

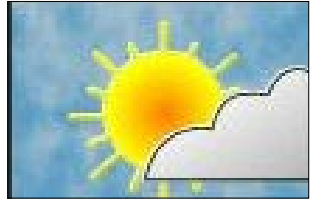
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**BIG SPRING HERALD**

**SUNDAY**  
JANUARY 27, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 49

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# College to workforce

*Project aimed at easing deaf students' transition*

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Howard College trustees will receive a report on a project aimed to ease deaf students' transition from the college campus to the workplace when the board holds its monthly meeting at 12:30 p.m. Monday in the Tumbleweed Room of the student union building.

College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said the Student Opportunities for At-Risk Students (SOARS) Project is aimed at refining students' transition from an academic background to a professional environment.

The project, funded through a grant from the State Department of Adult and Rehabilitative Services, began this month and involves 15 students at SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf.

Sparks said similar studies have been conducted in the past involving traditional students, but this is the first such project involving deaf students.

She hopes this is the start of an annual effort by SWCID officials.

"Obviously, we want students to acquire the necessary skills to succeed in the workplace,"

*"Obviously, we want students to acquire the necessary skills to succeed in the workplace."*



Sparks

Sparks said. "This project will give us the opportunity to ... possibly institutionalize the project in the future."

Also Monday, trustees will discuss preliminary plans for campus-wide renovations that are scheduled to begin this spring.

The projects, authorized by district voters in 2007, will result in an almost-complete upgrade of all campus utilities, as well as provide for new construction where needed, Sparks said.

To help prepare for the \$21 million project, college officials traveled to other campuses currently funding construction projects to see how they best handled inevitable disruptions.

Sparks said HC officials got more than they bargained for in the trips.

"Not only did we learn about the facilities these schools

See **COLLEGE**, Page 3A



AP photo/Dennis Cook  
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., center, smiles toward Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, right, during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, where they discussed a bipartisan economic stimulus package. House Minority Leader John Boehner of Ohio is at left.

## Senate Democrats consider adding retirees to rebate plan

*Also considering extension of jobless benefits*

Related stories, Page 3A, 11A.

By **ANDREW TAYLOR**  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Retirees living off Social Security are frustrated that they won't get tax rebate checks through a bipartisan economic stimulus package before the House. Senate Democrats began efforts to include them. The Senate is also consider-

ing an extension of jobless benefits to the \$150 billion package of rebates and business tax cuts in a deal wrapped up Thursday between House leaders and President Bush.

Bush urged Congress on Friday to quickly pass the package without any further spending. "I strongly believe it would be a mistake to delay or derail this bill," Bush said.

"I understand the desire to add provisions from both the right and the left," he said,

adding that would be an error.

Senate Democrats are refusing to rubber stamp the House measure. That raises the possibility of protracted negotiations if Democrats are successful in adding giving retirees tax rebates, extending unemployment benefits, boosting heating subsidies for the poor and temporarily increasing food stamp payments.

See **RETIRES**, Page 3A

# County to authorize sale of bonds for jail

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners will take a big step toward the construction of a new jail when they meet at 10 a.m. Monday in the county courthouse.

Voters authorized construction of a new jail when they approved an \$11.57 million bond issue in November. Since that time, officials have been busy laying the groundwork for the start of actual construction, scheduled to begin sometime in

mid-March.

Monday, however, will be the "show me the money" day for the project.

Commissioners are expected to issue an order authorizing the actual sale of the bonds and the levy of a debt service tax

rate to eventually redeem those bonds.

The actual sale of the bonds will be handled through the Lubbock investment banking firm of First Southwest, which has handled the financing of almost every bond project in

this area the past decade.

Also Monday, Jeff Heffelfinger, the architect who designed the new jail and is overseeing its construction, is scheduled to meet with com-

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A

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**COAHOMA TEAMS WIN**



See Page 1B

**PETS AMUCK!**

MARSHALL (AP) — An animal protection group Friday rescued more than 200 animals, including 26 hissing cockroaches and two bearded dragons, from an eastern Texas home.

Besides the cockroaches and bearded dragons, the animals included 68 dogs, 16 rabbits, 15 guinea pigs, 13 gerbils, seven doves, two dwarf hamsters, two hedgehogs, an opossum and a pink toe tarantula.

The SPCA said some animals were found in outdoor pens while others were in sheds scattered around the property. Others were in a doublewide trailer living in filth.

**VETERAN OF THE MONTH**

Dean Thomas has been named Veteran of the Month for January by the Hangar 25 Air Museum

Thomas served in the Army from 1966 to 1969 as a combat medic and lab technician.

A reception in his honor will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31, in the Briefing Room at the museum.

The public is invited. Refreshments will be served.

Hangar 25 Air Museum is located at 1911 Apron in the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

For more information about the Veteran of the Month program, call 264-1999.

The Big Spring Herald will be publishing the 2008 Profile Edition

*"Look At Us At The Crossroads Of West Texas"*

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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](mailto:sports@bigspringherald.com)

Page 1B  
Sunday, January 27, 2008

## IN BRIEF

### Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

TUESDAY

Big Spring girls basketball vs. Frenship, 6 p.m.

Big Spring boys basketball vs. Frenship, 7:30 p.m.

Forsan girls basketball at Roscoe, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan boys basketball at Roscoe, 8 p.m.

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

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

### FRIDAY

Big Spring girls basketball at Lubbock Estacado, 6 p.m.

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

### Free junior tennis league playing every Wednesday

A free junior tennis league will take place every Wednesday for several weeks from 4:45 to 5:45 beginning tomorrow.

Boys and girls of any skill level between ages 8-12 are welcome to attend. The league is being conducted by Big Spring tennis instructor Ted Oleson.

No sign up is required. Bring a racket or one will be provided while available.

For more information, call Oleson at (806)236-8901 or visit [www.bigspringtennis.com](http://www.bigspringtennis.com).

### Howard College presenting the Harlem Starz

The Howard College athletic department will present the Harlem Starz at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The game is a fundraiser which will benefit the Howard College athletic program.

With names like Zig Zag, Hollywood, K-Money, Air Bama and Werm, fans will know they are not attending an ordinary basketball game. Almost every play will involve fancy dribbling, no look passes, amazing dunks and comedy.

In addition to the game, highlights will include a halftime show, prizes and autographs. For ticket information, contact Howard College at 264-5040.

### KBYG 1400 AM's scheduled airings of NBA basketball

KBYG 1400 AM is airing both San Antonio Spurs and Dallas Mavericks basketball throughout the NBA season.

### MONDAY

San Antonio vs. Utah, 7:30 p.m.

### TUESDAY

San Antonio vs. Seattle, 8:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY

Dallas vs. Boston, 6:30 p.m.

## Coahoma tested, but prevails over Hawley

### No. 13 Bulldogs live up to new state ranking, remain perfect in district

#### Herald Staff Report

**HAWLEY** — When in doubt, depend on what you know best.

For Coahoma's Bulldogettes, getting back to their bread and butter means getting the basketball into the hands of one of their top three scorers — seniors Christie Rich and Heather Sheppard and junior Laci Sterling.

Coahoma's big three combined for 49 points, including all 22 points in the final period, leading the Bulldogettes to a 54-47 win over Hawley's Lady Bearcats Friday night in Hawley.

"We played well, but we didn't do things most of the game that would've allowed us to win easier," Bulldogettes Head Coach Chris Sumrall said.

Coahoma trailed by two points, 34-32, heading into the fourth period and started the final stanza slowly as well. However, following a timeout, the Bulldogettes fixed their problems and started hammering the ball inside to the 6-5 Sheppard.

"The timeout really calmed us down," Sumrall said. "We started concentrating more on getting the ball inside to Heather and Laci did a nice job of complimenting her."

Sheppard scored 10 of her 16 points in the final period and Sterling added eight of her game-

high 18. Rich had the other four points in the fourth quarter.

Setting up several of those fourth period points was senior guard Janice Gonzalez, who totaled four assists in the final eight minutes.

"Janice did a really good job of getting our offense flowing," Sumrall noted. "She put the others in a good position to score."

It's not often high school basketball teams will play back-to-back games unless it's in a tournament. However, Coahoma (24-4, 10-0) was back in action Saturday night, hosting Merkel in a battle for first place in District 5-2A with the Lady Badgers (9-1 in district).

This game had been canceled twice this past week because of inclement weather throughout West Texas.

"It's hard to go back to back," Sumrall said. "We did it earlier this season in a tournament in Slaton, so we're going to approach it as something we have done successfully already. We can do it again."

The Bulldogettes remain perfect in district play, but that's not as important to the team as clinching a first round bye in the playoffs.

"If we beat Merkel, then we only need to win one more game

See **COAHOMA**, Page 4B



HERALD photo/Bruce Schoeler  
Coahoma Bulldogettes post Heather Sheppard (right) goes up over a Hawley Lady Bearcat defender in action from Dec. 21, 2007 at Bulldog Gym in Coahoma. Sheppard and the Bulldogettes won that night and completed a season sweep of the Lady Cats Friday night in Hawley, 54-47.



AP photo/Michael Dwyer  
New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) calls out at the line of scrimmage behind center Dan Koppen (67) during the AFC Championship against the San Diego Chargers in Foxborough, Mass., Jan. 20. The New England Patriots play the New York Giants in Super Bowl XLII in Glendale, Ariz, Feb 4. However, Brady's injury status for the game is uncertain at this time.

## Brady remains silent and invisible to media

By **HOWARD ULMAN**  
AP Sports Writer

**FOXBOROUGH, Mass.** — Mystery surrounds the condition of Tom Brady's right foot like a protective boot.

After limping while wearing the footwear in New York on Monday, the Patriots star wasn't seen or heard during the time on Thursday and Friday when reporters and photographers had access to the players in the locker room and at practice.

The club isn't shedding any light on the issue despite coach Bill Belichick's statement that it would.

When asked at his news conference Friday if he could say whether Brady would practice later in the day, Belichick said: "Not now. We'll see. Let you know after practice, or does everybody have a deadline before then?"

But the team never announced if the NFL MVP was at practice. New England vice president of media relations Stacey James said Friday night he had no update.

During the week before a game, teams are required to issue reports on Wednesdays and Thursdays listing the players who missed practice or were limited in their participation. On Fridays, they must report players as probable, questionable, doubtful or out of the next game.

Because the Super Bowl against the New York Giants won't be played until a week from Sunday, the first report isn't due until Wednesday.

Brady reportedly has a minor high ankle sprain, according to the Boston Globe and Boston Herald.

See **BRADY**, Page 4B

## Sharapova claims third Slam title in Australia

By **PAUL ALEXANDER**  
Associated Press Writer

**MELBOURNE, Australia** — When Maria Sharapova walked on court for the Australian Open final, she kept thinking about the sage advice of another champion.

"Champions take chances, and pressure is a privilege," Billie Jean King had written in a text message that Sharapova saw when she woke up.

"I took mine," fifth-ranked Sharapova said after beating Ana Ivanova 7-5, 6-3 Saturday for her third Grand Slam title.

Sharapova, who didn't lose a set in seven matches, was clearly determined that nothing would stop her after winning only three games against Serena Williams in last year's final.

She was over a shoulder problem that plagued her last year. She was hitting winners with regularity. Her focus never wavered, even when her usually

dependable serve briefly let her down.

She wasn't as sharp as when she ended top-ranked Justine Henin's 32-match winning streak in the quarterfinals or beat No. 3 Jelena Jankovic in the semifinals. But there was no doubt she deserved to win.

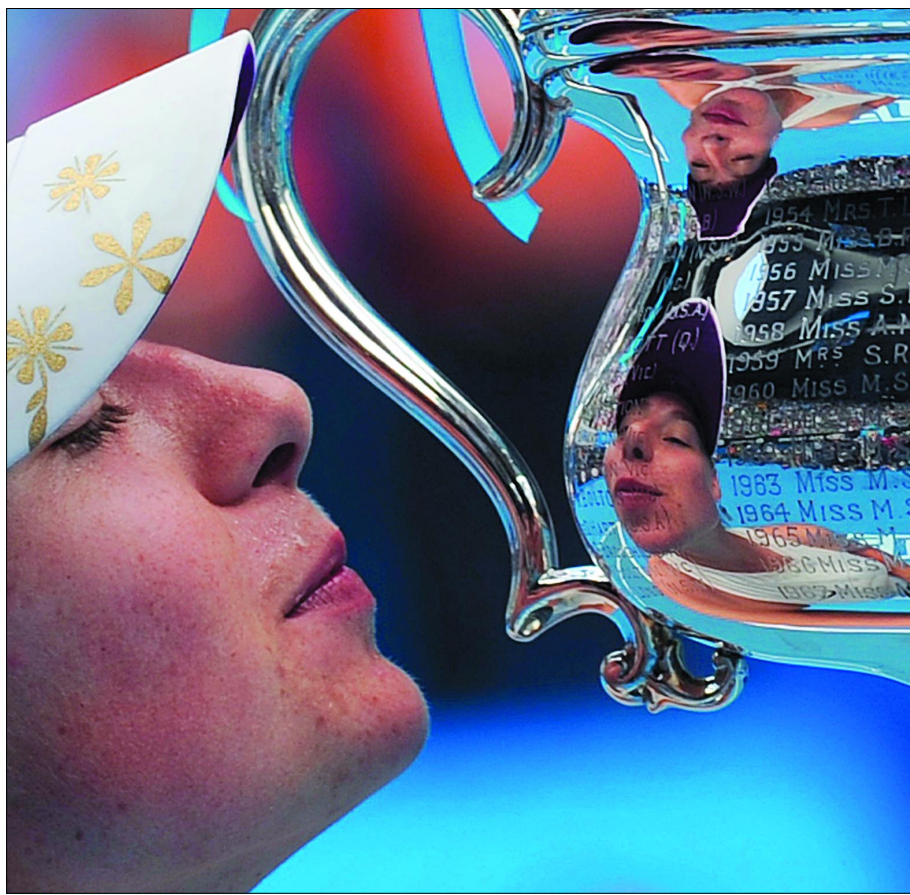
"I did the things I needed to do in order to win the match," Sharapova said, making it sound a lot more simple than it was.

Ivanovic, who at 20 is the same age as Sharapova and will rise to No. 2 when the new rankings come out, was left to find a silver lining.

"I'm still young and I still think I have a lot of Grand Slam finals in front of me," she said. "It hurts a bit now, but I'm sure I can learn from it."

Now Serbia's hopes for a title here rest with No. 3 Novak

See **SLAM**, Page 4B



AP photo/Rob Griffith  
Russia's Maria Sharapova kisses a trophy after beating Serbia's Ana Ivanovic during the final of the women's singles at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia, Saturday.

# It's Chinese New Year!

## Host a colorful and classic homemade feast

FAMILY FEATURES

The holidays may be over, but the feasting is just beginning! February 7 marks the start of the 15-day Chinese New Year festival and the first day of lunar year 4706. Why not get together for an authentic-style banquet at home? It's easier than you think. Just follow these simple tips from the kitchens at Kikkoman, the world's leading manufacturer of Asian sauces and seasonings.

### Set the date

Choose an evening between February 7 and 22 and invite friends for a traditional New Year's banquet. Pick a weekend night, so you'll have plenty of time to prepare. You can assign a few items for guests to bring, such as fortune cookies, dessert, sparkling wine, beer or sparkling cider.

### Set the mood

Symbols and colors are an important part of Chinese New Year celebrations. A round table signifies wholeness. Red and gold represent good fortune and prosperity. Decorate the room and the table with red and gold accents, from paper lanterns to table linens, candles, gold confetti, gold-coin candies and red lacquered chopsticks, as well as traditional oranges or tangerines. Buy special red envelopes (*lai see*) at a Chinese stationery store and include a message, chocolate coins or a ticket for a fun door prize inside.

### Bring on the food

Choose a menu that can be mostly made in advance, like the classic-style favorites included here. You can serve individual courses, or set everything out as a bountiful buffet. Either way, you'll find that these recipes are authentic-tasting, thanks to Kikkoman sauces — expertly blended and balanced for perfect flavor.

### Celebrate!

Chinese New Year is all about wrapping up the old year and welcoming a bright future, filled with good things, good times and good food. Keep it light, fun and festive and you can't go wrong. *Gung Hay Fat Choy!* Here's to a year of good fortune.

For more Chinese New Year entertaining tips and recipes, download Kikkoman's official Chinese New Year Celebration Guide at [www.kikkomanusa.com](http://www.kikkomanusa.com).



### Celebration Shrimp Fried Rice

Makes 4 to 5 servings

- 6 green onions and tops, cut diagonally into 1/2-inch lengths, separating whites from tops
- 1/2 cup frozen peas and carrots, thawed
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 egg, beaten
- 4 cups cold cooked long-grain rice
- 1/2 pound medium-size cooked shrimp
- 3 tablespoons Kikkoman Soy Sauce
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon white pepper

Stir-fry whites of green onions, peas and carrots in hot oil in wok or large skillet over medium-high heat 1 minute. Add green onion tops and egg; scramble. Stir in rice and shrimp, cook until heated, gently separating grains. Combine remaining ingredients; pour over rice. Cook and stir until well mixed.



### Mongolian Beef

Makes 4 servings

- 1 pound boneless beef top sirloin
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1-1/2 tablespoons Kikkoman Soy Sauce
- 1 tablespoon dry sherry
- 2 teaspoons Kikkoman Hoisin Sauce
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided
- 2 bunches green onions, cut into 1-1/2-inch lengths, separating whites from tops, divided
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- Mongolian Sauce\*
- 1 teaspoon sesame seed, toasted

Cut beef across grain into thin strips. Combine next 4 ingredients; stir in beef. Let stand 15 minutes. Stir-fry half of beef in 1 tablespoon hot oil in wok or large skillet over high heat 1 minute; remove. Repeat cooking procedure with remaining beef and 1 tablespoon oil; remove. Heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil in same pan. Add whites of green onions, garlic, ginger and red pepper; stir-fry 1 minute. Stir in green onion tops. Add beef and Mongolian Sauce. Cook, stirring, until sauce boils and thickens. Sprinkle with sesame seed before serving.

\*Mongolian Sauce: Combine 1/3 cup water, 1 tablespoon sugar, 1/2 tablespoon cornstarch, 2-1/2 tablespoons Kikkoman Soy Sauce, 1 tablespoon dry sherry and 1 teaspoon Kikkoman Hoisin Sauce.

### Chicken & Vegetable Chow Mein

Makes 4 servings

- 1/4 pound spaghetti
- 3/4 pound boneless, skinless chicken thighs, cut into thin strips
- 1 tablespoon plus 1/3 cup Kikkoman Stir-Fry Sauce, divided
- 4 teaspoons Kikkoman Soy Sauce, divided
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided
- 1 small carrot, julienned
- 2 stalks celery, cut diagonally into thin slices
- 1/2 onion, thinly sliced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 pound bean sprouts
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon Asian sesame oil

Cook pasta according to package directions; drain, rinse and drain thoroughly. Meanwhile, coat chicken with 1 tablespoon stir-fry sauce and 2 teaspoons soy sauce; let stand 15 minutes. Stir-fry chicken in 1 tablespoon hot oil in wok or large skillet over high heat 3 minutes, or until done; remove. Heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil in same pan. Add carrot; stir-fry 1 minute. Add celery, onion and garlic; stir-fry 3 minutes longer. Stir in bean sprouts, chicken, pasta, remaining 1/3 cup stir-fry sauce, 2 teaspoons soy sauce and pepper. Cook, stirring, until all ingredients are coated with sauce and pasta is heated through. Remove from heat; stir in sesame oil.

### Lucky Sweet & Sour Pork

Makes 4 to 6 servings

- 1 pound boneless pork sirloin, cut into 3/4-inch cubes
- 2 tablespoons Kikkoman Teriyaki Marinade & Sauce
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh ginger
- 3/4 cup Kikkoman Sweet & Sour Sauce
- 3 tablespoons packed brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons syrup from jar of maraschino cherries
- 1 tablespoon Kikkoman Soy Sauce
- 1/4 cup cornstarch
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided
- 1 green bell pepper, cut into 1-inch squares
- 1/2 onion, cut into 1-inch chunks
- 1 can (8 ounces) pineapple chunks, drained
- 1/2 cup maraschino cherries, stemmed

Combine pork, teriyaki sauce and ginger; let stand 15 minutes. Meanwhile, blend together next 4 ingredients; set aside. Coat pork with cornstarch. Heat 2 tablespoons oil in large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add pork in single layer. Cook 4 minutes, or until golden brown, stirring to separate pieces. Remove pork. Heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil in same pan. Add bell pepper and onion; stir-fry 2 minutes. Add pork, pineapple, cherries and sweet & sour sauce mixture; cook, stirring, until sauce boils.



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2005 GMC Envoy SLT, 40k Miles	\$14,988
2007 Chrysler Pacifica - Touring, 19k Miles	\$15,988
2002 Toyota Sequoia, Limited, Leather	\$18,988
2003 GMC Yukon XL - 46k Miles, Leather	\$18,988
2004 Chevy Suburban - 4x4, 49k Miles, Leather	\$18,988
2004 Nissan Pathfinder LE, Leather	\$19,988
2005 Chevy Suburban LS, 32k Miles, Buckets	\$19,988
2005 GMC Yukon, SLT, Loaded	\$21,988
2005 Chevy Suburban - LT, 26k Miles, Leather	\$25,988
2007 Jeep 4dr Wrangler, Unlimited, 4x4 Auto, Hardtop	\$26,988
2007 GMC Yukon XL - 3rd Seat, New Body Styles	\$27,988
2007 Cadillac Escalade - AWD, Navigation	\$43,988
2007 Jeep Liberty Limited, 18k Miles, Leather	\$16,988

# Benny Boyd

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Obituaries

Police blotter

Bulletin Board

DelRoy Buchanan



DelRoy Buchanan, 67, of Coahoma, died Friday, Jan. 25, 2008, at his residence after a lengthy illness. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Wes Massey, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Coahoma, officiating. Interment will follow at Coahoma Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home. He was born June 7, 1940, in Big Spring and married Patricia Ann Russell June 8, 1961, in Coahoma.

A lifelong resident of Coahoma, DelRoy graduated from Coahoma High School in 1958. He had worked at the Big Spring Coop Gin and had managed Harmony Gin in O'Donnell and the Vincent Gin. He had worked for Cosden Oil & Chemical for 37 years before retiring in 2005. DelRoy had coached Little League Baseball for 15 years and had 14 championship teams. He loved to barbecue and his hobbies included raising Suffolk sheep and goats.

DelRoy was a loving husband, father and a doting grandfather. His family and friends knew him for his sense of humor. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Coahoma.

Survivors include his wife, Pat Buchanan of Coahoma; a son and daughter-in-law, Rory and Susan Buchanan of Ozona; a daughter and son-in-law, LaRhonda and D. F. Stanley of Big Spring; four granddaughters, Brandi Nichole Buchanan and Britni Rori Buchanan of Ozona, and Kaylon LaShea Stanley and Kay'C Brook Stanley of Big Spring; a grandson, Kaleb J. Stanley of Big Spring; a very special nephew, Carl Wayne Barnes and wife, Billie Sue of Coahoma and numerous cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jewell and Odell Buchanan.

Pallbearers will be Merle Ringener, Tommy Parrish, Tommy Wyrick, James Proctor, Carl Wayne Barnes, Sammy Buchanan, Rodney Brooks and A. J. Stanley. Honorary pallbearers are the Wednesday Morning Cosden Retiree Coffee Group.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Heart Association, 3205 W. Cuthbert, Ste A-5, Midland 79701 or the American Diabetes Association, Midland Office, 10 Desta Drive, Suite 220E, Midland 79705 or the Coahoma Baptist Church Building Fund, Coahoma 79511.

The family wants to say a special thanks to the staff and nurses of Home Hospice for their wonderful care.

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

*Paid obituary*

Loel Forrest

Funeral Service for Loel (Cox) Forrest, 80, of Wichita Falls, will be at 10 a.m. Monday at the Bell-Cypert-Seale Chapel in Snyder. Interment will follow at Hillside Memorial Gardens under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

She died Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008, at United Regional Hospital in Wichita Falls. She was born April 5, 1927, in Stanton. She married Tommy F. Forrest on Jan. 25, 1950, in San Angelo. He preceded her in death in 1968.

Mrs. Forrest was a retired rancher and librarian. She had lived in Scurry County most of her life, attending school in Fluvanna and Snyder.

She is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Sandra and Mark Ward of Bluegrove and Nona and Jim Worton of Houston; a brother, Bruce Cox of Rotan; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday at Bell-Cypert Seale.

Lewis C. Rodgers

Lewis C. Rodgers, 88, of Midlothian, formerly of Big Spring, died Friday, Jan. 25, 2008, in a Waxahachie hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 28, 2008, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating.

He was born Oct. 31, 1919, in Vernon and married Elsie Clarice Smith on Nov. 6, 1954, in Lovington, N.M. She preceded him in death on Jan. 1, 2002.

Mr. Rodgers served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was a member of the VFW. He came to Big Spring in 1954 and had worked for Lucelle's Interior Decorators as an upholsterer for 34 years. He moved to Midlothian in April 2002. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include numerous nieces and nephews and one aunt.

He was also preceded in death by three brothers, two sisters and five half-sisters.

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

Guy Zant

Guy Zant, 56, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008, in a local hospital. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **KATAVIOUS BOOKER**, 26, Arlington, was arrested on a citation warrant.
- **VERNOR GARCIA**, 36, 511 N.E. 10th, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **CRISTOVAL MORENO**, 48, 1700 Lancaster, was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- **BONNIE GRETT STINSON**, 36, 3304 W. 80, was arrested on two capias warrants.
- **STEPHANIE CANALES**, 27, 904 S. Aylesford, was arrested on six capias warrants.
- **AMANDA DENISE GRAY**, 24, 704 Angela Rd., was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- **PRINCE VANDERBILT**, 20, 1502 Lincoln, was arrested on a citation warrant.
- **MARKUS GRAVES**, 22, 610 E. 15th, was arrested on a charge of failure to identify and 20 local warrants.
- **CARL BURLESON**, 46, 2532 Langley, was arrested on a capias warrant.
- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 600 block of Holbert.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 300 block of Sixth.
- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING** was reported in the 100 block of Gregg.
- **FAILURE TO IDENTIFY** was reported in the 1100 block of Third.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell.

Weather

- Sunday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.
- Sunday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows around 50. South winds 15 to 20 mph.
- Monday...Mostly cloudy. Windy. Highs in the mid 70s. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph.
- Monday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.
- Tuesday...Sunny...Cooler. Highs in the upper 50s.
- Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Colder. Lows around 30.
- Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s.
- Wednesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.
- Thursday...Partly cloudy. Colder. Highs in the upper 40s.
- Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s.
- Friday...Sunny. Highs in the lower 50s.

Lottery

- Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 8-16-28-30-32  
Number matching five of five: two.  
Prize per winner: \$14,693.  
Winning tickets sold in: Brownsville and Edna.
- 
- The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-9-4-3. Sum It Up: 17.
- 
- The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-6-8. Sum It Up: 14.

Take Note

- Cross stitchers are needed to complete one or more blocks of this year's Howard County Fair quilt. All supplies are provided. Blocks may be picked up from Posey Cotton Office, 601 Scurry, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. For information, call 263-1267 or 263-4980. This year's quilt theme is "Wildflowers of Texas." All proceeds from the sale of tickets for the quilt are used to defray the expenses of the Fair. The quilt will be awarded the last night of the fair.
- Pediatric flu vaccinations for children ages 6 months to 35 months are now available at the Texas Department of State Health Services clinic in College Park Shopping Center. Cost is \$10, although no one will be turned away for inability to pay. For more information, call 263-9775.
- St. Mary's and friends of St. Mary's are holding a lap blanket drive to place approximately 400 lap blankets in the hands of every nursing home patient in Big Spring. Blankets can be taken to the church office, 1001 Goliad, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday or call Connie Fowler at 267-2713.
- A beginning crochet class is being held at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the church's Parish Hall.

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

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

- MONDAY**
  - Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
  - Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 213-1342 for more information. Weigh-in starts at 5 p.m.; meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.
  - Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

- TUESDAY**
  - Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

- WEDNESDAY**
  - Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
  - Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
  - Downtown Lions Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
  - Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

- THURSDAY**
  - Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
  - Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.
  - League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.
  - The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.

Support Groups

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

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

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) TX. 21, weight loss support group meets at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third St. at 5 p.m. TOPS provides members with information, motivation and fellowship in attaining and maintaining their physician-prescribed weight goals. For more information, call 263-6819 or 263-1758. Leave a message.

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

- Dual Recovery Anonymous meetings have been canceled. They will no longer take place at the Howard County Library. If you have questions, call Deidra F. at (432) 816-3033.

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

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

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

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

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

BIG SPRING HERALD

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**Births**



**Keeley Rae Tilley**

Keeley Rae Tilley, a girl, was born on Jan. 8, 2008, weighing 6 pounds, 5 ounces and was 19 1/4 inches long.

She is the daughter of Camie Carlile and Stephen Tilley. Her grandparents are Donna and Tom Marlow, Albert and Gayle Carlile and Tommy and Saletta Tilley, all of Big Spring.



**Isaiah Francisco Rodriquez**

Isaiah Francisco Rodriquez, a boy, was born at 12:08 p.m. Jan. 9, 2008, weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces and was 19 inches long.

He is the son of Israel and Amber Rodriquez of Big Spring. His maternal grandmother is Becky King of Lamesa. His paternal grandparents are Juan and Sylvia Rodriquez of Big Spring.

Isaiah was welcomed home by big sisters Desiree, Mercedes and Lybertee.

**Menus**

**Spring City Senior Citizen's Center**

**Monday:** steak fingers/cream gravy, mashed potatoes, black-eyed peas, cornbread and fruit cocktail.

**Tuesday:** large baked potato, chili/crackers, broccoli/cheese and lemon pudding.

**Wednesday:** brisket, potato salad, onion/pickle slice, wheat bread and bread pudding.

**Thursday:** Jean's Famous chicken vegetable soup, cornbread, fancy fruit mix and oatmeal cookies.

**Coahoma ISD**

**Monday:** Breakfast, French toast, ham, apple juice, milk; Lunch, fried-chicken, creamed potatoes, green beans, rolls, milk and hot pockets.

**Tuesday:** Breakfast, pancake-sausage-on-a-stick, grape juice, syrup, milk; Lunch, tostada, pinto beans, salad, chocolate cake, milk, McRib and bread.

**Wednesday:** Breakfast, oatmeal, ham, orange juice, milk; Breakfast, lasagna, corn, bread, mixed fruit, milk and burritos.

**Thursday:** Breakfast, Pop tarts, sausage, apple-sauce, milk; Lunch, chicken fajitas, cheese, pepper/onions, salad, refried beans, milk and corndogs.

**Stanton ISD**

**Monday:** Breakfast, pancakes; Lunch, chicken or beef wraps, Western beans, lettuce/tomato salad and fruit cocktail.

**Tuesday:** Breakfast, oatmeal; Lunch, chicken/dumplings or pizza, green beans, tossed salad and apples.

**Wednesday:** Breakfast, biscuits, sausage, gravy; Lunch, ham/cheese or grilled cheese sandwiches, tator tots, chicken noodle soup and peaches.

**Thursday:** Breakfast, burritos; Lunch, chicken nuggets or beef goulash, mashed potatoes, broccoli & cheese, pears and hot rolls.

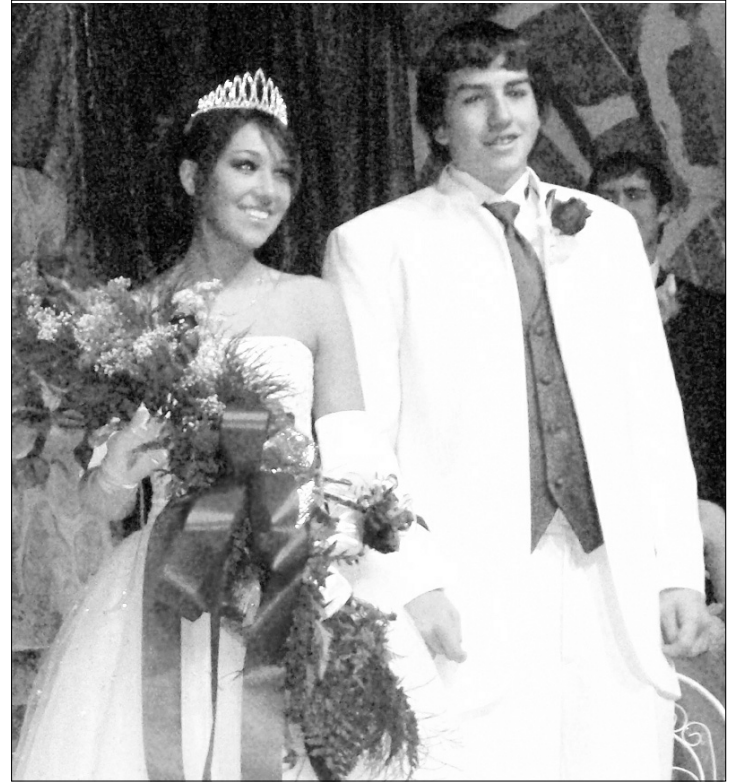
**Forsan ISD**

**Monday:** Breakfast, cereal, Nutrigrain bar, juice and milk; Lunch, chicken quesidillas, pinto beans, tossed salad, orange smiles and milk.

**Tuesday:** Breakfast, toast, peanut butter w/jelly, juice and milk; Lunch, cheeseburger, lettuce, tomato, pickles, tater tots, chocolate pudding cups and milk.

**Wednesday:** Breakfast, breakfast burrito, juice and milk; Lunch, chicken noodles, green beans, crackers, fruited gelatin and milk.

See **MENUS**, Page 3C



Sweetwater Reporter photo/Ron Howell  
**Becca Myers**, a senior at Sweetwater High School, was named the Yucca Gloriosa Queen Saturday night. She was escorted by Justin Shaw. The theme for the event was "A Medieval Fantasy." Becca is the daughter of Rick and Yvonne Myers of Sweetwater. Her grandparents are Bob and Maxene Myers and Jimmy and Rosalinda DeLeon, all of Big Spring.

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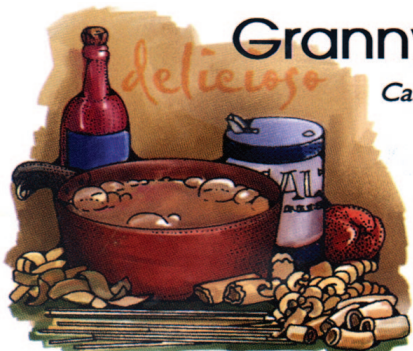
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# Consumers debating how to spend their windfall

By **CHRISTOPHER LEONARD**  
AP Business Writer

ST. LOUIS — The success of the federal \$150 billion emergency economic stimulus plan will hinge on whether American consumers do what they do best — spend, spend, spend.

The stimulus has been debated in Washington for more than a week as the economic outlook worsened, and now Americans are armed with specifics: Individuals will get up to \$600, working couples \$1,200 and those with children \$300 more per child. President Bush and leaders in Congress hope people will spend those rebates — a flat-screen television, maybe, or a trip to Disneyland — to help revive an economy sagging from bad mortgage lending and a lack of confidence in the stock market.

One problem: The spending habits of Americans, many of whom used the rising value of their homes during the real-estate boom like a piggy bank, may be changing as housing prices tumble and credit dries up.

So many consumers, like Jennifer Galligos of St. Louis, may put the money into savings or use it to pay down debt instead. The 24-year-old

accountant is married and has a 5-year-old son, so she and her husband could get up to \$1,500 in rebate money.

"I'd probably put something like that in a CD or another investment," Galligos said during her lunch break Friday. "It's not often that I get a chance to save something."

The National Foundation for Credit Counseling urged consumers Friday to use the money to pay down debt and past-due bills. But the group also recommended spending the money on home repairs or remodeling that might cut down on future energy bills.

The stimulus package isn't a done deal yet. While approved by Bush and leaders in the House, it goes to the House floor for full approval next week, and later to the Senate. Democrats there are already promising to try to amend it.

Consumer spending accounts for roughly 70 percent of the U.S. economy, so putting money in the hands of shoppers is an easy way to boost economic output — at least in the short run.

"I think it will have a positive effect — I think it's a good package. But I don't think it's going to be enough to avoid a recession," said Steve Fazzari,



**A customer shops for flat screen televisions at Best Buy in Guilderland, N.Y. The success of the federal \$150 billion emergency economic stimulus plan will hinge on whether American consumers do what they do best — spend, spend, spend. President Bush and leaders in Congress hope people will spend those rebates — on a flat-screen television, maybe, or a trip to Disneyland — to help revive an economy sagging from bad mortgage lending and a lack of confidence in the stock market.**

AP Photo/Mike Grol

a professor of economics at Washington University in St. Louis.

The rebate isn't likely to create the kind of broad economic resurgence that happened after the recession of 2001, Fazzari said. Historically low interest rates then created a boom in home refinancing. That put more money in consumers' pockets and lowered mortgage payments. But most home owners have already refinanced, and tightening

credit markets make another mortgage bonanza unlikely, he said.

"I expect that there'll be some spending out of this rebate. But it's true that households are going to be facing a tougher financial position at any time since the early 1980s," Fazzari said.

There's evidence that much of the rebate could find its way into cash registers, even if it's not immediate.

When similar rebates of

about \$300 per person were paid out in 2001, two-thirds of the cash was spent within six months, according to one paper published by the National Bureau of Economic Research, a private research group that serves as the national arbiter on such matters.

Tom Wirtz, an information technology manager from Pewaukee, Wis., has five kids between the ages of 5 and 16 as well as a 19-year-old. Describing his

current financial situation as "comfortable," he said he plans to save half of his \$2,700 check and use the rest for home improvements.

"I support it," Wirtz said of the rebate plan. "It's a good way to stimulate the economy and return money to the people who earned it."

In Salt Lake City, Munn Powell is used to funding a family of six on a bit of an economic roller coaster. A self-employed videographer, his income varies yearly and usually drops when times get tough.

"After 9-11, it was a measurable drop," said Munn, 37, who's a father to 3-year-old twins, a 6-year-old boy and an 8-year-old girl.

Under the Bush stimulus plan, the family would qualify for about \$2,400. Munn says he hasn't discussed a possible rebate with his wife of 12 years, Cristy, but said the family has a fairly set financial plan.

"I imagine we'd be somewhat conservative with any little windfall," said Munn, who just finished a spending splurge remodeling his basement. "Honestly, it's probably going to back into our reserves. That's probably not what Bush is hoping for."

## RETIREEES

Continued from Page 1A

Those are all items floated by top Senate Democrats left out of the negotiations between the administration and House leaders.

They were all considered but tossed overboard in intense talks that produced a hard-won agreement among Bush, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader John Boehner.

Their plan would give individual taxpayers up to \$600 in rebates, working couples \$1,200 and those with children an additional \$300 per child. The rebates would phase out gradually for individuals whose adjusted gross income exceeds \$75,000 and for couples with incomes above \$150,000.

But it would leave out about 20 million senior

citizens living chiefly on Social Security. They wouldn't get rebate checks unless they have at least \$3,000 earned income or pay income taxes based on other sources such as earnings, interest, investments or private pension plans.

"Less than half of all Americans 65 and older would get it," said AARP spokesman Jim Dau.

It's not clear whether seniors would ultimately be included in the final bill sent to Bush's desk.

The House is planning to pass the measure as early as Tuesday, though Senate debate won't begin until its Finance Committee drafts and votes on an alternative, perhaps on Thursday. That gives the Senate two weeks to pass its bill, reach an agreement with the House and Bush and meet Majority Leader Harry Reid's promise of

wrapping it all up by Feb. 15.

At a news conference Thursday, Pelosi, Boehner and Paulson were careful to respect the Senate's right to change the bill.

"This is not going to preclude the Senate from being the Senate and doing what they do," said Boehner.

At the same time, however, the three clearly believe that the Senate will feel enormous pressure to largely stick with the outlines of the Bush-Pelosi-Boehner agreement.

The worry is that the Senate will load up the bill with costly ideas that could provoke a confrontation with Bush and slow down the bill — and delay mailing the rebate checks.

It's particularly risky for Democrats controlling Congress, who might get

blamed for any delays. But Democrats vowed the bill will still get sent to Bush's desk within three weeks and they promised not to go overboard.

"Pigs get fat. Hogs get slaughtered," said a top Senate Democratic staff aide. "We're not interested in loading this up."

Much debate centers on whether to extend unemployment benefits for jobless people whose benefits have run out. Some Democrats, such as Rep. Charles Rangel of New York, chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, were livid that unemployment insurance was dropped by Pelosi in end-stage talks on Wednesday.

Senate Democrats appear confident they can muster the 60 votes needed to overcome procedural hurdles in front of efforts to boost unemployment benefits. If unem-

ployment insurance is part of a Senate bill sent back over to the House, Pelosi would face a quandary: Should she stand by her deal with the President or side with the Senate?

Some Democrats think Bush would have a difficult time threatening a veto over unemployment insurance.

The Senate often prevails in its battles with the House, often because once the Senate musters bipartisan support for legislation, their negotiators

simply insist that any changes could provoke a minority party filibuster. But this is one time when the House seems to have the upper hand.

"Boehner told (Pelosi) very early on ... let's try to get something done here that the White House can agree on and so we can trust it upon the Senate," said a senior House GOP aide.

## COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

missioners to discuss the project.

Construction is expected to take nine or 10 months and the sooner it starts, the better officials will feel.

"Every day we can save on this project saves the county \$1,500," County Judge Mark Barr said. "That's what it costs us to house jail inmates out of the county."

Those comments were echoed by Heffelfinger.

"When we start makes a ton of difference," he said.

"Our charge is to get personnel into the facility as soon as possible."

Also Monday, commissioners will consider:

- Invoices and purchase requests.
- Pipeline crossings and road maintenance.
- Personnel matters.
- An interlocal agree-

ment with the Texas Association of Counties.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234 or by e-mail at [reporter@bigspringherald.com](mailto:reporter@bigspringherald.com).

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## COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1A

upgraded, but how they conducted certain programs, as well," Sparks said. "We brought back useful information on

both fronts."

Trustees also will consider:

- Sparks' contract.
- The search for a new SWCID provost.
- Election service contracts with the county election administrator.

• Bids and handbook and catalog changes.

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Fight over jeans leads to jackpot at Atlantic City

MENUS

Continued from Page 2C

By WAYNE PARRY

Associated Press Writer ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — All week, Sammy Zabib was getting an earful from his girlfriend for forgetting to buy her a pair of designer jeans she spotted in a casino boutique last weekend. "She was mad," said Zabib, a 42-year-old limousine fleet manager in New York. "We had an argument. More than one."

They're not arguing now. On a return trip to pick up the jeans and end the grief Friday morning, Zabib won nearly \$800,000 playing a slot machine. He got up at 5 a.m. and drove three hours to Atlantic City, arriving at the Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa before the boutique, Whim, opened at 10 a.m. In his pocket was a photocopy of a picture of the

jeans that his girlfriend printed out for him, just to make sure there would be no confusion. With some time to kill, he sat down at a Brazil Slingo slot machine and started playing, betting \$4 a spin for about an hour. "I was just trying to kill time until the store opened so I could get her those jeans," he said. "Then the machine stopped working. I didn't know why, so I called

security. They came over, took a look at it, and said, "You won the jackpot!" He called his girlfriend, whom he identified only as Anna, and she started screaming. "She wasn't mad anymore," he said with a laugh. "She's waiting for me at home now." After receiving his payout from the casino, Zabib completed his mission, buying the pair of "7 For All Mankind" jeans —

Dojo style — that Anna had wanted so badly. "They're the hot brand right now," said Borgata spokesman Michael Facenda. "They go for \$149 a pair." Zabib doesn't know what else he'll do with his newfound riches. "Maybe buy her some more jeans," Zabib said.

Thursday: Breakfast, donuts, juice and milk; Lunch, fish, macaroni & cheese, tossed salad, hot rolls, pears and milk. Friday: Breakfast, biscuits, sausage, juice and milk; Lunch, barbecue on a bun, baked chips, pickle spears, corn cobbett, pineapple tidbits and milk.

Groups raise funds to erect statue of 'Happy Days' character

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Aaaaaay! The Fonz will be returning to Milwaukee later this year — permanently, and in bronze. A statue of Arthur "Fonzie" Fonzarelli, the leather-jacketed biker from "Happy Days," will be erected in the city where the TV sitcom was set, now that local groups have raised the \$85,000 needed to do it, civic leaders said Friday. Henry Winkler, who played Fonzie during the show's run from 1974 to 1984, called the "Bronze the Fonz" project "a phenomenal compliment." "It's not often you have a dream when you're 7 lying in your bed, you get to live your dream out and then someone is going to erect a life-size statue of your creation," he said. Winkler was in Milwaukee on Friday morning when organizers officially announced the

money had been raised. Plans call for dedicating the statue around Labor Day. It will likely be downtown along the Milwaukee River. Two booster groups, VISIT Milwaukee and Spirit Milwaukee, spearheaded the fundraising. Among the donors was cable network TV Land, which has sponsored similar statues such as ones of Bob Newhart in Chicago and Mary Tyler Moore in Minneapolis. Other supporters included a bakery in Jefferson that sold thumbs-up cookies and a fan who established a "Bronze the Fonz" group on the social networking site Facebook.

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker The Worst-Case Scenario East dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: A 7, 7 6 2, A 10 9 5 3, K 9 4. WEST: Q 8 6 2, A 10 8 5 4, 8 2, J 6. EAST: 10 9 5 3, Q 3, K 6, 10 8 7 5 3. SOUTH: K J 4, K J 9, Q J 7, A Q 2. The bidding: East South West North Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT. Opening lead — five of hearts. When you're declarer and the outcome seems promising but not certain, you should try to picture the ways the defenders' cards might be divided that would put the contract in jeopardy. Take this case where West leads a heart against three notrump and East plays the queen. Tomorrow: Famous Hand.

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

### Stripling, Bond very deserving of their awards

We were very pleased last Thursday when it was announced that Hayes Stripling and Janice Bond were named Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Man and Woman of the Year for 2007 during the annual chamber banquet.

Stripling, who was aptly described as having the "gift of graceful eloquence" by 2006 Man of the Year recipient and presenter Col. Jim Little, has blessed our community and many organizations with a willingness to do more than just talk.

Stripling's many community activities, including directorship positions with the North Side Community Center, Boy Scouts, Howard County Appraisal District and Howard County Bible Class and being active in his church, Big Spring Rotary Club and the local Texas A&M Club.

When it came time for 2006 Woman of the Year JoBeth Corwin to announce her successor, the list of Bond's activities took some time to detail.

"She has touched the lives of so many through her contributions," Corwin said in her presentation. "Contributions to the Heritage Museum, Salvation Army, CASA, the Big Spring Rotary Club, Delta Kappa Gamma, the Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union, Chamber of Commerce and Big Spring Symphony Guild."

In addition, Bond has been very active in her church and as a member of the state board of directors for the Retired Teachers Association.

Truly, Stripling and Bond are community-minded individuals who go out of their way to make Big Spring a better place for the people who reside here and who visit.

We count them both as dear friends, both collectively, as members of the Herald's editorial board, and individually.

We congratulate them and, as we seem to do at this time each year, offer a proud but humble "Thank You" for all they do.

### How To Contact Us

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

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

### LETTER POLICIES

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

### A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

*May we live under Your style, Lord, and draw others to You.*

Amen

# The waiting is the hardest part

I'm always tempted to read the last page well before I finish a book. I give in occasionally and the short term happiness at knowing how things end always ruins the rest of the experience of reading the book. Still, I sometimes can't resist and learn who dunit before I figure out why dunnit or how dunnit even though I know the folly of following that path.

I think the same lesson applies in life as the temptation to just skip to the end often overrules people's willingness to follow the proper steps. It's with this analogy that I'm trying to understand the probably not new, but certainly new to me, world of kids as young as 13 engaging in a variety of sex acts that make me blush even as an adult.

I'm no moralist and I don't pretend to know at what age other people are supposed to have sex. Sixteen might be right for some kids, while others wait till 18, 21 or even longer.

I am, however, pretty sure that the correct answer is not 13 or 14. I'm also pretty sure that,



DANIEL KLINE

President Bill Clinton jokes aside, anything with the word sex in it counts as sex, not just the straight forward variety.

If you're 14 and rationalizing that you're taking it slow because you have yet to have intercourse, but have done everything else on the menu, you're kidding yourself.

It's not exactly that kids are having sex too young that makes me sad for them, but the life experiences that those rushing to shed their innocence lose.

If a teenager skips right to sex then they are missing all the awkward joy going slowly inadvertently brings you. Move too quickly and you'll get to the same place, but you won't see any of the scenery along the way and probably won't remember much about the journey.

Perhaps I was a more naïve kid than most in my day, and certainly I was more innocent than many today, but I look back fondly on shyly holding my high school girlfriend's hand at the movies. I wasn't desperately trying to talk her into having sex with me, because I was trying to figure out how to kiss her and clumsily putting my arm around her on her parents' couch.

Even 18 years ago we were probably a little behind the curve of

what other kids were doing, but we followed a pace that made sense for us, not one dictated by television or peer pressure. Of course there were times that our mutual awkwardness got in the way of our relationship, but overall being a little afraid made us better friends then and allows us to still be friends today.

We laugh about it now and after we both got married and had kids we bonded again, sharing parenting advice along with the various triumphs and tragedies of our lives. I'm pretty sure that wouldn't be true if instead of innocently cuddling and talking in her parents' basement, we had spent our time looking for a dark stairwell to have sex in.

It's a cliché to say that how you get someplace often makes where you're going more special once you get there, but it's usually true. There's simply an emptiness if you reach the finish line without having run the race.

Taking a shortcut might bring you instant gratification, but you've likely lost something in the long-term.

*Daniel B. Kline's work appears in over 100 papers weekly. He can be reached by e-mail at dan@notastep.com.*

## YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

Praise the Lord, another great Festival of Lights presentation produced by hard-working volunteers has come to a close. My goal of 20,000 visitors failed by 646, but I'm still very happy and pleased with the great turnout we had. They came from 41 states and 16 countries, namely Canada; Cape Town, South Africa; Mexico; Puerto Rico; Korea; Taiwan; Burma; Iraq; Russia; India; Italy; Columbia; Turkey; Denmark; and Norway.

Our theme this year was a presentation to our Armed Forces. We had our huge flag rewrapped for the occasion that contains approximately 7,000 lights sitting behind a field of poinsettias and cactus. A small jet added to theme. This was in dedication to all our military forces and saying, "God Bless You" as you serve our country.

I am sure most of you noticed our new greeters' booth. This was designed and constructed by one of our newest members, Walter Ward. Our greeters certainly did enjoy having a warm place to welcome our visitors from. Another new member is Skip Burcham, who designed and displayed various vinyl signs for businesses that

could not have the lighted poinsettias. That is a nice addition to have available. Also, one of our members, Debbie Wegman, took over recruiting the greeters this year. We welcome these volunteers with such talents. "Thanks."

Once again the city provided us with transportation to and from the warehouse, as well as helping set up displays and working other areas where needed. Those participating to make this festival possible were the city's Parks Department, Street Department and Utilities Department. The Parks Department allows a member to start in October, generally Jennifer Cloud, and sometimes Freddy with the testing of lights, displays and everything needed to start setting up for the event. This, of course, is with the valuable help from the Federal Correction Institution's provision of three trustees. We had three top-notch trustees this year.

Donations came in various ways and I wish to say thanks to Lee George, Jack Cathey, Walter Ward, Big Spring FCI and Warden Rodney Chandler, the city of Big Spring, B&J Septic, Tom Corwin, Lee Harris, Skip Burcham, Larry Shaw, Mary F. Malone, Hayes Stripling,

Jerry Worthy and Myra Robinson.

Our Adopt A Spot sponsors are vital to the function of the Festival, those participating this year were: Big Spring Woman's Club, Cathey Construction Co., city of Big Spring, Comanche Trail Ladies Golf Association, Downtown Lions Club, Downtown Revitalization Association, Friends of the Library, First Presbyterian Church, HEB, Home Hospice, Howard College Diplomats, Howard College Student Government Association, Howard College Residence Hall Association., Howard College SWCID Government Association; KBST, Keep Big Spring Beautiful, Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez State Veterans Home, McDonald's, Big Spring Powwow, Spring City Senior Citizens Center, St. Paul Lutheran Church, the Thixton family, Trinity Baptist Church, Tyler Sheppard, Victim Services and Western Container.

Our schools — Big Spring High School, Big Spring Junior High, Bauer Elementary, Kentwood Elementary, Marcy Elementary, Moss Elementary and Washington Elementary — once again present-

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

# Maybe no one will win this election

American elections are nothing if not amusing; solemn rituals laced with equal measures of irony and hypocrisy, with a touch of absurdity thrown in for taste. The victory speeches alone are worth the price of admission.

Take for example the statement of Mitt Romney after he'd been declared winner of the Michigan caucuses: "Tonight is a victory of optimism over Washington-style pessimism," he said.

Implicit in that statement is the belief, widely held, unfortunately, that optimism is a good thing in of itself and that to be pessimistic is somehow un-American. Balderdash. Hogwash. Fiddle-fad-dle.

There, having exhausted my supply of 19th Century rebukes, let me tell you why the idea is dangerous nonsense. A little optimism is fine, necessary, even. It helps one get up in the morning and face the day. When it reaches the point of self-delusion, however, it masks the real problems one faces and makes a solution impossible.

Romney's victory took place at the precise moment that the national economy seems poised to plunge into a full-blown recession and in a state that has been living that recession for the better part of a decade. Michigan's unemployment rate, at about 8 percent, is the highest in the country; its chief economic engine, the auto industry, is reeling from foreign competition and shows little sign



DONALD KAUL

of recovering any time soon. Plants, one after another, keep closing.

It doesn't need optimism; it needs rescue.

Romney says he can bring Michigan's lost jobs home. By cutting taxes, of course. That's the Republican answer to hadacol. It cures all ills.

Let me say this about that: Cutting taxes does not necessarily create jobs. Rich people and corporations do not invest in plants and equipment simply because they have the money to do so. There has to be some expectation of profit. And if there's nobody out there with money to buy anything, that expectation does not exist.

I will never know how Democrats keep losing elections to Republicans. The GOP has controlled Congress for most of the past dozen years and the presidency for the past seven. Having inherited a budget surplus, a boisterous economy and a healthy dollar, they've managed to squander those advantages and run the economy into a ditch. And now we're seriously considering keeping a Republican in the White House? That's like hiring Michael Vick as your dog walker.

On second thought, I think I know how Democrats keep losing elections. Their ability to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory is all but supernatural.

Take, for example, the decision of the national party to ignore the Michigan caucuses. Michigan, seeking to achieve some relevance in the presidential selection process, had moved its caucuses up right behind Iowa and New Hampshire. This so offended the leaders of the Democratic party

that they punished the state by stripping it of its delegates at the national convention. The major presidential candidates went along with the gag (most of them because they thought Hillary was going to win anyway) and didn't campaign in the state.

How dumb is that? You've got a major industrial state that will be up for grabs in the fall and you turn it over to the Republicans to show off their wares while you sulk in a corner. As a matter of fact, Michigan has a greater claim on being an early primary state than either Iowa or New Hampshire. It's bigger, more diverse and its problems are national in character.

So Michigan didn't follow the party rules in moving up its primary, so what? States have pretty much free reign in conducting their elections. What could the Democrats have been thinking of? Sometimes I really do believe that everything the Democrats know about politics they learned in kindergarten. After the Michigan caucuses, the carnival moved on to South Carolina, which the Republican state chairman called "a make-or-break contest."

The last time South Carolina hosted a make-or-break contest was 1860.

How'd that work out, by the way?

*Donald Kaul is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington correspondent who, by his own account, is right more than he's wrong. E-mail him at dkaul1@verizon.net.*

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**COAHOMA**

Continued from Page 1B

this season to clinch the district title," Sumrall said. "We haven't talked much about the perfect district record. We're more interested in winning the district and getting a bye in the playoffs. So I guess in a way that makes going perfect in district play pretty important."

The Bulldogettes already defeated Merkel earlier this season, winning, 47-37.

Coahoma 16 9 7 22-54  
Hawley 15 9 10 13-47  
Coahoma (24-4, 10-0): Laci Sterling 18, Janice Gonzalez 5, Christie Rich 15, Heather Sheppard 16.  
Hawley: Martinez 4, Meyer 2, Jordan 13, Phillips 14, Hargis 14.

**BRADY**

Continued from Page 1B

The team has given no indication of the nature of the injury to the right foot, which Brady plants when he throws a pass. It's an encouraging sign, though, that Brady wasn't seen wearing the boot by reporters and photographers since Monday.

He wasn't in the locker room for the 45-minute access period the past two days. Nor was he spotted during the first 15 minutes of practice on Thursday and the first 12 on Friday when the media were allowed to observe.

ESPN analyst Ron Jaworski, who reviews game tapes, said he believed Brady was hurt late in the first quarter and again early in the third of New England's 21-12 win over San Diego in the AFC championship game last Sunday. Brady threw a season-high three

**Bulldogs 59, Hawley 40**

In their first game since being ranked 13th in the Jan. 21 Class 2A Texas Association of Basketball Coaches top 20 poll, Coahoma's Bulldogs looked the part of an elite team.

The Bulldogs dominated the Hawley Bearcats, leaving no doubt they belong in the top 20.

Coahoma never trailed in the game and blistered the Bearcats in the first half, doubling them up for a 34-17 advantage headed into the intermission.

The Bulldogs kept that momentum rolling in the third period, pushing their lead to 51-23 by the end of the stanza. Hawley made a small run in the final eight minutes once the game was already

decided and Coahoma took its foot off the gas.

"We got out to a quick start," Bulldogs Head Coach Kim Nichols said. "We played well for most of the game and put up a strong showing."

Coahoma was led by Matthew Tatum, who finished with 18 points and 12 rebounds. Ray Gutierrez and Colter Morgan each added eight apiece.

The Bulldogs remain perfect in district play at 8-0. They were also playing host to Merkel Saturday night in Coahoma.

"This is a bit like a tournament situation playing in back-to-back days," Nichols noted. "We beat Merkel earlier in the season and we feel like it's hard for anyone to beat us

at home. We play a little better at home. We matchup well with Merkel and as long as we stay out of foul trouble, then we feel good about getting another win."

Merkel is currently third in District 5-2A with a 6-2 record, trailing Haskell (8-1) and Coahoma.

Pick up Monday's edition of the *Herald* for full results of Coahoma's district contest with the Merkel Badgers.

Coahoma 15 19 17 8-59  
Hawley 9 8 6 17-40  
Coahoma (17-4, 8-0): Mikey Mendoza 2, Josh Paniagua 7, Josh Jones 3, Ray Gutierrez 8, Colter Morgan 8, Logan Stone 7, Matthew Tatum 18, Jovi Paniagua 6.  
Hawley: Taylor 5, Thompson 14, Compton 2, Ross 2, Bristow 2, Dugan 5, Manly 6, Easley 4.

interceptions in the game. Recovery times from high ankle sprains vary.

Pittsburgh Penguins star Sidney Crosby learned Tuesday, the day after Brady was photographed with the boot, that he would miss 6-to-8 weeks with the injury. Jacksonville quarterback David Garrard sustained the injury last Oct. 22 and didn't play again until four weeks later.

New York Jets quarterback Chad Pennington sprained his right ankle in the season opener against the Patriots and returned two weeks later.

Dr. Steven Weinfeld, chief of foot and ankle surgery at New York's Mount Sinai Medical Center, said the recovery time is generally longer for a high ankle sprain than a lower one, the Hartford Courant reported.

"I think they'd be more worried if the game was this week," Weinfeld, who isn't treating Brady, told the newspaper. "I think

it's nice that he's got almost two weeks to recover from whatever the injury was. But if it's really a high ankle sprain, those things take up to three or four months to resolve.

"Two weeks is better than one week, but I think there's a chance that he might not be at the top of his game come Feb. 3."

Two of Brady's wide receivers joked about filling in for him.

"Bill actually brought me in his office earlier this morning and asked me if I wanted to move to quarterback, and we're going to put in a whole new offense," Donte' Stallworth said. "He wants me to run the option."

Not quite, according to Wes Welker.

"Well, actually, Coach pulled me into the office and told me I was going to be the quarterback, so I don't know where he's hearing that from," Welker said of Stallworth.

"I think he kind of overheard our conversation."

But no serious information about the injury was released.

At Belichick's news conference, James said, "final question" as the coach was asked to compare the current trip to the Super Bowl to the other three the team has played in.

Belichick often accepts additional questions after James' routine announcement, and a reporter offered one.

He asked if Belichick could say what Brady did or didn't do on Thursday, the Patriots' first day of practice after a three-day break.

"Was that the last question?" Belichick said of the previous one, smiling as he turned toward James.

"That was the last question," James replied.

With that, Belichick walked from the podium and out of the room, leaving a mystery in his wake.

**SLAM**

Continued from Page 1B

Djokovic, who faces unseeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France, the tournament's big surprise, in the men's final Sunday evening.

Jonathan Erlich and Andy Ram became the first Israeli doubles pairing to win a Grand Slam when they outlasted Michael Llodra and Arnaud Clement 7-5 7-6 (4) Saturday.

Sharapova's 2004 Wimbledon title made her only the second Russian woman to win a major — just weeks after Anastasia Myskina captured the French Open.

Her win over Ivanovic was the fifth major by a Russian woman.

Sharapova first met King, winner of 39 singles and doubles Grand Slam titles, at a juniors tournament when she was 13 or 14.

"From that point on, she's just always been really supportive," Sharapova said. "She's always one of the first people to text me when either I'm having a tough moment or a great win."

She woke up to King's inspirational text message.

"I had those great words in my mind during the match," she said, adding that when it was over, she got another message: "Congratulations. You did great."

On a hot, mostly sunny day, Sharapova retreated to the shade behind the baselines between points. It was Australia Day, so organizers put small national flags at each seat, but there were plenty of Serbian and Russian flags, too.

Both players showed some nerves; Sharapova was simply more consis-

tent. She had only two more winners than Ivanovic, but less than half as many as the Serbian's 33 unforced errors.

"I knew I had to be aggressive, and that type of game will obviously cause more mistakes," Ivanovic said.

Serving at 2-2 in the first set, Ivanovic set up double break point with a double fault, then sent a forehand long.

After holding serve the first three times at love, Sharapova committed three double faults while serving at 4-3 to hand the game to Ivanovic.

She shrugged off the setback, running off the last three games, rallying from 0-30 as she served for the set.

"I didn't get impatient,"

Sharapova said. "She's two points away from winning the first set in a Grand Slam final. If you want it, take it. And she didn't."

From 3-3 in the second set, Sharapova ran off the last three games again, breaking Ivanovic for the fourth time to finish the match.

Sharapova dropped to her knees and appeared to be fighting back tears as she waved and blew kisses to the crowd. She shook hands and exchanged high fives with her father and supporters.

Sharapova wished her mother, Yelena, a happy birthday and told her how she planned to spend some of her \$1.2 million in prize money.

"With this big, fat

check, I'm going to send you a bunch of roses," she said. "Last year I lost on her birthday and this year I said I'm going to make it up to her, and I did."

The Russian star said when her coach and hitting partner Michael Joyce's mother died, it helped her put her cope with the hard times.

Every time she went out to play or practice "Jane was the name we were thinking about," Sharapova said. "I want to dedicate this win to her because after the loss (Joyce) suffered, I got a whole lot of perspective with my injuries and setbacks."

"It helped me prioritize so many things that were outside of tennis."

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# 4C Excellence — an uncommon virtue

**B**ooker T. Washington was best known as one of the most influential black men of his time. His childhood was one of privation, poverty and back-breaking work. From birth he became the property of James Burroughs of Virginia and was put to work as early as possible. Since it was illegal for a slave to learn to read and write, he never received an education, yet he overcame near-impossible odds and died at age 59.



JERRIE STOCKS

In his autobiography, "Up From Slavery," he wrote, "It is best to concentrate on improving our character than economic skills." He said, "Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way." And that he did.

In our society today, excellence is a word rarely used. We don't see it in our schools or our government. Employers

do not require it from their employees and it's rarely impressed upon the mind of the child in the family unit. Therefore, most of our children do not understand there is such a thing as excellence in life, nor do they realize that "being average" can lead them into a common life of mediocrity.

I once heard a minister say this: "Consider the postage stamp. Its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to something until it gets there." How passionately our society needs to embrace this truth and impress it upon the young minds of our children today.

Excellence in life does not imply that our children live in a straight jacket or that perfection is a dirty word. As parents, it's a moral obligation we owe to our children to train them to reach for the higher way. Our children can travel on the higher way, or they can travel on the by way. What we teach, train, and guide them toward is what they achieve in life.

Dear Jerrie,  
I'm a 42-year-old mom.

Since reading your column, I realize that my husband and I have not talked to our children about good manners. Our sons are 15 and 13, and they do pretty good when company is around or when we eat out. But at home they are rude to each other and have poor table manners. The 15-year-old thinks all this good manners stuff is sissy. Please advise.

Jackie

Hello Jackie,

Your sons are rude to each other and have poor table manners at home, because that's what they learned to do from early in life. If you and your husband had modeled good manners before them when they were small, it's unlikely they would not be well-man-

nered today.

Why don't the two of you talk to your sons? Explain that you failed to teach them early on, but it's valuable to them now to understand that proper table etiquette and basic good manners is not sissy, but will mark them for better jobs and advancement in their careers. They should know that all powerful and strong men including presidents of the United States have proper table manners. Hopefully, this will change their minds.

Hi Jerrie,

I was home from college during the holidays, and found your column in the *Big Spring Herald*. It's traffic. How, do I handle a situation with my best friend, who has

## MANNERS MATTER

made a lifestyle for herself of always been late? We attend college together, but are not roommates. She does not have a car, but I do. I pick her up for class two days a week. Her constant tardiness causes me to be late to class. I have talked to her numerous times. She will always apologize, but never changes.

Is there a solution?  
Kim

Hello Kim,

The cardinal rule of etiquette is promptness. When others are consistently late, it tells me they have no respect for themselves, or the other person. Talk to your friend again. Explain

that you are doing her a favor by picking her up for class. The best way she can show her appreciation is by being on time. Let her know that her tardiness shows up on your class record as well as it does hers. If she continues being late, then the decision is up to you.

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.

### Roger Ebert recovering after surgery

NEW YORK (AP) — Roger Ebert, who has undergone a series of cancer surgeries, was recovering Friday after having yet another operation.

The 65-year-old film critic had successful surgery Thursday in Houston to address complications from previous operations, his lawyer said in a statement.

"Chaz and Roger Ebert are grateful to everyone for the continued prayers and concern," lawyer Eliot Ephraim said Friday. "The surgery went well, and the Eberts look forward to giving you more good news about Roger's recovery in the days to come."

Ephraim did not give further details.

Ebert has been a film critic at the *Chicago Sun-Times* for more than 40 years.

## Pushing Us To The Limit!

Every year in off season, softball is always one of the sports with teammates who slack and whine about running and everything else! Well, that is what the other athletic teams would say about us to other coaches. After that, the softball team developed a reputation of being lazy and complainers. At the beginning of this year Coach Sparks and Coach Reyes made sure that we got rid of that reputation. For the past four months the off-season softball team has been put through a workout that has mentally, physically and emotionally pushed us to our limit and beyond! I can honestly say now that I am proud to be a part of the team. As teammates we have been with each other through our highest times and our lowest through all of the workouts. To congratulate and to encourage! Going through this has really made us grow as a team! Thank you Coach Spark, Coach Reyes and my fellow teammates.



## FORSAN BUFFALOES

Nathen Atkerson, Raul Sanchez, Ashley Hodnett and Britney McIntire pose with Coach S. Park during Math Class.



Senior Micheal Leal tries out the hovercraft made in Physics Class.



Kyle Daniel is hard at work on his gingerbread house project in Mrs. McDonald's Housing Class.

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# Fewer people trashing U.S. roads, beaches, experts say

By **FRANK GREVE**  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — America is getting cleaner, litter experts say.

They estimate that deliberate trash-tossing has fallen about 2 percent a year since the mid-'70s in communities where it's been measured.

On U.S. beaches, cigarette butts, beverage cans and Styrofoam peanuts for packaging are down, cleaners say. In most communities, pooper-scooper laws now make carefree strolls possible. Even along roadsides, more of what's visible today is grass.

Remarkably, the improvements come despite an increase of 90 million in the U.S. population since widespread trash surveying began in 1974.

If you haven't picked up on litter's decline, don't be surprised. People raise their standards as places get cleaner, so they're never impressed, according to John Doherty, New York City's sanitation commissioner. "The more you improve the cleanliness level, the higher people's expectations are."

Doherty, 69, who started out as a city street-sweeper in 1960, has lived the progress.

Thirty years ago, independent assessors rated nearly half of New York's streets and sidewalks as filthy. "A sweeper'd go out and there'd be mounds of steaming dog waste," Doherty said. "That was tolerated then."

Twenty years ago, New York was still so dirty that humorist Dave Barry accused the mayor of having appointed a Commissioner for

Making Sure the Sidewalks Are Always Blocked by Steaming Fetid Mounds of Garbage the Size of Appalachian Foothills.

Today, the same independent assessment system used 30 years ago rates 95 percent of New York's streets and sidewalks as clean. Once-rare litter penalties now are the second biggest source of the city's revenue from fines, after parking violations.

As New York goes, so goes the nation, albeit by fits and starts, since litter curbs are almost entirely a local or state matter. For example:

— In New Jersey, revenue from special \$50 Shore to Please license plates subsidizes cleanups of river, bay and ocean shorelines by state prisoners.

— In Washington state, a multimedia "Litter and it will hurt" campaign warns motorists of the state's serious litter fines: \$1,025 for tossing a lighted cigarette, for example. The effort has cut litter by 20 percent on state-overshadowed highways and roads since it began in 2002, according to Megan Warfield, the state's coordinator of litter programs.

— In Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Tennessee, Alabama, Oklahoma and Washington state, people who spot highway litterers can rat them out to hot lines by reporting their license plate numbers.

The numbers, converted to vehicles' owners' addresses, generate tens of thousands of warning letters yearly. "That really gets their attention," Warfield said.

— In Houston, Dallas,



John Fitzhugh/Biloxi Sun Herald/MCT

**Cigarette butts are the most common form of litter in the United States and the rest of the world. America is getting cleaner, litter experts say. They estimate that deliberate trash-tossing, like these cigarette butts at a street drainage in Gulfport, Miss., has fallen about 2 percent a year over the last 30 years in communities where it's been measured. Remarkably, the improvements came despite an 80 million increase in the U.S. population since serious trash surveying began in 1977.**

San Antonio and Austin, Texas, litter-law prosecutions are up sharply, according to John Ockels, the director of the Texas Illegal Dumping Resource Center, a nonprofit organization in Sherman, Texas, that fights litter. "Nobody running for office in Texas ever wants to be soft on crime," Ockels explained, "and nowadays that includes environmental law

enforcement."

— In and around Augusta, Ga., junk cars get towed if they won't start. Littering citations against waste and recycling trucks are up 1,300 percent over last year, thanks largely to police traps on the road to the landfill.

Neighborhood associations demanded the added enforcement, said Marshal's Office Sgt. David Bass, the head of the anti-litter unit.

Beyond enforcement, many factors aligned against litter. Recycling, for example, has made people more conscious of solid waste of all kinds. Tourist destinations discovered that it paid to be litter free. The same schoolchildren who pulled cigarettes out of their parents' mouths got on them when they littered.

It isn't that U.S. attitudes toward litter changed, said P. Wesley

Schultz, a social psychologist at California State University at San Marcos. "People never had a very favorable attitude toward litter," Schultz said. "What we have seen is a fairly dramatic change in people's norms about how appropriate it is to litter."

"People now feel littering is inappropriate and that others will disapprove of them if they litter. The norm about what's right and wrong changed."

## LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

ed us with their Christmas cards. Again, thanks for your help in presenting your displays.

Vandalism was cruel this year. However, we did get some pictures, so you vandals are not home free. The destruction of candy canes, flood lights and the Adopt A Spot of the Downtown Revitalization Association occurred twice during the event. After closing, but before we could remove everything, we experienced the destruction of our new greeters' booth. Then vandals cut and stole about 100 feet of our heavy electrical cable. We are looking for you!

To the board and committee: "Thanks," you are special and I appreciate you! I ask the Lord to bless each and every one that played a part in the Festival, regardless of the size. Just know that you are appreciated. It takes

team work to make an event such as this a success. Anyone interested in being a part of the Festival let me hear from you. I am still interested in lighter duties after 11 years.

PAT SIMMONS  
FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS  
CHAIRMAN

TO THE EDITOR:

As a voter and a member of a local chapter of the poverty-fighting group ONE, I have been working with the more than 2.4 million ONE members nationally to make the fight against extreme poverty and global disease an issue in the 2008 presidential election.

I know global poverty is usually not part of the conversation when it comes to presidential politics. But through ONE Vote '08, ONE's non-partisan effort made up of ordinary voters and some of the most experienced political and policy experts in America, that's all changing. ONE members are engaging the candidates at campaign stops

across America and asking them about their plans to fight poverty and save lives. Candidates are responding, some with policy speeches, others by incorporating global poverty into their national security platforms.

As "Super Tuesday" approaches, ONE Vote '08 only plans to turn the pressure up. For instance ONE members have gotten all of the major candidates to go on the record and lay out their concrete plans to fight global poverty and disease if elected, for all voters to see. I encourage voters to view those plans and compare the candidates at [www.onevote08.org/onthe record](http://www.onevote08.org/onthe record).

For the sake of the lives being lost and the security of Americans here at home, preventing global poverty and disease must be part of this year's campaign. Want to hear something a little different out of the candidates this year? Visit ONE.org and get involved.

AARON BOLLINGER  
LUBBOCK

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Display's Of Splendor	KBST	Sugg's Hallmark
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Big Spring Symphony - conducted by Mr. Keith Graumann  
Coahoma Choir Kids - conducted by Mrs. Sandy Wallace  
Forsan High School Band - conducted by Jim Rhodes

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#### Special Thanks to:

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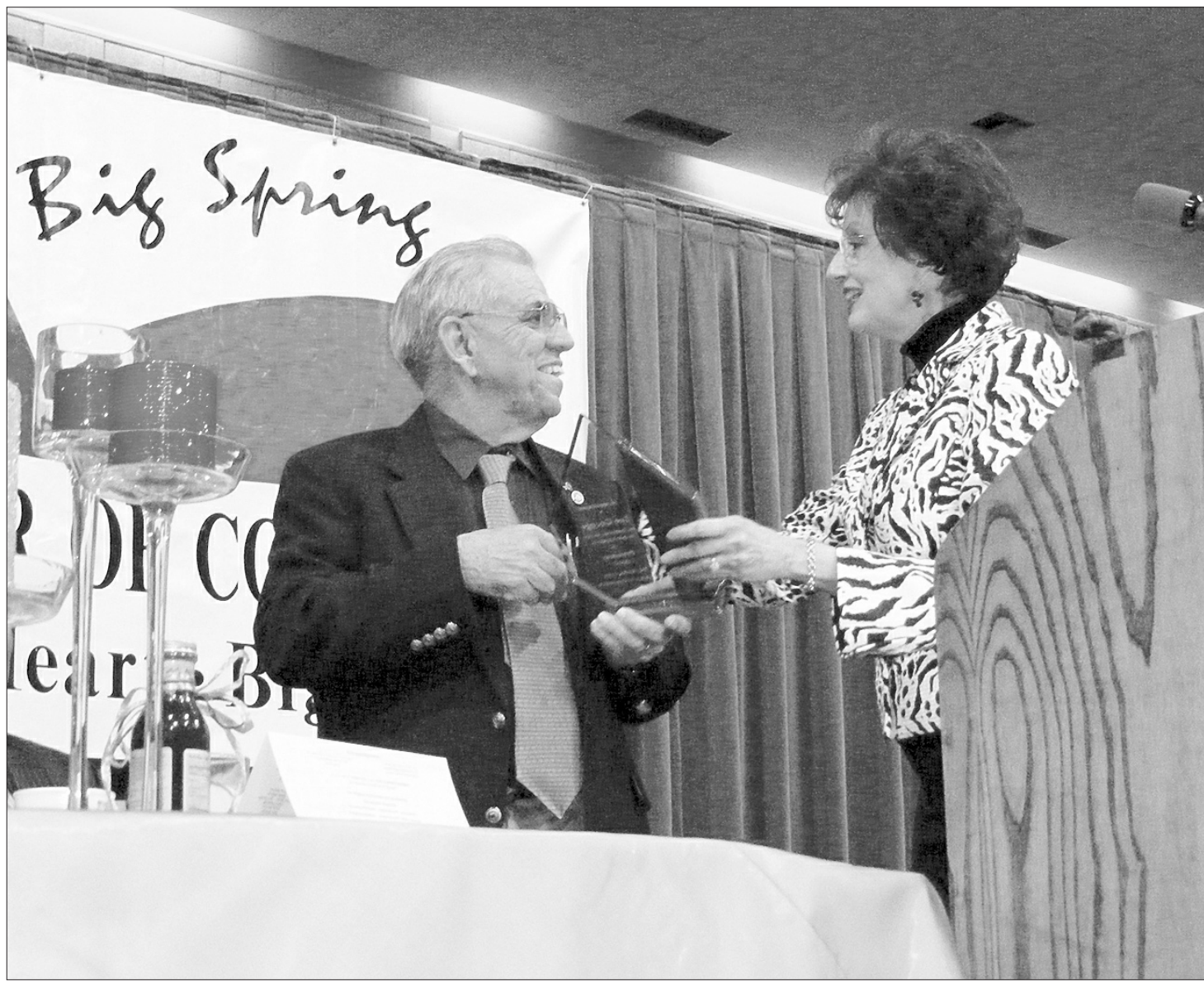
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# BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE

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 5C**  
Sunday, January 27, 2008



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan  
**Outgoing Chamber of Commerce President Lee George, left, receives a plaque of appreciation from new Chamber president Linda Elrod during the annual Chamber Banquet Thursday night in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.**

## Energy Watch



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



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

After nearly three weeks of virtually uninterrupted strength, natural gas prices are weaker this week. Prices are at the high end of the range seen in the February contract between last September and mid-November when prices began to fall. Since the contract's recent lows in late-December prices are up about \$1.50.

The natural gas storage withdrawal for the reporting week was 59 billion cubic feet. The pull was virtually on consensus estimates. With the draw, current storage stands above the five-year average.

The 8-14 day temperature outlook has moderated some, now suggesting mostly normal temperatures east of the Mississippi. Conversely, the West Coast, Mountain, and Plains states look as though they will be facing significantly colder temperatures than normal.

The NOAA has updated their long-range temperature outlooks. The outlook can generally be described as bearish for natural gas prices. The forecasts are mostly unchanged from the expectations seen leading up to this year's winter.

- In Mexico, the Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR) announced Jan. 15 that they would be offering forewarning of future attacks. Last year the group targeted the nation's state-owned oil company, PEMEX, cutting their production and leading to natural gas cutoffs in the central portions of the nation. EPR attacks are again likely in 2008.

- The AP reports more children were born in the United States in 2006 than in the preceding 45 years. The surge in births is mostly tied to a rising population. Nearly 25 percent of U.S. births were to Hispanics. Meanwhile, France overtook Ireland as the fertility capital of Europe. Interestingly, 50.5 percent of all French births were to unmarried women. Population goes a long way in accounting for crude oil consumption growth.

- According to the API, U.S. fuel production rose to record levels in 2007 as refinery capacity climbed for the 11th consecutive year.

- In the wake of natural gas shipments from Turkmenistan to Iran being cut, Iranian gas oil demand is rising as consumers try to cope. This is cutting into the effectiveness of the rationing system the nation put in place last year. Rationing cut the nation's imports by more than 50 percent.

- Defense Secretary Gates has authorized a proposal to send more troops to Afghanistan. Roughly 3,000 more Marines will head to the nation, but first Gates and President Bush are expected to discuss the plans before Bush gives the go-ahead for final deployment.

- In Pakistan, President Musharraf issued a stern warning last week, saying he had ordered the army and Pakistan rangers to shoot anyone disrupting next month's polling.

- According to Energy Intelligence, Chinese imports of key oil products fell 9.5 percent in 2007. However, imports of gasoline increased almost fourfold.

- Last week, Brazilian President Lula arrived in Havana, Cuba. According to local media reports, Brazil and Cuba may reach an agreement wherein the South American nation will use its deepwater

## Public Records

### 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  
Latonya Campbell, 5948 Callaston Lane, Fort Worth  
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  
Randy James Ellis, PO Box 391, Snyder  
Hilda L. Fuentes, 502 S. Seventh, Lamesa  
Aldo Gustavo Galindo, 922 Jeter, Odessa  
Claudet Garza, 3106 E. Elm, Laredo  
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  
Dana L. Havink, 600 Star Linda Ct., Arlington  
Kristin Hawkins, 405 N. Moss Lake Road, Big Spring

Gerald R. Hodges, 4312 Crane, Houston  
Allan J. Hoey, 1401 N. Highway 87 Apt. 2, Big Spring  
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  
Brandy Johnson, 24327 Pleasonton, San Antonio  
Rene M. Johnson, 9205 W. County Road 174, Midland  
Alana Marie Lee, 2711 66th Street, Lubbock  
Patricia Lutrell, 2726 Redwood, Odessa  
Carol Lee McNeil, 2601 Westridge, Snyder  
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  
Rios Lisa L. Ovalle, 1510 Oriole, Big Spring  
Katherine Hardin Perez, 4908 Parkway, Big Spring

Lisa M. Portillo, 1200 Stanford, Big Spring  
Richard Wayne Rains, 4501 Parkway, Big Spring  
Patricia Ramos, 538 Westover Road Apt. 226, 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  
Gustavo Alfredo Rios, of 1804 Scurry, Big Spring  
Frances Rodriguez, 603 Steakley, Big Spring  
Veronica Rodriguez, 3010 Cherokee, Big Spring  
Sofia Romero, 409 N. Ave. G, Lamesa  
Jennifer Ann Rositas, 1429 E. Sixth, Big Spring  
Steven G. Ross, 60 Cinamon Lane, San Angelo  
Rudy Salazar, PO Box 1275, Stanton  
Crystal Ann Schneider, P.O. Box 844, Coahoma  
Harl Bradford Shaffer, 5603 Gail Hwy., Big Spring  
Syretta Diane Shellman, 1101 N. Goliad, Big Spring  
Janie Spurgeon, 1212 Wadley, Midland  
Shawn Spurgeon, 106 N. Adams, Denver City  
James Sutton, 2225 Oakland, Abilene  
Tonya Taylor, 1111 Moseley Circle, Hobbs, N.M.

Tiffney Lee Tindol, 2206 Morrison, Big Spring  
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  
Amanda Wallace, 803 E. 20th Street/1305 Jeffery Road, Big Spring  
Christina Williams, 400 Macarthur, Odessa  
Bernest Elgen Woolridge, 4110 S. Jackson, Amarillo  
Jerry Lee Wrightsil Jr., 2816 Ridge Road, Fort Worth

**District Court Filings:**  
Patricia Doportto and Brittany Salazar vs. Angel Reyes and Basic Energy Inc., injury or damages with a motor vehicle.  
Tashia Rose Cerda vs. Shaylon Tobias Cerda, divorce.  
Johnna Walling vs. Jeffery Walling, divorce.  
Ronald J. Hope vs. Danya L. Hope, divorce.  
Stacy Marie Paige vs. Donald Wayne Paige, divorce.

**Marriage Licenses:**  
Eric Wayne Welch, 28, and Chrystal Dawn Igneczi, 33, both of Big Spring.

# Corporate Casanova?

*Fallen health-care executive is portrayed as womanizer*

By **TOM MURPHY**  
AP Business Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — David Colby was one of corporate America's most admired executives before he was abruptly fired last spring for what was vaguely described at the time as misconduct of a "non-business nature." Now details about his personal life are spilling out, and it's clear he was more than just Wall Street's darling.

In a cluster of lawsuits gathered up by The Associated Press, the former chief financial officer of health insurance giant WellPoint Inc. is depicted as a corporate Casanova — a world-class, love-'em-and-leave-'em sort of guy who romanced dozens of women around the coun-

try simultaneously, made them extravagant promises and then went back on his word with all the compassion of a health insurance company denying a claim.

One woman says Colby got her pregnant and harangued her via text message ("ABORT!!!") to terminate the pregnancy. He also allegedly gave some of his girlfriends sexually transmitted diseases, and proposed to at least 12 women since 2005.

The allegations are contained in lawsuits filed before and after Colby's departure by three women who say they were ill-used by the businessman.

Colby and his attorneys have refused to comment, though in

court papers he has disputed some of the allegations, and one of the lawsuits was thrown out a few months ago by a judge who found insufficient grounds for legal action.

By all accounts, the 54-year-old Colby — a pudgy, bespectacled figure with salt-and-pepper hair — charmed attractive women by showering them with compliments and gifts. While at least one of his accusers was a WellPoint underling, it appears he met many of the other women outside of work, via online dating sites, and he has not been accused of workplace sexual harassment.

See **COLBY**, Page 6C

## Newton named city president of Big Spring Banking Center

Special to the Herald

Lonnie Newton has been promoted to city president at the Big Spring Banking Center.

The announcement was made Thursday by Jim Volk, regional vice president of State National Bank.

Newton joined the Banking Center as executive vice president and senior loan officer in 2006.

"Lonnie Newton has proven his commitment to supporting the growing needs of our dedicated Big Spring customers," said Volk. "He is an experienced leader who will advance Big Spring Banking Center's developing line of products and services."

Newton, a Big Spring native, has worked in banking for more than 25 years. He attended Texas A&M for his bachelor's degree and achieved his master's degree from Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University.

He is actively involved in the community, serving on the Business Expansion and Retention Committee for the Moore Development Board and on the board of directors for the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, as well as many other local organizations.

"I am pleased to serve our Big Spring customers as city president," said Newton. "We intend to carry on our excellent service well-deserved by the citizens of our community."



Newton

# 'Lost' opens new season next week despite strike

By VERNE GAY

Newsday

The call should have come in the dead of night, with the wind blowing and bare branches clawing at the windows.

You wanna see it, said the voice (thickly, perhaps) on the other end of the line?

But let Jon Lachonis — aka DocArtz — pick up his story from here:

"It was cold," blogged the Waterville, Maine-based writer for entertainment Web site UnderGround Online. "I was bored. No date for 'Lost' Season 4 had yet been set, the writers' strike was picking up steam with the first signs that it may impact the length of our mid-season stay on 'The Island.'"

"For the first time in three years thinking about 'Lost' a laborious and painful experience.

"Then I got 'the call.'"

In the sprawling "Lost" landscape — in which the TV show is merely the highest hill — DocArtz has had a unique role

as tour guide. Part online critic, booster and "Lost" scholar, he's helped lead fellow Losties through the curlicue trailways of this landscape via UGO as well as his own Web site (docartz.com), thetailsection.com, and other key "Lost" destinations.

DocArtz is certainly not the only one out there blogging "Lost" — there are probably several million, in fact — but no one else got the scoop he did on that figurative dark and stormy night last month: An offer-you-can't-refuse to look at the first four episodes of the new season. It was a privilege denied everyone else on the planet, including TV critics.

Lachonis got his screening, and afterward wrote of the fourth season, which begins Thursday at 9 p.m. EST on ABC: "A full tank, pedal to the metal, story tearing down a corridor of mythology without segmentation, without red herrings, without capricious delays designed to slow down the momentum. 'Lost' is on a

mission here, and its objective is to blow your mind in a way that is distinctly 'Lost.'"

Yeah (wow) and after the review ran, the online community went nuts. "I. Can't. Freakin'. Wait." wrote one fan in a characteristic post.

DocArtz isn't alone in stoking interest for the new season of "Lost." A carefully placed interview with star Matthew Fox in Entertainment Weekly helped, too. "(We're) going to get into questions that the audience is just dying to start finding out about," he promised. Like "what is the island, where is this island, when is this island."

Once lionized, then (almost as quickly) dismissed, "Lost" is hot once again — and stuff like this isn't the only reason why.

Virtually alone among the other major strike-crippled hits of network television, "Lost" is returning with a batch of new shows that will air — without breaks or repeats — through early March. It is (if you will) fresh scripted meat in a super-

market where the only item for sale these days seems to be Ramen noodles.

But last May's two-hour finale ("Though the Looking Glass") also catapulted the show into an entire new realm as well: the future. Characters do get off the island, though despite the best efforts of various spoilers to dig them up, answers to how/where/why/what/when remain (as always) alluring and elusive.

Meanwhile, "Lost" co-producers Damon Lindelof and Carlton Cuse have said the end-game is now officially afoot — or (to paraphrase Churchill) May's stunning blockbuster was the end of the beginning. Both producers — or "Darlton," to smitten fans — have carefully planned a 48-episode arc that will wrap the classic by 2010.

But amid anticipation is anxiety. For Darlton and ABC, the idea was to air 16 fresh episodes each year for the next three years — each part of a nice, taut, intricately assembled arc that completes their tale three

years from now.

When the writers' strike began in early November, only a handful were completed, and with eight shows in the can so far, "Lost's" entire 2008 season could be over by early March.

This improbably condensed fourth season has set fandom into overdrive. Reason: No one knows how Darlton will now complete the show by 2010, or even whether they'll be able to. There are (literally) hundreds of ends that need tying — so many that 48 episodes almost seems like a blink of an eye.

ABC isn't talking about whether Darlton will get all the final episodes they need to wrap one of the great stem-winding shaggy dog stories in TV history.

"The last three seasons are supposed to hurdle us toward the ending, so this is a big problem for them," says Nikki Stafford, an Ontario-based writer of "The Unofficial Guide: Finding Lost" and — like Lachonis — one of the show's leading scholars.

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\*Based on 2008 Analysis Ratings published by HealthGrades, a leading provider of outcome ratings and services within healthcare. Read more about our rankings at www.HealthGrades.com †A Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company, an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

COLBY

Continued from Page 5C

"I'm not surprised that there are women who would come forward with the same story, because that appears to be Dave's modus operandi," said Mark Hathaway, a lawyer for two of the women who sued. "We've been contacted by a number of women."

His ouster is the latest, and perhaps the most lurid, in a string of cases in which corporate chieftains were bounced for alleged misbehavior outside the boardroom.

Last year, HBO's chief executive was forced out after being charged with throttling his girlfriend. Before that, a Boeing CEO lost his job after admitting to an affair with a female underling.

"There's no question companies are much more sensitive to ethical conduct on the part of their executives," W. Michael Hoffman, executive director for the Center for Business Ethics at Bentley College in Waltham, Mass., said after Colby's ouster.

It was Colby who helped put together the \$16.4 billion deal that created Indianapolis-based WellPoint in 2004. He was named best CFO in managed care for four years in a row by Institutional Investor magazine. Stockholders and Wall Street professionals saw the Columbia University graduate as someone who "gave it to you straight," said stock analyst Thomas Carroll.

"He would give you the good news along with the bad news," Carroll said. "If he said something, you could really hang your hat on it."

After the company passed him over for its CEO last February, it gave Colby thousands of stock options to stick around. But three months later, to Wall Street's surprise, he was out. All WellPoint has ever said was that he was ousted over a nonbusiness violation of the company code of conduct.

Days before Colby was

fired, a California woman, Rita DiCarlo, sued him for possession of a \$4.4 million house in exclusive Lake Sherwood, Calif., that she said he had promised her. (He has denied making such a promise.)

Exactly what his marital status was at the time of some of the alleged romances is unclear, but as of last month, he was going through a divorce from wife No. 2.

Some of the allegations of his philandering began surfacing in the months after his ouster, but the extent of his alleged womanizing and the details of how he supposedly wooed his girlfriends are only now coming out.

DiCarlo and the other women suing him tell similar stories of aggressive courtship, big promises and broken hearts.

They say that Colby was carrying on with more than 30 women in the last half of 2007 alone and that he would tell them all the time how beautiful they were or how much he loved them. "You forever!" read one text message, included in court files.

"I chose you! Goodnight!" another message read.

Colby would supplement such declarations with gifts such as jewelry or trips, the women say. DiCarlo says in court papers that he gave her \$100,000 "to make me feel more secure" three days after she found out he wasn't divorced.

Another lawsuit was filed last month by Elizabeth Cook, a Los Angeles woman who met Colby in 2006 at a function for a California school their children attended.

A single mother with two children, she says in court papers that she dodged his initial advances but relented under a bombardment of calls, texts and e-mails, many of them containing sexually explicit propositions.

She says she soon broke her lease at his urging, with plans to move into his Lake Sherwood home. She says she stopped searching for ways to afford the brain surgery her severely epileptic 6-year-old son needed after Colby promised to pay.



Rita DiCarlo holds a framed photo of herself with her former fiance David Colby, former chief financial officer of insurer WellPoint, in front of the home she says he promised to give her in Lake Sherwood, Calif. Colby's abrupt resignation last May for violating WellPoint's code of conduct revealed a tangled romantic life involving multiple women, including DiCarlo, to whom he promised homes, money and marriage. DiCarlo is suing Colby for possession of the \$4.4 million house they shared.

AP Photo/Nick Ut

Then, she says, she got pregnant, and the text messages abruptly changed tone.

"ABORT!!!" Colby allegedly told her in flurry of text messages included in the lawsuit. "Get rid of it. Have an abortion and we can be together."

(Her attorney would not comment on the case. According to court papers, Cook was still pregnant as of Dec. 31.)

Cook accuses Colby of infecting her and other women with STDs, including herpes and chlamydia. She also accuses him of breach of contract over the surgery she says he never paid for. She never moved into the multimillion-dollar home — which DiCarlo still occupies.

As for DiCarlo, she says that she met Colby through Match.com and that he proposed the first time they met in person.

An engagement announcement for the couple ran in The Indianapolis Star in February 2006. But the two never wed. DiCarlo says she discovered he was living a "secret life," with multiple fiancées.

She also accuses him of stopping payment on her health insurance even though she had a kidney removed for donation last fall.

Another woman, Sarah Waugh of Ventura County, Calif., sued Colby last June, accusing him of

causing her emotional distress and exposing her to sexually transmitted diseases by sleeping with others.

Waugh says her relationship with Colby started with office shoulder rubs and offers for dinner in 2001 when she was a 22-year-old employee and he a 48-year-old married executive at California's WellPoint Health Networks Inc. Waugh says Colby promised monthly support and private school for the children of his many other girlfriends.

Late last year, U.S. District Judge Gary Klausner threw out the lawsuit.

"Although Colby's conduct may be ungentlemanly, it simply does not rise to the level of being 'utterly intolerable in a civilized community,'" Klausner wrote, referring to Waugh's claim of emotional distress.

Still, Hollywood producer Larry Garrison thinks there's an audience for the lurid stories. Garrison, president of SilverCreek Entertainment, said he

plans to put together a book and movie deal.

At WellPoint, Colby was paid more than \$700,000 in salary and received a \$1.1 million bonus in 2006. He left with a severance payment of \$666,190 and later bought a \$4.7 million home in Scottsdale, Ariz. His Indianapolis home, which he shared with a woman who identified herself as Angela Colby, is on the market for \$1.6 million.

A former neighbor, Chad Christensen, said the couple were "very nice people, very down to earth and open." He also recalled an awkward moment at a neighborhood picnic last summer, a few months after Colby's romantic entanglements first became public.

A magician who was entertaining children asked the kids to reach into a bag and pull out some scarves. Then he turned to Colby.

"David reaches in and what he pulls out is some panties," Christensen said. "I'm just thinking, 'How uncomfortable does he feel right now?'"

Continental pilots planning for merger

HOUSTON (AP) — Pilots' union leaders at Continental Airlines Inc. say they're taking steps to look out for workers' interest in case the carrier merges with another airline.

Tom Donaldson, chairman of the Air Line Pilots Association at Continental, said Friday that his members would be happy if the Houston-based airline remains as it is, but can't ignore speculation about mergers.

"We will not stand idly by and allow a change in the airline landscape without taking steps to protect the interests of our pilots," Donaldson said.

"We've made huge concessions over the past number of years."

Donaldson said his union expected management to cooperate with it in any merger decisions.

"The pilots of Continental must be key in the decision to welcome or reject any merger candidate," he said. "I expect them to keep us in the loop."

A spokesman for Continental said the airline would have no comment.

Chief Executive Lawrence Kellner has said Continental, the nation's fourth-largest carrier, prefers to remain independent but is concerned about size if other carriers grow through consolidation.

Last week, Kellner pledged that if Continental executives see other deals taking place, "we won't hesitate to act aggressively."

Some analysts believe Continental could be forced to look for a takeover target if a larger competitor, Delta Air Lines Inc., is successful in buying Northwest Airlines Corp. or UAL Corp.'s United Airlines.

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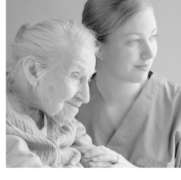
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# Former soldier, partially paralyzed, swims to stay fit

By **PAMELA LEBLANC**

Austin American-Statesman

AUSTIN (AP) — Mike Davis pulls a pair of goggles over his shaved head, holds out his arms and dive bombs into the water.

He uses his arms to pull 25 yards across a pool, legs dragging behind him. The tattoo around his right biceps flashes with every lurching stroke. Back and forth, back and forth, for 45 minutes.

Finally, he paddles to the edge of the pool and hoists himself, belly first, onto the deck. He rolls over and pushes himself into a wheelchair, then towels off and tugs on a gimme cap that reads "Just Do It."

Davis, 46, was partially paralyzed in an Army training exercise in New Mexico 13 years ago. He's always needed a dose of daily exercise to feel right, and that didn't change when a military Range Rover ran over him, breaking his back.

It's taken a lot of experimenting. Before the accident, he ran marathons and played baseball and golf. He couldn't give in just because his legs didn't work. Today, the computer technician swims five times a week at Lifetime Fitness.

Logistics are sometimes complicated. Consider the shoes he wears while he swims. He tried swimming barefoot, but his feet got bloodied from dragging along the rough bottom of the pool.

Davis grew up in San Antonio and attended Texas A&M University,

where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets and met longtime friend Bud Hughes. "That guy was a stud, still is," says Hughes, 46, a pilot for American Airlines. "His arms are huge; his neck's like an oak tree."

Hughes saw back then how important fitness was to Davis, the athletics officer in their A&M military unit.

**"It's all about adapting. 'You can't do it the same way, but you do it to get that same rush, that endorphin high.'"**

"When you're growing up, sometimes you base the whole way you see the world on your experiences, and he, like me, had a lot of background in athletics," Hughes says. "Coaches teach you about how life relates to athletics, the discipline involved and the mental aspect of it. It's a lot of the same stuff in the Corps at A&M. If you go away from the physical fitness part of it, you go away from your whole way of life."

Davis graduated with a degree in accounting in 1983 and joined the military, working in special operations. He traveled to Italy, then Germany, where he was stationed during Desert Storm. Later, as an Army Ranger, he underwent intensive warfare training in jungle, desert and arctic conditions. He jumped out of planes and helicopters and rappelled.

Then, the accident. Davis, who was married at the time with two small children, was on a night mission in Roswell, N.M., in August 1994. He'd done such exercises before, and though they were scary, they were also satisfying



AP Photo/Austin American-Statesman, Laura Skelding  
**Mike Davis, a former tri athlete, lowers himself from his wheelchair onto a cushion near the edge of the pool, in Austin. Davis, 46, was partially paralyzed in an Army training exercise in New Mexico 13 years ago. He's always needed a dose of daily exercise to feel right, and that didn't change when a military Range Rover ran over him, breaking his back.**

—and the ultimate adrenaline rush. "You're not over the edge or out of control, but it's very extreme," he says.

This time he parachuted onto an airfield with 700 other soldiers. He scrambled to a helicopter and was flown to another location for live fire exercises.

He helicoptered back, dropped down onto the airfield and was advancing across it with a radio to each ear when he and six other soldiers were crushed by a Range Rover participating in the exercise. "They didn't see us," he says.

Davis broke his back. His buddy broke his neck. Somehow, no one died.

Crews rushed Davis to a hospital in Roswell. From there, he was flown to a

veterans hospital in Seattle for back surgery. He lay unconscious for three days and spent six months recuperating there.

Hughes flew to Seattle to see his friend. "At first you're just devastated, just so shocked. And then you're angry that the military burns people up and uses them at will. Then I was just really sad for him for a while. I couldn't picture it. He's unbelievable, man," Hughes says.

Davis says he's recovered well from the accident. It just made him flip his mentality. "It's like 'OK, it's going to be this way now,'" he says. Besides, he still has the use of his upper body. There's always someone worse off.

That attitude didn't

come overnight. "That was a long, hard process for him," Hughes says. "He had to find a way to embrace who he was, not who he used to be. ... He was going to be physically fit in the best possible way he could some of him's just not going to work."

At first, it was a little unnerving. "He was undaunted. The guy had that attitude like 'This is good. I've got to make it a good thing in my mind,'" Hughes says. Davis was determined not to become one of those depressed, angry guys he saw shriveling away at the veterans hospital.

The former soldier threw himself into sports. "That's what saved my life, initially," Davis says. He tried adapted versions

of basketball, track and golf. He hand-cycled from Houston to Austin in the MS 150 Bike Tour. He even took up triathlons. "You sort of fumble through it," he says.

But injuries that used to sideline him for a day or two, like a sprained shoulder or bum knee, now landed him in the hospital. He crashed his hand cycle on Southwest Parkway and broke his collar bone. He couldn't get into his wheelchair for a month. Eventually the logistics of doing triathlons — which meant dragging his body through mud to get in and out of lakes — became too grueling.

"You go, go, go, but then you find, you know what? I can't do this," he says. "I tapered off to find a happy medium."

He discovered pool swimming.

"On a scale of 1 to 10, it's a 10," says Mary Anne Castles, 43, who likes to join Davis for rides through the Hill Country on the back of his Harley-Davidson Road King motorbike. "It makes him physically feel better, but it's two-part: It does so much to his psyche."

Swimming gives him a cardiovascular workout, and he can do it for the rest of his life. He even thrives a little on the difficulty of it. "My legs are really heavy in the water. Even though I'm pulling this big lump of coal behind me and it's heavy, it's part of the workout," Davis says.

"It's all about adapting. 'You can't do it the same way, but you do it to get that same rush, that endorphin high,'" he says.

Fitness still helps define who Davis is, and that's not going to change.

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# Documentaries rule at Sundance

By **AARON BARNHART**

McClatchy Newspapers

PARK CITY, Utah — I don't think it's any accident that the films embraced by audiences at this year's Sundance Film Festival weren't the usual quirky comedies and dysfunctional relationship dramas, but rather those formerly humble vessels known as documentaries.

At a time when people are feeling lied to — election season plus an unpopular war will do that — truth-telling has an undeniable appeal.

But it's more than that.

A new wave of directors, inspired by the ones who did so much to push the bar forward in the 1990s, have brought Hollywood production values, powerful real-life storytelling and crowd-pleasing features — like, oh, humor — to what was once a reliable and even predictable video form.

It was not that long ago that documentaries aimed at either the head or the heart. But the films that got Sundance filmgoers talking this month did both.

Just as Michael Moore, Errol Morris and the makers of "Hoop Dreams" pushed their audiences to demand more of nonfiction film, the same will be said of documentaries like the ones I saw this week.

Here now, my five favorites from Sundance 2008's documentary competition. Many will be on TV this year, and on DVD.

## "Bigger, Stronger, Faster"

Director Christopher Bell has been obsessed with muscle-bound athletes and bodybuilders his whole life.

His two brothers went even further, pumping steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs into their bodies in hopes of looking like their heroes, men with names like Arnold and Hulk who preached physical fitness and vitamin-taking but kept their steroid use quiet.

Bell wondered: Why is American society so hard on steroid users when it condones cheating and shortcut-taking in so many other parts of life?

It could've been an interesting little investigative piece. Instead, the first-time filmmaker turned the camera on his own family, and the result is a brutally honest look at a culture desperate to get ahead at any cost — and just as desperate to look like they won fair and square.

With its blistering pace, clever use of

old video footage (for instance, to demonstrate how Gov. Schwarzenegger has quietly distanced himself from his onetime openness about taking `roids) and totally relatable characters, "Bigger, Stronger, Faster(ASTERISK)" will have you talking both about the Bell family and America's drug denial long after the lights go up. You might say it's a traditional documentary ... on steroids!

## "The Order of Myths"

In 2007 Margaret Brown returned to her native Mobile, Ala., to record the city's dual Mardi Gras celebrations, one for its African-American community and one for its white community.

With the help of participants on both sides, Brown paints a portrait of an institution seemingly stuck in the Stone Age.

It's a surprisingly moving film about how people feel bound to the past, even against their better judgment, and how, with a little openness (and a filmmaker's prodding, perhaps), people and their institutions can change without destroying the memories that give us comfort.

## "The Linguists"

Two ethnographers run around the world making tapes of people speaking so-called endangered languages. Sound like homework? It's not, for these two geniuses have an adventurous streak, and the two cameras follow them as they travel the globe, getting people to speak in obscure tongues (some with as few as one practicing speaker) to their microphones and cameras.

Funny, enlightening and ultimately uplifting, "The Linguists" demonstrates how the act of recording a dying language can, ironically, bring it back to life.

## "Recycle"

Jordanian filmmaker Mahmoud al Massad grew up in Zarqa, as did the late leader of al-Qaida in Iraq — and the lowly cardboard recycler who is the subject of this engrossing film that rewards the patient viewer.

Want to know where the al-Zarqawis of the world are coming from?

They are intelligent people with few economic prospects, like this very conservative Muslim who allows Massad to track his every move.

If you need constant stimulation or dislike subtitles, "Recycle" is not your film. But I am still thinking about it

days after I've seen it, a sign that Massad and his film have made their mark.

## "Trouble the Water"

Two weeks before Hurricane Katrina, Kimberly Rivers Roberts bought a camcorder. You would never imagine her amateur footage would be the heart and soul of such a powerful documentary as "Trouble the Water."

But because it is such a complete document — one part Exodus, one part Odyssey — as Roberts and her husband venture out of Louisiana with little more than the shirts on their backs, and because Roberts discovers new strength and abilities in the weeks after Katrina, "Trouble the Water" is much more than a disaster film.

It's a film about personal recovery that many in New Orleans are still waiting to see in their neighborhoods.

And five more to watch ...

**"I.O.U.S.A.":** From the team that made "Wordplay," this highly accessible film about America's debt crunch and how we got there should be screened in every high school civics class in the country.

**"Nerakhoon (The Betrayal)":** This epic tale was filmed over 23 years, as members of a Laotian family chased out of their native land grappled with their new life in the United States and some of the almost unimaginable curveballs it threw at them. Sets a new standard for documentaries in high definition.

**"Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired":** The most talked-about film at Sundance 2008 was this documentary that challenges everything we thought we knew about the 30-year-old morals case that led the director of "Rosemary's Baby" to flee the U.S.

**"Up the Yangtze":** This beautifully made documentary centers on the great Chinese river and a "farewell cruise" taken by wealthy pleasure-seekers up its waters for the last time before a government hydro project floods the homes of 2 million people, many of them peasants.

**"Be Like Others":** In Iran, homosexuality is punishable by death — but men surgically becoming women, and vice versa, is sanctioned under Islam. This unsettling film follows several young people who undergo the procedure.

Aaron Barnhart: aaron@tvbarn.com

# Ledger's family requests privacy

By **TOM HAYS**

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Details about funeral arrangements for actor Heath Ledger remained secret as his body was taken from a Manhattan funeral home.

Ledger's publicist, Mara Buxbaum, said Friday the arrangements "will continue to be kept private at the family's request."

Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith said his government would do whatever was needed to help the family bring back the 28-year-old Ledger's body to Australia.

His body was moved from the police-barricaded funeral home amid a swarm of cameras and reporters at about 4 p.m. Friday. Meanwhile, police insisted they have no interest in interviewing actress Mary-Kate Olsen, who was the first person a masseuse called after finding an unresponsive Ledger in a Manhattan apartment Tuesday.

In her first comment since the Australian-born actor's death, Olsen issued a statement that read: "Heath was a friend. His death is a tragic loss. My thoughts are with his family during this very difficult time."

Police said the masseuse who found Ledger's body spent nine minutes making three calls to the "Full House" actress before dialing 911 for help, then called Olsen a fourth time after paramedics arrived. At some point during the flurry of calls, Olsen, who was in California, summoned her personal security guards to the apartment to help, police said.

NYPD spokesman Paul Browne said investigators interviewed everyone at the scene, each of whom was cooperative.

### Big Spring Independent School District Financial Statement for the Year Ending August 31, 2007

	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>REVENUES:</b>			
Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 10,708,252	\$ 1,049,656	\$ 11,757,908
State Program Revenues	14,157,645	1,337,036	15,494,681
Federal Program Revenues	271,713	4,270,970	4,542,683
Total Revenues	\$ 25,137,610	\$ 6,657,662	\$ 31,795,272
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
Current:			
Instruction	\$ 14,835,088	\$ 2,992,669	\$ 17,827,757
Instructional Resources and Media Services	381,242	23,519	404,761
Curriculum and Staff Development	128,894	444,069	572,963
Instructional Leadership	268,730	18,649	287,379
School Leadership	1,330,523	9,130	1,339,653
Guidance, Counseling, and Evaluation Services	709,700	219,285	928,985
Social Work Services	53,302	20,410	73,712
Health Services	246,317	-	246,317
Student Transportation	925,727	-	925,727
Food Services	-	2,226,515	2,226,515
Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	1,124,115	0	1,124,115
General Administration	924,134	1,127	925,261
Plant Maintenance and Operations	3,340,226	2,150	3,342,376
Security and Monitoring Services	33,578	-	33,578
Data Processing Services	421,018	119,676	540,694
Principal on Long-term Debt	70,000	444,999	514,999
Interest on Long-term Debt	5,633	432,904	438,537
Bond Issuance Costs and Fees	300	300	600
Capital Outlay	1,114,103	-	1,114,103
Total Expenditures	\$ 25,912,630	\$ 6,955,402	\$ 32,868,032
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ (775,020)	\$ (297,740)	\$ (1,072,760)
Other Financing Sources and (Uses):			
Non-Current Loan Proceeds	\$ 1,405,514	-	\$ 1,405,514
Transfers In	-	336,651	336,651
Other Resources	12,509	-	12,509
Transfers Out	(336,651)	-	(336,651)
Total Other Financing Sources and (Uses)	\$ 1,081,372	\$ 336,651	\$ 1,418,023
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ 306,352	\$ 38,911	\$ 345,263
Fund Balances - Beginning (September 1, 2006)	\$ 5,405,889	\$ 249,088	\$ 5,654,977
Prior Period Adjustment	(22,948)	-	(22,948)
Fund Balances - Ending (August 31, 2007)	\$ 5,689,293	\$ 287,999	\$ 5,977,292

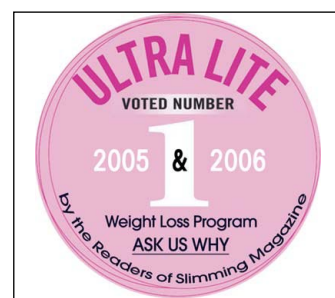
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# Fire damages Las Vegas Strip casino

## Minor injuries reported among gamblers, guests

By **KATHLEEN HENNESSEY**  
Associated Press Writer

**LAS VEGAS** — Gamblers fled the casino floor as firefighters rushed up flights of stairs, but remarkably no one was seriously injured in a blaze that blackened the top floors of the 32-story Monte Carlo hotel-casino.

The 3,000-room resort was at near capacity Friday when the fire broke out midmorning, sending guests and employees onto the Las Vegas Strip where ashes and embers rained.

The blaze was contained within an hour.

An ambulance company spokeswoman said 17 people were taken to area hospitals with minor injuries, mostly from inhaling smoke or from fleeing the building. None of the 120 firefighters who fought the blaze was hurt.

The spectacle brought to mind the state's deadliest fire. In 1980, 87 people were killed in a fire at the old MGM Grand just down the street from the Monte Carlo.

Strict fire codes, including mandatory fire sprinklers, have since been adopted for the casinos on the Las Vegas Strip.

Fire Chief Steve Smith credited firefighters, not the sprinkler system for quickly containing Friday's fire.

He called it an exterior fire that consumed a foam-like building material. He said it was best

fought from the interior. Firefighters entered top-floor rooms, broke windows and leaned out with hoses to aim water at the flames.

"It's very precarious up there," Smith said. "They did expose themselves to some extreme danger. They could have fallen out."

Smith said it was too early to assess damage or say what caused the fire, which began just before 11 a.m. There was no immediate indication of criminal activity or arson, but "nothing is ruled out at this time," he said.

Officials were told welders were working on the roof of the building before the fire, Clark County spokesman Erik Pappa said.

Ron Lynn, chief of the county Building Department, said five floors were affected by the fire, mostly from water damage, but only a few rooms had significant damage from fire and water.

Officials went door-to-door evacuating the hotel, said Gordon Absher, a spokesman for the resort's owner, MGM Mirage Inc.

Larry Wappel, 25, said he and his brother were in a room on the 30th floor when they heard housekeeping staff banging on doors and yelling "Fire, get out!" He said it took about 10 minutes to walk single-file down the stairs.

"There were a couple of ladies crying, but it was pretty calm," he said.

Another guest, Renza Badilla, 45, said she exited through the hotel kitchen to find burning debris and embers falling from the roof.

"I think people were shocked when they saw the smoke," she said.

Guests were taken to the MGM Grand Garden Arena and were being moved to other MGM Mirage hotels in Las Vegas, Absher said. Late Friday, some guests were escorted to their hotel rooms to retrieve their belongings, he said. The top six floors remained closed to guests.

Lynn said it's possible the casino would reopen ahead of the hotel but he said that would not happen immediately.

"We're going to recommitment as if it would be a new building," he said.

An estimated 900 hotel workers on duty when the fire began were evacuated to the adjacent New York-New York hotel.

Huge crowds formed to watch the fire, and traffic on the Las Vegas Strip was gridlocked as streets were blocked off around the hotel. Nearby resorts were not evacuated.

The Monte Carlo Resort & Casino has 3,002 guest rooms and 211 suites. The resort, on Las Vegas Boulevard near Tropicana Avenue, opened in June 1996 and is modeled after the Place du Casino in Monte Carlo, Monaco.



AP Photo/Las Vegas Review-Journal, John Locher  
A fire is visible on the upper floor of the Monte Carlo Casino in Las Vegas, Friday. A fire on the roof of the Monte Carlo hotel-casino forced guests and gamblers to flee and sent a plume of smoke above the Las Vegas Strip before easing about an hour later, officials said.



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# Expect rebates by May under economic recovery plan

By **JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS**  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Most taxpayers could expect a rebate of up to \$600 starting in mid-May under the economic aid plan set to go through Congress within weeks.

Couples could get twice as much, with even more for most families with children. All that, however, depends on smooth sailing at the Internal Revenue Service, and the agency already is up to its eyeballs in filings and refunds.

The Treasury Department says that despite the strains of tax filing season, the IRS will be able to begin delivering the payments within 60 days after President Bush signs the plan into law, and complete the process in approximately 10 weeks, possibly sooner. The payments would come separately from regular tax refunds.

"The IRS has already begun trying to prepare for this," said Andrew DeSouza, a Treasury spokesman. "They'll be ready to go."

But figuring out if you qualify — and for how much — can be complicated, thanks to confusing rules designed to get the money to middle-income workers and ensure it also benefits low-income people who are most likely to spend the cash.

"Almost everyone who earns income will receive some benefit," said Douglas W.

Elmendorf, an analyst at the Brookings Institution. "The idea is to target the money on the people who will spend a large share of it, and to target it on people who are likely to be hurt by an economic downturn."

People who do not make enough to pay taxes but had at least \$3,000 in earned income would get \$300. Those earning less than that would be disqualified, as would the wealthiest. Older people living solely off Social Security checks would not get the rebate.

Individuals with adjusted gross incomes of more than \$75,000 and couples with income exceeding \$150,000 would get smaller checks. Contributions to individual retirement accounts, 401(k) retirement accounts and health savings accounts would not count toward the limits.

About three-quarters of those eligible for the checks are working people. About one-quarter would qualify solely through pension or interest income, such as retirees or people who are unemployed. Eligible people would get at least \$300.

For middle-class people, the rebates are fairly straightforward. Most individuals would get a \$600 rebate, couples would get \$1,200, and those amounts would rise with the size of their families. High- and low-income people, however, would get only

*"It's definitely complicated if you're trying to understand it, but it's not actually going to be complicated for people because they're going to get a check from the IRS without having to fill out a single form."*

a partial benefit.

People with income less than \$75,000 would get a rebate equal to the taxes they paid in 2007, up to \$600. Couples with income less than \$150,000 could get up to \$1,200. Those who earned more than \$3,000 but owed little or no taxes would get a flat \$300, or \$600 per couple.

So a low-income family of four — with \$35,000 in income and virtually no tax liability — would get \$1,200. That includes the flat \$600 per couple and \$300 for each child.

A single person earning minimum wage would receive the lower rebate, \$300.

A single parent of two with income of \$38,000 and a tax bill of \$433 would get \$1,033 — a \$433 tax rebate plus \$300 per child.

To focus the payments on middle-class people, the plan includes rules that reduce the rebates for those with higher incomes. For each dollar over the limits, the payment goes down by 5 percent.

That means that while a family of four with income of \$95,000 would get \$1,800 — \$1,200 for the couple and \$300 for each child — a family of four with income of \$160,000 would get less, and the same family making \$200,000 would get nothing.

Income of \$160,000 would put a family \$10,000 above the income threshold, reducing the benefit by \$500 for a rebate of \$1,300. The wealthier family, which falls \$50,000 above the threshold, would see its rebate vanish under the formula.

Similarly, a single person with no children who had \$16,000 in income would get \$600, while the same person making \$85,000 — \$10,000 above the limit — would get just \$100.

People would not have to work to receive a rebate. A retired couple owing \$4,000 in taxes would get the full \$1,200; if they owed no taxes, they would receive only half that. If the couple earned less than \$3,000, however, they would be ineligible. That includes 20 million older people whose only income is their Social Security checks.

The plan would allow people who do not qualify for a rebate

this year to get one in the spring of 2009 if they become eligible based on their income level or tax liability in 2008. That has been a standard feature of past rebates, although it does nothing to stimulate the economy.

Some 40 million people who file their tax returns online could start getting payments by direct deposit in May. Congressional tax analysts say the government can send out up to 9 million paper checks a week. The IRS will have to reprogram its computers to calculate who gets the rebate and how much they will receive.

"They sort of learned how to do this last time," said Jason Furman, a Brookings economist, referring to the last round of rebates in 2001.

"It's definitely complicated if you're trying to understand it, but it's not actually going to be complicated for people because they're going to get a check from the IRS without having to fill out a single form."

Still, the agency is already working overtime processing tax returns, and rebates will have to take a back seat come April, when it will be overwhelmed in the run-up to Tax Day.

"The two final weeks of tax filing season are very, very high-traffic weeks for the IRS," DeSouza said. "We'll just have to see what capacity they can handle."

# Welfare guidelines eased a bit for college and vocational school students

By **KEVIN FREKING**  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Welfare recipients who go to college will be able to use up to a year of classwork to meet the program's work requirements and will no longer need to have their homework supervised to have some of that time count as well.

The unsupervised homework provision, which also applies to vocational school and other educational activities, represents a change from rules put into place in 2006 for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program. A copy of the final rule was obtained by The Associated Press. It will be published in the

Federal Register next week.

The nation's governors had sought the changes, arguing the requirement that homework be supervised would increase state costs. The Bush administration had wanted as much supervision as possible, but eventually it conceded that most students aren't monitored as they do their homework.

"Since we're trying to imitate what real life is like, we thought we were asking a little too much there," said Sidonie Squier, director of the Office of Family Assistance, which is within the Health and Human Services Department.

Under welfare reform, adults getting cash assis-

tance are generally required to work a minimum number of hours each week. The 2006 rule more strictly defined what constitutes work. The new rule incorporates the feedback it received.

The interim rule also did not count getting a bachelor's degree as a work activity. The new rule will allow recipients to count one year of col-

lege as a work activity. Some analysts say this is an important step in helping recipients get a better education.

"Long-term success will depend upon people getting better jobs, better skills, better wages," said Liz Schott, a senior fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a liberal-leaning think tank.

The rules did not incor-

porate the governors' request for more leeway in setting the work requirements for people with disabilities. Some participants with disabilities simply cannot meet the minimum 20 or 30 hours that's required, but states should still get credit for helping them, they said.

Half of the single-parent families participating in the TANF program must

meet the work requirements or states could lose some federal funding.

"We recognize that many individuals with disabilities are capable of participating in productive work activities and encourage states to explore these capabilities, rather than focusing on their limitations," the final rule states.

See **STUDENTS**, Page 12A

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## Tomorrow's Horoscope

## BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Today's airy moon in Libra brings focus to those people and things that keep our lives in delicate balance. Pondering a well-placed art object is restful for the mind. So is as being in relaxed and intelligent company. Observe the unity of beautiful things and people around you. It's uplifting and a boost for relationships.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If it's a weird scene — step inside. Try to figure out your role in it all. Today, the weirder the better. You could find your next love, a true friend or an employee among a peculiar mix of people. Aquarius is a lucky contact.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Solutions to relationship problems could

HOLIDAY  
MATHIS

occur while driving, showering or during a phone call while you're waiting on hold. Poetic justice happens tonight. Wrongs are set right.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What you think everyone knows is actually your own private phenomenon. You'll have to fill in the blanks for the clueless people (meaning everyone but you).

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Just because something isn't working right doesn't mean it's exactly broken. You're tempted to upgrade to the latest and greatest, but the timing isn't right. Don't do anything rash.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Do what's right. Don't hesitate, don't fumble. You may think you don't know what's right, but on a deeper level, you do. Trust your own innate goodness — others are counting on you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Have as much fun as possible. Refuse to feel pressured in any way.

This is your day to relax totally. Sagittarius and Leo people help you with guilt-free, exuberant play.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Don't stop now! You're so close to that little slice of heaven on earth you've been striving for. Take a breath and sprint to the finish line. Your adrenaline will kick in to see you through.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Ask for the resources you need. But if the answer is "no," don't worry. It's ingenuity that will take you the rest of the distance toward getting your project finished.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The unspoken rules of being in a relationship involve spending time with the other person's "people." There's no way to get out of this one gracefully. It's your turn.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Sensitivity is underrated in a dog-eat-dog kind of world. But the advantage that sensitivity can bring is immeasurable. Messages are subtle,

so listen to nuances, especially when listening to your own heart.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Initiate action and introduce new ideas. Unfortunately, you may be met by the ultimate passive-aggressive mantra, "Whatever." Do not engage the "whatever" people! Walk away!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's human nature to look for the flaws in others as a way of feeling OK with one's own shortcomings. Do the opposite now. Look for the beauty and see your own in the process.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: Have you ever been stopped at a stoplight and had the sensation you were moving forward when it was really the car next to you rolling back? The planets of speed and movement create that bizarre optical illusion this week. Technically, retrograde is an illusion from the Earth's perspective — just a change of pace. So how

do we flow with it? Mercury in Aquarius stimulates bright ideas with change of direction, and Mars in Gemini moves a few outstanding goals forward. We may need to take a few steps back to move ahead, but it's no U-turn. Just turn up the radio and listen to the song "Baby." Mercury sings, "Let's cruise away from here. Don't be confused, the message is clear." Mercury retrograde is a fine time to reevaluate, rethink and reconsider those bright ideas you've meant to put into motion but kept parked — they're likely really good ones. Mercury will retrograde through only air signs during 2008, focusing our collective attention on the way we communicate with each other, our vision for progress and our learning and thinking processes — all helpful. This week, if you get stuck on the information superhighway, remember, it's a momentary blip. Just cruise.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Sarah McLachlan is a soulful songstress and a water bearer. Yet Aquarius is a mental air sign, not an emotional water sign, so why water? Water is the source of life, suggesting Aquarians have a unique role in keeping the rivers of life flowing. Or maybe it's the ingenuity they share with the world. Sarah's Mars in Pisces is gifted too. She stirs our feelings by diving into complex emotions.

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

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Annie's Mailbox<sup>®</sup>: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My husband and his sister were adopted from a foreign country when they were both young teenagers. His adoptive father was a wise and caring man, but his adoptive mother and their biological daughter were never accepting.

When Dad died, my husband and his sister were not allowed to say their goodbyes. They told my husband to go to the funeral home, not the house, but there was no casket and he never had a chance to say his final, personal farewell. Words cannot describe what this did to my husband. He has yet to begin grieving the loss of the hero who saved his life and helped him become the man he is today.

There has been very little contact with this so-called family since the funeral. Frankly, I don't care if I see any of them again. So far, my husband has had no desire to contact his adoptive family, but I fear someday he may. What am I supposed to do then? I don't think I can sit in the same room with these people and pretend nothing happened.

Would it be OK to tell my husband that he can see his "family," but I won't go and neither will our children? I'm afraid if I say that, it would put a strain on our marriage. — Related to the Cruellest Hypocrites of the Century

Dear Related: You do not have to go with your husband to see his adoptive family, but you shouldn't discourage him from going, nor should you prevent your children from seeing these relatives. That should be your husband's decision. We might add that if he decides to spend time with these people, it would be an enormous help to have you by his side. Your job under these circumstances is not to be the aggrieved victim. It is to be a source of support for the person you love.

Dear Annie: Last week, my husband and I went to a wonderful concert sung by a famous singer. But I knew I was not going to enjoy it to the fullest when the orchestra started playing and the woman beside me started to hum.

We had great seats that were costly. I wanted to ask this woman to keep quiet, but decided against it. I thought of having an usher speak to her, but I didn't want to stand up and interrupt other people's enjoyment of the

KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

concert.

This is not the first time something like this has happened. Once, during "The Nutcracker," a mother sitting behind us explained the whole play to her daughter, yakking throughout the entire performance. What is the best way to deal with annoying people at a public performance? — Hummed Out in Prospect, Conn.

Dear Prospect: We're going to give a semi-pass to the woman who explained "The Nutcracker" to her daughter because that performance is intended for children and it helps if they understand what is going on. However, she should have done it more quietly. As for the Hummer, it is perfectly OK to say politely, "I'm sure you don't realize your humming is audible. I'd be grateful if you'd

tone it down." If she won't stop, it's worth finding an usher. Some people arrogantly believe the price of a ticket entitles them to disturb everyone else. It does not.

Dear Annie: This is for "Living in a Time Warp," the 62-year-old woman who objected to her fiance's furniture. She says she does not intend to marry him. In that case, he is not her fiance. He is just her live-in.

A fiance is a man who is engaged to be married, although I have often heard it used inappropriately to indicate a live-in relationship. Perhaps it is time we create a word to cover her situation. — P.

Dear P.: We fondly remember the term "POSSLQ," which means "Person of the Opposite Sex Sharing Living Quarters." It didn't catch on.

Dear Annie: My parents have been married nearly 50 years. About six years ago, I suspected my mother of having an affair. I confronted her with my facts and she assured me of her innocence.

Last year, my brother approached me with the same thoughts. After some investigation, we confirmed that Mom was indeed seeing someone. We met with our minister and, through an intervention, told our father of our suspicions and showed Mom pictures of her and

her lover that my brother had obtained. She confessed and persuaded my father it was a one-night fling. I later found out from another family member that Mom has carried on this affair for 25 years.

My parents are now in counseling. Mom convinced everyone that she is no longer in contact with this man, but I found out she is still lying. She professes to be a Christian and is in church every time the doors are open, dragging Dad along. He is 71 years old, not in good health and loves her dearly. Where do we go from here? — Two Confused Children in Georgia

Dear Georgia: Nowhere. Your mother is in love with another man, but because she believes in marriage until death, she will not leave your father.

Your parents have apparently managed to have a good life. Dad wants to be with Mom, and presumably, she will continue to take care of him. We realize this is not a perfect scenario, but try to accept that it is not your decision to make. Concentrate on being supportive of your father and, if at all possible, try to forgive your mother. It will make Dad's life easier. Yours, too.

Dear Annie: I live in a rural Midwestern town and apparently it is the

norm to keep your doors unlocked all day. Part of the reason for this is to allow unexpected visitors to walk in at any time.

In particular, my boyfriend's brother will rattle the doorknob and pound on the door if we lock it. Once, he and a friend showed up to see my boyfriend, who was not home, and they peeked in the windows while I was undressing upstairs. When I opened the door, they invited themselves in, watched me as I ate dinner, read my newspaper and used the computer. I didn't know how to get rid of them without appearing rude. On another occasion, I left the door unlocked and found a very tall and intimidating friend of my boyfriend in the kitchen.

I don't like unexpected visitors, which seems extremely rude to me, but having to keep the door unlocked is even more distressing. My boyfriend claims this is how he was brought up and refuses to change. Am I making too big a deal of it? — Exposed in My Own Home

Dear Exposed: Your boyfriend is being obtuse. The world is not as safe as it once was and keeping your doors open can be dangerous. We recommend locking the doors when you are home alone, whether day or night, and

closing the blinds. Beyond that, please try to be as welcoming as you can manage.

Dear Annie: "Not Impressed in Ottawa" was annoyed that her in-laws always came at least a half-hour late for dinner. That also used to happen to us.

One time, when the dinner hour struck, we decided to simply start without them. When they finally showed up, nearly an hour late, we offered the late arrivals leftovers. We did this in a friendly, polite fashion.

They were never late again, nor were any aunts, uncles, cousins or anyone else who participated in that memorable dinner. Problem solved. — On Time in Moneta, Va.

Dear On Time: This type of behavior modification is a good solution for those who are willing to take a tough stand and stick to it.

*Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*

## The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."



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# Iraq rushes more troops against al-Qaida stronghold for 'decisive' fight in Mosul

By STEVEN R. HURST

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD — Shaken by two days of deadly bombings, the government said Friday it would dispatch several thousand more security forces to Mosul in a "decisive" bid to drive al-Qaida in Iraq from its last major stronghold.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki gave no details on troop strength or when the additional police and soldiers would arrive in Iraq's main northern city. But it added to growing signs that Mosul could represent a pivotal showdown with insurgents chased north by U.S.-led offensives.

"Today, our troops started moving toward Mosul ... and the fight there will be decisive," al-Maliki said during a speech in the Shiite holy city of Karbala.

The challenge, however,

is whether the Iraqi forces have the firepower and training to lead an offensive into Iraq's third-largest city. The U.S. military is relatively thin across northern Iraq and has signaled no immediate plans to shift troops from key zones in and around Baghdad.

Mosul is now considered the main logistical hub for al-Qaida in Iraq because of its size and location — sitting at crossroads between Baghdad, Syria, Turkey and Iran. Many extremists fled north as U.S.-led forces began gaining ground in former insurgent strongholds last year, aided by Sunni tribes that rose up against al-Qaida and its backers.

Interior Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Abdul-Karim Khalaf told The Associated Press that 3,000 police were being sent to the Mosul region to augment the under-

staffed force.

Ninevah province, whose capital is Mosul, has about 18,000 policemen. But only about 3,000 of those operate in the city of nearly 2 million, according to police spokesman Saeed al-Jubouri.

A Defense Ministry official said several thousand Iraqi soldiers would be moved from Baghdad and Anbar province. He spoke on condition of anonymity because the information is sensitive.

"We have asked the prime minister to send us fresh units because we cannot defeat the terrorists with the weak units we have now in the city," Maj. Gen. Riyad Jalal, a senior Iraqi officer in the Mosul area. "We need new equipment and stronger weapons because most of our security members have only rifles."

Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad, has

become a fulcrum on two fronts.

First the United States is trying to keep Iraqi security forces in the lead as a major test of Washington's long-range plans, which seek to keep a smaller American force in Iraq as backup for local soldiers and police.

Second, U.S. officials say Mosul has become the only remaining major city in Iraq where al-Qaida is able to operate with any freedom. Major centers of al-Qaida activity in the past — including the western Anbar province, Baghdad and Baqouba north of the capital — no longer offer easy refuge.

Al-Maliki announced reinforcements for Mosul two days after an abandoned apartment building, believed to be used as a bomb-making factory, was blown apart as the Iraqi army was investigating tips about a

weapons cache.

At least 34 people were killed and 224 wounded when the blast tore through surrounding houses in the Zanjili neighborhood, a poverty-ridden district on the west bank of the Tigris River. No soldiers were reported killed.

A suicide bomber then killed a police chief and two other officers Thursday as they toured the devastation. Residents taunted the chief and pelted him with rocks moments before he was killed.

Nineveh province leader Duraid Kashmola said a vehicle ban would remain until 6 a.m. Saturday.

Al-Maliki issued the troop order in Karbala, 50 miles south of Baghdad. He was in the holy city after a roadside bomb targeted a senior aide of Iraq's Shiite spiritual leader Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani the night

before.

The aide, Abdul-Mahdi al-Karbalai, was wounded in the arm. Two bodyguards were killed and two were wounded, according to local police. Al-Maliki met with the white-turbaned cleric, who wore a bandage on his right forearm.

There have been several assassination attempts against al-Sistani's followers in recent months as internal Shiite rivalries increased in the oil-rich southern Iraq, which also is home to some of the majority sect's most sacred shrines.

South of Baghdad, meanwhile, Iraqi troops backed by U.S. helicopters raided a suspected al-Qaida in Iraq stronghold near Madain, a predominantly Sunni town about 12 miles southeast of Baghdad.

Twelve militants were killed, including two female fighters.

## STUDENTS

Continued from Page 11A

The administration said it plans to expand its efforts to give states more technical assistance in helping them find full employment for disabled welfare recipients.

Squier rejected the notion that states could have more of an incentive to removed the disabled

from the TANF rolls if their participation makes it harder for states to avoid financial sanctions.

"States really have a nasty little tendency to shove folks with a disability to the side because they're harder to work with," Squier said. "When you move them aside, that's a not-so-subtle form of discrimination."

But Schott said that giving states more leeway in serving the disabled

increased the financial incentive to do so.

"There is a lot of lip service to states that they

should serve families with disabilities, but the rules do not support that kind of language," she

said.

About 2 million families per month get cash assistance, down from the his-

torical high of 5 million families in the mid-1990s.

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## 5 more sue manufacturer of tainted syringes in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP) — Five more patients filed a lawsuit Thursday against the manufacturer of a batch of pre-filled syringes that were contaminated with bacteria, claiming they became seriously ill and were hospitalized.

In December, doctors traced numerous infections to heparin-filled syringes used during home treatment for cancer and other ailments. About 40 people in Illinois and Texas became sick, including 20 outpatients from Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

The syringes are used to flush catheters and intravenous lines.

The lawsuit was filed Thursday against syringe maker and distributor Sierra Pre-Filled by plaintiffs Richard Farr, Tony Johnson, Jeffrey Marlin, Patricia Masterson and Milda Praninskas, who were all Illinois residents and patients at Rush.

Monetary damages the plaintiffs were seeking had not yet been determined, David Rapaport, the plaintiffs' attorney, said.

All of the patients were hospitalized because of

the bacteria, he said. The shortest length was for five days and the longest for nine days.

"We don't really know the full extent of the damages for the individuals," said Rapaport, who seeks a jury trial in the case. "We hope they'll all be OK long term."

Dushyant Patel, president of Angier, N.C.-based Sierra Pre-Filled, said he did not know about the new lawsuits and couldn't comment.

Katie Abrams of Buffalo Grove filed in December what Rapaport said he believed was the first lawsuit involving the tainted syringes. Rapaport also represents Abrams.

Rapaport said more lawsuits are likely because his office has heard from several patients since the first case was filed.

On Jan. 18, the Food and Drug Administration and the company recalled all lots and sizes of the heparin and saline pre-filled syringes because the bacteria *Serratia marcescens* had been located in them. The recall noted that the bacterial infection could lead to serious injury or death.

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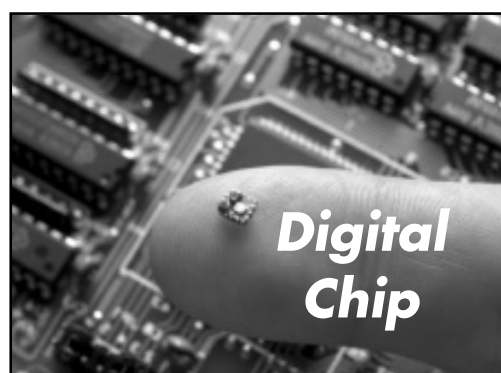
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