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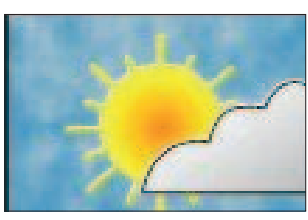
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BIG SPRING

HERALD

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 18, 2007




VOLUME 102, NUMBER 303

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Man indicted in kidnapping



"We believe that, when the facts come out at trial, this will prove to be a very disturbing case."

Wilkerson

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

A transient accused of abducting two children in front of their home earlier this year was among 13 people indicted by the Howard County Grand Jury this week.

Tracie Lynn Wilson, 46, currently in custody in the Howard County Jail, was indicted on charges of kidnapping and

aggravated kidnapping in connection an incident that occurred during the daylight hours of Oct. 14, District Attorney Hardy L. Wilkerson said.

Wilkerson said Wilson stands accused of abducting an 8-year-old boy and 11-year-old girl from in front of their home in the 1300 block Tucson Street.

"The boy told officers he and the girl were playing in a front yard ... when a

male subject approached and led them away, convincing the two children he was the girl's uncle," Big Spring Police Department Sgt. Tony Everett said earlier this year. "While walking, the three were picked up and given a ride by an unknown male subject who was also led to believe the suspect was the children's

See **INDICTED**, Page 3A

Hangar future \$100,000 brighter

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

A local resident has given the Hangar 25 Air Museum a \$100,000 shot in the arm.

Big Spring's Jerry Worthy recently donated that amount to the Hangar 25 Air Museum Fund, which will use interest drawn from the money to ensure future operations.

"Hangar 25 is a wonderful asset to our community," Worthy said in a statement. "I hope this gift helps provide permanent financial security for it, and I encourage others to consider a substantial gift to the foundation."

Museum Director Meghan Bias was overjoyed at the news.

"We're just thrilled," she said. "He is an active museum board member and has been a great supporter since our beginning. Mr. Worthy is a very generous man, and we couldn't be more

See **GIFT**, Page 5A



Debbie Wegman, director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, watches water pour into the historic Big Spring. A recent construction project has improved both the quantity and quality of water in the spring, officials said.

Let it flow

Spring project huge success, officials say

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Big Spring's namesake is once again a going concern.

The historic Big Spring in Comanche Trail Park has been given a new lease on life, thanks to a four-month project instituted by the city and the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The project, in which water is pumped into the spring by both direct and indirect means, has resulted in a rebirth of sorts for the watering hole used by Comanches and U.S. cavalymen alike.

Assistant City Manager Todd Darden said employees with Cornerstone Construction of Lubbock

"This is awesome. It's really cool to come out here and hear the sound of running water again."



Wegman

installed the pipeline system which draws water from Comanche Trail and deposits it in the spring at the rate of 250,000 gallons per day.

The switch was thrown on the project Tuesday, and Darden said one can already tell the difference.

See **SRING**, Page 3A

INDEX

Business 4-5C
Classified 6-10C
Life 1-3C
Obituaries 2A
Opinion 4A
Sports 1-4B

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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.



Commissioners sign off on jail vote

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

It's official.

Howard County commissioners canvassed the vote tally Friday from the Nov. 6 constitutional amendment election — which included a \$11.57 million bond — as the county prepares to move forward with the construction of a new jail.

"We had to canvas the

votes to make everything official and to move forward," said County Judge Mark Barr. "Now that that's done and we have the official green light for everything, we can really start things moving. I was really hoping Jeff (Heffelfinger, project architect) could be here today. He said he has a list of steps we need to take, which includes having some soil

samples done out there, and there's still some paperwork for us to go through."

With 4,079 total votes cast in the election — 2,113 during early voting, 1,820 on election day and 191 absentee ballots — Howard County residents approved the bond with 2,863 votes for the measure and 1,216 opposed. Percentage wise, the ballot received 70.19 percent in

favor and 29.81.

Barr said the governmental wheels are already turning to pay for the property — located on U.S. Highway 80 between Utah and Wright, on the city's west side — a deal that was contingent on the passage of the bond.

"Mr. (Tom) Land has said he wants his money now,"

See **JAIL**, Page 3A

4 - 2008 Nissan Titans \$4,500 Cash Back




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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

Page 1B
Sunday, November 18, 2007

IN BRIEF

Crossroads region varsity sports weekly calendar

Here's a look at the upcoming Crossroads varsity sports schedule:

MONDAY

Big Spring girls basketball vs. Odessa High, TBA

Big Spring boys basketball vs. Seminole, TBA

TUESDAY

Big Spring girls basketball vs. Greenwood, 7:30 p.m.

Big Spring boys basketball at Snyder, 7 p.m.

Coahoma girls basketball vs. Wall, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan girls basketball vs. Robert Lee, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan boys basketball vs. Robert Lee, 8 p.m. (tentative)

Grady girls basketball vs. Borden County, 6:30 p.m.

Grady boys basketball vs. Borden County, 8 p.m.

NOV. 27

Big Spring girls basketball at Lamesa, 8 p.m.

Big Spring boys basketball at Lamesa, 8 p.m.

Coahoma girls basketball vs. Snyder, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma boys basketball vs. Eldorado, 8 p.m.

Forsan girls basketball vs. Highland, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan boys basketball vs. Highland, 8 p.m.

Grady girls basketball vs. Wink, 6:30 p.m.

Grady boys basketball vs. Highland, 8 p.m.

NOV 29-DEC. 1

Big Spring girls basketball at Idalou Tournament.

Big Spring boys basketball at Andrews Tournament.

Coahoma boys and girls basketball hosting Coahoma Invitational Tournament.

Garden City boys and girls basketball hosting Garden City Tournament.

Forsan boys and girls basketball at Garden City Tournament.

Grady boys and girls basketball at Garden City Tournament.

Individuals needed to referee area basketball games

Individuals are needed to referee area subvarsity basketball games for the 2007-08 season.

Anyone interested should call Adam Rodriguez at 517-0300.

Steers pick up first win of season

Herald Staff Report

An early season win can make all the difference.

The Big Spring Steers (1-1) picked up their first victory of a young boys' basketball season Friday night, topping Lamesa's Golden Tornados, 71-63.

The Steers were down by four points at halftime, but overcame that deficit early in the second half, only getting stronger as the game went on.

Lamesa outscored the Steers 17-15 in the first two periods, giving them a 34-30 halftime lead. However, Big Spring, led by Jason Walker, stormed out of the locker room to score 19 points in the third stanza, compared to just 12 points for Lamesa.

The strong third-period performance gave the Steers a 3-point advantage heading into the fourth.

Big Spring kept its foot on the gas, notching another 22 points

in the final stanza and pulling away for the 8-point victory.

Walker led the Steers with 25 points. Lance Gross chipped in 22 points, including three 3-point field goals. Jerrell Williams came off the bench with 11 points.

Darius McCalister had five points before fouling out. Post Hayden Phillips added four points and Chris Brooks and Josh Harris put in a basket each for two points apiece.

Lamesa had three players score in double figures — Isaac Diaz (16), Daveon Thomas (15) and Demetri McCurley (12).

Big Spring was solid at the charity stripe, converting 15 of 21 free throws.

Lamesa finished 13 of 17 from the free throw line.

The Steers host Seminole Monday at 7:30 p.m. in Steer Gym.

Girls basketball

Highland 27, Grady 16

A volatile Grady Lady Wildcats (3-1) team was completely shut down Friday night as the Highland Lady Hornets (4-0) stymied the Lady Wildcats, allowing no more than six points in a period of play.

The score was tied 6-6 after one period with both teams struggling to find consistency in the offensive game. Grady scored just four points in the second period and three points in both second-half periods.

Meanwhile, Highland put up nine points in the second period and six in each stanza of the second half to pull away for the 11-point victory.

Three players combined for all 27 of Highland's points. Kristin Hyde led all scorers with 14 points. Callie Sandusky added nine points and Kelsie Owens put in the final four points.

Grady's scoring was much

more spread out with seven players contributing. Kandace Schuelke hit the game's only 3-point field goal as she and Lindsey Chavez led the Lady Wildcats with three points. Eva Dyck, Lauren Robinson, Sam Rodriguez, Kenzie Madison and Rachel Romine each had two points.

Surprisingly, with both teams succeeding defensively, only 19 total fouls were committed. Neither team took full advantage at its charity stripe opportunities, though. Grady finished three of 10 at the line while Highland merely made one out of seven free throw attempts.

Grady hosts Borden County at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday. Another Crossroads' team gets an opportunity to play Highland Nov. 27 when the Lady Hornets travel to take on the Forsan Lady Buffaloes. Grady defeated Forsan decisively Wednesday, 63-31.

Central knocks off Lady Steers, 64-23

By BRANDON HALLFORD

Special to the Herald

Big Spring Lady Steer's Head Coach Randal Petty knows that in order for the Lady Steers to be successful they had to eliminate a great number of turnovers.

Unfortunately, knowing wasn't believing as Big Spring fell, 64-23, to San Angelo Central's Lady Bobcats Friday night at Steer Gym.

"We can't give away the ball," Petty said. "If you have 25-30 turnovers a night, there is no way that you are going to win. I knew coming here that they had the same problem last year, but we are going to get that corrected. You have to take care of the ball if you are going to compete in this district."

The wheels came off early for the Lady Steers as they committed 12 first-quarter turnovers. Big Spring ended the night with a staggering 36 turnovers, squashing any opportunity it might have had on offense.

While things were rough for the home team, the Lady Bobcats were more than happy to take advantage of all the gifts, sprinting out to a 13-0 lead before Callie Partee finally put the Lady Steers on the scoreboard with just over a minute remaining in the first.

Teisha Raven completed a three-point play to open the second quarter and extend Central's lead to 21-2. However, the Lady Steers finally seemed to be get-

ting their act together when Kenzie Hunt nailed a trey with 5:12 remaining in the half.

Five different Lady Steers scored during the quarter, outscoring the Lady Bobcats 13-11 to trail 29-15 at the half.

San Angelo put any doubt about the outcome to rest in the third as the Lady Bobcats ripped off an 18-0 run, breaking open a 32-point lead.

According to Petty, the key to the let down was a case of the Lady Steers not being aggressive enough.

"There were times when we had the ball down low and instead of shooting we were either putting it on the floor or trying to pass it back out," Petty commented. "If you keep passing up good shots, you are never going to score."

The fourth quarter turned into a free throw shooting contest as the teams combined for three field goals in the stanza. Central went eight for 12 from the charity stripe while Big Spring converted just two of five free throws in the quarter.

Lyric Ross lead the way for the Lady Bobcats, scoring a game high 15 while Ashley Dyches added another nine.

Katy Tompkins scored five to lead the Lady Steers with Partee scoring four. Linzee Yarbar and Hunt added three apiece in the loss.



Big Spring's Linzee Yarbar (right) lays up the ball for two points in the Lady Steers' 64-23 loss to San Angelo Central Friday night in Steer Gym. HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Ballinger eliminates Bulldogs from playoffs

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

SWEETWATER — The heart to fight and the will to win was there. However, for the Coahoma Bulldogs football team, the lack of playoff experience seemed too much to overcome Friday night as Coahoma fell to the Ballinger Bearcats, 35-20.

The Bearcats built a 35-6 lead early in the third quarter, but didn't cruise to the victory. Coahoma cut the deficit to two scores with 2:09 left in regulation, courtesy of a Donnie Garcia 31-yard touchdown pass to Colter Morgan.

The Bulldogs got the ball back with 57 seconds left, but a fumble recovered by Ballinger after a 20 yard gain on a pass from Garcia to Corey Roberts locked the game up for the Bearcats.

Still, Bulldogs' Head Coach Jay Kennedy expressed a lot of pride in the team's effort.

"We never quit. Everyone can tell we were nervous and scared to death early," Kennedy said. "We were in uncharted territory just like we have been all season. Once we settled down, we played well and fought hard. It's something we can build on for next season."

This is the second time Ballinger has defeated Coahoma this season. However, this loss

was more respectable than the 37-13 thrashing handed out in the third week of the season. Kennedy noted the Bulldogs' gave Ballinger a stiffer battle the second time around.

"We were a lot better this time," Kennedy said. "There wasn't much fight in us in the second half the first time we played them. We didn't go down as easy this time."

Ballinger hit Coahoma for two touchdowns within three minutes in the first quarter, earning an early 14-0 advantage. After quarterback Tucker Travis connected with Michael Pena for a 45-yard touchdown on a third and long, kicker Erin Quiroga hit a pooch kick that Coahoma couldn't handle, allowing the Bearcats to get the ball right back.

Tucker and Pena connected again, this time from nine yards out, grabbing the two touchdown advantage.

Coahoma cut into the lead early in the second quarter when Garcia found running back P.J. Daylong on a 38-yard touchdown pass on a fourth and 11. Daylong snuck out of the backfield and ran up the left sideline virtually unseen by a Ballinger defender.

The Bearcats retook the momentum, though, scoring 14 more unanswered points before halftime, including Travis' third

touchdown pass. This time he connected with Michael Rodriguez on a wide receiver bubble screen, netting 51 yards and giving Ballinger a 28-6 advantage after two quarters.

Ballinger opened the second half with another pooch kick recovery at the Coahoma 47 and Travis hit Pena for the third time on the first play from scrimmage, upping the lead to 35-6.

Coahoma mounted more points, but it was too little, too late. Garcia found Daylong from 13 yards out to narrow the margin, 35-14, with 6:04 left in the game.

Garcia finished 13 of 34 passing for 165 yards, three touchdowns and two interceptions. He also racked up 43 rushing yards on 13 carries.

Daylong touched the ball 17 times — 10 carries, seven receptions — and gained 139 total yards — 48 rushing, 91 receiving. He had two touchdown receptions.

Morgan had the one touchdown reception for 31 yards and Josh Paniagua added 21 yards on three receptions. Paniagua also notched an interception on defense.

The defense was led by Corey Roberts who had three tackles for loss and a sack. Josh Jones and Hunter Williams each had six tackles.

The Bulldogs finish 4-7, but lose only seven seniors — Morgan, Jones, Joe Hernandez, Blain Henderson, Casey Kilpatrick, Seth Cochrane and Justin Rau.

"There aren't many seniors on this team. The seniors on this team were the ones that stuck it out and had the guts to play year in and year out," Kennedy said. "I take my hats off to these kids. They're part of the foundation being set at Coahoma. We're going to keep working hard and they'll be able to look back and know they had a hand in it."

"It was fun to make the playoffs in my first head coaching year," he continued. "We're trying to establish a winning attitude at Coahoma. We want to win at every sport, but my expectations for the football team next season are very high given how young we were this season."

However, Kennedy says the 2007 version of the Bulldogs will always hold a special place in his heart.

"This is a special team. They were my first as a head football coach and I love them to death," Kennedy said. "As an assistant coach, I looked at the position players right under me as my own. With this team, they were all mine."



Steppin' Out ...

Big Spring style

At the Silver Wings Ball and St. Mary Episcopal's Fall Fashion show, local residents showed they could get dolled up with the best of 'em



Howard Countians didn't have to travel to Paris, London or Dallas to experience a little elegance recently. The Silver Wings Ball, the annual Hangar 25 Museum fund-raiser, allowed gals and guys to dress in their best and enjoy a night on the town. On Saturday, Nov. 10, Kay Burns, Gloria Bain and QT Coats, members of St. Mary's

Episcopal Church, hosted a fall fashion show for the community church ladies. About 75 people attended the event and 25 models volunteered to show off outfits provided by Pat Boyd, owner of Jazzy's. Coats, owner of A Timeless Design, held a demonstration on how to decorate a holiday wreath. The wreath was awarded to Diane Murphy. Cindy Sadowsky provided music for the afternoon.



Clockwise, from top left: Brody DeLeon shows off what stylish children will be wearing at the Fall Fashion Show; Dana Rodriguez and Darren Byrd admire a guitar signed by the group "No Doubt" which was auctioned at the Silver Wings Ball; Terry and Debbie Wegman and Gloria McDonald are all smiles at the Silver Wings Ball; Ariel Johnson, left, and Abigail Fierro get formal at the the Fall Fashion Show.

Story by Lyndel Moody

Photos by Debbie Jensen and Bruce Schooler

Obituaries

Nan McKinney

Nan McKinney, 79, of Big Spring died Saturday, Nov. 17, 2007, in a local nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Virginia A. Moore

Virginia A. Moore, 78, of Big Spring died Friday, Nov. 16, 2007, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take Note

- The Big Spring High School junior class will meet Nov. 29 at the Big Spring High School library at 6:30 p.m. to form committees and vote on the 2008 prom theme. All juniors and their parents are encouraged to attend and all participation will be greatly appreciated. For more information, contact Carrie Fox at 816-9687, Karen Martin at 213-1388 or Bebe Johnson at 213-2105.

- Angel Food delivery is from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday at North Birdwell United Methodist Church. Orders for December delivery will also be taken at this time.

- A bake sale to raise funds for the Howard County Bible Class program will be held from 8 a.m. until noon Saturday at the St. Paul Lutheran Church parish hall, 811 Gregg. The event is sponsored by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

- Pediatric flu vaccinations for children ages 6 months to 35 months are now available at the Texas Department of State Health Services clinic in College Park Shopping Center. Cost is \$10, although no one will be turned away for inability to pay. For more information, call 263-9775.

- Vendors are needed for the Christmas Bazaar at Canterbury South for Saturday, Dec. 1. Hours for the bazaar are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Prissy Stanley at 263-1238 or leave a message.

- St. Mary's and friends of St. Mary's are holding a lap blanket drive to place approximately 400 lap blankets in the hands of every nursing home patient in Big Spring. Blankets can be taken to the church office, 1001 Goliad, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday or call Connie Fowler at 267-2713.

A beginning crochet class is being held at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the church's Parish Hall.

- Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming an Odyssey Healthcare volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.

- All creatures Sanctuary and Rescue has an account set up with Big Spring Salvage at 3608 N. Hwy. 87 for all types of metals and aluminum cans. Please tell them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina brand dog foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles, to A.C.S. & R. at P.O. 871, Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is still accepting old and used cell phones and ink jet cartridges, for drop off locations in Big Spring and Coahoma, Call Melanie at 267-7387.

- Christ Community Fellowship is collecting infant car seats and carriers. These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

- Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- VICTOR FIELDS**, 24, 1604 11th Pl., was arrested on a Nolan Co. warrant.
- JOSHUA A. YANEZ**, 19, 1002 N. Main, was arrested on a capias warrant.
- ISIDRIO LOYA**, 22, 111 W. Ave. B, was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- JUAN GARCIA**, 42, 205 Becker Rd., was arrested on four local warrants.
- JOHN W. SALAZAR**, 32, 1808 Hearn, was arrested on eight warrants.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT** was reported in the 800 block of Eighth.
- ASSAULT BY THREATS** was reported in the 1500 block of Bluebird.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 900 block of Hearn.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported in the 800 block of Eighth.
- DISORDERLY CONDUCT** was reported in the 2500 block of Ent.
- DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED/INVALID** was reported in the 2600 block of Gregg.
- THEFT** was reported in the 300 block of Owens.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 3-14-15-32-37.
Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-9-6-3. Sum It Up: 20.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-1-0

Weather

Sunday...Sunny. Highs in the mid 70s. Light and variable winds becoming south around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Sunday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 40s. Light and variable winds.

Monday...Sunny. Highs around 80. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s.

Tuesday...Sunny. Highs around 80.

Tuesday night...Mostly cloudy. Colder. Lows around 40.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Much cooler. Highs in the mid 50s.

Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

Thanksgiving day...Mostly cloudy. Highs around 50.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 30.

Friday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s.

Bulletin Board

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

MONDAY
• The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

- 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.

- DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams St.

- Christian Singles Fellowship meets from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Youth Hall. All singles in the community are invited for an evening of fellowship, food and table games.

- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

- Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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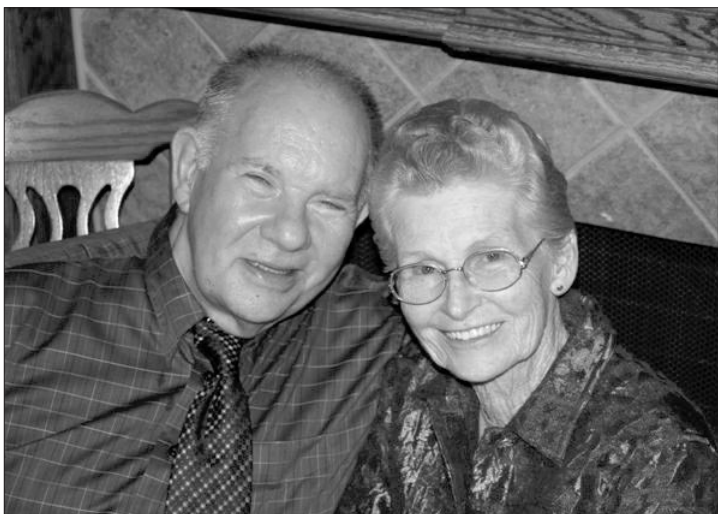
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► Anniversary



James and JoAnn Thurston

50th Anniversary

James and JoAnn (Buchman) Thurston of Burdick, Kan., will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house hosted by their children and grandchildren from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24, at Elmdale United Methodist Church in Elmdale, Kan. A dinner for the immediate family will follow the reception at Grand Central Hotel in Cottonwood Falls, Kan. They were married Nov. 24, 1957, at Elmdale United Methodist Church. Jim and JoAnn owned and operated oilfield tank and fitting manufacturing

companies in Kansas and Texas. JoAnn later retired as a medical transcriptionist with the Texas State Hospital system. Their children and spouses are Lou and Lori Thurston of Hillsboro, Kan., Deb and Terry Scott of Allen, Kirk and Angela Thurston of Harper, Kan., and Marty Thurston and Wayne Criger of Plano. The couple have seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. The couple requests no gifts, but cards may be sent to them at 2344 BB Avenue, Burdick, KS 66838.



► Menus

Stanton ISD

Monday: Breakfast, pancakes; Lunch, pizza or chef salad/crackers, garden salad, pears.
Tuesday: Breakfast, oatmeal/toast; Lunch, hamburger or cheeseburger, hamburger salad, vegetarian beans, fruit.
Wednesday-Friday: Closed for holidays.

Coahoma ISD

Monday: Breakfast, Pop Tarts, ham, apple juice, milk; Lunch, hamburgers, chips, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, mixed fruit cups, milk.
Tuesday: Breakfast, French toast, sausage, orange juice, milk; Lunch, cheeseburger pockets, baked beans, strawberry cups, milk, burritos.
Wednesday: Breakfast, waffles, sausage, apple-sauce cups, syrup, milk, Nacho grande, Mexical corn, apples, milk.
Thursday-Friday: Closed for holidays

Big Spring Independent School District

Monday: Lunch, pepperoni pizza (combination food), baby carrots, apple-sauce, milk.
Tuesday: Lunch, chicken-fried steak, mashed potatoes, English peas,

mixed fruit, rolls, milk.
Wednesday: Lunch, chicken salad (combination food), potato smiles, sliced peaches, Thanksgiving treat, milk.
Thursday-Friday: Closed for holidays

Forsan ISD

Monday: Breakfast, cereal, yogurt, juice, milk; Lunch, submarine sandwiches, lettuce, tomatoes, pickle, baked chips, baby carrots w/ranch, chocolate pudding cups.
Tuesday: Breakfast, cinnamon toast, fresh fruit, milk; Lunch, barbecue hot-dogs, sliced bread, pinto beans, mashed potatoes, pineapple-orange salad.
Wednesday-Friday: Closed for holidays

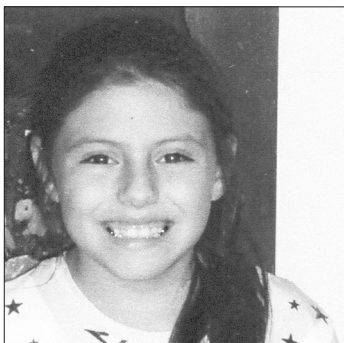
Spring City Senior Citizen's Center

Monday: chicken fajitas, flour tortillas, Spanish rice, cheese/lettuce/tomatoes, guacamole/chips and chocolate pudding.
Tuesday: large baked potato, chili/crackers, California blend/cheese and lemon pudding.
Wednesday: beef tips and rice with brown gravy, whole wheat rolls and sliced peaches.
Thursday-Friday: Closed for Thanksgiving

WHO'S WHO



Ashley Garcia



Shayanne Garcia

Ashley and Shayanne Garcia, daughters of Uvaldo and Laura Garcia of Big Spring, will be attending the Distinguished Youth of America Scholarship and Recognition Program in Austin Thanksgiving weekend. Eleven-year-old Ashley, a fifth grader at Elbow Elementary, and Shayanne, 9, a fourth grader at Elbow, will be competing in the Young Miss of Texas and Little Miss of Texas competitions, respectively. The family wishes to express its appreciation to the community of Big Spring in its support of the girls.

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INDICTED

Continued from Page 1A

uncle.”
Wilson allegedly took the children to a motor home that was serving as his place of residence, where the boy subsequently escaped and notified police, who later found the defendant still holding the girl in custody.

Everett said no sexual assault is believed to have

occurred, but investigators believe Wilson planned to molest the girl. In addition, the male suspect who gave the three a ride from the scene was determined not to be complicit in the crime.

Wilkerson said the dual kidnapping should outrage members of the community.

“We believe that, when the facts come out at trial, this will prove to be a very disturbing case,” he said, declining further

comment on the case. Wilson, who has a prior felony conviction, faces up to 20 years in prison for the kidnapping and up to life in prison for the aggravated kidnapping.

Also indicted by the grand jury were:

- Cody Gene Carlile, 29, 4304 Connally, possession of a controlled substance (third degree felony).

- Kevin Glenn Cate, 35, Midland, possession of a controlled substance (third degree felony).

- Paula Anne Dixon, 46, Springtown, possession of a controlled substance (third degree felony).

- James Curtis Hayes, 45, Howard County Jail, possession of a controlled substance (first degree felony).

- Kimberly Denise James, 18, Mitchell County Jail, aggravated robbery (first degree felony), theft from a person (state jail felony), injury to the elderly (third degree felony) and

theft of a firearm (state jail felony).

- Richard L. Klitz, 60, 300 N.E. 12th, theft over \$1,500 but less than \$20,000 (state jail felony).

- John Martinez Ramirez Jr., 41, Howard County Jail, burglary of a building (third degree felony).

- Gena Kay Ray, 46, 1606 N. FM 700, driving while intoxicated (third degree felony) and possession of a controlled substance (third degree felony).

- Marcus Emory Sturgill, 18, 1216 15th St., evading arrest (state jail felony).

- Ernest J. Taggart, 34, Howard County Jail, driving while intoxicated (second degree felony).

- Perry Wayne Wells, 44, Howard County Jail, unauthorized use of a vehicle (state jail felony).

- Richard James White Jr., 31, Howard County Jail, driving while intoxicated (second degree felony).

SPRING

Continued from Page 1A

“We had a stagnant situation with the water; the only input we had was what Mother Nature provided,” Darden said.

“With this new artificial method, both the quantity and quality of water in the spring has improved 100 percent.”

The water is pumped to two locations — it enters the spring directly via a line next to the spring’s

observation deck; and indirectly via water piped to the draw that flows into the spring from the west.

By Friday, the results were dramatic. Spring levels, which had lowered dramatically the last few

years, were at near capacity, and two mini-waterfalls are supplying it with a constant source of water.

“This is awesome,” CVB Director Debbie Wegman said. “It’s really cool to come out here and hear

the sound of running water again.”

Eventually, water will begin spilling over a retaining wall between the spring and the lake, ensuring constant circulation of water, Darden said.

Darden and Wegman said other spruce-up projects are planned for the area around the spring, including tree plantings, renovation of the walking trail and construction of signs and park benches in the vicinity.

JAIL

Continued from Page 1A

said Barr. “So what we’ll do is go ahead and issue him a check, and when we get the money from the bonds — which will most likely be in the middle of February — we’ll reimburse the county.”

Barr said paying for the land — which is expected to cost the county approximately \$55,000 including closing costs — before the bonds are actually sold shouldn’t put an undo strain on county coffers.

“We’re pretty thin right now, but we can sail ourselves through that,” said Barr. “If any big ticket items come up and we have to have the money, we may have to get a loan until we get the bond money. But as far as the regular county govern-

ment is concerned, we’ll be all right.”

While commissioners may still be relishing the success of the jail bond, which failed in its first incarnation in 2006, Barr said news concerning interest rates could also provide a fiscal break for the county.

“I talked to Vince (Vialle, senior vice president of investment bankers First Southwest Company), and he told me there’s a good chance — keep in mind he’s not guaranteeing this — the interest rates on the bond could be down around 5.25 percent, instead of the 5.5 percent we were looking at. He said he just doesn’t know for sure right now, but it looks promising. A quarter of a percent on that kind of money could come out to quite a bit of money.”

Barr said he hopes to see work begin in earnest sometime in March, but there’s plenty to keep the commissioners and county officials busy in the meantime.

“Once we get all of this preliminary stuff out of the way, I’m hoping to see construction start in early March,” said Barr. “You have to do the soil samples, which is a much bigger deal than I originally thought. Out here in West Texas, they say we have really bad soil, so

they are going to have to do that. We’ll also have to get the site ready. The county can do a lot of the dirt work.”

“We also have to move the rap that’s currently on the site. Rap is the used asphalt TxDOT scrapes off the highways, and it can be used in roadways and parking lots, things like that. What’s out there belongs to the city, and we’re working with them now to have it moved, and we’re also hoping they

will let us have a little of it for some of the work we’ll be doing on the jail site.”

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

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Virginia A. Moore, 78, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Christmas Child project deadline will be Monday

How much difference can a simple shoe box make in the life of a child in an impoverished and war-torn country? For quite some time we've been asking that question in this space about this time year, and the answer is simple — lots.

At least that's the case if the shoe box in question comes from Operation Christmas Child, a project offered annually by the Samaritan's Purse charity. In fact, it can mean the difference between opening a gift Christmas morning and finding nothing under the holiday tree.

"These boxes will be the only thing many of these children will have to open Christmas morning," explained Allan Johnson, owner of the local furniture store, which for the 11th straight year is the local headquarters for the project. "Many donors will put scriptures and words of encouragement in the gift, as well, so I feel like we're helping to deliver a really good message."

But if you want to be a part of this effort, there's little time to act. Collection of the boxes wraps up Monday.

Participating in the annual program is simple, all one needs to do is get a shoe box and fill it with different items — things like toys and hygiene items are always a good idea.

However, liquid items like lotion or shampoo, or anything that comes in an aerosol can should be avoided. Perishables, like chocolate and other food items, should also be left out.

Johnson also suggests that when picking out toys anything that might be considered war related, such as guns or knives, is not a good idea.

Once the box is filled, it can be dropped off at Allan's Furniture, located at 202 Scurry in downtown Big Spring. Johnson and the rest of the folks there will then pack up all the boxes in a crate and ship it to Odessa. From there it and others from numerous communities will be on their way overseas.

Those who plan to participate should mark their boxes for either a boy or girl in age groups 2 to 4 years; 5 to 9; and 10 to 14 years of age.

The boxes can be decorated with Christmas paper but the lid must be able to be separated from the box. A \$7 donation is requested — but not required — to help with the shipping costs, and can be left inside the box.

Anyone needing additional information can call 267-6278.

We hope you take a little time this year and be a part of another good cause.

Howard Countians have always opened their hearts in such instances and we know you will again.

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

May we share our opinions and thoughts with You, Lord, asking for your help to go in the right direction.

Amen

Mr. President, spend more on us

Forgive me for a minute, but I'm going on a rant here. It's time for George W. Bush and his administration to care about the common American instead of pandering to the oil interests, insurance companies and the rest of what some of us call "Big Business."

President Bush vetoed the education and health spending bill last week — a bill that in Texas alone, would have provided students with a total of \$388 million to fund efforts to improve student achievement, close achievement gaps and help students go to and succeed in college, as well as pay for other U.S. Department of Education programs which have been saddled on the states.

Of course, I'm not sure why I'm surprised. Dubya and his administration have spent the last seven years cutting corners when it comes to children. Most recently it's been in the form of federal spending for health care and education.

Then again, the administration hasn't been any friend to the elderly, the poor or anyone else that isn't well invested in the stock and bond markets.

The White House said the \$606 billion education and health was loaded with 2,000 earmarks — lawmaker-sponsored projects that critics call pork-barrel spending — which Bush wants stripped from the bill.

Some of the bills projects Bush called "wasteful" included a prison museum, a sailing school taught aboard a catamaran and a Portugese-as-a-second-language

program. "Congress owes the taxpayers much better than this effort," Bush said.

Those words come out of the mouth of a man who kept a straight face in asking Congress to approve an energy bill a couple of years ago that provided billions of dollars in tax breaks for the oil companies!

Bush not only announced his veto of the education and health bill Tuesday, but signed a big increase in the Pentagon's non-war budget although the White House complained it contained "some unnecessary spending."

Oh, I see. There's unnecessary spending and then there's....

Since winning re-election three years ago, Bush and his cronies have annually done their dead-level best to cut the federal government's health and education measure below the prior year's level. The budget that Bush presented in February sought almost \$4 billion in cuts to this year's bill.

Congressional Democrats and more than 50 of their Republican brethren responded by adding \$10 billion to Bush's request for the 2008 bill.

So, you may ask, "What does that vetoed measure call for?"

- Well, let's see:
- A 20 percent increase for job training programs.
 - \$1.4 billion more for health research at the National Institutes of Health, a 5 percent increase.
 - \$2.4 billion for heating subsidies for the poor.
 - \$665 million for grants to community action agencies.
 - \$63.6 billion for the Education Department, a 5 percent increase over 2007 spending and 8 percent more than Bush sought.
 - And a \$225 million increase for

community health centers. The president hammered Democrats for what he called a tax-and-spend philosophy.

The way the Bush administration has squandered money on the war in Iraq, not to mention what the long-term costs of caring for tens of thousands wounded in that war will be, his taking Democrats to task for their spending plans is ludicrous.

Bush hasn't raised federal taxes. He's just spent hundreds of billions in a war of aggression that in the long run is going to cost us trillions.

Sure helped increase oil prices, though, didn't it?

But it's not just this Bush administration but those of his father and Ronald Reagan that have done more to drive up America's national debt than any other.

Loot at it this way, it took administrations from George Washington to Ronald Reagan for the national debt to hit the \$1 trillion mark. That's 190 years. Now, just 27 years later (19 of them with Republican administrations), the national debt has risen more than 800 percent. Only \$1.2 trillion was accrued during Bill Clinton's administration, meaning the bulk of national debt comes from Republican administrations.

At the end of the fiscal year 1981, the national debt was \$997 billion, according to the Treasury Department's Web site. By the time George W. Bush became president, the national debt had soared to more than \$5.5 trillion. It is now at \$9 trillion.

Enough said.

Contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230, or by e-mail at editor@bigspringherald.com.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

We want to thank you for all the hard work and effort you and the other *Big Spring Herald* staff did in making the special section for the Forsan High School Band in last Sunday's paper.

We were really worried that the picture we sent would not be able to be "blown up" and printed. But, to our surprise, it turned out great. I know I didn't give you much to work with. I don't have a "recent" photo of Blake that would have been appropriate to print; as he is always making funny or goofy faces.

Thank you very much! The staff at the *Herald* did an exceptional job on the entire FHS section.

JOSE AND BECKY ENRIQUEZ
FORSAN

TO THE EDITOR:

I need your help and that of the public if we are going to get electrical service installed at Scenic Mountain.

We have lighted our huge poinsettias on the east side of Scenic

Mountain for the past three years using generators. At this time, I do not want to put my volunteers at risk by servicing them every night anymore.

We are asking people to write to: Mr. Walter Dabney, Director of State Parks, 4200 Smithschool Road, Austin 78744-3218.

We are asking Mr. Dabney to give us permission and guidance on how this can be accomplished. If we are to have the beautiful presentation to Big Spring and visitors we need electricity to provide power to the poinsettias.

They will not be lighted this year! So, we are asking everyone that would like to see the poinsettias in lights to write Mr. Dabney.

PAT SIMMONS
COORDINATOR
FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

TO THE EDITOR:

The Permian Technology Conference would like to express its gratitude to the Big Spring Independent School District. On Saturday we held a technology con-

ference at Big Spring High School. Technology staff from school districts in the area and around the state attended, including Lubbock, Midland, Abilene, San Antonio and many more. In addition, two universities were represented.

The Big Spring ISD provided its facilities at a reasonable cost and, even more importantly, provided two of the three keynote speakers.

Michael Downes, superintendent of BSISD, was one speaker, and he discussed the issues involved in funding a laptop initiative. The information was well received by the audience and discussed throughout the day. Corey Wood, BSISD's director of technology, also participated as a keynote and presented a technical analysis of the integration of Mac laptops and servers into a Windows environment. A number of attendees are implementing laptop initiatives in the next year or two and the information from Mr. Downes and Mr. Wood was critical for their preparation.

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

ADDRESSES

- **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-5922
- **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator
517 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934
- **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722
- **RICK PERRY**
Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000
- **JOE HEFLIN**
State Representative
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: (432) 213-2897 or (512) 463-0604
- **KEL SELIGER**
State Senator
401 Austin, Suite 101
Big Spring, 79720
Phone: (432) 268-9909

The hedge-fund blues

You think the poor people in New Orleans have it bad, or the people in Iraq, or the people of Darfur?

Well, you haven't known real suffering until you've felt the pain of a small group of Americans said to be experiencing a living hell. I speak, of course, about hedge fund executives.

Yes, these super-elite, Wall Street speculators are billionaires who've been making a killing the past several years - but do you not realize that the wheeler-dealer market has softened recently and that is causing gut-wrenching anguish in the wealth-advantaged community? It's not merely that stratospheric hedge fund gains have slowed, but that the swashbuckling ethic of no-holds-barred self-enrichment has sagged. As one observer described the despair: "People just don't feel euphoric."

How bad is it? So bad, that no one has bought "Old Trees." It's a Gatsbyesque 11-acre estate with 21 bedrooms and 2 swimming pools in Southampton, an enclave of Wall Street swells. It's offered at

only \$48 million. but, alas, no takers. Why? With deflated psyches, the billionaires just don't feel their lavish selves, so they aren't buying. "I have seen people shaken, their confidence eroded. They are upset and depressed," says a psychologist who has been hired by large hedge funds to counsel traumatized billionaires.

A hedge fund psychiatrist reported the horror of the financial dip in these terms: "Some people are debilitated by it. You can't sleep, you can't eat." And if that picture of upper-class suffering doesn't tug at your heartstrings, get ready to be reduced to tears by this horrific finding: Some hedge fund executives are in such emotional distress that it's affecting their golf scores.

Haven't they suffered enough? I say we should take up a collection to send them to New Orleans, Iraq, and Darfur so they can tell people there how much they're hurting.

For more information on Jim Hightower's work, and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, *The Hightower Lowdown*, visit www.jimhightower.com.

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JIM
HIGHTOWER

Texas Schoolboy Playoff Scores

<p>CLASS 5A Abilene 48, Weatherford 14 Arlington Bowie 48, Hurst Bell 0 Brazoswood 35, Fort Bend Marshall 27 Cedar Hill 61, Irving MacArthur 24 Cypress-Fairbanks 40, Katy Cinco Ranch 27 Dallas Carter 34, North Mesquite 24 DeSoto 45, Dallas Jesuit 24 EP Montwood 28, San Angelo Central 24 Eules Trinity 31, Arlington Martin 0 Flower Mound Marcus 28, Keller 25 Fort Bend Hightower 30, Clear Creek 8 Galena Park N. Shore 21, Humble Kingwood 7 Harlingen South 30, San Benito 14 Houston Stratford 38, Houston Chavez 7 Humble 16, Deer Park 7 Katy 51, Houston Strake Jesuit 18 Klein 19, Conroe 13 Leander 35, Killeen Ellison 21 Lewisville 24, Colleyville Heritage 21, OT Lubbock Coronado 23, EP Franklin 21 Lubbock Monterey 62, EP Hanks 14 Longview 34, Dallas White 3 Pasadena Memorial 35, Baytown Lee 10 Pearland 28, Fort Bend Kempner 0 PSJA 28, Brownsville Pace 7 Round Rock 30, A&M Consolidated 23 Round Rock Stony Point 49, Bryan 20</p>	<p>SA Madison 22, San Marcos 14 SA O'Connor 42, CC Carroll 20 SA Southwest 39, SA Clark 36 SA Warren 38, CC Ray 22 Smithson Valley 34, Austin High 0 Southlake Carroll 35, Flower Mound 24 Spring Westfield 55, The Woodlands 28 Weslaco 62, Edinburg North 49 CLASS 4A Aledo 47, FW Southwest 6 Beeville 34, SA McCollum 14 Canutillo 23, EP Chapin 20 CC Calallen 31, Mercedes 0 CC Flour Bluff 31, Weslaco East 27 Dallas Highland Park 49, Frisco 28 Dallas S. Oak Cliff 24, Dallas Lincoln 14 Dallas Samuell 13, Dallas Kimball 12 Dallas Spruce 31, Seagoville 8 Dayton 49, Crosby 7 Edcouch-Elsa 18, Alice 17 Ennis 37, Waco High 34, 4OT EP Austin 31, EP Parkland 6 EP Del Valle 60, EP Address 32 Fredericksburg 38, SA Fox Tech 7 Gregory-Portland 41, SA South San 14 Houston Furr 27, Houston Sharpstown 21 Houston Washington 30, Houston Jones 0 Houston Yates 41, Houston Worthing 8 Keller Fossil Ridge 31, Denton Ryan 20 Kilgore 17, Mount Pleasant 14 Livingston 42, Manor 13 Lubbock Estacado 25, Dumas 14 Lumberton 35, Houston Smiley 7</p>	<p>McKinney Boyd 49, Richardson Pearce 35 New Braunfels 21, Waco Connally 14 Port Lavaca Calhoun 31, Floresville 14 Port Neches-Groves 33, Galena Park 0 Red Oak 35, Hewitt Midway 21 Rosenberg Lamar 39, Dickinson 14 Schertz Steele 17, Burnet 10, OT Stephenville 56, FW Wyatt 21 Texas City 28, Bay City 16 Waller 41, SA McCallum 20 West Mesquite 35, Lake Dallas 28 WF Rider 42, Springtown 14 Whitehouse 33, Sulphur Springs 30 Wichita Falls 31, NRH Birdville 27 Wolfforth Frenship 55, Canyon Randall 21 CLASS 3A Abilene Wylie 46, Decatur 16 Andrews 43, Levelland 24 Argyle 17, Clyde 0 Bandera 17, La Vernia 14 Burkburnett 35, Canyon 28 Caldwell 42, Columbus 31 Canton 35, Kaufman 21 Carthage 55, Mexia 7 Celina 48, Emory Rains 6 Crockett 24, Madisonville 19 Cuero 64, Mathis 7 Devine 70, Poteet 27 Giddings 21, Sealy 12 Gilmer 41, Texarkana Liberty-Eylau 26 Gonzales 43, Ingleside 7 Hidalgo 39, Zapata 14 Kennedale 46, Dallas Roosevelt 10 Lake Travis 37, New Braunfels Canyon 7</p>	<p>Liberty Hill 42, Robinson 14 Llano 47, Luling 12 Lytle 28, Crystal City 12 Navasota 41, Needville 20 Palestine Westwood 65, Diboll 59 Pittsburg 38, Longview Spring Hill 12 Port Isabel 28, Raymondville 7 Prosper 23, Willis Point 7 Rio Hondo 47, Lyford 12 Royse City 21, Frisco Wakeland 14 Seminole 27, Midland Greenwood 19 Snyder 55, Brownfield 12 Sweetwater 39, Bridgeport 21 Texarkana Pleasant Grove 34, Mineola 25 Tyler Chapel Hill 48, Ferris 14 West 10, Dallas Madison 6 Wimberley 59, SA West Campus 7 CLASS 2A Altair Rice 29, Wallis Brazos 19 Arp 55, Corsicana Mildred 0 Ballinger 35, Coahoma 20 Blanco 24, Reagan County 14 Boyd 34, Holliday 14 Caddo Mills 41, Grandview 21 Canadian 48, Tulia 14 Childress 42, Post 0 Cisco 63, Nocona 0 Corrigan-Camden 28, East Chambers 26 Crane 50, Comfort 21 Crawford 35, Centerville 0 Daingerfield 35, Jefferson 14 Dilley 13, Poth 7 East Bernard 38, Hallettsville 27 Elysian Fields 20, Frankston 6 Farmersville 42, Pottsboro 14 Hamilton 43, Mart 21 Hardin 51, Hemphill 28 Harleton 28, Linden-Kildare 24 Henrietta 15, Godley 9</p>	<p>Hitchcock 18, Edna 13 Hughes Springs 30, New Diana 21 Idalou 26, Abernathy 9 Lago Vista 21, Franklin 7 Littlefield 35, Denver City 6 Lone Oak 28, Hico 21 McGregor 49, Teague 35 Melissa 49, Whitewright 35 Muleshoe 56, Sanford-Fritch 14 Newton 55, Buna 8 Palmer 36, Itasca 28 Refugio 42, Banquete 21 Salado 17, Hempstead 7 Stockdale 40, SA Cole 34 Stratford 21, Bushland 10 Tatum 47, Blooming Grove 14 Troy 48, Lexington 35 Universal City Randolph 35, Cotulla 6 CLASS 1A Albany 41, Christoval 13 Collinsville 41, DeLeon 6 Flatonia 21, La Villa 20 Gorman 52, Lindsay 10 Granger 46, Johnson City 7 Groveton 48, Hull-Daisetta 27 Gunter 24, Aubrey 14 Harper 7, Thorndale 6 Joaquin 53, Simms Bowie 16 Louise 14, Bruni 0 Lovely 47, Evadale 0 Maud 58, Beckville 7 McCamey 21, Seagraves 3 Memphis 12, Springlake-Earth 8 Nazareth 35, Clarendon 6 Quanah 21, Bovina 6 Shiner 48, Ben Bolt 0 Tenaha 58, Gilmer Union Hill 34 West Sabine 48, West Hardin 27 SIX-MAN Follett 29, McLean 16 Grandfalls-Royalty 54, Loraine 6 Happy 28, Crowell 18 Ira 56, New Home 8</p>	<p>Iredell 74, Jonesboro 48 Jayton 55, Loop 8 Matador Motley County 58, Lefors 8 Richland Springs 54, San Saba 6 Trinidad 54, Blum 8 Turkey Valley 75, Lorenzo 30 Woodson 53, Guthrie 0 OTHER SCHOOLS Argyle Liberty Christian 41, Dallas First Baptist 0 Arlington Pantego Christian 49, Richardson Canyon Creek 24 Austin TSD 20, Beaumont Legacy 18 Bay Area Christian 68, San Marcos Baptist 7 Carrollton American Heritage 50, Cedar Hill Trinity 28 Colleyville Covenant 41, Bullard Brook Hill 21 Dallas Bishop Lynch 30, SA Holy Cross 6 Dallas Christian 65, FW Christian 7 Dallas Parish Episcopal 28, Arlington Grace Prep 12 FW Calvary Christian 24, Rockwall Christian 12 Grapevine Faith 54, Flower Mound Coram Deo 0 Hallettsville Sacred Heart 52, Bryan St. Joseph 10 Houston Second Baptist 56, SA St. Anthony 32 Midland Christian 56, Plano Prestonwood 28 Shiner St. Paul 33, Waco Texas Christian 14 Tomball Concordia Lutheran 43, SA Christian 33 Victoria St. Joseph 31, Houston Lutheran North 13 Waco Reicher 55, Carrollton Christian 15</p>
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Emotional twist to Redskins-Cowboys game

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — With his father in a coma and doctors offering little hope for recovery, Washington Redskins cornerback Shawn Springs has needed football more than ever the last month.

Practices and games have been the only ways of escape from his sorrow. Until now.

On Sunday, Springs will play at Texas Stadium against his dad's old team, the Dallas Cowboys. Memories of his dad, Ron Springs, will be everywhere, probably dredging up some long-forgotten stories.

"I grew up being at Texas Stadium, being at the locker room," said Shawn Springs, who was 4 when his dad was a rookie in 1979, and 9 when Ron left to finish his career in Tampa Bay. "Tony Dorsett, Everson Walls, all those old Cowboys are our family. I used to wear Cowboys pajamas and stuff like that. So going down to Texas Stadium might be a little tough."

The Springs saga puts a new twist on this old, bitter rivalry. Under these circumstances, Cowboys fans have to be rooting for Shawn and Redskins fans hoping the best for Ron. Of course, that won't have anything to do with the scoreboard Sunday.

Dallas comes in 8-1, tied with Green Bay for the best record

in the NFC. The Cowboys want to keep piling up wins before their showdown with the Packers a week from Thursday. The Redskins (5-4) are coming off a loss to Philadelphia and need a big win to buoy playoff hopes.

The feud between Dallas and Washington was as intense as ever when Ron Springs broke into the NFL and found himself sharing the backfield with Dorsett and Roger Staubach. A good blocker, runner and receiver, his most important role might have been his leadership in the locker room; ring-leader is probably a better term.

A few years into retirement, Ron was diagnosed with diabetes. The disease took its toll, eventually gnarling his hands and costing him his right foot and several of his left toes.

His outlook soared in February when he received a kidney donated from Walls, his former teammate and close friend. It was the first known transplant between teammates in the United States, and they happily became advocates for awareness of diabetes and organ donation.

They testified on Capitol Hill and served as honorary captains for the Cowboys opener, which also served as the launch date for their Gift for Life Foundation. Walls helped Ron Springs get out of his wheelchair and salute the crowd, a

moment Shawn regrets having missed; after all, he was playing his own season opener that day.

"When he stood up in the middle of the field and waved, it was one of the most exciting parts of his life that I can remember over the last 10 or 20 years," Shawn said.

In early October, Ron had a cyst removed from his arm. During a follow-up operation Oct. 11, he lost oxygen and lapsed into the coma. More than a month later, the prognosis is bleak.

"They're telling us, pretty much, that at best my dad would probably be a vegetable," Shawn said.

Ron's wife, Shawn's stepmother, may soon face a decision of whether to remove life support. Shawn's stance was pretty clear during a 20-minute conference call with Dallas reporters Wednesday; throughout the interview, he referred to his dad in past tense and said he was "at peace about the situation."

"I feel whatever happens, whether God comes and he wakes right up or it's his time, I've accepted that my father is in a better place and it was meant to be," Shawn said. "I just have faith. I'm also very real about the situation. Not many people have ever awakened from this type of coma and the lack of oxygen. ... Whatever decision she makes, I'm quite

sure it'll be the right decision."

Shawn played two days after his father became comatose, then flew to Dallas. He's made two more trips, usually arriving Monday and leaving late Tuesday. His plan for this weekend was to focus on football until after the game, then go straight from the stadium to Medical City Hospital.

"I'll get Dorsett or somebody to give me a ride," said Shawn, who plans to again remain in town through Tuesday night. "I know it's going to be a very emotional week, a tough week, because the holidays make it more difficult."

Dorsett and Walls have been among the many regular visitors to Ron Springs' bedside. Tony Hill, Eugene Lockhart, Robert Newhouse and Calvin Hill have visited, too.

"That first week, it was like a Cowboys reunion," Shawn said. "It's a loss for the Cowboys' family. When one of those guys goes down, all those guys are hurting."

Among the things Shawn picked up from his dad was that a man's word is his bond. Ron also liked to say, "Whatever you do, work really hard at it and try to be the best."

And, as anyone who ever knew or saw Ron can attest, he believed in a strong backbone and an even stronger sense of humor.

"He was always joking about something. Even in the most

serious times, he would be joking about it. He was like, 'If this happens to me, do this, do this and do this. OK? Now, who y'all got this week?'" Shawn said, laughing.

Shawn does his best to keep the banter up during his visits. Although his dad "looks like he's asleep," Shawn updates him on the Redskins and the Cowboys and his beloved alma mater, Ohio State. He's already broken to him the news about the Buckeyes' loss to Illinois. He's also asked his stepmom to turn Redskins games on the television in Ron's room. He expects it will be tuned into the Cowboys game Sunday.

"I can hear him now saying, 'You let T.O. catch a pass on you?' I can hear him now talking smack if (that happens)," Shawn said, laughing again.

The Redskins' secondary is missing two starters and a top reserve is playing in pain, so they need Shawn Springs as much as ever these days. Teammates appreciate and admire how he's juggled everything.

"He's handled himself so well, he actually makes us forget about what's going on," Washington defensive end Phillip Daniels said. "He's laughing, joking around with the guys. We keep his dad in our prayers all the time. I think it will be tough for him, but if anybody can handle it, he can."

Spurs overcome McGrady-less Rockets, 90-84

By ELIZABETH WHITE

Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Spurs weren't about to give the Houston Rockets what coach Gregg Popovich considered a "double win."

Playing the Tracy McGrady-less Houston Rockets, Popovich said the Spurs entered the AT&T Center already with an advantage. If they had lost under those circumstances, "you feel doubly bad."

The Spurs beat the Rockets 90-84 Friday night, avenging an 89-81 loss earlier this month in Houston.

Tim Duncan had a sea-

son-high 25 points and grabbed 13 rebounds and Manu Ginobili added 19 points for the Spurs (8-2).

Luis Scola, whose rights were traded from the Spurs to the Rockets over the summer, had a breakout game, scoring 20 points.

The Rockets (6-4) managed to tie the game at 80 with 3:48 to play on Scola's jump shot. But even with Yao Ming's eight points in the quarter, the Spurs were able to pull away.

Ginobili made it 88-84 as he cradled the ball on his way to the basket for a layup with 57 seconds to go, and Duncan blocked Yao's layup attempt with

9 seconds to play. Tony Parker, who finished with 14 points, then sank a couple of free throws.

Yao had 14 points and nine rebounds for Houston. Shane Battier added 16 points and Mike James 10. Houston coach Rick Adelman said McGrady's status is day-to-day.

Michael Finley had 17 points for San Antonio.

The Spurs opened the fourth quarter up 69-64 after what had been a back-and-forth game early on. They never trailed after going up 47-46 late in the second quarter.

Duncan, who struggled two games ago, scoring just five points against

the Los Angeles Lakers, didn't score in the fourth quarter. But Ginobili and Parker, who went 1-of-11 in the Spurs' Thursday night loss to their other in-state rival, the Dallas Mavericks, came up with six points apiece in the final period.

Duncan's right elbow was wrapped, but he clearly wasn't bothered much as he scored 20 points in the first half. He had 14 in the first quarter to give the Spurs a 25-24 advantage after one period.

Finley went 6-of-6 for 15 points at the half, when the Spurs held a 49-46 lead.

Scola also was perfect in

the half, making all six shots for 12 points. He had been averaging 3.9 points before Friday's game and finished 10-of-11 from the field.

Supersonics 126,

Hawks 123

Kevin Durant has his first professional game-winner. It probably won't be his last.

Durant made a buzzer-beating 3-pointer at the end of the second overtime, and Damien Wilkins scored a career-high 41 points in the Seattle SuperSonics' 126-123 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Friday night.

With rookie Al Horford guarding him at the top of

the key, the No. 2 pick in the draft pumped once to get the defender in the air before shooting over his outstretched arm.

"He'll probably do this many, many times before his career is over," Seattle coach P.J. Carlesimo said.

Even though Durant had the winner, the Sonics never would have been in that position without the outstanding play of Wilkins — in front of father Gerald and uncle Dominique Wilkins.

"Playing in front of family certainly made it special for me," Wilkins said. "The most important thing is that we got the win."



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Sunday Morning 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE

Do you have an interesting item for the Business and Agriculture pages? Call John Moseley, 263-7331, Ext. 230, or leave a voice mail.

BIG SPRING HERALD

Page 4C
Sunday, November 18, 2007



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Employees of Representative Sales and the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce gather for a ribbon cutting to celebrate the business' grand opening Wednesday. Pictured from left are Tito Arencibia, Big Spring Ambassador; Debbye ValVerde, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce executive director; Representative Sales employee Jackie Campos; Sharon Campbell, store manager in Big Lake; Linda Matthews, owner; Brittany Rowland, store manager in Big Spring; Natalie Arnold, store manager in Mertzon; Daphney Adams, store manager in Sonora; and Big Spring Ambassador Katie Grimes.

Energy Watch



Bhupen Agrawal is branch manager and a senior vice president of Investments of A.G. Edward's Midland office. He is also a member of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association.



Bill Franks, AAMS, is a senior assistant to the branch manager. He is also a member of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association.

Last week Kuwait, following Saudi Arabia's lead, announced that security at oil installations will be stepped up.

According to Energy Intelligence, over the next three years, Kuwait plans to double the number of guards protecting approximately 100 facilities, upgrade current security systems, and also install crash-proof gates with security fencing around key sites.

While Saudi Aramco has led efforts in terms of securing the infrastructure, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have also worked to improve their defenses. A large portion of the outlays on security in the region comes in the aftermath of the thwarted al Qaeda attack on Ras Tanura, Saudi Arabia.

Elsewhere in Kuwait (OPEC's fourth largest producer), the nation's new Oil Minister has stepped down after being appointed less than two weeks ago. Bader al Humaidhi resigned because of controversy over his nomination to the post.

Prior to his appointment, the Kuwaiti legislature already wanted to question Al Humaidhi in connection with administrative and financial mistakes made when he was the Finance Minister. However, under Kuwaiti law, if a minister leaves his post, he cannot be questioned on the job done while in a previous position.

Humaidhi has said he left to avoid creating further political tension.

• Saturday, Pakistani President Musharraf suspended the nation's constitution, placing Pakistan under emergency rule. Reports suggest his decision was prompted by concerns the Pakistani Supreme Court was set to rule that his reelection last month was unconstitutional and Musharraf was ineligible to run for the presidency.

Noting Musharraf's position as the head of the military, it's unlikely the armed forces will rise up against him. However, the United States and the United Kingdom could potentially cut the flow of aid to the Pakistani military, making future assistance dependent on the nation restoring democracy.

Financial Times has reported the U.S. Congress was exploring whether or not aid to the nation needed to be withdrawn. While the White House has been critical of the declaration of emergency rule, Washington's options appear limited because the U.S. needs Pakistan's cooperation against al Qaeda, the Taliban and other Muslim extremists which

See **ENERGY**, Page 5C

Conserving soil, water vital for profitable crop production

Conserving soil and water has been an integral part of profitable crop production for thousands of years. Even so, it can still be a challenge in areas like Howard County where, until recently, long periods of drought are common.

Water stress and soil erosion often cause low yields in cotton, grain and forage production on highly erodible land. This can be financially devastating for some farmers. In order to profit at long-term production, farmers need to use ways of preventing water stress and



CHASE GARCIA



decreasing erosion in order to increase yields, conserve soil and improve water quality downstream.

Many practices help conserve soil and water. These include, but are not limited to:

- grassed waterways
- contour farming
- conservation tillage

See **SOIL**, Page 5C

Insect CD good for what bugs homeowners, gardeners, farmers

Texas Cooperative Extension agents often refer to their compact discs on insects when they help people deal with pests on farms, ranches or around homes.

Now the CD is available to the public.

"The Insect Pest Management CD should have broad appeal as it covers pests in homes and gardens, ornamental and fruit trees and those on farms and in other rural areas."

said Dr. Allen Knutson, an Extension entomologist in Dallas. "For only eight bucks you can't beat it."

The Insect Pest Management CD contains more than 150 publications on identifying and controlling pests, said Knutson, who compiled the information. It includes text on thousands of species, as well as color photographs, illustrations, maps and graphs.

Updated annually, the CD was

first produced three years ago, Knutson said. They have been useful to Extension employees in every county.

The CD contains information on termites, roaches, spiders and other pests around the home. It has the latest information on controlling fire ants and mosquitoes. It includes 26 publications on stinging and biting insects. Links to Texas A&M entomology department Web sites are also included.

For farmers and other residents of rural areas, there are specifics on managing pests that affect row crops, livestock, trees and other plants and animals.

In addition to insects, the CD covers other potential pests such as snakes and wild fowl.

"These illustrated publications are organized in a series of easy-to-use menus," Knutson said. "A search option makes it easy to find information."

The publications are organized in an Adobe Acrobat format, which is included on the CD.

The CD's detailed publications vary in length. A one-page piece,

for example, covers flea control. A 44-page guide discusses 300 species of ants.

"Only 20 or so ant species in Texas are considered pests, and of these, only a few are serious pest," according to the ant publication. "The rest of the ant species are beneficial."

Most of the publications were researched and written by Extension entomologists and specialists in integrated pest management.

Some were prepared by entomologists from other universities.

The CD can be ordered through the Texas Cooperative Extension Bookstore. Select "insects" from the menu and scroll down to item "SP-198 Insect Pest Management CD," and click to add to cart. The \$8 cost includes postage.

Tommy Yeater is the Cooperative Extension agent, agriculture, for Howard County. His office is in the bottom floor of the Howard County Courthouse. He can be reached at 264-2236.



TOMMY YEATER

Business News

Initial public offerings scheduled to debut next week

NEW YORK (AP) — The following is a list of initial public offerings planned for the coming week. Sources include Renaissance Capital, Greenwich, CT (www.ipohome.com) and SEC filings.

Week of Nov. 19

— CreditCards.com Inc.- Austin, Texas, 10.7 million shares, priced \$13 to \$15, managed by Credit Suisse and Citigroup. Proposed Nasdaq symbol CCRD. Business: Operates an online marketplace that connects consumers and credit card issuers.

— Iggys House Inc.- Chicago, 3 million shares, priced \$5 to \$6, managed by Northland Securities. Proposed Nasdaq symbol IGGY. Business: Online real estate company that offers innovative services to home buyers and sellers.

— SuccessFactors Inc.- San Mateo, Calif., 10.8 million shares, priced \$8 to \$10, managed by Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs. Proposed Nasdaq symbol SFSF. Business: Provider of on-demand performance and talent management solutions software.

Children's storage rack recalled after baby death

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jetmax International Ltd. is recalling about 36,000 boy's and girl's storage racks with canvas totes after an 8-month-old boy died when he pulled on the storage rack and the top rail landed on the infant's neck, a government safety group says.

Young children are at risk of injury when the storage rack can tip over, posing an entrapment and suffocation hazard to them, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said Friday.

The Irving, Texas, company sold the storage racks, made in China, under the brand "Home Trend Kids 9 Canvas Bin Boy's and Girl's Organizers," at Wal-Mart stores nationwide from August 2004 through July 2005 and at Ollie's stores nationwide from July 2006 through June this year.

The storage rack is wooden with three levels and nine removable canvas totes. The boy's storage rack, in a natural wood color, has red, yellow, green

See **BUSINESS NEWS**, Page 5C

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

There were five presenters in the afternoon and Big Spring ISD provided one computer lab and four additional areas for sessions. Every spot was ready and the facilities were all clean. As the conference host, I received compliments from almost everyone in attendance on the conference and the location.

Big Spring can be very proud of how it was represented on Saturday.

DIRK D. DYKSTRA,
PRESIDENT
PERMIAN TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

TO THE EDITOR:

Thanks to all who had a part in the program at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum last Friday honoring our veterans. The program was very heartwarming, calling to our remembrance the sacrifices they have made for each of us.

I especially want to thank the Goliad and Coahoma choirs for their contribution, as well as the Forsan kids.

Of course I am a little prejudiced, but I thought our Coahoma kids really were the show stoppers. Sandy Wallace is to be commended for the great job she has done with the kids.

No, I am not a veteran but I have many friends and family who are. But as Dr. Sparks said, the older we get the more we realize what being a veteran is all about.

I shed tears at the playing of "Taps," as I remembered some of those who had given their lives in service to our country, Jesse Burcham and Arlis Davis, both in the Korean Conflict, who were classmates of mine in high school; Chad Bales, who was a classmate of my grandchildren; and many others in between.

We can never thank you veterans enough for what you have done for us. May God bless you all.

DON ALLEN
COAHOMA

TO THE EDITOR:

I will never understand why federal government employees come before the veterans. Veterans Day has always been Nov. 11.

The armistice that ended World War I was signed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. This year our community celebrated at the 11th hour, but it had to be on the ninth day of the 11th month.

Has everybody forgotten what sacrifices the veterans have and are still making for this country? Or does it just mean the employees at our local VA Medical Center work so hard that they have to have the Monday following a holiday off? I believe that and I'm sure other veterans do also.

I am a veteran and I was refused eye surgery by two doctors because they don't like my attitude. Bottom line is they don't understand a joke that was told on the Tonight Show, so I got refused surgery for cataracts and our beloved patient rep couldn't do anything because these doctors are contracted to the VA yet not paid by this VA. The government pays Texas Tech for their services

My question is, what services? Unless you bow down to them they will refuse to operate on you but your tax dollars are still paying their wages, while you go blind, even though you served your country.

Now, what's going to happen to the young men and women serving in Iraq or Afghanistan they decide they don't like? Are they going to be refused service, too? Or will the director of this hospital come to their rescue? I doubt that, too. He never allowed me to see him or even talk with him. So, what good is a VA that doesn't serve the needs of the veterans?

MALCOLM FARR
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I want to offer another "heartfelt thanks" to all of you that came to the Stampede Nov. 10 for the celebration of 61 years of music in the Nix family.

I tip my hat to my Texas

Cowboys. I stand in front of four of the finest musicians in the world when I am with them.

Thanks also go to Bobby Flores and his great band. He is pure class and pure country. He was outstanding, as always.

I also want to thank my wife Debra for the meal she fixed for the family, both bands and our special guests. Thanks to my sister-in-law, Bobbie, for the beautiful cake; and to Whitney, Melanie, Marissa, Keisha and Audrey for helping me get the people seated. You did a good job girls.

The ol' Stampede was wall to wall with people of all ages dancing. We had people from Big Spring, Stanton, Snyder, Ira, Colorado City, Temple, Sonora, Albany, Lubbock, O'Donnell, Coahoma, Waco, College Station, Amarillo, Perryton, Brownwood, San Angelo, Odessa, Midland, Garden City, Hermeleigh and Austin; as well as lots of people from out-of-state locations — New Mexico, Oklahoma, Colorado and Calgary, Canada.

We had a very special guest, Mr. Tommy Harvell of Blackwell. He is the last of the original West Texas Cowboys, it was good to see him and relive some old times.

I also want to thank Thomas Jenkins at the Big Spring Herald for the nice story, to KBST radio for the spots and to all the businesses that let me put posters in their windows and on the doors. I thank you all.

This was a great night of good music and fun for people of all ages that have helped us keep a tradition alive.

In closing, I see a vision in the back of my mind. It's a pleasant picture of two pioneer musicians — one stocky, with short fingers, high heel boots and could playing a fiddle like no other; and the other, taller, slender, playing great rhythm guitar and singing like a bird. These men in my memory are my father and my uncle. I see them smiling saying, "Well done, boys, well done."

JODY NIX
BIG SPRING

GIFT

Continued from Page 1A

excited about it."

Bias said the money will serve as an endowment — the principal will remain untouched, while interest will be used to finance museum operations. More importantly, it will help Hangar 25 attain financial independence, she noted.

"This will help us keep our doors open for at least the next 25 years," she said. "The more money that's in the endowment fund, the less we'll have to rely on grant money or other outside sources of revenue."

Local attorney Drew Mouton, who serves as president of the Big Spring Area Community Foundation, which established the museum fund, echoed Bias' comments.

"This is a permanently endowed fund, so this perpetual stream of income will guarantee permanent financial support for the museum," Mouton said in a statement.

Aside from the museum, area activities supported by the community foundation include the Big Spring Symphony, Heritage Museum, Big Spring State Park, Comanche Trail Lake, scholarships for area graduates and other charitable needs for the community, Mouton said.

Anyone interested in contributing to an existing fund or establishing a new fund should contact Mouton at 263-7676.

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

Support Groups

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.


SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

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ENERGY

Continued from Page 4C

could threaten U.S. interests in the region.

• According to AAA, the average price of regular gasoline in the U.S. is \$3.02/gallon. Last month, prices were \$2.77/gallon and one year ago they were only \$2.20. Generally speaking, so far consumers have been shielded from the full extent of the run-up in crude.

• In Yemen, a pipeline explosion cut 155,000 barrels per day of production flowing to export terminals in the Red Sea. Yemen is often cited as one of the world's poorest nations and their production is minimal. However, the pipeline attack is somewhat noteworthy in that it may be tied to al Qaeda. We recall the U.S.S. Cole attack happened in the Yemen port of Aden.

• In the North Sea, numerous production platforms are shut-in because of storms generating upwards of 36-foot waves. FYI — North Sea production of 4.4 million barrels per day is greater than that of Iran.

• According to the Air Transport Association, jet fuel is now the leading expense for airlines. In the second quarter, fuel accounted for roughly 25 percent of costs. We can attest to the price hikes numerous carriers have imposed throughout the latest run-up in prices and more generally, throughout 2007.

• At last week's Energy Intelligence Oil & Money conference, Total's CEO suggested 100 million barrels per day of production "is now the optimistic case". Sadad al Hussein, the former head of Saudi Aramco's exploration, remarked the "optimistic scenario" was to reach a 15-year plateau of production over 80 million barrel per day. EI notes this is a

shift in the tone of their annual conference wherein the talk on peak or plateaued production is now taking center stage.

• The consortium of producers developing the Kashagan oil field in Kazakhstan have been given until the end of the month to reach a settlement with the government on how to move forward with the delayed project. Both sides have indicated there are still great strides that need to be made in negotiations before an agreement can come.

• The Goldman Sachs Commodity Index has boosted the percentage of gasoline futures for their 2008 weightings to 4.55 percent from 1.37 percent. This should prove supportive for the gasoline contracts. Previously Goldman had cut the proportion when the old reformulated contract was being taken off the board in lieu of the new RBOB contract.

• According to EI "passive long" investors in the oil market now account for \$130 billion in futures, primarily in the front months. In 2000, those positions accounted for roughly \$8 billion in investments. A lot of the move in this regard is attributable to the ETF universe allowing oil price exposure for investors who would rather invest their money in ETF's as opposed to an oil company's stock.

Portions of this article were produced Nov. 7 by Eric Wittenauer, Energy Futures Analyst, Global Investment Strategy A.G. Edward & Sons Inc. Its publication is a collaborative effort and the information is obtained from sources considered reliable, however accuracy is not guaranteed by A.G.E. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results and additional information is available upon request (432) 684-7335.

SOIL

Continued from Page 4C

Terraces, when properly designed, can reduce runoff velocity, sheet-and-rill erosion and gully formation by as much as 50 percent. This occurs by designing the terrace where it effectively shortens the critical slope length.

Terraces also help to increase water quality downstream by effectively trapping phosphorus attached to soil particles that could be deposited in surface waters. The slope percentage, slope length and rainfall intensity all help determine what type of terrace system is best suited.

Two types of terraces are diversion and basin.

Use of diversion terraces, combined with grassed waterways, can safely divert excess surface water from a field in areas where there is abundant precipitation. Diversion terraces work when the slope length of a field is greater than the accepted limit for cross-slope farming or strip-cropping. Terraces break up long slopes into a series of shorter ones. Diversion terraces transport substantial amounts of runoff and they should be permanently vegetated to operate effectively. The terraces act to slow rainfall runoff and decrease the effects of soil erosion and sediment deposition downstream.

Basin terraces do just the opposite. Designed for areas with permeable soils and low to moderate rainfall, basin ter-

aces hold water on a field, causing increased rainfall infiltration into the soil. Basin terraces conserve water for crop use by allowing it to be stored in the soil, making it available when needed by crops. Basin terraces also provide erosion protection.

Maintenance of terrace systems is a key component of their functionality. Removal of sediment build-up from the terrace channel and repair of any eroded sections of the terrace system are essential for the terrace system to operate effectively.

Grassed waterways are broad, shallow channels that need protection against erosion by a permanent grass cover. The waterways act to control gully erosion where rainfall collects and flows through the natural depressions in a field. The waterways can also serve as outlets for diversion terraces. Ideally, grassed waterways are gently sloped to control water velocity.

Contour farming is the tillage and planting of land with the natural contours, instead of up-and-down the slope. Contour farming slows runoff and facilitates water infiltration. Studies have shown that contour farming can increase yields, while decreasing fuel costs and causing less wear on equipment. This practice is inexpensive and does not usually require added equipment investment.

Conservation tillage typically includes any practice that reduces erosion and runoff in comparison to conventional



tillage. Proper conservation tillage controls soil erosion, reduces runoff and increases water infiltration. Conservation tillage can include utilizing no-till, ridge-till, or strip-till plant-

ing practices. Surface residues left on a field, instead of being plowed under, can reduce evaporative water losses from the soil. The advantages of conservation tillage include lower labor and fuel costs due to reduced tillage operations, increased erosion control, reduced soil compaction, and, in some instances, increases in crop yield can occur due to improvement of soil health and stability.

Good soil and water management is necessary in order to achieve long-term sustainable production. The practices described date back to the dawn of agriculture, proving their worth through the centuries. Long-term sustainability is a goal we should all strive to achieve. In the end, the benefits achieved from applying proper soil and water management practices will far outweigh the costs.

If interested in learning more, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service, located in the USDA Service Center.

Chase Garcia is a soil conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Big Spring. He can be reached at 267-1871.

BUSINESS NEWS

Continued from Page 4C

and navy canvas totes. The girl's storage rack is white-colored wood with pink, yellow, lime and purple canvas totes.

For more information, consumers can call Jetmax at 800-689-2168, e-mail info@jlwoodenmfg.com, or visit http://www.jlwoodenmfg.com or http://www.cpsc.gov.

TXU's interest payments jump after buyout

DALLAS (AP) — The parent of TXU Energy says net income fell 1 percent in the third quarter, and the company took on new debt and nearly quadrupled its annual interest payments after private equity firms bought the company for \$32 billion.

Energy Future Holdings Corp. said in a regulatory filing this week that it earned \$992 million in the third quarter, down from \$1 billion, as it sold less electrici-

ty. Revenue fell nearly 2 percent, to \$3.45 billion, the company said.

Dallas-based Energy Future, now the largest power generator in Texas, also said that annual interest payments will rise to \$3.6 billion from \$830 million last year.

The company's total debt rose to about \$40 billion from \$10.6 billion that TXU reported at the end of last year.

Energy Future bought TXU Corp. in a \$32 billion leveraged buyout that closed in October. It was formed by Kohlberg, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., TPG, formerly Texas Pacific Group, and other investors.

To ease opposition to the takeover, Energy Future has reduced some of its highest rates by 15 percent since announcing the deal in February. But critics of the buyout say the deal could still eventually lead to higher prices for consumers as the buyers pay down debt.

TXU Energy provides electricity to about 2.1 million business and residential customers, mostly in the

Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Energy Future also acquired TXU's two other operating divisions: Luminant, which owns power plants; and Oncor Electric Delivery, which distributes the power over transmission lines.

Dell buys software company

DALLAS (AP) — Dell Inc. said Friday it agreed to buy Everdream Corp., a privately held provider of software services for remote management of personal computers.

Terms were not disclosed. Dell said the deal would not be final until all closing conditions were met.

The Round Rock-based computer maker said the acquisition would be a key part of Dell's plan to help customers simplify their information-technology needs.

Dell said Everdream's capabilities complement those of SilverBack Technologies Inc., another privately held software company, which Dell agreed to buy in July. SilverBack develops software that monitors computers, servers and networks.

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FIRST BANK of West Texas is looking for a full time teller at the Downtown location. Previous Banking experience preferred but not required. Please submit resumes or apply at 607 South Scurry Street.

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NOW ACCEPTING applications at Mitchell County Hospital District in Colorado City, Texas for:
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4. LVN- 7PM to 7AM- Mitchell County Hospital
5. OR RN- 7AM to 7PM- Mitchell County Hospital
6. RN- Wallace/Ware Prison Medical Unit
7. LVN- Wallace/Ware Prison Medical Unit- All Shifts
8. Certified Dental Assistant- Wallace Prison Medical Unit
These are full time positions with competitive salary and benefits. Contact Human Resources at (325)728-3431, ext. 7105.

NOW SEEKING Part time LVN position for Martin County Home Health. If interested please contact Allison Williams, RN @ (432)756-3259 or fax resume to (432)756-4510.

OUTSIDE SALES and cleaning people needed to clean homes and offices part time. Good pay. Email breathe_the_ez1@yahoo.com

PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation Now Hiring For The Following Positions:
* Cook - split shift
Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

PART TIME College student needed that has experience in Excel and Word. Call 432-263-1324 ask for Mary.

Help Wanted
PART TIME Thrift Store positions available. Apply in person, The Salvation Army, 811 West 5th, Big Spring TX.

PART-TIME SALVAGE Truck Driver Position Available. Apply at The Salvation Army, 811 West 5th. Tue.-Sat., 9-12 & 1-3. No phone calls.

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WHITTEN INN now hiring the following positions: Housekeepers, Maintenance, Desk Clerks. Apply in person, on I-20 next to TA Truck Stop.

WINCH TRUCK Driver needed. Experience preferred. No phone calls, please. Apply in person @ Basic Energy Services, RAFT Division, 2008 W. I-20, Big Spring, Tx 79720. Next to KC Steakhouse.

X-RAY TECH Full time, M-F, Days. Clinic/ Big Spring, ARRT, CPR, references required. Call Leslie (cell) 808-285-3029.

Items for Sale
HUGE MOVING SALE. Furniture (dressers, bed frames, mattresses, dining room set, daybeds, sofas), Electronics (TV's, satellite dish/receiver, surveillance cameras), Appliances (freezer, refrigerator), Building Materials (door frames, lumber, nails, etc.) Clothes. 432-349-9504.

Jobs Wanted
EXPERIENCED ELDERLY CAREGIVER- light housekeeping, cooking, laundry, run errands and can bring to doctors appointments. References available and bondable. Reasonable rates. Call (432)756-2380.

Lost and Found
FOUND SAINT Bernard on North Hwy 87 across from John Deere at Country Corner Restaurant. Call 432-264-9990 to identify.

Miscellaneous
14K TENNIS Bracelet w/44 precision cut Russian Crystal Stones w/double latch. Has a lifetime guarantee. Paid \$700.00 will take \$200.00. Call 432-264-6240 for more info.
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FURNISHED APT. extended stay hotel. Weekly \$245.00 plus tax, monthly \$700.00 and up. Microwave and fridge. Call 1-800-677-8175.

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1314 STADIUM, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living with wood burning fireplace. Large Building in back. Call (432)393-5924 leave message.

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3 BEDROOM, 1 1/2 bath, Laminated flooring, storm windows, good water well, lots of fruit, nut and shade trees. 3 Peaceful acres. \$80's. Call 432-263-7912.

BEAUTIFUL- CUSTOM Built 2002 home on 9 acres. 4/5 Bdrm, 3.5 bath, inground pool, 1200 sq. ft. Storage/shed, horse stalls. Price Reduced. Call 432-213-6301.

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Cornell offers competitive benefits including medical, dental, and vision insurance, 401(k), tuition assistance, paid time off, opportunities for advancement and more.

Please contact the Human Resources Department at:
1701 Apron Drive, Big Spring, TX 79720
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EOE.

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1 Fedora feature
9 Metamorphic rock
15 All of us
16 Right away
17 Waiting to be found
18 Confederate group
19 Fairy-tale sister
20 When books are closed
21 Retirement spot
22 Hardly husky
23 Allen successor
26 Propel
27 Batter
30 Not too thin-skinned
35 For all to hear
36 Early radio part
37 Arlington __, IL
38 __ told (comply)
39 Numbers game
40 Hard-boiled
42 Diner order
44 Newspaper listings
47 Big brother portrayer
51 Don't forget
52 '07 debate regular

DOWN
1 Push
2 It's inadvisable
3 Bldg. units
4 Pointers, perhaps
5 Ostentation
6 Tore
7 Made sure of
8 __ school
9 Shining
10 Spooky sound
11 Far from innovative
12 Pulitzer dramatist
13 Shock
14 Driven obliquely
20 Mainers, e.g.
22 Calendrical correction
23 Software update
24 Cancel
25 MacBeal et al.
26 Botanist's runners
27 Circuit
28 City on the Cuyahoga
29 One way to Constitution Hall
31 Retaliation, so to speak
32 Gloomy
33 Pro
34 Finagler's activity
40 Digs less than satisfactory
41 Sheer fabric
42 Broods
43 Small arm
44 Hurry
45 Mame's pal
46 South Park kid
47 30 Rock name
48 Figures
49 Folks
50 Fleeting trace
52 Firm up

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Real Estate for Sale

3 BEDROOM, 2 bath, living room, den, hardwoods, totally remodeled home on 2 plus acres. Beautiful home. \$100,000. Call (432)935-6699 for appointment. Leave message if no answer.

6-1/2 ACRES CISD, with water well, duplex rentals. Call 432-517-0642 for more info.

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FOR SALE, 4059 Vicky. Completely remodeled, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace, 2 car garage. Granite countertop & new appliances, new tile & carpet. Call (432)263-0786, (432)935-3726.

FORECLOSURE 3 bd, 2 ba Only \$35,300! Must see! For listings 800-690-3990 ext. F906.

LARGE COUNTRY home, 5/3, acreage, 2 miles south of Wal-Mart on 87. With/without commercial building. Up to 7 acres, good water well. Home only \$138,000. (432)816-9426, (903)463-0223.

ONE BEDROOM, one bath, with garage and carport. Fenced backyard. Owner will finance with \$1,900 down, \$290. month. Call (512)321-3333. (512)940-5200, (432)631-8100.

OWNER FINANCE Low down payment, \$371.00 monthly. 4208 Parkway, 3 Bdrm, 1bath. Call 325-277-4923.

OWNER FINANCED Houses for Sale. 1413 Sycamore and 508 State. Easy Terms. Call Reagan at 432-634-6818.

Vehicles

2002 MERCURY Sable. 68K, \$5,500.00. Good Condition. Call (432)213-0616 anytime or see @ 1700 Lancaster.

\$500! HONDAS from \$500! Buy Police Impounds! For listings 800-495-0660 xA106.

1998 4X4 GMC YUKON SLT. Leather seats, rear AC, running boards, Great Condition. 155K miles. All service records available. \$8,000.00. Call (432)935-2183.

1999 TRACKER Great Shape. Must Sacrifice \$4,850.00. Can see at 500 Oak Glen or call 432-267-8169 leave message.

2001 4X4 Ford Expedition, Eddie Bauer Addition. Power everything. Great shape. 84k miles, rear seat entertainment system., 3 row seating. \$12,000.00. Call 432-935-2183.

2001 HONDA Motorcycle VLX600 CC. Only 200 miles. Call 432-268-9649.

2003 BLUE GMC- Envoy XL 4 door. Only 68,000 miles. \$15,000. Excellent Condition. Call (432)268-8353.

2005 HYUNDAI XG350L Black with cream leather interior, power everything, heated seats, sun roof, sport wheels. 24000 Miles, 100,000 Mile Warranty. \$14,5000. Call (432)816-9241.

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

Legals

ZIMMERMAN PROPERTIES CONSTRUCTION, LLC is now accepting bids from all subcontractors to help construct the Big Spring Heights Apartments located in Big Spring, Texas. Big Spring Heights will be a multi-family community consisting of 48 units, 3 buildings and a Clubhouse. All interested bidders, including Minority Business Enterprises and Women's Business Enterprises should contact Zimmerman Properties Construction, LLC at the following number: 417-883-1632. Zimmerman Properties Construction, LLC is an EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. #5595 November 14, 18, 21 & 25, 2007

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission is seeking a transportation provider for the Workforce Network of Big Spring to provide transportation services on an "as needed" basis for workforce participants within Howard County. For more information or to request a proposal package, contact (432) 563-1061, Cheryl Keith. Proposals should be sent to PBRPC, P.O. Box 60660, Midland, TX, 79711-0660, no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, November 30, 2007.

Legals

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Abilene Contract 6168-12-001 for MOWING HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAY in HOWARD County, etc will be opened on December 19, 2007 at 11:20 am at the District Office for an estimate of \$158,920.00.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 25427

State Office

Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540
Dist/Div Office(s)

Abilene District
District Engineer
4250 N. Clack
Abilene, Texas 79604-0150
Phone 325-676-6800

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin. #5597 November 18 & 25, 2007

Notice of Public Hearing

The Howard County Commissioners Court will conduct a public hearing at a meeting on November 26, 2007 to consider (1) the application of Airtricity Panther Creek Wind Farm, LLC, Padoma Elbow Creek, and Duke Ocotillo Windpower for designation of certain property located in Howard County as a reinvestment Zone eligible for property tax abatement under Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code.

The property designated by Airtricity Panther Creek Wind Farm, LLC, Padoma Elbow Creek, and Duke Ocotillo Windpower is intended for use as a wind power generation facility, electrical substation, associated transmission facilities and lines, and operations facility by Airtricity Panther Creek Wind Farm, LLC, Padoma Elbow Creek, and Duke Ocotillo Windpower and consists of:

- * All of the real property located in Howard County and contained in sections 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 130, 131, 132, Block 29, W & NW Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas.
- * All of the real property located in Howard County and contained in sections 16, 21, 22, 27, 28, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, 43, 45, 46, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P.R.R. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas.
- * All of the real property located in Howard County and contained in section 01, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Block 32, T-2-S, T&P.R.R. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas.
- * All of the real property located in Howard County and contained in sections 37, 38, 47, 48, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P.R.R. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas.
- * All of the real property located in Howard County and contained in sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, Block 33, T-2-S, T&P.R.R. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas.

In determining whether to designate the reinvestment Zone, the Commissioners Court will consider whether such designation would contribute to the retention or expansion of primary employment or would attract major investment in the Zone that would benefit the land to be included in the Zone and would contribute to the economic development of the County.

If created, the property would become "Howard County Reinvestment Zone No. A." The public hearing will take place at 10:00 AM on November 26, 2007, in the Commissioners courtroom of the Howard County Courthouse in Big Spring, Texas. All interested persons may appear and present testimony regarding designation of the reinvestment Zone. If further information is needed, please contact the office of Judge Mark Barr, Howard County, 300 Main Street, Room 207, Big Spring, Texas 79720, Phone: 432-264-2203. #5602 November 18, 2007

Legals

CITATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

To: Addiswa Eva-lotta Stenstrom, Respondent, Greeting:

The petition of Lawrence Gbele Musa, Petitioner, has filed in the District Court of Howard County, Texas on 04/05/2004, against Addiswa Eva-lotta Stenstrom, Respondent, numbered 43519, and entitled IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF LAWRENCE GBELE MUSA AND ADDISWA EVA-LOTTA STENSTROM. This case requests divorce.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree dissolving the marriage and providing for the division of property which will be binding on you.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Office, this 11/12/2007.

COLLEEN BARTON District Clerk of Howard County, Texas by Colleen Barton, Deputy #5598 November 18 & 25, 2007

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF FRANCIS GORSUCH SR., DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary were issued in the Estate of Francis Gorsuch Sr. on October 30, 2007 in Cause No. 44536 in the County Court of Nueces County, Texas, to Frank Gorsuch.

The address of such Independent Executor is c/o Warren G. Clark, PROVOST UMPHREY LAW FIRM, LLP, P.O. Box 4940, Beaumont, Texas 77701.

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

Frank Gorsuch, Independent Executor of the Estate of Francis Gorsuch Sr., Deceased #5600 November 18, 2007

Notice of Public Hearing

The Howard County Commissioners Court will conduct a public hearing at a meeting on November 26, 2007 to consider (1) the application Gunsight Mountain Wind Energy, LLC, for designation of certain property located in Howard County as a Reinvestment Zone eligible for property tax abatement under Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code.

The property designated by Gunsight Mountain Wind, LLC, is intended for use as a wind power generation facility, electrical substation, associated transmission facilities and lines, and operations facility by Gunsight Mountain Wind, LLC, and consists of:

- * All of the real property located in Howard County and contained in sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30, Block 31, T-2-N, T&P.R.R. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas.
- * All of the real property located in Howard County and contained in sections 42, 43, 44, and 45, Block 31, T-3-N, T&P.R.R. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas.
- * All of the real property located in Howard County and contained in sections 31, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48, Block 32, T-3-N, T&P.R.R. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas.
- * All of the real property located in Howard County and contained in sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24, Block 32, T-2-N, T&P.R.R. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas.
- * All of the real property located in Howard County and contained in sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, Block 33, T-2-N, T&P.R.R. Co. Survey Howard County, Texas.
- * All of the real property located in Howard County and contained in sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48, Block 33, T-3-N, T&P.R.R. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas.
- * All of the real property located in Howard County and contained in sections 13 and 24, Block 34, T-3-N, T&P.R.R. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas.

In determining whether to designate the Reinvestment Zone, the Commissioners Court will consider whether such designation would contribute to the retention or expansion of primary employment or would attract major investment in the Zone that would benefit the land to be included in the Zone and would contribute to the economic development of County. If created, the property would become "Howard County Reinvestment Zone No. C." The public hearing will take place at 10:00 AM on November 26, 2007, in the Commissioners' courtroom of the Howard County Courthouse in Big Spring, Texas. All interested persons may appear and present testimony regarding designation of the Reinvestment Zone. If further information is needed, please contact the office of County Judge Mark Barr, Howard County, 300 Main Street, Room 207, Big Spring, Texas 79720, Phone: 432-264-2203. #5603 November 18, 2007

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: I recently came across an e-mail from my 15-year-old daughter to her 22-year-old cousin that was rather revealing. (OK, I was snooping.)

My daughter, "Carlie," was attending a sleepover at a senior girl's house, and it turns out there was alcohol there. She confided in her cousin that a boy (an 18-year-old) had kissed her, that she drank a lot but was fine, and that her friend drank too much and got very sick.

I've told no one, not even my wife, what I discovered. Should I say something to the mother of the girl who hosted this sleepover about the underage drinking? I could really use your advice. — Distressed Dad in N.Y.

Dear Dad: Tell Carlie you saw the e-mail, apologize for snooping and lovingly let her know you are worried. Talk openly about the hazards of drinking, especially at her age, and the problems of becoming involved with upperclassmen who expect more than she might be ready to give. Tell her you appreciate that she watched her alcohol consumption and that you want to trust her judgment in the future. Make sure she understands that trust, once lost, takes a long time to regain. Then call the parents of the party-giver and tell them you are aware there was underage drinking at their home and they would be held liable if anything happened to those teens. Finally, why was your daughter at that sleepover? As flattering as it may have been for Carlie to be invited to a senior girl's party, it was inappropriate. Sometimes parents need to say no.

Dear Annie: Last summer, my husband's sister, whom I haven't seen for 17 years, asked him for a \$2,000 loan to buy a condo. She promised to pay the money back from her tax refund. My husband didn't have the money and he asked me to please send it from my personal savings account, one I keep for emergencies. In good faith, and against my better judgment, I did so.

Fast-forward a year. My sister-in-law now says she doesn't have the money to repay me. Moreover, she's indignant that I asked, yelled at my husband, and refuses to read my e-mails because we "should know better than to ask for money she doesn't have and isn't sure she ever will."

I'm irate. That \$2,000 is a huge amount of savings, and we could desperately use it. What do I do? — Depressed by a Deadbeat

Dear Depressed: It depends on how much you care if you estrange your sister-in-law permanently. Face it. She isn't going to repay the money voluntarily. You can take her to small claims court and force a judgment, or you can chalk it up to a very expensive lesson learned. Ask your husband how he wishes to handle it, since it's his sister, and then try to make peace

with the decision.

Dear Annie: The fatphobe from Arizona who complained about a "morbidly obese" neighbor needs to sit her starving body down and enjoy a piece of cake.

Morbid obesity is partially defined as a person having medical problems associated with weight. This man is able to work in his yard, which is probably an important form of exercise for him.

I am sick and tired of it being OK to complain about, discriminate against and stare at people who weigh more than the Nutrition Police consider ideal. The media need to take the focus off dieting and put it on the consequences of not eating enough. Emaciated women can develop early osteoporosis. — So There

Dear So There: Actually, the focus should be on eating properly and exercising regularly, regardless of weight. There is a multitude of body types, and many are perfectly healthy, whether very thin or quite chunky. It's time we stopped judging others on their size.

Dear Annie: I am a young married woman. My husband, let's call him "Pete," is very possessive and jealous. He also has an anger problem. Anytime I go to the store, he wants to know exactly what store I am going to, who I'm going with, when I am going to be home, etc.

Pete was like this a little bit before we married, but since we said "I do," it has gotten to the point where he will check my underwear to make sure I have returned home in the same pair. Does he expect me to buy new ones every time I go out? Once, he was really drunk and got physical. It took me a while to forgive him for that, but I will never forget it.

I fight with him constantly and we argue over everything. I am questioning the marriage. I don't want to file for divorce, but that seems like my only choice. Any advice for a woman in need? — Frustrated in the Farmland

Dear Frustrated: Pete is showing signs of an abuser. He is controlling, suspicious and angry, and he is willing to hurt you. This type of behavior often becomes worse over time. Please don't wait until Pete lands you in the hospital. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline (ndvh.org) at 1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233) (TTY: 1-800-787-3224) and ask for help.

Dear Annie: Recently, the cable repairman made a service call to my home. Directly above the cable box was a handblown glass horse that I had personally carried home from a trip to Venice. The horse means a lot to me, since it was originally a gift for my now-deceased father. I was preoccupied when the cable guy was making adjustments, and he hurriedly left without

stopping to talk to me.

Afterward, I noticed the horse was gone. I don't want to falsely accuse anyone, but very few people have been in my home since I moved here six months ago. I'm pretty sure the cable guy took it. Should I find out his name and write an anonymous note asking him to return the horse, no questions asked? I just want my horse back. — R.C. in S.D.

Dear R.C.: It's much more likely that the cable guy moved the horse in order to get to the cable box without damaging your fragile souvenir. Have you looked behind the TV or on an adjacent table? If you can't find it, call the cable company. Explain that you think the repairman might have moved a glass piece when he was in your house and ask if they would look into it for you.

Dear Annie: My wife and I have been happily married for almost 25 years. "Mary" is my best friend and the most wonderful wife and mother I could ever imagine. We enjoy each other's companionship tremendously and our love life is superb. We have five sons who bring a lot of joy to our lives.

Our 25th wedding anniversary is soon approaching and I had been setting aside some money to take her on a trip. Instead, Mary wants to use that money to pay for the boys' car insurance to help them out. I am fine with that, but I still want to honor her and celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary. Do you have any suggestions? — Pensacola, Fla.

Dear Pensacola: This topic has come up before, and suggestions have included love letters, massages and foot rubs, and setting up a romantic evening with a candlelit dinner, bubble bath, music and her favorite movie. Use your imagination.

Dear Annie: I've read letters in your column from "great guys" and "wonderful women" who say they can't get a date because the opposite sex is looking for outer beauty. Here's a point of view from the other side:

While in high school, I never went to prom or homecoming and never had a boyfriend. In my early 20s, I went two years without a date. I am a 5-foot-11 athletic blonde with a great sense of humor and was often told how pretty I was. I even had a terrific job and no debt. I was told I was so perfect it was intimidating. I assure you, I did nothing to encourage that type of thinking.

Here I am, at age 42, very happily married with three sons. I had to ask my husband out on our first date. He never would have had the nerve. He says he thought I was "out of his league." I wonder how many people out there haven't attempted to ask somebody out because of this imaginary league. — Bating a Thousand Now

Dear Bating: We're sure there are thousands, OK, maybe dozens, of "perfect" people that others are too intimidated to approach. It's a good thing you were willing to ask your husband out first. We bet he's pretty glad, too.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.

Answer to previous puzzle

HALF	TEEM	ELTON
OBIE	ALVA	SERVE
GIZA	BOER	SNEER
STARTLING	LEGEND	
LIE	TAUNT	
MOMENTS	RICHTER	
AZUSA	POISE	ALA
JOTS	FLUTE	SPLIT
ONE	CLARA	SNIDE
REDMEAT	SPEARED	
UNITS	UMP	
STARTREK	STIPEND	
LOIRE	RAPS	ILAY
ARDOR	ETAIT	SKIN
GNAWS	DEMO	HOLLE

Judge refuses to set execution date for inmate

By MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press Writer
LIVINGSTON (AP) — The first letter, neatly handwritten on lined paper, arrived at the federal courthouse in Dallas nearly a year and a half ago with a simple address: U.S. District Clerk's Office.

"I am a college graduate and have no delusions what will occur as an end result of these proceedings," death row inmate Michael Rodriguez wrote in the first of a series of notes to the courthouse.

Rodriguez, one of the notorious Texas Seven, a group of inmates who escaped from state prison in 2000 and killed a police officer while on the lam, has dropped his appeals and wants to die.

He can't.

A federal judge signed off on Rodriguez's request on Sept. 27, two days after the U.S. Supreme Court decided to review the constitutionality of lethal injection in a Kentucky case. But now a state judge won't set an execu-

tion date for Rodriguez until after the high court rules on the Kentucky case.

"We probably won't be able to set the date for the first time until probably late next year at the earliest, even though he has volunteered and is otherwise good to go," prosecutor Lisa Smith said.

Rodriguez told a psychologist who interviewed him before a competency hearing that he "had to accept his death sentence and submit to it as payment in order to be forgiven and obtain salvation."

Rodriguez and six other inmates overpowered workers at a southern Texas prison on Dec. 13, 2000. They took the workers' clothes, grabbed 16 guns from the prison armory and fled in a stolen truck.

On Christmas Eve, while robbing a sporting goods store in a Dallas suburb, they shot officer Aubrey Hawkins 11 times. Police caught up with the gang a month

later in Colorado.

Because of publicity surrounding the case, Rodriguez's murder trial was moved 100 miles northeast of Dallas to Franklin County, where a jury sent him to death row in May 2002 for his role in Hawkins' slaying. Rodriguez admitted pulling the 29-year-old officer from his patrol car.

At the time of the escape, he was serving a life sentence for hiring a hit man to kill his wife.

One of the escaped inmates killed himself before he could be captured. The five others are on death row but are still appealing their sentences.

Rodriguez's letters to the federal court became so frequent that he began one in May to Irma Carrillo Ramirez, the magistrate who would preside over his competency hearing, with,

"Hello it is me again."
"It is still my intention to vacate all appeals and to proceed with the process," Rodriguez wrote in August. "I am truly sorry for my actions and wish to express solely that to the Hawkins family. ... Since all the issues seem to be covered I will close for probably the last time."
Hawkins' widow declined a request from The Associated Press for comment.

Rodriguez also declined to talk to the AP. In one of his letters to Ramirez, he stated, "I do not give media interviews."
Rodriguez's lawyer, Danny Burns, had urged his client to continue appeals.

"Others will not benefit from your precedent if we get you relief," Burns told Rodriguez in a letter. "If we can get you a new trial, there is always a

chance of getting you an opportunity for freedom someday. At this time it does not seem likely, but one never knows what the future will bring."
"Don't throw your life away," Burns pleaded unsuccessfully.

This isn't the first time a court challenge has stalled executions in Texas, the nation's leader in capital punishment. For about a year ending in early 1997, lethal injections were halted while the state's highest criminal court reviewed a new state law intended to speed up the capital punishment process. After the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals finally gave its OK, 37 inmates were executed that year.

In the Kentucky case before the Supreme Court, justices will consider whether the mix of three drugs used to sedate and kill prisoners and the

way they are administered can cause pain severe enough to violate the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment. Arguments in the case will take place early next year and a decision should come by late June. The court has allowed only one execution to go forward since agreeing to hear the case.

In Texas, where injection procedures are similar and trial court judges set execution dates, State District Judge Rick Magnis told prosecutors he'll hold off setting a date for Rodriguez until a decision from the high court, said his court coordinator, Kissi Jones.

"He's not doing anything out of the ordinary," Smith said. "I think the judge is doing what most judges are, which is everybody is waiting to see what happens."

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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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Card-Reading

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 7 3
♥ A Q 9 6 4
♦ Q 6 5 3
♣ 2

WEST
♠ 5
♥ 7
♦ A 1 9 2
♣ A K 10 9 7 6 4

EAST
♠ 6 4
♥ K J 10 2
♦ K 10 8 7 4
♣ Q 5

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

The bidding:
South West North East
4♠ 5♣ 5♠ Dble

Opening lead — king of clubs.

The backbone of good declarer play is the ability to diagnose how the opponents' cards are divided. Once declarer knows the composition of the adverse hands, he will seldom have trouble achieving the best possible result.

There are two main sources for analyzing the defenders' hands. One is the bidding (if any) by the opponents, and the other is their play, starting with the opening lead. Remarkable conclusions can be drawn from either or both of these sources.

Take this hand, where East and West each make one bid. These bids

tell declarer a great deal about the unseen cards, and this knowledge is supplemented by West's first two plays.

West leads the king of clubs and then plays the ace of diamonds. At this point, South can tell almost exactly what East and West have.

West's five-club bid is obviously based on club length and the diamond ace; East's double is based on something like the K-J of hearts and K-J of diamonds. East could scarcely double without both red kings. While he may lack one or both red jacks, he is bound to have the missing kings.

So South knows at trick two that he will make the contract if his suppositions are correct. After ruffing the diamond ace, he trumps a club, ruffs another diamond and trumps his last club with the ace.

He then draws trumps and leads a heart to the nine, losing to the ten. This forces East to return a heart or a diamond, either of which hands South the contract.

West can defeat five spades by shifting to a heart at trick two to cater to a layout such as the one that actually existed. He also can deduce, from looking at dummy, that East must have both red kings for his double. The heart shift is therefore unlikely to do any harm, but failure to make it could — and in the actual case, did — cost defeat of the contract.

Ashleigh's "My Page"

Look Who's Going To The Super Bowl!



LITTLE STEERS
Nathan Vidal, Adrian Ledesma, Trey Brumley, Pryce Gibson, Austin Darden, Julian Ruiz, Zade Roberts, Dillan Guzman, Aubrey Wright, Tristan Wright, Zachary Shook, Jason Lopez, Mason Kirby, Joshua Carter, Gage Fox, Bryson Ovalle, Cooper Miller, Alyssa Molina, Kobra Ronk, Augustine Delosantos, Coaches Walter Brumley, Orlando Ledesma, Ray Darden, Jeff Vidal, Not Pictured, Jeremy Wright.



STEERS DIVISION I
Aaron Carter, Blake Letcher, Terry Carter, Anthony Lopez, Robert Valencia, Adrian Ramirez, Dominic Martinez, Rene Villa Jr., Marcus Cervantes, Chris Martinez, Dylan Marquez, Cameron Mikels, AJ Hodnet, Tommy Ramirez, Bryan Cordova, Matthew Jimenez, Isaac Segundo, Ashton Johnson, Dameon Nieto, Bryson Burt. Coaches Geno Marquez, Terry Carter, Tom Ward, Jeff Vidal, Not Pictured Ron Letcher.



STEERS DIVISION II
Shihem Menefield, Jesse Berner, Brandon Warner, Dustin Fraley, Mani Villa, Jordan Myers, Gilbert Garcia, Toa Maumau, Austin Cantu, DJ Jaurez, Chico Alejos, Morgan Ausbie, Jahari Vanover, Tony Solis, Jimmy Olivares, Eric Martinez, Jacob Davis, Lucas Escovedo, Austin Hunt, Matt Villa, Nicolas Conner, Nicolas Escovedo, Eric Rodriguez. Coaches, Manuel, Bill, Tim, Rocky.

Expert: Death of ex-cop's wife homicide

JOLIET, Ill. (AP) — Amid the search for a former police officer's fourth wife, a nationally known pathologist has examined the remains of the officer's previous wife at her family's request and determined she was killed.

Former New York City chief medical examiner Dr. Michael Baden analyzed Kathleen Savio's remains and concluded she died after a struggle, and her body was placed in the bathtub where she was found, Baden said Saturday.

"I don't think there's any possibility this was an accident, and I don't think there's any indication this was suicide," he told Fox News, which flew him to Chicago so he could examine the remains Friday with the family's consent.

Results of a separate, official autopsy conducted after Baden's review will not be available for several days, authorities said.

A coroner's jury initially ruled that Savio's 2004 death was an accidental drowning. But now, with Drew Peterson's fourth wife missing for more than two weeks, authorities are re-examining the circumstances of Savio's death.

Peterson, 53, who resigned this week as a Bolingbrook police sergeant, has not been named a suspect in Savio's death. But he is a suspect in the disappearance of his fourth and current wife, Stacy, who

was last seen Oct. 28 and whose case authorities have called a possible homicide.

Peterson has an unlisted number. He has denied any involvement in either case and said he believes his 23-year-old wife left him for another man and is alive.

Savio's body was exhumed this week at the request of Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow, who has said after examining evidence he believes her death was a homicide staged to look like an accident.

The state's attorney's office allowed Baden to use the county morgue for his work and a state's attorney's investigator attended the autopsy, spokesman Charles Pelkie said.

Bruises on Savio's body "happened around the time that she died, as if she were in a struggle, as if she were beaten up," Baden said.

Anna Doman, Savio's sister, said Baden was giving his opinion without charging a fee to the family.

"She was beat up and placed in the bathtub as a cover-up for whoever done this," Sue Savio Doman, Savio's sister, told WFLD-TV, a Fox affiliate.

Documents released by Savio's family indicate she believed, at least briefly, that he would kill her: "He pulled out his knife that he kept around his leg and brought it to my neck," she wrote in a letter.



Cynthia Scott, left, and Erin Bartlett look over some of the offerings from the "Empty Bowls" luncheon. The event, held Thursday at First Christian Church, raised almost \$2,000 for the Big Spring and Howard County United Way campaign, officials said.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Internet hoax ends in girl's suicide

By **BETSY TAYLOR**

Associated Press Writer

DARDENNE PRAIRIE, Mo. (AP) — Megan Meier thought she had made a new friend in cyberspace when a cute teenage boy named Josh contacted her on MySpace and began exchanging messages with her.

Megan, a 13-year-old who suffered from depression and attention deficit disorder, corresponded with Josh for more than a month before he abruptly ended their friendship, telling her he had heard she was cruel.

The next day Megan committed suicide. Her family learned later that Josh never actually existed; he was created by members of a neighborhood family that included a former friend of Megan's.

Now Megan's parents hope the people who made the fraudulent profile on the social networking

Web site will be prosecuted, and they are seeking legal changes to safeguard children on the Internet.

The girl's mother, Tina Meier, said she doesn't think anyone involved intended for her daughter to kill herself.

"But when adults are involved and continue to screw with a 13-year-old, with or without mental problems, it is absolutely vile," she told the Suburban Journals of Greater St. Louis, which first reported on the case.

Megan Meier hanged herself in her bedroom on Oct. 16, 2006, and died the next day. She was described as a "bubbly, goofy" girl who loved spending time with her friends, watching movies and fishing with her dad.

Megan had been on medication, but had been upbeat before her death, her mother said, after striking up a relationship on MySpace

with Josh Evans about six weeks before her death.

Josh told her he was born in Florida and had recently moved to the nearby community of O'Fallon. He said he was homeschooled, and didn't yet have a phone number in the area to give her.

Megan's parents said she received a message from him on Oct. 15 of last year, essentially saying he didn't want to be her friend anymore, that he had heard she wasn't nice to her friends.

The next day, as Megan's mother headed out the door to take another daughter to the orthodontist, she knew Megan was upset about Internet messages. She asked Megan to log off. Users on MySpace must be at least 14, though Megan was not when she opened her account. A MySpace spokeswoman did not return calls seeking comment.

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Top four financial myths

By MARSHALL LOEB

MarketWatch

NEW YORK — Whether you're a young adult tackling money management for the first time, or a financial late bloomer struggling to get a grip on your spending, you would do well to heed the warnings of Steven B. Smith, president of Finicity, a company offering online money-management tools to consumers and small businesses.

Smith debunks four financial myths that frequently derail people's efforts to manage spending, reduce debt and increase savings:

Myth 1: It's always best to open a savings account at a brick-and-mortar bank.

Once upon a time, opening an account at your local branch was a wise approach to saving. These

days, however, you'll probably get a much higher yield on your money by going online, according to Smith. Why?

If you walk into a brick-and-mortar bank, you're likely to be offered the institution's standard interest rate for a savings account and these tend to be quite low compared to the rates offered online. Many online savings/money accounts offer annual percentage yields of around 5 percent compared with 0.2 percent at some traditional banks, says Smith.

Better still, these accounts are FDIC insured and often require little or no minimum balance.



Myth 2: Saving for your child's education is

more important than saving for retirement.

No parent can be faulted for wanting to provide for a child's education, but don't do it at the expense of your retirement.

"While grants, scholarships, loans and part-time jobs are all great ways to help pay for college, the working man has far fewer options to fund retirement," warns Smith. With this in mind, make sure to put a healthy percentage of the money available for saving toward your own future as well as your child's.

Myth 3: You need to make more money before you can start saving.

Even if you haven't said

it yourself, you've probably heard a relative or a close friend say it: "If I only made more money, I could save more." Not so, says Smith.

The truth is that you have no way of knowing when or if your income will increase. What you do have control of is what you do with the money you earn today. Focus on managing your money in a way that allows you to minimize debt. "If you don't do this, you'll get into the trap of always spending the cash that's available," Smith warns.

Myth 4: You don't need to track your spending if you have overdraft protection.

Does having overdraft protection mean your bank will alert you when you've exceeded the funds in your account? The answer: sort of. Those

who track their transactions online will discover they've overspent when they get an alert of an "overdraft fee," whereas people who depend on paper bank statements sometimes don't find out for days.

Not only are these fees expensive (generally in the neighborhood of \$30), they can also pile up.

"Unless you have a reserve line of credit or some other mechanism in place, your bank will shamelessly allow you to continue spending, all the while hitting you with multiple overdraft fees," Smith warns.

Why? Because it is lucrative. Banks made over \$17 billion dollars in overdraft fees last year alone, according to US Banker magazine. Wouldn't you rather put that money in savings?

Corrected Hours For St. Thomas/Sacred Heart Church

<p style="text-align: center;">St. Thomas The Apostle Parish 605 N. Main, Big Spring, TX. 79720 Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30-4:00 Rev. James Plagens, Pastor Isabel Escovedo, Secretary (432) 263-2864</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sacred Heart Parish 508 N. Aylford, Big Spring, TX 79720 Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30-4:00 Rev. James Plagens, Pastor Teresa Rocha, Secretary (432) 263-7884</p>
Masses	
<p style="text-align: center;">St. Thomas Tues.: 7:00 AM Wed.: 7:00 AM Fri.: 7:00 AM Sun.: 11:15 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sacred Heart Thurs.: 6:15 PM Sat.: 5:00 PM Sun.: 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM</p>
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Changes could mean earlier release for crack offenders

By **DAVID GOLDSTEIN**

McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — A federal rule that will shorten prison time for new crack cocaine offenders went into effect Nov. 1.

Now the question is whether violators already behind bars will get a break, too.

It could mean earlier freedom for nearly 20,000 federal prisoners.

The U.S. Sentencing Commission heard the pros and cons at a hearing this week on whether its new guidelines for crack cocaine offenses should be retroactive.

"It is not often that courts are afforded the opportunity to ameliorate the wrongs of the past," said U.S. District Judge Reggie B. Walton of the District of Columbia.

Walton told the hearing that the commission, of which he is a member, "has the ability to undo some of the injustices associated with crack sentencing over the last 20 years."

A single gram of crack

cocaine had triggered the same punishment as 100 grams of powder cocaine. Crack penalties had been as much as eight times longer than those for powder cocaine.

For years, voices across the legal community, from former Reagan administration attorney general Edwin Meese to the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, had been calling for more uniformity.

The change could lower the temperature on a racially charged debate. Convicted crack offenders tend to be black; convicted powder cocaine offenders tend to be white. The disparity in punishment evoked images of low-income blacks sitting in jail for crack longer than affluent whites caught with the same amount of cocaine, but in powder form.

Of the nearly 20,000 federal prisoners whose sentences could be reduced, 86 percent are black and 6 percent are white, according to the commission.

The new guidelines

close the gap in sentencing somewhat and would mean an average sentence reduction of 27 months. Just over 3,800 drug offenders would be released in the first year, according to the commission.

But law enforcement is divided over the issue. The Bush Justice Department contends that the new sentencing guidelines will open the prison doors for scores of dangerous felons and jam the courts.

Releasing that many prisoners would "jeopardize community safety and threatens to unravel the success we have achieved in removing violent crack offenders from high-crime neighborhoods," Assistant Attorney General Alice Fisher said in a letter to the commission this month.

The Fraternal Order of the Police warned that felons who could be released were not "low-level dealers or first-time offenders." FOP President Chuck Canterbury told

the hearing that 80 percent had previous convictions and 35 percent had used weapons in connection with their drug crimes.

But supporters said the courts would be able to handle the increased workload. Judges, attorneys, civil rights groups and others said that fairness demands that offenders be treated equally regardless of when they were convicted.

NUMBER OF OFFENDERS BY FEDERAL JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Federal Judicial District.....Number of offenders

TOTAL.....	19,500
Eastern Virginia.....	1,404
Middle Florida.....	772
South Carolina.....	753
Western Virginia.....	540
Western North Carolina.....	536
Western Texas.....	509
Eastern North Carolina.....	489
Eastern Texas.....	484
Northern West Virginia.....	470
Eastern Missouri.....	445
Middle North Carolina.....	436
Northern Ohio.....	396

Northern Illinois.....	377
Southern Illinois.....	370
Southern Florida.....	361
Middle Pennsylvania.....	358
Northern Texas.....	342
Southern Texas.....	342
Northern Florida.....	323
Middle Georgia.....	299
Southern Alabama.....	296
Southern New York.....	295
Eastern Tennessee.....	289
Eastern Pennsylvania.....	288
Maryland.....	279
Southern West Virginia.....	278
Northern Indiana.....	276
District of Columbia.....	269
Southern Georgia.....	269
Eastern Michigan.....	268
Nebraska.....	256
Central Illinois.....	250
Western Louisiana.....	249
Eastern Louisiana.....	231
Western Missouri.....	227
Southern Mississippi.....	226
Southern Ohio.....	224
Connecticut.....	217
Kansas.....	201
Western Michigan.....	198
Western New York.....	195
Minnesota.....	192
Northern Alabama.....	183
Northern Iowa.....	160
Northern Mississippi.....	159
Western Tennessee.....	149
Massachusetts.....	147
Eastern New York.....	146
Northern New York.....	146
Northern Georgia.....	142
New Jersey.....	136
Eastern Wisconsin.....	134

Southern Iowa.....	127
Eastern Kentucky.....	127
Western Pennsylvania.....	126
Eastern Arkansas.....	125
Western Wisconsin.....	125
Central California.....	124
Middle Alabama.....	120
Puerto Rico.....	116
Colorado.....	115
Southern Indiana.....	113
Eastern California.....	108
Western Kentucky.....	102
Western Oklahoma.....	91
Rhode Island.....	83
Maine.....	81
New Mexico.....	78
New Hampshire.....	71
Middle Louisiana.....	70
Nevada.....	67
Western Washington.....	60
Middle Tennessee.....	59
Western Arkansas.....	54
Northern California.....	54
Alaska.....	43
Northern Oklahoma.....	43
Eastern Washington.....	31
Delaware.....	30
Vermont.....	29
Hawaii.....	26
Arizona.....	25
Southern California.....	21
Oregon.....	17
Utah.....	15
Eastern Oklahoma.....	13
South Dakota.....	9
Virgin Islands.....	6
Wyoming.....	6
Montana.....	5
Idaho.....	3
North Dakota.....	1



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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Pisces moon makes even the most ambitious among us want to pull our heads back under the covers and stay in dreamtime, oh, just a little longer! But an imaginative temptation (say, breakfast in bed) gives anyone the fortitude to face the day with creativity and vision — those inspired qualities conferred by the sign of the fishes.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When you follow your muse, you wind up in an unexpected place where magical things happen. The people you see there are excited to get to know you. Greet them warmly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It seems you've been dubbed the Patron Saint of Difficult People, as many are referred your way. Maybe it's because

you have a knack for encouraging the incorrigible and understanding the misunderstood.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A powerful person has influenced your schedule lately, but you take back control now. Having quiet time to yourself is important. If you don't answer the phone, no one can ask what you're doing.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The fantastic news you get is merely a glimpse of good thing to come. Love thrills and enralls. And when it doesn't, it's up to you to generate the excitement.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Reenergize your social set with some new recruits. Classes and hands-on activities offer a wealth of information and interesting people. Do research now, and sign up later in the week.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's really starting to soak in — you are destined for success. Leave yourself open to good fortune by making no

assumptions about what is going to happen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Listening is the key to successful relationships. When you listen with love, your body relaxes, and you can take in not only what the other person is saying but what the other person is meaning, which is infinitely more important.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You want to respond to what's going on in your world, but something is causing you to be too self-conscious to seize the moment. Realize the specific fear that's making you feel uptight, and work through it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Variety keeps your world fresh and exciting. You're quite productive when you approach life in two-hour stints — the law of diminishing returns starts to kick in after that.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). True love is when people love each other more than they love themselves. You'll know

when a relationship falls into this category by the actions that you and the other person are compelled to take.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Someone young is blossoming before your eyes. This doesn't make you old — it makes you immortal. It's never too early to pass on your influence. Every small action is a contribution.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You currently want something with such intensity that the object of your desire seems to have a mysterious power over you. Your energy is brilliantly concentrated. That's one spin.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: It's no coincidence that the holiday season officially begins as the sun enters bright, festive Sagittarius this week. Have you ever known a Sagittarian to turn down a party? There's much to celebrate and be thankful for, intrinsic to the abundance of the season. Gratitude, faith and gen-

erosity are states of mind worth cultivating and universal principles to tap into during Sagittarius times. Sagittarius's patron saint is judicious Jupiter, the generous king of gods, whose benign governance was in cahoots with divine providence. With faith and goodwill, there's a way through the stickiest of problems. Pluto and Jupiter wind up a longer passage through this expansive sign as 2007 winds down. Many of us have learned how to invoke higher principles and laws to answer life's higher math equations. More than positive thinking (though that plays a part, too!), the sages of the ages have used the laws of attraction, very real principles we're accessing all over again today. Prayer and affirmation is no longer a one-way dialogue, defined by religion or faith, but the notion that when you speak, the universe speaks back! Enjoy holiday parties and shopping, and entertain

the miraculous possibilities inherent during this season of Sagittarius.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: A sensitive look at Scorpio Owen Wilson reveals he's a sensitive guy. Neptune, the planet of artists, poets and dreamers, is on his sun, so Owen shares the qualities of the temperamental and mysterious planet, with Neptune's penchant for both emotional chaos and artistic inspiration. This year is an uplifting one for Owen, with promise for developing one strong relationship.

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

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When Mother doesn't always know best

Dear Margo: I have a 10-year-old daughter. Her best friend, "Megan," is the daughter of a divorced friend of mine, "Dave." Megan sent an e-mail to my daughter last week asking if she could stay the night at our house, as she has done many times while staying with her father — only this time she was staying with her mother.



MARGO HOWARD

Well, after the sleepover the mother said Megan could never stay here again because my daughter doesn't go to her daughter's church. Her mother lives two towns away from me, and I certainly won't drive my daughter an hour away to go to church when we have respectable churches in our town. The funny part is, the mother doesn't even go to church!

My daughter is now upset with me because I won't let her go to the

church Megan's mom has "approved of." I think it is crazy that a mother would make a daughter forgo a friendship for such a nutty reason. How should I explain this to my very hurt daughter? — Member of the "Wrong" Church

Dear Mem: I think a child who's 10 is old enough to understand that religion is a personal thing, and while Megan's mother can decide what's right for her, she cannot dictate to anyone else.

I hope you will feel free to tell your daughter that the friend's mother is way off base on this one, and small-minded, to boot. Then explain what "bigoted" means. Let's hope the sleepovers will at least continue when it's the child's weekend with her father. — Margo, reasonably

Using Real Estate as Revenge?

Dear Margo: Before my husband and I married, he was married to another woman. That marriage lasted just three months, as his ex-wife had an

extramarital affair. The divorce was pretty straightforward, though messy, and my husband had to remove her from the house because she refused to leave after the divorce was finalized.

That was five years ago. The ex has since remarried and recently moved into the house next door to ours! Our house is the one that my husband and his ex shared while they were married. I don't believe her new husband (who is a brain surgeon) knows they are living next door to her ex-husband, as I can't imagine any husband voluntarily agreeing to live next door to his spouse's ex.

Why do you think she would purposely move next door to a house that has such bad memories for her? And why would she risk her new marriage to move next door to her ex-husband? By the way, the ex has children from her first marriage who also lived in our house while she was married to my husband. Do you think she bribed her kids to stay quiet about the fact that they used to

live next door? — Perplexed in the West

Dear Perp: For whatever it's worth, I am perplexed right along with you. The fact that the kids know the history makes me think the new husband does, too. Maybe the doc feels the proximity has no meaning. Maybe he doesn't care. Maybe it's a nice neighborhood. As for this woman's new mate, brain surgery is not rocket science. (Joke made by a heart surgeon's wife.)

As close as I can come to a guess that makes any sense is that the wife for three months thinks she is somehow irritating her former husband, and you. Since he had her removed from that dwelling, maybe living right next door satisfies some (strange) need, like haunting his house. — Margo, bemusedly

Dynamite and the Telephone

Dear Margo: About five years ago I met a North Carolina guy online. We became friends and have e-mailed and IM'd each other. We were just

friends! However, about a month ago we started talking on the phone and really got to know each other. We have so much in common and he makes me laugh.

I can't remember the last time my husband made me laugh like that. My husband knows we talk, but now it has gone further than that. Does phone sex count as cheating? We do it about once a week and it's fun. I don't have any plans to leave my husband, but if I ever did, it would be for my NC guy. Please help. — Having Fun, but Feeling a Little Guilty in Texas

Dear Hav: Well, yes, hon, phone sex does count as cheating unless it's your husband you are talking to. It is intimate and sexy and, of course, verboten. You are playing with dynamite. If it's really laughs you're looking for, go to Comedy Central.

It is interesting that you say you "don't have any plans" to leave your husband, but if you did, you know who it would be for. You are heading down a dangerous road . . . the one where plans suddenly appear.

I would bag it with your telephone friend, and perhaps for something different, try to get your husband interested in talking dirty. — Margo, telephonically

To Gamble or Not?

Dear Margo: I waited and drifted through some men in my life and never got married. No one was compelling enough, and I was content with my independence. Now at 38, I want to have a partner.

Early last year I met a man and really thought he was "the one." He proposed and I accepted. After six months of dating we left (engaged) for another state to new jobs for both of us. During our next six months, I discovered he was still in contact with the old girlfriend he left behind. He'd known her for five years and their relationship wasn't one he was ready to give up. Despite being engaged to me, he had

intimate meetings with her on a few occasions.

After confronting him and then talking to her, she ended it because she wasn't aware of me or our engagement. Nevertheless, I left him and moved back to my old state. Six months later I am still jobless, homeless and staying with friends. Meanwhile, he's been dating new women and forming new intimate relationships, but he insists he loves me and wants me to come back so we can be married. He wants me back and says he will end the other relationships if I come back and commit to him.

Certainly my present circumstances are heavy to handle, and the thought of finding low-income housing to survive is just so humbling. I'm torn. I have love for him, yet I don't trust him after all I have dealt with. He says if I move back he will show me how much trust there will be and that he will make his life more transparent so I won't have doubts.

He's 41 and already married twice. Can liars change when they get older, or is he just refining his manipulations? — Nat

Dear Nat: I would be interested in his answers if you asked him the reason — if he loved you so much — for the dalliance with the old girlfriend, to whom your existence was unknown, and why exactly he wants you back.

Seeing as how he turned your life upside down, if you decide to give him a chance (and let's face it, solve your immediate problems), I would ask for a legal agreement saying if the past repeats itself he is to provide for you for X number of years.

As to your last question, anybody can change anything if genuinely motivated, but womanizing is a hard behavior to alter, simply because of the emotional components that generate it in the first place. — Margo, appraisingly

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

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Q and A: Flu season

By **RICHARD HARKNESS**
McClatchy Newspapers

Q: How do you tell whether you have the flu or a cold?

A: When the flu comes knocking, you'll know it. You're likely to be on your back and in misery for a good spell.

The flu has a sudden onset with symptoms that include high fever and chills, cough, runny or stuffy nose, sore throat, intense fatigue, severe muscle aches and headache.

The common cold is a couple of notches down, with symptoms such as low-grade fever, cough, runny or congested nose, sneezing and mild sore throat.

If it's a cold, you might show up for work. If it's the flu, forget it.

Besides bringing its own bag of miseries, the flu makes you more susceptible to bacterial infections such as pneumonia and can worsen asthma, diabetes, heart failure and other chronic conditions.

So it's important to dodge the flu if you can. The best way to do that is to get a flu vaccination. (Once you've experienced the flu, you won't need further convincing.)

If you do get the flu, there's still an option: a prescription antiviral drug such as Tamiflu or Relenza, which I recently wrote about.

The drug can cut the illness short, but you can't dawdle. The antiviral agent needs to be started within 48 hours after symptoms begin, and the sooner the better.

When the flu comes knocking, you'll know it. The flu has a sudden onset with symptoms that include high fever and chills, cough, runny or stuffy nose, sore throat, intense fatigue, severe muscle aches and headache.

Q: How effective is the flu vaccine in preventing the flu?

A: Not perfect, but pretty good.

Flu vaccine works by triggering your immune system to recognize and attack specific strains of flu viruses. Because these viruses change fast, a yearly vaccination is required. The current vaccine is based on these changes.

Each year the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tracks flu virus strains worldwide in an attempt to reasonably predict which new strains will be circulating during the coming flu season. Based on this information, the agency recommends the makeup of that year's flu vaccine.

When virus strains in the vaccine are well-matched to actual virus strains circulating about, the flu vaccine appears to be 70-90 percent effective in preventing the flu among healthy adults younger than 65.

Q: How is the flu virus spread?

A: The virus can be transmitted via respiratory droplets (from sneezing or coughing) through the air or on contaminated surfaces (anything people have touched) such as door knobs, self-service gas nozzles, and currency.

People commonly become infected by touching their eyes, nose, or mouth after their hands have picked up the flu virus.


You can stall the spread of the flu by covering your mouth with a disposable tissue (or shirt sleeve) when you cough or sneeze.

The best way to avoid the flu, besides getting vaccinated, is to wash your hands frequently. Handwashing also prevents the spread of other communicable diseases.

Those who remain flu-free won't be sick and won't be part of the chain spreading the disease to others. Please do your part this flu season.

Richard Harkness is a consultant pharmacist, natural medicines specialist, and author of eight published books. Write him at 1224 King Henry Drive, Ocean Springs, MS 39564; or rharkn@aol.com.

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Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants: Sonia M. Barlow, 4209 Parkway, Big Spring...

Rene M. Johnson, 9205 W. County Road 174, Midland Alana Marie Lee, 2711 66th Street, Lubbock...

Hwy., Big Spring Janie Spurgeion, 1212 Wadley, Midland Shawn Spurgeon, 106 N. Adams, Denver City...

Martinez, consumption of alcohol by a minor - third offense enhanced, \$500 fine, \$270 court costs, 180 days in jail...

Date: Nov. 8, 2007 Grantor: Sarah Hansen Grantee: Ashley Diaz Property: Lot 4, Block 6, Settles Heights...

Grantee: James R. Miller and Ellen Miller Property: Lot 25, Block 22, College Park Estates Date: Nov. 13, 2007

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Keeping good teachers is obviously the true test

By JOHNATHON BRIGGS
Chicago Tribune

Teachers, writes education activist Jonathan Kozol, are not "drill sergeants for the state." Yet in many of America's 93,000 public schools, the high-stakes testing environment fueled by the No Child Left Behind law has left teachers feeling like "robotic drones" who regurgitate mandated curriculum. Is it any wonder that nearly 50 percent of new teachers in urban public schools quit within three years, by Kozol's estimate?

Kozol's latest book, "Letters to a Young Teacher," imagines a series of exchanges with "Francesca," a first-time teacher at an inner-city Boston school who is a composite of instructors Kozol has corresponded with over the years.

Kozol, 71, is himself a former public school teacher. He has spent nearly 40 years condemning the inequalities of education, most recently in 2005's "The Shame of the Nation," in which he exposes the often-worsening segregation in public schools.

Kozol spoke to the Tribune before a recent visit to Chicago. An edited transcript follows:

Q. What is driving young teachers from the classroom?

A. When No Child Left Behind was sold to Congress, the rhetoric of the White House insisted that our urban schools were full of mediocre drones (as teachers). There are some mediocre drones in public schools, just as there are mediocre senators and presidents. But hopelessly dull and unimaginative teachers do not certainly turn into classroom wizards under a regimen that transforms their classrooms into miserable test-prep factories.

So the only real effect of (the law) is to drive away the superbly educated, high-spirited teachers we're trying so hard to recruit. When I ask them why (they leave), they never say it's the kids. They always say it's this absolute decapitation of potential in children that is the unintended consequence of an agenda that strips down the curriculum in order to teach only isolated skills that will appear on an exam.

Q. What advice do you offer young teachers?

A. Use some wise and simple strategies to prevail without discouragement. Reach out to the parents (of your students) as quickly as you can. Befriend the wisest of the older teachers. Try not to demonize your principal. Recognize that the principal is under the same sword of fear and anxiety that you've been under.

Q. Why are you so critical of No Child Left Behind?

A. If No Child Left Behind had worked, I would not be so adamant in my beliefs. In fact, it has not worked. The 4th-grade gains claimed by (U.S. Secretary of Education) Margaret Spellings are illusory. They are testing gains as a result of teaching the test. They are not learning gains. If they were learning gains they would persist. I visit the same 4th graders four years later when they are in 8th grade, and I find that they cannot write a cogent sentence, comprehend a sim-

ple text or, worst of all, participate in a discerning class discussion because they've never learned to ask real questions, but only to provide the scripted answers.

Q. No Child Left Behind is currently up for reauthorization before Congress. What changes should be made



Chicago Tribune-MCT photo/Charles Cherney
Education writer Jonathan Kozol speaks at the Rockefeller Chapel on the University of Chicago campus, Wednesday, Sept. 12.

to the law?

A. In my long conversations with senior members of the Senate Education Committee, I've argued for three specific changes.

First, high-stakes standardized exams ought to be given only every other year from 3rd to 8th grade. Schools should instead rely far more seriously on useful testing known as diagnostic tests, in which the teacher actually learns something useful about the child.

Second, I strongly recommend that Congress require that states certify that class size in an urban district is at the same level as the size in an affluent suburban district and that every child ... receive the same two or three rich years of pre school education before a standardized exam can be used to penalize a child, school or teacher.

Third, Congress should amend the transfer provision to require that states facilitate and, where necessary, finance the right of transfer across district lines in order to enable the parents of inner-city

children who are in chronically failing schools to place their children in high-performing and far better-funded public schools, which often are only 20 minutes from their homes.

Q. What can school districts do to close the achievement gap between black and Latino children and their white counterparts?

A. What counts most in education is . . . the high quality of the teacher, the strong morale of the teacher and the number of children in that classroom. If we want to know what works in closing the achievement gap, we don't need to search for isolated exceptions in major urban systems. All we need to do is look at any great suburban system in which children thrive as a matter of course, not as a matter of exception.

Q. What impact will the recent Supreme Court decision have on efforts to integrate the nation's schools, which are resegregating at an alarming rate?

A. In his partial concurrence, Justice Anthony Kennedy opened up a means of pursuing integration so long as it is not race-specific. Congress has a golden opportunity to require states to allow transfers across district lines without ever introducing race into the debate, solely for the reason that the child is in a chronically low-performing school.

Q. Do you ever lose heart?

A. The reason I don't lose heart is, despite everything, there are far more marvelous teachers in these urban schools than you would ever guess if you listen to the politicians who condemn them.

I do believe that in the long run the high morale of our teachers is our most precious asset. If they lose their delight in being with the children, they won't stay, and we'll lose everything.



Kansas City Star-MCT photo/Jim Barcus
Ana Gonzalez reads a Spanish numbers book to 1-year-old Austin Merchant in Kansas City, Mo.

LANGUAGE

Copntinued from Page 3C

young as 12 months old. "Americans are finally coming to realize that in this global society, we need to be much more open to other languages and cultures, and we can't expect that everyone is going to learn English," she said. "Also, the research shows that children can learn one, two, three, four, five languages when they're very small. They're learning language anyway, from their parents and teachers, and so why not start another language when ... the

time is right? Teresa Harris, who directs the preschool at Christ the King, said the children there "don't think of this as anything out of the ordinary. They're like, 'This is cool, learning different names for things.' They don't realize that not everybody does this."

One of her preschoolers evidently grew fluent enough to order her restaurant food in Spanish once. According to Harris, "The waiter was really impressed."

A great advantage to starting a foreign language early, Rhodes said, is that it's been demonstrated that "you can

develop native-like pronunciation, which after adolescence is very difficult to achieve."

There are other good reasons for the enthusiasm, Rhodes said.

"Studies have shown that bilingual children do better at problem-solving and show more creativity."

She offered one qualification, however: Language-learning needs to be long term.

"If you don't continue until the child is fairly fluent," she said, "I don't see a whole lot of benefit in it. But if you continue, there's a great deal of benefit."



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