriate surface near the well site.

Water district personnel measures the same wells in the observation well network each year, as long as the individual wells provide satisfactory data. The current depth-to-water measurements in individual wells are compared to

that of the previous years to determine the annual change in water levels of the aquifers within the district.

The data collected can be viewed at the PBUWCD website at www.pbuwcd.com once the project is complete. The staff of the PBUWCD appreciates the cooperation of the landowners as we continue to provide this service for the residents of Howard and Martin counties. Additional information about the observation well program and annual depth-to-water level measurements is available by contacting the Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation at 432-756-2136.

Cost-share funds available to producers

The deadline for producers in Howard County to sign up for 2013 cost-share funds through the Senate Bill 503 Water Quality Program is Jan. 18.

The funds are primarily used to develop and improve irrigation practices. However, funds can be used for brush management, range seeding, livestock water development and terraces. This program also ensures proper nutrient and pest management practices are applied to enable agricultural operations to meet state water quality standards.

The advantage of participating in this program is that if a producer develops and maintains a site specific water quality management plan through the local Howard Soil and Water Conservation District and the plan is certified by the Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board the producer will be in compliance with state water quality law. They are also exempt from other state regulatory processes regarding nonpoint source discharge of pollutants.

A water quality management plan includes appropriate land treatment practices, production practices, management measures, and technologies of any combination to achieve a level of pollution prevention or abatement.

For more information or to make an application, contact the Howard Soil and Water Conservation District before Jan. 18, at 432-267-1871, ext. 3 or go by the USDA Service Center in Big Spring.

NC furniture maker hailed as U.S. job creator closed

LINCOLNTON, N.C. (AP) — A start-up North Carolina furniture company so celebrated as a sign of America's manufacturing rebound its head was President Obama's White House guest at last year's state of the union address has closed suddenly.

Lincolnton Furniture Company was silent Friday, a day after shutting down following a year of operation. President Bruce Cochran and other company officers did not return messages to The Associated Press on Friday. Manufacturing operations

stopped indefinitely because orders were insufficient, company financial officer Ben Causey said.

"We needed more orders is really what it boiled down to," Causey told The Charlotte Observer. "We thought they would materialize."

Cochrane told WSOC-TV the company burned through its capital sooner than expected, in part because the cost of preparing the factory building was higher than projected.

Lincolnton Furniture opened its doors in December

2011 with 60 employees and expected to grow to 130 workers by the end of 2012.

Cochrane started the maker of bed frames, dining sets, and other wood furniture in the hometown where his

See **CLOSED**, Page 3B

Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

Sherri Monique Aldridge, 1507 E. Sixth St., Big Spring
Carol J. Anderson, PO Box 1143, Stanton
Patricia Ann Bacon, 5700 Cedar Rd. Apt. 2, Big Spring
Amanda Nicole Bair, 1103 E. 15th St., Big Spring
Charles Howard Baker, 118 Shiloh, Victoria
Jessica Lynn Banks, CR 1200, Lubbock
Johnny Barraza, 429 Westover, Big Spring
Jennifer Leigh Black, 1405 E. Barton, Temple
William Riley Bounds, 1818 Corsicana, Dallas
Joe Ray Brown, 902 Hickory, Abilene
Vanessa Calderon, 1504 Kentucky, Big Spring
Emily Denise Carrillo, 2610 Albrook, Big Spring
Donald Cervantes, 1211 Lloyd, Big Spring
Trystan Taelor Cevallos, 3912 E. Hwy. 350, Big Spring
Joshua Adam Cisneros, 802 Culp, Coahoma
Melissa Cisneros, 1810 S. Benton, Big Spring
Christoval Corrales, 1105 N. Nolan, Big Spring
Melissa Crawford, 1207 Mulberry, Big Spring
Jennifer R. Crow, 1714 Fort Worth, Brownwood
Montie Dee Daniels, 2606 Chanute, Big Spring
Julie E. Davis, 5202 Bangor Ave. Apt. K301, Lubbock
Stefan Deal, 102 Casie Ln. Apt. 1, Fort Worth
Manuel Delosrios, 707 Lorilla, Big Spring
Teana Demeny-Roberts, 5601 N. Service Rd., Big Spring
Delores Dohnalik, 1500 Stones Throw, Horseshoe Bay
Michael Angelo Dorado, 2202 William Rd., Big Spring
Josepy James Eckert, 1123 Newhaven Trail, Pearland
Maria Luisa Elizondo, 603 S. Second, Meadow
Kristi L. Elliot, 603 E. 12th St., Big Spring
Alexandria Nicole Escanuela, 2521 Chanute, Big Spring
Brittany Vanessa Escanuela, 302 Circle, Big Spring
John Randall Evatt, 4301 W. 49th St. Apt. 329, Amarillo
Kristen Falcon, 2606 Fairchild, Big Spring
Amy Michelle Fields, 102 N. Fifth St., Coahoma
Sharlamarr Frink, 3723 Monclair, Odessa
Joey Lee Garcia, 3102 Ave. C, Snyder
Noel Garcia II, 1604 Robin, Big Spring
Pedro Garcia, 806 John-

son, Big Spring
Joe Nick Garfias Jr., of 1309 Runnels, Big Spring
Kay Lynn Garrett, 2609 Wasson Rd. Apt. 45, Big Spring
Rosa M. George, 509 W. Second, Stanton
Joseph Blake Gist, 3500 Cedar Run, Abilene
Nicholas Gonzales, 903 Creighton, Big Spring
Roxanne Deanda Gonzales, 539 Westover Apt. 211, Big Spring
Eunice Torres Gonzalez, 7311 Westmoor, Odessa
Whitney Marquez Gray, 2934 Old Anson Rd., Abilene
Robert Earl Green II, 2512 Fairchild, Big Spring
Kimberly Hargrove, PO Box 1985, Big Spring
Tracy Lenn Haynie, 503 Kylie Lane, Wylie
Bryan David Hernandez, 1500 Kentucky Way, Big Spring
Ruby G. Hernandez, 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 48, Big Spring
Ashley Rae Hodge, 3214 Drexel, Big Spring
Danny Holt, 125 Farney Rd., Lorena
April M. Horton, 1705 Charles, Portsmouth, Ohio
Bradley Ryan Horton, 601 Linda Lane, Big Spring
Dana Michelle Hudgins, P.O. Box 837, Coahoma
Ashley Nicole Islas, 1104 Wood, Big Spring
Brian Ivanchan, 1208 Mulberry, Big Spring
Mandy Diane Jenkins, 8707 E. Highway 350, Big Spring
Lonnie Malcolm Johnson, 1211 Ridgeroad, Big Spring
Christopher Shawn Jones, 112 McDonald Rd., Big Spring
Donald Jones, 3718 Ave. V, Snyder
Jason Earnest Key, 900 Abrams, Big Spring
Albert Leal, 2522 Albrook, Big Spring
Robert Lee Lopez, 503 E. 18th, Big Spring
Jenny Marie Hamilton Lyon, 4201 W. Highway 80 Apt. 6, Big Spring
Aaron Christopher Mack, 2134 Bonham, Odessa
James Elijah Marlow, 2001 Runnels, Big Spring
Daniel Marrujo, 511 N. Concho, Roby
Todd Vincent Martin, 409 Woodcrest, Midland
Joe Martinez, 2525 Fairchild, Big Spring
Manuel Martinez Jr., 702 NE Iowa, Lamesa
Fidel M. Martinez, 705 N.W. Eighth St., Big Spring
Ronnie Trevino Martinez, 1109 E. 11th place, Big Spring
Norman James McNeese, 1098 LCR 317, Colorado City

Betty Jane McWilliams, 2511 Hunter, Big Spring
Cory James Michalewicz, 1106 Briscoe Cove, Hutto
Eddie Glen Mills, 5142 PDQ Rd., Colorado City
Nicholas Craig Mills, 3225 Cornell, Big Spring
Chelsea Kristyne Millspaugh, 7403 N. Service Road, Big Spring
Alicia Morales, 3307 E. 11th Place, Big Spring
Jose Munoz, 3804 Connelly, Big Spring
Melissa Nieto, 615 Tulane, Big Spring
John Randall O'Harrow, 107 S. Main, Big Spring
Nancy Ortega, 1111 E. 14th, Big Spring
James Michael Perez, 626 Tulane, Big Spring
Fred Allen Perry, 1425 E. Sixth Apt. 107, Big Spring
Taylor James Perry, 2105 Sydney Baker Apt. 228, Kerrville
Joshua Plaia, 1401 E. 18th, Big Spring
Jarum Renee Pryor, 802 N. Plaza, Big Lake
Randy Randolph, 2514 Albrook, Big Spring
Michael Neal Roberts, 538 Westover, Apt. 103, Big Spring
Roberta Garza Rodriguez, 1103 Stanford, Big Spring
Lisa J. Rubio, 1303 Sycamore, Big Spring
Leza Lopez Ruiz, 1520 Tucson, Big Spring
Miguel Andres Sanchez, 64 McCaleb Rd., Montgomery
Anastasia Clarice Sanders, 1401 Culpepper Ave., Wilson
Brittany Nicole Savell, 425 E. Davis Rd., Big Spring
Warren Victor Schneider, 803 Atlantic, Coahoma
Jamie Serrato, 1401 N. Highway 87Apt. 203, Big Spring
Kennedra Wynell Shelton, 400 N. Fourth, Corsicana
Angela Gay Smith, 102 N. Ash, Coahoma
Charles Ray Smith, 2911 W. Highway 80, Apt. 155, Big Spring
Tiffany Katherine Stokes, 1407 E. 19th St., Big Spring
Timothy Donald Taylor, 4000 W. Highway 80 No. 18, Big Spring
David Wayne Turner, 3204 Irving, Snyder
Abram Unger, 503 NE Fourth, Seminole
Brittania Kay Upchurch, 4303 Princeton, Midland
Alonzo Vasquez, 306 W. Seventh St., Iraan
Timothy Shea Wargo, 624 State, Big Spring
Charles Watson, 804 W. I-20 Apt. 127, Big Spring
Thomas Weeks, P.O. Box 110891, Anchorage, Alaska

Michael Wade Welch, 700 S. Aylesford, Big Spring
Jamie Wiggins, 1905 Wasson Rd. Apt. 28, Big Spring
Byran Paul Williams, 1409 E. Main St., Round Rock
Calvin Williams, 1313 Mulberry, Big Spring
Kevin Lamont Williams, 1809 Nolan, Big Spring
Mary Lou Wilson, 610 N.E. Ninth, Big Spring
Frances Elena Yanez, 1610 Cardinal, Big Spring
James Edward Young, 3313 Auburn, Big Spring
Dennis Anthony Zaragoza, 4534 Sinclair, Big Spring
Mary Esther Zubiate, 1103 S. 11th Place, Big Spring

County Court Decisions:
Judgment and Sentence: Robert Ramirez Gonzales, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, \$500 fine, \$278 court costs, 45 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Benjamin Edward Moore, criminal trespass, \$216 fine, \$282 court costs.
Probated Judgment: Matthew Wayne Merendino, driving while intoxicated, \$750 fine, \$457 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Brandy Lynn Severance, bail jumping - failure to appear, \$500 fine, \$332 court costs, 90 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Fabian Henry Flores, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, \$100 fine, \$342 court costs, 20 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Monica Nicole Rivera, failure to identify as a fugitive - giving false information, \$100 fine, \$282 court costs, 45 days in jail.
Probated Judgment: James Quick IV, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, \$500 fine, \$342 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Probated Judgment: Anthony Rodriguez, theft of property - more than \$50 and less than \$500, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Probated Judgment: Gabriel Jessie Hernandez, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Probated Judgment: Jeanetta R. Hernandez, driving

while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, \$250 fine, \$282 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Joshua Don Richter, theft of property - more than \$500 and less than \$1,500, \$100 fine, \$282 court costs, 60 days in jail.

District Court Filings:
Shay Long vs. Kristen Long, divorce.
State of Texas vs. Donald Creager, seizure.
Jennifer Renee Buettner vs. Curtis Nathaniel Buettner, divorce.
Alisha Gang vs. Alonzo Hilario Jr., divorce.

Marriage Licenses:
Clayton Schmitz, 31, and Amy D. Bollier, 29, both of Coahoma.
Lawrence James Burleson, 23, and Amy Leigh Yanez, 31, both of Big Spring.
Timothy Jay Gonzales, 31, and Beatrice Rebecca Juarez, 27, both of Big Spring.
Everitt Womack, 26, and Hilary Laraine Lorn, 21, both of Big Spring.
Phillip Scott Ginnetti, 43, and Amy Lynn Williams, 41, both of Big Spring.
Jeffery Don Cate, 30, and Larea Antuna, 32, both of Big Spring.
Chad Edward Everett, 28, and Brittany Nicole Bell, 23, both of Big Spring.

Warranty Deeds:
Grantor: Richard W. Hubbard
Grantee: Russell Hull
Property: A 0.49-acre tract out of Section 45, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Nov. 16, 2012

Grantor: Carl Burleson
Grantee: Amisha Vanderbilt
Property: A tract out of Section 31, Block 33, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Nov. 16, 2012

Grantor: Carl Burleson
Grantee: Amisha Vanderbilt
Property: A tract out of Section 31, Block 33, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Nov. 16, 2012

Grantor: Larry Alla Fish and Silpi Fish
Grantee: Vincent Hatfield
Property: Lots 6-7 and the E/50 feet of Lot 1, Block 15, Edwards Heights Addition
Date: Nov. 16, 2012

Grantor: Charles Peugh

Grantee: Full Gospel Fellowship
Property: Lots 7-9 and the S/44 feet of Lot 10, Block 1, Boydston Addition
Date: Nov. 15, 2012

Grantor: Nancy K. Gunselman
Grantee: Harold Hoelscher
Property: Lot 12, Block 8, Douglass Addition
Date: Nov. 15, 2012

Grantor: Marie Sepulveda and Manuel Sepulveda
Grantee: Alicia F. Leon
Property: Lot 6, Block 2, Parker Addition
Date: Nov. 13, 2012

Grantor: Rhonda Green
Grantee: Brookfield Relocation Inc.
Property: A 1-acre tract out of Section 12, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Nov. 6, 2012

Grantor: Al Olmstead
Grantee: Prosperity Management 4 LLC
Property: A tract out of Block 30, Government Heights to Bauer Addition
Date: Nov. 6, 2012

Grantor: Al Olmstead
Grantee: Prosperity Management 4 LLC
Property: A tract out of Section 42, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Nov. 6, 2012

Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien:
Grantor: J.C. Newell
Grantee: Blaine R. Smith
Property: A 6.982-acre tract out of Section 4, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Nov. 16, 2012

Grantor: Aubrey Weaver Jr.
Grantee: Ernesto Olivas and Lily Olivas
Property: All of Block 114, original town of Big Spring
Date: Nov. 6, 2012

Grantor: Belle Schwarzenbach
Grantee: Robert Adair and Donna Adair
Property: A 1.12-acre tract out of Section 6, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Nov. 6, 2012

LOTTERY

Continued from Page 2B

Jeff Hatch-Miller, executive director of the Arizona Lottery, said he understands winners' desire for privacy, but he argues they are essentially entering into a large contract with the government that is public. Others argue that appearing at a news conference helps defuse media interest because the winner is available to answer questions that satisfy the media's interest in telling their stories.

In Michigan, Republican state Sen. Tory Rocca pushed a lottery bill that allows winners to remain anonymous. It didn't pass, but in arguing for it, he cited cases where lottery winners were shot and killed because of their newfound wealth.
A Florida woman was convicted last month of first-degree murder after she befriended a man who won a \$30 million jackpot in 2006. Prosecutors said she took control of his assets, killed him, buried him in her yard and poured a concrete slab above the grave.

An effort in New Jersey by Democratic Sen. Jim Whelan took a middle ground between public release and privacy, calling for a one-year delay in releasing winners' names. It also didn't make it out of the Legislature last year, but he said he'll keep pressing to get it passed.
Whelan said a one-year delay would give winners a chance to adjust while still keeping the public disclosure

lotteries say they need. However, Whelan said he doesn't really buy the agencies' arguments for public disclosure.
"I'm not sure how many people are spurred to buy a lottery ticket because they see a picture of someone in the paper holding up a big check - and I don't think people don't buy a ticket because they think the whole thing's fixed," Whelan said.
Of 44 states participating in Powerball and

33 in Mega-Millions, only Delaware, Kansas, Maryland, North Dakota and Ohio allow blanket anonymity, said Chuck Strutt, executive director of the Multi-State Lottery Association, which oversees the games.
"Obviously, it is a law that is designed to ensure an open and transparent process, so that the public can be ensured that insiders are not winners," Strutt said. "But in today's

world, most of us can understand the wish to remain anonymous."
The most famous modern lottery fraud case happened in 1980 when Pennsylvania Lottery district manager Edward Plevel and TV announcer Nick Perry were convicted of fixing the result of the Daily Number drawing.
Authorities found that some of the ping pong balls used in the game were injected with paint to make them too heavy

CLOSED

Continued from Page 2B

family built furniture since the 1850s. He launched his idea to make furniture in the U.S. after working as an industry consultant in China. His attempt to restore American jobs in an industry that had long flooded to low-cost Asian countries was highlighted as a sign of "re-shoring," or companies returning to the U.S. jobs that had once moved overseas.
Obama last year invited Cochrane to a White House event on bringing overseas job back to America and he was a

guest in the first lady's box at the State of the Union address. Despite the attention from the Democrat's administration, Cochrane said he voted for Republican John McCain in 2008 and he would back Mitt Romney last year. Democratic Gov. Beverly Perdue in November lauded Lincolnton Furniture as an outstanding employer.
"We had a great family atmosphere; we did a lot of things right about being a good employer and treating our employees well."
"We can always look at that and be proud of it," Cochrane told WSOC.

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Announcements

WOODEN PALLETS ONLY in back of Big Spring Herald Building (710 Scurry) **FREE** to anyone willing to take them.

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A Beautiful Home, Laughter, Love, Art, Music, Many Opportunities, Stayhome Mom waits or 1st baby.
Expenses paid Elaine
1-800-561-9323.

Help Wanted

**CNAS
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AVAILABLE**

Immediate openings on various shifts for State certified or licensed professionals. Competitive rates & benefits for FT employees EOE/MFDV. For more information, call our DON (325) 573-6332, or apply in person:

**SNYDER
HEALTHCARE
CENTER**
5311 Big Spring Highway in Snyder

Help Wanted

**Sunoco Logistics
Lead Technician**
Colorado City, TX

High School diploma or equivalent with a minimum of 5 yrs related industry exp. Must possess a working knowledge various types of pipeline equipment such as pumps, controls, protective devices, valves, and meters. Must be able to use various test equipment, measuring devices, hand and power tools, machinist tools and gauges, the ability to interpret and work from drawings, plans and specifications relevant to the construction or alternation of measurement equipment or piping systems, the ability and willingness to use and operate all pertinent safety equipment when performing duties in potentially hazardous areas (respirator, hard hat, safety glasses, etc.), and display workmanship consistent with industry standards and company work practices. Works in accordance with all applicable codes and/or as indicated on engineering drawings and sketches. Benefits & Compensation: Medical & dental benefits, matching 401K, Paid vacations and holidays. **Job #6853.** For additional information apply online: www.sunocologistics.com. EOE

**Full Time
Bookkeeper/Teller**

Western Bank is seeking a Full Time Bookkeeper/Teller for the Coahoma Operations Center. Experience is preferred but not required. Will be responsible for overseeing all bookkeeping functions for the Western Bank Branches. Candidate must be detail oriented, familiar with banking platforms, ten key, word, and excel. Western Bank offers Comprehensive Benefits and compensation is DOE. Western Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Please email resume to HR@thebank.net. No phone calls please.

Help Wanted

**CITY OF
BIG SPRING**

Utility Service Worker
Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator
Animal Control Officer
Heavy Equipment Operator Landfill
Sanitation Truck Driver
Water Treatment Plant Operator
Maintenance Worker
Police Officer (Certified & Non-Certified)
Inventory Specialist* (Skills Test required)
Heavy Equipment Operator Streets
Code Enforcement Superintendent
Maintenance Worker
Drafting Technician
Customer Service Clerk* (Skills Test Required)

Seasonal Water Treatment Plant Operator
Seasonal Sanitation Truck Driver

For more information go to www.mybigspring.com or apply in person in the **Human Resources Office** located at 310 Nolan
(432) 264-2346

BLAST MASTERS has positions available for:
* Crew Tech
Must have valid Texas Drivers License, will train, Come by 1711 Snyder Hwy., Pick up application. No phone calls please.

Help Wanted

TDCJ Hiring Seminar

Wallace Unit/Webb Center
1675 South FM 3525
Colorado City, TX
Thursday, January 10, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Correctional Officer Jobs

- \$3,000 Recruiting Bonus at select units
- Higher starting salary with 2 years active military service or Bachelor's Degree
- Career ladder salary adjustments

Other job openings include:

- ◆ Food Service Managers
- ◆ Laundry Managers
- ◆ Truck Drivers
- ◆ and many more

Benefits include: vacation, sick & holiday leave, life & health insurance, retirement & advancement opportunities.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice
www.tdcj.state.tx.us

**\$30,000 SIGN-ON BONUS
NEED TRANSPORT/BOBTAIL**
Driver for fuel deliveries. Starting Salary \$23.00 per hr., all full medical benefits paid, retirement plan, vacation and sick leave. Must have CDL, hazmat & good driving record. Come by 1st & Johnson, Park Fuels/ Chevron, Big Spring. (432)263-0033.

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

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

Help Wanted

BLUE BELL Creameries is seeking a responsible, dependable Full Time Shipping Clerk. Position involves physically working with ice cream products in a cold environment. Must be 18 years old and have reliable transportation. No experience necessary, we will train. We offer competitive pay and great benefits. Apply in person at 401 East Interstate 20.

CLERICAL POSITION

available, must be proficient in Microsoft Applications and a background in the construction industry is preferred. Please bring resume to 1003 East FM 700 or email to erica.cobb@mastec.com

EARTHCO CONSTRUCTION

has position available for Backhoe Operator with Class A or B CDL. Competitive wages plus monthly bonus and benefits. If interested please apply in person at 101 Wooten Rd.

EXPERIENCED WAIT-STAFF

needed for day and evening shift. Apply in person at Big Spring Country Club. No phone calls please.

Help Wanted



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

KITCHEN HELP & CARHOP-

16 Yrs. old or older. Must be Neat in Appearance. Honest & Dependable. No experience necessary will train. Inquire at Wagon Wheel, 2010 Scurry St. No phone call Please!

LAQUINTA INN & SUITES--

Hiring Full-time Housekeeping. Must be able to work week-ends. Apply at 1102 West I-20. No phone calls please.

MAINT TECH needed for

Property in Big Spring. Applicant must have strong organizational skills and enjoy working outdoors. Ability to work independently with minimal supervision. 40 hours/wk. Hourly, Benefits, & Vacation. Fax resume 432-264-1761



HIRING WASTEWATER

Treatment Plant Operators in Pecos area.

Apply by calling Lee Conatser at 713-805-6670 or send resume to Quail Run Services P.O. Box 1662 Wimberley, Texas 78676 or leeconatser@lmenvironmental.com

HIRING EXPERIENCED dozer

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"It Pays To Read Big Spring Herald Classifieds"



The Colorado River Municipal Water District is accepting applications for a **Field Operations Manager**.

Position is responsible for all activities relating to the maintenance of the District's water supply systems, water quality enhancement systems, and safety and security programs.

The successful candidate will have the experience necessary to successfully plan, direct, organize, and, oversee the daily activities of crews maintaining the District's raw water pipelines, pumps, and pump stations. Must have progressive experience managing multiple projects and personnel. Prior experience in water supply operations and distribution strongly preferred.

CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave.

Applications are required and are available at the District's office, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas, by calling (432) 267-6341 or www.crmwd.org

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Looking For A Rewarding Career? Look No Further.
If this sounds like the opportunity for you the responsibilities would include working with a highly trained team to provide daily living skills training and supports to clients. West Texas Centers has part-time openings up to 32 hours weekly starting at \$9.30 an hour. Full time positions are also available with salary \$9.93 per hour plus benefits. Full time positions offer a full benefit package to include health insurance, dental, generous paid personal time off and a great retirement program.
Applications available at 409 Runnels or www.wtcmhmr.org or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769.EOE 235061

West Texas Centers
MH LVN: Under the direct supervision and administration of the Medical Services Coordinator. The nurse under this position performs nursing duties in the assigned outpatient mental health centers. The nurse is responsible for the care and treatment of individuals in accordance with the accepted nursing standards of West Texas Centers for MHMR. Consultation and in-service training related to nursing duties are provided by the Medical Service Coordinator. Due to travel requirements, a personal automobile is required. Travel requirements vary by position and are day-time travel only. No overnight travel is required and a company vehicle or mileage reimbursement is provided. Hours for the most part are 8am - 5pm Monday - Friday with all week-ends and major holidays off. No on-call is required. Salary is \$16.79 hr (\$1343.54 biweekly \$34,932 annually). Must be licensed to practice as a licensed vocational nurse in the State of Texas. Come join our team of caring, professional Medical Staff.
Applications available at 409 Runnels or www.wtcmhmr.org or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769.EOE 235487

West Texas Centers
Reimbursement Support Clerk is responsible for filing patient financials with insurance information in client charts, filing of end of month posting and all other reports. Duties would also include processing and mailing paper claims and appeals. This position would be responsible for folding and mailing statements monthly, mailing copies of records to insurance companies, phone appeals and purging old records. Monday - Friday. Salary \$8.20-\$8.75 hr DOE. GED or High School Diploma required. Will be required to take Excel test.
Applications available at 409 Runnels or www.wtcmhmr.org or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769.EOE 235335

DIRECTOR OF NURSING
Snyder Health Care Center seeks a Director of Nursing to oversee Nursing Services and provide direct quality care in our skilled nursing facility. Requires an RN w/min 2 years experience preferred (ideally in a Long Term Care facility), supervisory experience and superior communications skills, familiarity with rehab, therapy, comprehensive nursing practices and ability to manage staff scheduling required. Must be familiar with TEXAS regulatory requirements. We can offer excellent working conditions, a competitive salary and benefits (health, dental & life insurance avail) & vacations. EOE. For additional information call our Administrator, at (325) 573-6332 or apply in person:
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5311 Big Spring Highway in Snyder 229100

West Texas Centers
IDD Part Time Service Coordinator
Are you a teacher or a nurse or another professional looking for fulfilling part time employment? West Texas Centers is seeking someone to perform assessments, service monitoring and advocacy for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The right applicant will be able to provide these services through a flexible weekly schedule of 20 to 30 hours. Travel will be required within the service area. Applicant may be required to use personal vehicle when performing job duties with mileage reimbursement provided. Position requires a bachelor s degree with a specialization in social, behavioral, human services or related fields. If unsure your degree will meet these requirements complete the application and attach your transcript for review. An applicant previously employed as a Service Coordinator for another Home and Community Based Service provider prior to June 1, 2010 may not be required to have the degree and should contact West Texas Centers Human Resources Department. \$14.71-\$15.72 hr (\$1,176.47-\$1257.69 bi weekly \$30,588-\$32,700 annually) Salary Dependent on Experience.
Applications available at 409 Runnels or www.wtcmhmr.org or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769.EOE 235484

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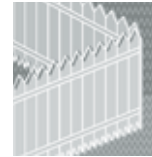
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NOW ACCEPTING Resumes For Plant Operator @ Natural Gas Processing Plant NE of Big Spring, TX. Excellent Salary, Paid Vacation, Medical Insurance, and 401k. Please Send Resume To: Plant Supervisor 11703 E. FM 846 Coahoma, TX 79511 Or Fax (432)399-4290 Or Email carcher@wtggs.com

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RUSTY'S OILFIELD Service in Stanton has immediate openings for Mechanic, CDL Driver, Roustabout Pushers and Helpers. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person at 3327 W 120 in Stanton. 432-756-2821.

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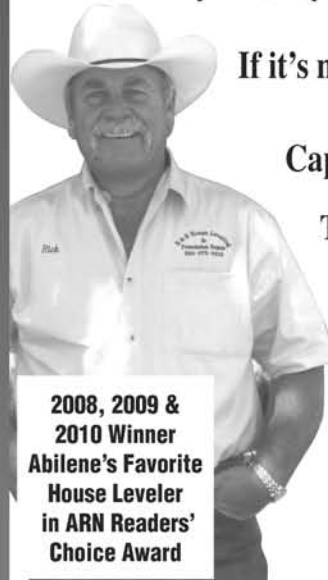
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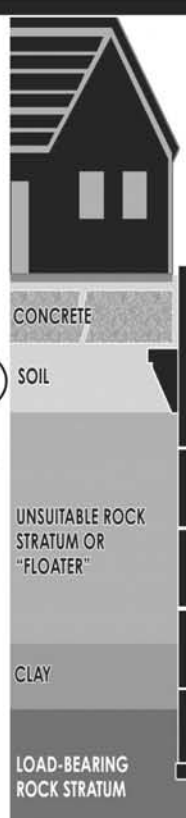
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Legals

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It is the policy of Senior Dimensions, Inc., dba Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home, to admit and treat all tenants without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, age or political belief. There is no distinction in the determination of eligibility for or in the manner of providing any tenant service provided by Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home in or outside of the campus. All services of Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home are available without distinction and rules of courtesy are uniformly applied to all regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, handicap, age or political belief. All persons and organizations have occasion either to refer individuals for admission or to recommend Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home must do so without regard to the individual's race, color, nation origin, religion, sex, handicap, age or political belief. Senior Dimensions, Inc., is an Equal Opportunity Employer and manages employment relations practices without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin or political belief.
#7620 January 6, 2013

Legals

NOTICE is hereby given that Laredo Petroleum, Inc., Operator 486610, has filed with the Texas Railroad Commission the following: P-17 application for the exception to SWR 26 and/or 27 to surface commingle production, allocate production and for off-lease storage, from oil and gas leases on E/245 acres of Section 15, Block 33, T5S, T&P RR Co. Survey and Section 14, Block 33, T5S, T&P RR Co. Survey, all in Glasscock County, Texas under other leases. Any affected mineral interest owners who have not received written notification are advised to contact Van Rodgers of Laredo Petroleum, Inc., in Midland, Texas at 508 W. Wall, Suite 600, Midland, Texas, (432)684-9955 by January 7, 2013. #7605 December 16, 23 and 30, 2012 and January 6, 2013

Legals

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

**RFP #13-002
CONTRACT SECURITY
SERVICES**

Documents may be obtained from Jason Mims, Director of Business Services, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432)264-5167. Responses will be accepted through 2:00 PM on Tuesday, January 22, 2013 in the Old Main South Annex, room 131, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, at which time they will be read into record. Vendors are instructed that a formal opening will not occur. The college will negotiate with qualified vendors concerning documents submitted. The final determination of vendor award will be made at a future board meeting. All questions should be directed to Jason Mims, Director of Business Services, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, e-mail jmims@howardcollege.edu, (432)264-5167. Howard County Junior College District reserves the right to reject any and all responses.
#7622 January 6 & 9, 2013

Legals

Notice of Public Sale

Sale of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale to be held at R2 Storage, 1506 E. FM 700, Big Spring, TX 79720 on January 22nd at 3pm. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold for cash to highest bidder. The space contains the following: Furniture, A/C unit, household electronics, banister blocks, bed etc.
tenant: Thomas & Felicia Leos.
#7623 January 6 & 13, 2013

~ Dear Margo ~

Of Relatives and High Horses

Dear Margo: My family had another miserable Christmas dinner at my sister's house. I'm 55, and I have two brothers, two sisters and an elderly mother, 78. My elder sister insists on having holiday dinners at her house, even though she always seems miser-able during the event. This sister and her husband are professionals and are the highest earners in the family.



MARGO HOWARD

Her children ignore me and my family, as well as one of my brothers and the other sister. If they say anything, it is something rude or snarky.

I am a college-educated woman with a good job. I am well-traveled. We own our own home and are financially in good shape with retirement on the horizon.

We always come over well-dressed, and we're well-spoken. And we always bring something. In other words, neither we nor my other siblings have done anything to deserve the silent or rude treatment that we get.

My question is: How do we handle this situation? If it weren't for my mom, I wouldn't hesitate to simply skip these events, since we all live within 25 miles of one another and can see one another whenever we want.

I don't believe that

talking to my sister would be helpful since we've never been close, and she has looked down her nose at me since childhood, regardless of my accomplishments.

I have thought of having my daughter's small family over and then visiting Mom afterward for coffee or simply declaring a "holiday from the holidays" and going somewhere for a vacation.

I'm sure that other people out there are going through similar circumstances. If there's a better solution, I'm willing to listen. — *Second Sib in S.C.*

Dear Sec: Too bad about the pretentious and rude children, who sound as though they've inherited the views of their mother. With snooty behavior like that, they are going to have trouble at more places than their parents' dinner table. I very much like the idea of stopping in for coffee, and I like the idea of getting out of Dodge even better! Short of reading these kids the riot act, which I know is unlikely, avoidance is the best solution. Your immediate family need not be pinatas for those kids from the lucky sperm club. — *Margo, pragmatically*

Workplace Troubles

Dear Margo: I suspect you do not, but most people work in an office. Wherever there are different personalities, there are all sorts of things you'd love to tell your boss — anonymously. I

thought you and your readers would like to know about a free new service at tellyourbossanything.com that helps you do just that.

Think of this website as a virtual version of the classic suggestion box. Upon signing up, an employee is prompted to enter their own email address, their boss's email address and a thoughtful message about what is bugging them. The site then delivers said message to said manager, who can review the complaint and reply in kind, all without knowing who they're actually talking to. — *Hope This Is Helpful*

Dear Help: You are right on the money about there being workplace troubles galore, and often the person who would like to report the difficulty feels unable to do so for a number of reasons. Sometimes the trouble has to do with a relative who is employed, the boss's secret or not-so-secret romantic interest, or an employee who somehow has ingratiated him or herself with the boss despite poor performance, just to name a few possibilities on a list that is endless. (And you are correct that I do not work in an office — which is a good thing, because my "office attire" is a nightgown and robe.) Thanks for the good suggestion. — *Margo, remedially*

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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Annie's Mailbox



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: My ex-husband and I have been divorced for three years. It was his idea. He cheated on me with several women.

His family, however, was extremely cruel, calling me all kinds of names and telling me I was a terrible mother and the worst thing that ever happened to them.

Now they won't speak to me. I was hurt and shocked by their treatment, because I thought we were friends. Not to mention, it was my ex's behavior that caused the divorce. I assume he lied to them and made them believe it was my fault.

My ex-husband lives far away and only sees the children once or twice a year.

He's also more than \$40,000 behind on his child support. His family lives closer, and they want to come over and see the kids on their own.

My ex says his father is ill, and they don't know how much time he has left. So far, I have refused. I have no legal obligation to his family.

The truth is, I would love for the children to have a relationship with his family, but I can't get over how nasty they have been to me.

They have never apologized for their behavior or reached out and tried to mend fences. On the rare occasion when my ex is in town, he will bring them to see the kids, but they still won't speak to me.

My ex tells me that I am only punishing the children by not letting them see his family.

Is it wrong for me to keep my kids away from people who have been so terrible?

I worry about the lies my former in-

largest investment most of us make, and having it damaged by undisciplined animals is just plain wrong. If you must travel with a pet that is not housebroken, use a portable cage or kennel to confine the animal. — *Animal Lover*

Dear Animal Lover:

Many people consider their pets to be their children, but they would be appalled if a child were permitted to soil their carpet. We hope your letter will inspire them to be equally considerate when it comes to their animal companions.

Dear Annie:

Instead of telling "Plus-Sized Good Catch" that people tend to judge one's outward appearance, you should have told her that there are online groups made for men who love large women.

And when you printed a bunch of letters in response, only one was from a man who likes large women, but I know my husband wrote you, too. Why didn't you print his? — *La Crescenta, Calif.*

Dear La Crescenta:

We are glad your husband wrote, but unfortunately, we can only print a fraction of the thousands of letters we receive. We try to keep our responses representative of the mail that comes in.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Adventure Time

Venus is in the final degrees of Sagittarius. She becomes a wandering minstrel in this part of the sky, entertaining the heavens with her bawdy songs, never staying long in one place or with one person, moving along to the next town at the first sign of boredom. All of this will change soon, though, so feed your hunger for adventure while you can.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Big projects will excite you, but don't let your excitement cause you to rush. Leave a good amount of space between the different stages of work. It will help you to refine and improve as you go.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Someone wants to include you in a clique. It may be enticing, but there are good reasons to resist. For starters, getting too comfortable at this point will stunt your personal and artistic growth.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). No matter how artistic or creative you consider yourself to be, elements of your environment such as color and lighting will have an enormous effect your mood now. Consider making improvements in these areas.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll do more than your fair share of the domestic work. Because you keep doing it, it

keeps getting left for you to do. So don't rush to clean up. Give others a chance to pitch in.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Social influence is strong now, and it's not all bad, either. There are many healthy and beneficial aspects to society. Still, don't let yourself slip entirely into the "group mind." Remain uniquely yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Coming together will be a challenge. You may find rather wide gaps between what you want and what your loved ones want. Luckily, these gaps can be closed without compromising your integrity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're afraid of putting your loved ones out, but don't let loved ones off the hook so easily. Let them give to you. It will strengthen the bond and keep them from taking you for granted.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The natural nemesis of fire is said to be water. But fire can be put out just as well if covered in earth, and it can't exist without air. You respect the powers of others. Strength and awareness are related.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Must there always be a winner and a loser? Of course not. Become partners instead of opponents. Band together to find a solution in which both parties will be winners.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your aesthetic experience will have a strong bearing on your happiness and self-esteem. Beautiful things will happen

because you're willing to put work into making your environment better.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The drama doesn't involve you. You'll feel like you're getting away with something, but the truth is that you deserve to have your time and energy to yourself. You've earned it by staying out of other people's business.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's wonderful to have a chance to help. Your anonymous and random act of kindness will have no immediate reward, but someday someone will do the same for you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 6). You have talents and gifts you're not using. Relationships make you see yourself differently and come more fully to life's banquet. Finances pick up in the next six weeks. In May, partners contribute to your wealth in more ways than financial. Travel in June pays for itself because you're so productive afterward. Pisces and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 1, 7, 38 and 19.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: Earth's moon is unique in the solar system. For starters, it's huge as far as moons go. Most moons are 3/10,000 the mass of the planet they orbit, while our moon is 1/81. Because of its size, the moon makes life on Earth dynamic and varied. Our tilted axis, seasons and tides all work beautifully under the moon's enormous influence. As we head toward the new moon in

Capricorn on Friday, there's a sense that other things on Earth are working quite well, too. Out of the darkness comes a fresh chance to establish your place in the world.

Early in the week, Mercury, the minister of communication, aligns with Pluto, master of larger issues, unseen forces and the kind of events that shake us to the core. The need to talk about the deeper issues feels urgent, and yet talking may not solve a thing. The practical Capricorn moon takes over, and it becomes clear that it's better to prove theories by the way you live than to speculate and argue about them. Regardless of our heightened emotional state, it's truths, facts and actions that will matter.

*No more be tears in moon or mist
For thee, sweet sentimentalist.*
— *James Joyce*

CELEBRITY PROFILES:

COMIC Capricorn Rowan Atkinson is among Great Britain's national treasures and a favorite of humor lovers worldwide. Atkinson's character Mr. Bean is a nearly silent individual challenged by the rigors of daily life. In contrast, Atkins was born under a chatty Gemini moon. His sun and Mercury in Capricorn indicates powerful instincts. His Venus in Sagittarius foretells international appeal.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
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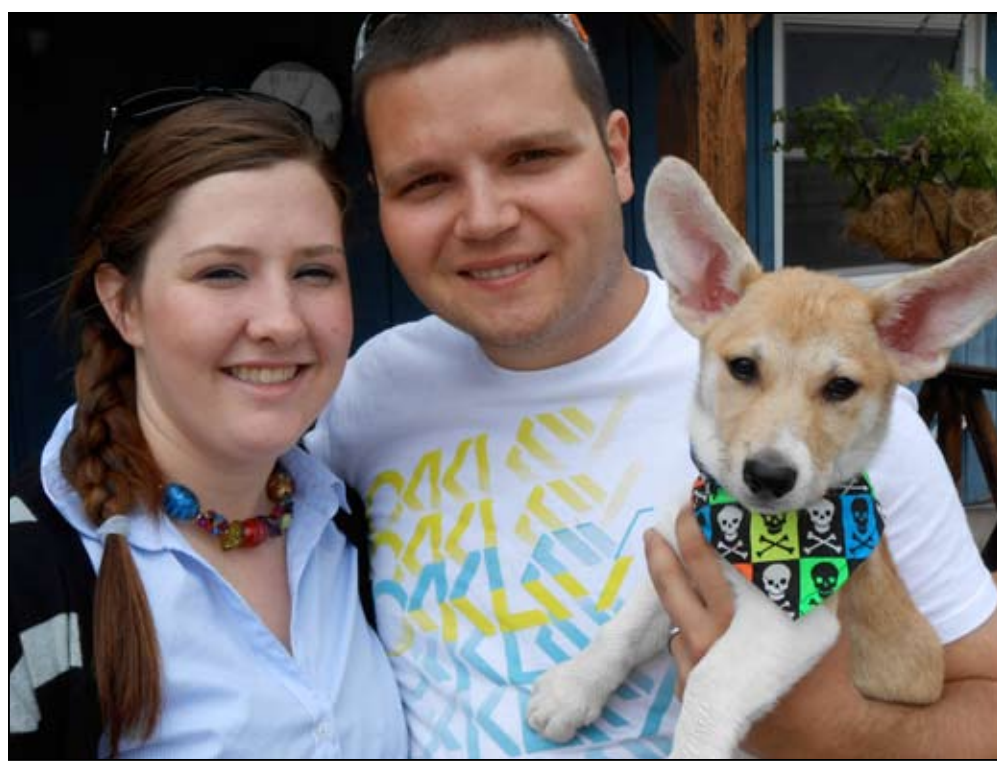
In The Big Spring Mall. • 267-6335

Straley and Miller

Lori Elizabeth Straley and Wesley Garrett Miller have announced their engagement.

Lori Elizabeth is the daughter of Karlissa McMurtray and Albert Straley. She is the granddaughter of Beth Leatherwood, Earl and Sharon Leatherwood and Carroll and Wanda Straley and the great-granddaughter of Lola Mensch.

She is a 2009 graduate of Dawson High School and a 2011 graduate of Midland College, where she received an associates of applied science in veterinarian technology.



Lori Elizabeth Straley and Wesley Garrett Miller

She is employed as a veterinarian with Medical Veterinary Services in Midland

Wesley Garrett is the son of Charles and

Bonnie Miller and the grandson of Filomena Glanister.

He is a 2007 graduate of Forsan High School and a 2010 graduate of

Midland College, where he majored in aviation mechanics.

He is a salesman with Border States Electric in Midland.

Cry

Sometimes they cry and no one hears them. They lay on beds of dirt and wait for tomorrow to come.

Their bodies are often just skin and bones covered with fleas and ticks.

Their water and food bowls sit empty.

Often they suffer broken bones, cuts and other wounds inflicted on them by man or other animals.

Sometimes they can't walk, run or fly because man others hurt them.

They suffer because some think they are just animals that have no feelings or emotions.

But that's not true, they do cry.

And if John and Jose hear them they do their best to help that poor little cat or dog.

Artis and Bebe listen for the sound of God's winged creatures in need of a little kindness.

And sometimes they cry, too, because they can't help all of God's creatures that are crying.

Written to honor John and Jose Rheinsfeld and Artis and Bebe McCasland because they are all angels who help God's creatures that are in need of a little kindness.

—Lana F. Anguiano

Please help the ones that cry to have a better life by helping the city animal shelter and the Big Spring Humane Society. Any donations help and you will put a smile on a lot of faces. Thank you.

Send your Life news to
newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

Menus

Big Spring ISD

Monday: Holiday
Tuesday: Breakfast: Apple Jacks, juice, milk; Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, baby carrots, bell peppers, fruit cocktail, Orange Smiles, milk.
Wednesday: Break-

fast: Sausage roll, juice, milk; Lunch: Chicken spaghetti, salad, green beans, apricots, roll, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast: Baked cheese sticks, juice, milk; Lunch: Tex-Mex stack, border beans,

mixed vegetables, pineapple, salsa, milk.

Friday: Breakfast: Blueberry waffles, juice, milk; Lunch: Corn dog, applesauce, cucumbers, jicama, banana, milk.

Note: Junior High alternative entree: Mon-

day and Friday, chicken patty sandwich; Wednesday, hamburger; Tuesday and Thursday, pizza; High School alternative entree (served daily): Chicken patty sandwich, hamburger, pizza, burrito bar.

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Obesity's a crisis but we want our junk food

WASHINGTON (AP) — We know obesity is a health crisis, or every new year wouldn't start with resolutions to eat better and get off the couch. But don't try taking away our junk food.

Americans blame too much screen time and cheap fast food for fueling the nation's fat epidemic, a poll finds, but they're split on how much the government should do to help.

Most draw the line at policies that would try to force healthier eating by limiting food choices, according to the poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

A third of people say the government should be deeply involved in finding ways to curb obesity, while a similar

proportion want it to play little or no role. The rest are somewhere in the middle.

Require more physical activity in school, or provide nutritional guidelines to help people make better choices? Sure, 8 in 10 support those steps. Make restaurants post calorie counts on their menus, as the Food and Drug Administration is poised to do? Some 70 percent think it's a good idea.

But nearly 6 in 10 people surveyed oppose taxes targeting unhealthy foods, known as soda taxes or fat taxes.

And when it comes to restricting what people can buy — like New York City's recent ban of supersized sodas in restaurants — three-quarters say no way.

"The outlawing of sugary drinks, that's just silly," said Keith Donner, 52, of Miami, who prefers teaching schoolchildren to eat better and get moving.

"People should just look at a Big Gulp and say, 'That's not for me.' I think it starts when

they are young and at school," he added.

Indeed, while three-quarters of Americans consider obesity a serious health problem for the nation, most of those surveyed say dealing with it is up to individuals. Just a third consider obesity a community problem that governments, schools, health care providers and the food industry should be involved in. Twelve percent said it will take work from both individuals and the community.

That finding highlights the dilemma facing public health experts: Societal changes over recent decades have helped spur growing waistlines, and now a third of U.S. children and teens and two-thirds of adults are either overweight or obese. Today, restaurants dot more street corners and malls, regular-sized portions are larger, and a fast-food meal can be cheaper than healthier fare. Not to mention electronic distractions that slightly more people surveyed blamed for obesity than fast food.

In the current environment, it's difficult to exercise that personal responsibility, said Jeff Levi of the nonprofit Trust for America's Health, which has closely tracked the rise in obesity.

"We need to create environments where the healthy choice becomes the easy choice, where it's possible for people to bear that responsibility," he said. The poll suggests women, who have major input on what a family eats, recognize those societal difficulties more than men do.

Food is only part of the obesity equation; physical activity is key too. About 7 in 10 people said it was easy to find sidewalks or paths for jogging, walking or bike-riding. But 63 percent found it difficult to run errands or get around without a car, reinforcing a sedentary lifestyle.

The AP-NORC Center survey was conducted Nov. 21 through Dec. 14. It involved landline and cellphone interviews with 1,011 adults nationwide.

Lori Straley
Bride Elect Of
Wesley Miller

SHOWER: January 12 • WEDDING: February 16

Our Featured Couple of the week has selected from our extensive line of Pottery, China, Crystal, Flatwear, Serving Pieces, Furniture, and Home Decor.

Included Below Are Our Other Registrees:

- ♥ Jordan Chesworth & Ricky Crawford
- ♥ Jill Johansen & Christopher Turner
- ♥ Lori Straley & Wesley Miller

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