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HERALD

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 25, 2007



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HC trustees face high energy costs

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Like everyone else, Howard College trustees are looking for ways to beat high energy costs.

One such program will be examined by trustees when they hold their regular monthly meeting at 12:30 p.m. Monday in the Student Union Building's Tumbleweed Room.

Howard recently signed on with Encor Energy's SCORE (Schools Conserving Resources) program, which provides guidelines to help the college con-



SPARKS



HANSEN

serve money on its utility bills. Howard is the first college in the West Texas area to partici-

pate in the Encor program, officials said.

"In light of rising costs, the college is most concerned about decreasing utility usage and keeping those costs down any way we can," HC President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said.

The Texas Legislature has mandated that energy providers and carriers provide conservation programs to municipalities and schools throughout the state. Sparks said that college officials believe the Encor program offers the best chance for substantial savings.

Under the program, which costs the college nothing, Encor engineers will visit the campus, review energy consumption systems and costs and devise recommendations on how to cut expenses, College Vice President Terry Hansen said.

"It's a knowledge base," Hansen said. "Encor has a staff of engineers who help schools conserve resources through energy management and cutting costs."

The college can opt out of the program at any time, he added. In other business Monday,

trustees will consider:

- Bids for programs at both Big Spring and San Angelo campuses.
- Catalog and handbook changes.
- A resolution canceling a 2005 tax abatement agreement with Wind Plus Inc.
- An update on recent legislative action regarding state aid to colleges.

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

A community facelift?

Coahoma makes big changes

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

COAHOMA — Can an entire town receive a facelift?

For the past two years, Coahoma residents have busied themselves with a variety of beautification projects, and that trend shows no sign of abating anytime soon.

"There's still a lot that needs to be done," said Howard College's Jan Foresyth, who helped form a Coahoma community development group in 2005. "I guess it will be a long time before we run out of things to do."

Travel along First Street — Coahoma's main thoroughfare — and you will see the results of the group's efforts; several buildings have received fresh coats of paint, while others sport decorative murals along their sides.

Foresyth said other structures, dilapidated beyond repair, have been demolished and regularly scheduled clean-up days have helped keep trash at a minimum.

But, like she said,

See COAHOMA, Page 3A



Courtesy photos
The Roberts Auto Supply store in Coahoma is shown before and after cleanup crews refurbished the building's exterior. Community residents have conducted similar efforts on many Coahoma buildings.

Court to eye zones

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners are expected to consider several agenda items pertaining to recently approved reinvestment zones Monday morning, making necessary adjustments to help attract wind energy companies to the Big Spring area.

Terry Wegman, executive director for Moore Development, the local agency that acts as liaison between the wind energy companies and the county's taxing entities for the purpose of tax abatements, is expected to discuss the following items with commissioners:

- Discussion and possible approval of an order canceling the recently approved order to terminate tax abatement offer made to Wind Plus due to failure to perform. The termination was recently approved by the court at the urging of Wegman.
- Discussion and possible approval of an order to cancel existing reinvestment zones A and C, also established Oct. 22.

See COUNTY, Page 3A

INDEX

- Business 4-5C
- Classified 6-8C
- Life 1-3C
- Obituaries 2A
- Opinion 4A
- Sports 1-4B

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PIT BULL BITES BARK?

ALTOONA, Pa. (AP) — A pit bull that likes to get a lot of bark in its bite could end up costing its owner \$3,100.

This summer, Tyler Port allowed his dog, Rossman, to run loose in a park. The dog apparently had a habit of chewing bark off trees, and Port was cited for failure to keep the dog under control.

John Iorio, the city's dog law officer, also is seeking \$3,100 to cover the cost of replacing three honey locust trees, which a consultant said may die.

Port, 22, says his dog had an "infatuation" with trees and enjoyed rubbing up against them and hanging on their limbs from her teeth.

TEEN'S NO SANTA

ROYAL OAK, Mich. (AP) — A teenager worried about coming in past curfew did his best Santa Claus and headed down the chimney.

Unfortunately, he didn't slide down quite as well as St. Nick.

The 17-year-old boy was trying to sneak back into his room at the Judson Center social services agency Thursday night when he got stuck. A worker at the Center heard moaning and followed the noise to the chimney, authorities said.

Firefighters and police officers had to pull him out.

Police said the teen appeared only to have suffered scratches on his 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 25, 2007

IN BRIEF

Crossroads region varsity sports weekly calendar

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

TUESDAY

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.

DEC. 4

Big Spring girls basketball at Midland High, 6:30 p.m.

Big Spring boys basketball at Greenwood, 7:30 p.m.

DEC. 6-8

Big Spring boys basketball at Midland Tall City Oilman's Tournament held at South Oak Cliff.

Big Spring girls basketball at Clyde Tournament.

Coahoma boys basketball at Stanton's Hooptown Classic.

Forsan boys and girls basketball at Borden County Tournament.

Grady boys and girls basketball at Water Valley Tournament.

Individuals needed to referee area basketball games

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

Anyone interested should call Adam Rodriguez at 517-0300.

Record-setting Cowboys prep for Pack

By **JAIME ARON**

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — The records keep coming for the Dallas Cowboys, with more in sight. Good ones, too.

Most wins? The record is 13, and this club is already 10-1, itself a record for best start. Dallas would have to finish 2-3 or worse not to get this one.

Most points? The record is 479, and this club has 358. The Cowboys' season low is 24 points, done only once. They'll have to average that or less to fall short of this mark.

Most touchdown passes? With 29, Tony Romo already has surpassed the greatest seasons by Troy Aikman and Roger Staubach and tied the record set by Danny White. Terrell Owens has been on the receiving end of 13 TDs, one shy of matching that record.

As glorious as it all sounds for a franchise with such a proud history, these milestones will be pretty useless if the Cowboys don't win their next game — at home, Thursday night, against Brett Favre and the Green Bay Packers, who happen to also be 10-1.

The winner will have a two-game lead in the chase for home-field advantage in the NFC playoffs with only four games left. Put more bluntly, the upcoming game could determine whether the conference championship is played at Texas Stadium or Lambeau Field.

"I like Texas Stadium better," Cowboys linebacker DeMarcus Ware said.

A late January game in Green Bay wouldn't necessarily doom Dallas' Super Bowl chances. After all, the Cowboys are 5-0 on the road and, as coach Wade Phillips noted Friday, a game in

nasty weather would mean fewer passes and more runs, which probably would benefit his club.

Still, there's something to be said about getting to play at home, like Dallas will do in this potential NFC championship preview.

"The thing that excites me is this team always seems like they've been up for a challenge like this," tight end Jason Witten said. "This is why you play, to be in these situations."

The Cowboys are enjoying their most pleasantly surprising

See **COWBOYS**, Page 3B

Wildcats stifle Ira, win 66-46

By **JONATHAN HULL**

Herald Sports Editor

KLONDIKE — Not even cold fronts can keep fans away or prevent a Texas high school football game from taking place.

Fans from the communities of Lenorah and Ira braved the below freezing temperatures and packed the stands of Cougar Stadium in Klondike to see the Grady Wildcats defeat the Ira Bulldogs, 66-46.

The only thing the weather did somewhat halt was the frequency of the pigskin flying through the frigid air. The two teams combined to throw the ball just 27 times and ran it a combined 69.

However, Grady made the most of their pass attempts, racking up 242 total passing yards and six passing touchdowns. Quarterback Dylan Cox did most of the damage to the Ira secondary, finishing with 216 yards and five touchdowns on nine of 11 passing.

The teams traded touchdowns throughout the first quarter with Grady holding a 22-20 edge headed into the second stanza. That's when the Wildcats took control.

Grady scored 16 unanswered points headed into halftime, courtesy of a Roy Rodriguez 10 yard touchdown run that ended with him just diving into the end zone and a 13 yard strike from Cox to Lane Shands. It was long gains through the air setting up both red zone scores.

"We knew coming in that there were some things we could exploit Ira's defense with," Helms said. "I thought we could pass the ball on them. Although, I was a little scared about how the weather would affect us there. It was a good momentum shift at the end of the half and it definitely was the turning point

in the game."

The Wildcats contained Ira's stud running back Andy Rivera, who came into Friday night's game with 2,968 rushing yards on the season. Thanks to impressive team pursuit and strong penetration by Justin Tubb, Grady held Rivera to 71 yards in the first half.

"We've been playing Justin away from the line a little bit to let him help on screens," Helms said. "Tonight, we let him play a little more aggressively tonight and he made some nice stops for us."

Leading 38-20 heading into the third quarter, Grady's offense didn't show any signs of slowing as they scored on three more touchdown passes, including a 27-yard strike from Tommy Lee Rivas to Leighton Fields.

However, Grady never quite put Ira away as Rivera started to find breathing room, finishing with 195 yards and two touchdowns, including a 42-yard scamper in the third quarter.

Ira had an opportunity to move within two scores of the Wildcats late in the fourth quarter after cutting the lead to 20 courtesy of a 21-yard touchdown run by Ismail Tavarez, who finished with 136 yards and five touchdowns on 10 carries.

Grady punted to Ira with 3:26 left in the game and the Bulldogs pushed the ball within the Wildcats' 15 yard line. However, Shands intercepted Ira quarterback Brandon Lunsford at the goalline and returned it to the 10, essentially killing any Ira hopes of a comeback.

Fields finished with four catches for two scores and 123 yards. Rivas threw for a 27-yard touchdown and also ran in a 45-yard

See **GRADY**, Page 4B



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
Grady Wildcats quarterback Dylan Cox struggles not to be sacked by an Ira Bulldogs defender in the Wildcats' 66-46 victory in a six-man Division I regional matchup in Klondike Friday night. Grady now gets a rematch with district rival Rankin, who the Wildcats defeated 50-46 earlier this year.

Aggies crush Longhorns' Big 12 title hopes

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

COLLEGE STATION — Dennis Franchione gave Texas A&M another victory over Texas. Then the embattled coach handed in his resignation.

While there were no Big 12 titles or bowl victories in Franchione's five seasons, his tenure ended on a high note, a 38-30 victory over 13th-ranked Texas that gave the Aggies consecutive wins over their hated rival.

"This team has been special all year to me," Franchione said. "And I thought they played a wonderful game."

Then, Franchione announced he was resigning. He accepted a buyout from the school.

"I've always said that coaches exist for only one reason — the players," he said. "We want them to know that we love them, feel blessed for our time together, and will miss them."

The victory over Texas was too late to save Franchione, coming after four losses the previous five games and his secret e-mailed newsletter for big-money boosters.

Still, Franchione left with A&M's first consecutive victories over the Longhorns since 1991-94 under his predecessor, R.C.

Franchione resigns after win

By **CHRIS DUNCAN**

AP Sports Writer

COLLEGE STATION — Say this for Dennis Franchione, Aggie fans. At least he learned how to beat Texas.

Franchione resigned as Texas A&M's coach on Friday, less than an hour after beating the 13th-ranked Longhorns 38-30 at Kyle Field.

Dressed in a gray suit, Franchione stepped to the podium after defeating the hated 'Horns for the second straight year. If he'd won more games like this during his rocky five-year tenure, he wouldn't have had to step down.

"We appreciate the opportunity we have had at this great institution, to work with this administration," he read from a

Slocum.

"Been with him five years and fought hard, and it's a hell of a way to go out," center Cody Wallace said. "Go out with a win."

Stephen McGee threw for a career-high 362 yards with three touchdowns and scored on a hard-driving run. Holder T.J.

prepared statement. "We have made many lasting friendships."

The school announced Franchione had accepted a buyout, but refused to give details. Franchione's contract ran through 2012 and paid him a base salary of \$2 million per year.

A reputed rebuild of programs, Franchione finished a mediocre 32-28 at A&M, far short of the expectations when he replaced R.C. Slocum in December 2002. Off the field, Franchione was caught this season selling inside information about the program to big-money boosters in a secret newsletter.

By then, it was only a matter of time before the divorce became final.

See **FRAN**, Page 2B

Sanders got his only career TD when he capped A&M's 95-yard drive with a 5-yard TD run on a fake field goal and the defense forced three turnovers (two fumbles, interception) by Texas quarterback Colt McCoy.

Mike Goodson ran 12 times for 72 yards and caught six passes for 82 yards and two touchdowns

for the Aggies (7-5, 4-4 Big 12). McGee was 25-of-36 with two interceptions.

Texas (9-3, 5-3), which after its first 0-2 conference start since 1956 had won five straight games, still has an outside shot of making it to the Big 12 championship game if 10th-ranked Oklahoma loses to Oklahoma State on Saturday.

"It's really hard," Texas defensive back Brandon Foster said. "You never enjoy losing, but losing to the Aggies is just even worse."

McCoy was 17-of-32 for 229 yards. Jamaal Charles ran 17 times for 92 yards, with an 8-yard TD the play after Foster's 38-yard interception return in the third quarter.

Two touchdowns in the final 7:36 weren't enough for the Longhorns, who now must wait and see what happens Saturday. If the Sooners lose, there will be a three-way tie for the Big 12 South lead, and the division representative for the league title game would be determined by which team is higher in the next BCS standings. Oklahoma is already ahead, so it's not likely the Sooners would fall behind the Longhorns.

See **RIVALRY**, Page 2B



A winter wonderland



Photos by Thomas Jenkins and Steve Reagan



Obituaries

Patricia Ann Smelser Crow



Patricia "Pat" Ann Smelser Crow passed away on Monday, Nov. 19, 2007, after a lengthy battle with cancer.

She was born Oct. 24, 1939, in Merkel to the late William "Bill" Riley and Clara Dye Smelser and was a resident of Loranger, La.

She was the beloved wife of the late William "Bill" Joseph Crow; mother of Sidney Lea Crow Duffy, Catherine Del Crow Schexnayder, Allison Kay Crow Rabalais and Sally Ann Crow; and sister of James "Sam" Samuel Smelser. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Crow grew up in Big Spring where she lived, graduated high school and was a member of the Eastern Star and Wesley United Methodist Church.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a memorial service on Friday, Nov. 30, 2007, at 7 p.m. in the chapel at E.J. Fielding Funeral Home in Covington, La., with visiting hours beginning at 5 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 2484, Covington, La. 70434.

Sign the family guest book online at www.ejfieldingfh.com.

Paid obituary

J.D. Mitchell

J. D. "Mitch" Mitchell, 92, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007, in a local nursing home. No services will be held.

He was born July 23, 1915, in Rule and married Gureta Louise Martin. She preceded him in death on Aug. 22, 1999.

Mitch served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II as an aircraft mechanic. He spent time stationed in England with the 100th Bomb Group. He had kept and later donated many historical copies of "Stars & Stripes" to the Hangar 25 Museum. He became an auto mechanic and was always in demand.

Survivors include one brother, Don H. Mitchell of Big Spring and one sister, Margaret Strollh of Midland.

He was also preceded in death by his parents, Lee L. and Neva Inez Mitchell.

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

John B. McMillan

John B. McMillan, 85, died Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2007. Funeral services were at 2 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with furial following at Trinity Memorial Park.

Ernestome Schroeder



Ernestine Herring Schroeder, 91, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007, at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 26, 2007 at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel, Big Spring with the Rev. Byron Brown, pastor of First Church of the Nazarene, officiating. Interment will follow at 2:30 p.m. Monday at Aspermont Cemetery, Aspermont.

Born on October 13, 1916 in Aspermont, Ernestine was the youngest of five daughters of Stonewall County pioneers Ernest Herring, prominent attorney, and Nell Sanders Herring, music teacher. As an honor student in Aspermont School from start to graduation, she was active in track, baseball, trampoline, volleyball and was basketball team captain.

After high school graduation, she went to Draughons Business College in Lubbock. She worked as secretary and bookkeeper for Federal Land Bank in 1934 and moved to First National Bank in Aspermont in 1936, where she worked until February 1943, the latter years as assistant cashier and chief teller.

She enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps as a secretary. She left there the last of August to move to San Diego, Calif. where she married her longtime sweetheart, Leon Schroeder from Sagerton, who was stationed in San Diego in the Navy. She worked as secretary for the Navy in San Diego, the Army at Camp Barkeley, Pyote Air Force Base as administration officer in personnel and executive secretary for civil service. She worked at Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring as secretary to several commanders before retiring.

She was a life member and sometimes president of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, a life member of the American Legion Auxiliary, a member of the American Association of Retired Persons and a Baptist. Her hobbies were dancing, crafts, bowling, coin collecting, fishing and hunting.

Survivors include her nephew, Jim Dennis of San Diego, Calif.; her nieces, Helen Cameron of Albuquerque, N.M. and Mary Louise Francis and Sharon Crowell of Carbondale, Ill.; her great niece, Kelly Clifton of Illinois; her very special in-laws, Patsy Schroeder of San Angelo, Murry and Ruby Schroeder of Abilene and Jim and Katie Schroeder of Corsicana; and very special friends, George and Irene Wilson and Celestino and Helma Cisneros, all of Big Spring and Junior and Jerry Martin of Aspermont.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Leon Schroeder; her parents, four sisters, Margaret Dennis, Elizabeth Hahn, Mildred Herring and Nell K. Hutchison and also by her beloved nephew, Herring Dennis.

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

Paid obituary

Sophie White



Sophie A. White, 87, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007, at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2007 at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with the Rev. Curtis Halfmann, monsignor, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

She was born June 1, 1920, in O'Donnell, and married Willie F. White July 28, 1940 in O'Donnell. He preceded her in death on March 8, 1990.

Sophie was a longtime resident of O'Donnell before moving to the Kentwood Addition in Big Spring in 1986. She went to school at Grandview School, about 8 miles west of O'Donnell, and attended high school at Stanton Convent until it was destroyed by a tornado. She finished at Lamesa High School, graduating on May 19, 1939.

She was a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. She enjoyed dancing at the Senior Citizens Center, traveling with her friends and gardening. She was especially involved in the lives of her children and grandchildren.

Survivors include two sons and one daughter and their spouses, Kenneth R. and Sherry White of Las Cruces, N.M., Wendell and Paulette White of Benbrook, and Sherry and Gibby Ingram of Big Spring; a brother, Murray Jeffries of Portales, N.M.; 13 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews and special friends.

She was also preceded in death by her daughter, Barbara Bednarz; a grandson, Paul Walker; her parents; three brothers and five sisters.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Cancer Society, c/o Carolyn Brooks, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring 79721-2121 or to Home Hospice, 111 E. Seventh St., Suite A, Big Spring 79720.

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

Maria A. Hinojosa

Maria A. Hinojosa, 68, died Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007. Funeral mass was held at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Thomas Catholic Church with burial following at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Saturday:

- **DAVID LOUIS FLORES**, 24, 1603 N.E. Interstate 20, was arrested on a Tom Green County warrant.
- **MICHELE LYNN MEYERS**, 38, 1800 Monticello, was arrested on a capias warrant.
- **HOWARD McCORMACK**, 27, 904 E. 14th, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **CHRISTOPHER MINTER**, 35, 3405 Airport, was arrested on a Taylor County warrant.
- **CHRISTOPHER GREEN**, 22, 800 W. FM 700, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **DEAN PAUL CAMDEN**, 18, 1407 Virginia, 18, 1407 Virginia, was arrested on a charge of evading arrest.
- **JAYSON WATERS**, 33, 1204 Sycamore, was arrested on charges of public intoxication, failure to identify and two local warrants.
- **MAURIECE DEVON NEAL**, 25, 704 S. Bell, was arrested on 10 capias warrants.

Weather

Today — Cloudy. Snow likely in the morning. Then a chance of rain and snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Storm total snow accumulation of 4 to 5 inches. Highs in the upper 30s. North winds around 10 mph shifting to the west in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

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► **Weddings**

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Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Moses

Crossan-Moses

Anne Elizabeth Crossan and Benjamin Paul Moses were wed at 4:30 p.m. Sept. 1, 2007, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Lewisville.

The bride is the daughter of Mike and Carol Anne Crossan of Flower Mound. She is the granddaughter of David and Yolanda Borelli of Avondale, Penn., and Ollie and the late Richard Crossan of West Grove, Penn.

The groom is the son of Steve and Paula Moses of Big Spring. He is the grandson of Ben and Chris Moses of Abilene and Paul and Betty Whaley of Morristown, Tenn.

Given away by her father, the bride wore an ivory Oleg Cassini strapless gown with shirred satin bodice and a full tulle skirt.

The bridesmaids wore a similar style in a tissue taffeta navy two-piece dress with a sweetheart neckline, ruche bodice and a tea-length circle skirt. The flower girl was wearing a mini version of the bride's dress with a navy bow around the waist.

The groom, groomsmen and ring bearer wore gray tuxedos with navy vests and ties, each adorned with a pale pink boutonniere, while the groom's boutonniere was ivory.

The bride's bouquet was made of an arrangement of cream-colored flowers including lilies and roses with green budded accents. The bridesmaids and flower girl each carried a pale pink arrange-

ment with green leaf boarding accents.

The matron of honor was Sarah Limon of Flower Mound, a sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Jennifer Matthews and Julie Kunz, both of Houston, college friends of the bride; Brook Britten of Amarillo, a college friend of the bride; and Nicole Gober of Flower Mound and Misty Parker of Lewisville, high school friends.

Best man was Ryan Moses of Springfield, Mo., a brother of the groom. Groomsmen were Matthew Crossan of Hoboken, N.J., a brother of the bride; and Justin Matthews of Houston, Justin Weinheimer of Lubbock, Matthew Dunn of Flower Mound and Brian Veazey of Highland Village, college friends.

Ushers were Tyson Meier of Irving and Tim Kunz of Houston, both college friends. The flower girls and ring bearer were the niece and nephew of the bride, Zachary and Alexandria Baumann. Attending the guest book and handing out programs were J.J. and Allysa Limon, niece and nephew of the bride.

Family and friends who attended the wedding were not only from all over Texas, but from Delaware, Georgia, Florida, New Jersey, Maryland, Missouri, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Tennessee.

The wedding ceremony was

performed by Jonathan Morrow, an uncle of the groom. The grandparents and parents were seated to the song "I Cross My Heart" sung by Steve Moses, the groom's father. Scripture reading was I Corinthians 13:4-8a, read by Sarah Parker of Wichita Falls, college friend of the bride.

Immediately following the ceremony, guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres in the lobby between the ballrooms. Guests were then invited to the Tuscany Ballroom where they dined on their choice of beef tenderloin or mushroom stuffed chicken, both served with garlic mashed potatoes and grilled asparagus.

The wedding cake was ivory with four-layers alternating circles and octagons designed with ivory polka dots, a navy ribbon framing each layer and a scrolling "M" on top.

The groom's cake was a chocolate cake with a red "double T" representing their alma mater of Texas Tech on the top.

The bride is a 2001 graduate of Marcus High School in Flower Mound and a 2005 graduate of Texas Tech University.

The groom is a 1999 graduate of Big Spring High School and a 2004 graduate of Texas Tech University.

After a wedding trip to Aruba, where they enjoyed parasailing and snorkeling, the couple resides in the Lake Highlands area of Dallas.

► **Menus**

Stanton ISD

Monday: Breakfast, waffles; Lunch, pizza or manager's choice, peas/carrots, salad, fruit.

Tuesday: Breakfast, oatmeal/toast; Lunch, chicken nuggets or steak fingers, mashed potatoes/gravy, carrots, fruit cocktail, hot rolls.

Wednesday: Breakfast, biscuits/sausage/gravy; Lunch, beef tips or baked chicken, steamed rice, green beans, peaches, bread sticks.

Thursday: Breakfast, French toast; Lunch,

Nacho Grande or bake potato, refried beans, lettuce/tomato salad, pineapple, cornbread.

Friday: Breakfast, burritos; Lunch, hamburger or cheeseburgers, baked fries, hamburger salad, fruit.

Coahoma ISD

Monday: Breakfast, waffles, sausage, grape juice, milk; Lunch, pizza, corn, strawberry cups, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast, donuts, sausage links, applesauce, milk; Lunch, smothered steak, mashed

potatoes, rolls, green beans, milk, sloppy Joes.

Wednesday: Breakfast, biscuits, gravy, sausage, apple juice, milk; Lunch, breaded chicken, potato salad, peaches, milk, corn dogs.

See **MENUS**, Page 5C

► **Births**

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Kami Lynn Dyer, a girl, was born at 9:57 p.m. Nov. 14, 2007, weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long.

She is the daughter of Richard and Carol Dyer of Big Spring. Her grandparents are Armando Reyes and Carol Scott and the late Ricky Dyer and Debbie and Billy Lackey.

Kami was welcomed home by siblings Kendra and Kaylee.

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Angel Tree program getting into full gear

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Area residents will get the chance to be a guardian angel for some lucky child this holiday season, as the Big Spring Salvation Army kicks its annual Angel Tree program into full gear.

With more than 130 adults approved for the annual program — which provides Christmas gifts for area low income children and seniors that might otherwise go without — the local charity will attempt to provide for more than 375 children this year, according to Salvation Army officials.

“We have more children on the Angel Trees this year than we’ve seen since we’ve been in Big Spring,” said Capt. Linda

“We have more children on the Angel Trees this year than we’ve seen since we’ve been in Big Spring. We’re not sure what’s to blame for the increase. With the oil industry so strong this year, you would think the need would be less. However, we’re seeing a lot of people out there that are still struggling to make ends meet.”



KEENEY

Keeney. “We’re not sure what’s to blame for the increase. With the oil industry so strong this year, you would think the need would be less. However, we’re seeing a lot of people out there that are still struggling to make ends meet.”

Keeney said the Angel Tree locations will be slightly different from

years past, but hopes that won’t stop area shoppers from participating in the program.

“We have Angel Trees up at the Big Spring Mall — one in the mall itself, and a second inside Bealls Department Store — and Wal-Mart,” said Keeney. “We also have the tree for our senior angels at the *Big Spring Herald*.”

Adopting a holiday angel is simple, according to Keeney.

“They just take the Angel card from the tree and purchase Christmas gifts for that child or senior,” said Keeney. “It doesn’t necessarily have to be what’s listed on the angel card. Once they purchase the items, they will attach the card to the

gifts and bring them to our office, or drop them off where they got the card from. It’s very important that they tape or tie the card to the gift, however, so we can make sure it goes to the correct child.”

Keeney said the gifts donated to area needy children through the annual program can make an amazing difference in their lives, and the lives of those that give.

“It’s everything,” she said firmly. “A child who has everything they need provided for them has no concept of children out there that do without. If we, as parents, don’t show our children to share and to give back, then they won’t learn those things. That’s why it’s important,

as a parent, to show these children there are others out there that are much worse off, that do without things that we take for granted everyday. If we show that to our children, I think it makes them a kinder, more giving person as they grow.”

The deadline to return gifts for the program is Dec. 15, according to Keeney, with distribution expected to take place Dec. 18 at the Big Spring Refinery Union Hall.

For more information on the Angel Tree program, call 267-8239 or stop by the Salvation Army office, located at 811 W Fifth Street.

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

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

• A public hearing concerning the establishment of revised reinvestment zones A and C for tax abatement purposes.

• Discussion and possible approval of an order establishing reinvestment zones A and C.

The county signed a tax abatement agreement with Wind Plus Inc. in 2005 for a project to be completed by January 2007. Wegman told commissioners during their Nov. 12 meeting the company had not lived up to its end of the bargain.

“The project progressed to that point (the con-

tract), then nothing happened,” said Wegman. “The wheels kind of came off. Subsequent to that, we would ask that you approve the cancellation of the contract for failure to perform because the contract said it would be completed by Jan. 1, 2007, and of course, it’s not. We have to get that abatement contract terminated before we can proceed with the new ones.”

Several wind energy companies are interested in developing in the Howard County area, according to Wegman, and new reinvestment zones — which allow for tax abatements — have already been approved by the commissioners court. The court voted unani-

mously to cancel the Wind Plus contract.

Commissioners are also expected to discuss progress made in building a new \$11.57 million jail facility, approved by the voters Nov. 6.

The discussion, however, hinges on the participation of one key individual, according to County Judge Mark Barr.

“Jeff (Heffelfinger, project architect) has asked that we put him down on each meeting agenda from here on out in case he can be here,” said Barr. “If he’s here, we’ll talk about the jail. If he’s not, we’ll have to wait until he can be here.”

Heffelfinger, who was on the agenda for the Nov. 12 meeting, was

unable to attend.

Barr said he hopes to see work begin in earnest sometime in March, but there’s plenty to keep the commissioner’s 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.”

Also on Monday’s agenda, County Auditor

Jackie Olson will present the court invoices, purchase requests and a list of holidays for 2008.

County Treasurer Teresa Thomas is expected to discuss personnel considerations and a payroll report, while Chief Deputy Mark Hall will present information regarding firearm purchases.

The meeting will get under way at 10 a.m. Monday in the commissioner’s courtroom, located on the second floor of

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John B. McMillan, 85, died Tuesday. Funeral Services were at 2 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Maria A. Hinojosa, 68, died Wednesday. Funeral Mass was at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Thomas Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1A

there’s more that needs done.

To help accomplish those goals, the citizen’s group is forming into a non-profit organization, Coahoma Pride Inc.

“They’re doing that so they’re able to apply for grants,” Foresyth said.

“To get things done, you need money. The city of Coahoma has been great, and has done what they could to help us, but to get really big projects done, you need grant money ... with their popu-

lation, there’s endless number of grants they can apply for.”

Those projects Coahoma Pride Inc. has earmarked include construction of a playground and irrigation system at the city park and renovation of the community center.

Other projects include

construction of four houses for low-income families and landscaping the downtown area, Foresyth said.

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

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**CLASS 5A
DIVISION I
Region I
AREA**

EP Montwood (10-1) vs. Odessa Permian (11-0), 2 p.m. Saturday, Odessa's Ratliff Stadium

Eules Trinity 42, Lewisville 17

Lubbock Coronado 44, Midland Lee 28
Arlington Bowie 35, Flower Mound Marcus 7

**Region II
AREA**

Rowlett (6-5) vs. Dallas Skyline (10-1), 5 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium

Round Rock 35, Klein 13
Plano (10-1) vs. Mesquite (7-4), 11 a.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium

Spring Westfield (9-2) vs. RR Stony Point (9-2), 2 p.m. Saturday, Sam Houston State

**Region III
AREA**

Cypress Ridge (10-1) vs. Houston Eisenhower (8-3), 2 p.m. Saturday, Cypress Berry Stadium

Fort Bend Hightower 14, Humble 13

Cypress Fairbanks 34, Houston Lamar 22

Galena Park North Shore 24, Pearland 20

**Region IV
AREA**

Converse Judson 24, SA Southwest 16

La Joya 28, PSJA 14

SA Reagan (9-2) vs. SA O'Connor (9-2), noon, Saturday, Alamodome

Donna (9-2) vs. Los Fresnos (8-3), 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Donna

**DIVISION II
Region I
AREA**

EP Coronado (8-3) vs. Abilene (10-1), 2 p.m. Saturday, Lubbock's Jones AT&T Stadium

Southlake Carroll 37, Cedar Hill 18
Lubbock Monterey (6-5) vs. Mansfield Timberview (8-3), 1 p.m. Saturday, Abilene's Shotwell Stadium

Lewisville Hebron (9-2) vs. DeSoto (9-2), 2 p.m. Saturday, Birdville

**Region II
AREA**

Garland Naaman Forest (9-2) vs. Dallas Carter (6-5), 2 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium

Pflugerville (8-3) vs. Klein Forest (9-2), 2 p.m. Saturday, Conroe's Moorhead Stadium

South Garland (10-1) vs. Longview (10-1), 8 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium

Leander 27, Klein Oak 24

**Region III
AREA**

Cypress Falls (9-2) vs. Houston Stratford (8-3), 7 p.m. Saturday, Conroe's Moorhead Stadium

Beaumont West Brook (10-1) vs. Fort Bend Clements (11-0), 1 p.m. Saturday, Galena Park ISD Stadium

Katy (11-0) vs. Houston Madison (7-4), 1 p.m. Saturday, Katy's Rhodes Stadium

Pasadena Memorial 28, Brazoswood 17

**Region IV
AREA**

Smithson Valley 49, SA East Central 22

McAllen Rowe (6-5) vs. Harlingen South (11-0), 2 p.m. Saturday, McAllen Veterans Memorial Stadium

SA Madison 17, SA Warren 13

Weslaco 40, McAllen 38

**CLASS 4A
DIVISION I
Region I
REGIONAL**

Wolfthorh Frenship 59, EP Del Valle 0

Aledo 21, Keller Fossil Ridge 7

**Region II
REGIONAL**

McKinney Boyd (8-3) vs. Marshall (7-4), 2 p.m. Saturday, Tyler's Rose Stadium

Copperas Cove 55, Dallas Samuel 7

**Region III
REGIONAL**

Austin LBJ 57, Houston Furr 16
Port Neches-Groves (8-3) vs. Rosenberg Lamar (9-2), TBA Saturday, Baytown's Stallworth Stadium

**Region IV
REGIONAL**

New Braunfels 35, SA Alamo Heights 3

Gregory-Portland (7-4) vs. CC Flour Bluff (8-3), 7 p.m. Saturday, Corpus Christi's Buccaneer Stadium

**DIVISION II
Region I
AREA**

Garland Naaman Forest (9-2) vs. Dallas Carter (6-5), 2 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium

EP Austin (11-0) vs. Lubbock Estacado (5-6), 2 p.m. Saturday, Lubbock's Lowrey Field

WF Rider 32, Stephenville 29
Canutillo (10-1) vs. Hereford (7-4), 7:30 p.m. Odessa's Ratliff Stadium

Everman 33, Wichita Falls 14

**Region II
AREA**

West Mesquite 47, Whitehouse 29

Red Oak 40, Dallas Spruce 24
Dallas Highland Park 38, Kilgore 6

Dallas S. Oak Cliff 12, Ennis 5

**Region III
AREA**

Livingston 42, Houston Washington 7

Dayton 42, Texas City 10
Waller 28, Houston Yates 14
Lumberton 24, La Marque 21

**Region IV
AREA**

Lake Travis (10-1) vs. Kerrville Tivy (10-1), 4 p.m. Saturday, Alamodome

CC Calallen 27, Port Lavaca Calhoun 7

Schertz Steele 28, Fredericksburg 21

Beeville 35, Edcouch-Elsa 21

**CLASS 3A
DIVISION I
Region I
REGIONAL**

Fort Stockton (9-1) vs. Andrews (9-2), 2 p.m. Saturday, Monahans

Abilene Wylie 28, Burkburnett 6

**Region II
REGIONAL**

Dallas Roosevelt 48, Royse City 22

Mabank (6-5) vs. Gilmer (11-0), 2 p.m. Saturday, Stephen F. Austin

**Region III
REGIONAL**

Liberty Hill 41, Carthage 14
Jasper 34, Navasota 14

**Region IV
REGIONAL**

Bandera (6-5) vs. Pleasanton (9-2), 7 p.m. Saturday, San Antonio Northside ISD's Dub Farris Stadium

Gonzales 24, Hidalgo 7

**DIVISION II
Region I
AREA**

Snyder 40, Monahans 14
Graham (10-1) vs. Argyle (9-

2), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Stephenville

Seminole 49, Anthony 13
Vernon 25, Sweetwater 7

**Region II
AREA**

Celina 41, West 0
Pittsburg 45, Canton 14
Glen Rose 12, Prosper 7
Texarkana Pleasant Grove 31, Tyler Chapel Hill 28

**Region III
AREA**

Waco LaVega 40, Crockett 13
West Orange-Stark 28, Giddings 19

China Spring (10-1) vs. Palestine Westwood (7-4), 1 p.m. Saturday, Waco's Casey Stadium

Kirbyville (10-1) vs. Caldwell (9-1), TBD

**Region IV
AREA**

Wimberley 42, Lytle 6
Cuero 42, Port Isabel 14
Llano (7-4) vs. Devine (9-2), 8 p.m. Friday, Alamodome

Palacios 28, Rio Hondo 7

**CLASS 2A
DIVISION I
Region I
REGIONAL**

Littlefield 28, Muleshoe 21 (OT)

Early 24, Kermit 12

**Region II
REGIONAL**

Caddo Mills 34, Henrietta 6
Farmersville 35, Winnsboro 6

**Region III
REGIONAL**

Tatum 24, Daingerfield 14

Newton 35, McGregor 14

**Region IV
REGIONAL**

Salado (11-0) vs. Hitchcock (10-1), 6 p.m. Saturday, Navasota

Santa Rosa 26, Universal City Randolph 6

**DIVISION II
Region I
AREA**

Canadian (11-1) vs. Childress (10-1), 2 p.m. Saturday, Canyon's Kimbrough Memorial Stadium

Coleman 33, Crane 22
Idalou 20, Stratford 7
Blanco 30, Ballinger 20

**Region II
AREA**

Boyd (7-4) vs. Palmer (9-2), 1 p.m. Saturday, Burseson

Melissa (9-2) vs. DeKalb (7-4), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Forney

Cisco 51, Lone Oak 0
Gunter (11-0) vs. Paris Chisum (7-4), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Greenville

**Region III
AREA**

Elysian Fields 40, Hughes Springs 20

Crawford 35, Hardin 15
Arp 20, Harleton 17
Corrigan-Camden 30, Hamilton 15

**Region IV
AREA**

Troy (9-2) vs. East Bernard (8-3), 6 p.m. Saturday, Bryan

Refugio 28, Dilley 7
Altair Rice 41, Lago Vista 40
Stockdale 41, Skidmore-Tynan 7

**CLASS A
DIVISION I
Region I
REGIONAL**

Sunray 6, Quanah 0
McCamey 14, New Deal 7 (OT)

**Region II
REGIONAL**

Seymour 29, Valley View 13
Valley Mills (7-3) vs. Forsan (6-5), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Brownwood

**Region III
REGIONAL**

Wolfe City (5-5) vs. Joaquin (9-2), 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Gladewater

Alto (10-0) vs. Groveton (9-2), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Lufkin's Martin Stadium

**Region IV
REGIONAL**

Granger 45, Normangee 35
Shiner 41, Brackettville 7

**DIVISION II
Region I
AREA**

White Deer 33, Memphis 0
Ralls (9-1) vs. Sundown (11-0), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Wolfforth

Nazareth 49, Gruver 34
Hale Center (5-5) vs. Iraan (7-4), 2 p.m. Saturday, Midland's Grande Communication Stadium

**Region II
AREA**

Munday 63, Collinsville 0
Meridian (9-1) vs. Roscoe (11-0), 1:00 p.m. Saturday, Cisco

Windthorst 14, Gorman 0

Goldthwaite 27, Albany 15

**Region III
AREA**

Quinlan Boles (10-0) vs. Maud (8-2), 3 p.m. Saturday at Pittsburg

Cayuga 33, Lovelady 22
Tenaha 22, Cumby 8
Grapeland 26, West Sabine 0

**Region IV
AREA**

Bremont 50, Milano 15
D'Hanis 42, Louise 6
Harper 28, Chilton 13
Sabinal 30, Flatonia 14

**SIX-MAN
DIVISION I
Region I
REGIONAL**

Rankin 45, Ropesville 20
Grady 66, Ira 46

**Region II
REGIONAL**

Happy (8-3) vs. Rule (10-0), 8 p.m. Saturday, Lubbock's Lowrey Field

Throckmorton (7-2) vs. Turkey Valley (11-1), 5 p.m. Saturday, Lubbock's Lowrey Field

**Region III
REGIONAL**

Trinidad 48, Gordon 36
Abbott 36, Strawn 28

**Region IV
REGIONAL**

Richland Springs 93, May 43
Calvert 58, Blanket 0

**DIVISION II
Region I
REGIONAL**

Sanderson 52, Grandfalls-Royalty 6

Jayton 56, Sierra Blanca 44

**Region II
REGIONAL**

Matador Motley County 62, Southland 16
Follett 57, Amherst 23

**Region III
REGIONAL**

Vernon Northside 60, Apple Springs 7
Woodson 58, Milford 12

**Region IV
REGIONAL**

Gustine 70, Lohn 64
Zephyr 90, Iredell 56

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

season since 1992, when Aikman, Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin went from up-and-comers to team to beat.

Like the '92 squad, Dallas came into this season expecting to be good, just not so good that it's rattled off a pair of five-game winning streaks around the lone loss, to undefeated New England. Expectations are now flying despite the team having gone 10 straight seasons without winning a playoff game.

"To see those really hard, lean years, and now to be part of the Dallas Cowboys on a positive side, it's a good feeling," said linebacker Greg Ellis, who arrived in 1998, when the postseason drought was only a year old.

Playing before a national audience on Thanksgiving, the Cowboys offered a pretty good primer for folks who haven't been watching with their 34-3 stomping of the New York Jets.

While it was far from their best performance, they were in control from the start and never relented.

Romo didn't dominate, but still completed 75 percent of his passes and had two touchdowns.

They ran for another score and had their most yards rushing all season. They didn't allow a touchdown for the first time and won by their widest margin.

"The goal is to continue to get better, continue to

work," linebacker Bradie James said.

Taking care of business is never as easy as it sounds in the NFL. In this case, Dallas had to get fired up for a 2-8 team on a short week following a win over rival Washington that closed a 3-0 stretch against division foes.

And right before the showdown with the Packers.

"We have done that all year," Phillips said. "We have focused at the game at hand, and I think we will continue to do that. We will certainly focus on this one. ... If we play our best, we are going to do well."

A big part of the buildup for this game will be the quarterbacks, Favre vs. the kid who grew up in Wisconsin cheering for No. 4.

It can't be a coincidence that Romo's swashbuckling style is a lot like Favre's.

"I just think it's going to be fun," Romo said. "Any time you play in a big game it's enjoyable. The fact it's the Packers is exciting for me."

Dallas and Green Bay will be only the second 10-1 teams to square off since 1970.

The last time it happened was in 1990, when the New York Giants went to San Francisco and lost to the 49ers.

They met again at Candlestick Park in the NFC championship game and the Bill Parcells-coached Giants won the rematch.

They went on to win the Super Bowl.

Extra points: There

were no significant injuries.

Phillips offered high praise for RG Leonard Davis' performance against the Jets.

"Leonard played Pro Bowl-caliber. I thought he dominated the game."

More kudos went to Sam Hurd and Miles Austin, the No. 4 and No. 5 receivers coming out of training camp who were bumped to Nos. 2 and 3 against the Jets.

"The two young receivers I thought really did well," Phillips said. "It didn't show up as far as numbers of catches, but Sam Hurd and Miles Austin separated well, they ran the routes well. They practiced real hard on those things. Both of them played well on special teams. That was encouraging."

Greg Ellis' two sacks gave him 8.5 this season, darn good considering he missed the first two games and didn't start the third.

"That's pretty significant," Phillips said. "He's a force out on the field."

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Melissa Ray and Lonnie Haley

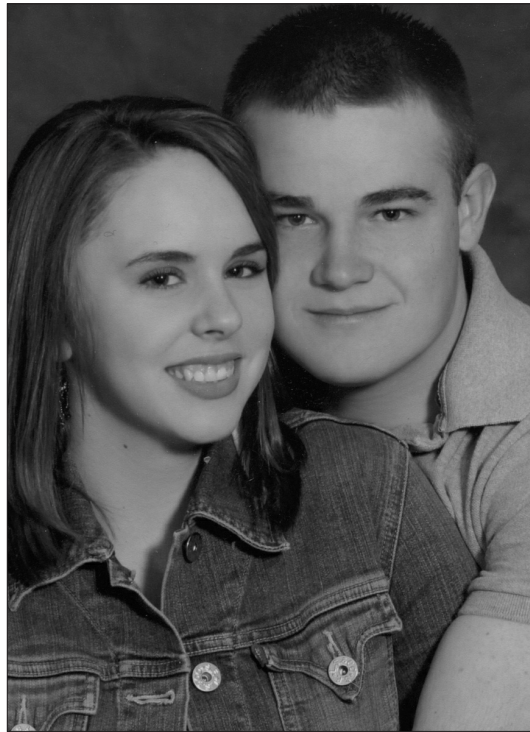
Ray-Haley

Melissa Ray and Lonnie Christopher Haley, both of San Angelo, will be united in marriage at 3 p.m. Dec. 29, 2007, at College Baptist Church in Big Spring.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Pat and Gwen Ray of Big Spring. Her grandparents are the late Mr. and Mrs. C.J. "Red" Sullivan and Clema Ray of Big Spring and the late Pat Ray Sr.

The future groom is the son of Loy and Billy Haley of San Angelo. His grandparents are Loy and Bill Haley of San Angelo. His great-grandparents are Thomas Tedder of San Angelo and the late Alma Tedder.

Melissa earned a bachelor of science degree in kinesiology with a minor in biology from Angelo State University. Chris will obtain his bachelor of arts in psychology with a minor in criminal justice from Angelo State University this December.



Stormy Hart and Colby Newton

Hart-Newton

Stormy Dawn Hart of Big Spring and Colby James Newton of Fort Lewis, Wash., will be united in marriage at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29, 2007, at College Baptist Church.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Sally Grisham and John Hart, both of Big Spring. Her grandparents are Bud and Beth Hart and Inga Grisham, all of Big Spring.

The future groom is the son of Terri Jo and Richard Lee Nix II of Lamesa and Larry and Diane Newton of Big Spring. His grandparents are Loretta Cook and the late James Cook of Big Spring and Leola Newton and the late Lindell Newton of Big Spring.

Stormy will graduate from Big Spring High School in January 2008. Colby is a 2006 Big Spring High School graduate and is serving in the U.S. Army infantry with the rank of private first class and is stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Etiquette is: Loving your neighbor just like yourself

We should always remember that during our lifetime, the rules of etiquette may change to some degree, but courtesy, kindness and good manners will always be important.



JERRIE STOCKS

Some people seem to be born knowing how to live, knowing from the start what it takes to become a worthy human being. It's as if they have it stamped somewhere on their DNA: "Love your neighbor as yourself. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Sister

Mary Mercedes was one of those people. It was her work to teach those lessons during her life time.

During the early 1900s Sister Mercedes wrote a little book containing simple rules for, "the art of living." This little handbook showed how small acts of kindness and thoughtfulness can help regain the joy of living a beautiful life.

Her simple message was to focus on each day as a beautiful gift from God. Living it to the fullest, treating others with kindness and respect, basking in the beauty of the moment and doing it all gracefully.

Although her words seem arcane and quaint and speak of another time, ost had not been exposed to this exquisite

code of conduct with such politeness and kindness. But sister Mercedes was one who had. She came from a powerful tradition, The Dominicans. Later she wrote another book about living a life of good manners and courtesies published nearly a century ago, and based on scriptures from the New Testament. In future columns, I will refer to some of Sister Mercedes teachings.

Dear Jerrie: I'm 14 years old and love to read your etiquette column. I have always been interested in living a life of good manners and

being polite to others. I hope someday to be able to go to an etiquette school and teach as you do. However, some of my friends tell me I'm old fashioned and often tease me when I am polite to others, even to older people. They tell me I'm different and not "hip." What should I do and say to them?

Keelea

Hi Keelea: Thank you for a very nice letter. When you live a lifestyle of good manners, you are not only enhancing your own life, but others around you. Even though your friends may tease you and say your not

"hip," do not give up on them. Continue to be polite, kind and treat them and others with respect. When they say

your different, take it as a compliment because you are. Someday they

See **STOCKS**, Page 5C

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Eliminate the Negative

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 5
♥ 8 7 3
♦ 9 5 2
♣ A K 9 6 4

WEST
♠ J 10 7 3
♥ J 9 6
♦ Q 10 7 6 4
♣ 5

EAST
♠ Q 9 2
♥ Q 10 4 2
♦ J 8
♣ Q 10 8 3

SOUTH
♠ K 8 6 4
♥ A K 5
♦ A K 3
♣ J 7 2

The bidding:
East 1 NT South Pass West 3 NT North Pass

Opening lead — six of diamonds.

When declarer is planning the play of a hand, he should consider not only the normally expected divisions of the adverse cards, but the abnormal as well. Whenever possible, he should try to shape his play so that he can still get home safely if the opposing cards are divided abnormally.

Take this case where South starts with eight top tricks in three notrump, and sees immediately that only the club suit has the potential for producing a ninth. But if, after

winning the opening diamond lead, he blithely cashes the A-K of clubs expecting the missing clubs to be divided 3-2, he will wind up taking just four aces and four kings and finish down one.

The correct method of play is to lead a club to the ace at trick two and then return a low club toward the jack. This assures the contract regardless of how the clubs are divided.

In the actual case, if East takes his queen, declarer has four club tricks where a moment earlier he had only two. If East instead withholds the queen, South wins with the jack and again has four club tricks after conceding a club trick to East. Either way, declarer is assured of making 10 tricks.

Should it develop that West rather than East has the club length, declarer still can't be stopped from scoring four club tricks. After East shows out on the second club, West can take the jack with the queen, but a subsequent finesse against his ten picks up the rest of the suit.

With proper play, South is therefore certain to make the contract against any distribution (including a 5-0 club break) — provided he pauses at the outset to ask himself what can possibly go wrong.

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su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

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EDITORIAL

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-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

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

On Monday, Nov. 12, members of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 47 of Big Spring treated some of the veterans from the VA Medical Center to an evening meal out at Furr's Cafeteria. Some of the DAV Auxiliary members also joined us for an evening of socializing with these veterans who don't have the opportunity to get out all that often.

I want to thank the management and staff at Furr's for helping to make it a very special evening out for those veterans. You did a splendid job from start to finish; each and every one played an important role in helping to make the evening a big success for those who sacrificed a big part of their lives for the freedoms we all enjoy in this great country of ours.

I ask the community for your continued support, especially through prayer, for our military forces throughout the world and those veterans returning from war — especially those with injuries that will leave them scarred for life.

They served us with pride. Let us support them by returning the favor and welcoming them back home with open arms.

ED MEISER
COMMANDER
DAV CHAPTER 47
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Wow! We got five overseas boxes stuffed with all kinds of comfort items for our military men and women. We had great success and couldn't have pulled it off without the big heart and long reach of the Retired Volunteer Senior Program (RSVP).

Nancy Jones and Becky Letz went the extra mile with their "Make a Difference Day" project to boost our cause.

Thank you to all the big-hearted folks who donated. A lot of our military will benefit from it.

If some of you have items and didn't make it by the deadline, don't worry. Nancy is still collecting at her office at the Polly Mays Annex at Fifth and Runnels.

We have a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving.

MARGIE MYERS
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER
DAV AUXILIARY
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

It has come to my attention over and over again that Big Spring Independent School District is failing to ensure the students are getting the proper education.

I have been told that students with trouble in reading or passing grades can bring a box of tissue or soda to school for the teachers and receive a grade point to allow them to pass. What kind of school system allows this to happen? If this is how we treat students that have a learning problem — just ignore the problem and allow them to graduate under fails hope — then we all fail our children and our future.

I am not saying all teachers are at fault. I am just pointing out that this problem has to stop. If a student

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

How To Contact Us

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor 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

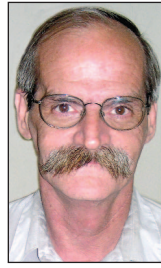
by K. Rae Anderson

When we feel like a pressure cooker about to blow, Lord, may we come to You instead.

Amen

'Tis the season of commercialization

The Christmas shopping season has arrived, and let me be the first to say: Big Whoopie Doo. Faithful readers will recall that the onset of the Christmas season doesn't necessarily bring out the warm fuzzies in yours truly. In fact, one could say I get positively Grinch-ish at times.



STEVE REAGAN

And the thing that definitely has me saying, "Bah, Humbug," is the over-commercializing of the holiday.

It's bad enough that my mailbox starts getting crammed with Christmas shopping fliers sometimes around Halloween.

It's galling enough that commercials bombard me with messages about the latest doo-dad that "no home will be complete without."

But when someone actually expects me to get out of bed in the middle of the night to go shopping, the universe is seriously out of whack.

I'm talking about the stores that actually crowed about opening their doors at 4 a.m. Friday so people could get an early jump on the Christmas shopping rush.

That's right ... 4 a.m. Friends, there are some things I will do that early in the morning — sleep being paramount on the list. Responding to family emergencies also qualify.

But shopping? Uh-uh. No way. Not gonna do it. Before anyone gets the wrong idea, I am a firm believer in capi-

talism. Stores, on their own, are fine places, too. I particularly enjoy being able to buy something without having to manufacture it myself. This is both convenient and saves me a lot of embarrassment.

But when it comes to finding ways to spend my afternoons, shopping isn't high on my list. In fact, it falls somewhere between banging my head against a desk-top and giving my cat a bath.

When it comes to shopping, I fall squarely in the "hunter-gatherer" camp:

- Me need something.
- Me go to store.
- Me buy something.
- Me go home.

Call it the guerilla tactic approach to shopping.

Now, I understand that there are millions of people out there who like nothing better than to peruse the aisles at a store for hours on end.

I was married to a person like that.

Shopping was a bone of contention between me and my ex. God love her, the woman was never happier than when she was at a mall. I swear, she could have spent days there, if hunger or a need to work hadn't driven her away.

Needless to say, I didn't quite see eye-to-eye with her on the subject.

She always wanted me to accompany her on her shopping excursions, and I would, foolishly, agree.

Things would go fine for about the first hour or so, but after that, boredom would start to rear its

ugly head.

You'd think someone smart enough to string sentences together for a newspaper would also be smart enough not to be obviously bored in front of his wife.

Believe me, I tried, I really, really did. But there's only so many bargains I can look at, so many, "Yeah, you'd look great in that" comments I can make before it becomes obvious I'd rather be somewhere else.

Thus would commence a sort of mental tug-of-war. She would redouble her efforts and I would try to pass out. To avoid something nasty, we would eventually declare a truce and head to our favorite restaurant.

I'm not saying she was wrong or that I was right. I'm just saying, like death and taxes, there are some immutable truths that can't be denied.

And one of those great truths is that I'd rather root for the Washington Redskins than spend a day shopping. I can't think of a stronger way to state my case than that.

Which is why I hate the Christmas shopping season. Long lines, large crowds, claustrophobia attacks, surly people ... yeah, that's my idea of fun.

And now, to top it all off, someone actually expects me to get out of a warm bed in the middle of the night to experience all that?

I'd laugh at the notion if I didn't find it so terrifying.

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

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Dealing with a new family member

Let me start out by saying I'm simply a dog kinda' guy. Growing up on a farm in South Carolina, we always had two or three dogs around — from my German Shepherds, Ginger and Pal, to my mom's little weenie dog Angel. Some of them served very important purposes — saving us from rattlesnakes and other foul land creatures — while others served no purpose other than to eat, sleep and look cute.



THOMAS JENKINS

The latter usually belonged to my mom, just in case you're wondering.

And so, when my little girl professed to me she wanted a cat more than anything in the world, I found myself in quite a pickle.

However, farm life did include several cats, and the few fond memories I had were enough to cajole me into a trip to the local Humane Society to make a new, feline addition to our little family.

And so began a cruel, pain-filled chapter of my life.

The cat's name is Valentine, which would have been a fine, Italian, mob-esque name — c'mon, a cat named Val, what could be more perfect — if it had been a male, but my daughter demanded the cat be a female, for no other reason than shifting the majority vote in the house to the fairer of the sexes.

I have since lost veto power, if you haven't already figured that part out.

Val — as I would have called it, but now I just call it "that damned cat" — has a few hobbies that delight my daughter, like batting her toys around and running through the house like she's on fire for no apparent reason. I'm still convinced the cat has a cat-

nip problem, and has a secret stash somewhere in the house.

But Val's favorite hobby, to this day, is scratching on my recliner.

Mind you, this was much easier to swallow back when my favorite recliner was in utter disrepair and quite a bit older than myself. Now, after shelling out several hundred dollars for a new one, it seems the face of our relationship — me and the cat, that is — is going to have to change.

My first thought? A shock collar. That idea immediately earned me a dirty look from my co-worker, Steve Reagan, who is a total cat-person. You may have read a few columns about his cat, Sylvester.

Now, at the risk of having the SPCA come looking for me, the shock collar idea had a certain appeal since me and Val don't see eye-to-eye on her apparent need to scratch on my chair. Remote in hand, I could simply zap her every time she attacked my new chair, eventually training her to stop. Of course, there is the thought the shocks could just spin her into some sort of demented tirade that ends with me losing a toe in my sleep.

My search, however, revealed one huge flaw in my plan. Shock collars, for the most part, cost more than my new recliner. So — and excuse the pun — scratch that idea.

Next up, sticky stuff Advertised on Petsmart's Website as a cure for cat-inspired furniture woes, you simply tack this stuff to your stuff and the cat, deterred by sticky stuff in general, will leave them alone.

Right? Not according to the people that have tried the stuff.

"My cat just pulled the strips off the couch and went right on sharpening his nails," reads one user comment. "This might work for dumb cats, but not my little

rocket scientist!"

OK, so my cat's too smart for her own good. I already know this. What's next?

Cat repellent! Just like mosquito repellent, this stuff works like kryptonite did on Superman, right? Again, the user comments shed some light on the subject.

"After spraying this product on furniture and rugs, we haven't noticed one bit of difference in our cats behavior," writes one user. "Immediately after we sprayed it on a rug, the cats became curious and came over gave it a smell and then laid down right on the freshly sprayed rug! After a fine nap, one of them woke up and began scratching."

"Quite possibly the worst (idea) next to tuna in a can," writes another customer. "We went from a very light spray all the way up to heavy enough to see wetness. We have two cats. I used a test chair to see if they would stay off just the one. They ended up taking a nap on it. I've seen them lick the fabric I sprayed as well."

Strike three! So what's left? Declawing? That involves a vet, some sort of surgery and a pretty hefty bill — although I doubt it can be more expensive than some of the shock collars I looked at.

On the other hand, after the vet gets done yanking out her evil toenails, maybe she'll think twice before crossing swords with me again.

On the other hand, discretion doesn't seem to be the better part of her valor. She will most likely just start chewing on the furniture.

That sure sounds like my luck.

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

Nebraska says goodbye to Callahan

By ERIC OLSON

AP Sports Writer
LINCOLN, Neb. — Bill Callahan was fired as Nebraska's coach Saturday, his four-year stay marked by the most embarrassing losses at a football program once among the mightiest in the nation.

Interim athletic director and Nebraska great Tom Osborne announced the dismissal one day after the Cornhuskers ended the season at 5-7 following a 65-51 loss at Colorado. They squandered an 11-point halftime lead by allowing 34 consecutive points.

"As a former coach this is a role I really don't like," Osborne said at a news conference. "I hate to sit in judgment of other people. I never envisioned having to do this."

Osborne said that at the end of October he told Callahan there would be a coaching change if Nebraska finished with a losing season.

The dismal results came one season after the Huskers reached the Big 12 championship game.

This year also was marked by a 76-39 defeat at Kansas, the most points allowed by a Nebraska team.

The firing came one month and a day after Callahan said, "I have done an excellent job in every area." Osborne apparent-

ly thought otherwise after only the second losing season at Nebraska since 1962, both coming on Callahan's watch.

It will cost the university more than \$3.1 million to buy out Callahan's contract, which was to run through the 2011 season.

The contract was signed in September before a series of the most lopsided losses in decades and the firing of athletic director Steve Pederson, who hired Callahan.

Callahan came nowhere near meeting the high standards for Nebraska football established by Osborne, who won 255 games and three national championships in 25 seasons before retiring after the 1997 season.

The names most often mentioned as possible replacements are LSU defensive coordinator Bo Pelini and University of Buffalo head coach Turner Gill.

Pelini was Nebraska's defensive coordinator in 2003 and proved extremely popular among fans, who chanted "We want Bo" after he led the Huskers to an Alamo Bowl win over Michigan State as interim head coach following the firing of Frank Solich.

Gill, a longtime assistant under Osborne and Solich, was the Huskers' quarterback in the early 1980s and a Heisman Trophy runner-up in 1983.

This season, the Huskers

struggled as their defense posted some of the worst statistics in the country, their offense fell flat in the biggest games and they endured a five-game losing streak.

Callahan's four-year record was 27-22, with three of those wins coming against opponents in the division formerly known as I-AA. He was 15-18 against the Big 12, 0-7 against Top 10 opponents and 3-10 against the Top 25. He was 0-17 in games in which the Huskers trailed at halftime.

Callahan was widely acclaimed for his recruiting, and each of his classes at Nebraska were ranked high by analysts.

But many of those players never lived up to their billings, and Callahan's ability to develop talent was called into question.

The Huskers won their first two games this season, but a 49-31 home loss to Southern California proved ominous, as did an embarrassingly close 41-40 home win over Ball State in which the Huskers were clearly outplayed.

"The USC game took a lot out of people," safety Ben Eisenhart said. "People put a lot into that game, everybody was excited to play and it didn't come out like we thought it would. Then we come out against Ball State the following week and it's 41-40.

It's like we got knocked off track, and it was really hard for us to get back on track."

A win over Iowa State in the Big 12 opener was followed by losses of 41-6 to Missouri, 45-14 to Oklahoma State, 36-14 to Texas A&M, 28-25 to Texas and, worst of all, a 76-39 defeat at Kansas.

The Kansas fiasco marked the most points allowed by a Nebraska team.

Also on Callahan's tab was the 70-10 loss at Texas Tech in 2004, the most lopsided defeat in the program's 118-year history.

At least three other candidates withdrew from consideration or declined offers before Callahan was hired Jan. 9, 2004 — 10 days after he was fired as the Oakland Raiders' coach.

Callahan won only four games with the Raiders in 2003 after taking them to the Super Bowl the year before. He replaced Solich, who had a six-year record of 58-19 and was sent packing after going 9-3 in the 2003 regular season.

Pederson said recruiting had slipped under Solich and he feared the program was "gravitating toward mediocrity."

Callahan came in with much bluster, saying he would "flip the culture." That meant dumping the triple-option offense employed by Osborne and Solich and installing the West

Coast offense.

Before his first game, Callahan boasted, "We don't take what the defense gives us. We take what we want."

His 2004 team went 5-6, ending an NCAA-record 35-year bowl streak. The streak was a point of pride to Husker fans, and many were infuriated when Callahan downplayed the significance of its ending by saying, "It's one game today, it's one season. I never look back."

That comment came two weeks after Callahan insulted Oklahoma fans after a 30-3 Nebraska loss by using an expletive while calling them hillbillies.

In 2005, the Big 12 reprimanded Callahan for making a throat-slashing gesture at an official during a game against Oklahoma. Callahan denied wrongdoing.

The '05 team won three straight to finish 8-4 after losing four out of five, beating Michigan in the Alamo Bowl. That set the stage for last year, when the Huskers went 9-5 and swept all six games against the Big 12 North.

The program took a horrible downturn this season. The Huskers lost three home games for the first time since 1968 and allowed 40 points or more in six games for the first time.

GRADY

Continued from Page 1B

score in the fourth quarter. Rodriguez led Grady with 70 rushing yards and two touchdowns on nine carries.

The win earned Grady a rematch with district rival Rankin, who the Wildcats defeated for 50-46 in the last game of the regular season to clinch a playoff spot and a share of a District I, Division I title. This time a Region I championship will be on the line.

"It's very difficult to beat a quality opponent twice in a season," Helms said. "We're grateful to have the opportunity. Honestly, Rankin has been the furthest thing from my mind. We had a lot to contend with heading into this game. We

had a bye week and then the Thanksgiving holidays kept us from getting in a normal practice routine. It's a testimony to how focused this team is to overcome these distractions and beat a good football team in Ira. I think we could've played better defensively, but we got the win.

"It says a lot about how good our district is for us to be facing each other again in the playoffs," he continued. "Rankin is a very quality team and will be a tough opponent."

No official date, time and location had been set for the Region I championship before press time.

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mailing him at sports@bigspringherald.com.

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2006 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Sedan 4D - Stk# H254. Was \$12,495... NOW \$11,495	2006 Buick Lucerne CX Sedan - Stk# H058. Was \$20,995... NOW \$17,995	★ SUV's ★
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2006 Chrysler PT Cruiser Touring - Stk# H102. Was \$13,495... NOW \$11,495	2007 Ford Mustang Convertible 2D - Stk#H238. Was \$21,995... NOW \$20,995	2004 Ford Explorer 4D - Stk# H139. Was \$14,995... NOW \$13,995
2006 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe - Stk# H152. Was \$12,995... NOW \$11,495	2006 Mazda RX-8 Coupe 4D - Stk# H070. Was \$27,995... NOW \$23,995	2005 Chevrolet TrailBlazer - Stk# H251. Was \$15,495... NOW \$14,495
2006 Chevrolet Malibu LT Sedan - Stk# H146. Was \$12,995... NOW \$12,495	2006 Buick Lucerne CXL Sedan 4D - Stk# H020. Was \$25,495... NOW \$22,995	2005 Buick Rendezvous CX - Stk# H101. Was \$16,995... NOW \$15,495
2007 Saturn Ion 2 Sedan 4D - Stk# H212. Was \$13,495... NOW \$12,495	2007 Cadillac DTS Sedan 4D - Stk# H181. Was \$33,495... NOW \$32,495	2005 Hyundai Santa Fe GLS 4D - Stk# H137A. Was \$16,495... NOW \$15,495
2007 Saturn Ion 2 Sedan 4D - Stk# H211. Was \$13,995... NOW \$12,995	2007 Cadillac DTS - Stk# H202. Was \$33,495... SOLD	2005 Buick Rendezvous CX 4D - Stk# H185A. Was \$16,495... NOW \$15,495
2006 Chevrolet Malibu LT Sedan - Stk# H203. Was \$14,495... NOW \$13,495	2007 Cadillac DTS Sedan - Stk# H143. Was \$40,995... NOW \$35,995	2006 Jeep Liberty 4D - Stk# H197. Was \$16,495... NOW \$15,495
2007 Chevrolet Cobalt LT Coupe 2D - Stk# H233. Was \$14,495... NOW \$13,495	2007 Cadillac DTS Sedan - Stk# H145. Was \$40,995... NOW \$35,995	2003 GMC Yukon XL 1500 - Stk# H111. Was \$18,495... NOW \$15,995
2006 Chevrolet Malibu LT Sedan 4D - Stk# H204. Was \$14,495... NOW \$13,495	2005 Chevrolet Corvette Coupe 2D - Stk# H195. Was \$40,995... NOW \$39,995	2006 Mitsubishi Endeavor LS 4D - Stk# H222. Was \$18,995... NOW \$17,995
2003 Chevrolet S10 Pickup - Stk# H249. Was \$14,495... NOW \$13,495	★ TRUCKS ★	2004 Chevrolet Tahoe - Stk# H120. Was \$19,995... NOW \$16,995
2005 Chevrolet Impala LS Sedan 4D - Stk# H138A. Was \$14,495... NOW \$13,495	1999 Ford F150 Super Cab - Stk# H192A. Was \$9,495... NOW \$8,495	2007 Chevrolet Equinox 4D - Stk# H166. Was \$17,995... NOW \$18,995
2006 Mazda 3 i Sedan 4D - Stk# H200. Was \$14,995... NOW \$13,995	2000 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 PU - Stk# H227. Was \$10,995... NOW \$9,995	2006 Chevrolet Equinox - Stk# H230. Was \$19,495... SOLD
2006 Chevrolet HHR LS Sport Wagon - Stk# H103. Was \$15,995... NOW \$13,995	2002 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 - Stk# H93. Was \$13,995... NOW \$12,995	2006 Pontiac Torrent 4D - Stk# H160. Was \$20,495... NOW \$19,495
2004 Honda Civic EX Coupe 2D - Stk# H177A. Was \$14,995... NOW \$13,995	2003 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 PU - Stk# H191. Was \$14,300... NOW \$13,300	2005 Ford Explorer Sport Trac - Stk# H105. Was \$19,995... NOW \$18,995
2006 Pontiac Grand Prix Sedan 4D - Stk# H232. Was \$14,995... NOW \$13,995	2003 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 PU HD - Stk# H095A. Was \$15,995... NOW \$13,995	2006 Chevrolet Equinox AWD - Stk# H106. Was \$20,995... NOW \$17,495
2006 Chevrolet Impala LT Sedan 4D - Stk# H209. Was \$15,495... NOW \$14,495	2004 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 PU - Stk# H226. Was \$17,995... NOW \$16,995	2007 Chevrolet Equinox - Stk# H141. Was \$21,495... NOW \$19,495
2006 Pontiac G6 Sedan 4D - Stk# H234. Was \$15,495... NOW \$14,495	2005 Nissan Titan - Stk# H170. Was \$20,995... SOLD	2004 Chevrolet Tahoe 4D - Stk# H159. Was \$21,495... NOW \$20,495
2007 Pontiac Grand Prix Sedan 4D - Stk# 236. Was \$16,495... NOW \$15,495	2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Pickup - Stk# H064. Was \$20,995... NOW \$18,995	2002 Land Rover Discovery - Stk# H240. Was \$20,995... SOLD
2007 Pontiac G6 Sedan 4D - Stk# H216. Was \$16,495... NOW \$15,495	2006 Dodge 1500 Pickup SB - Stk# H151. Was \$19,995... NOW \$17,495	2004 Chevrolet Tahoe 4D - Stk# H161. Was \$25,495... NOW \$24,495
2007 Pontiac G6 Sedan 4D - Stk# H201. Was \$16,495... NOW \$15,495	2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 PU - Stk# H067. Was \$22,995... NOW \$20,495	2007 Jeep Wrangler - Stk# H219. Was \$25,495... NOW \$24,495
2007 Pontiac G6 Sedan 4D - Stk# H237. Was \$16,495... NOW \$15,495	2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 PU - Stk# H074. Was \$23,995... SOLD	2006 Chevrolet Avalanche 1500 - Stk# H150. Was \$26,495... NOW \$26,995
2007 Pontiac G6 Sedan 4D - Stk# H214. Was \$16,495... NOW \$15,495	2005 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 PU - Stk# H242. Was \$22,995... NOW \$21,995	2005 GMC Yukon - Stk# H253. Was \$27,995... NOW \$27,995
2007 Pontiac G6 Sedan 4D - Stk# H215. Was \$16,495... NOW \$15,495	2007 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 PU - Stk# H245. Was \$22,995... NOW \$21,995	2007 Cadillac SRX - Stk# H140. Was \$35,995... NOW \$32,995
2006 Chevrolet Impala LT Sedan - Stk# H129. Was \$17,495... NOW \$15,995	2006 Ford F150 Short Bed - Stk# H172A. Was \$24,995... NOW \$23,995	2007 Chevrolet Tahoe 4D - Stk# H165. Was \$36,495... NOW \$35,495
2007 Pontiac Grand Prix Sedan 4D - Stk# H179. Was \$16,995... NOW \$15,995	2006 Ford F150 SuperCrew 5 1/2" - Stk# H107. Was \$24,995... NOW \$23,995	2007 Chevrolet Tahoe 4D - Stk# H205. Was \$40,995... NOW \$39,995
2006 Buick LaCrosse CXL Sedan - Stk# H019. Was \$18,495... NOW \$15,995	2004 Ford F250 Superduty Crew Cab - Stk# H221. Was \$26,495... NOW \$25,495	2007 Cadillac Escalade - Stk# H243. Was \$44,995... SOLD
2007 Chevrolet Impala LT Sedan 4D - Stk# H208. Was \$17,495... NOW \$16,495		2007 Cadillac Escalade 4D - Stk# H164. Was \$48,995... NOW \$48,995

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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 25, 2007

New wave of mortgage failures could create a nightmare

By **JOE BEL BRUNO**

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — When Domenico Colombo saw that his monthly mortgage payment was about to balloon by 30 percent, he had a clear picture of how bad it could get.

His payment was scheduled to surge by an extra \$1,500 in December. With his daughter headed to college next fall and tuition to be paid, he feared ending up like so many neighbors in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.,

who defaulted on their mortgages and whose homes are now in foreclosure and sporting "For Sale" signs.

Colombo did manage to renegotiate a new fixed interest rate loan with his bank, and now believes he'll be OK — but the future is less certain for the rest of us.

In the months ahead, millions of other adjustable-rate mortgages like Colombo's will reset, giving them a higher interest rate as required by the loan

agreements and leaving many homeowners unable to make their payments. Soaring mortgage default rates this year already have shaken major financial institutions and the fallout from more of them, some experts say, could spread from those already battered banks into the general economy.

The worst-case scenario is anyone's guess, but some believe it could become very bad.

"We haven't faced a downturn like this since the Depression," said Bill Gross, chief investment officer of PIMCO, the world's biggest bond fund. He's not suggesting anything like those terrible times — but, as an expert on the global credit crisis, he speaks with authority.

"Its effect on consumption, its effect on future lending attitudes, could bring us close to the zero line in terms of economic growth," he said. "It

does keep me up at night."

Some 2 million homeowners hold \$600 billion of subprime adjustable-rate mortgage loans, known as ARMs, that are due to reset at higher amounts during the next eight months. Subprime loans are those made to people with poor credit. Not all these mortgages are in trouble, but homeowners who default or fall behind on payments could cause an economic

See **ECONOMY**, Page 5C

Holiday shopping gets under way

Stores usher in season with big discounts, longer hours facing very tough economy

By **ANNE D'INNOCENZIO**

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Shoppers — shrugging off a spate of lead-tainted toys recalls and higher prices for food and gas — jammed stores before dawn Friday to grab discounted TVs, toys and the hard-to-find Nintendo Wii, for the official start of the holiday season, expected to be the weakest retail showing in five years.

Stores, including Toys "R" Us and Macy's Inc. said more people were showing up this year for pre-dawn specials but merchants need them to keep coming throughout the holiday season to make their sales goals.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, threw open its doors at 5 a.m., offering such specials as a Polaroid 42-inch LCD HDTV for \$798 and a \$79.87 Sony digital camera. From 5 a.m. to noon, Toys "R" Us Inc. offered 101 early morning specials on such toys as Mattel Inc.'s Barbie styling set and Hasbro Inc.'s FurReal interactive jungle cat toy. That's four times the number it offered last year.

J.C. Penney Co., which opened at 4 a.m., an hour earlier than last year, served up such deals as a leather massage recliner for \$298.88, after a \$50 mail in rebate. The original price was \$799. Other deals include 50 percent off toys and board games.

In a scene replayed

again and again at stores nationwide, about 200 people stood in line outside a Target in Columbia, S.C., at 5 a.m., an hour before the store was to open.

Tracy Jenkinson, 34, arrived just after 3 a.m. to take the first spot in line.

He planned to buy a \$199, 19-inch LCD television for his daughters.

"It's kind of crazy if you're not here to get a particular thing," Jenkinson said.

Best Buy Co. Inc. drew more than a thousand shoppers to West Paterson, N.J. and to its Manhattan store for early morning bargains on Sony laptop computers, cut to \$399.99 from \$749.99, and GPS devices from TomTom for \$119.99, from the normal \$249.99, according to store managers.

"If they were selling it, we were buying it," Tom Shea, 23, said as he surveyed his purchases at a midtown Manhattan Best Buy store. He said he, some friends and a cousin were the first through the doors when the store opened at 4 a.m.

Shea, of Brooklyn, and two friends spent a total of about \$2,500 on two laptop computers, an Xbox game console, a vacuum and several other items. They estimated they had saved about \$1,500 — after waiting for 35 hours outside the Fifth Avenue store to make sure they were first in line, he said.

Shoppers from overseas



Black Friday shoppers wait in the checkout line at the Grand Chute, Wis., Circuit City store which opened at 4 a.m. Friday morning.

were reveling in exchange rates that made discounts even deeper.

The dollar hit record lows against the euro Friday and reached their lowest point in 12 years against the yen.

"Everything is half price for us," Ashlee Clifford said, smiling, as she shopped at a Circuit City in Manhattan. Clifford lives in Northern Ireland.

She was unaware of the post-Thanksgiving shopping frenzy — known in retail circles as Black Friday — until she arrived in New York.

"It's absolutely madness," said Clifford, 26.

Many prepared in advance to snap up their most coveted items, though some were not happy with what they found.

Amber Hanson, 23, of Madison, Wisc., and her mother, Heather Ludwig, 51, of Stoughton, Wisc., mapped out a game plan using ad fliers Thursday. Hanson went to bed at midnight and was up again at 2:30 a.m. to get to Kohl's 4 a.m. opening, where she bought sweaters and candles.

Ludwig said the best deal the store offered was \$10 cash to spend on Saturday for every \$50 spent on Black Friday,

calling the lines "ridiculous," after an hour-and-a-half wait to check out.

Both mother and daughter, who hit other stores including Old Navy, said they weren't too impressed with the "deals."

"The stores are giving away a lot less free things," Ludwig said.

Recognizing a potentially tough shopping season ahead, stores began discounting weeks ago, with such gimmicks like expanded hours. While top luxury stores like Saks Fifth Avenue continue to do well, merchants that cater to middle and lower income shoppers

have suffered as consumers struggle with higher gas and food prices as well as a slumping housing market.

There are no new, must-have holiday items like Apple Inc.'s iPod, though certain products are doing well. At toy stores, Smart Cycle, from Mattel's Fisher-Price, and Jakks Pacific's EyeClops, a handheld device that magnifies objects, are among the early hits, though sales have been stymied by concerns over Chinese-made toys.

In electronics, shortages of Nintendo's Wii, which made its debut a year ago, have kept shoppers alert.

Texas crop report:

Producers, landowners still looking for a little more rain

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Texas producers and landowners are hoping the turkey's wishbone snaps in their favor later this week. Their wish will be for rain.

A soaking rain last weekend wet the southeastern part of the state, but more moisture is needed across Texas to hold fire dangers at bay, Texas Cooperative Extension officials said.

Most of the state is in a moderate fire danger, according to the Texas Forest Service, but a band that sweeps across the state from El Paso through Lubbock to the Oklahoma border and north of Amarillo has been declared in high to very high fire danger.

The forest service listed burning bans in 88 of the state's 254 counties as of Nov. 20.

But that could change after a storm front moved through the state Thursday, giving the state's agriculture industry a major reason to give thanks.

Here are regional reports from Texas Cooperative Extension:

CENTRAL: Conditions remain dry. The pecan harvest is in full swing with a good

crop expected. Small grains need rain to emerge. Livestock are in good condition.

COASTAL BEND: Warm, dry weather continues. Stalk destruction and land preparation were the major field activities. Rain is needed for winter forages. Hay baling of lower quality summer grass pastures continues but at a slower pace. Cattle are in good condition, though pasture conditions are declining.

EAST: Some small grains, ryegrass and clover have been planted, but many have not germinated due to dry conditions. Other producers are waiting for rain before planting. Hay baling is almost complete with large stockpiles. Stock pond levels are very low, and many producers are having to move cattle and feed hay. A heavy crop of acorns are causing some problems with cattle as they are eating too many.

NORTH: Soil moisture is short to adequate. The first real frost was reported in Delta County. Pastures are in fair shape, but Bermuda grass is not going into dormancy. Dry conditions persist, and the winter small grains are wanting a

good drink of water. The cotton harvest is 90 percent complete. An above average crop of pecans is being harvested. Livestock are in fair to good condition and some producers have begun winter feeding their animals.

PANHANDLE: Soil moisture ranges from very short to adequate. Cotton ranges from very poor to excellent as harvest continues. Wheat ranges from very poor to excellent. Most areas need moisture. Range conditions are mostly fair. No precipitation and high winds have created a high potential for fire. Cattle are in good condition, and supplemental feeding is under way.

ROLLING PLAINS: Very dry conditions continue. What wheat was planted on sufficient moisture came up and dried out or was blown out with the high winds. Ranchers have been feeding hay and supplements to their herds in hopes of receiving rain to revive pastures. But the area has had an "almost perfect" year for cotton. The crop got a late start, but since there still has not been a killing freeze, cotton has had time to mature. Some producers are

defoliating in order to harvest.

SOUTH: Conditions continue to be mild with cooler temperatures and no precipitation. In some areas, extreme dry conditions put a lot of stress on dryland wheat, oats and ryegrass. Cool-season crops are being irrigated. Sugarcane, citrus and greens harvests continue, and winter vegetable crops are progressing well. Forage availability for livestock is fair. Hay baling operations have begun to slow down. Livestock are in fair to good condition.

SOUTH PLAINS: Warm temperatures continued with no rainfall. The cotton harvest continues with good yields. Progress slowed some because of damp mornings, windy conditions and the need for a hard, conditioning freeze in southern counties. The grain sorghum harvest is almost complete with above average yields. The peanut harvest is virtually complete. Winter wheat is in fair condition. The warm weather hurt wheat development somewhat. Some irrigated acres look good, but all wheat needs a good rain. Pastures and ranges are in fair condition. Cattle conditions are mostly good with

supplemental feeding.

SOUTHEAST: Rains over the weekend provided a great relief to dry conditions.

SOUTHWEST: While the area east of San Antonio received some rain over the weekend, most of the region remains dry. Pastures, ranges and yard grasses are showing stress and going into winter dormancy early. Farmers are heavily irrigating fall crops. About 60 percent of this year's bumper cotton crop has been ginned. The peanut, cabbage, spinach, green bean and pickling cucumber harvests continue.

WEST CENTRAL: Temperatures have been cooler. Windy conditions continue to dry everything and increase fire danger. The cotton harvest is in full swing, with better than expected yields in most areas. Wheat and small grains are in poor condition due to extremely dry conditions. Some producers are waiting for rain to sow wheat. Rangeland and pastures continue to decline, turning brown and going dormant. Livestock remain in fair to good condition. The pecan harvest continues with good crops expected.

Dishonesty on the Internet getting more difficult

It's getting harder and harder to make a dishonest living in the world of cyber crime.

An Ohio man faces an extended stay behind bars after pleading guilty to making emergency calls using spoofed caller ID numbers as part of a



THOMAS JENKINS

prank designed to make sure his victims were raided by SWAT teams.

Stuart Rosoff (AKA Michael Knight) of Cleveland was part of a gang of "swatters" that used social engineering tricks to find the phone number of intended victims, selected from members of telephone chat lines frequented by Rosoff and his cronies.

The gang — one of whom is blind, according to reports — used VoIP connections to place calls about fake hostage crises to regular police lines, ensuring that their victims would receive a visit from armed police officers.

When I was a kid, we'd call and ask people if their fridge was running.

Who knew something so stupid could go so far with the help of technology.

Typically, the gang would claim that the caller was heavily armed, high on drugs and had already killed members of their family. The ruse caused disruption to emergency services and claimed 100 victims as well as running up an estimated \$250,000 in monetary losses.

According to reports, at least two of the victims received injuries including an elderly man from New Port Richey, Fla. Rosoff admitted knowledge of the man's injuries, according to court documents.

The gang, allegedly led by Rosoff, are blamed for more than 60 "SWAT" calls. Many of the victims were selected from the friends and family of participants in multiple party chat line groups including Jackie Donut, the Seattle Donut, and the Boston Loach frequented by Rosoff and three of his co-defendants.

Using a mixture of social engineering techniques — including pre-texting — the gang obtained contact details of their victims. At the same time, they used

hacking techniques to obtain free phone calls, which they used to place bogus emergency calls, or to switch off the service of enemies.

Rosoff recently pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy in a federal court in the Northern District of Texas. He faces a maximum statutory sentence of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and restitution. Rosoff has been held in remand since his arrest in June.

The three other alleged conspirators in the scam — Jason Trowbridge, Angela Roberson and Chad Ward — were all arrested in June. Robertson, who was released on bail, pleaded guilty to conspiracy in October. Trowbridge and Ward, who are both in custody, face a trial due to begin Dec. 17.

Another co-conspirator, Guadalupe Santana Martinez of Washington, faces a sentencing hearing in January 2008 after pleading guilty to conspiracy.

The alleged hacking mastermind behind the prank calls was a blind youngster from Boston, identified in three separate guilty pleas simply as "M.W."

A 13-year-old blind kid. Amazing. Simply amaz-

ing. An American computer security consultant recently admitted using massive botnets to illegally install software on at least 250,000 machines and steal online banking identities of Windows users by eavesdropping on them while they made financial transactions.

John Kenneth Schiefer, 26, of Los Angeles — Oh, those crazy LAers — pleaded guilty to four felonies, including accessing protected computers to conduct fraud, disclosing illegally intercepted electronic communications, wire fraud and bank fraud. He faces a maximum sentence of 60 years in federal prison and a fine of \$1.75 million, according to documents filed in federal court.

Schiefer, who went by names such as "Acid" and "Acidstorm," has long been a fixture in underground hacking circles. He sometimes adorned his instant message handles with phrases such as "remember the name or feel the pain" and "crime pays, and it also has an excellent benefits package."

He was employed at a Los Angeles-based security firm known as 3G Communications, where

he sometimes carried out his crimes, according to court documents.

The plea agreement caps an investigation involving the FBI that began in 2005, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Krause. He declined to say if charges would be filed against several conspirators mentioned in court documents, who went by names including "revolt," "Harr0," "butthead," "pr1me" and "dynamic". The case is the first time a crime related to botnets has been charged under U.S. wiretap statutes.

According to prosecutors, Schiefer and several accomplices developed malware they dubbed "spybots" that made vulnerable Windows machines part of a botnet. They controlled the zombies using servers from various hosting companies, herding as many as 250,000 machines at a time. Schiefer controlled the machines using computers at his home and place of employment.

The malware contained a sniffing feature that siphoned PayPal credentials from Protected Store, a section of Windows that stores passwords users have opted to have saved.

Although Pstore, as the Windows feature is often called, encrypts the information before storing it, Schiefer's malware was able to read it, presumably by escalating its Windows privileges.

"Once in possession of those intercepted communications, defendant and co-schemers known and unknown would sift through the data to obtain PayPal information, namely usernames and passwords, as well as usernames and passwords for other online accounts," according to a plea agreement that was jointly prepared by prosecutors and defense attorneys.

At one point, a conspirator who went by the name "Adam" expressed concern about a plan to steal money using the malware. Schiefer responded by reminding Adam he was not yet 18 years old. "Quit being a bitch and claim it", Schiefer said, according to the plea agreement.

Schiefer often used the PayPal and bank account information he appropriated to transfer money out of victims' accounts. On one occasion, in December 2005, he moved money out of a Suffolk

See **JENKINS**, Page 8A

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

of any school in Big Spring needs help, then help them fix the problem. BSISD needs to address this issue and give each and every student the proper attention to help them graduate with the ability to continue on to a higher education and make their lives more important to them.

Now, on to another issue which is dear to my heart, the city council. Well, you have your dream jail approved by now and your sitting there with smiles, probably looking like a bunch of cats that just caught the daily blue bird special.

The pressure exerted to vote for something as important to this city — Judge Mark Barr stating that if we did not vote in

favor of the new jail house, the city would have to close the public library and senior citizens center because the jail helps fund the library and senior center — well that is the most foolish statement I have ever heard.

I voted in favor of the new jail house because after long thinking about the problem this town has, we truly need to house prisoners from the

federal level to bring more income into this town. With the cost of gas and food let's face it, this town is turning into a place that just doesn't care how or what goes on here.

I am starting to regret why I even voted for some of you sitting in public

positions such as Mark Barr and, yes, even my city council member who seems to not pay attention to his/her district. I can ensure you from this moment on I will be paying more attention to who I vote for.

And as for knowing many other voters in this

town, I will make mention on being aware we need a change. Those in office now, be aware you won't have another chance to continue in the future.

PATRICIA A. MORRIS
BIG SPRING

HEB

Gingerbread House Party

Come and decorate your own gingerbread house for the holidays

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Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Dora Roberts Community Center

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Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

Sonia M. Barlow, 4209 Parkway, Big Spring
Casey D. Bernal, 901 Grand, Hereford
Richard Henry Burk, PO Box 171933, Arlington
Bufus Cannon, 3810 Wild Rye Trail, San Angelo
Lenard Carson Jr., 102 S. Peach, Pecos
Andrea Clardy, 2401 Ave. L, Snyder
Jared Coby, 901 S. High St., Longview
Patrick C. Criss, 8030 Catalpa, Texas City
Susan Cuellar, 2301 N. Pecos, Midland
Ramona Davila, 2143 Texas Ave., San Antonio
Johnnie Lou Dry, RR 11 Box 156 FM 2011, Longview
Randy James Ellis, PO Box 391, Snyder
Hilda L. Fuentes, 502 S. Seventh, Lamesa
Aldo Gustavo Galindo, 922 Jeter, Odessa
Concepcion Garcia, PO Box 16156, Lubbock
Claudet Garza, 3106 E. Elm, Laredo
Christopher George, 215 E. Third, Laramie, Wyo.
Katherine A. Gladhill, 7670 M. Trailer/2718 Rear, Lubbock
Fernando Gonzales, 3000 Schadt, Fort Worth
Naomi Gonzales, 1606 E. Fifth, Big Spring
Raul Gonzales, 2106 Johnson, Big Spring
Jeffrey Grams, 224 Lelon Lane, Springtown
Nora Gutierrez, 606 N. Eighth Street, Lamesa

Nicholas Hasenbalg, 207 W. Williams, Breckenridge
Dana L. Havink, 600 Star Linda Ct., Arlington
Robert Stephen Hoback, 1516 Comberland, Odessa
Gerald R. Hodges, 4312 Crane, Houston
Allan J. Hoey, 1401 N. Highway 87 Apt. 2, Big Spring
Emily Howard, P.O. box 224, Big Spring
Juan Baldwin Hubbard, 504 Eugene, Midland
Lucas Shane Hughes, #1 Courtney Place No. 7, Big Spring
Jeanie Renee Ivey, 5326 Old State Hwy. 7, La Grange
Sharon Annette James, 1215 Cedar, Colorado City
Ronald Jeffery, 1101 Fitch, Odessa
Brandy Johnson, 24327 Pleasonton, San Antonio
Rene M. Johnson, 9205 W. County Road 174, Midland
Alana Marie Lee, 2711 66th Street, Lubbock
Laura Leon, 319 Rocky Lane Dr., Midland
Christopher Luellen, 599 Truehart, Pain Rock
Patricia Lutrell, 2726 Redwood, Odessa
Stephanie Marie Macias, 909 S. Sixth Street, Lamesa
Carol Lee McNeil, 2601 Westridge, Snyder
Brian L. Mendez, 583 56th Street, Lubbock
Ebaline Flores Mendoza, PO Box 291, Mertzon
Melissa Merket, 402 W. Eighth, Colorado City
Elizabeth Rose Mills, 1204 Mulberry, Big Spring
Angela Moreno, 1712 N. Third Street, Lamesa

Anna Marie Moreno, 4656 St. Frances Ave., Dallas
Jerry Musquiz, 2609 Cotton Flat Road, Midland
Michael Todd McClinton, 1003 S. Midkiff, Midland
William Leslie Neal, 2100 Alabama, Big Spring
Erica Ortega, 214 Grimes, Big Spring
Melissa Pena, 208 N. Nolan, Big Spring
Renee Perez, 2133 Glenwood Drive, Abilene
Katherine Hardin Perez, 4908 Parkway, Big Spring
Richard Wayne Rains, 4501 Parkway, Big Spring
Michael Dewayne Renteria, 1810 Owens, Big Spring
Keyana Cooley Rincker, 1905 Wasson Apt. 56, Big Spring
Alfredo Riojas Jr., 255, S. 11th St., Lubbock
Gustabo Alfredo Rios, of 1804 Scurry, Big Spring
Jessie Robles, 1417 Millspaugh, San Angelo
Frances Rodriguez, 603 Steakley, Big Spring
Veronica Rodriguez, 3010 Cherokee, Big Spring
Robert Rogers, 3815 S.C. Rd. 1192, Midland
Sofia Romero, 409 N. Ave. G, Lamesa
Robert Christopher Rosamond, 801 Lancaster, Big Spring
Jennifer Ann Rositas, 1429 E. Sixth, Big Spring
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Emily Sartain, 1806 37th, Snyder
Crystal Ann Schneider,

P.O. Box 844, Coahoma
Harl Bradford Shaffer, 5603 Gail Hwy., Big Spring
Janie Spurgeon, 1212 Wadley, Midland
Shawn Spurgeon, 106 N. Adams, Denver City
Nikita V. Stewart, 711 SCR W. Apt. 2004, Odessa
James Sutton, 2225 Oakland, Abilene
Abelina Tercero, 127 Arthur, Longview
Jimmy Vasquez, 4000 W. Illinois, Midland
Brenda Vera, 1901 Ave. N, Snyder
Alicia N. Vernon, 9614 Dover Ridge, San Antonio
Tyler J. Voss, Fannin Co. Rd 4925, Leonard
Christina Williams, 400 Macarthur, Odessa
Kristi Oden Womack, 710 Bell, Sweetwater
Bernest Elgen Woolridge, 4110 S. Jackson, Amarillo
Jerry Lee Wrightsil Jr., 2816 Ridge Road, Fort Worth

Marriage License:
Marcus Lopez Yanez, 41, and Veronica Martinez, 24, both of Big Spring.
Carlos Enrique Lopez, 25, and Jessica Lynn Gonzales, 24, both of Big Spring.
Douglas Harlin Johnson, 39, and Connie Dean McCoy, 38, both of Big Spring.
Colby Shea Worden, 21, Tamara Leigh Bishop, 19, both of Big Spring.

Warranty Deeds:
Grantor: Ricky Spencer Ent.
Grantee: Parker & Sons Inc.

Property: A 20.27 acre tract out of Section 4, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Nov. 15, 2007

Grantor: Christopher S. Duvall and Kristin Trout-Duvall
Grantee: Mark Leon Taylor
Property: Lot 1, Block 34, College Park
Date: Nov. 20, 2007

Grantor: Troy Koenig and Cindy Pittman
Grantee: Cahill Properties LTD
Property: A tract out of Section 33, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Nov. 20, 2007

Grantor: Monroe Casey
Grantee: Pete Rosenbaum
Property: The S/100 feet of Lot 3, Block 85, Original Town of Big Spring
Date: Nov. 20, 2007

Grantor: Jim Suggs and Marjorie Lou Lock Suggs
Grantee: Pete Rosenbaum
Property: The S/50 feet of Lot 1 and all of Lot 4, Block 86, Original Town of Big Spring
Date: Nov. 20, 2007

Warranty Deeds With Vendor's Lien:
Grantor: Eula Mae Rogers
Grantee: Amy Currie Osborn
Property: Lot 10, Block 5, Parkhill Addition
Date: Nov. 15, 2007

Grantor: A.J. Patterson and Violet Patterson

Grantee: Steve Girby
Property: Lot 6, Block A, Monticello Addition
Date: Nov. 15, 2007

Grantor: Dewey Slape Mechanical Inc.
Grantee: Smith Financial Inc. and Oscar G. Barraza Jr.

Property: A 1-acre tract out of Section 47, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Nov. 15, 2007

Grantor: William Bradley and Frances Bradley
Grantee: Marvin Casey and Debra Casey
Property: A 2.6 acre tract out of Section 19, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Nov. 16, 2007

Grantor: Cindy Pittman and Troy Koenig
Grantee: Lance W. Curb
Property: Lot 3, Block 4, Seton Place
Date: Nov. 20, 2007

Grantor: Gregory Verl Gossett, Robert Hugh Gossett and Ellen Maxine Gossett

Grantee: Carl Gene Burleson, Tyrone Jones and Jerome McNally
Property: A 2.88 acre tract out of Section 30, Block 33, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Nov. 20, 2007

Grantor: Bill Rorick
Grantee: Fernando Flores
Property: Lots 11 and 12, Block 23, McDowell Heights
Date: Nov. 20, 2007

ECONOMY

Continued from Page 4C

shock of a type never seen before. Some of the nation's leading economic minds lay out a scenario that is frightening. Not only would the next wave of the mortgage crisis force people out of their homes, it might also spiral throughout the economy. The already severe

housing slump would be exacerbated by even more empty homes on the market, causing prices to plunge by up to 40 percent in once-hot real estate spots such as California, Nevada and Florida. Builders like Chicago's Neumann Homes, which filed for bankruptcy protection this month, could go under. The top 10 global banks, which repackaged loans into exotic securities such as collateral-

ized debt obligations, or CDOs, could suffer far greater write-offs than the \$75 billion already taken this year. Massive job losses would curtail consumer spending that makes up two-thirds of the economy. The Labor Department estimates almost 100,000 financial services jobs related to credit and lending in the U.S. have already been lost, from local bank loan

officers to traders dealing in mortgage-backed securities. Thousands of Americans who work in the housing industry could find themselves on the dole. And there's no telling how that would affect car dealers, retailers and others dependent on consumer paychecks. Based on historical models, zero growth in the U.S. gross domestic product would take the current unemployment

rate to 6.4 percent. That would wipe out about 3 million jobs from the economy, according to the Washington-based Economic Policy Institute. By comparison, in the last big downturn between 2001-03 some 2 million jobs were lost, according to the Labor Department. The dot-com bust early this decade decimated the technology sector, while the Sept. 11,

2001, terror attacks hurt the transportation and allied industries. Economists said the country was officially in recession from March to November of 2001, but the aftermath stretched to 2003. There is increasing evidence that another downturn has begun. Borrowers who took out loans in the first six months of this year are already falling behind.

STOCKS

Continued from Page 3C

will probably come around and, who knows, some of them may be in your etiquette class. That's exactly what happened to me many years ago. Also, check out the dictionary on the definition of politeness and share that with your

friend. Wow, what a compliment they are paying you! ... **Dear Jerrie:** One of my coworkers recently invited another friend and myself to her cabin in the mountains for a few days. We were told it would be a relaxing and refreshing time of just kicking back, reading and doing whatever we

wanted to do. Upon arrival, we learned that basically every moment of our time had been scheduled and included strenuous hikes in the mountains, four- to five-mile walks, mandatory game playing and nightly movie watching. To top it off, our hostess didn't even join us on the walks. She dropped us off and drove to the pick-up

point to wait. What's the proper protocol for the hostess in this situation? Shouldn't we, the guest, have had the option to participate or not in the scheduled activities? **June**
Hello June: It's inconceivable to think your hostess would treat her house guests so rudely. I

suspect she has a control problem. However, the proper protocol would have been to do just as she promised she would do. The activities should not had been mandatory, but left up to each guest as to whether or not they wanted to participate. It's obvious she has little if any knowledge on proper protocol for treating her house guest. I would

think twice before accepting another invitation. *Jerrie Stocks has for a number of years conducted classes on etiquette in public and private schools, colleges, churches and ladies' groups, as well as providing private tutoring and conducting workshops. E-mail your questions concerning etiquette to yourmanner-scourt@suddenlink.net.*

MENUS

Continued from Page 2C

Thursday: Breakfast, pancakes, sausage on a stick, apple juice, milk; Lasagna, salad, pears, milk, burritos.
Friday: Breakfast, Pop Tarts, ham, applesauce, milk; Lunch, green enchi-

ladas, pinto beans, cherry turnovers, tortilla chips, milk, sub sandwiches, salad trays.
Big Spring ISD
Monday: Lunch, beef ravioli (combination food), garden salad, black-eye peas, apples, garlic rolls, milk.
Tuesday: Lunch, beef

tacos, refried beans w/cheese, corn, orange wedges, milk.
Wednesday: Lunch, fish strips, mac & cheese (combination food), green beans, pear halves, hush-puppies, milk.
Thursday: Lunch, crispy chicken patties, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, grapes, wheat

rolls, milk.
Friday: Lunch, hamburger w/ bun (combination food) salad, oven fries, cookies, milk.
Forsan ISD
Monday: Breakfast, cereal, Pop Tarts, fresh fruit, milk; Lunch, pizza, corn on cob, tossed salad, sliced peaches, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast, pancakes, sausage, strawberries, milk; Lunch, nacho grande, lettuce & tomatoes, corn bread, orange smiles, milk.
Wednesday: Breakfast, eggs, toast, juice, milk; Lunch, baked potato, broccoli & cheese, Texas toast, fresh fruit, milk.
Thursday: Breakfast,

cinnamon rolls, fresh fruit, milk; Lunch, pop corn chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, hot rolls, fancy gelatin, milk.
Friday: Breakfast, breakfast on a bun, juice, milk; Lunch, corn dog, oven fries, baked beans, apples, Rice Crispy treats, milk.

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sales experience is a plus.
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1 Berth place	alternative	coronation	concern
10 Carries on	60 Yellowish	city	34 Brings up,
15 Type of top	green	7 House	sort of
16 Means	62 Put in	divider	35 Body style
17 Margarita	63 Tossed-off	8 Oval activity	38 Work with feet
ingredient	remarks	9 Series ender	39 Foots
18 Word on	64 Chimney	10 Absorbed	45 Resolve
Montana's	nester	11 Visibly	47 Mix feature
state flag	65 Humorist	elated	49 Knocked
19 Exceptional	on a 2002	12 Entrée with	down, in
sight	stamp	asparagus	Norwich
20 Like creosote	DOWN	13 Think about	51 Ulysses actor
21 Pinched	1 More	14 Flags	52 Braces
22 Stop arguing	pertinent	21 Oath starter	53 Flounder in
24 2006 Kennedy	2 From Bergen	23 Tendency	the water
Center	3 Round	25 Queue	55 One of the
honoree	holders	component	Channel
26 News	4 Jaunt	28 Backpack	Islands
27 " _ yours!"	5 1952 Winter	fillers	57 Unsuccessful
29 Echolocation	Olympics site	30 Long suit	60 Cutesy add-on
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31 Short stop?			
32 Archer's			
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35 Ones starting			
actions			
36 Electric			
37 Free			
40 Russian			
chessmaster			
41 Mary and Mike			
42 Realizes			
43 RN			
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44 Treat with			
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45 Dump			
46 Spruce up			
48 Catch			
50 Concessions			
54 "No problem"			
56 HBO medium			
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BY OWNER. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage. \$115,000. Call (325)728-2290 or (432)267-9417.

PRICE REDUCED! Highland South "Contemporary" 3/2/2, 2000 + sq. ft. (HCAD) MLS 70633- Call Home Realtors 432-263-1284.

COAHOMA ISD, 6 acres, 2200 sq. foot, 4 wells, 30x40 shop, 20x40 shop, 30x80 horse barn, lots of trees also city water. \$210,000.00 Negotiable. 432-517-0786.

Vehicles

2002 MERCURY Sable. 68K, \$4,800.00. Good Condition. Call (432)213-0616 anytime or see @ 1700 Lancaster.

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

1 TON Pickup & 20 foot goose-neck trailer. Combo \$6,000. 2006 Chevrolet Cobalt, 4 door. Good gas mileage. Great condition. Call (432)213-4474.

2005 DODGE Stratus Coupe, Pearl, PWR Windows, Locks, 4 Disc. CD, Rear Spoiler, Keyless Entry, 53000k. In Great Condition! \$10,950 OBO. Call Sarah 432-816-2191.

97 CHEVY Z71 Extended Cab. One owner, great condition. Call 432-264-6066, leave Message.

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

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

As yesterday's full moon in Gemini is on the wane, the sociable fast-paced moon won't stop. It's still in full-tilt boogie-mode with the comings and goings of holiday travels. While an adaptable attitude wins the day (and a quick ticket home), the Gemini moon sharpens our senses and increases mental flexibility — traits we appreciate en route.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You have stellar plans that require the participation of and cooperation of at least three other people. Consider what's in it for the others before you make your pitch.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A relationship passes from the glowy phase into something much more

Tomorrow's Horoscope

reality-based. There may be turbulence with the transition, but this is a signal of positive growth.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You seize the chance to show off. You're not doing it for yourself — you do it to encourage others to come out of their shells and do the same. It's more fun when everyone sheds pretense.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Start assembling a team for your special project. (To take on the whole thing solo would be unnecessary martyrdom.) Strongly consider your fellow water signs Scorpio and Pisces.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The experts agree that you're one of them. This

means you'll be asked to help, which is more like fun than work. You love getting the chance to be generous with your time and skills.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The music of the spheres plays a simple melody heard in the smallest details of nature — a leaf, the buzz of a bee, the lapping tide. When you connect with nature, you connect with self.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The word "amazing" is now commonly used to describe even the most ordinary pleasant interactions. However, today you'll have an exchange that truly is jaw-dropping. Now, that's amazing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're luckiest with people, deals and environments that allow you space to grow. Sign nothing. Ask as many questions as you can think of. Anyone who is threatened by your curiosity is suspect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's nice to be included, especially by people you find interesting. So be outgoing. You'll have to make more of an effort in the beginning, but soon you'll find that you fit right in.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The path is long for those who choose to take the long way. And it's short for those who recognize the shortcuts. Ask around if there might be another way to get where you're going.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Taking full responsibility for those little things in your life is a joy. Groom your pet, water your plants, and shampoo your rug. Your reward from the stars will be a brilliant idea.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Forgiving and forgetting are the same. If you say you've forgiven but you still hold the grievance against your loved one, you haven't gained the full benefit of forgiveness. Go the distance with your love.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: This week, Venus and Neptune intermingle, and we rendezvous on a mystical quest for everlasting love. Venus is romantic and idealistic in Libra, appreciating adornments of love and rituals of romance. With Neptune, she longs for emotional happiness, the sweetest reward of love. Otherworldly and mysterious, Neptune is divine love. We feel Neptune's mystical, unnamable allure in song, poetry and any art that connects us to timeless love. It's said that Neptune's music could divert a river's course and even make the rocks and trees dance! In one story, Orpheus's (Neptune's) wife unexpectedly died. On a magical lyre, he played a timeless song of love and loss and conferred sympathy from the gods, becoming the only living being ever granted access into the underworld. His healing song invoked such compassion from the god and goddess of the underworld that they promised to give his wife back on the condition that he not look back — which he did. Neptune teaches soul-deep faith in our ability to transcend the appearance of circumstances — even death. Your creative gifts have magical healing powers, helping you reach the souls of those you love. This week, tap into your longing for love.

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS

The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive sealed bid proposals until 2:00 P.M. December 10, 2007, on the following:

Vending Machines

Specifications and proposal documents may be secured from the school district's Business Office, 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648, phone number (432)264-3640. Proposal will be publicly opened following the deadline for receiving the proposal in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District. Proposers are invited to be present at the proposal opening. Proposals received after the opening date and time will be returned unopened. Proposals will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on December 13, 2007, at 5:15 p.m. at their regularly scheduled board meeting. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. #5606 November 21 & 25, 2007

NOTICE: THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES HAVE BEEN UNCLAIMED

2004 Dodge Stratus
Vin#1B3EL36X14N395335
Plate# 5THP962
1989 GMC PK
Vin#1GCBS14EXK2245300

In the event the vehicle is not claimed by the 20th day after the date of this notice, it will be sold at Public Auction. Your failure to reclaim the vehicle causes you to give up any right ownership and interest in the Vehicle in compliance with Article 683.02 Transportation Code.

CONTACT HOWARD COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE (432)264-2244 TO CLAIM
#5607 November 25, 2007

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

Legals

LEGAL NOTICE:

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on December 3, 2007. You have until May 31, 2008 to redeem any tickets for these games: #733 Run the Table (\$25) overall odds are 1 in 2.20, #776 Spread the Wealth (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.17, #818 Run the Table (\$3) overall odds are 1 in 3.93. This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on December 10, 2007. You have until June 8, 2008 to redeem any tickets for this game: #794 State Fair of Texas (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.33. This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on December 24, 2007. You have until June 21, 2008 to redeem any tickets for this game: #820 Break the Bank (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.99. The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including \$599. Prizes of \$600 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form; however, annuity prizes or prizes over \$999,999 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at 1-800-37LOTTO or visit the Lottery Web site at www.txlottery.org for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, transactions, players, and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A Scratch-Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. The Texas Lottery Supports Texas Education. #5605 November 25, 2007

CITY OF BIG SPRING NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Pursuant to the authority granted by the City Council of the City of Big Spring, Texas, the City of Big Spring will receive sealed bids on the following date/time for the purchase of the below listed items/equipment:

- Date/Time: Tuesday, November 27, 2007, at 2:00 p.m., for the following
 - One ton Utility Pickup Cab and Chassis
 - Bulldozer
 - Street Sweeper
 - Used Chip Spreader
 - Used Distributor
 - Three Quarter ton Pickup Truck
 - Square Body Sanitation Truck
 - Tractor
 - Full-size Half Ton Extended Cab Truck
 - Police Cars (5)
 - Full-size Half Ton Crew Cab Trucks (3)

Bids are to be opened and read aloud in the Big Spring City Hall Conference Room, Upstairs at 310 Nolan Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, with award to be made at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Big Spring City Council. Bid information and specifications may be obtained from the Office of the Purchasing Agent, 1380 Airpark Drive East, Bldg. #19, Big Spring, Texas 79720. All bids must be marked with the date of the bid and a general description of the bid item(s). The City of Big Spring reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any or all formalities. #5593 November 11 & 25, 2007

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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.

EXCELLENT CONDITION. Great floor plan. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 1760 sq. feet. \$128,500.00. Will Pay \$3,300. closing cost/ \$350 warranty or reduce price. Call 432-263-3135, 432-413-8656.

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

NEW HOME for X-MAS- This country home on 10 secluded acres, beautiful landscaping and a pool, has 4 bedrooms, 2+ baths, and a large master bedroom suite. Very Affordable. Call Janet @ Home Realtor 432-263-1284 or 213-5454.

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 TOUGH CREDIT OK ONLY 2% DOWN 3726 Adams, 3 bed, 1 1/2 bath, CH/A. \$53,900. Recorded info. 432-687-2696.

PRICE REDUCED \$35,000. Adorable 2 bedroom, 1 bath, great investment or commercial property. Call Donna @ 432-935-3870 or Leslie @ 432-213-0909. South Mountain Realty.

TWO BEDROOM, one bath house with 3 room apartment in back. 1704 S. Scurry. Call (432)264-7975, (432)935-3285.

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ANSWERS

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

Answer to previous puzzle

CDS	MARS	FRAN
SHEA	OBOE	ROLES
HOLD	THAT	THOUGHT
OIL	HATE	ASSAIL
PRAIRIE	CUTE	
TAR	PALS	BAR
CROCS	FORE	COCO
HIGH	ELED	SHOES
ALLY	XRAY	PATSY
TEE	STAR	REF
SHEL	CODERED	
PROTON	THOU	AMA
HUBERT	THUMPHREY	
GIVE	MATE	ALROY
SEES	OWED	TRY

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I have two wonderful kids, "Zoe," who is 5, and "Austin," who is 3. Tonight Austin came to my wife and me and said, "Momma, Zoe cut my hair." We looked at him and his bangs were missing a big patch right in the middle. Zoe said she didn't do it and Austin says she did. But lately, Austin has been doing a lot of stuff to get his sister into trouble, so we don't know which child to believe.

I work 14 hours a day and don't spend as much time as I should with my family. This creates some fighting between my wife and me, and Austin won't listen to either one of us. We can't get him to take timeouts, and spankings don't do any good, either. We take away things he likes and he resists with violence. He hits and kicks my wife. How do I get my son under control? — Need Help in Kentucky

Dear Kentucky: Your very perceptive son is tattling on his sister in order to get attention. At that age, kids don't much care if it's positive or negative — they simply want their parents' complete focus. You don't want Austin to discover that negative attention is the more reliable way to get it.

It's important that you and your wife present a united front and stop arguing in front of the children. That undermines their sense of security and causes all sorts of acting out. Enlist your wife's help to find a way to give both your children some individual time, even if it's only enough for a bedtime story or a short weekend excursion to the park. Talk to your pediatrician about parenting classes. Your state or county may offer them and you can find good tips online. There also are books

available at your local library. Please make time for this now or you'll have years to wish you had.

Dear Annie: My friend "Marianna" won't give me breathing room and cannot stop talking. She is constantly hanging on my arm, literally and figuratively. She is very emotionally clingy, calling as many as three times a day after spending six hours with me in school. I don't like talking on the phone and have hinted as much, but the hour-long conversations persist. She will also grab my hand and twist my fingers, tap my leg repeatedly with her foot, lean on me, etc. It's exhausting and annoying.

I don't want to hurt her feelings or end the friendship because she's usually a lot of fun. But I am sick of her constant chatter and lack of respect for my personal space. When I politely ask her to give me back my hand, she curtly says things like, "Fine. Sorry." I don't want to offend her, but I'm tired. How can I politely give her the message to back off? — Annoyed in California

Dear Annoyed: The phone calls are easy — after you've had enough, say, "I have to get off the phone now. I'll talk to you later," and hang up. You also have the option of letting her calls go to voicemail. If she twists your fingers, yell "ouch" loudly. The rest requires kindness and firmness. It's OK to tell Marianna that you treasure the friendship but are uncomfortable with so much physical contact and remind her when she is grabby. A real friend cares about your feelings, too.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "In Mary's Shadow," who was

College Station site for high fashion photo spread

By MICHAEL GRACZYK

Associated Press Writer

COLLEGE STATION — Let's say you're an editor at a London-based magazine looking for a glamorous spot to anchor the photo layout unveiling the Spring 2008 men's fashions from high-end designers like Versace and Armani.

Milan? Paris? Monte Carlo?

The winner is: College Station.

And that's no Aggie joke.

A photo team working for the British edition of Esquire Magazine spent much of this week in the hometown of Texas A&M University, a school founded on farming and engineering and where one is more likely to see boots and jeans than Dolce & Gabbana.

"We do realize that," photographer Philip

Toledano said. "That's a nice juxtaposition. Contrast is always interesting, particularly in art."

Intended for use in the March issue, the photo crew, a hunky model and the fashion director of the magazine invaded the Brayton Fire Training School, a renowned firefighter training site run by the Texas Engineering Extension Service at the far edge of the sprawling A&M campus about 100 miles northwest of Houston.

With the goal of filling a 10-page spread in one of the magazine's largest editions of the year, Vancouver-born model Matt Gontier was photographed as he perched on the edge of wrecked trains, scrambled through of piles of debris and dashed amid smoke from a flaming tanker — a la

James Bond — and all without rumpling one of the almost dozen \$2,000 suits brought from London.

Even his coat remained buttoned.

"It's a journey though the apocalypse, I guess, or some form of it," Toledano said of his theme.

He could have been speaking about the previous night, when he and Gontier and some other members of the team ate dinner at a barbecue chain called Texas Roadhouse, where chicken fried steak and catfish share the menu with a piece of beef smothered in onions that's known as "Roadkill."

"All those waitresses were in a line dance," a disbelieving Toledano said.

Welcome to College Station.

Toledano, 38, born in

London but now living in New York, was here about a year ago for a different assignment for another magazine that brought him to the fire school, the largest live-fueled fire training facility in the world. He thought a fashion spread using the training site as a backdrop would be terrific and pitched the idea to Catherine Hayward, Esquire's fashion director.

She was intrigued. "I ran it by my editors," she said. "This is a big issue, March and September in the magazine world. It's the beginning of a new season, with new-season tailoring."

The school, with a section of it known as Disaster City, offered "the kind of vibe we wanted," she said. "We also wanted something quite odd and quirky."

"'Apocalyptic' is the word we've been using," she said, echoing Toledano.

Hayward did an Internet search for Disaster City, found a phone number, made a call and got approval.

"It's not a run-of-the-mill fashion shoot, which can be a bit boring," she said as Gontier was enveloped in white smoke from a fog machine. Flames from a burning tanker spewed black smoke behind him, all under the watchful eyes of a fire crew hosing the tanker with water — and out of sight of Toledano's camera.

One bystander remarked the camera probably cost more than his pickup truck.

"How much polyester in the clothing?" the school's training coordinator Brian Smith cautioned Gontier. "Polyester

melts." The bigger question is whether a Versace suit even contains polyester.

"We've got to have lunacy," Toledano said, directing the model. "That's going to make the whole thing."

The idea of haute couture in College Station isn't that lunatic, said Cheryl Bridges, director of Texas A&M's Center for Retailing Studies.

"Fashion shoots quite often are in the most unlikely places," she said. "It has to do with the feeling of whatever the designer or photographer is trying to get. And very often they try to pick off-beat places."

Not that College Station is offbeat, she added.

"We're definitely a college town," she said. "And yes, the perception of a university town is

See SHOOT, Page 7A



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32772

TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

Gunmen tie up guards, steal TVs from First Baptist Church in Dallas

DALLAS (AP) — Two gunmen tied up security guards at a downtown church on Thanksgiving night and stole eight plasma televisions worth at least \$5,000, police said.

Officials at First Baptist Church were taking inventory to see if anything else was missing.

The robbery began shortly before midnight when two men dressed in black fatigues and carrying semiautomatic handguns confronted a guard and tied her with rope.

The gunmen also tied up two other security guards who were making their rounds, police said.

Police said surveillance cameras showed the robbers going from room to room, stealing the TVs and a guard's cell phone.

About two hours later, one of the guards untied himself and called for help.

Police said the robbers might be connected to a truck that was idling in front of the church earlier Thursday night. The truck sped off when the security guards approached it.

Man shoots 15-year-old in road rage incident

DALLAS (AP) — A man shot and killed a 15-year-old Friday during an incident in which both brandished weapons, Dallas police said.

Police plan to refer the death of Frank Vega to a grand jury.

"We don't know who displayed a weapon first, but both were armed, and we believe it could be a case of self-defense," said Sgt. Bruce McDonald.

Investigators say Anthony Gray, 30, told them he was going home around 3:45 a.m. Friday when a teenager in a Cadillac cut him off in the roadway.

Gray and Vega argued at a stoplight and then both pulled out handguns. Gray fired multiple shots, hitting the teenager in the chest. Vega's car veered off the road; Gray pulled over and called 911, police said.

Authorities say the teenager did not fire his weapon. "It's sad that we have a 15-year-old out on the street at that time of the morning armed," McDonald said.

Texas A&M to drop prices for summer session

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Texas A&M University officials are trying to lure more students to take summer classes by slashing tuition in half.

Under the experimental program, tuition for undergraduates who are Texas residents will drop from \$156 to \$75 per credit hour in the second summer school session of 2008.

University officials and state lawmakers say the move could reduce the time students take to earn a bachelor's degree. If students graduate sooner, they free up seats for more incoming students.

About one-third of Texas A&M students graduate in four years, the highest rate among Texas' public universities, according to the Education Trust.

Texas will spend \$3 million to fund the program. State Rep. Fred Brown, a Republican whose district includes the College Station campus, wrote the legislation authorizing it.

If enrollment is significant, the program could become permanent at Texas A&M and expand to other campuses, said Melissa Nicholas, an aide to Brown.

A similar offer at California universities six years

ago led to several campuses seeing sizable gains in summer enrollment, officials said.

About one-third of Texas A&M undergraduates take summer classes, but interest has dropped, said Alice Reinartz, assistant provost for enrollment. Officials blame the decline on a tuition policy under which students pay a flat rate for 12 or more hours per semester.

Summer sessions usually offer a smaller selection of classes, but A&M officials plan to expand the university's offerings by adding upper-division courses and classes that fill up quickly during the regular school year.

Houston, Miami police testing unmanned aircraft in urban environments

HOUSTON (AP) — Police in the Houston and Miami-Dade departments have been chosen by the Federal Aviation Administration to test the use of unmanned aircraft in urban environments, authorities said.

The two police forces will help the FAA set flight guidelines and training needs during the testing period, which is expected to end in June.

"At this point, the project is strictly on a research level," said Martha Montalvo, executive assistant chief of Houston police.

Houston police officials have considered using remote-controlled aircraft for spotting traffic hazards and in search and rescue missions.

The department's helicopter pilots will be assigned to the unmanned aircraft duties.

"Because of their knowledge base, we thought the training curve would be a lot easier," Montalvo said.

Houston police will use aircraft provided by Insitu Inc. of Bingen, Wash., at no cost to the department.

The aircraft can cost from several thousand dollars to more than a million depending on complexity and capabilities, Montalvo said.

Texas town fetches \$3.8 million on eBay

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Someone in Italy is the new owner of a tiny Texas town — maybe.

Putting up a winning bid of \$3.8 million, an unknown Italian buyer on Friday purchased the 13-acre, unpopulated and one-house Central Texas town of Albert through the online auction site eBay.

But before Bobby Cave, who currently owns the town, signs the deed over, he must first figure out if the winning bid is legitimate. Cave said that unlike the usual items bought through eBay, there are no contractual obligations when it comes to real estate.

"It all turned out great," said Cave, 47, an Austin real estate agent. "There's just not any way to insist that a guy from Italy write me a check for three million."

If the deal goes through, the winning buyer will

inherit an icehouse created from the frame of the old general store, a pavilion, an 85-year-old dance hall, a tractor shed and a three-bedroom house. All of that, plus peach and pecan orchards, come with the land.

The reserve price for the town was \$2.5 million. Even if the deal doesn't go through, Cave said he has about five other prospective buyers genuinely interested in the town.

Bridgeville, in northern California, was the first town ever put on the eBay auction block. The 83 acres were twice sold on the site, in 2002 (that deal fell through) and again last year.

Albert is about 60 miles north of San Antonio.

U.S. weekly oil and gas rig count down 24

HOUSTON (AP) — The number of rigs actively exploring for oil and natural gas in the United States dropped by 24 this week to 1,773.

Of the rigs running nationwide, 1,424 were exploring for natural gas and 343 for oil, Houston-based Baker Hughes Inc. reported Friday. Six were listed as miscellaneous.

A year ago, the rig count stood at 1,697.

Of the major oil- and gas-producing states, Oklahoma gained three rigs, and Texas and Alaska each added two. Wyoming lost eight, and California and Colorado each lost one. Louisiana and New Mexico were unchanged.

Baker Hughes has tracked rig counts since 1944. The tally peaked at 4,530 in 1981, during the height of the oil boom. The industry posted several record lows in 1999, bottoming out at 488.

Two shot, four more people stabbed in post-Thanksgiving brawl at home

FORT WORTH (AP) — Two people were shot and four stabbed Friday in a post-Thanksgiving home brawl that included a 48-year-old woman getting pistol whipped with her own gun, police said.

Three men were arrested and those injured are expected to survive, Fort Worth police Lt. Dean Sullivan said.

The fight started when an ex-boyfriend and others crashed a Thanksgiving party, leading to a fight with family members. Authorities said after the homeowner retrieved a gun, Alexander Lopez, 22, wrestled it away from her and struck the woman repeatedly with it.

Lopez later fired a round into his leg while trying to put a bullet into the chamber, police said. Others were cut with bottles and knives during the fracas.

Lopez remains jailed on three counts of aggravated assault. Edgar Reza, 20, and Maricela Oviedo, 26, were charged with two counts of aggravated assault each.

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SHOOT

Continued from Page 6A

jeans and T-shirts. And that is what you usually see day in and day out."

Even on fashion models.

Gontier shed his gray plaid designer suit, with matching shirt and tie, and donned black jeans and a white sleeveless T-shirt. His closet was the

rear of a rented minivan. His dressing room was a dirt and gravel parking lot.

He'd change again, maybe into something from Savile Row.

A train wreck was waiting.

"It is really kind of absurd," Jay Socol, communications director for the Texas Engineering Extension Service, said. "But it's fun to watch."

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Gift cards easier way to spread holiday cheer to troops

By ANGELA K. BROWN

Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — Not sure how to send pumpkin pie to soldiers in Iraq? Having trouble mailing that flat-screen television to your Marine husband?

There's an easier way to spread holiday cheer to troops.

People can buy gift certificates online through the Dallas-based Army & Air Force Exchange Service, which operates stores at bases worldwide, including more than 50 in Iraq and Afghanistan. The stores carry everything from energy drinks and razors to CDs, laptops, DVDs and high-definition flat panel LCD televisions.

"One of the most difficult parts of being a soldier or airman is being away from family during the times most special to Americans," said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Bryan Eaton, who has spent some holidays overseas during his 29-year military career. "When you receive gifts, it makes you feel that connection to home."

"One of the most difficult parts of being a soldier or airman is being away from family during the times most special to Americans. When you receive gifts, it makes you feel that connection to home."

The cards, which can include a personal message from the sender, can be used at all base stores and fast food restaurants. They are distributed to soldiers by the American Red Cross and other charity groups overseas.

AAFES started the "Gifts from the Homefront" program in the wake of the Defense Department's ban on delivering letters and packages not addressed to a specific soldier, a post-Sept. 11 security measure. Before that, churches and other groups sent care packages to "any service member," especially during the first Gulf War.

Some 92,240 gift cards totaling nearly \$2 million have been sent since the program started in 2003.

Dallas is Love, a non-profit organization found-

ed in 2005 by two teenage siblings who wanted to show their appreciation to troops, so far has sent cards totaling about \$16,000.

After receiving donations from family, friends and local businesses, they wanted to help soldiers they did not know but were limited by the mailing restrictions. They also talked to soldiers who said care packages were appreciated but not always useful, said Dallas is Love's Tania Foster.

"With gift cards, they could purchase anything they like or need," said Foster, 19, now a college freshman. "They're very, very appreciative. That's what we get out of this the most."

People who want to send a holiday gift also can buy prepaid calling cards,

which are delivered to troops based on need if they are not sent to spe-

cific soldiers, Eaton said.

Calling home can be expensive but is easier than in the 1970s, when soldiers were limited to 3-minute calls using a ham radio system and had to say "over" after every phrase, Eaton said. Talking to loved ones, especially over the holidays, is important not only to soldiers but also to their relatives, he said.

"I can't tell you what those (phone cards) can mean at the right time in somebody's life," said Eaton, the enlisted adviser to the commanding general of AAFES. "Every time someone does something like this, it's appreciated. Soldiers and airmen feel that America is behind them, no matter what is going on in the nation politically."

JENKINS

Continued from Page 5A

National Bank account to buy undisclosed domain names from a registrar by the name of Dynadot. Additionally, Schiefer sold appropriated information to others, according to prosecutors.

Schiefer also used the botnet to collect more than \$19,000 in commissions from a Dutch company called Sempel Internet for installing its adware on end users' machines without their permission. In June 2005 he made more than \$14,000 by surreptitiously

installing the software on more than 110,000 machines. The next month, he made more than \$4,700. Schiefer took pains to conceal the scheme from people at Sempel. Among other things, he directed accomplices to throttle the number of installations, so they would appear to be legitimate.

In agreeing to plead guilty, Schiefer pledged to pay restitution of \$19,128, the full amount he made in affiliate fees. While he almost certainly won't get anything close to 60 years, his sentence could still be substantial, judging from

penalties meted out in the past.

In May 2006, Jeanson James Ancheta was sentenced to five years in federal prison after pleading guilty to four felony botnet charges in the same court. There is no time off for good behavior in the federal system.

Schiefer is scheduled to make an initial appearance in federal court in Los Angeles later this month, with his arraignment slated for Dec. 3.

Contact Staff Writer
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Astronauts finish wiring newest room

By **LIZ PETERSON**

Associated Press Writer
HOUSTON — A pair of astronauts went on a spacewalk Saturday to finish wiring the international space station's newest room, the last hurdle the crew had to clear before the shuttle Atlantis can deliver a new European laboratory.

Commander Peggy Whitson and Daniel Tani hooked up more electrical and fluid connections linking the space station and the Harmony compartment that was delivered by the shuttle Discovery last month.

That will allow Harmony to serve as a docking port for the European lab, named Columbus, which is scheduled to be delivered in December. A Japanese lab set to be delivered early next year also will dock to the school bus-sized module.

Flight controllers on the ground plan to check all of Harmony's systems Saturday before giving Atlantis the go-ahead to deliver Columbus.

Much of Saturday's work involved lugging a second 1812-foot, 300-pound tray holding fluid lines to Harmony and bolting it down. The lines carry ammonia, a coolant. The astronauts moved and installed another fluid tray on Tuesday.

"Don't rush," Whitson told Tani as they struggled to move the bulky

tray. They took turns handling the equipment, with one astronaut passing it to the other and then crawling forward for another hand-off.

"Cool, I can feel the ammonia rushing in," Tani commented after he hooked up one of the fluid lines.

Tani also spent about an hour inspecting a jammed joint that is needed to turn one of the space station's two sets of huge solar wings. The gear has been experiencing electrical current spikes and must be repaired over the coming months to continue station construction.

Last month, Tani found steel shavings inside the joint while spacewalking during Discovery's visit. He found similar debris on Saturday.

Guided by an engineer on the ground, Tani and Whitson took digital pictures of the joint's inner workings and described the debris and damage they could see. Most of the shavings were concentrated in one area, Tani said, and nearly everything else was covered with a fine dust.

The area of the joint that Tani uncovered will remain exposed so astronauts can shoot video of it later.

As he worked, Tani said hello to his mother, who was watching an Internet broadcast of the spacewalk. He said his wife was tuned in to the spacewalk, as well.

It's quiet now, but Social Security could be a big issue during election

By **DAVID ESPO**

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Three years after the collapse of President Bush's plan for private Social Security accounts, Republican presidential contenders are eager to try again. Not so the Democrats, who gravitate toward increasing payroll taxes on upper-income earners to fix the program's finances.

With the notable exception of former Sen. Fred Thompson, a Republican, presidential hopefuls in both parties shy away from suggestions that might offend their own primary voters. As a result, bipartisan commissions to resolve the program's long-term financial problems are in. And longer waits for retirement are most definitely out.

Thompson's proposal, by contrast, includes lower-than-promised benefits for future retirees, as well as new private accounts to make Social Security solvent for 75 years. "If somebody's got a better idea let them put it on the table," he said recently, daring his rivals.

Given the divide between the parties, Social Security seems likely to become more of an issue during the 2008 general election than it has been in the campaigns for the presidential nominations.

For now, the most favored suggestion, creation of a bipartisan com-

mission, seems to hold different meanings for different candidates.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, a Republican, said earlier this fall he favors creation of a commission like the one that hatched a financial fix for the system nearly a quarter century ago. Yet, maneuvering for the support of the conservative Club for Growth, he also said, "I would rule out a tax increase," thus rejecting a key element of the 1983 compromise signed by then-President Reagan.

Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York and Barack Obama of Illinois are among the Democrats who favor a bipartisan commission. At the same time, they evidently seek to preserve their own maneuvering room.

"I'd take everything off the table until we move toward fiscal responsibility and before we have a bipartisan process," Clinton said in one recent debate, drawing criticism from fellow Democrats who accused her of ducking the issue.

"Everything should be on the table," Obama said over the summer. Now, in a shift in emphasis that has drawn notice by his rivals, he says, "We don't need to cut benefits or raise the retirement age," a position that flatly rules out neither approach.

In cases where Social Security has flared in the campaign, it's served as a stand-in for a broader debate over candidate

candor. "I think the American people ... deserve a president of the United States that they know will tell them the truth, and won't say one thing one time and something different at a different time," former Sen. John Edwards said at a debate on Oct. 30.

That was a barb aimed at Clinton, who had declined to state a position on higher taxes in an earlier debate, then told an Iowa voter she would consider them.

Under most recent estimates, the Social Security trust funds will begin paying out more money in benefits than they take in from payroll taxes beginning in 2017. By 2041, the funds would run dry, and under current law, an automatic cut in benefits would follow.

Flush from his re-election in 2005, Bush urged Congress to reduce promised benefits for future upper-income retirees. In addition, he called for creation of private accounts, funded with a portion of workers' payroll taxes. He said the result would be a financially solvent program and a chance at a more comfortable retirement for millions of Americans.

Democrats vociferously objected to what they called privatizing the New Deal-era program. Republicans eventually blinked in the face of public opposition. The plan never came to a vote.

"I would be totally opposed to the privatization of Social Security. That is a very bad idea and I am glad we rejected it," Democratic Sen. Chris Dodd of Connecticut said during a campaign debate this fall, a position shared by fellow Democrats.

Instead, several Democrats talk favorably about raising payroll taxes for upper-income wage earners. Under current law, the 6.2 percent Social Security tax is levied against a worker's first \$97,500 in income, a level that rises annually with inflation.

Edwards, Dodd and Obama were among those who agreed in one recent debate they would allow income between \$97,500 and about \$200,000 to remain untaxed. They said the tax should be restored for money earned above that level.

"I do believe that people who make \$50, \$75, \$100 million a year ought to be paying Social Security taxes on that income," said Edwards.

Among Republicans, higher taxes is a non-starter.

"It's the wrong way to go," former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney said last month.

"The first thing we have to do is get a consensus behind private accounts if we're going to change it," Giuliani said in one debate.

On that, he gets no disagreement from fellow Republicans.

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Labor sweeps victory in Australia; policy changes on Iraq ahead

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Conservative Prime Minister John Howard suffered a humiliating defeat Saturday at the hands of the left-leaning opposition, whose leader has promised to immediately sign the Kyoto Protocol on global warming and withdraw Australia's combat troops from Iraq.

Labor Party head Kevin Rudd's pledges on global warming and Iraq move Australia sharply away from policies that had made Howard one of President Bush's staunchest allies.

Rudd has named global warming as his top priority, and his signing of the Kyoto Protocol will leave the U.S. as the only industrialized country not to have joined it.

Rudd said he would withdraw Australia's 550 combat troops from Iraq, leaving twice that number in mostly security roles. Howard had said all the troops will stay as long as needed.

Official figures from the Australian Electoral Commission showed Labor far in front after more than 70 percent of the ballots had been counted — with 53 percent of the vote compared to 46.7 percent for Howard's coalition.

Using those figures, an Australian Broadcasting Corp. analysis showed that Labor would get at least 81 places in the 150-seat lower house of Parliament — a clear majority.

Rudd is expected to take office next week.

President Bush congratulated Rudd and the Australia Labor Party and also sent best wishes to Howard, without commenting on Rudd's intention to withdraw combat troops from Iraq.

"The United States and Australia have long been strong partners and allies and the president looks forward to working with this new government to continue our historic relationship," said Emily Lawrimore, a White House spokeswoman. "During his time as prime minister, Mr. Howard served the people of Australia well by pursuing policies that led to strong economic growth and a commitment to keeping Australians safe by fighting extremists and their ideology around the world."

The election was an embarrassing end to the career of Howard, Australia's second-longest serving leader.

Teenage Brazilian girl placed with men in jail, forced to have sex

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — A teenage girl was locked up on theft charges in an Amazon jail for weeks with 21 men who she said would only let her eat in return for sex, according to authorities, setting off a national scandal over the treatment of women by Brazil's justice system.

The 15-year-old said she was required to have sex with at least two inmates, police spokesman Walrimar Santos said by telephone Thursday from Belem, at the mouth of the Amazon River, where the victim was transferred after nearly a month living with male inmates.

By her account, officials did nothing — until the story erupted in the national media and outraged Brazilians demanded her transfer.

"Throwing a 15-year-old girl into a cell with 20 men was a heinous and intolerable act," Brazilian Bar Association president Cezar Britto said in an interview. "It is a serious case of criminal negligence against women, who in Brazil continue to be victims of prejudice."

Santos said the girl was not beaten or injured. But the newspaper O Estado de S. Paulo, which said it had access to private testimony after her transfer from the jail, reported she was tortured with lit cigarettes on her fingers and bare feet to force her to have sex. Her cellmates cut her hair to make her look more like a boy and difficult to recognize, Estado said.

She said her only reprieve from obligatory sex was on Thursdays — when intimate visits were allowed — and things "calmed down," Estado reported.

Day after deadlocked election, Lebanon without a president

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Lebanon awoke a republic without a president Saturday amid mounting worries over a power vacuum that has intensified the nation's yearlong political turmoil.

The capital was calm and shops opened for business as usual the morning after a tumultuous day that saw President Emile Lahoud depart without a successor after announcing he was handing over security powers to the army.

Lahoud's final announcement saying the country is in a "state of emergency" was rejected by the rival, pro-Western Cabinet of Prime Minister Fuad Saniora.

The government rejection created fresh confusion in an already unsettled situation, which many Lebanese fear could explode into violence between supporters of Saniora's government and the pro-Syria opposition led by the Shiite militant group Hezbollah.

The departure of Lahoud, a staunch ally of the Syrian regime during his nine years in office, was a long-sought goal of the government installed by parliament's anti-Syria majority, which has been trying to put one of its own in the presidency.

Hezbollah and other opposition groups have blocked legislators from electing a new president by boycotting ballot sessions, leaving parliament without the required quorum.

The fight has put Lebanon into dan-

gerous, unknown territory: Both sides are locked in bitter recriminations, accusing the other of breaking the constitution, and they are nowhere near a compromise on a candidate to become head of state.

The army command refused to comment on the developments. The military, under its widely respected chief, Gen. Michel Suleiman, has sought to remain neutral in the political chaos, and Lahoud's statement did not give it political powers.

Even before the president's vague announcement, the military was in place to guard against the two sides' supporters taking the conflict to the streets. On alert for days, hundreds of soldiers stood with tanks, armored personnel carriers and jeeps in the area around the downtown parliament building as well as on roads leading into Beirut.

Two suicide bombers strike in Pakistan garrison city, killing 35

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Suicide bombers hit a bus carrying intelligence agency employees and also targeted a checkpoint near the headquarters of the Pakistan army on Saturday, killing up to 35 people, several officials said.

The two attackers struck in Rawalpindi, a garrison city just south of the capital, Islamabad. Two senior intelligence officials — one of them at the scene — said at least 35 people were killed. They asked for anonymity because of the sensitivity of their work. However, Army spokesman Maj. Gen. Waheed Arshad said he could only confirm 15 killed — all of them on the bus.

A number of people were also injured, officials said.

"We suspect that pro-Taliban militants who are fighting security forces in our tribal areas are behind this attack," the intelligence official said, adding the injured and dead were being transported to hospitals.

In the first attack, an explosive-laden car rammed a bus carrying employees from the Inter-Services Intelligence agency. The other bomber hit an army checkpoint in another part of the city, said Mohammed Afzal, a local police official. He provided no further details.

The intelligence agent at the scene said the destroyed bus was a 72-seater, but that it was badly overloaded and

that more people were believed to be on board.

After the blast, troops and police quickly cordoned off the area. They pushed people back and snatched cameras and mobile phones from journalists and bystanders. Agents fanned out across the area, picking up metal bits of what appeared to be the suicide bomber's car.

It was the second major attack against the ISI in recent months. On Sept. 4, a suicide attacker blew himself up after boarding a bus carrying ISI's employees, while a roadside bomb went off near a commercial area in Rawalpindi minutes apart, killing at least 25 people.

Cruise ship sinks off Antarctica after hitting ice; 154 rescued

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — A small Canadian cruise ship carrying passengers who shelled out thousands of dollars to retrace the route of a 20th century explorer struck an iceberg and sank hours later in icy waters off Antarctica. All those aboard, Americans among them, escaped safely.

Its reinforced hull gashed and taking on water, the MS Explorer slipped beneath the waves Friday evening, about 20 hours after its pre-dawn accident near the South Shetland Islands, the Chilean navy said.

Initial reports suggested only a small hole was punched into the hull, but the Argentine navy later said in a statement it observed "significant" damage. Photos released by the Chilean navy throughout the day showed the ship lying nearly on its side, surrounded by floating blocks of ice.

Andrea Salas, an Argentine crew member aboard the Explorer, was quoted as saying passengers felt an initial bump that seemed minor.

"Then we heard the captain announcing that there was another iceberg approaching us and that he was waiting ... for it to pass by," she told Radio Continental in Buenos Aires. "But that didn't happen," and there was a second, larger collision.

"They started pumping water out to keep the ship afloat" while the 154 passengers and crew members evacuated, said Salas, 38.

After bobbing for hours in subfreezing temperatures, the passengers and crew members were rescued by a Norwegian cruise liner, the Nordnorge.



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Kay Smith Guest Artist



Kay Smith, a signature member of Southwestern, Wyoming, and Texas Watercolor Societies, demonstrates water color technique for Howard College art students during her recent visit as "Guest Artist". Smith uses her fresh paint with a wet-into-wet application which guarantees the splashy look unique to watercolor. The public is welcome to view a sample of Smith's art while it is on display at Hall Center for the Arts through December 8th.

HOWARD RODEO FINISHES FALL CIRCUIT AND FIRST HALF OF SEASON

The Howard College Rodeo team concluded the first half of competition at the Texas Tech University Rodeo in Lubbock as both the men's and women's teams finished in eighth place. The Howard men are 10th in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association's Southwest Region standings with 735 points, while the women are sixth half way through the season with 540 points.

Texas Tech won the women's side to maintain a hold on the regional team race, 275 points ahead of Weatherford College.

Individually for Howard at Texas Tech, Jamon Turner of Aurora, Colo. tied for fourth in the bull riding with a 79. Teammate Cody Samora of Cortez, Colo. was sixth with a 77.

In the region standings, Samora is third with 250 points, only 55 points out of second place. Another Colorado native, Lonny Graham of Ault, is ninth with 135 points, just five points ahead of Turner.

K.C. Curtis of Monroe, Utah is currently fourth in the regional team roping heeler standings with 180 points, only 65 points out of third place. At the end of the year the top three in each event in the region move on to the College National Finals Rodeo. Calvin Brevik from Durango, Colorado is fifth in the header standings also with 180 points, 110 points out of third place. Ryan Finch of Cottdale, Fla. is 14th with 80 points.

Cassidy Ogden of Gail finished eighth in the barrel racing at Texas Tech and is sixth in the Southwest Region standings with 190 points. Ogden needs to double her score to catapult herself into a tie for crucial third place ranking.

Ashley Davis from Reform, Ala. is 11th in the region among the barrel racers with 110 points.

Although not placing at Texas Tech in the goat tying, Kendra Watt of Calresholm AB, Canada is 11th in the Southwest Region standings with 110 points. Davis finishes the first half of the season 13th with 75 points.

The Howard College Rodeo team resumes competing in the spring at the Odessa College Rodeo on March 27, 2008.



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December Events



It's Hoops Time!

(for Full Schedule see www.howardcollege.edu)

Hawk Basketball - Men

Home Games for November
Nov 29 - Midland - 7:30 pm
Home Games for December
Dec 3 - Odessa - 7:30 pm
Dec 6 - Frank Phillips - 7:30 pm

Hawk Basketball - Women

Home Games for November
Nov 29 - Midland - 5:30 pm
Home Games for December
Dec 3 - Odessa - 5:30 pm
Dec 6 - Frank Phillips - 5:30 pm
Dec 7 - Jacksonville - 7:30 pm
Dec 8 - Cisco Junior College - 4:00 pm

Nov 29, 30 & Dec 02 - HC Theater Production

"Moon Over Buffalo"

8:00 pm - Hall Center for the Arts

Luminaria - Howard College Gift to Our Community

December 6 - Beginning at 6:00 pm

Santa will be there from 6 pm to 7:30 pm - Parents are welcome to bring cameras and get photos of your child with Santa.

Frito pie and hot chocolate will be served.

New Dimension will be singing Christmas carols.

Band concert at 7:30 in the Hall Center for the Arts.

PHI THETA KAPPA Honor Society will be sponsoring a food drive. Bring non-perishable food items to help those in need during this special season.



Pope elevates 23 new cardinals, says they must be willing to shed blood for faith

By NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press Writer
VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI elevated 23 churchmen from around the world to the top ranks of the Catholic Church hierarchy Saturday, telling them they must be willing to shed their blood to spread the Christian faith.

Wearing resplendent golden robes and a 19th century gilded bishop's

hat once worn by Pope Pius IX, Benedict presided over his second consistory, bringing to 120 the ranks of cardinals who will eventually choose his successor.

To the applause of the crowd, each new cardinal knelt down before Benedict, who from a gilded papal throne on the altar in St. Peter's Basilica placed a red hat on each man's head.

The pontif told them that the red signifies the dignity of their new office and that they must be ready to work, "even to the point of spilling your blood, for the increase of the Christian faith, for peace and harmony among the people of God, for freedom and the spread of the Holy Roman Catholic Church."

Among the new cardinals is the first from

Texas, Archbishop Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston.

Vatican observers have said he was tapped in recognition of the growing Latino presence in the U.S. Church.

On Sunday, Benedict was to give each new "prince" of the church his cardinal's ring, his personal gift to each one.

Eighteen of the 23 new cardinals are under age 80

and thus eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a future pontiff. Benedict also named five elderly cardinals to honor them for their service to the church.

Among them is the 80-year-old Chaldean Patriarch of Baghdad, Emmanuel III Delly, whom Benedict singled out in his homily, saying his decision to include the patriarch in the

College of Cardinals was a concrete sign "of my spiritual closeness and my affection" for the Christians in Iraq.

"Our brothers and sisters in faith are experiencing in the flesh the dramatic consequences of an ongoing conflict and are living in an extremely fragile and delicate political situation," Benedict said to applause from the crowd.



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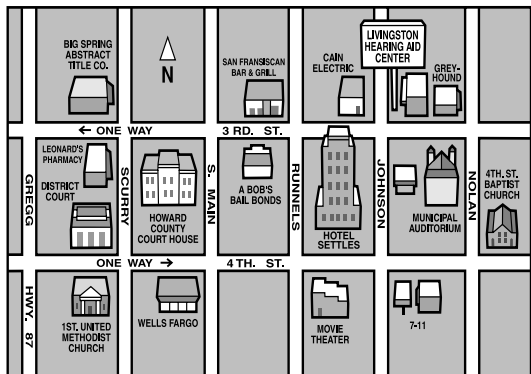
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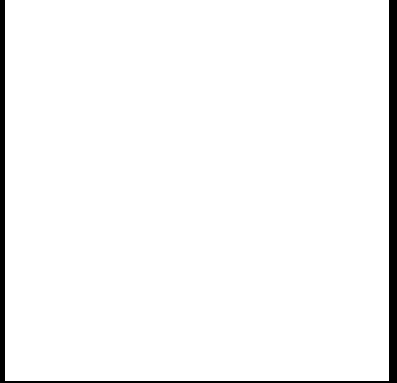
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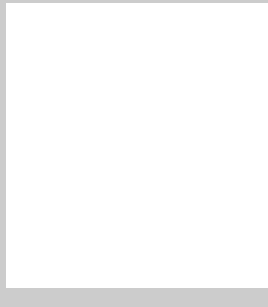
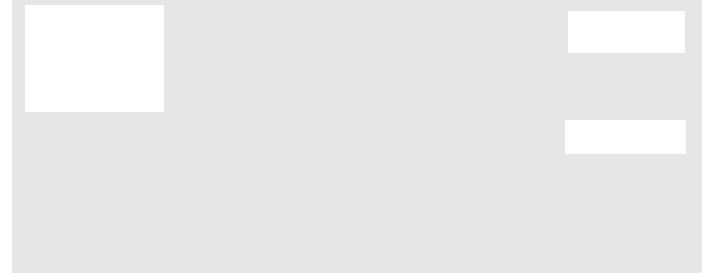
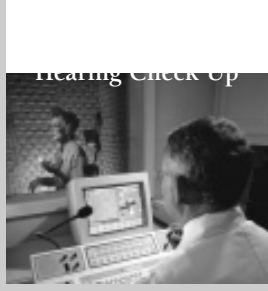
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