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Estacado outlasts Lady Steers in tough, five-set match.

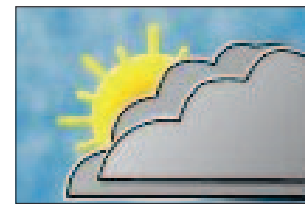
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BIG SPRING

# HERALD

**MONDAY**  
 OCTOBER 1, 2007



VOLUME 102, NUMBER 263

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## Officials rate county fair much improved

**Ryan Shifflett, Hannah Peckenpaugh take titles in Kountry Kids Contest**

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
 Staff Writer

From ropin' and ridin' to singin' and tractor pullin', the Howard County Fair ended on an active note Saturday night.

Officials were already claiming the fair an improvement over the previous year even before the last visitor came through the front gate Saturday evening.

More than 4,000 people had visited the fair as of Saturday morning, an increase from the customer count at the 2006 event.

"I think part of it had to do with the weather — it was a lot warmer this year," said County Judge Mark Barr, one of the fair directors. "Plus, the carnival drew a lot more visitors this year. And we didn't have to compete against a football game Friday night, which helped attendance."

It wasn't just a matter of increased attendance — increased participation

in fair events were noted, as well. Officials said three Saturday events — the tractor pull contest, calf and team roping and the Kountry Kids Contest — all saw increased participation this year.

The Kountry Kids Contest was one of those events that benefited from increased turnout. Contest Director Bernadine Grisett said 34 children entered the contest, up about 20 from 2006.

Overall winners in the contest were 1-year-old Ryan Shifflett in the boys' division and 3-year-old Hannah Peckenpaugh in the girls' division.

Age group winners in the contest were:

- 0 to 6 months — Cameron Currie and Jake Denton.
- 7 to 12 months — Kylee Key.
- 12 to 23 months — Jesslynn Ramirez and Ryan Shifflett.

See **FAIR**, Page 3A



HERALD PHOTO/Steve Reagan

Ryan Shifflett, left, and Hannah Peckenpaugh were named overall winners in the Kountry Kids Contest, held in conjunction with the Howard County Fair, which concluded its annual run Saturday evening.



HERALD photo/Ron Midkiff

Spectators at Fina CAF Airsho 2007 get a close-up view of an Air Force F-15 just before it turns down the runway and takes off at Midland International Airport on Saturday.

## Commissioners set to review jail proposals

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners are expected to review proposals from construction managers Tuesday morning, as the court moves forward with designing and building a new county jail.

The court, which recently gave the OK to go out on bids for construction managers at risk, is expected to review the bids and possibly settle on an overseer for the multi-million-dollar project.

Commissioners — with County Judge Mark Barr making the motion — voted unanimously Sept. 10 to advertise for bids from construction managers at risk — as opposed to a general contractor or construction manager agent — within what project architect Jeff Heffelfinger described as "the trian-

gle."  
 "We'll advertise in Big Spring, Midland-Odessa, San Angelo, Lubbock and maybe even Abilene — the whole triangle," Heffelfinger explained to the court during the meeting. "I'll be surprised if we get more than three bids back, at which point the court can interview who they want, or if you don't see someone you like we can look at going another route."

Heffelfinger told the court the advantages of utilizing a construction manager at risk outweigh the benefits of using a general contractor.

"The construction manager at risk is basically an employee of the county," said Heffelfinger. "You've negotiated the fee ahead of time, and it's their responsibility to be on the job site overseeing the construction pretty

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Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

### AN ART TOWN?

Lou Ann Dean, a freelance writer for Texas Highways magazine, is working on a book to be titled "The Fifty Best Small Art Towns in Texas."

The Heritage Museum and the Big Spring Convention & Visitor's Bureau are encouraging local artists to be part of this new project. A luncheon and opportunity for Dean to interview artists for the book will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Oct. 9 at the Heritage Museum.

The luncheon, catered by Al's & Son Bar-B-Q, will be free for artists. RSVP by calling 267-8255.

### SUEZ COOK-OFF NEARS

The Big Spring Shrine Club Suez Fire Brigade Chili Cook-Off will be held Saturday, Oct. 13, at 101 S. Goliah.

Cooks registration will be at 9 a.m. with judging to begin at noon.

There will be cash prizes for first through third place.

Entry fees are \$25. Public sampling of the chili will be \$6.

To register in advance, mail a check to the Big Spring Shrine Fire Brigade at 409 E. Third, Big Spring 79720.

For more information, contact Bo Clawson, fire chief, at 270-2615.

### BLOOD DRIVES

United Blood Services will be holding several blood drives in Howard County during October. Among those scheduled are:

- Sacred Heart Catholic Church Blood Drive, Sunday, Oct. 7, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Western Container Blood Drive, Friday, Oct. 12, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Star Tek, Thursday, Oct. 18, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
- United Methodist Church, Sunday, Oct. 21, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Scenic Mountain, Monday, Oct. 22, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

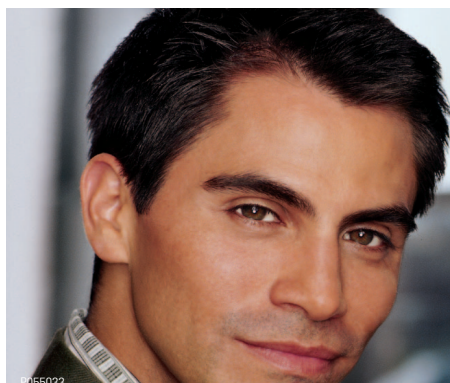
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# Sports

**BIG SPRING HERALD**

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Jonathan Hull at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

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Monday, October 1, 2007

## IN BRIEF

### Area high school sports calendar

Here's a look at the area high school varsity sports' calendar:

#### TUESDAY

Big Spring volleyball at Lake View, 7:30 p.m.

Big Spring tennis vs. Sweetwater, 4 p.m.

#### FRIDAY

Big Spring football vs. Andrews, Homecoming, 7:30 p.m.

Grady football vs. Hermleigh, Homecoming, 7:30 p.m.

Forsan football at Sterling City, 7:30 p.m.

Coahoma football vs. Anson, 7:30 p.m.

Stanton football vs. Hawley, 7:30 p.m.

Sands football vs. Dawson, 7:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY

Garden City football vs. El Paso Emmanuel, 4 p.m.

Big Spring volleyball at Plainview, 2:30 p.m.

Big Spring cross country at McNeil Invitational in Round Rock.

Big Spring tennis vs. Plainview, 10 a.m.

Big Spring swimming at Lubbock Relays.

### Big Spring tennis boosters meeting

The Big Spring High School Tennis Boosters will hold their monthly meeting at 6 p.m. today in the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of junior high and high school tennis players are encouraged to attend.

For more information, Call Jeri Farmer at 816-4059.

### Quarterback Club meeting today

The Big Spring Quarterback Club is meeting today at 7 p.m. in the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of Big Spring football players from junior high to varsity are encouraged to attend and help support the Steers' football program.

### Country club's 2007 Shootout results

The Big Spring Country Club held its 2007 ShootOut Saturday and Sunday. The format was a member-guest 2-person scramble.

#### Championship flight

1. Steve Watson/Nick Read, 64-56=120; 2. Charlie Garcia/Chance Cain, 64-64=128; 3. Ben Garcia/Ryan Rodriguez, 67-62=129.

#### First flight

1. James Welch/Sam Rodriguez, 64-64=128; 2. Jack Birdwell/Jim Roger, 68-62=130; 3. R.C. Reed/Tracy Hix, 66-66=132.

#### Second flight

1. Toby Black/Red Black, 65-68=133; 2. Kyle Ditto/Wes Key, 66-68=134; 3. Jason Brock/Reggie Roberts, 69-69=138.

#### Third flight

1. John Wilson/John Agee, 68-68=136; 2. Jim Wright/Wade Parker, 69-68=137; 3. James Murray/Gilbert Reyna, 70-70=140.

# Steers' tennis blows through Chiefs

## Herald Staff Report

The gusty wind wasn't the only thing blowing through Comanche Trail Park's Figure 7 Tennis Complex Saturday. Big Spring's Steers also blew through San Angelo Lake View's Chiefs, 10-4, to improve their team tennis district record to 2-0.

It was the Steers' performance in the doubles matches that powered them through the Chiefs, as they won all five partnered matches.

On the boys' side, all three duos won its matches in straight sets. The team of Jeremy Landin

and Jeremy Langford defeated Shirojumar Jarendraneyh and Ryan Perez, 6-4, 7-6 (7-3). Ainhann Nghiem and Jonathan Ray beat Jeff Torrez and Jonathan Shover, 6-1, 6-2 and Ryan Gonzalez and Jonathan Womack swept through Dustin Haire and Kraig Lomas, 6-0, 6-3.

The two girls' doubles teams didn't have as easy of a time overcoming their competition. Keely Parnell and Brianna Palmer played a match against Susan Bates and Candace Barnes that lasted for two hours and 45 minutes. After dropping the opening set, the Big Spring duo

fought back for a, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, victory.

Sydney Flohr and Jessica Womack finished the Big Spring clean sweep through the doubles field, winning their match, 7-5, 6-3.

In boys' singles, Ryan Gonzalez and Ainhann Nghiem picked up key victories for the Steers. Gonzalez defeated Ryan Payner, 6-2, 6-2, and Nghiem blasted through Torrez, 6-2, 6-1.

Womack, Brittany Farmer, C.J. Riddle and Shayla Drake each won their singles matches on the girls' side. Farmer won a 3-set marathon with Najera, 6-4,

6-7, 6-4. Riddle took care of business against Jessica Raines, 6-2, 6-4. Womack cruised past Candace Barnes, 6-2, 6-0, and Drake outlasted Amanda Bishop in three sets, 6-7, 6-2, 6-3.

The team victory puts Big Spring in second place in district behind Frenship. The Steers blasted through Plainview, 10-1, in their first district competition Sept. 22 and will take on the Bulldogs again Saturday at Figure 7.

See **TENNIS**, Page 2B



Big Spring's Andrea Claxton bumps a pass during the Lady Steers' district volleyball match against Lubbock Estacado Saturday at the Big Spring Junior High gymnasium. The Lady Steers lost to Estacado in five sets.

Herald photo/Jonathan Hull

## Steers' swim team dominates in duel

### Herald Staff Report

Big Spring's Steers and Lady Steers swim teams dived into their season Saturday in a double-duel meet against Abilene Cooper and Abilene High School.

Both teams dominated the meet with a Big Spring swimmer finishing first in 16 events. The boys' team defeated Abilene High by a score of 93-29 and Abilene Cooper, 97-31. The Lady Steers beat Abilene High, 76-48, and Abilene Cooper, 82-42.

"We did very well," said Big Spring Swim Coach Randall Shaw. "This meet was a great accomplishment, but we are just warming up for the rest of the season. I think this is just the beginning of a great year for us. It's nice to just beat two Class 5A schools, but to beat them by such a large margin was phenomenal."

The boys' team won all but one event. Shaw says the key for his swimmers is for them to keep pushing each other.

"Our main focus is to do our best and try to push each other," he explained. "By doing this, we should never lose. We have a great mix of athletes this season with a variety of talents in and out of the pool. We finally have the depth we have been missing the last three years. That made a huge difference at this meet. I don't have to scramble to fill places. Since there are so many kids on the team, it is very competitive to fill spots."

Shaw credited his team captains — Cameron Hughes and Deshae Green for the boys and Lauren Sage and Ashley Oliver for the girls — for providing great leadership.

"The captains have shown a great deal of dedication and all of them help push the rest of the team," Shaw said. "They don't just drive the team to be great at meets, but in the pool, the weight room and the classroom as well."

Both teams compete Saturday at the Lubbock Relays.

#### Results

##### Girls 200 yard medley relay

1. Abilene High 'A' - 2:18.67; 2. Big Spring 'A' - 2:18.72; 3. Big Spring 'B' - 2:36.85; 4. Abilene Cooper 'A' - 3:07.34.

##### Boys 200-yard medley relay

1. Big Spring 'A' - 2:02.44; 2. Abilene High 'A' - 2:16.21; 3. Big Spring 'B' - 2:16.68; 4. Abilene Cooper 'A' - 2:18.06.

##### Girls 200-yard freestyle

1. Kelly Sage, Big Spring - 2:18.63; 2. Mandy Cantu, Abilene - 2:34.71; 3. Ashlin Zamudio, Cooper - 2:52.47; 4. Doris Brandt, Big Spring - 2:59.12; 5. Katie Bailey, Big Spring - 3:20.47; 6. Nella McInroe, Cooper - 3:25.46.

##### Boys 200-yard freestyle

See **SWIM**, Page 2B

## Estacado outlasts Lady Steers in five sets

### By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

Big Spring's Lady Steers haven't had too many occasions to celebrate during the 2007 volleyball season. However, the effort and hard work they showed on the court of the Big Spring Junior High gymnasium Saturday afternoon against Lubbock Estacado's Lady Matadors is worth toasting.

Despite losing a closely contested match in five sets — 26-24, 20-25, 27-25, 25-27, 15-12 — to the Lady Matadors (1-2, 12-14), the Lady Steers (0-2, 3-27) put up a tremendous fight.

"We were in every game," said Lady Steers' Head Coach Amanda Whitaker. "The effort has been there for us all season, but we still aren't consistently finishing. It's hard to pull out of losing streak like this. Each loss gets the team looking a little more negative."

"Estacado is very good this year. They're a very athletic team," she continued. "They were jumping so high that they hit over our blocks. Everybody underestimates them, but I never have and never will. We fought hard though. We're not far from winning some games."

Big Spring showed Estacado what type of battle it was in for in the first set, refusing to be beaten easily. Big Spring was down 23-19 in the opening game, but battled back to tie it at 24-all.

Unfortunately, Estacado's Brittany Johnson, who finished the match with 24 kills and 14 blocks, picked up the

next two points for the Lady Matadors, giving them the one set to none advantage.

The Lady Steers opened the second set with a 10-3 edge and essentially cruised to a 25-20 win. However, that would prove to be the least contested set of the match.

Both teams battled back and forth over the next two games. The Lady Steers again trailed late in the third set, but rallied to tie the game at 22-all. Big Spring had service to win the set at 25-24, but unfortunately couldn't come away with the win.

The fourth set was just as contested with neither team able to take a sizable lead. After trading service errors to

See **BSHS**, Page 2B

## Dawson, Valle headline Steers' cross country efforts

### Herald Staff Report

LUBBOCK — Big Spring's cross country teams got a taste of what type of competition they're going to be challenged with at the 32nd Annual Lubbock Invitational Cross Country meet held at Mae Simmons Park.

The defending Class 4A state champions boys' team found out that defending its title will not come easily.

The Steers finished fourth in a field of 15 teams despite placing two of the top three individual runners.

Zack Dawson won his second meet of the season, finishing the 3-mile course in 15:52.9. Dawson posted the fastest time of all runners in all four divisions — Class 5A, Class 4A, Class 3A, Class 2A-1A — at the meet.

Jordan Valle was 17 seconds behind Dawson with a time of 16:09.4, which was good enough for third place. In between the two Steers' runners was district rival Alex Aguilar of Frenship.

However, despite the showing from Big Spring's top two runners, the team finished with 114 points, 26 points behind first-place Clint Horizon. El Paso Chapin finished second with 89 points and Hereford came in third with 90 points.

Shane Allen was Big Spring's third runner across the finish line in 26th place with a time of 17:24.4. Kade Parker came in 37th, finishing the course in 17:43.9. Jessie Sanchez finished 47th in 18:03.4 and Daniel Segundo was 72nd with a time of 18:40.2.

The Lady Steers also placed

two runners in the top 10 — as they have in every meet this season — but finished ninth in a field of 20 teams with a team score of 285.

Catherine Leubner came in third place, finishing the 2-mile course in 12:12. Esther Tobar was a mere 12 seconds behind her teammate, placing sixth with a time of 12:24.

Mistie Aguilar was the third Lady Steer to cross the finish line with a time of 13:38, which was good enough for 47th place. Crystale Torres finished the course in 15:27 and Kallina Fletcher came in at 16:12.

Both teams compete in the McNeil Invitational Saturday at Round Rock.

Another area cross country team made some noise at the Lubbock Invitational. The Grady

Wildcats finished fifth in the Class 2A-1A division at the meet with Roy Rodriguez nabbing first place with a time of 16:48.6. Tommylee Rivas finished in ninth place in 17:17.5.

#### Results

##### CLASS 4A

##### Girls

Team totals: 1. Hereford 57, 2. El Paso Chapin 84, 3. El Paso Del Valle 113, 4. Saginaw Boswell 131, 5. Clint Horizon 162, 6. Stephenville 166, 7. Fort Worth Brewer 205, 8. Clint Mountain View 230, 9. Big Spring 288, 10. Plainview 297.

Top individuals: 1. Ashley Mason, Hereford, 11:56.7; 2. Abby Metcalf, Hereford, 12:06.8; 3. Catherine Leubner, Big Spring, 12:11.3; 4. Allison Woerner, Stephenville, 12:14.9; 5. Yennifer Mendez, El Paso Del Valle, 12:20.3; 6. Esther Tobar, Big Spring, 12:24.0; 7. Regina Germaine, Saginaw Boswell, 12:24.6; 8. Kurstin Draper, Fort Worth Brewer, 12:29.3; 9. Jennifer Atkinson, Boswell, 12:29.5; 10. Maria Esquinca, EP Del Valle, 12:31.5.

See **BSCC**, Page 2B



## Obituaries

### Cynthia Schaffer



Cynthia Schaffer, 59, of Big Spring died on Saturday, Sept. 29, 2007, in a Lubbock hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel Big Spring with the Rev. Agustin Ypina, of the First United Methodist Church, officiating. Graveside funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2007, at Union Cemetery near Durango.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

She was born on Jan. 18, 1948, in Waco.

She came to Big Spring as a young girl and graduated from Big Spring High School in 1966. She received her bachelors degree in elementary education from Texas Tech University and her masters degree in bilingual education from Sul Ross University. Cynthia taught kindergarten at Lakeview Elementary and at the Kindergarten Center for many years. She volunteered at Kentwood Elementary after retiring and also volunteered at the Chalet, Hanger 25 Museum and the Kids Club program.

She was an active member of the First United Methodist Church.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Kim Schaffer Franco and husband, Filomeno, of Cedar Park; and three granddaughters, Kaydra Franco of Lubbock and Kaymi Franco and Kaya Franco, both of Cedar Park.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Glenna Rogers Ritenour.

The family suggest memorials to the First United Methodist Church, 400 Scurry, Big Spring 79720 or to the American Diabetes Association, Midland Office, 10 Desta Drive, Suite 220E, Midland 79705.

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

*Paid obituary*

## Support Groups

### MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) TX. 21, weight loss support group meets at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third St. at 5 p.m. TOPS provides members with information, motivation and fellowship in attaining and maintaining their physician-prescribed weight goals. For more information, call Alex at 264-6921 or 1-800 392-8677.

### TUESDAY

• The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministeries, 1209 Wright St.

• Dual Recovery Anonymous (DRA), 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Howard County Library Basement Community Room. DRA is a 12-step meeting for those who have a desire to stop drinking and/or using drugs and also have a mental or emotional illness.

All meetings are non-smoking and coffee is not available but members can bring their own coffee or non-alcoholic beverage. For more information, call Deidra F. at (432) 816-3033. Leave a message if you get voice mail.

• Life Recovery, a non-denominational Christian group of recovering alcoholics and addicts, meets at 7 p.m. at the St. Paul Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 264-1213 for more information.

### THURSDAY

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

### FRIDAY

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

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Saturday and Sunday:

- **DEBORA MAE JONES**, 29, 501 E. 17th, was arrested on an Erath County warrant and two Ector County warrants.
- **MONICA MARTINEZ**, 24, 1206 Johnson, was arrested on three local warrants.
- **LEONARD A. AGUINAGA**, 17, 707 E. 16th, was arrested to two local warrants.
- **ADOLFO FRANCO**, 40, no address given, was arrested on charges of public intoxication and possession of marijuana.
- **ALEJANDRO MIER**, 23, 1225 FM 461, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- **JESSICA L. TALIAFERRO**, 32, 1308 E. 17th, was arrested on three local warrants, two citations and a Travis County warrant.

## Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity Friday through Sunday (Note: officials report 53 inmates in the county jail):

- **ROGACIANO GARCIA**, 28, was arrested on a charge of failure to appear.
- **CANDIDA LYNN WHITEHEAD**, 34, was arrested on a bondsman off bond warrant for theft by check.
- **ANDY LEE FLORES**, 37, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated/third or more offense.
- **JOHN M. RAMIREZ**, 38, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of burglary of building and a parole violation warrant.
- **REYNALDO GONZALES**, 19, was arrested by DPS on a bondsman off bond warrant for prohibited weapon and charges of bail jumping and failure to appear.
- **JOSE MANUEL JIMENEZ JR.**, 32, was arrested by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated and a bondsman off bond warrant for driving while license invalid.
- **BOE LEWIS PAYNE**, 25, was arrested by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated and driving while license invalid.
- **JAMES EVERETT ROBERTS**, 38, was arrested on a charge of Class C assault/family violence.
- **DOUGLAS PENNINGTON**, 41, was arrested on a charge of assault/family violence.
- **SANDY SHEIKH**, 25, was arrested on a motion to revoke probation for theft.
- **LORENZO F. YANEZ**, 33, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a motion to revoke probation for burglary of a vehicle.
- **STEVEN GORDON ROGERS**, 55, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated/third or more offense.
- **MICAH LEVI PEARSON**, 21, was arrested on a charge of forgery.
- **WALLACE TERRY VIASANA**, 52, was arrested on charges of violating promise to appear and possessing an alcoholic beverage in a motor vehicle.
- **DENISE DEANDA**, 35, was arrested on a charge of theft.
- **JAMES RAY ROGER**, 65, was arrested by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **BLAKE EDWARD LANCE**, 37, was arrested by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **ALEJANDRO MIER**, 23, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- **ADOLFO LEONARDO FRANCO**, 40, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- **MONICA MARTINEZ**, 24, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.

## Take Note

• **KIDS KLUB DVD ARE AVAILABLE AT THE HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM** for \$20. Partial proceeds of these DVDs will benefit next summer's Klub program. Supplies are limited. For more information, call 264-1999.

• **THE BETA KAPPA CHAPTER OF DELTA KAPPA GAMMA** will meet Monday in the Howard County Library Community Room. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. The program will be: Breast Cancer Awareness - A Passion for Prevention. All members are encouraged to attend.

• **A FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED** for David English of Snyder, who was recently injured on the job in Big Spring and is in critical condition at Covenant Hospital in Lubbock. Donations can be made at American State Bank, 1411, S. Gregg St., Big Spring.

## Bulletin Board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

### TODAY

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 213-1342 for more information. Weigh-in starts at 5 p.m.; meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffett.
- Howard County ARC meets at 806 E. Third in the Bingo Hall. Call 264-0674 for more information.
- The Big Spring Cruisers club meeting at 7 p.m. in the Texas RV Park meeting room.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.
- Big Spring Chapter No. 178 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

### TUESDAY

- Coahoma Senior Citizen luncheon is set for 11 a.m. in the Coahoma Community Center.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

- VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.
- Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. in the clubhouse on the Andrews Highway.
- Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.
- Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.
- Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

### WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

## Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity Saturday and Sunday:

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 192 mile marker of Interstate 20. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the City Park. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported at Fourth and Goliad streets. Service was refused.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2500 block of March. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported at the 194 mile marker of Interstate 20. Ten persons were transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported at the 192 mile marker of Interstate 20. Service was refused.

## Lottery

Here are the winning numbers from Saturday night's Lotto Texas lottery drawing:


9-11-26-30-37-38.  
Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night's drawing: \$8 million.

•••

Winning numbers drawn in Saturday night's Pick Three drawing, in order: 4-2-4

•••

Winning numbers drawn in Saturday afternoon's Pick Three drawin, in order: 9-6-1



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# Dallas demoralizes beat up Rams, 35-7

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — While Tony Romo was chasing the ball the wrong way, Cowboys owner Jerry Jones considered the tremendous likelihood that something was going to go wrong.

"When he tried to grab it the first time and didn't get it, I said this could be a huge play against us," Jones said. "That ball going over your head, 99 chances out of 100, that's not good."

Unless it's Romo, whose wild scramble just before halftime sparked the undefeated Cowboys in their 35-7 victory over the frustrated and winless St. Louis Rams on Sunday.

Romo was 33 yards behind the line of scrimmage when he finally gathered the errant third-down shotgun snap that went over his head. Instead of falling on the ball or throwing it away, he ran and recovered all the yards he lost — plus

got the four needed for a first down.

"You have a sense that people are around you or you don't," Romo said. "And no one was around me."

Five snaps later, on another third down, Romo ran up the middle 15 yards for the go-ahead touchdown with 11 seconds left in the first half.

"I'm thinking he's just going to fall on the ball, but he's got an unbelievable motor," tight end Jason Witten said. "The team kind of rallied behind that play."

The Cowboys are 4-0 for the first time since 1995, the season of their last Super Bowl title. The Rams were last 0-4 in 2002, when they opened with five straight losses coming off a Super Bowl loss.

Dallas ran only 11 offensive plays in the third quarter, and that was plenty. Romo threw three TDs in that stretch, 59 and 37 yards to Patrick Crayton, and 17 yards to

Witten.

Since a TD on their opening drive of the season, the Rams' offense has gotten into the end zone only once more in 43 possessions. They had 187 total yards against Dallas, their score coming on Dante Hall's 85-yard punt return right before Romo's scrambling series.

The Rams were without six injured starters and two more are suspended, then lost several others to injuries, including Isaac Bruce, who had guaranteed a victory.

Quarterback Marc Bulger played despite two broken ribs and his patchwork line wasn't able to protect him. He was sacked twice and under lots of pressure, going 11-of-24 for 114 yards with an interception.

Cowboys fans were in an ecstatic frenzy watching Romo's escape act on a third-and-3 play from midfield.

When Romo first caught up to the ball, he kicked it farther away. He finally

got control around the 17, turned around and started running. Several blockers came to help when the cheers prompted them that the play was still alive, then Romo juke a defender around the 30 and kept going until stepping out of bounds at the Rams 46.

Romo was 21-of-33 for 339 yards with an interception, his third 300-yard game already. Crayton had seven catches for 184 yards and Julius Jones ran 13 times for 52 yards, with a 2-yard TD.

The Cowboys had 502 total yards, their first time over 500 since an overtime game at Washington in the 1999 season opener.

Wade Phillips is the only coach in team history to win his first four games.

"4-0 is nice. 4-0 puts us where we'd hoped to be," Phillips said. "It doesn't put us in the Super Bowl, it doesn't put us in the playoffs. But it's good that we're there."

## BSCC

Continued from Page 1B

### Boys

Team totals: 1. Clint Horizon 68, 2. El Paso Chapin 89, 3. Hereford 90, 4. Big Spring 114, 5. El Paso Burges 150, 6. El Paso Ysleta 163, 7. Keller Fossil Ridge 176, 8. El Paso Jefferson 199, 9. Saginaw Boswell 210, 10. Dumas 274.

Top individuals: 1. Zack Dawson, Big Spring, 15:52.9; 2. Alex Aguilar, Frenship, 16:03.0; 3. Jordan Valle, Big Spring, 16:09.4; 4. Andy Lucio, Hereford, 16:22.5; 5. Victor Sanchez, El Paso Chapin, 16:25.8; 6. Anthony Pequeno, Caprock, 16:27.8; 7. Uriel Acuna, El Paso Jefferson, 16:28.8; 8.

Solomon Gardea, El Paso Chapin, 16:32.2; 9. Jesus Garcia, Clint Horizon, 16:42.8; 10. Jamine Chahade, El Paso Burges, 16:49.1.

### Class 2A-1A

#### Boys

Team totals: 1. Wall 57, 2. Sundown 85, 3. Boys Ranch 110, 4. Kermit 140, 5. Grady 190, 6. Winters 194, 7. Panhandle 223, 8. Sunray 232, 9. Shallowater 246, 10. Plains 276.

Top individuals: 1. Roy Rodriguez, Grady, 16:48.6; 2. Tommy Serna, Sundown, 16:55.2; 3. Trey Bale, Kermit, 16:56.7; 4. Jason Mares, Wall, 17:03.1; 5. Jonathan Lira, Plains, 17:07.6; 6. Derek Brest, Wall, 17:11.2; 7. Frank Hernandez, Sundown, 17:13.2; 8. Ben Moore, Panhandle, 17:17.1; 9. Tommylee Rivas, Grady, 17:17.5; 10. Sean Mott, Wall, 17:20.4.

Join Sports Editor Jonathan Hull daily at 7:05 a.m. for the Big Spring Herald Sports Page live on KBYG 1400AM.

# su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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. Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

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

## BSHS

Continued from Page 1B

tie the game at 25-all, the Lady Steers served out the next two points to force and fifth and decisive set.

The final game was played to 15 points in accordance to UIL rules. Estacado opened the game by winning the first four points. However, Big Spring fought back and cut the margin to one point at 12-11.

With the score 14-12 in the Lady Matadors favor, Big Spring's Callie Partee hit a jump serve that kept Estacado from getting a good look at a kill shot.

Unfortunately, Johnson picked up

her 14th block of the game on the Lady

Steers' ensuing kill attempt, giving Estacado the 15-12 win in the final set.

Partee had 26 kills and four blocks. Andrea Claxton and Hali Torres each had nine kills and Maci Graves put away 8 kills. Claxton added six blocks. Clarissa Carrisalez led the team with 11 digs and also picked up five service aces. Jordan Chesworth totaled 53 assists.

Big Spring travels to Lake View Tuesday to play its third District 4-4A contest of the season. It will be the fourth time the Lady Steers have faced the Lady Chiefs this season. Lake View has come away with narrow victories in the previ-

ous matches, winning most sets by just two points.

"We know Lake View well. They are absolutely one of our biggest rivals in volleyball," Whitaker said. "We've had some pretty good matches with them before, but they proved to be tougher mentally. They can be broken though."

"I hope that fans will make the trip to San Angelo to support us," she continued. "Lake View has one of the more hostile home environments for a visiting team to play in. It can be very intimidating and our girls will need the support."

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mailing him at [sports@bigspringherald.com](mailto:sports@bigspringherald.com).

## SWIM

Continued from Page 1B

1. Daniel Shanahan, Big Spring - 2:18; 2. A.J. Richey, Big Spring - 2:23.85; 3. Taylor Calk, Big Spring - 2:46.82; 4. Daniel Archer, Cooper - 2:53.22; 5. Eran Jennings, Cooper - 2:53.85; 6. Clinton Ronk, Big Spring - 2:57.40.

Girls 200-yard individual medley  
1. Amanda Campos, Cooper - 2:23.37; 2. Lauren Sage, Big Spring - 2:33.63; 3. Ashley Pike, Big Spring - 3:16.84; 4. Jennifer Walker, Big Spring - 3:19.

Boys 200-yard individual medley  
1. Deshae Green, Big Spring - 2:31.12; Daniel Budke, Big Spring - 2:59.98.

Girls 50-yard freestyle  
1. Amanda McGill, Abilene - 27.53; 2. Ashley Oliver, Big Spring - 32.37; 3. Stephanie Marsh, Cooper - 32.54; 4. Peyton Oles, Abilene - 36.44; 5. Danyelle Neal, Cooper - 37.26; 6. Shelby McGill, Abilene - 44.06; 7. Brittany Sanchez, Cooper - 46.12; 8. Hannah Weber, Big Spring - 47.31.

Boys 50-yard freestyle  
1. Cameron Hughes, Big Spring - 23.44; 2. Chris Marsh, Cooper - 27.39; 3. Caleb Chavez, Big Spring - 30.47; 4. Joe Garcia, Big Spring - 30.64.

Girls 100-yard butterfly

1. Jennifer Walker, Big Spring - 1:33.16; 2. Kris King, Big Spring - 1:40.85; 3. Doris Brandt, Big Spring - 1:55.68.

Boys 100-yard butterfly  
1. Deshae Green, Big Spring - 1:05.56; 2. Nick Webb, Abilene - 1:06.12; 3. Mike McCarty, Cooper - 1:33.42; 4. Skyler Johnson, Big Spring - 2:37.6.

Girls 100-yard freestyle  
1. Ashley Oliver, Big Spring - 1:11.71; 2. Kara Brubaker, Abilene - 1:16.88; 3. Nella McInroe, Cooper - 1:33.47.

Boys 100-freestyle  
1. Cameron Hughes, Big Spring - 56.07; 2. Daniel Watson, Abilene - 1:08.2; 3. Stephen Powell, Big Spring - 1:09; 4. Eran Jennings, Cooper - 1:09.63; 5. Caleb Chavez, Big Spring - 1:12.26.

Girls 500-yard freestyle  
1. Lauren Sage, Big Spring - 6:09.94; 2. Mandy Cantu, Abilene - 6:57.49; 3. Kris King, Big Spring - 7:59; 4. Ashlin Zamudio, Cooper - 8:15.85; 5. Audrey Hagland, Big Spring - 8:34.27.

Boys 500-yard freestyle

1. Daniel Shanahan, Big Spring - 6:17.47; 2. Chris Marsh, Cooper - 6:31.88; 3. Daniel Budke, Big Spring - 7:24.93.

Girls 200-yard freestyle relay  
1. Big Spring 'A' - 2:06.41; 2. Cooper - 2:12.49; 3. Abilene - 2:16.91; 4. Big Spring 'B' - 2:26.41.

Girls 100-yard backstroke  
1. Kelly Sage, Big Spring - 1:13.5; 2. Brittany Sanchez, Cooper - 1:27.78; 3. Ashley Pike, Big Spring - 1:33.44.

Boys 100-yard backstroke  
1. A.J. Richey, Big Spring - 1:19.85; 2. Mike McCarty, Cooper - 1:28.53; 3. Taylor Calk, Big Spring - 1:36.69; 4. Adam Farias, Cooper - 1:44.88.

Girls 100-yard breaststroke  
1. Amanda Campos, Cooper - 1:14.09; 2. Allie Hewett, Abilene - 1:26.07; 3. Hannah Weber, Big Spring - 1:36; 4. Audrey Hagland, Big Spring - 1:40.35; 5. Katie Bailey, Big Spring - 1:43.85.

Boys 100-yard breaststroke  
1. Stephen Powell, Big Spring - 1:21.1; 2. Joe Garcia, Big Spring - 1:23.09; 3. Drew Ferrell, Abilene -

1:24.06; 4. Clinton Ronk, Big Spring - 1:41.

Girls 400-yard freestyle relay  
1. Abilene - 4:38.79; 2. Cooper - 5:01.62; 3. Big Spring - 5:56.53.

Boys 400-yard freestyle relay  
1. Abilene - 4:38.05; 2. Cooper - 5:19.16; 3. Big Spring - 5:44.78.

## TENNIS

Continued from Page 1B

Results (Steer athletes listed first)

Boys Doubles  
Jeremy Landin/Jeremy Langford def. Shirojumar Jarendraneyh/Ryan Perez 6-4, 7-6 (7-3); Ainhn Nghiem/Jonathan Ray def. Jeff Torrez/Jonathan Shover, 6-1, 6-2; Ryan Gonzalez/Jonathan Womack def. Dustin Haire/Kraig Lomas, 6-0, 6-3.

Girls Doubles  
Keely Parnell/Brianna Palmer def. Susan Bates/Candace Barnes, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; Sydney Flohr/Jessica Womack def. Ariel Najera/Elizabeth Hernandez, 7-5, 6-3.

Boys Singles  
Jeremy Landin lost to Shirojumar Jarendraneyh, 4-6, 4-6; Ryan Gonzalez def. Ryan Payner, 6-2, 6-2; Jeremy Langford lost to Jordan Perez, 3-6, 6-2, 2-6; Ainhn Nghiem def. Jeff Torrez, 6-2, 6-1; Jonathan Ray lost to Kraig Lomas, 4-6, 5-7.

Girls Singles  
Keely Parnell lost to Victoria Belman, 4-6, 1-6; Brittany Farmer def. Ariel Najera, 6-4, 6-7, 6-4; C.J. Riddle def. Jessica Raines, 6-2, 6-4; Brianna Palmer lost to Kameron Mote, 2-6, 1-6; Jessica Womack def. Candace Barnes, 6-2, 6-0; Shayla Drake def. Amanda Bishop, 6-7, 6-2, 6-3.

# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### Famous Hand

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ Q 7 5  
♥ K 10 5 3  
♦ K 10 6  
♣ A 4 2

**WEST**  
♠ A 6 3  
♥ —  
♦ A 9 7 4 2  
♣ Q 9 8 6 5

**EAST**  
♠ J 10  
♥ J 9 8 6 2  
♦ Q 8 5  
♣ J 10 7

**SOUTH**  
♠ K 9 8 4 2  
♥ A Q 7 4  
♦ J 3  
♣ K 3

The bidding:  
East South West North  
Pass 1♥ Pass 2♣  
Pass 2♥ Pass 4♥

Opening lead — ace of diamonds.  
Suppose you're declarer at four hearts on today's deal, and West leads the ace of diamonds followed by a low club. That's exactly what happened when teams from the U.S. and Great Britain clashed in the 1984 women's world championship, in which 23 countries participated.

There's no way of knowing at this point how you'll ultimately fare, because the outcome depends on how the missing trumps and spades are divided. The British declarer, Sally Horton, won the club shift with dummy's ace and led a heart to her ace, disclosing the horrendous 5-0 trump break. Undaunted, she next cashed the king of clubs and led a spade to the queen, West playing the three and East the ten.

Mrs. Horton then ruffed a club, led a diamond to the king and ruffed the ten of diamonds, producing this position:

**North**  
♥ 7 5  
♦ K 10 5

**West**  
♠ A 6  
♥ 9  
♦ Q 9

**East**  
♠ J  
♥ J 9 8 6

**South**  
♠ K 9 8 4  
♥ Q

Needing three more tricks to make the contract, Mrs. Horton cashed the queen of trumps and then exited with a low spade. It did not matter whether East or West won the trick — either way, dummy was certain to score the K-10 of trumps and so make four hearts.


If East won the spade, she would have to return a trump into dummy's K-10. And if West took the spade with the ace, East would have to ruff any return by her partner and would then be forced to make the same suicidal trump return into dummy's K-10.

Mrs. Horton thus demonstrated — once again — that no matter how bleak the outlook might be, perseverance will often reap a just reward.

Tomorrow: The one and only chance.  
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# Big Spring schools may pass on state's incentive pay plan

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Big Spring public school officials are mulling over whether to participate in the latest teacher incentive program.

The program, called District Awards for Teaching Excellence, is providing \$147.5 million to Texas public school districts to help recruit, train and reward teachers, according to information released by the Texas Education Agency.

All school districts in the state are eligible to apply for

the grant. TEA states the cash award will be distributed "to teachers who positively impact student academic improvement and growth during the 2008-2009 school year."

But Michael Downes, superintendent of Big Spring Independent School District, says there is more to the grant than first meets the eye.

"A large number of school districts will not apply for the grant because it requires matching funds from the local districts," Downes said.

BSISD has sent a "letter of

intent" to state officials, indicating its willingness to participate in the program, although Downes said the district can back out later if it so chooses.

And the district may very well decline to participate, he added.

"We're asking our teachers to give us some feedback on whether they want us to participate in this program," Downes said. "But I think it is unlikely there will be adequate money to fund this program on the district level."

Aside from having to find

money in the local budget to help fund the grants, the district would have little if any say on how the funds would be disbursed, meaning some teachers might receive the money, while others are left in the lurch, Downes said.

"I would like to see our teachers receive an across-the-board pay raise, instead of a stipend for a few teachers," he said. "I'm afraid this incentive plan will create divisiveness among our campuses and a loss of collegiality among our teachers." Downes admits he opposes

incentive pay programs on general principal.

"The very ideal of providing more money for teachers to teach harder is an insult to their professionalism," he said. "Our teachers are already giving their best every day. An incentive program that may work in a business setting won't necessarily work in a social setting."

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

## IN THE NEWS

### Obama: Clinton offers politics as usual

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama says Hillary Clinton doesn't offer the break from politics as usual that voters need.

Clinton and her husband, the former president, have said that Obama lacks political experience. But Obama, in an Associated Press interview, suggests the experience the Democratic frontrunner offers is more of the same. He says Americans are looking for a "fundamental break from the way we've been doing business."

The Illinois senator says his opposition to the Iraq war before combat began shows his experience. Senator Clinton voted to authorize military action in Iraq.

This week marks the fifth anniversary of a speech Obama gave in 2002 opposing the Iraq

war. He'll spend the week revisiting that address and discussing the foreign policy challenges he says it has created.

### Richardson says war with Iran is unwise

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Bill Richardson says it would be "enormously unwise" for the Bush administration to take military action against Iran before it gets out of Iraq.

Appearing on CBS' "Face the Nation," the New Mexico governor said that "it does sound like the administration is ramping up."

Richardson pointed to a 76-22 vote in the Senate last week on a resolution urging the State Department to designate Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps a terrorist organization.

Richardson criticized Hillary Rodham Clinton for voting in favor of the

measure, which he said is "just making the situation worse."

### University of Memphis student shot, killed; classes canceled

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Classes at the University of Memphis are canceled today after a student was shot and killed on campus.

A university police dispatcher says the student was shot last night. The school's associate athletic director says the incident "may have involved a current or former football player."

WMC-TV reports the student had apparently left his dorm and was in his car when he was shot in the chest. The station says the car ran into a tree a short distance from the campus.

The campus police dispatcher says classes will resume tomorrow.

### 10-year-old boy's attorneys try to get charges tossed

CINCINNATI (AP) — The defense attorney for a 10-year-old Ohio boy

accused of setting a deadly fire last month says he'll ask a court today to throw out the charges and an alleged confession.

The boy's mother and three other children were killed in the blaze. The boy now faces five delinquency counts of murder and one delinquency count of aggravated arson. Prosecutors say if the boy is found responsible for the deaths, he could be transferred to an adult prison after he turns 21.

But the boys' attorney says his client was pressured into confessing. A relative says family members don't believe the accusations against the him.

### Gingrich decides against 2008 run for the White House

WASHINGTON (AP) — The already crowded field of presidential hopefuls isn't going to include Newt Gingrich.

A spokesman for the former House speaker says Gingrich has decided not to run for president after determining he could not legally explore a bid and

remain as head of his tax-exempt political organization.

Yesterday, Gingrich said he had given himself a deadline of Oct. 21 to raise \$30 million for a possible White House run.

Over the past few months, Gingrich had stoked speculation he might enter the Republican race. He noted that conservatives in the party were unhappy with the candidates already running.

### Renewed search for Steve Fossett ends

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Teams on the ground and in two aircraft have ended a renewed search in Nevada for Steve Fossett.

There's been no sign of the millionaire aviator who disappeared September 3rd in a small plane.

Analysis of radar data and satellite images from the day Fossett disappeared led Air Force technicians to believe they had spotted clues to his route. That resulted in the weekend search by Civil Air Patrol planes

and dozens of search and rescue personnel on the ground.

One official says that until more viable leads develop, the hunt for Fossett will again be suspended.

### Evangelism pioneer Humbard remembered

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — The Rev. Rex Humbard has been remembered for establishing a ministry that grew from revival tents to what was then the new medium of television.

About 550 people gathered for Sunday's funeral in Akron, Ohio, not far from the Cathedral of Tomorrow. Humbard, who was 88, died September 21st at a South Florida hospital near his home.

### MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Bobby G. Bobo, 70, died Thursday. Funeral Services were at 10 a.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial with Military Honors was at Trinity Memorial Park.

Darrell William Gordon, 66, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Concepcion Calderon, 82, died Saturday. Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

## COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

much six days a week. They make sure everything is done the way it's supposed to be done.

"The construction manager we choose needs to know this book better than anyone," he said, pointing to a folder containing state guidelines for jail construction. "We want to look at how many county jails they have built and how they have been to work with. And building prisons doesn't equate to building jails, because the guidelines are very, very different."

The proposed facility would be located on U.S. Highway 80, between Utah and Wright, on the city's west side.

Commissioners approved a contract with local property owner Thomas Land approximately two weeks ago, with purchase of the lots — at a cost of \$45,000 — contingent on voter approval of a \$11.57 million bond in November.

According to Commissioner Bill Crooker, the purchase includes a large lot for \$40,000, a smaller frontage lot for \$5,000, with closing costs expected to be approximately \$10,000 — for a grand total of \$55,000.

The 96-bed jail design includes facilities for both men and women — the county currently houses all female inmates out of county due to state regulations — and room for two more construction phases, if necessary.

"There are phases two and three right here," said Commissioner Jerry Kilgore, pointing to an area on the architect's design sheet. "One is a 48-bed expansion of the jail, and the other one is a 24-bed expansion. The 24-bed (dorm-style) expansion would be perfect if we can get a work program."

The project will have to get the nod from Howard County voters in November before the first shovel can be turned, however.

The commissioner's court placed a similar bond election on the November 2006 ballot, asking voters to approve a bond for slightly more than \$10 million to finance a 144-bed jail, which was voted down by more than 60 percent.

The existing county jail was shut down by the Commission on Jail Standards in November 2006, after the facility's smoke evacuation system

failed to meet requirements during a pair of tests in 2006.

To make matters worse, officials with TCJS have told county commissioners if the court doesn't pass the bond — or find another avenue of financing a new jail facility — the existing jail will once again be shut down, forcing the county to house inmates in other counties.

The cost of the last closure, which lasted

approximately six months, has been estimated at close to \$1 million.

Tuesday's meeting is expected to get under way at 10 a.m. in the commissioners' courtroom, located on the second floor of the county courthouse.

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

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**Howard County LULAC Council 4791** invites members of the community to a Membership Drive Open House.  
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## FAIR

Continued from Page 1A

- 2 years old — Kennedy Osborne and Nikolas Gonzales.
- 3 years old — Hannah Peckenpaugh and Vincent Ortiz.
- 4 years old — Brianna Gibbs and Cole Bryant.

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







# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

### Business seminar promises to be valuable freebie

Are you having a tough time dealing with problems at work — looking for the best way to deal with a difficult customer or determining how best to resolve workplace conflicts? The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce wants to help.

That's why it has scheduled a special seminar for Oct. 9 to deal with those issues and more.

Sponsored by the chamber's Business Development Committee and the Howard College Workforce Education Department, the seminar will not only help area employers deal with tough questions facing them, but also is designed to take advantage of resources that many don't know are available at the college.

"The Business Development Committee of the Chamber was working on different kinds of ideas," said Terri Johansen, chairman of the chamber committee. "We try to have seminars every so often for our businesses and employers to assist them in doing business better. The regulations and laws change so much, it's good to keep up with them."

Similar seminars are offered by various companies, Johansen noted, and sometimes carry a price tag in the neighborhood of \$500. However, next week's seminar will be offered free to local businesses.

Set for 7:30 a.m. until 9 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, Johansen said she hopes the early morning schedule helps attract more employers to attend.

"We're trying to have seminars for our employers early in the morning," said Johansen. "This one will be from 7:30 a.m. until 9 a.m., so they can take the seminar before their day begins. It works out better that way. We tried to have it in the evening and the turnout was just never that good. That's just one more place for people to have to go in the evening when all they really want to do is go home."

Johansen said the seminar should have plenty to offer local employers, regardless of the size of their business.

The seminar will be led by Terri Nix, an assistant professor and division director for Howard College's Workforce Education Department.

According to Johansen, among the topics Nix will cover are conflict resolution, ethics, time management and dealing with difficult people.

We here at the Herald hope local business owners and employers will take advantage of this service being provided by the chamber and college.

While advance registration is not necessary, organizers would appreciate an RSVP, so give the chamber at call at 263-7641 and set aside next Tuesday morning for a valuable 1-1/2 hours of free training.

## How To Contact Us

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

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

## LETTER POLICIES

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

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

*We feel the undercurrent of the world, Lord, but when we trust in you it can't destroy us.*

Amen

# Moral hazard and panic at the bank

Last week, thousands of anxious Britons spent days queuing in front of bank branches to withdraw their savings from Northern Rock, a British mortgage lender caught up in a credit crunch. Many emptied their accounts, even after British Chancellor Alistair Darling announced that the government would guarantee existing savings accounts in an attempt to stop the panic.

Whom did movers in British financial circles blame for the bank panic?

They blamed Northern Rock for high-risk investment practices. They blamed Darling for letting the situation deteriorate to the extent that it did.

Then they blamed Darling for promising that the government would guarantee investors' accounts beyond what British law had guaranteed — 90 percent of savings of about \$60,000, according to the Daily Telegraph.

And they blamed the United States.

Specifically, financial gurus cited America's subprime mortgage crisis.

On the one hand, Our Betters in Europe are quick to blame their shortcomings on this country. I don't recall many Western European articles acknowledging America's role in European security or prosperity.

On the other hand, as Sidney Weintraub, an economic scholar at the Center for Strategic and

International Studies, told me, it is "not unreasonable to blame" the United States for the British bank's woes. "They're part of the global market, and they got themselves involved. That's the way the world works."

In the age of globalization, every world citizen owns a piece of the rest of the world's bad habits. Outside America, plenty of people complain about U.S. economic practices.

They probably don't appreciate how many Americans also complain about those practices — even if U.S. voters have enjoyed little success in trying to curb economic excesses.

For a few years now, lenders have been issuing variable-rate mortgages to home buyers with marginal credit ratings who didn't put any money down, could not afford the higher monthly payments sure to follow and only qualified because the loans were interest-only with a balloon payment due in a couple of years. We all have friends who qualified for such loans, and we've all shaken our heads when they got those loans.

So how is it that professional lenders didn't know better than folks like you and me? And how is it that sophisticated investment firms didn't realize that they had sunk too much of their investors' money into reckless lenders' bad loans?

"They didn't know that the housing market would collapse the way it did," Weintraub answered.

"They didn't realize the extent of what was going on."

Oh, great. The experts didn't have a clue.

Weintraub's explanation: "The more money people make, the greedier they become."

Because the rapacious (read: greediest) lenders aren't likely to suffer the most, politicians like Chancellor Darling and Bank of England Governor Mervyn King found themselves forced into changing longstanding government policies to keep innocent investors from being the biggest losers. I doubt many small-account holders at Northern Rock would object.

In the long term, however, government proposals to remedy private market excesses create more "moral hazard" — perverse incentives that reward risky behavior. With globalization, each bad business practice can have a domino effect felt around the world. Ditto each stretching of regulations to remedy the fallout from bad practices.

Think about it. A few years ago, there must have been loan officers who looked at no-deposit, no-interest, no-fixed-rate mortgages and smelled a rat.

At business meetings, some must have voiced their reservations about approving loans that were bound to result in foreclosures.

But there was no percentage in making their objections known. If they had talked about the need to approve mortgages that a large majority of clients could afford, savvy, global-thinking professionals would have dismissed them as dinosaurs.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at [dsaunders@sfchronicle.com](mailto:dsaunders@sfchronicle.com).

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# Whistleblowing now more dangerous

In recent years, we have learned about a number of corporate horror stories. A major toy company had sold and widely distributed toys manufactured in China with lead-tainted paint. A pharmaceutical company had manufactured a vaccine for babies with a compromised quality assurance program. Government contractors employed in Iraq to provide infrastructure were instead padding their profits and cutting corners while the buildings they constructed crumbled.

In each instance, scores of employees knew about the problems but for whatever reason did nothing to end the faulty practices. It is no wonder that so many of those in the know about wrongdoing chose job security over courage. No one should rely on public anti-corruption assurances from corporate public relations operatives until effective systems are in place so that everyday workers who spot potential disasters in the making will report them — putting public health and other significant concerns above corporate profits. Sadly, this right to blow the whistle, free of retaliation and harassment, has steadily eroded over the last five years.

Following a wave of massive corporate fraud, exemplified by the Enron and WorldCom scandals, Congress passed the 2002 Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) Act.

Our legislators were reacting to the revelations of a tiny handful of brave whistleblowers who exposed the massive corruption — a few

out of hundreds and hundreds who were aware of the wrongdoing. Others did not come forward with incriminating information, either out of fear or the knowledge that whistleblowing is futile in a culture where fear of reprisal is so pervasive.

To address this need, within SOX Congress included provisions that would hopefully ensure that whistleblowers within publicly traded companies would no longer remain defenseless.

The law clearly was designed to provide protections extending across industry boundaries to employees who reported company malfeasance. Corporate whistleblowers would no longer have to rely on a patchwork of inconsistent and largely ineffective laws for their protection. These new protections would also protect investors through providing a safer environment for workers to use the new channels provided by law to help corporate board members learn about serious problems within the company. Workers who took their concerns to government regulators also would qualify for legal protections.

These SOX provisions, however, have failed miserably to live up to their expectations. They have been gutted by the interpretations handed down by Department of Labor bureaucrats, administrative judges and various federal judges. Now, as a result, private employees who expose wrongdoing are likely to suffer punishment and get the cold shoulder from the federal government.

While the act was intended to shield employees against threats, decision-makers and judges have determined varied definitions for retaliatory actions. One judge

found that any employment action that deters employees from making disclosures qualifies. Others have taken extremely narrow interpretations which have dramatically eroded the power and intent of the law, allowing employers to punish workers at will for reporting misconduct.

Worse yet, the types of companies covered by the law have been diminished. Many judges have decided that SOX doesn't extend to wholly owned subsidiaries. Corporate interests have persuaded decision-makers to take this narrow perspective, exploiting a gaping loophole to reduce the number of covered employees.

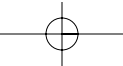
The bottom line is now measurable. Earlier this month, a University of Nebraska College of Law study concluded that only 3.6 percent of cases brought by whistleblowers under Sarbanes-Oxley are won by employees. That's less than 1 in 25.

Employees who report illegal activity are crucial to society's protection when greed trumps public health and safety and encourages corrupt business practices. Strong whistleblower protections are the backbone of a transparent corporate environment that deters corruption.

Whistleblowing should be risk-free, accessible to all employees and standard practice across the country.

Louis Clark is president of the Government Accountability Project in Washington, D.C., which focuses on providing protection for federal employees who "blow the whistle" on wrongful actions by their employers.

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***NUTRITION WISE***

**Is fat the new 'normal?'**

**A** recently published study raises an interesting question: Is fat the new normal? With roughly two-thirds of the American population overweight or obese, have our cultural ideals of what we consider "normal weight" changed?

The study, published in the July issue of Economic Inquiry, looked at economic and social factors affecting obesity rates. One element explored was the impact of societal norms or standards. According to the study's authors, standards for acceptable body weight relax as the average weight of the population increases; in turn, people's weights continue to rise in response to the lessening of social standards.

The public responses to the issues raised in this study range from support to outrage. While some have recognized the danger in "normalizing" unhealthy weights, others are angered at the insinuation that people are unable to differentiate between "average" and "healthy."



**KAREN COLLINS**  
MS, RD, CDN

This discussion echoes the misunderstanding that surrounded earlier research published in 2000. The latter study, which ran in the journal Obesity Research, focused on body-size acceptance. In the study, subjects were presented with nine line drawings portraying various body shapes that ranged from very thin to obese. Participants were asked to identify those body sizes that "looked okay" as well as the one they "liked best."

In the end, 86 percent of overweight study subjects and 48 percent of obese subjects said their own shape fell within the "acceptable" range (it is important to note that study subjects did not identify overweight and obese figures as healthy or desirable, but as acceptable). Furthermore, 80 percent of overweight subjects and 93 percent of obese subjects identified their actual shape as different from the shape they would like to have.

Of course, the waters get muddied a bit when we attempt to differentiate normal weight from desirable weight without offending people. Although weight is an extremely sensitive subject, the separation between normal and desirable has been successfully defined in other areas. For example, evaluation of blood cholesterol was previously based on average levels. After research showed that typical levels in the U.S. were associated with increased heart disease, a "healthy" blood cholesterol level was identified and differentiated from average blood cholesterol.

Acknowledging that you're overweight is the first step in recognizing the health risks associated with obesity. A 2002 study, also published in Obesity Research, found that self perceptions of overweight were influenced by sex, race and socioeconomic status. According to the study, Caucasian females were most likely to accurately identify themselves as overweight, while black and Hispanic men were least likely to correctly assess their overweight status. In summary, the study noted that only about half of all participating men correctly identified their overweight status as compared to more than three quarters of the women. These findings are consistent with other research that suggests that failure to recognize you're overweight is more of a problem in men.

**Fresh spices transform a low-fat dish**

**By JILL WENDHOLT SILVA**

McClatchy Newspapers

Sure, a boneless, skinless chicken breast is an economical and lean protein source. But it can also be BORING!

What to do? To paraphrase Emeril: Kick it up a pinch!

Any blend of seasonings will do the trick — French, Cajun or Indian-inspired, as is the case with Saffron Chicken With Fennel Seeds.

Any chef will tell you fat carries flavor. So the key to low-fat cooking — BAM! — is to pump up the flavor.

Adding exotic spices can be a great way to add flavor, color and texture. Saffron, for instance, is a deep russet-colored thread like spice that comes from the saffron crocus. Because it is hand-harvested, saffron is the world's most expensive spice.

Luckily, most recipes use saffron in small amounts to add a rich, vibrant yellow-orange color and a distinctive, pungent aroma.

Saffron pairs nicely with fennel seeds. They look similar to cumin but have a slight licorice flavor.

It's important to be sure your spices are fresh. In most cases, spices do not keep more than six months.

So march to the kitchen and throw out the remnants of the spices you got for a wedding present 25 years ago. "If you open a jar and can't smell it, why are you putting it in your food?" asked Star recipe tester Kathryn Moore.

When it comes to spices, side-by-side taste test comparisons show that generic and store brands often don't stand up to the flavor and aroma of premium brands.

So here's a suggestion: If saffron seems expensive (about \$12 a jar at one local supermarket), buy the best, then split it with a friend or family member.

You'll be glad you did. Shopping tip: This recipe was tested with Spice Island brand saffron.



If you can't find saffron threads at your supermarket, try a specialty store that sells spices. After testing the recipe with threads and powdered saffron, the testers preferred threads. If you use powder, figure 1/2 teaspoon threads equals 1/4 teaspoon powdered.

**Saffron Chicken with Fennel Seeds**  
Makes 4 servings  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
1 pound boneless, skin-

less chicken breasts, cut into 1/2-inch pieces  
Salt and pepper, to taste  
1 cup dry white wine  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 tablespoon fennel seeds  
1/2 teaspoon saffron threads

1/4 cup chopped fresh Italian parsley  
2 cups hot cooked rice  
Heat olive oil in large skillet. Add chicken and cook, stirring occasionally, just until brown. Season with salt and pepper. Add wine, garlic, fennel seeds and saffron.

Reduce heat to low and simmer 8 to 10 minutes or until liquid has reduced by two-thirds. Stir in parsley just before serving. Serve chicken over rice.

Per serving (with 1/2 cup rice): 324 calories (17 percent from fat), 5 grams total fat (1 gram saturated), 66 milligrams cholesterol, 28 grams carbohydrates, 29 grams protein, 82 milligrams sodium, 1 gram dietary fiber.

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*Come be a part of The Salvation Army Revival. The Texas Girls will be performing on October 5th at 6:30PM and October 6th at 5:00PM. Everyone is invited!*

For more information, call 267-8239.

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study and will pay each qualified participant \$50 to complete the study."

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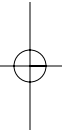
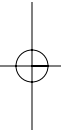
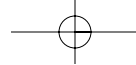
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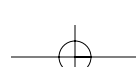
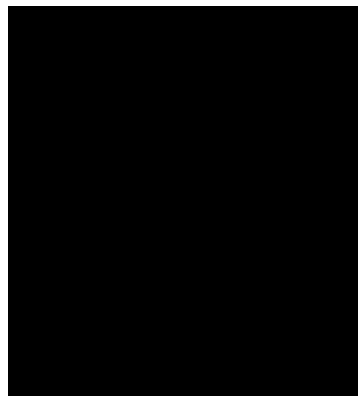
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*\*Qualified testers will be paid for their participation.*





***Almost Invisible***





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**Legals**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS FORSAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S STATE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING**

Forsan ISD will hold a public meeting at the beginning of their regularly Board Meeting at 7:00 PM on Monday, October 15, 2007, at the Administration Office located at 411 W. 6th Street in Forsan, Texas.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Forsan ISD's FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) rating. #5517 September 24 & October 1, 2007

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

**RFB# 08-003 Internet Services**

Documents may be obtained from Chris Olson, Purchaser, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720. (432)264-5167. Sealed proposals will be accepted through 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 16, 2007, in the Practical Arts Building, room 105A, 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 the bids submitted. The final determination of proposal award will be made at a future board meeting.

All questions should be directed to Chris Olson, Purchaser, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, e-mail [colson@howardcollege.edu](mailto:colson@howardcollege.edu), (432)264-5167. Howard County Junior College District reserves the right to reject any and all bids. #5522 September 24 & October 1, 2007

In the charm school run by the sun in Libra, a chatty Gemini moon offers up a good point: Small talk is big. Idle gossip can have productive results. It takes time, presence and talent to establish rapport with your fellows. And it's best done on days like today, when neither party has anything to gain or lose from making a connection.



**HOLIDAY MATHIS**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). It's not terribly easy to let go of the past, especially if you feel that you have a score to settle. If you wave goodbye to negative history, the score will settle itself.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). The way to get someone to keep your secret is not to call it a secret. Information is only as important as the importance you give it. Tonight, a new character enters your story.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You're in the mood to take on one of your vices. Instead of trying to be absent of the flaw, try mastering it. Every

difficult quality has a positive aspect to it — you just have to look for it.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Happiness goes hand in hand with new experiences. A dish you've never tried before or a scene you've not observed will jumpstart your energy. Scorpio is an ideal guide.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). It's only Monday, and you already feel like you've worked too hard. Isn't life supposed to come with some easy days, too? A guilty pleasure will help. Feel free to enjoy it so much you forget to feel the guilt.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your options are wide, deep and high. But which one is worthy of you? You'll know it's a noble pursuit when some people laugh at the idea and you couldn't care less.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If you can't bring yourself to do what you know you should do, you're just not ready yet. It's good to be immature in some regard. You're keeping things interesting and youthful.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Simplifying your life gives you energy. The best part is that you don't

have to agonize about what to do and where to skimp and how to run things. It's like the whole universe is your personal organizer.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Communication is too easily confused now. Less is more. Give short directions. Stick with the brief answer. Too much information could have your audience befuddled instead of believing.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Still saving for that dream purchase? There's a good reason you want this so much. It represents who you want to be — and who you will be when you've gone through the discipline it will take to attain it.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Take a good look at yourself, and note your many beautiful qualities. In a confident moment, someone comes into your world who has the potential to play an important role in your life.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). It's not with your standards but your tolerance and patience that you show your class. Ben Franklin said, "He is not well-bred that cannot bear ill-breeding in others."

**ASTROLOGICAL TOPICS:** Dating and Astrology. "What's your sign, baby?" Not exactly a winning pick-up line. Yet, there's reason to ask. While the sun's in Libra, we value understanding others, and astrology helps. With a tactful lead, you'll win over the affections your (SET ITAL) objet d'amour. (END ITAL) **ARIES:** Your Aries loves a challenge. The thrill of the chase keeps you in the game. Aries is the hunter, you the hunted. Go with it — but don't appear weak. Be a worthy competitor without usurping your Aries' game. Be intelligent, brave and endlessly interesting — that's how Aries suns see themselves. Disarming dating strategy: You are charming and slightly out of reach. Turn on: anticipatory excitement. Turn off: too much interest. Be a tad aloof. **TAURUS:** Your Taurus loves creature comforts. A born sensualist, inquire after the bull's favorite meal and you're in. As an earthy sign, the bull needs security, and you'll be given a security screening at date No. 1. Talk about your money, family and investments. And mention you better have a job. Oh, and pick

up the bill. Disarming dating strategy: Talk about your great family. Turn on: massage and comfort food, simultaneously. Turn Off: separating the bull from his or her stuff. Come back for Gemini and Taurus!

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** As an energetic cardinal sign of the Zodiac, Librans constantly initiate professional and personal relationships. Over-involvement is always a risk. Lorraine Bracco played Tony Soprano's therapist, but in a twist, she's also spent some time on the couch herself, battling depression. With her moon in ambitious Aries, emotional conflict clears when she marshals the courage to conquer new territory.

*If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com) and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*

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**BadApple.com**

Dear Margo: I live in Australia and am 21 years old. Three years ago, I met a man on an online role-playing site, and we seemed to click. We talked nearly every night about planning our next posts together, and it progressed from there.

"John" was nice, sweet and a very good writer, so I was naturally drawn to him. Then it got more personal. I've been raised to be wary of "stranger danger" on the Internet, but it's gotten to the stage where he wants me to come over and meet him, which means flying to America. He also has said in nearly every conversation that he wants to marry me. However, he's become oddly possessive. When I have to get lunch, he makes a big deal of trying to make me stay online. When I get off, he gets all upset and doesn't want to talk to me again. When I'm not on for a day because of work, he claims I don't love him and I'm toying with his feelings.

He's also made sexual comments, like imagining me stripping on a webcam or his hands running along my sides. I know it's probably bad, but I just have to talk to him every day. I'm scared that I've become obsessed with him. My parents are very conservative Christians, and they don't know about this. I have heard his voice on Skype and seen his face on webcams. Margo, is this dangerous? I've known him for three years. -- Worried in Australia



**MARGO HOWARD**

Dear Wor: While I don't think this man is into white slavery and three years is a long time to warm someone up for nefarious purposes, the whole thing doesn't sound promising to me. Being possessive and demanding only gets worse, not better.

As for your obsessing, perhaps you could hunt up a support group either having to do with obsession or online "romances" that are not healthy. A psychologist could also help you extricate yourself. My vote about this guy is "No." -- Margo, disentanglingly

**Unwelcome Propositions for the Newly Divorced**  
Dear Margo: I am a 30-year-old woman, recently divorced after 12 years together (eight years married). My ex and I split amicably after years of trying and failing to make it work. My problem is that other men now seem to have no qualms about flirting with me, making comments about my appearance, even commenting about my body. A married friend gave me his phone number and suggested we "go out sometime."

I haven't dated since I was 17 and have no interest in jumping back in anytime soon, and this attention makes me very uncomfortable. Is there a

polite way to make it clear that newly divorced doesn't mean back on the market, or am I crazy for not enjoying the attention? -- Cara in North Dakota

Dear Car: You aren't crazy; I think you are wise. Some men actually think they are doing divorced women a "favor" by offering themselves. (Oink, oink.)

Married men, particularly, are willing to offer this public service. A reader sent me a good response to this: "Even though you do not respect your marriage vows, I do."

When you think someone is warming you up to put the moves on you, simply say you are, for the time being, enjoying time to yourself. -- Margo, independently

**O Sole Mio**  
Dear Margo: I am a childless woman in my early 50s. My husband and I are apart. Since I am still on his health insurance (and gratefully so), we have never performed the Big Severance.

My problem is not with him, but with men I meet in my leisure time. I like to sing karaoke (please don't laugh). The show I go to is run by longtime friends. The trouble is, 99 percent of karaoke is done in a bar. I do not drink, and I quit smoking about six years ago.

The men who frequent these places are forever asking me about myself and wanting to call me. I recently gave my number to one of them. Since then he has been calling me multiple times a day, rambling on about nothing, and constantly apologizing for what he says, what he does, what he thinks he's going to do, etc.

This drives me nuts, and I told him so. He asked me to dinner, and

then stood me up. This man, aside from looking 60 but actually being 47, is an alcoholic, a bigot and divorced with a grown child. I want to tell him to get out of my life, thank you, but I don't want to hurt his feelings. What do I do? -- Careful in Carolina

Dear Care: I'm not sure "careful" is the word I would use to describe you. I'm also not sure why it's so hard to give the gate to a man you describe as alcoholic, bigoted, complaining and whiny. Oh, and he stood you up.

It is nice that you are trying to be considerate of his feelings, but your thoughtfulness seems misplaced, given this situation. No one expects you to tolerate a man who is totally not to your liking.

Get on with it, say I, and maybe your karaoke outings should be the green zone when it comes to accepting dates, if this is the best guy you could find to give your number to. -- Margo, abstemiously

**What to Do with a "Helpful" Neatnik Neighbor**

Dear Margo: My neighbor mows my lawn when she mows hers. Sweet, huh? She also takes it upon herself to tidy up my yard. It's not that bad, but recently we were moving things from storage into a shed we bought and put in our backyard. We left to go somewhere, came home, and it was gone.

I am too ticked to talk to my neighbor right now and feel I will just blow my top if I try. This woman called city code enforcement when we had a car in our driveway that my husband was working on; animal control when my dog got out of the house; and she's the neighborhood

gossip, as well.

We live in a subdivision, but not one that has all those "rules." This isn't the first time this has happened, but this time there were things important to me that were "cleaned up."

Short of having her arrested for trespassing and criminal theft of property (I spoke with police), what should I do? I considered taking her concrete ornamental statues and saying I just wanted to clean them up for her, but two wrongs don't make a right. I am desperate for help! -- Ticked in the Southern U.S.

Dear Tick: This woman has way overstepped, though I somewhat understand a homeowner being unhappy living next to a car in pieces in the driveway, a shed in the back and a lawn in need of mowing.

Since you say you're within your rights regarding the town's rules, I suggest you tell what's-her-name that you retain the option of going after her for trespassing and theft, and therefore hope she will refrain from "pitching in" in the future.

Offer, in turn, to try to keep things as neat as possible. Try for a truce. Skip taking her ornamental statues. (Do not even dress them up.) -- Margo, sociably

*Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via e-mail to [dearmargo@creators.com](mailto:dearmargo@creators.com). Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.*

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**su | do | ku**  
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**ANSWERS**

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

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## TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

### Federal trial to start for four people accused in 'Kickapoo Seven' case

WACO (AP) — Four defendants accused in a federal criminal case of taking advantage of the Kickapoo Tribe are headed to trial today.

The original "Kickapoo Seven" were charged in a 25-count federal indictment in early 2005.

Three of the defendants pleaded guilty to lesser counts or had their charges dismissed.

The remaining four are scheduled to be in federal court in Waco expected to last two weeks.

The group faces charges ranging from stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Kickapoo Tribe's casino to laundering money and violating the civil rights of tribal members.

The small tribe operates a limited casino in Eagle Pass.

Last fall, the four remaining defendants accepted government plea deals limiting the charges against them.

But in May they renounced their guilty pleas in federal court and the judge reset the case for trial.

Facing trial today are Isidro Garza Jr., a former tribal manager; Martha Garza, Isidro Garza's wife; Timoteo Garza, son of Isidro Garza and a former state representative; and Lee Martin, a former casino manager.

### Texas A&M minority enrollment drive stalls

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Texas A&M University is accepting an increasing number of minority students, but they're not necessarily enrolling at the school.

The percentage of black and Hispanics in the freshman class has remained level since 2005 — despite a record number of minority students who apply and are accepted.

Hispanics make up 14 percent and blacks three percent of this year's class of nearly 8,100 freshmen.

The state's second-largest university has been working to boost minority enrollment, but it does not consider race as a factor in admissions.

The school has invested more than \$30 million in minority-recruitment programs including scholarships and new recruitment centers.

A&M officials say the increase of minorities who apply and are accepted shows the school is on the right track as it works to get more minorities enrolled.

### Some Austin volunteer dog-walkers quitting over background checks

AUSTIN (AP) — New background checks for volunteers at the Austin animal shelter aren't sitting well with some volunteers.

They say they've quit because they don't want to turn over their Social Security numbers to the city.

The city says the checks are meant to protect children from predators.

Under the new rules, each volunteer must give their legal name, date of birth and Social Security number for an annual background check.

Fingerprinting is required if the volunteer has lived outside Texas in the past ten years.

The rules went too far for some volunteers, who say they don't trust the city to protect their information. Some say the requirement is overkill considering they're volunteering to work with cats and dogs.

Town Lake Animal Center Director Dorinda Pulliam says most volunteers haven't objected to the background checks because they understand the purpose.

### Twin cities of Texarkana could save \$4.1 million sharing services

TEXARKANA (AP) — The twin cities of Texarkana could save \$4.1 million if the Arkansas and Texas communities merged their separate police and fire departments. That's according to a study by a group exploring combining city services.

The Texarkana Chamber of Commerce group stressed the study by Ed Bashaw, dean of Texas A&M University-Texarkana's business school, is only a preliminary look at creating a "super city" out of the border towns. But chamber president Jeff Sandford acknowledged it was worth exploring the idea if it cre-

ates efficiencies and saves money.

The chamber group began earlier this year examining hiring a so-called "super" city manager or police chief to oversee the twin cities' population of more than 65,000 residents. As of now, the twin cities have fire stations within sight of each other and provide similar services.

### Response overwhelmingly in backing Irving police program, city says

IRVING (AP) — Irving city officials targeted by Latino groups say they've received hundreds of phone calls and e-mails supporting a police program that identifies suspects for possible deportation. That's since about 2,000 protesters marched on City Hall last week.

But Carlos Quintanilla, an organizer of Wednesday's rally, disputed the claim and said the mayor and his staff are just trying to rally their bases.

Quintanilla and other activists asked the crowd during the protest to call City Hall and demand a stop to the Criminal Alien Program, which allows jailers to identify suspected illegal immigrants and refer them to immigration authorities.

But city officials say that of the nearly 500 calls and more than 250 e-mails received the day after the protest, few were against the program.

### Lawyers file flurry of Rita-related lawsuits in Southeast Texas

BEAUMONT (AP) — The second anniversary of Hurricane Rita is raising questions about the deadline for lawsuits related to property damage from the storm.

Attorneys around Beaumont have filed about 300 property-insurance lawsuits related to Rita in the past two weeks. Most cases involve policyholders who claim their insurers have shortchanged them on storm damage.

At the same time, a dispute has emerged over a two-year deadline for filing the lawsuits. The issue is whether that time period began at the date of the storm, or when policyholders began negotiating with their insurance company.

The Texas Department of Insurance interprets the

deadline as the latter, but Allstate ties the deadline to the date of the storm.

The first trials could occur in November.

### Belo Corp. to spin off newspaper division into separate company

DALLAS (AP) — Belo Corporation says it will spin off its newspaper division to create separate newspaper and television companies.

The new company, to be called A.H. Belo Corporation, will own such newspapers as The Dallas Morning News, The Providence Journal and The Press-Enterprise of Riverside, Calif.

The Dallas-based media company says the spin-off will be made through a tax-free distribution of new A.H. Belo shares to Belo Corporation shareholders in early 2008. Belo says it expects to spin-off to be completed in the first quarter of 2008.

### Denominational leader would be Baptist Convention's first woman president

DALLAS (AP) — A denominational leader who got her start as a church secretary is likely to become the first female president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Longtime mission worker Joy Fenner is in line to be named head of the nation's largest Baptist state convention when it conducts its annual meeting in late October. Less than one percent of the convention's pastors are female.

The 72-year-old Fenner says she's "a very reluctant candidate." But she says there have been some within the convention that it was time for a woman to be selected. She also says there's a strong emphasis on mission was needed.

Fenner says starting as a secretary at First Baptist Church in Marshall in the 1950s helped her to understand how Baptists could work together.

The convention named her first vice president last year, putting her in position to serve the one-year term as president in 2008. Her only announced opponent is a West Texas pastor who concedes that he's unlikely to be elected and pledges to support Fenner if she wins.

She also carries the endorsement of Texas Baptists Committed.

# In This Season Of Hope

22nd annual

BIG SPRING **HERALD**

## Community Christmas Parade

5:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1

Parade theme:

**"Peace On Earth"**

Entry deadline — Noon, Friday, Nov. 16

The parade will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. and head north on Gregg Street toward downtown, arriving in time for the downtown Christmas celebration.

- \$100** Herald's Best of Show Award: for best interpretation of theme.
- \$75** Mayor's Trophy: for best use of lighting.
- \$50** Grand Marshall's Award: for best costuming.

- First-place plaques will be awarded in the following categories:
1. Individual or family
  2. Civic group, school or church
  3. Commercial
  4. Industrial
- In addition, certificates of commendation will be awarded to the second- and third-place entries in each of those categories. Also, a special award will be presented to the best sheriff's posse, riding club or other mounted entry.

### PARADE RULES

1. The parade's official Santa Claus will be provided by the Herald. **No other Santa Claus will be permitted in the parade.**
2. Floats should not exceed 65 feet in length, 8 feet in width and 14 feet in height.
3. Antique vehicles will be the only undecorated vehicles permitted without special permission from Parade Committee.
4. Vehicles of a strictly commercial nature will not be permitted.
5. Parade entries not in line by the start of the parade will be placed at the end of the parade and will not be eligible for awards.
6. For safety, do not throw candy from your float. Small children run up under the tires. Please have someone walking beside your float if you want to throw candy.

### 2007 Christmas Parade Entry Form

Name of organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

You will receive by return mail, your float number and a map showing where to go to line up.



- Individual/Family
- Commercial
- Civic/church/school
- Industrial
- Mounted

QUESTIONS? CALL (432) 263-7331, Ask for Elizabeth Flores or Rick Nunez

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