

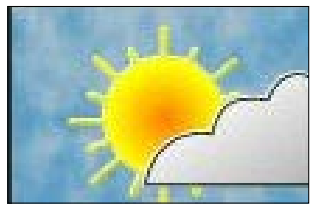
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BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 24, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 74

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Fill'er up! Truck rack in operation

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

The first tangible sign that the Big Spring Alon Refinery is coming back to life came with one of the most ordinary of daily tasks — a gasoline fill-up. Officials announced Friday that the refinery truck rack, which supplies gasoline to delivery trucks, was re-opened and distributing fuel to customers. The refinery was rocked by a massive explosion Monday morning that

injured five people and caused extensive damage throughout the facility. While other major refinery operations remain shut down for the time being, the opening of the truck rack marks the first of several rebuilding steps to occur at the refinery, which has been in operation for more than 75 years. "We are pleased with the progress we are making in returning the Big Spring refinery to ser-



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
 A fuel truck pulls up to the Alon Refinery truck rack to receive a shipment of gasoline Friday afternoon. Refinery officials said the re-opening of the truck rack marked the "first step of many" toward the resumption of full refinery operations.

See **ALON**, Page 3A

Renovation may displace construction at Howard College

"We want to make sure the bond money goes as far as possible to address infrastructure needs on our campus."

—Dr. Cheryl Sparks, HC president



By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

When looking at how best to spend more than \$21 million in bond money, Howard College officials are learning that renovation may well trump construction. College trustees will get an

update on bond-related projects when they hold their monthly meeting at 12:30 p.m. Monday in the Student Union Building's Tumbleweed Room. Actual work should begin within the next few months on projects authorized by district voters in 2007,

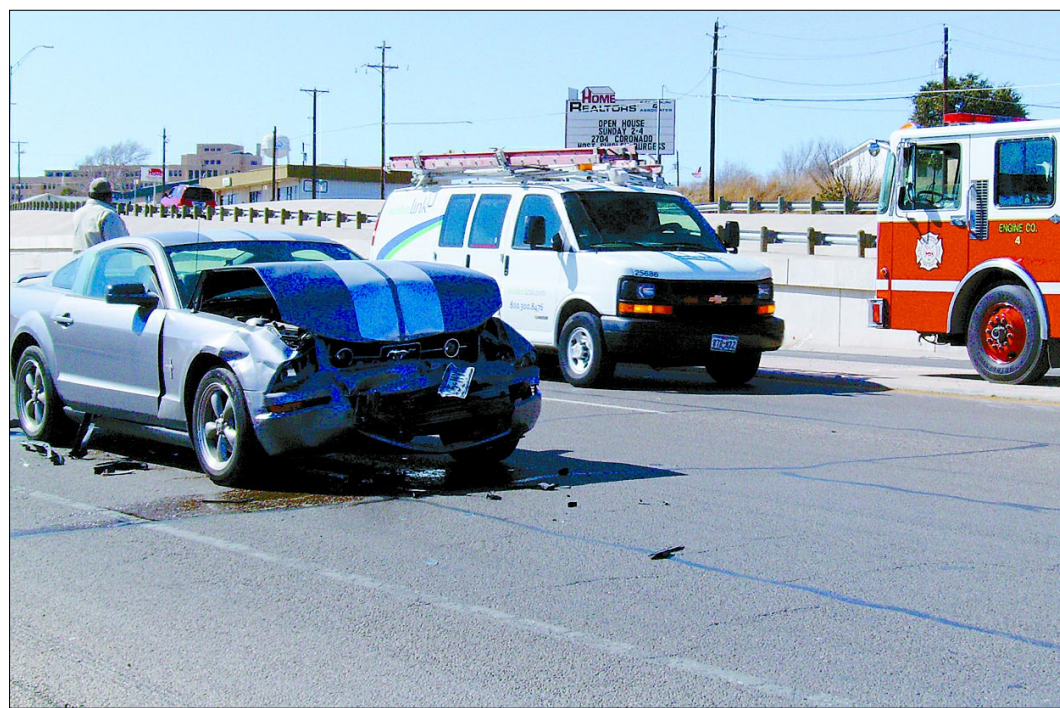
including utility upgrades, modernization of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and replacement of out-dated science labs. How to achieve those goals, however, has been the topic of much discussion, College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks

said. For the past few months, officials have been in consultation with engineers and architects with the firm of Parkhill, Smith and Cooper, debating the virtues of renovation vs. construction.

See **HC**, Page 3A

Police and emergency medical service personnel responded to the scene of a two-vehicle accident in the 200 block of W. FM 700 Friday afternoon. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center with undisclosed injuries.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan



Alvarez not only victim of vehicle attack in Iraq

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

The U.S. Army has released details surrounding the death of a Big Spring soldier who was killed in Iraq Wednesday. Sgt. Conrad Alvarez, 22, and two other soldiers were killed in Baghdad after their vehicle was hit by a bomb, the Department of Defense confirmed Friday afternoon. The other two soldiers



were identified as Cpl. Albert Bitton, Chicago, and Spec. Michael Matlock, Glen Burnie, Md. The three men were assigned to the 101st Airborne Division headquartered in Fort Campbell, Ky. A DoD spokesman said Alvarez, the son of a Big

See **ATTACK**, Page 3A

INDEX
 Business 5-6C
 Classified 7-11C
 Life 1-4C
 Obituaries 2A
 Opinion 4A
 Sports 1-6B

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Commissioners blowin' in the wind

Court will address energy development across area Monday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners are expected to consider a pair of agenda items Monday morning pertaining to ongoing wind energy development in the area, according to local officials. Terry Wegman, executive director for Moore

Development for Big Spring, will address the court to clean up some tax abatement issues and establish right-of-way for one wind energy developer. "The court will consider a resolution making them eligible to participate in tax abatements," said Wegman. "In actuality, the court

approved this some time back. However, there wasn't a signed resolution, something one of the developers pointed out. So this part of the meeting is simple clean up work. "The second resolution the court will consider would grant use of county roads to the Airtricity Panther Creek

Wind Farm, which begins in Sterling County and continues through southwestern Howard into Glasscock County." Wegman said the agreement with the county would provide Airtricity with use of county roads — as well as

See **ENERGY**, Page 3A

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

Page 1B
Sunday, February 24, 2008

IN BRIEF

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

MONDAY

Coahoma baseball vs. Sweetwater, 6 p.m.

Grady boys basketball vs. Lorenzo in Post, 7 a.m.

TUESDAY

Big Spring softball vs. Midland High, 6 p.m.

Big Spring baseball at Odessa Permian, 4 p.m.

Forsan baseball vs. McCamey, 4:30 p.m.

Forsan softball at Colorado City, 4 p.m.

Coahoma softball vs. Abilene Wylie, 7 p.m.

THURS.-SAT.

Big Spring baseball at Monahans Tournament.

Big Spring softball at Killen Tournament.

Forsan baseball at Wall Tournament.

Forsan softball at Snyder Tournament.

Coahoma baseball at Sweetwater Tournament.

Coahoma softball at Lubbock tournament.

Grady Wildcats basketball team wins area crown

Grady's Justin Tubbs put up a season-high 39 points to lead the sixth-ranked Wildcats past Turkey Valley, 71-53 in the area round of the Class A, Division II boys' basketball playoffs Friday night at the Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock.

Tubbs also had 17 rebounds and seven blocked shots.

Leighton Fields scored 16 points and Dylan Cox added 10 points along with seven assists. Lane Shands pulled down eight boards.

Grady faces Lorenzo in the regional quarterfinals, scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday in Post.

Wear red get in free at Howard's final home game

The Howard College Hawks final game of the regular season takes place Tuesday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum with the women tipping off against South Plains College at 5:30 p.m. and the men starting at 7:30 p.m.

Anyone wearing red to the game will be admitted free of charge.

Big Spring Girls Softball registration held every Saturday

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association begins registration for the 2008 youth softball season Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall across from Merle Norman.

Girls ages 4 to 14 as of Jan. 1 are eligible to play.

Fee is \$45 with a \$5 discount for a second child.

Anyone with questions can call Rodney Jones at 213-3750.

Grady, Garden City have hearts broken

By **JONATHAN HULL**
Herald Sports Editor

LEVELLAND — There was no scarce supply of heartbreaking losses Friday afternoon for the two Crossroads girls' basketball teams that had advanced to their respective regional tournaments.

Grady's Lady Wildcats held a 2-point lead with less than a minute left to play against McLean in Levelland in the Class A, Division II, Region I semifinal. However, McLean's Sheri

Haynes drilled a three from the left wing with 27 seconds left, lifting the Tigers over Grady, 51-48.

Garden City's Lady Bearcats met a similar fate as they fell in double overtime at the Class A, Division II, Region II semifinal to Guthrie, 39-31.

In Levelland, Grady trailed by as many as 10 points in the first period, but fought back to lead by 1 at intermission.

The Lady Wildcats entered a 3-point shooting contest with

McLean over the course of the entire game with neither team connecting on many. In all, the two squads combined for 32 total shots from behind the arc. Only five 3-pointers were made in the game, though, and it was the third and final long bomb nailed by McLean that ultimately decided the game.

Grady's Lauren Robinson connected on a 15-footer along the baseline, giving the Lady Wildcats a 48-46 with 1:15 remaining. Grady had an oppor-

tunity to run a significant amount of time off the clock after Robinson rebounded a McLean miss, but turned the ball over with 48 seconds left to play.

McLean worked the ball inside to Ashley Byron, who was immediately double teamed by two Lady Wildcats. Byron passed the ball out to Haynes, who connected on her third three of the half, giving the Lady Tigers a 49-48 advantage with 27 seconds left.

See **REGION**, Page 4B

Coahoma tops Forsan in Classic

Bulldogettes open season with win over Howard County rival

By **JONATHAN HULL**

Special to the Herald

MIDLAND — Once upon a time, Coahoma and Forsan High Schools were perennial district rivals in every sport. Now, the two schools rarely face off with each other in any sport.

However, the West Texas Classic softball tournament in Midland brought the two one-time rivals together Friday afternoon at Aubrey Park and it was the Bulldogettes, who walked off the field with the Howard County bragging rights, following an 11-2 victory.

The game served as Coahoma's (1-0) season opener and Forsan's (1-3) fourth contest of the season. Obviously, there were early season kinks that both coaches still want to work out.

"(Pitcher) Heather (Newton) was a little shaky in the beginning, but it's been a while since she's faced hitting like that," Bulldogettes Head Coach Tracy Tadlock said. "I obviously don't call pitches for her in her summer league, so it takes a little to get used to it."

"Our hitters struggled early, too," he continued, "but they got that ironed out. I told them, we're far ahead of where we were last season. We've only had one real practice with the whole team because of basketball. So I was happy to see them hit like they did."

Forsan Head Coach Shanna

Roberts noted improvement at the plate from the Lady Buffaloes, but feels they could still perform to a higher standard.

"We hit the ball a little better than we did the night before," Roberts said, "but I was disappointed that we didn't play in the field better. I hope it's something that will come together over the course of the season. I know we're young, but we're much better than what I saw out there."

"The girls have things on their minds other than softball," she continued. "They're going to have to dig in and get more focused."

Tadlock noted improvement in the Lady Buffs, though.

"Forsan has gotten better," commented Tadlock. "They're hitting a lot better. Obviously, if they were getting hits off of Heather. So, I'm happy about getting this win."

The Bulldogettes opened with two runs in the first inning, courtesy of a double from catcher Janice Gonzales that brought in Laci Sterling and Joanna Gonzales.

Coahoma added to that lead after Sterling knocked in a run with a triple and then crossed the plate herself on a Breanna Conner hit.

Trailing 4-0, Forsan mounted an attack in the bottom of the third inning. Sisters Shelby and

See **CLASSIC**, Page 3B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Coahoma Bulldogettes pitcher Heather Newton releases a pitch in the Bulldogettes' season opening 11-2 victory over Howard County rival Forsan's Lady Buffaloes Friday afternoon at Aubrey Field in Midland as a part of the West Texas Classic softball tournament.

Bufs fall to Plains in area round, 51-46

Herald Staff Report

ANDREWS — Moving into the area round of the postseason, the 12th-ranked Forsan Buffaloes (22-4) traveled to Andrews to take on the 17th-ranked Plains Cowboys (24-3).

Both teams played with great intensity with the game going down to the wire, but the Cowboys escaped with the win, 51-46.

A poor second quarter and an off night at the free throw line hurt the Bufs chances as they exit the playoffs in the same round they did last season.

"We struggled to score in the second quarter," said Bufs Head Coach Terry McDonald, "but came out in the third quarter and tied the game up. We gave ourselves a chance in the fourth quarter and went back and forth with several lead changes. It was a great game between two top 20 teams that came down to who hit their free throws."

The Bufs went four of 13 from the line while the Cowboys hit four free shots in the final seconds to help secure the victory.

The Cowboys held a 3-point advantage with just 19 seconds left when Jeremy Robbins hit a driving layup to pull the Bufs within one.

"We gave ourselves a great chance, but got into a situation where we had to foul to stop the

clock," said McDonald. "They made four big free throws down the stretch to secure the win."

Adam Bailey ended the game with 13 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Bufs and Cameron Parker hit four 3-pointers to finish with 12 points. Robbins netted six points and hauled in 10 boards.

Even though this season did not turn out as the Bufs intended, McDonald had high praise for this squad, especially his seniors.

"It was a great season for this team and we are disappointed we will not be playing in the next round," McDonald said, "but we are very proud of our accomplishments this year. We had a great group of seniors in Blake Grantham, Bailey, Parker, Clint Hobbs and Spencer Briggs. Some of those guys have helped us win 63 games over the last three years and extend our playoff run to four years in a row."

McDonald added that these players have also been outstanding leaders and represented Forsan ISD well and that the Bufs will be excited about getting it going again for next season.

Forsan 11 5 17 13-46

Plains 10 11 12 18-51

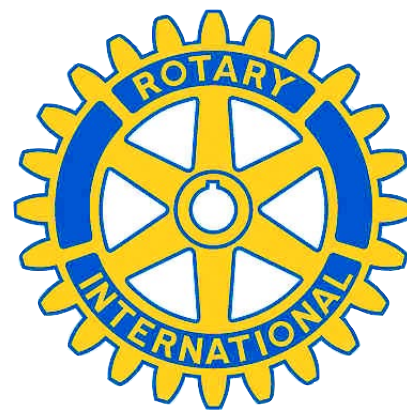
Forsan: Adam Bailey 13, Cameron Parker 12, Alex Huckabee 7, Jeremy Robbins 6, Blake Grantham 6, Nathan Atkerson 2.



Courtesy photo/Bob Fishback

Forsan's Jeremy Robbins lays the ball in for two points in the Buffaloes' 51-46 loss to Plains in the area round of the Class A, Division I playoffs in Andrews Friday night.

Rotary celebrating 80 years in Big Spring



The Rotary Club of Big Spring is celebrating its 80th anniversary this week. Chartered with Rotary International Feb. 23, 1928, the Rotary Club of Big Spring was the first civic organization of its kind in Big Spring.

Rotary is a worldwide organization with more than 32,000 clubs. All Rotary Clubs report to Rotary International. Over the past several years Rotary International, with the assistance of local clubs, has collaborated with the World Health Organization by investing millions of dollars toward the eradication of polio. This mission has almost been accomplished.

The Rotary emblem consists of a gearwheel with 24 cogs and six spokes. The emblem is worn as a lapel pin by Rotarians worldwide. The emblem symbolizes progress.

Rotary is organized on a worldwide basis into zones. These zones are divided into districts. Each district is led by a district governor and each Rotary club is led by a club president. There are approximately 50 Rotary clubs in each Rotary district.

The Rotary Club of Big Spring has had four of its members serve as club president and district governor over the years. They are Ralph McLaughlin, Charles Beil, Bob Lewis and Jerry Worthy. Ralph McLaughlin also served as an international director.

Some of the current Rotarians who have served as president of the club over the past several years include Rich Anderson, Michael Downes, Janis Bond, Greg Brooks, Ben Bancroft, Jan Foresyth, Terry McDaniel, Cheri Sparks, Tommy Churchwell, Jimmy Anderson and Hayes Stripling. The current Rotary Club president is Pete Thiry.

One of the highest honors that

can be bestowed upon a Rotarian is to become a Paul Harris Fellow. This recognition is named after the founder of Rotary, Paul Harris. Through the years, more than 300 Rotarians from Big Spring have been recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow.

Today, there are two Rotary clubs in Big Spring. Meetings are held weekly. The club celebrating its anniversary is the Rotary Club of Big Spring and meets at noon Tuesdays. The second club, chartered in April 1977, is The Greater Big Spring Rotary Club, which meets at noon Fridays. Scott McLaughlin is a charter member of that club and served as its first president.

Both clubs collaborate on community service projects that include the Rotary Park located downtown and efforts to encourage literacy by distributing dictionaries to all third grade students in the Big Spring Independent School District at Christmastime. Both clubs also share the expense of sending 10 local teens who show leadership potential, five boys and five girls, to the week long Rotary Youth Leadership Award Camp (Camp RYLA) near Capitan, N.M., each June.

Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self" has been exemplified with the following additional community service projects performed by the Rotary Club of Big Spring including the display of American flags along Gregg Street on national holidays, holding two blood drives annually with United Blood Services, volunteering to ring the Salvation Army Bell during the Army's annual support campaign, participate with Keep Big Spring Beautiful and Texas Trash Off and Mobile Meals. The Rotary Club of Big Spring also awards local graduating high school

students who qualify and plan to attend Howard College with scholarships to continue their education and hosts various meetings with the Chamber of Commerce.

Heading east on FM 700 near Goliad Street is a billboard displaying the Four Way Test of Rotary. This Four Way Test is recited at every Rotary meeting. It reads:

- First... Is it the truth?
 - Second... Is it fair to all concerned?
 - Third... Is it beneficial to all concerned?
 - Fourth... Will it build good will and better friendships?
- Rotarians believe if everyone would practice this slogan in their everyday lives this world would be a much better place to live.



Polio primarily affects children under the age of five, and it can cause paralysis in hours.



Among many projects in Howard County Rotarians have taken on through the years is this "pocket park" in downtown Big Spring.



Rotary Club officers include, from left, bottom row, Jim Little, Shirley Lee, Jerry Grimes, Olivia Flournoy, Tim Green and Hollis McCright, and back row, Pete Thiry, Clarence Hartfield Jr., Jan Foresyth and Michael Downes.



Among the Rotarians delivering dictionaries to schools during the last holiday season were, from left, Clarence Hartfield Jr., Tim Green, Tamara Barber, Carrie Dunnam, Jerry Worthy, Michael Downes, Stephanie Wilkerson, Keith Graumann and Darrell Ryan.

The Big Spring Herald will be publishing the 2008 Profile Edition

"Look At Us At The Crossroads Of West Texas"

This Section featuring stories about your friends, neighbors, and Business Associates

Publish Date Is Sunday, March 30

Don't Be Left Out Of This Informative Section

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Obituaries

Sgt. Conrad Alvarez

Sgt. Conrad Alvarez, 22, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2008, in Iraq. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Nathaniel Carter Jr.

Nathaniel Carter Jr., 72, of Big Spring died Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Dora Paul Willbanks

Dora Paul Willbanks, 91, of New Braunfels, formerly of Big Spring, died Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008, in a New Braunfels hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

• Every church is invited to attend the associational evangelism rally set for 6:30 p.m. Sunday in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. Evangelist-entertainer David Crain will be the featured speaker. A nursery will be provided at East Fourth Street Baptist Church. Plan on attending and bringing a friend.

• The Howard County Youth Horseman Club is sponsoring an equine shot clinic from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 1, at the HCYHC arena on the Garden City Highway. Brock Veterinarian Clinic of Lamesa is providing the services. You do not have to be a member to participate. Call (432) 599-2934 if you have questions.

• A fund has been established to help pay expenses for Sean Bailey, 25, who was injured in an oilfield accident Jan. 28. He and his wife are Tressa are currently in Lubbock, where Sean is hospitalized. Donations can be made at Citizens Federal Credit Union to account 930442 to help with expenses. Please keep them in your prayers.

• 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.

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

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

• New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.

• The Pet Patrol helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Thursday and 7 a.m. today:

- **JOANIE LEDESMA**, 24, of 1717 Benton, was arrested Thursday on a charge of theft.
- **WESLEY NEWCOMB**, 18, of 614 Dealy Road, was arrested Thursday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **VINCENT HAGGARD**, 19, of 4615 S. Virginia, was arrested Thursday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **HENRY T. FRANCO**, 43, of 507 N.W. 10th Street, was arrested Thursday on charges of resisting arrest and interfering with the duties of a public servant.
- **STEVEN PETERSON**, 18, of 315 Aylesford, was arrested Thursday on a charge of disorderly conduct - fighting.
- **DAVID LEONARD BUTTZ**, 22, of 315 Aylesford, was arrested Thursday on a charge of disorderly conduct - fighting.
- **JARIN L. YARBROUGH**, age not given, 1905 Wasson, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **BENJAMIN E. MOORE**, 28, 1305 State, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **JOSE GOMEZ**, 25, 1204 E. 15th, was arrested on three capias warrants.
- **SILVIA TWO-BEARS**, 47, 1409 Sycamore, was arrested on a charge of forgery.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.
- **RESISTING ARREST, SEARCH OR TRANSPORTATION** was reported in the 500 block of Goliad.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported in the 900 block of FM 700.
- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS OF A HABITATION/SHELTER CENTER** was reported in the 1800 block of Donley.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1000 block of Sycamore.
- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 1700 block of Scurry.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 42 inmates at the time of this report.
- **BOBBY HAROLD DAVIS**, 33, was arrested Thursday by DPS on charges of running a stop sign, expired driver's license, speeding, violation of a promise to appear and failure to appear - possession of a controlled substance.
 - **CRYSTAL ANN PEEBLES**, 34, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid and driving while license suspended/invalid - enhanced.
 - **GERALD DEAN MIRELES**, 39, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
 - **JOHNNY RODRIGUEZ JR.**, 18, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of consumption/possession of alcohol by a minor - third or more offense.
 - **ROBERT WAYNE PHERIGO**, 60, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a Taylor County warrant for criminal mischief.
 - **TED JONATHAN MARTINEZ**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for fictitious/counterfeit inspection document for display and driving while intoxicated.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of 13th Street and Goliad. Three people were transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

Bulletin Board

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 263-1758 213-3598.
- 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.
- The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Dorothy Lamb meeting room in the Howard County Library.
- 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.
- The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.
- Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

Weather

Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s. Northwest winds around 10 mph shifting to the southwest in the afternoon.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Monday...Mostly sunny. Highs around 80. West winds 15 to 25 mph.

Monday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s.

Tuesday...Mostly cloudy. Much cooler. Highs in the mid 50s.

Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs around 60.

Wednesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s.

Thursday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.

Friday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 6-13-19-22-37
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize: \$27,530.
Winning ticket sold in: Dallas

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-2-5-0. Sum It Up: 13.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-1-6. Sum It Up: 13.

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County Commissioner, Precinct 3
Democratic Primary

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Hawks sweep doubleheader from Frank Phillips

By **BRANDON HALLFORD**

Special to the Herald

Howard College's Hawks won't win hospitality awards if the Frank Phillips Lady Plainsmen have anything to say about it. Then again, hospitality does not stretch across the field as long as there is a conference foe involved.

The Hawks blasted their way to a pair of run-rule shortened victories Friday afternoon at Foundation Field.

In Game 1, the top of the order did the damage for Howard as the trio of Kendra Corbin, Misti Lindamood and Jessica Moreno scored eight runs with six RBIs combined.

The trio wasted little time showing they were ready to play as Corbin slammed a double off the left center field wall. After Lindamood put runners on first and third with no outs, Moreno connected with a Holly Reandy pitch, depositing it against the center field wall and scoring both Corbin and Lindamood for the quick 2-0 lead.

Moreno scored two batters later thanks to another double by the Hawks. This time it was Kristy Leal doing the honors, turning on a Reandy pitch to push home the third run of the inning.

With the score 5-0 entering the home half of the third, Howard put any doubts in the conclusion to rest, exploding for four runs all of which came after there was two outs. Ashleigh Thompson started things off for the

Hawks with a base knock to center. After an Amanda Benavides grounder to third put a runner on second with two outs, it was once again the top of the order's turn to respond.

Corbin was first as the Andrews High School product deposited a 1-1 pitch high over the center field wall for a two-run homer. After Lindamood worked a walk off Reandy, Moreno launched the first pitch she saw high into the West Texas sky that finally came to rest about 20 feet past the left center field wall, pushing the score to 9-0.

The Hawks ended the game two innings later. This time, however, it was Benavides who got the ball rolling for Howard. With two strikes, she slapped a Reandy offering against the outfield wall for a double.

After a Corbin grounded out to the pitcher for the second out of the inning, Lindamood bounced a shot to Reandy for the apparent third out of the inning. However,

Reandy's throw sailed over the first baseman's head allowing Benavides to trot home with the final run of the game.

The second half of the doubleheader was more of the same as the Hawks continued to pound the Lady Plainsmen's pitching staff, pounding out nine hits on their way to the easy 10-0 victory.

This time, though, it was the middle of the Howard lineup doing the damage.



Howard College Hawks second baseman Misti Lindamood slides into home safely in Game 1 of the Hawks' doubleheader sweep of Frank Phillips College Friday afternoon at Foundation Field. Courtesy photo/Cindy Smith

The four through eight hitters in the lineup reached base 11 of the 15 times they went to the plate, scoring all 10 of the Hawks' runs.

Benavides and Big Spring native Krista Chesworth reached base every time they went to the plate, scoring five of the runs for Howard.

Corbin added to her RBI total on the day, collecting three more while

going 2-for-3 at the plate including a two run double in the four run third inning.

Diana Espinal did her part on the mound for the Lady Hawks as the Cypress Falls High graduate, allowed three Frank Phillips' base runners on one walk and two hits, both of which were collected by pitcher Robyn King.

"I thought our hitting is

finally coming around. We were a bit inconsistent to start the season but the last few games they have started to come alive," Howard Head Coach Kelly Raines said. "That and our defense is what won this today we just have to build off this and keep going from here."

With the sweep Howard moves to 3-1 in conference play and 9-6 overall. More

importantly, the Hawks continue to carry the momentum they had gained earlier in the week after their sweep of Ranger College Wednesday.

The Hawks played host Saturday to Clarendon Community College for a doubleheader.

Full coverage of those two games will be available in Monday's edition of the *Herald*.

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- 2006 Nissan Xterra 4X2 - Red w/Gray Cloth, Very Nice, SUV, One Owner, CD Player, Automatic. **Was \$19,995** **NOW \$18,995**
- 2004 Nissan Xterra SE - Gold w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Loaded, Like New, One Owner, Low Miles. **Was \$16,995** **NOW \$15,995**
- 2004 Nissan Muranose - White w/Tan Leather, Loaded, All Power, Very Nice, New Car Trade In. **Was \$20,995** **NOW \$19,995**
- 2004 Nissan Xterra 4X4 SE - Gold w/Gray Cloth, CD Player, One Owner, Super Clean, Only 19,000 Miles. **Was \$18,995** **NOW \$15,995**
- 2004 Nissan Xterra SE 4X2 - Silver w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Low Miles. **Was \$19,995** **NOW \$15,995**

★★★ LINCOLNS AND MERCURYS ★★★

- 2007 Lincoln Town Car Signature LTD - White Chocolate Tri-Coat, w/Tan Camel Leather, All Power, Power Moonroof, Audiophile AM/FM Cass/CD, Woodgrain, Only 14,000 Miles. **Was \$30,995** **NOW \$29,995**
- 2007 Lincoln Town Car Signature - White w/Tan Leather, All Power, Power Moonroof, Audiophile AM/FM Cass/CD, Only 10,000 Miles. **Was \$30,995** **NOW \$29,995**
- 2007 Lincoln MKZ - Merlot w/Tan Leather, Wood Trim Accent, Heated & Cooled Seats, Sirius Sat. Radio, Chrome Wheels, Only 10,000 Miles. **Was \$28,995** **NOW \$27,995**
- 2007 Lincoln MKZ - Oxford White w/Lt. Stone Leather, Wood Trim Accent, Heated/Cooled Seats, Sirius Sat. Radio, Chrome Wheels, Only 14,000 Miles. **Was \$28,995** **NOW \$27,995**
- 2007 Mercury Grand Marquis LS Premium - Vibrant White w/Tan Leather, Power Seats, Garage Door Opener, Power Pedals, Only 16,000 Miles. **Was \$21,995** **NOW \$19,995**
- 2007 Mercury Grand Marquis - Silver w/Medium Stone Leather, Dual Power Seats, Power Pedals, Keyless Entry, Only 16,000 Miles. **Was \$19,995** **NOW \$17,995**

★★★ LINCOLNS AND MERCURYS ★★★

- 2006 Lincoln Zephyr - Black w/Gray Cloth, Fully Loaded, All Power, Nice Car, One Owner, Low Miles. **Was \$24,995** **NOW \$20,995**
- 2007 Lincoln MKX FWD - White w/Black Leather, Ultimate Pkg., Power Liftgate, Heated/Cooled Front Seats, Only 18,000 Miles. **Was \$32,995** **NOW \$31,995**
- 2004 Lincoln Towncar Ultimate - White Cashmere w/Lt. Tan Leather, Very Nice Car, All Power, One Owner, New Car Trade In, Only 32,000 Miles. **Was \$20,995** **NOW \$19,995**
- 2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White w/Gray Leather, Moonroof, GPS, All Power, Great SUV, Must Sell. **Was \$16,995** **NOW \$14,995**

★★★ FORDS ★★★

- 2007 Ford Mustang V6 Deluxe - Black w/Dark Charcoal Cloth, 5-Speed, Auto Transmission, AM/FM, CD Player, Audio Input Jack, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Only 17,421 Miles. **Was \$23,995** **NOW \$19,995**
- 2007 Ford Focus ZX4 SE - Liquid Gray/Cloth, All Power, CD/MP3, Remote Keyless, Only 18,000 Miles. **Was \$16,995** **NOW \$13,995**
- 2007 Ford Focus ZX4 SE - Cloud 9 White/Cloth, All Power, CD/MP3, Remote Keyless. **Was \$16,995** **NOW \$13,995**
- 2007 Ford Focus SE - Gray w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, All Power, Nice Car, Only 19,000 Miles. **Was \$16,995** **NOW \$13,995**
- 2006 Ford Fusion S - Oxford White, Stone Cloth, All Power, 2-3-4 Cyl., 12,000 Miles. **Was \$16,995** **NOW \$15,995**
- 2006 Ford Taurus SE - Tungsten Metallic w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned w/32,000 Miles. **Was \$14,995** **NOW \$12,995**
- 2004 Ford Mustang V6 Convertible - Black w/Tan Leather, CD Player, Like New, One Owner, Only 19,685 Miles. **Was \$18,995** **NOW \$14,995**
- 2004 Ford Thunderbird Convertible - Black w/Black Leather, Loaded, One Owner, 2 Tops, Only 20,800 Miles. **Was \$27,995** **NOW \$25,995**
- 2004 Ford Taurus LX - Tan w/Tan Cloth, All Power, Nice Clean Car, Local Owner. **Was \$9,995** **NOW \$6,995**
- 2004 Ford Focus SE - Green w/Tan Cloth, Loaded, One Owner, Like New, Low Miles. **Was \$9,995** **NOW \$8,995**
- 2002 Ford Focus ZX5 - Silver, w/Cloth, Automatic, All Power, 39,000 Miles. **Was \$11,995** **NOW \$8,995**
- 2003 Ford Escort ZX2 - Black w/Cloth, Automatic, All Power, Great Gas Car. **Was \$8,995** **NOW \$7,995**
- 2007 Ford F150 4X2 Supercrew XLT 4.6L V8 - Bright Red w/Flint Cloth, Privacy Glass, CD Player, Like New, Low Miles. **Was \$24,995** **NOW \$23,995**
- 2007 Ford F150 4X2 Supercrew XLT 5.4L V8 - Gold w/Tan Cloth, Privacy Glass, CD Player, Bedliner, Very Nice, Only 18,000 Miles. **Was \$24,995** **NOW \$23,995**
- 2007 Ford Ranger XLT - Red w/Cloth Seats, All Power, Automatic, One Owner, Only 17,000 Miles. **Was \$18,995** **NOW \$17,995**
- 2006 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT 4X2 5.4L V8 - Dk Red w/Tan Cloth, One Owner, New Car Trade In, CD Player, Only 18,000 Miles. **Was \$24,995** **NOW \$23,995**
- 2006 Ford F250 SD 4X2 6.0L Diesel Lariat - Black w/Gray Leather, One Owner, New Truck Trade In, Nice Truck. **Was \$28,995** **NOW \$28,995**
- 2005 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat 5.4L V8 - White w/Tan Leather, 6CD In Dash Player, One Owner, Like New, Low Miles. **Was \$24,995** **NOW \$23,995**
- 2005 F250 SD Crewcab Diesel FX4 King Ranch - Dk. Red w/King Ranch Leather, Loaded, Like New, New Truck Trade In, One Owner. **Was \$31,995** **NOW \$30,995**
- 2005 Ford F-150 Supercab XL 4X4 - White, V-8, Air, Automatic, Local One Owner w/60,000 Miles. **Was \$20,995** **NOW \$16,995**
- 2005 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Gray w/Cloth, Local One Owner. **MSRP \$18,995** **NOW \$14,995**

★★★ FORDS ★★★

- 2004 Ford F250 Super Duty Crew Cab Diesel - Blue w/Gray Cloth, CD Player, Short Bed, Great Truck. **Was \$23,995** **NOW \$22,995**
- 2003 Ford Supercrew XLT - Red w/Gray Cloth All Power, Power Seat, CD Player, Low Miles. **MSRP \$15,995** **NOW \$14,995**
- 2003 Ford F150 Supercab Flareside XLT V6 - Red w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Like New, Only 37,000 Miles. **Was \$16,995** **NOW \$15,995**
- 2002 Ford F150 Supercab Sport V6 - White w/Gray Cloth, 5-Speed, CD Player, Like New, Bedliner. **Was \$12,995** **NOW \$11,995**
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- 2005 Ford Expedition XLT 4X4 - Silver w/Gray Leather, All Power, One Owner, Nice, Low Miles. **Was \$21,995** **NOW 20,995**
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- 2002 Ford Expedition XLT 4X4 - Tan/Black w/Tan Leather, Loaded, One Owner, Very Nice, SUV, Low Miles. **Was \$17,995** **NOW \$12,995**

★★★ CHEVROLETS ★★★

- 2002 Chevrolet Cavalier - Blue w/Gray Cloth, Like New, One Owner, Only 38,000 Miles. **Was \$10,995** **NOW \$9,995**
- 2006 Chevrolet C1500 Silverado LT - White w/Gray Cloth, Nice Truck, All Power, Local One Owner, CD Player, Power Seat, Low Miles. **Was \$23,995** **NOW \$22,995**
- 2006 Chevrolet Avalanche LT 4X2 - Black w/Tan Leather, Loaded, One Owner, All Power, OnStar, Only 34,000 Miles. **Was \$28,995** **NOW \$27,995**
- 2005 Chevrolet 1500 Silverado 4X4 - White w/Gray Leather, Crew Cab, CD Player, One Owner, All Power. **Was \$25,995** **NOW \$23,995**
- 2005 Chevrolet Tahoe Z71 - Gold w/Tan Cloth Seats, OnStar, All Power, Like New, One owner, Only 16,000 Miles. **Was \$26,995** **NOW \$25,995**

★★★ ALL OTHERS ★★★

- 2006 Jeep Wrangler SE - Tan w/Tan Cloth, 5 Speed, CD Player, AC, Nice Unit, Only 14,000 Miles. **Was \$18,995** **NOW \$17,995**
- 2006 Dodge 1500 Mega Laramie - Tan w/Tan Leather, Nice Truck & Loaded, One Owner, Heated Seats, Tinted Windows, Only 12,000 Miles. **Was \$25,995** **NOW \$24,995**
- 2004 Oldsmobile Alero - Silver w/Gray Cloth, Low Miles, All Power, Local One Owner. **Was \$10,995** **NOW \$7,995**
- 2003 Cadillac Deville - Gold w/Tan Cloth Leather, Like New, Very Nice Car, All Power, Low Miles. **Was \$15,995** **NOW \$14,995**

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Anniversary

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George and Elizabeth Smith

George and Elizabeth Smith will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary March 1, 2008, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., at Kokepelli's, 4007 Chaparral Road, hosted by their children and spouses. Casual dress and no gifts, please.

He was born in Roscoe and she was born in Forest, La., as Elizabeth Largent. They met at the First National Bank while both were employed there.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith were married Feb. 28, 1958, in the home of George's uncle, W.B.

Younger. They have three children, Danny Smith and his wife Dana of Coupland, Kim Bradberry and her husband Bob of Killeen and Lisa Barber and her husband Jeff of Big Spring, and four grandchildren.

Mr. Smith is retired from Cosden and Mrs. Smith is retired from the Big Spring Independent School District.

They are affiliated with Hillcrest Baptist Church. They enjoy family, friends and spending time at their cabin in Cloudfcroft, N.M.

Who's Who

Lindsay Paige Phillips of Big Spring and Andrew "Tyler" Wallace of Gail were two of the 28 Austin College students who spent three weeks exploring Australia and the relationships between science and society in a region where people's connection to the Earth is deeply ingrained in their culture.

In their class, Australia: Nature and Culture, students had the opportunity to navigate remote canyon systems by canoe safari, interact with experts at the Crocodile Hunter's Zoo, explore the Australian Outback on horseback, act as caretakers of baby kangaroos, visit pristine rainforests and snorkel at the Great Barrier Reef.

Austin College's four-week January Term, in which students take only one course, provides students opportunity for in-

depth study of one subject—often outside their regular area of study. In addition to on-campus courses in specialized areas of study, many students spend the month in career exploration through individualized study at business sites or in study trips abroad. This year Austin College students could also be found in Brazil, Costa Rica, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Jamaica, Japan, Peru, Scotland, Spain, and Turkey, as well as Washington, D.C., and New York City.

Phillips is a graduate of Big Spring High School and the daughter of **Jim Bob and Penny Phillips**. Wallace, is a graduate of Borden County High School and the son of **Buddy and Kip Wallace**.

Austin College is a leading national independent liberal arts college in Sherman.

Menus

Spring City Senior Citizen's Center

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

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

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

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

Friday: chopped steak and gravy, scalloped potatoes, butter beans, cornbread and cottage cheese and peaches.

Forsan ISD

Monday — Student Holiday

Tuesday — Breakfast, toast, peanut butter w/jelly, juice and milk; Lunch, barbecue hot-dogs, sliced bread, pinto beans, mashed potatoes, pineapple-orange salad

and milk.

Wednesday - Breakfast, breakfast pockets, juice and milk; Lunch, meat & bean chalupas, Spanish rice, lettuce & tomatoes, Rosie applesauce and milk.

Thursday - Breakfast, donuts, juice, milk; Lunch, chicken-fried steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans, hot rolls, fruit and milk.

Friday - Breakfast, biscuits, sausage/gravy, juice, milk; Lunch, chicken fajitas, refried beans, seasoned corn, orange smiles, brownies and milk.

Big Spring ISD

Monday - Lunch, chili-dogs, ranch-style beans, veggie melody, apples and milk.

Tuesday - Lunch, green enchiladas, refried beans, garden salad, mixed fruit and milk.

Wednesday - Lunch, grilled chicken, California vegetables, seasoned rice, mandarin oranges, rolls and milk.

Thursday - Lunch, beef stew, pineapple Jello Rainbow bar, cornbread and milk.

Friday - Lunch, fish burger, sweet potato fry, salad, oatmeal cookies and milk.

Coahoma ISD

Monday - Staff Development Day

Tuesday - Breakfast, sweeten rice, ham, grape juice, milk; Lunch, chicken-fried steak, gravy, green beans, mashed potatoes, rolls, milk and corn-dogs.

Wednesday - Breakfast, pancakes, sausage, syrup, grape juice, milk; Lunch, chicken/dumplings, sweet peas, pear cups, milk and grilled cheese sandwiches.

Thursday - Breakfast, Pop Tarts, ham, grape juice and milk; Lunch, lasagna, salad, finger rolls, mixed fruit, milk and burritos.

Friday - Breakfast, French toast, sausage, syrup, orange juice, milk, hamburgers, chips, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles,

oranges and milk.

See MENUS, Page 3C



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5 Years - Nicole Alford, Jeremiah Best, Nick Ornelas, Nina Ramirez, Amy Miramontes, Anita Cline, Allison Rodriguez, Susan Roberts, Adam Yanez, Demetrio Franco, Brian Murphree, Helen Galloway, Cynthia Rutledge, Renae Sturtz



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Inside Big Spring Pack and Ship

U.S. Congressman Randy Neugebauer presents a U.S. flag to Tanya Evrard, the widow of Steven Evrard, killed in December 2007 while serving in Iraq. The flag, which was flown over the U.S. Capitol, was given Thursday to Tanya in honor of her late-husband's sacrifice for the nation. Neugebauer also presented Tanya with a congressional coin for the 19th District of Texas.

HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody



ALON

Continued from Page 1A

vice,” Alon USA President and CEO Jeff Morris said in a statement. “This is the first step of many.

“We are currently ahead of our own internal schedule and continue to be optimistic about returning to the first stage of operation producing gasoline, diesel and asphalt within 60 days,” Morris added. “I want to thank all my colleagues both at Alon and in Big Spring for their tireless efforts in getting this part of the Big Spring facility started so quickly.”

Since Monday’s explosion, Alon has supplied its customers with 100 percent of their contract volumes and no contract customer has been placed on allocation, Morris noted.

Standing next to U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer Thursday afternoon, Morris said Alon would invest an unprecedented amount of money and manpower to bring the refinery back to full operational status.

“Our preliminary estimates are that we’ll have 500-people shifts working seven days a week,” he said. “This will be the biggest undertaking that Big Spring has ever seen — but we are ready for it.”

The Big Spring Refinery, one of four in the Alon USA inventory, has a throughput capacity of 70,000 barrels of oil a day at peak production.

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

HC

Continued from Page 1A

Renovation appears to be winning.

“We are leaning more toward renovation of existing buildings at this time,” Sparks said. “Some of the construction costs we’ve been looking at would have prevented us from doing some other projects that really

needed to be done.

“We want to make sure the bond money goes as far as possible to address infrastructure needs on our campus,” she added.

The majority of new construction will be that of new science labs, Sparks said.

“We had looked at the possibility of building new labs near the math and science buildings,” Sparks said. “At this point, that doesn’t seem to be

the best approach.”

Instead, officials are leaning toward modernizing and expanding existing lab space, she said.

Renovation work is still months away. The next step is for the trustees to authorize “requests for proposals” from firms interesting in managing the overall project, Sparks said.

Naming a project manager could occur as early as March, she added.

In other business, trustees will:

- Hold a public hearing on plans to consolidate polling places for this year’s trustee elections. Sparks said plans call for a central polling place at Garrett Coliseum and additional places at Elbow, Forsan and Coahoma.
- Consider an update on plans to construct a workforce training center at SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf.

• Hear reports on enrollment and contact hour figures, small classes and quarterly investment figures.

- Award bids for a grant-funded X-ray test device.
- Formally order the May 10 trustee election.

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

ATTACK

Continued from Page 1A

Spring woman, was an infantryman assigned to A Co., 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment. He was on his second tour of duty in Iraq.

A memorial service for the soldiers was scheduled to be held in Iraq. Local services for Alvarez

are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Alvarez is the second member of his family to be killed in Iraq. His brother-in-law, Army Pfc. Kristian Menchaca, was kidnapped and killed by extremists in 2006.

Alvarez was born and raised in Roscoe, graduating from high school there — where he was active in sports — but spent several years in Big

Spring before enlisting in the Army in 2005, Miller said.

The 22-year-old was remembered as being very popular among friends and colleagues.

Alvarez is survived by his wife, Maria; daughters Celeste and Alyssa; his mother and stepfather, Belinda and Pete Garcia; sister Christina; and several other family members.

Alvarez is the third Howard County native killed while serving on active duty in the Iraq theater.

Marine Pfc. Chad Metcalf Bales, of Coahoma, was killed shortly after President George W. Bush ordered the invasion of that country in April 2003. Big Spring’s Robert J. Volker, a specialist in the Army, was killed when his vehi-

cle was struck by an improvised explosive device in December 2006.

Former Big Spring Police Department officer Steven Evrard, working in Iraq as a civilian security specialist, was killed by a roadside bomb in December 2007.

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

ald.com.

ENERGY

Continued from Page 1A

permission to construct transmission lines across county roads if necessary.

“If there’s any damage to the roadways, the agreement provides that Airtricity will repair them to their former or a better state,” said Wegman.

Construction on the Panther Creek project is moving quickly, according to Wegman.

“They currently have Price Construction in there building their road-

ways,” said Wegman. “The portion of the project in Howard County will be 36 megawatts, which means 24 of the 1.5 megawatt wind turbines. The entire project, however, is huge. In its entirety, it will be a 250 megawatt wind farm with approximately 172 foundations (turbines).”

Wegman said Airtricity isn’t the only wind energy developer working in Howard County.

“Padoma, which is working on the Gunsight Mountain Project, is also making progress,” said Wegman. “That project

stretches from Big Spring south to Forsan. Road construction is also under way there. That’s a 100 megawatt project, and although they are mainly using the 1.5 megawatt turbines, they may also be bringing in some of the larger turbines.”

Also Monday, commissioners are expected to approve an interlocal agreement with the city of Big Spring for operation of the Spring City Senior Citizens Center.

The court approved the transfer of the center — which has been under county control for many

years — to the city during a meeting in mid-January on a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Gary Simer voting against the measure.

Monday’s discussion is expected to solidify fiscal arrangements between the two local governments on the issue.

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

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

at citydesk@bigspringherald.com.

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Catharine Williams, 86, died Wednesday. Funeral Services were at 2:30 PM Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Westbrook Cemetery.
Margaret Kolden, 79, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.
Sgt. Conrad Alvarez, 22, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.
Nathaniel Carter, Jr., 72, of Big Spring died Saturday, February 23, 2008, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

The Big Spring Herald is making available a CD containing the **Monday Feb. 19, 2008 Explosion & The Xtra Edition** for \$2. Come by the Big Spring Herald 710 Scurry.

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Steers slam Sweetwater, 13-3



Herald Staff Report

SWEETWATER — So far, so good for the Big Spring Steers baseball team, but as Head Coach Burt Otto noted, it's still early.

The Steers improved to 2-0 this season with a 13-3 victory over the Sweetwater Mustangs Friday. John Benavides pitched four innings, surrendering just two earned runs, in a game that was called after the fifth inning due to the 10-run mercy rule. Lance Gross closed out the game on the mound for the Steers, pitching the fifth and final inning and surrendering one earned run.

"I'm very proud of our defense and like how John fought today," Otto said. "We've been hitting the ball very well. Sweetwater had some soft tossers on the mound and we were out in front of those pitches early, but we got a hold of some."

"John was also behind in the count a lot and had to fight his way out of

some jams," he continued. "We got through it. It's still early, though."

Big Spring jumped out to an early advantage, scoring four runs in the top of the first inning. However, the Steers truly put the game out of reach in the fourth.

Leading 4-1, Big Spring had seven consecutive players reach base and eight runners eventually crossed the plate, extending the Steers' lead to 12-1.

Rance Terry got the scoring started with a two-RBI triple. Even when Sweetwater finally recorded an out in the inning, it proved beneficial for the Steers as Matt Ritchey hit a sacrifice fly to left field.

Nathan Doporto knocked in Big Spring's 13th and final run in the fifth inning with a sacrifice fly to center field, allowing Martin Yanez to score.

Big Spring was able to ward off Sweetwater's biggest threat to pick up several runs in the first inning. With Mustangs'

runners on first and third and no outs, third baseman Jeremy Solis made a play on a ground ball and initiated a double play, getting outs at second and first. The runner at third mistakenly didn't advance during the play and Benavides got out of the inning two batters later, giving up just one run.

"That double play was big," Otto said. "That was a changing moment in the game."

Big Spring faces its biggest challenge Tuesday when the Steers pay a visit to Odessa Permian — a favorite to win District 2-5A.

"We're going to have to live low in the strike zone with our pitching and keep making plays on defense," Otto said. "We've done a fair job of putting the ball in play, which was a big worry for us after our scrimmages. The main thing will be for us to be consistent on the mound."

First pitch is scheduled for 4 p.m.

Courtesy photo
Big Spring Steers second baseman Lance Gross steps into the batters box against the Sweetwater Mustangs Friday in Sweetwater. The Steers won, 13-3.

Bulldogs win two of three in Sonora

Herald Staff Report

SONORA — Playing three baseball games in one day can exhaust even the greatest of athletes. Coahoma's Bulldogs took on that challenge Thursday in the first day of tournament play in Sonora and came just one run short of finishing the day 3-0.

The Bulldogs pounded out 19 runs in a victory over Ozona to start pool play, but fell short with an 8-7 loss to Grape Creek in the second game of the afternoon. However, Coahoma

closed strongly, defeating tournament host Sonora, 9-8, in the night cap.

Chance Hart picked up the win in Game 1 against Ozona and received a ton of early support from the Bulldogs' bats. Coahoma scored nine runs in the first two innings, but outdid that production in the third inning alone when the Bulldogs crossed the plate 10 times.

Casey Kilpatrick led the Bulldogs' charge, going 3-for-4 at the plate with two doubles and four RBIs. Corey Roberts was 2-for-3, including a 2-run

homer.

"We're hitting extremely well right now and scoring a lot of runs," Bulldogs Head Coach Brad Harman said.

However, Harman did have some concerns come from this game.

"Our weakness right now is defense," Harman said. "We have five returning starters from last year's team, but just one senior. So we've got some youth and have to learn to make better plays in the field. We're hitting very good and our pitching isn't bad. We're just

got to fix our defense."

It was defense that ultimately caused Coahoma to lose its second game of the day. The Bulldogs led 7-3 heading into the bottom of the sixth inning, when Grape Creek came up with two runs to trim the margin to 7-5.

Coahoma wasn't able to muster any runs in the seventh inning and then committed two errors in the bottom of the frame, allowing Grape Creek to score three runs for the 8-7 win.

Donnie Garcia took the loss for the Bulldogs, striking out

six Grape Creek batters. He surrendered all eight runs, but only three were earned.

Garcia tried to help his own cause at the plate, going 3-for-4 with an RBI. Kilpatrick was again stellar with his bat, finishing the game with an RBI on 2-for-3 hitting. P.J. Daylong also knocked in a run on 2-for-4 hitting.

Coahoma finished the day — playing more than five hours of baseball — with a 9-8 win, holding off host Sonoma's seventh-inning rally.

See **BULLDOGS**, Page 4B

CLASSIC

Continued from Page 1B

Kelsey Jones each scored, courtesy of a two-RBI double by Amanda Longorio.

However, Coahoma added seven more runs over the next three innings, including four in the sixth, to come away with the victory.

Tadlock said the Bulldogettes still have a long way to go in order to get to the form they had last season.

"We need to improve in all areas," Tadlock said. "The way we played today isn't going to win state and that's our goal. Heather needs to be more focused and I need to get on the same page with her and Janice. We need to fix a couple of defensive glitches. With more

game experience and practices we'll get all of that ironed out."

The Bulldogettes tasted their first defeat of the season later in the day, being shutout by Lubbock Coronado, 7-0. Coahoma faced Odessa Permian late Friday night, but a score from the game wasn't available at press time.

The Bulldogettes played Midland Greenwood, Dumas and Grape Creek Saturday.

Forsan forfeited its only other game Friday against Grape Creek due to the boys' basketball area playoff game happening in Andrews. The Lady Buffs played Lubbock Cooper and Dumas Saturday.

Full results of Saturday's games will be available in Monday's edition of the *Herald*.

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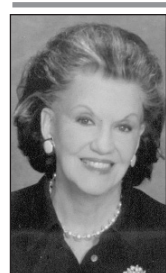
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The benefits of good manners

Good manners should be high on your list of priorities because manners express in action the values we hold dear. Good manners make other people feel good. Behaving in mannerly ways makes you feel good about yourself and gets positive responses from others.



JERRIE STOCKS

In our experiences throughout the day, we understand that treating others in a respectful way helps us navigate

through sometimes challenging situations. Good manners contribute to your image of yourself, the way others see you and have long-term benefits. It's a gift you give yourself. And it will last a lifetime. It builds your self-confidence, your integrity, and walks with you through uncertain situations as a person of royalty.

Behaviors at home set the pattern for a child's relationships beyond the family unit. How you handle the normal conflicts and flare-ups of family life will have a powerful influence on your children. Do adults in the home forgive others easily? Do you control your voice and language when angry? Are

you quick to apology for mistakes in judging others?

As a parent, remember, your daily actions influence your children in one way or another, and often stay with your child for a lifetime.

Hi Jerrie,

My name is Brad. I'm attending college in Dallas at SMU. While home for the holidays, I saw your column in the *Big Spring Herald* and immediately recognized your picture and name. I attended your etiquette class at Howard College in the summer of 1997. I was 10 years old. I'm almost 21 now and will never forget the wonderful things you taught all 103 kids who attended

your class. Believe me, the things you taught us have made a big difference in my life and I will always be grateful to you and to my mom who encouraged me to go.

God bless,
Brad

Dear Brad,

Bless you! I do remember you and will never forget the speech about etiquette you made on graduation day. Thank you so much for your e-mail. You are a fine young man, and I wish you the best during your college years at SMU.

Dear Jerrie,

Recently, at work, I had a minor misunderstanding with another employee.

Later, I apologized. What I did not know was, she had already gone to the supervisor. It's two weeks later now, and the supervisor continues to shun me and rarely will speak to me. Why do some people judge another person when they have heard only one side to a story? Shouldn't she have heard my side before she decided to treat me so shabby? I can't believe, as a supervisor, her office manners are so poor.

Lila

Hello Lila,

You are right. The supervisor should have talked to you. For her to treat you in an unfair manner without hearing your story is unprofes-

sional and unfair. Since the problem was minor, why don't you ignore it, be friendly, and continue to do a good job. Let your good manners speak well for 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.

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MENUS

Continued from Page 2C

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Tuesday - Breakfast, oatmeal; Lunch, chicken nuggets or steak fingers, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, peaches and hot rolls.

Wednesday - Breakfast, biscuits, sausage & gravy; Lunch, barbecue bun, tuna sandwich, French fries, vegetable sticks, apples and ranch dressing.

Thursday - Breakfast, Pop tarts; Lunch, taco or soft burritos, pinto beans, lettuce/tomato, pineapple, cornbread and salsa.

Friday - Breakfast, pizza or corn-dogs, green beans, garden salad, pears and ranch dressing.



Tayla Makay Rivera

Tayla Makay Rivera, a girl, was born at 9:11 a.m. Feb. 15, 2008, weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces and was 19 1/4 inches long.

She is the daughter of Michael and Amanda Rivera of Big Spring. Her maternal grandparents are Jimmy and Sandy Hayman. Her paternal grandparents are Mike and Sarah Rivera.

Tayla was welcomed home by sibling Skylyn Rivera.

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Teen Dating Violence

No relationship is perfect. However, watch for some of the warning signs of a violent relationship.

- Do you feel powerless in the relationship?
- Are you afraid of your partner's temper?
- Are you afraid to disagree?
- Are you being told what to do?
- Are you forced or pressured to have sex?
- Are you afraid to break up?
- Is your partner jealous or possessive?
- Does your partner try to control you?
- Does your partner hit, kick, shove you or throw things at you?

KEEP SAFE IN DATING SITUATIONS:

Know thyself - Have alone time explore your own interests, desires and beliefs

Consider Expectations and boundaries - Decide what to expect and what behaviors you will not tolerate.

Communicate expectations - Talk things out regarding sexual issues. Miscommunication, guessing or making assumptions can be dangerous and extremely hurtful. Avoid these situations by talking things out.

Pay attention to your feelings - If a situation feels wrong or scary, you may be in **Danger**, trust your feelings and get out of that situation.

Notice changes in your relationship - If someone stops respecting you and your boundaries, this person may end up taking advantage of you. Believe that it can happen to you.

TRUE LOVE / HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP means

- No threatening behavior
- Respect
- Trust and support
- Gender equality
- Honesty and Accountability

GET HELP

Get help immediate - Talk to someone you trust like a parent, teacher, school principal, counsel or nurse.

Adults are mandate reporters - This means they are legally required to report neglect or abuse to someone else such as police or child protective services.

If you want help deciding whom to talk to call our national crime victim helpline at 1-880-FYI-CALL OR LOCALLY CALL Victim Services of Big Spring at 263-3312.

Five simple ways women can improve their heart health.

- 1 Celebrate with a Checkup:**
Let each birthday remind you that it's time for your yearly checkup and a talk with your doctor about how you can reduce your risk of heart disease.
- 2 Get off the Couch:**
Step, march or jog in place for at least 30 minutes most days of the week... you can even do it while watching television.
- 3 Quit Smoking in Four Steps:**
Can't go cold turkey? Cut the number of cigarettes you smoke each day in half. Then cut that number in half, and again, and again. Soon you'll be smoke-free!
- 4 Drop a Pound or Two:**
Cutting out 200 or 300 calories a day (about one candy bar) can help you lose up to two pounds a week and gradually bring you closer to a heart-healthy weight.
- 5 Become a Salt Detective:**
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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Consider filing to serve your school or city

Filing periods are under way for anyone contemplating whether they would like to serve as a public school trustee, council member or mayor. There is still plenty of time to think it over. The final date for filing throughout the Crossroads area in the May 10 elections is still about a month away — Monday, March 10.

There are plenty of positions up for election, including seats on the Big Spring, Forsan and Coahoma city councils and the Forsan mayor's seat; all of the area's school boards, save for Grady and Garden City which elect trustees in November; and the Howard College Board of Trustees.

Our purpose here, however, is not to encourage involvement simply for the sake of having contested races.

No, as we have noted in this space many times, the decision to seek one of these positions is one that should only be made after a lot of thought.

The men and women who serve on these boards help shape the future of our schools and our communities. Their decisions affect each one of us in some way, whether it is the amount of taxes we pay, the services we receive or the quality of education that our children and grandchildren get in the classroom.

They don't teach, coach or put in water lines or fill potholes, but their decisions determine how funds should be allocated to accomplish those tasks.

We've also mentioned before — and won't hesitate to add again — that these individuals serve as role models for our communities and schools, representing us not only on the boards they serve, but many times on a broader scale, such as regional service centers and councils of governments.

And finally, before deciding to seek office, a potential representative of the school district or city must decide to work for the good of the entire community. They must be willing to study all sides of an issue and not rush to judgment.

Because of these responsibilities, the decision to seek office as a school board trustee, councilperson or mayor is one that should be made carefully.

Good luck in your decision.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When a financial risk backfires, Lord, You have a better plan for our future.

Amen

The great reckoning is here

The current debate in Congress over what flavor of "economic stimulus" package to pass is a distraction. We've got much deeper economic troubles that a \$150 billion tax rebate can't fix.

Don't worry, counsels President George W. Bush, the "economic fundamentals are solid." But that depends on what indicators at which you're looking. The indexes that measure the lives of ordinary working Americans have been shaky for decades: stagnant real wages, declining savings, longer work hours and rising basic costs for food, health care and transportation.

A corrosive problem lies at the root of our economic instability: our society and economy are rapidly polarizing. The gap between the super-rich and everyone else harkens back to the Gilded Age of a century and a half ago. This glaring inequality leads to economic speculation by the rich — think hedge funds — and declining buying power for everyone else.

For almost 30 years, aside from a brief up-tick in the late 1990s, real incomes and wages for the bottom 60 percent of the population have been stagnant or in decline. But since working families have increased the number of hours they work and taken on increasing amounts of personal debt, it's been hard to tell.

Add to the mix the Bush era's "hands off" approach to regulating mortgage lenders, hedge funds and the credit card industry — and

we're playing with fire. As long as people could borrow, they could keep buying and paying their bills. Debt and overwork have postponed the Great Reckoning in our economy. But now the bill is due and our whole country is "maxed out."

Congress should pass a stimulus package that gives tax rebates to those most likely to spend money in the economy: poor and middle-income families. But this is akin to fixing the windows when the foundation of the house is damaged. We need long-term investments in infrastructure, education, and economic opportunity to reverse three decades of disinvestment and polarization. Our infrastructure of roads, bridges, mass transit and energy systems, all built by previous generations, is falling apart. The American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that we should double our current expenditures to \$320 billion a year over the next five years to maintain our current infrastructure.

In the three decades after World War II, between 1945 and 1975, we made investments in infrastructure, housing and education that expanded our middle class and boosted our productivity.

Progressive taxes, with income tax rates on the very wealthy as high as 91 percent under President Dwight Eisenhower, paid for all of that. This was a tax-and-invest program that paid off royally in terms of economic vitality. In contrast, the Bush administration has borrowed funds to give our wealthiest citizens tax cuts. This "borrow and squander" policy has added trillions of dollars to the national debt and foreclosed the real investments required for long-

term economic health.

Two progressive tax proposals could pay for urgent investments that would broaden prosperity and reduce distortions caused by concentrated wealth. First, we should increase top income tax rates on the private jet crowd. Congress should boost the top tax rate to 50 percent on annual incomes over \$5 million and to 70 percent on incomes over \$10 million. This would generate an additional \$105 billion a year and pay for a federal stimulus package.

Secondly, we should retain the federal estate tax and make it more progressive. The estate tax, our nation's only levy on inherited wealth, should be revamped to tax inheritances over \$20 million at higher rates.

As part of reforming the estate tax, Congress should restore the credit that allows states to "piggy back" on the federal estate tax and generate billions in revenue for themselves. State spending on education, infrastructure and community development are among the most effective forms of intermediate-term economic stimulus.

What's the alternative to taxing America's wealthiest one percent? One option is to raise taxes on wage earners, those who haven't shared in the gains of the last three decades. Or we could continue our immoral shifting of debt to future generations. Taxing the wealthy to pay for meaningful investments is the only responsible thing to do.

Chuck Collins is chair of the Working Group on Extreme Inequality. He is a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies. DISTRIBUTED BY MINUTEMANMEDIA.ORG.

ADDRESSES

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• **JOHN CORNYN**
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• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
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• **JOE HEFLIN**
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Austin, 78768
Phone: (432) 213-2897 or (512) 463-0604

• **KEL SELIGER**
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Gary Simer — Home: 263-0260.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

Way to go Big Spring! How often have we said what a blessing it is to live in Big Spring, Texas? The morning of the Alon Refinery explosion made that statement come to life.

The emergency response teams in Big Spring and surrounding areas did an outstanding (what an understatement!) job of getting everything and everyone in place to handle what appeared at first to be an overwhelming disaster. Within a very short time of the initial explosion, Big Spring was filled with firefighters, ambulances, helicopters for evacuating the injured, doctors, nurses and chaplains from all around the area. Everyone knew their job and went into action. They were very prepared to handle whatever came their way.

Special recognition needs to be extended to the police and sheriff's departments for the job they did in keeping people away from the scene, many spending long hours directing traffic and answering questions, and especially for the dispatchers who patiently answered each call from the curious and the furious.

It is amazing that some people were upset because their favorite route was closed or their routine was disturbed. People do panic in a time of emergency and hopefully these people were overly excited and not thinking straight.

We appreciate Mike Henry and KBST and all our local media for keeping us informed as best they could. You helped me get through a traumatic time.

All this brings us to the main focus of the day — God had Big Spring in His hand. He was indeed

very present in our community. Thanks to Him and His protection, our community averted a potentially deadly situation. All the "circumstances" that are pointed to as reasons for there not being any more injuries are all the work of God.

Big Spring, praise God and give thanks to Him for His love and His taking care of all of us that day. What a true blessing we have all witnessed.

Also, give a big thank you to all the emergency responders, city and county officials and workers and Scenic Mountain Medical Center — all of whom showed us we can be confident in their ability to handle their jobs not matter what occurs. God bless you all.

GENIE MILLER
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

After reading (Publisher Ron Midkiff's) article "Alon: The wake-up call," all I can say is: What a great article.

It is people like you who make Big Spring such a wonderful place to live. Thank you.

JAYNE MANSFIELD
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to publicly acknowledge all involved in the Alon incident on Monday. To all the fire department personnel, police and sheriff's department and to the Alon employees and others who fought the fire, we are so very thankful you are all OK.

For those who were injured and especially Paul Berringer, who was

burned, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Having been involved in similar events, since my husband worked out there for 33 years, I know first hand how terrifying and dangerous the situation can be. Now in the aftermath, for all those who will work long hours to get the plant up and running, we will be keeping you in our thoughts and prayers also.

The refinery, originally Cosden, then Fina and now Alon, and the employees are a very big asset to our community and we are all very thankful that the outcome of such an explosion was not nearly as devastating as it could have been.

Monday was a traumatic day for all of Big Spring and the actions of this community, whether it be physical or by their caring and prayers, make me proud to be a part of it.

SHELANE ROBERTS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Shame on "Oil & Gas Attorney" Kyle Kincaid and shame on the *Big Spring Herald!*

When I heard that the *Herald* was going to publish an extra edition concerning the refinery explosion yesterday (Monday), free of charge to subscribers, I thought that was a great public service. I was extremely disturbed and disappointed when I looked on the last page of the extra edition and directly under a dramatic, half-page picture of the explosion was a half-page advertisement by an out-of-town attorney soliciting personal injury

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

REGION

Continued from Page 1B

Grady had the ball deflected off of one of its player's knees on the next possession with eight seconds left, forcing the Lady Wildcats to commit a quick foul. Haynes, who scored 19 of her game-high 22 points in the second half, hit both free throws for the 51-48 lead.

Grady never got a chance to tie the game as McLean stole the ball at halfcourt, preventing a chance for the Lady Wildcats to sink a desperation three to tie the game.

Thus ends the Lady Wildcats' deepest run into the playoffs in school history.

"We played hard through the whole game and that's all we can ask of them," Grady Head Coach Juan Rios said. "I expect nothing less than the effort these girls put forth today in a regional semifinal game. We've done a great job all the way

through the playoffs."

Byron compliments Haynes with 16 points for McLean. Alexis Menefield added eight points and a game-high nine rebounds.

Robinson led Grady with 12 points and Samantha Rodriguez had 11 points and seven rebounds. Eva Dyck scored seven and pulled down eight boards. Kandace Schuelke had a game-high seven assists.

The Lady Wildcats say goodbye to five seniors — Linsey Chavez, Schuelke, Rodriguez, Kenzie Madison and Rachel Romine.

"These seniors have done a terrific job," Rios said. "They've won 51 games in two years. I couldn't be prouder of those girls than I am right now."

Despite their departures, Rios is looking forward to another strong performance next year.

"I expect nothing less than what we've done this year," Rios said. "You've got to get

into each season with high expectations."

In Fort Worth, Garden City entered the first overtime tied at 29 with Guthrie and missed on some opportunities to win the game at the end of the first extra period.

Morgan Schwartz had one of her shots that went halfway down the basket, rolled around the rim and bounced out at the buzzer.

The second overtime belonged to Guthrie, though, and the Lady Tigers pulled away for the 39-31 victory.

Last season, Guthrie lost to Garden City at the same point in the playoffs as the Lady Bearkats advanced all the way to the state title game, only to lose to the infamous Nazareth Swiftettes.

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



Courtesy photo/James Schwartz

Garden City's Morgan Schwartz rises above a Guthrie defender for a 2-point shot in the Lady Bearkats 39-31 double-overtime loss in the Class A, Division II, Region II regional semifinals Friday in Fort worth.

Ribiero becoming Stars' 'New Mike'

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — Mike Ribiero fulfilled only part of his dream playing for the hometown Montreal Canadiens.

Ribiero put on that storied sweater for parts of six seasons, but things didn't turn out exactly as he envisioned.

Since being traded to Dallas at the start of last season, far from the often overbearing hockey spotlight in Canada, the 28-year-old Ribiero has become the new Mike.

As a hometown player in Montreal, overwhelming expectations and pressures followed him on and off the ice. And he didn't help produce a Stanley Cup.

"You don't realize when you're there that much, there's a lot of pressure. And, if you're from there, even more pressure," Ribiero said. "At some point, you need to focus on your career, and I think it was a good move now that I'm here."

Ribiero is now an All-Star averaging more than a point a game (67 points in 64 games) for Pacific Division-leading Dallas. That is nearly double his scoring pace in Montreal (0.55 points), and already more than the team-high 59 points he had in his Stars debut last season.

"We have great fan support here, but it's not an everyday thing where the paparazzi is following you like they may in Montreal," said Stars captain Brenden Morrow, one of Ribiero's wingers on the top line. "In Canada, they take their hockey like a religion."

With his offensive

prowess and a \$25 million, five-year contract extension through the 2012-13 season, Ribiero is starting to emerge as the new face of the Stars franchise.

That is a role held almost solely by Mike Modano, the highest-scoring U.S.-born player and only player left who moved with the team from Minnesota 15 years ago.

"When I played with him, I knew he could definitely dominate the game at times and now he's figured it out," said Montreal right wing Michael Ryder. "I guess there's not as much pressure on him and he's just playing and having fun."

And he's finally flourishing into the kind of player the Canadiens envisioned when they drafted him 45th overall in 1998.

Ribiero made his NHL debut with one goal in 19 games in 1999-00, and appeared in only two games in 2000-01. That was during the same three-year stretch when he scored 341 points (125 goals, 216 assists) in 159 games in the Quebec Major Junior League.

His best season for the Canadiens was 2003-04, when he had 65 points (20 goals, 45 assists) while getting extended playing time because captain Saku Koivu missed 79 games because of health reasons.

Ribiero slipped to 51 points (16 goals) after the yearlong NHL lockout, then got traded the weekend before the 2006-07 opener.

With Jose Theodore and Pierre Dagenais in

Montreal, Ribiero was part of a cliquish trio often referred to as the "Three Amigos." They were close teammates also known for their affinity for the nightlife.

General manager Bob Gainey, who built Dallas' Stanley Cup championship team in 1999 before returning to Montreal, had already traded Theodore and sent Dagenais back to the minors when Ribiero followed them out of Montreal.

"I think (Gainey) just thought it would be better for me to come here and focus on my work and my family only," said Ribiero, who has a wife and three young children.

Ribiero, who lists malls among his favorite things in the Dallas area, can go shopping without being followed by cameras or getting much of a second glance when he walks through the stores.

"In Dallas, a hockey player is only a hockey player," said Patrice Brisebois, a Montreal native back with the Canadiens after two seasons in Colorado.

Brisebois was part of Montreal's last Stanley Cup championship in 1993 during his initial 14-year stint with the hometown team.

"When (Ribiero) got traded, he realized he had another chance to prove how much talent he has," Brisebois said. "He took it as a wakeup call, a chance to really prove what kind of player he is."

Stars coach Dave Tippett attributes Ribiero's success in Dallas to his work ethic,

something that came into question at times in Montreal.

"He's always had the skill level. You add the surroundings, he's comfortable here and putting the energy on the ice," Tippett said. "You get out of that atmosphere that maybe there is no outside pressure, you take that extra energy and put it into the game."

Ribiero has been working hard away from the puck. In the first 24 games in 2008, Ribiero had 21 assists and three goals.

Ribiero had eight multi-point games in that stretch, the first coming Jan. 7, the same day he

signed his new contract.

"When he signed the contract, the first statement he made was 'Hey I'm not going to let this team down.' You've got to love that attitude," co-general manager Les Jackson said. "He's going to take responsibility for his game and he wants to win and we see him as a big part of our team."

Along with Morrow, captain Ribiero is already in his eighth season and also signed through 2012-13.

The feeling of never being able to do enough in Montreal and the unfulfilled expectations of the hometown boy are still fresh in his mind.

"Last year, when I came back home, they were saying 'Hey, you had a great year.' And if I was there, they would probably say, 'Yeah, you could have done more.' So it's never enough," Ribiero said. "But I enjoyed myself there. It was a great life experience."

The rest of Ribiero's dream hasn't changed: He still wants to hoist the Stanley Cup. The only difference, instead of trying to help the Canadiens win their 25th championship, he will try to get No. 2 for Dallas.

AP freelance writer Sean Farrell in Montreal contributed to this report.

BULLDOGS

Continued from Page 1B

The Bulldogs led 9-1 heading into the top of the fifth inning, however, Sonoma scored seven runs in the frame. The game was called due to reaching the 1:45 time limit placed on each contest.

"It's hard to play three games in a day and stay focused," Harman noted. "We did a good job, though, except for that last inning against Sonora."

Ray Gutierrez picked up the win for the Bulldogs and Daylong registered a save. Daylong also had a big game at the plate, going 2-for-4 with two doubles and an RBI. Roberts added a double with two RBIs and also stole two bases on 2-for-2

hitting.

The Bulldogs played in the third-place game Saturday afternoon, however, their opponent was unknown at press time. It was between San Saba, Junction or Blanco, which knocked Coahoma out of the playoffs last season in a heartbreaking 11-10 extra innings con-

test.

"We would like another crack at Blanco," Harman said. "Mostly we want to win the third-place trophy, but the guys from last year's team remember how we lost that play-off game. I don't think they'd mind another shot at Blanco at all."

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<p>Viking Pop-Up \$2,995</p> <p>Super Clean</p> <p>\$2,995 per month*</p>	<p>Southwind \$6,995</p> <p>Class "A"</p> <p>\$6,995 per month*</p>	<p>25' Lite Fifth Wheel With Slide-Out, 12 Ton Towable</p> <p>\$139 per month*</p>	<p>25' Aruba Ultra-Light, On-Board Gen, Slide-Out</p> <p>\$159 per month*</p>
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Readers Corner

One More Miracle

On Monday the 18th of February, 2008, Lord, we thank You for what's been called "Miracle on Refinery Road."

Lord, Your precious nail-scarred hand reached down and protected so many that were in harm's way at the Alon refinery when it exploded.

Your awesome grace embraced and guided those to safety, those who were right there when the plant exploded and

Your hand of protection was even extended to those first responders who risked it all to help another brother or sister in harm's way.

Yes Lord, we recognize that You showed us favor on this day and we humbly and with a grateful heart say thank you.

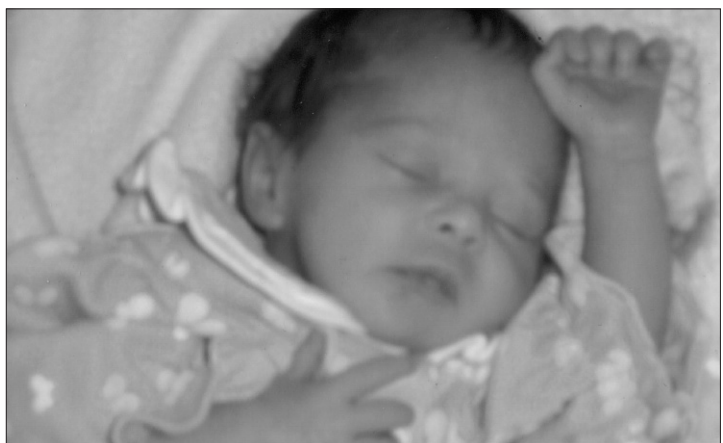
Lord, please continue to show Your favor and heal and watch



Sisto Herrera III

Sisto Herrera III, a boy, was born at 10:32 a.m. Feb. 5, 2008, weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 19 inches long.

His parents are Linda Brito and Sisto Herrera Jr. of Big Spring. His maternal grandparents are Pasuila Resendez and Juan Estrada. His paternal grandparents are Isabel and Sisto Herrera Sr.



Brooke Lynn White

Brooke Lynn White, a girl, was born at 8:37 p.m. Feb. 7, 2008, weighing 4 pounds, 1 ounce and was 16 inches long.

She is the daughter of Veronica and Dalten White of Big Spring. Her maternal grandparents are Marsha Fox and the late William Paul Darrow. Her paternal grandparents are Charlene and the late Perry White.

Brooke was welcomed home by siblings Baley, Dusta, Colten and Nikolas.

over those few who did suffer some injuries that are visible.

We ask that you also show Your favor on those who were there and who may be struggling on the inside and those struggles may not be visible.

Thank You, Lord, for shining down on Big Spring that day, keeping us safe once again with your nail-scarred hands and

Oh yea, Lord, remind us Lord to never take a moment for granted again, much less today or tomorrow for it is not even promised.

Please nudge us Lord when we get complacent and in such a hurry

that we fail to tell You, our family, friends and co-workers just what they mean to us.

Yes, Lord, it was nothing short of a miracle and we thank You Lord for reminding us that You, our Lord and Savior is still in control and for reminding us again to never take today for granted, for tomorrow may never come.

Dale Pittman
19 February 2008

PLANT EXPLOSION Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Claims

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Attorney At Law

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TYSON BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST LB.	\$1²⁹

**OSCAR MAYER
WEINERS
2/\$1⁰⁰**

16-OZ. PKG.

Reception planned at local courthouse

Howard County officials are inviting the public to a small reception in the Justice of the Peace Courtroom, located on the second floor of the county courthouse, in recognition of recent renovations to the courtroom.

According to Justice of the Peace Kathryn Wiseman, repairs have been made to the courtroom's 55-year-old wood and new flags — provided by Congressman Randy Neugebauer and State Senator Kel Seliger — have been installed.

The reception is slated for 11:30 a.m. Monday.

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LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

and wrongful death claims before the smoke had even cleared — literally!

No wonder some lawyers have such a bad name! I am sure that he and the other attorneys who put ads in today's paper are going to be extremely upset to find that by the grace of God, there were only five non-life threatening injuries and minimal structural damage throughout the community.

The fact that a person who has no personal concern or ties to Big Spring would have the audacity to try to prey on our citizens is outrageous. And the fact that the Herald allowed such a person to fund their "extra addition" is even more disheartening.

I have been very impressed with the way that Alon has handled this situation. It immediately put out a phone number where people could get information about anything related to the explosion, including insurance claims.

I hope and pray that none of our citizens is gullible enough to be used by these "ambulance chasers." We have many competent attorneys in Big Spring if their services are needed — people who have compassion and love for this community, as I do. It is so uplifting to see this town, and all of West Texas for that matter, come together in the face of adversity and handle it with such courage and professionalism. It is a real shame that there are those out there whose only agenda is to make money at a time like this.

The citizens of Big Spring deserve better!

SARAH THOMAS
 BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

"I could have been worse."

God was watching over Big Spring on this Presidents Day.

My first thought when I first heard and felt the shock wave of the explosion was no different than everyone else's. What was going on and what had just happened? It took me a few minutes to realize that the refinery had just exploded and my first thought was that there had to be casualties. But thank God, was wrong.

Considering the magnitude of the explosion, as we all know there are terrorist car bombs that have a much smaller explosion and that kill several people in one blast, and to say that only five people had non-life threatening injuries in the refinery explosion is more than a miracle to say the least. Also, if you noticed, the smoke went straight up and away from the city. I could just imagine what it would have been like if the wind was blowing toward the city. God was watching over us, without question.

With the explosion, I had thoughts of a terrorist attack and I had a good reason to believe that was the case. Let me explain. I work at a local prison and a few weeks ago I was at work and I happened to hear on the police scanner the dispatcher send two patrol cars to the refinery to investigate a suspicious car that was parked by the refinery and a man that was taking pictures of the refinery. This was about 3:30

a.m. I did not get to hear what happened when the patrol cars arrived, but you would understand why I first thought it might have been a terrorist attack. I hope I am proven wrong once the investigation is completed.

I think Big Spring should give the man upstairs a great big thank you and also those men and women from the local and surrounding counties that did a great job in helping to get the fires under control. And if city officials learned anything from this incident, I hope they have learned that the school bus barn needs to be moved and placed in a better location for easy access. We all know the schools had to be evacuated but the bus drivers couldn't get to their buses.

"It could have been worse," but thanks to God, it wasn't.

SANTIAGO FLORES
 BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

To the citizens of Big Spring, as an attorney I apologize for the inappropriate ad which was placed in the Extra newspaper. When there are catastrophes, I personally feel it is highly unethical for attorneys to be placing such ads and chasing after potential injured individuals.

I realize the *Big Spring Herald* is in the business of profit, but for that to be the only ad in the Extra, I would have considered it more appropriate for the Herald not to place any ads in such Extra.

As a State Bar director, I will encourage legislation to restrict actions by such lawyers. We need legislative help from our

legislature to pass and enable statutes of moratorium before individuals may solicit such representation.

The lawyers of Texas are competent and ethical individuals who represent individuals of Texas and are opposed to such ambulance chasing practices. I encourage all lawyers to stand up for the profession and to work for the people, and discourage such actions by the few.

ROBERT D. MILLER
 BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Thanks for the free copy of the disaster we had in Big Spring, even if it was paid for by a cut throat, out-of-town lawyer. You can't get much lower than that!

CARL HART
 BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

The news rattled my memory. A West Texas refinery explosion.

First thought, Cosden! Well, it's not Cosden now, but 32 years ago on July 18, 1976, it was. I responded from the Webb AFB Fire Department to assist with that major fire.

My praise and kudos to those brave Big Spring firefighters and others who responded to this situation.

RICHARD MACDOWELL
 BASKING RIDGE, N.J.

TO THE EDITOR:

How quickly the vultures arrive.

The very next day after the Alon fire, tort lawyers started advertising for clients, hoping to get enough people to start suing.

These lawyers did not

wait to see what happened. They saw dollar signs and wanted to get in on the ground floor.

They will reap millions of dollars when they can amass many people and get a judgment in their favor. They are not here to protect your rights, just the bottom dollar of what they can glean from the suit. Just remember, the lawyers will benefit more from any settlement than their clients.

I hope you all remember what Alon has already promised to do and what it has meant to our community. Please do not fall for their pleading ads to protect your rights. They are all from outside our community and have no regard for the final outcome of what massive settlements would do to Alon and our relationship with them.

Do not blame the newspaper for the ads. They have to accept them on an equal basis with other advertisers. Maybe they could have placed the ads differently, but they had to print all socially accepted submissions.

Please do not rush into a hasty contract with any of these firms. You will only be doing our community and Alon harm.

JOEL MILLER
 BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I knew instantly after the blast what took place. I was afraid to get off the couch and look outside. My son called me a minute later to confirm what happened. I tried calling my husband with no answer. I called his work and someone did pick up.

I cannot explain the fear in this person's voice (screams in the back-

ground) and the line went dead. No amount of debris on the Interstate was going to stop me from getting to my husband. I was told they just heard from my husband and I also heard his voice on the radio. By then, all streets were blocked off and my oldest son ran from the bowling alley, which an officer picked him up and drove him to us.

I cannot go into detail all that took place afterwards for life at that time was in slow motion — from first seeing my husband, to the hospital and thereafter. At the hospital, Paul was right next door and I was truly amazed this man who was in so much pain, kept on asking how my husband was.

Everyone at the refinery is like family — what happens to one effects them all!

Rocky, who was not scheduled to work that day, was there in a second until the next day. I can tell you how I felt that day, but nobody on this Earth will know how all the workers felt that day, what they lived through and how they saw their life almost come to an end.

I thank God, who was watching over the refinery that day — for what I saw and what my husband lived through. It is truly a "miracle."

PAT BOYD
 BIG SPRING

To the Editor:

I would like to take a moment to commend the staff and parents of Moss Elementary for the exceptional job of remaining calm and helping out in Monday's incident at the

See **LETTERS**, Page 6A

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Hoosiers, Sampson agree to contract buyout

By MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — The long legacy of Indiana basketball began a new chapter Saturday.

One day after coach Kelvin Sampson accepted a \$750,000 buyout and jilted players threatened a boycott, interim coach Dan Dakich found a pleasant surprise at Assembly Hall: Every player, including senior captain D.J. White, was on board the team bus.

The smattering of fans who showed up, shook hands with players and coaches, wishing them well for Saturday night's game at Northwestern. All hoped to move beyond the embarrassment created by Sampson's alleged NCAA violations.

"It's like Sampson said, this program is bigger than one person," 49-year-old fan Ed Anderson said. "I think people realize that. I think even the staunchest (Bob) Knight supporter realizes this is Indiana University."

The 15th-ranked Hoosiers need a victory at Northwestern to stay in contention for the school's first outright conference title since 1993.

Indiana hasn't faced a major NCAA rules viola-



AP photo/Darron Cummings

Indiana University athletic director Rick Greenspan listens to a question during a news conference in Bloomington, Ind., Friday. Men's basketball coach Kelvin Sampson has agreed to a \$750,000 buyout with the school, university spokesman Larry MacIntyre said. Assistant Dan Dakich took over the team as interim head coach.

tion since 1960, but the five major allegations against Sampson brought many to call for the second-year coach's ouster.

It finally happened Friday night when Sampson agreed to resign in a buyout that includes a provision that he not

sue the university for any additional damages. An anonymous donor even gave the school a \$550,000 gift to get rid of Sampson.

Now comes the hard part — winning over the players.

It appeared nearly half the team was prepared to

sit out Saturday's game in protest after White, guards Armon Bassett, Jordan Crawford and Jamarcus Ellis, and forwards DeAndre Thomas and Brandon McGee skipped Dakich's first practice Friday afternoon. But sports information

director J.D. Campbell said all the players attended Friday night's walkthrough, and Saturday morning they left together for Northwestern.

"I think our young men are respectful and respectful of Indiana University," athletic director Rick Greenspan said. "They have a chance to have a special season, and my hope is that as we heal emotionally and get accustomed to the staff, they'll continue to play for that special season."

Sampson also offered players his support in a statement released by the university minutes before the coaching change was announced.

"While I'm saddened that I will not have the opportunity to coach these student-athletes, I feel that this is in the best interest of the program for me to step away at this time," Sampson said. "I wish my players nothing but the best for the remainder of the season."

Sampson's two-year stay at Indiana ended the same way it began, with an NCAA hearing scheduled for alleged rules infractions.

He took the Indiana job in March 2006 and two

months later was penalized by the NCAA for making 577 impermissible phone calls between 2000 and 2004 while coaching Oklahoma.

The second wave of charges emerged in October when a university investigation found Sampson and his Indiana staff made more than 100 improper calls while still under recruiting restrictions and that Sampson participated in at least 10 three-way calls, another violation of the NCAA's punishment.

Greenspan called the violations secondary, imposing a one-year extension of the NCAA's recruiting restrictions and pulling a \$500,000 raise. The Hoosiers also took away one scholarship for the 2008-09 season.

What the NCAA found, however, was far more serious. The report, released last week, claimed Sampson provided false and misleading information to investigators from both the university and the NCAA, failed to meet the "generally recognized high standard of honesty" expected in college sports and failed to promote an atmosphere of compliance.

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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, February 24, 2008

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.

As both the EIA and the IEA make downward revisions to global oil demand for 2008, OPEC President Khelil had this to say when questioned about possible moves the cartel will make at their next meeting, March 5, "One thing is for sure, we won't increase production."

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, whose members produce more than 40 percent of the world's oil, has also cut its own estimate of demand growth for crude this year on the threat of a U.S. recession. The report said "Risks to the world economy have increased considerably in January on mounting evidence of a slowdown in the U.S. economy, fueling fears of an outright recession." Crude oil was little changed on the comments after already rising to a one-month high last week in New York.

Bloomberg is reporting four OPEC oil ministers have offered differing assessments of when the cartel may actually take action to stem a future price slide. Two ministers cited in the report generally assert prices above \$85 leave the 13-nation group feeling comfortable. One of the unidentified ministers contends production targets would be trimmed if prices fell to \$80, and the final minister said \$70 would be the tipping point that spurs OPEC action. Reports coming out of OPEC's last meeting left some observers with the clear impression OPEC wants to defend \$80 per barrel.

Regarding gasoline, we regularly update and share with you our normalized gasoline prices. In order to compare prices across periods we divide the average hourly wage by the average price of gasoline. In our opinion, this is a better measure than inflation adjusted prices because it calculates the impact on workers rather than the relative price against all other goods.

Using Jan. 8 data, the average worker can now purchase 5.7 gallons of gasoline per hour worked. Over the past three months, the average price of gasoline in the U.S. has exceeded \$3 per gallon. Since November, prices have been relatively stable, and the ratio hasn't fluctuated much, remaining comparatively low and in striking distance of the record low levels seen in the early 1980s; March 1981's ratio measured 5.39 gallons.

Generally speaking, gasoline prices tend to perform well in the complex ahead of the summer's peak demand and during a liquidation period associated with the refining industry's spring maintenance season. If crude oil prices can hold up and gasoline futures begin to rally, it wouldn't be surprising to see higher prices at the pump and the ratio set a new low later this spring.

- On Wednesday the federal oil and gas lease sale was conducted despite protests from conservation and native groups concerned about what impact the development may have on the polar bear population in the Chukchi Sea.

The sale brought in a record \$2.66 billion. The first sale in the Chukchi Sea since 1991 was the largest lease sale in Alaska's history.

- In response to recent progress made regarding Poland's cooperation in a planned U.S. missile defense shield, last week Russian President Putin said,

"It is already clear that a new phase in the arms race is unfolding in the world." Though Russian military capabilities are far less than they were during the Soviet era, higher oil prices have allowed Moscow to reinvest in their armed forces.

- Leaving no chance for an extremely long-shot victory, Russian election officials have confirmed they will benefit financially if Vladimir Putin's handpicked successor, Dmitry Medvedev, wins outright.

Typically, money set aside for a potential second round of voting is used for social causes if the second round proves unnecessary. However, after this election, if an additional vote isn't necessary, election officials can receive a "bonus" from the unused funds.

- Two articles in Science suggest the production and use of ethanol and the clearing of natural habitat for growing feedstock for biofuels will actually result in higher carbon emissions. In the past ethanol has been touted as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Portions of this article were produced Feb. 8 and 13 by Eric Wittenauer, Energy Futures Analyst, Global Investment Strategy A.G. Edwards. Its publication is a collaborative effort and the information is obtained from sources considered reliable, however accuracy is not guaranteed by A.G.E. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results and additional information is available upon request (432) 684-7335. A.G. Edwards is a division of Wachovia Securities, LLC.



HERALD photo/Ron Midkiff

The Ritz Theater in downtown Big Spring is in the process of being restored. It has been purchased by the Settles Hotel Development Company and is being renovated under the name of R&R Ritz Theater.

Back to the Ritz?

Restoration of old theater under way

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Big Spring residents may not have to travel to metropolitan cities like Dallas and Austin to visit a draffhouse theater, as work is under way to restore the downtown Ritz Theater to its long-lost luster.

Kristopher Ryan, general manager of the Settles Hotel Development Company LLC, said the building has been purchased by the group and work to seal the building and prepare it for restoration is already under way.

"The building isn't being restored under the SHDC name," said Ryan. "It's being restored under the R&R Ritz Theater LLC name, which was the original name of the theater many years ago."

"We're in the preliminary stages right now. We're sealing up the building and working on the electrical and plumbing systems situated so work can begin. The Historical Preservation Service will be the first to work on the building, so we're getting everything in line right now."

Ryan said the theater, once

"What we're looking at doing is similar to the Alamo draffhouse in Austin."

—Kristopher Ryan



restored, will resemble draffhouse theaters in some of Texas' larger cities.

"What we're looking at doing is similar to the Alamo draffhouse in Austin," said Ryan. "There are similar draffhouses in Dallas and Denton. The one in Denton has done very well over the years, and we're hoping the Ritz can enjoy that kind of success here in Big Spring."

The Alamo Draffhouse serves drinks and dinner — including appetizers, salads and entrees — in addition to showing movies.

As work begins on the Ritz Theater, Ryan said restoration work on the historic Settles Hotel is still in its initial phases.

"Things are going well right now. The architect was here last week, and he's familiarizing himself with

the building. There are also surveys being done to compare the blueprints for the building to what's actually there, to try to eliminate any discrepancies. We're also looking at the abatement and demolition phase of the work. We also had a hotel consultant come in and look at the building, so things are moving along."

SHDC announced plans for a \$12 million renovation project in December 2006. According to SHDC officials, the project includes plans for commercial and residential use of the property, with retail space available on the first and second floors.

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

HOWARD COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Best gardens are built in the winter

Beautiful gardens are built in the winter. Planning and work done now can pay off big in spring and summer blooms.

This is the month to plant roses. Choose between bare root and containerized plants. Bare root plants are usually less expensive and if healthy will do as well as container roses. Check plants for healthy roots. Prune unhealthy roots from bare root roses before planting.

Planting holes need only be deep enough to keep the plant at the

depth that it was originally planted. Broader holes are better with twice or more the width needed for the roots preferred.

For the most part, amending the soil at planting is not recommended. Cover the plant roots with the soil from the hole, water well and cover with 2 to 4 inches of mulch. Once growth commences, top dressing with compost will get plants off to a good start.

Keeping the mulch at 2 to 4 inches throughout the year will reduce the amount of water needed. Always water roses for the first year to prevent stress during root establishment. Recommended rose varieties may be found at www.texasuperstar.com or at <http://earthkindroses.tamu.edu/EKroses.html>. In mid-month begin pruning roses to remove dead,

dying and weak canes. Wait to prune climbing roses until May.

Fruit trees also need to be pruned this month. Peach, apricot and plum trees should be pruned to a bowl shape. Remove "water sprouts" from apple trees. Pears and figs should be pruned little, if at all. The old practice was to flush-cut branches, but this works against the trees natural defenses against decay.

The current recommendation is to cut the branch an inch or so out from the trunk and perpendicular to the branch. The tree will form a bark collar over the stub and will block the movement of decay internally. Remember to undercut the branch to prevent tear-out of the bark. The best pruning is done when trees are small. The older the tree is the harder the pruning is on

both you and the tree.

Tree planting is similar to rose planting, only bigger, and is best done by the end of this month to give the trees a chance to get established before the stress of summer.

Prune summer-flowering shrubs and vines to restore shape. Wait to prune forsythia, spirea and other spring flowering shrubs until after flowering.

Plant onions from now to March 1. Plant cool season annual flowers including pansies, pinks, snapdragons, larkspurs, stocks and alyssum. Now is also the time to divide established perennials including cannas, cone-flowers, mallows, fall asters and mums.

For more information, call Walter Ward at (432) 935-6455 or visit www.howardcountymastergardener.org.



WALTER WARD

LETTERS

Continued from Page 5A

Alon refinery. With an incident of that size, our concerns not only at Moss Elementary, but every school in Big Spring, immediately becomes focused on the safety of our children. We were able to ensure the safety of our children and implement a timely evacuation of our campus, thanks to the planning, organization and training of all the employees of Big Spring Independent School District.

I want to thank and compliment our parents who arrived at the school to pick up their children. Parents remained calm, listened to directions and helped us maintain an orderly process of moving children. Some parents even assisted us by remaining long enough to ensure that all the students and staff were safely loaded on busses for the evacuation.

I cannot express enough thanks to our office staff here at Moss and especially Mrs. Nichols, who kept everything organized during the evacuation. This could have been a very confusing time, but she and the others who came into the office to assist her made everything run smoothly. I also want to thank all the teaching staff and students for remaining calm and

using good judgment while relocating to a central location in preparation for the evacuation to Goliad.

Thank you, Mr. Pierce and the staff in transportation, for getting the buses to our campus as quickly as possible. Mr. Downes is also to be commended for personally coming to Moss Elementary to help with the timely and orderly evacuation of our school.

We always hope and pray that we never have to use any emergency plans, and I hope that I never have to use it again; but I am very proud to know that, when an emergency arises, we have very capable and well trained professionals that will step up and do a great job.

GEORGE MARTIN
PRINCIPAL
MOSS ELEMENTARY

TO THE EDITOR:

I want to write to everyone in the city of Big Spring. Big Spring, you pulled together yesterday and showed what we are made of. I also want to say, "Job well done, Mr. Downes."

I went to get my granddaughter from Marcy Elementary shortly after the refinery explosion, then went to the high school to get my grandsons. Mr. Wilson and his whole staff had everything under control.

I was very pleased with how things went yesterday, keeping the panic down, etc.

Mr. Mayor, I heard your report on CNN last night on my computer and you said it 100 percent correct. God was watching over us yesterday and he protected us from harm.

Once again, I want to thank everyone who helped and went out of their way to help all of us here. Some people said it looked like when the towers went down and, from I what can remember, they were right.

May God Bless all of us and our town's heroes!

MARILLYN MIEARS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

On Behalf of Marcy Elementary, I would like to thank Wal-Mart and Wal-Mart representatives Melissa Rogers, Anna Trevino and Zelma Evans for the computer donated to our campus library.

The computer was set up for student use only and has been a tremendous asset to our Accelerated Reading program.

We are truly grateful for Wal-Mart's generosity and appreciate their support to our students' success.

BRENDA DUNLAP
PRINCIPAL
MARCY ELEMENTARY

TO THE EDITOR:

Is their justice for the consumer?

Their seems to be very little justice if any. I had my roof replaced on my home three years ago. The weekend of Thanksgiving my roof began to leak through my ceiling fan and onto my furniture and my projection television. Of course I contacted the local roofing company.

On Nov. 26, that was the last time I received any information from this company. Being a bit concerned that my items would not be replaced or repaired or that my roof would not be repaired (under their warranty), I began calling the roofing company every day for three months.

I received one phone call telling me that I was on the list. Oh, before you wonder, yes, I have home owner's insurance. They have also attempted to reach this company.

To make a long story short, I have followed all avenues, contacting the Better Business Bureau and my insurance company to no avail. As a consumer, I wonder if I had not paid for his services would our business system be so casual.

In the few years I have had to deal with contractors, I can count on one hand how many honor there customers. It should

be really simple — as a consumer you pay for a service and, in return, they perform that service. Yet in this case, that does not seem to be the trend for this company.

Of course I will have to replace my items due to their negligence or file a lawsuit which could take years and cost me money.

To conclude, the only power I have as a consumer is to not recommend this company. If anyone asks me if I know a good roofing company. I will not recommend them. Companies should always remember bad publicity by word of mouth will always go far. I will shout it from the roof top.

SHARLEEN MOORE
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Arkansas voted overwhelmingly for her own Mike Huckabee in the state presidential primary. This proves a good record from his 10-1/2 years as governor in

Arkansas.

He is noted for being a Republican governor and working with a Democratic legislature in a predominately Democratic state, balancing the budget for all of those years, bringing in industry and business, maintaining one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation, establishing AR Kids health care for all children from low income families, leaving the largest fund surplus in the state's history, solidly supports pro-life and sanctity of the family and pledges to work for more secure borders.

I appreciate this opportunity to help you to know Mike Huckabee a little more and to give serious consideration to vote for him in the Texas primaries. Even if you don't think a victory is possible at this time, our conservative views must be made known to all candidates.

RUSSELL JONES
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The Pinkerton Law Firm, PLLC recently resolved over 150 personal injury claims related to the BP explosion that occurred in Texas City, Texas, with clients recovering extraordinary monetary awards and/or settlements. The Pinkerton Law Firm, PLLC has the experience and track record to prosecute your claim to the maximum extent possible under the law.

If you were there, you may have a claim for physical and/or emotional injuries. Time is of the essence to preserve your claim.

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I am an experienced attorney in the area of industrial accidents. I have recovered millions of dollars for my clients who were injured in incidents similar to that for which your community has recently endured. My track record is impeccable. I believe that I understand what your particular community is going through right now. I am a resident of Houston, Texas, and felt the emotional trauma caused by the BP explosion that occurred in my community in March of 2005. Although I live in Houston, Texas, I pride myself on being a West Texan. I spent much of my youth on my grandfather's farm in Hedley, Texas. Growing up on the farm, I was taught the values you live by. Because of that, I too live by those values today. Those values include being self-sufficient, hard-working, honorable and trustworthy. In addition, those values sometimes include being non-litigious, a value I understand and respect, but also have found to be detrimental under certain circumstances.

If you were injured by this blast, our system of law has but one remedy—money damages. That is how our system works and it has worked for hundreds of years. It is your absolute, sovereign right to bring a lawsuit to protect your interests if you were injured in this explosion. You may have been injured by the direct impact of the blast or flames. You may have been emotionally traumatized by the events of that tragic day. You may have been injured escaping from the disaster area in an attempt to save your life. You may have been injured trying to rescue others. For any of these injuries, and many others, you may have a claim for money damages. I contend that it is your duty to yourself, your family and your community to bring your claim into our justice system—and allow the system to work for you, your family, and your community. I would respectfully suggest to you that it is in your best interest to contact an attorney who has the experience, know-how, and wherewithal to handle a claim like this. I believe that person is me. But, even if you do not contact me, contact someone. As always, I remain,

Very truly yours,
Chad Pinkerton

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Deal clears way for single open-wheel series in America

By MIKE HARRIS

AP Auto Racing Writer

Indy Car racing has finally gotten together.

The Indy Racing League and the Champ Car World Series signed a deal Friday to unify the two American open-wheel circuits, bringing them under the umbrella of the IRL.

"I'm glad that they were able to get it done," said A.J. Foyt, the first four-time winner of the Indianapolis 500. "It'll eliminate the confusion for the race fans and the sponsors because there'll be just one type of car and one type of motor and everyone will be running together. May the best team win."

After 12 years of bitter rivalry

that confused fans, promoted apathy and nearly buried the sport, Champ Car agreed to cease operations, giving the surviving IRL the opportunity to rebuild open-wheel's lost prestige.

The deal, which has been in the works for about two weeks, was announced Friday in Indianapolis, where both series have their headquarters.

A statement was released, saying, "Owners of Champ Car and the Indy Racing League completed an agreement in principle Friday that will unify the sport for 2008.

"Gerald Forsythe, co-owner of Champ Car, signed an agreement in principle in Chicago, joining his partner Kevin Kalkhoven and Indy Racing

League founder and CEO Tony George who had signed late Thursday in Indianapolis."

IRL spokesman John Griffin said details will be forthcoming in a news conference next week.

"I think it's great," said Dario Franchitti, who won the 2007 Indianapolis 500.

"There's a part of me that thinks I wish it had happened five years ago. For my friends in the IRL, my friends in the Champ Car series, I think it's fantastic because they'll all get to race together in one series. From that point, I'm really happy and as a race fan I'm coming."

Earlier in the day, it appeared talks might be stalled when

Kalkhoven left without comment.

Bobby Rahal, who won three championships in what was then the CART series, and is now co-owner of an IRL team, welcomed news of the agreement.

"This is a great day for open-wheel racing," said Rahal, whose 19-year-old son, Graham, is a Champ Car driver. "I applaud all of those that made this possible, but want to especially recognize all of those that made sacrifices and concessions to secure the future of open-wheel racing.

"I truly believe that this is the first step toward restoring open-wheel racing and the Indianapolis 500 to not only where it once was, but beyond."

Over the years, numerous attempts to merge the series failed, mostly over who would retain control. This time, though, all the hurdles were cleared as George worked together with Kalkhoven and Forsythe to reach an agreement.

The latest talks began after George offered any Champ Car team that moved to the IRL in 2008 free Honda engine lease programs, free Dallara chassis and the same \$1.2 million incentive program offered to its own teams.

At least six Champ Car teams, with up to 10 cars, were believed ready to make the move in time to race in the IRL's season-opener March 29 at Homestead, Fla.



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Fernando Gonzales, 3000 Schadt, Fort Worth
Naomi Gonzales, 1606 E. Fifth, Big Spring
Raul Gonzales, 2106 Johnson, Big Spring
Jeffrey Grams, 224 Lelon Lane, Springtown

Nora Gutierrez, 606 N. Eighth Street, Lamesa
Nicholas Hasenbalg, 207 W. Williams, Breckenridge
Dana L. Havink, 600 Star Linda Ct., Arlington
Kristin Hawkins, 405 N. Moss Lake Road, Big Spring
Robert Stephen Hoback, 1516 Comberland, Odessa
Gerald R. Hodges, 4312 Crane, Houston
Allan J. Hoey, 1401 N. Highway 87 Apt. 2, Big Spring
Emily Howard, P.O. box 224, Big Spring
Juan Baldwin Hubbard, 504 Eugene, Midland
Lucas Shane Hughes, #1 Courtney Place No. 7, Big Spring
Jeanie Renee Ivey, 5326 Old State Hwy. 7, La Grange
Sharon Annette James, 1215 Cedar, Colorado City
Ronald Jeffery, 1101 Fitch, Odessa
Brandy Johnson, 24327 Pleasonton, San Antonio
Rene M. Johnson, 9205 W. County Road 174, Midland
Alana Marie Lee, 2711 66th Street, Lubbock
Laura Leon, 319 Rocky Lane Dr., Midland
Christopher Luellen, 599 Truehart, Pain Rock
Patricia Luttrell, 2726 Redwood, Odessa
Stephanie Marie Macias, 909 S. Sixth Street, Lamesa
Carol Lee McNeil, 2601 Westridge, Snyder
Brian L. Mendez, 583 56th Street, Lubbock
Ebaline Flores Mendoza, PO Box 291, Mertzon
Melissa Merket, 402 W. Eighth, Colorado City
Elizabeth Rose Mills, 1204 Mulberry, Big Spring
Angela Moreno, 1712 N. Third Street, Lamesa

Anna Marie Moreno, 4656 St. Frances Ave., Dallas
Esiqueio Moreno, 709 Parker Street, Andrews
Jerry Musquiz, 2609 Cotton Flat Road, Midland
Michael Todd McClinton, 1003 S. Midkiff, Midland
William Leslie Neal, 2100 Alabama, Big Spring
Erica Ortega, 214 Grimes, Big Spring
Rios Lisa L. Ovalle, 1510 Oriole, Big Spring
Melissa Pena, 208 N. Nolan, Big Spring
Renee Perez, 2133 Glenwood Drive, Abilene
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
Alfredo Riojas Jr., 255, S. 11th St., Lubbock
Gustabo Alfredo Rios, of 1804 Scurry, Big Spring
Jessie Robles, 1417 Millspaugh, San Angelo
Veronica Rodriguez, 3010 Cherokee, Big Spring
Robert Rogers, 3815 S.C. Rd. 1192, Midland
Sofia Romero, 409 N. Ave. G, Lamesa
Robert Christopher Rosamond, 801 Lancaster, Big Spring
Jennifer Ann Rositas, 1429 E. Sixth, Big Spring
Steven G. Ross, 60 Cinamon Lane, San Angelo
Rudy Salazar, PO Box 1275, Stanton
Emily Sartain, 1806 37th, Snyder
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 Spurgeion, 1212 Wadley, Midland
Shawn Spurgeon, 106 N. Adams, Denver City
James Sutton, 2225 Oakland, Abilene
Tonya Taylor, 1111 Moseley Circle, Hobbs, N.M.
Abelina Tercero, 127 Arthur, Longview
Jimmy Vasquez, 4000 W. Illinois, Midland
Brenda Vera, 1901 Ave. N, Snyder
Alicia N. Vernon, 9614 Dover Ridge, San Antonio
Tyler J. Voss, Fannin Co. Rd 4925, Leonard
Christina Williams, 400 Macarthur, Odessa
Kristi Oden Womack, 710 Bell, Sweetwater
Bernest Elgen Woolridge, 4110 S. Jackson, Amarillo
Jerry Lee Wrightsil Jr., 2816 Ridge Road, Fort Worth

District Court Filings:
Klarissa Faith Chase vs. Christopher Lee Hagood, divorce.
Consumer Auto Finance Inc. vs. Oscar Rodriguez, accounts, contracts and notes.
Guadalupe Diaz vs. Santa Cruz Diaz Jr., divorce.
Stephanie Torres vs. Alexander Calderon Quintana, protective order.
Christopher Fuqua vs. Andrea Alender, divorce.

Marriage Licenses:
Kenneth Thomas, 64, and Patricia Sneed Thomas, 61, both of Big Spring.
Christopher Noe Arguello, 37, and Adela Ramirez, 36, both of Big Spring.

Warranty Deeds:
Grantor: John Doyle Landers, Terry Scott Webb and Susan C. Smith
Grantee: Rachael Garza
Property: Lot 1, Block 9, Avion Village

Date: Feb. 19, 2008
Grantor: John Doyle Scott, Terry Scott Webb and Susan C. Smith
Grantee: Joe Rodriguez
Property: Lot 1, Block 2, Morningside Addition
Date: Feb. 19, 2008

Grantor: John C. Smith Jr. and Shanna Smith
Grantee: Claud Fryar and Patsy Fryar
Property: Lot 14, Block 1, Kentwood Unit No. 1
Date: Feb. 20, 2008

Grantor: Isreal Martinez and Toni Mendoza
Grantee: Henry W. Smith
Property: Lots 1 and 2, Block J, Moore Addition
Date: Feb. 20, 2008

Grantor: Tommie E. Hatfield
Grantee: Mary Arispe
Property: Lots 7 and 8, Block 10, Earles Addition
Date: Feb. 13, 2008

Grantor: Katpast Enterprises LP
Grantee: Deanna Burnett
Property: Lot 42, Block 13, Burnett Heights
Date: Feb. 13, 2008

Grantor: Tammy Jo Davidson
Grantee: William Bryan Sledge
Property: Lot 2, Block 7, Hall Addition
Date: Feb. 14, 2008

Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien:
Grantor: Don Snipes and Amparo Snipes
Grantee: Jackie W. Farris and Beverly Farris
Property: Lot 12, Block 5, Coronado Hills
Date: Feb. 20, 2008

Grantor: Glenda Brewer
Grantee: Jason Brock and Jayci Brock
Property: Lot 3, Block 11, Washington Place Addition
Date: Feb. 20, 2008

Grantor: Claud C. Fryar and Patsy Fryar
Grantee: Eric Herm
Property: A 198 acre tract out of Section 12, Block 33, T-2-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Feb. 20, 2008

Grantor: Horace E. Tubb
Grantee: James McComb
Property: A tract out of Section 104, Block 29, W&NW RR Co. Survey
Date: Feb. 20, 2008

Grantor: Bank of New York
Grantee: R.D. Miller and J.R. Miller Partnership
Property: Lot 41, Block 3, College Park Estates
Date: Feb. 20, 2008

Grantor: Robin McGray May
Grantee: Royce S. Sharp and Katie Sharp
Property: Lot 3, Block 2, Cedar Ridge
Date: Feb. 13, 2008

Grantor: James Thomas Grissett and Bernadine Grissett
Grantee: First United Methodist Church of Big Spring
Property: Lots 6-8 and a portion of Lot 5, Block 16, Edwards Heights
Date: Feb. 14, 2008

Grantor: Ronald L. Howell and Patricia Howell
Grantee: Manuela S. Rivas
Property: Lot 2, Block 2, Rice Addition
Date: Feb. 15, 2008



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 Joyce Neill, Lamesa. Sunday 24th 1pm-5pm, Mon.-Thurs. 9am-5pm. In Lamesa, 6 miles West of US 87 on FM 827. Huge Home Packed full over 1000 pieces of McCoy. over pottery, glassware, collectibles, living- dining- bedroom furniture, quilts, tools, to much to list. Great sale worth the drive. See www.antqmall.com for pictures call 806-790-4365 with questions. Sale conducted by Antique Mall of Lubbock.

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COMET CLEANERS needs Counter help. Apply in person at 1500 East Marcy.

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Help Wanted

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Want to work with families and young children?
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Salary dependent on degree and experience - Contract Opportunities available too!

Positions Available:

ECI Dietician: Part Time or Full Time. Bachelor degree in dietetics, human nutrition, food system management, or foods and nutrition. Must be registered with Texas Board of Examiners or Dietitians. Consultation work for children ages 0-3 yrs. DOE

ECI Family Service Coordinator: Responsible for assisting families in gaining access to needed services and support. Degree required (see above). Benefits. Salary based on early childhood experience. Travel is required and reimbursed at .445 cents per mile. Rental vehicles are available at various times. Services are provided in the natural environment. DOE.

ECI Licensed Physical Therapist: Full time or part time available. Responsible for evaluation of and direct services for children (ages 0-3) needing physical therapy services. Travel is required and reimbursed at .445 cents per mile. Rental vehicles are available at various times. Services are provided in the natural environment. DOE

ECI Speech Therapist: Provide direct services and evaluations to children ages 0-3 yrs. Travel is required and reimbursed at .445 cents per mile. Rental vehicles are available at various times. Services are provided in the natural environment. DOE.

Salary dependent on experience. No smoking at any time during work performance. Call Debbie Lindsey at 1-800-852-2193 for more information or apply online by visiting the website at www.wtcmhmr.org. or by calling JOBLINE at 800-687-2769. EOE.

Locations: Big Spring, Colorado City, Snyder, Sweetwater

Help Wanted

20+ YEAR Construction Company seeking help with general repairs, painting and carpentry experience. Own transportation to and from work Weekends Off. Pay D.O.E. Contact Texas Work Force, Big Spring, TX.

Assistant Manager/Collector
 Security Finance is now taking applications. We offer benefits, competitive pay, and advancement opportunities. Apply in person at 501 E. 3rd.

BLAST MASTERS has a position available for:

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 Come by 1711 Snyder Hwy., and pickup an application. No phone calls please. Must have a valid TX drivers license and pass mandatory drug test.

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GENERAL MAINTENANCE.
 Must have at least 1 year maintenance experience. Abilities to include: Painting experience with both brush and roller; general plumbing, general sheet-rock repair and texture. Must have own tools, ability to take after hour and weekend calls; valid TX drivers license and liability insurance. Drug Free work place; health insurance and other benefits offered. Please come by Bent Tree Apartments, 1 Courtney Place to fill out an application.

Help Wanted

AMERI-TECH Building Systems
 Status Coordinator / Sales

Seeking a dependable, motivated and organized individual to join our team. This candidate must be able to work independently and have good phone and computer skills - including Excel.

Position will require sales of portable buildings - WILL TRAIN. Competitive pay, salary plus commission and benefits.

Ameri-Tech, is a drug-free work place and has expanded its operations over 12 years to include operations in Big Spring.

Fax resume to:
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NOW HIRING Bartenders and Cocktail waitresses. Must be 18. Call the San Franciscan Bar & Grill at (432)267-1767 or 213-0946.

West Texas Centers for MHMR

Program Manager: Bachelor's degree from accredited college in social behavior or human services plus one year's experience in supervision. Supervises clinic staff including case managers, rehab providers and clerical staff. Salary \$18,53-19,79/hr (\$38,544.00-\$41,160.00 annually). On call rotation. Position located in Big Spring. **Plus sign on bonus.**

Applications available at 409 Runnels or www.wtcmhmr.org or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769. EOE.

MORRISON SUPPLY COMPANY
EXPERIENCED DRIVERS NEEDED!
 Morrison Supply Company has an immediate opening for drivers at its Big Spring, Texas branch location.

Founded in 1917, Morrison Supply Company is the leading wholesale distributor of plumbing and HVAC products in the Southwest.

Candidate Requirements:

- Good Driving Record
- Must be 23 years of age
- Must pass DOT drug test and physical
- CDL license preferred

Morrison offers competitive pay and benefits!

To inquire, please call Scott at (432) 263-8411 or apply in person at: 3200 E I-20 Big Spring, TX.

West Texas Centers for MHMR

Mobile Crisis Outreach Worker: This new full-time position will respond to the crisis hotline and provide face to face care for in-crisis mental health consumers. Requires Bachelor's degree in Social Work field or Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 24 hours in psychology, sociology or other human service hours. Travel within an assigned region is required. Personal vehicle required - mileage reimbursement. Hours are Mon.-Fri. Salary \$14.71-\$15.72 hr. (\$30,588-\$32,700.00 annually) plus benefits and **Sign On Bonus**. If questions, please call 800-687-0135.

Part time After Hour Crisis Worker: Will perform crisis response work for mental health consumers. This exciting, flexible position provides an excellent opportunity as a second job to earn extra dollars. Please contact us if you are a Qualified Mental Health Provider with a degree in a social service field.

Case Manager for Mental Health: Assists individuals in gaining access to medical, social, vocational and educational services. Requires Bachelors degree in Social Work field or Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 24 hours in psychology, sociology or other human service hours. Base salary \$14.71-\$15.72 per hour (\$30,588.00-\$32,700.00 annually) DOE, plus excellent benefit package. Four day work week is possible. Flexible schedule offered. Crisis on-call rotation required. Applicants must live within 70-mile radius of duty site. **Plus sign on bonus and performance incentives.**

Licensed Vocational Nurse: Provides nursing for clients and training for clients, families, and staff. Licensed as an LVN by the State of Texas / Salary \$12.90 (\$26,832.00 annually) Benefits. Mon.-Fri. 8-5.

Vocational Service Tech: Provides instruction and directs the trainee in the accomplishment of a specific job. High school diploma or GED required. Hours vary. Salary is \$7.71-\$8.20 hr (\$16,044.00-\$17,052.00 annually) Benefits.

Part time Direct Care Staff: Responsible for training clients in work and social related skills. High School Diploma/GED required. Salary \$8.20/hr. Hours vary.

Algorithm Coordinator: This new full-time position will be responsible for nursing assistance in a Mental Health clinic. Additional duties will include conducting vital sign assessments, performing venipunctures, administering injections and providing clinical assistance. Salary \$9.02 per hour (\$18,768.00 annually), plus an excellent benefit package.

Applications available at 409 Runnels or www.wtcmhmr.org or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769. EOE.

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COMFORT INN is now hiring housekeepers starting \$6.00/hr. plus bonus. Desk clerks also wanted, starting \$7.00/hr. plus bonus. 2990 East I-20, Big Spring, Texas, 79720.

MID-TEX OF MIDLAND
Commercial Construction General Contractor seeking skilled project superintendents. Please mail resumes to: Mid-Tex of Midland, Inc.; 5206 West Wadley; Midland Texas 79707. Resumes may also be faxed to (432)694-9627.

Help Wanted
DOWN HOLE Pump Repair/Delivery Person. Experience Preferred, but will train. Must have valid Driver License. Salary D.O.E. Full Benefits Package. Background and drug test required. Send Resume to P.O. Box 2105 or come by 2903 North Birdwell for application.

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FARM HAND Wanted! Experience only apply. Call after 7:00 p.m. (432)684-5418.

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EOE

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Help Wanted

FUN VALLEY FAMILY RESORT South Fork, Colorado Needs students, young adults, and retirees for summer employment. Office, housekeeping, cooks, stores, maintenance, dining room, kitchen, horse wrangler. Stude and young adults live in dorms, salary, bonus. Adults must have their own RV, RV site FHU, salary. All get 3 meals a day. Write Personnel Director, 6315 Westover Drive, Granbury, TX 76049 or e-mail rafain@sbcglobal.net or call 1-800-548-1684

IMMEDIATE OPENING for part-time Laundry attendant. Work 7 days- 7 days off. Must have own car. Apply 1208 Gregg Street or 208 11th Place.

Help Wanted

INSERTERS - NEEDED part-time, approx. 20 hrs per week. Must be able to work Saturdays. Apply in person at The Big Spring Herald, 710 Scurry.

LOCAL RESTUARANT needing manager trainees, send resume to 1510 Gregg St. no phone calls.

LOOKING FOR Experience Track Hole Operater for the Big Spring area. If interested please call 432-943-8888.

MIAMI BEACH BOUND No Experience necessary. F/T Travel. For 18 to 24 Guys and Gales. Highly Motivated Sales Teams. Daily Pay - Return Trip Guaranteed. 18+, Free to start ASAP. 1-866-350-2220

Help Wanted

MAINTENANCE/ELECTRONICS POSITIONS The Colorado River Municipal Water District has openings for Maintenance Workers. A CDL license and mechanical experience are helpful. CRMWD also has an opening for an Electronics Technician. Electronic experience and training required. District benefits include paid vacation and holidays, sick leave, retirement plan, and group insurance. The District is an equal opportunity employer. Applications are required to be considered for employment and are available at the District's office, 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas or by calling 432-267-6341.

MIDWAY BAPTIST Church is looking for a responsible individual to work in the nursery during the worship services on Sundays during both AM and PM Services. Must have good references. Apply in person at 6200 South Service Rd.

NEED A job today? Come be a delivery driver for Domino's Pizza. We pay competitive hourly wages & put cash in your pocket daily! Working for the other guys? Bring your experience over to Domino's Pizza and get paid top dollar. Part time and full time positions available. Need day hours? Need night hours? We have all shifts available. We work with ALL types of schedules. Apply now and get hired on the spot (some restrictions apply).

2111 Greg Street EOE, Drug Free environment

NEED FULL-TIME Delivery Driver. Apply @ Elrod's Furniture, 2309 Scurry, Big Spring. No Phone Calls Please!

NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

NOW HIRING experienced retail sales person. Harris Lumber & Hardware 1515 E. FM 700. Full or part time.

PARKPLACE RETIREMENT Living is seeking part time night front desk clerk. This position is shift work from 3:30am to 8:30am. Experience working with the elderly a plus. Apply in person at 501 W. 17th Street.

PARKPLACE RETIREMENT Living is seeking an evening front desk clerk. This position is shift work from 5:30pm to 12:30am; weekends required. Experience working with the elderly a plus. Apply in person at 501 W. 17th Street.

PARKVIEW NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER Now accepting applications for Charge Nurse, LVN position which offers competitive pay and great benefits including health insurance options and retirement. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

Help Wanted

PHLEBOTOMIST 30 Hours per week. Certified & Experienced. Call 1-800-469-4467.

PHYSICIAN OFFICE in Stanton is looking for an LVN or RMA to work in the clinic. Please call (432)756-2816 and ask for Kathy for details.

POST OFFICE NOW HIRING. Avg. Pay \$20/hour or \$57K annually including Federal Benefits and OT. Offered by Exam Services, not aff w/USPS who hires. 1-866-795-4058.

ROOFING HELPERS. (5) Palacios Roofing & Home Improvements in Big Spring, TX. Temporary 4/01/08 to 12/31/08. \$7.50/hr. OT \$11.25/hr. 7:30am to 3:30pm. To lift, carry and hold building materials, tools and supplies, to clean equipment materials, tools and work areas. Entry Level. Employer will provide transportation through a centralized pickup location. Must be authorized to work legally in the U.S. Apply at the WF Network of Big Spring, TX or fax resume to TWC @ (512)463-3055, Job Posting #TX8046229. Ad paid by an Equal Opportunity Employer.

SALESPERSON For souvenir and gift co. Local established territory. Medical benefits and 401K. Fax 888-854-9572.

SHELL STAR STOP looking for new team members. Full & Part time Cashiers & Assistant Managers. Apply in person at any Shell Star Stop in Big Spring. Drug Free Environment.

SOS Staffing Now Hiring for Big Spring Area Several positions open for Weatherford. Pay ranges from \$10.00-\$11.00. Call 432-522-2232 for an appointment. **Background and Drug Screening Required**

STATE LICENSED ELECTRICIANS and HELPERS

Local Company Seeks Qualified applicants. Paid holidays, Vacation and Sick Time. All interested applicants, please phone (432)263-3939.

TA COUNTRY Fare Restaurant seeking full time line cook's full time morning buffet cook full and part time wait-staff, asst. manager and kitchen manager. Apply in person at HWY. 87 & i-10.

WAITRESS WANTED Full or Part Time. Must be 21. Come by Martha's Hideaway, 503 North Birdwell Lane. No Phone Calls Please.

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

Help Wanted

WANTED SINGLE Hand Welders, Welders helpers, Structural Helpers, painters, sandblasters, and mechanics. Some travel required. We have local and out of town work. Drug screening required. Call 432-559-8432.

Items for Sale

FIREWOOD. PREMIUM OAK FIREWOOD. Satisfaction Guaranteed. \$285.00 Full Cord & \$175.00 Half Cord. Delivered and Stacked. Call 325-648-2818 or 512-913-8297.

FRESH BUFFALO meat for sale; hot links, sausage, liver, ground meat, roasts, steaks, brisket, skirt steak, hamburger patties, and jerky. Also have shelled pecans \$5.00 a pound. Acreage for sale in Coahoma in South of Big Spring on the East side of Hwy 87. Call 432-263-8785.

Miscellaneous

Storage Containers for sale or rent 8x20 - 8x40 Please contact Cline Construction at 267-6006

\$240 KING ORTHOPEDIC no Flip matt & box set. NEW with Warr..... BRAND NEW queen pillowtop mattress set, in wrapper, \$124. 806-549-3110.

2003 ALUMACRAFT Jon Boat w/trailer, 14ft, 25 HP Evinrude electric start, trolling motor, depth finder, live well, carpeted, 2 batteries, \$3400.00. Call John (254)319-2819.

ADJUSTABLE MEMORY foam bed, raises/lowers, brand new, warranty, \$1099..... MICROSUUDE pillowback sofa & love, lifetime warranty, new \$575. 806-549-3110.

BIGMAN OVERSIZED RECLINER, brand new, BONDED microfiber, warranty-compare to Lane \$799, Sell \$450..... Dinette set & 4 chairs, solid wood, tile top, Boxed, will take \$229. 806-549-3110.

CAKES: Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceanarios. Arches, Candelabras and florals. FREE DELIVERY. Call Grishams (432)267-8191.

FORMAL DINING 10 pc, double pedestal table & 2 leafs, 6 cushioned chairs, china hutch 7 buffet, estate quality, NEW & BOXED, list \$4296, Sell \$1995. 806-549-3110.

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JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN HOUSE COMMUNITY EVENT

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 10am-2pm at our 501 Birdwell Lane location

- Hear about great Job Opportunities • Take a Guided Tour of Our Site • Sign up for Hourly Prize Drawings • Enjoy Pizza & Drinks • Listen to Live Remote by KBYG Radio

...AND, buy a tasty treat at our COMMUNITY BAKE SALE to benefit ALON and its employees.

Hear about our great employee benefits:

Outstanding Advancement Opportunities, Flexible Work Schedules, Medical, Dental and Vision Plans, Life Insurance, Paid Holidays and Time Off, 401(K) with Generous Employee Match, Business Casual Work Setting, Incentive Pay Program, Team Contests, Events & Prizes, Great Training & Development

Bilingual Candidates receive 90-day sign-on bonus & premium hourly rate

To qualify, you must be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or GED. Customer service or retail experience a plus.

If you are unable to attend, you can apply on-line: www.startek.com/careers or apply in person at 501 Birdwell Lane, Suite 30, Big Spring, TX or call 432-264-2700.



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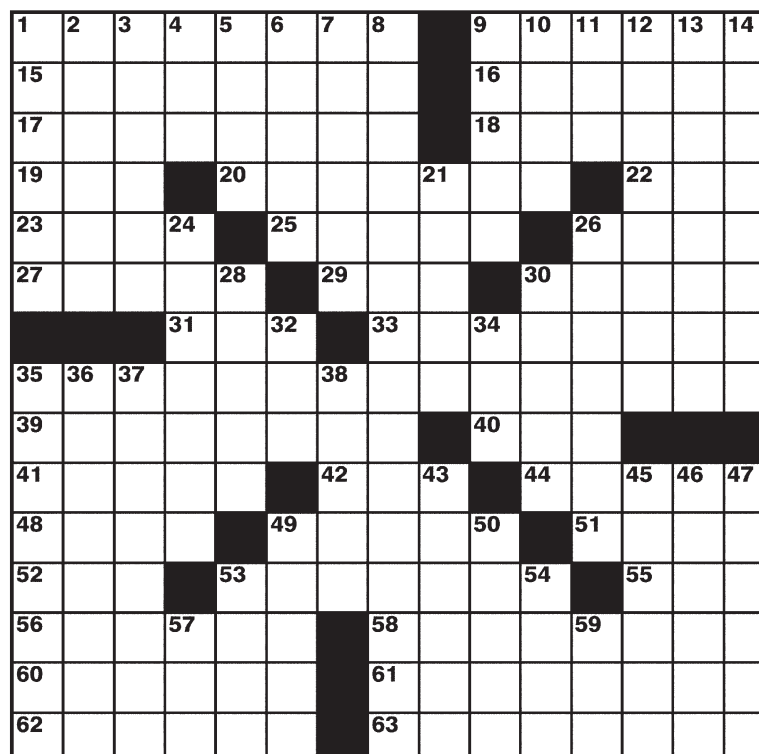
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Newsday Crossword SATURDAY STUMPER by Doug Peterson

Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Gets carried away 9 Less garish 15 Not standard 16 Husky 17 #1 tune of 1972 and 1987 18 Light stuff 19 Like PFCs 20 Slip 22 Old Deuteronomy, e.g. 23 Name on the California State Quarter 25 Onetime Face the Nation moderator 26 Where N. America's highest paved road is Patter 27 Show from Rockefeller Ctr. 29 Crown spot 31 Get into 33 Place with pigeonholes 35 Girl with a talking backpack 39 Divinatory 40 Start of some sequels 41 Changes one's story 42 18 Across, for one: Abbr. 44 Turns insensitive 48 Wanting 49 Durable duds 51 Sight during 52 Castilian kinsman 53 Punishes, à la Poe 55 Crib comment 56 Conditioned 58 Retiree of '51 60 Heart 61 Star of Fox's first prime-time series 62 DeSoto alternatives 63 lthy DOWN 1 Automaton 2 Speak frankly 3 End of some lists 4 Calculator button 5 Stumble 6 Wintour and Paquin 7 Sweeps 8 His work may be over your head 9 Snorkeling site 10 Fall line 11 city 12 Like some pasta 13 Kick up 14 Museum employee 21 Butterfly attractor 24 Prepares for publication 26 Fiber source 28 Plant in the Odyssey 30 Deep pink 32 Senators' org. 34 Some suits 35 Works on a sentence 36 Predestined 37 Umpires call them 38 Support for the arts 43 Confidential 45 Tennessee Williams character 46 Feels the heat 47 Cassette pair 49 Wears out 50 Men who live in stables 53 Send up 54 Blow hard 57 Way with a number: Abbr. 59 Set



On the Farm

NEW MAHINDRA TRACTORS
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Featured by
Leslie Stevens



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South Mountain Realty
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RETAIL BUILDING on Gregg Street. 2200 sq. feet. \$400.00 Per month with 1 year lease. Please contact Lucy 432-263-5000.

TWO EXTREMELY Nice houses available for rent. Both are 2 Bdrm, 1 bath. Privacy fences, storage buildings. Very quiet neighborhood. \$525. & \$475. per month. Call Tom @ 432-816-5279 for Renal applications.

Real Estate for Sale

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

HOME REALTORS 110 W. Marcy
263-1284
263-4663

OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, FEB 24, 2008
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
2704 CORONADO
Hosted By
Shirley Burgess

EXCELLENT CONDITION. Great floor plan. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 1760 sq. feet. \$124,500.00. 4121 Theo St., Call 432-263-3135, 432-413-8656.


Real Estate for Sale

J. RUTLEDGE REALTY


OPEN HOUSE
Sunday
February 24, 2008
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm



2804 MACAUSLAN



108 CEDAR



626 TULANE

GREAT POTENTIAL!!!!!! \$5,000.00. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath, 1180sq foot, 50x130 lot. Call 432-816-3610.

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. No Down Payment. Owner Financing. Bad Credit OK. 6 Month warranty. Call **Maria (432)263-3461**.

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GREAT STARTER/ Investment Home. Extra Cute. 3 bdrm, 1 bath. No Owner finance. Call for appointment (432)816-1464.

LOVELY KENTWOOD Home for Sale by Owner. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath with bonus room. Updated kitchen with custom cabinets, WB fireplace, and large backyard. Call 432-213-2862 or 816-6477.

OWNER FINANCED Houses for Sale. 1413 Sycamore, 1518 Wood, 1114 Mulberry and 603 Circle. Easy Terms. Call Reagan at 432-634-6818.

SALON/ BOUTIQUE Business: Completely remodeled. Lots of income potential and great location. Call (432)816-1945 for information.

WE BUY HOUSES and **LAND.** Any Condition. Tax Liens No Problem. Call (512)940-5200, 432-631-8100.

Vehicles

1987 FORD F150 Lariat. Extended cab. As Is \$1200. OBO. Call 432-264-7788.

1997 CHEVY 2500 extended cab utility bed with tool boxes, ladder racks, drawers. Good work truck. 148,000 Miles. \$7,500.00. Call (432)267-2296.



2002 GMC Sierra, 5.3 liter, V8. Long bed, 63,000 miles. New tires. Great Condition. One Owner. \$10,500.00. Call (432)263-4080.

2004 WHITE Cadillac Deville, certified pre-owned. 42,000 miles. Asking \$19,500.00 for more information call 325-829-6113.

2005 HYUNDAI XG350L Black with cream leather interior, power everything, heated seats, sun roof, sport wheels. 24000 Miles, 100,000 Mile Warranty. \$12,000. Call (432)816-9241.

2005 SUZUKI Dual Purpose Motorcycle, 42 actual miles. \$2500 firm. Call 432-263-1113.

Answer to previous puzzle

N	A	S	A	S	E	N	D	S	U	P	O	N
E	M	I	R	O	X	E	Y	E	M	I	R	E
P	I	G	E	O	N	T	O	E	D	A	G	E
A	G	H	A	S	T	R	I	M	S	H	O	T
L	O	T	M	A	S	C	H	O	U	S	E	
D	O	G	E	A	R	E	A	P	U			
B	A	S	I	S	E	R	I	N	A	D	O	S
R	A	N	G	E	R	S	A	T	E	L	E	S
I	R	A	S	O	A	S	T	N	A	D	E	R
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E	D	A	M	E	S	A	U	E	L	I		
T	W	E	E	T	E	R	P	R	E	Y	O	N
E	N	Y	A	T	U	R	T	L	E	N	E	C
A	B	E	L	T	E	A	S	E	D	U	K	E
M	A	I	S	T	E	D	G	E	S	P	E	D

Legals

Coahoma ISD will receive sealed bids for the removal of material from the bank of Wildhorse Creek. Bids will be received in the Administration Office, 600 N. Main or at PO Box 110 Coahoma, TX 79511 until 2:00 pm March 6, 2008. The District reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. #5697 February 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 & 29, 2008

LEGAL NOTICE:
These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on March 17, 2008. You have until September 13, 2008, to redeem any tickets for these games: #778 **Lucky 7's** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.48, #789 **Billiards** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.65, #791 **Wild Money** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.33, #814 **Roll The Dice** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 5.41, #815 **Gold Rush Luck** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.70, #816 **Cherry Twist** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.07, #840 **Big Money Bingo** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.61, #841 **Green Stuff** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.19, #842 **Pot O' Gold** (\$3) overall odds are 1 in 3.73, #1017 **Candy Cane Cash** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.07. The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including \$599. Prizes of \$600 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form; however, annuity prizes or prizes over \$999,999 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at 1-800-37LOTTO or visit the Lottery Web site at www.tlottery.org for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, transactions, players, and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A Scratch-Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. **PLAY RESPONSIBLY.** The Texas Lottery Supports Texas Education. #5694 February 24, 2008

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **EVELYN LOVE DENNIS**, Deceased, were issued on 2-19-08, in Cause No. P-13611, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to: **Burl Dennis**.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: **Burl Dennis**
409 Washington,
Big Spring, Texas 79720

DATED the 19th day of February, 2008.

Glynnia Mouton
Attorney for **Burl Dennis**
State Bar No.: 14606500
200 West Third Street
Big Spring, TX 79720
Telephone: (432) 263-7676
Facsimile: (432) 263-8686
#5695 February 24, 2008

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS, AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 28-2007 WHICH ADOPTED THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2007 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008 PROVIDING FOR INCREASING THE MOTEL TAX FUND BUDGET FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF RESURFACING THE ROSE MAGERS WALKING TRAIL AT THE COMANCHE TRAIL PARK; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
TAMI DAVIS
ASSISTANT CITY SECRETARY
#5696 FEBRUARY 24 & 25, 2008

CITY OF BIG SPRING PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:30 P.M., TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2008 IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 307 EAST 4TH, BIG SPRING, TEXAS TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:
The owner of Block 5, Mesa Addition, located at 4107 West Highway 80 has requested a Specific Use Permit for the proposed use of a Travel Trailer/Recreational Vehicle Park.
#5698 February 24 & March 2, 2008

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ANSWERS

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

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
As Saturn dials into the boundless Pisces-sun frequency, today it might feel good to simply focus on what's in front of us. Even if it's to the exclusion of something else, by virtue of focusing our attention on one thing, we affect everything. Don't be too quick to judge a roadblock as an obstacle; limits help us define precisely where we are.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The love you find is unique. You'll never find another one like it. So consider carefully the person who keeps calling you back to his or her heart. Love comes in many forms, and this is one of them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You ask for a second chance, and that's what you get. Everyone deserves to be redeemed for missteps, and yours is not as massive as you've built it up to be in your mind.

Legals

CITY OF BIG SPRING NOTICE TO BIDDERS

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

1. Date/Time: Tuesday, March 4, 2008, at 2:00 p.m., for the following

Three Year Leases on (3) Backhoes and (1) Extend-a-hoe
Bids are to be opened and read aloud in the Big Spring City Hall Conference Room, Upstairs at 310 Nolan Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, with award to be made at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Big Spring City Council. Bid information and specifications may be obtained from the Office of the Purchasing Agent, 1380 Airport Drive East, Bldg. #19, Big Spring, Texas 79720. All bids must be marked with the date of the bid and a general description of the bid item(s). The City of Big Spring reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any or all formalities. #5687 February 17 & 24, 2008

ELECTION NOTICE

Filing for the May 10, 2008, election of Board of Directors of the Glasscock Groundwater Conservation District are now open for Precincts One (1), Two (2), and @ Large. Those wishing to file need to do so in the Water District office at 132 North Main St. in Garden City. Filing will close on the 11th day of March 2008. Office hours are Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm.

Archivando para la eleccion del dia 10 de Mayo de 2008 para la junta directiva del condado de Glasscock subterraneo de conservacion del agua esta abierto para el precinto uno (1), dos (2), y a large. Esos deseando de archivar necesitan registrarse en la oficina de distrito de Conservacion de agua en la calle 132 North Main en Garden City. Archivando se cerrara el dia 1 de Marzo, 2008. Las horas de oficina son de lunes a viernes de las 8:00 de la manana asta las 4:00 de la tarde. #5691 February 24, 2008

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

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

CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/ BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)
Dist/Div: Abilene
Contract 6177-10-001 for MOWING HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAY IN HOWARD County, etc will be opened on March 26, 2008 at 1:30 pm at the District Office for an estimate of \$126,620.00.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 26198

State Office
Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540
Dist/Div Office(s)
Abilene District
District Engineer
4250 N. Clack
Abilene, Texas 79604-0150
Phone 325-676-6800
Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.
#5692 February 24 & 25, 2008

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're the recipient of lovely attention. Pull your shoulders back, and give them a dose of who you really are. This afternoon, get aggressive about learning. You're the student who will soon be a teacher.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Go after that thing that makes you want to hide. The more ambitious and brave you are, the more support you'll gather. Friends you make tonight keep you in mind for future opportunities.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's fabulous to see and be seen, but it's now time to forgo social niceties, buckle down, get to work and make back some of that money you've been spending. Earth signs like Capricorn are inspiring mentors.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The urge to act impulsively will be strong but not necessarily wise. Write down your thoughts before acting on them. A Leo or an Aquarius will be a fine sounding board to your inspirations.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Whether you like it or not, you are very appealing to the opposite sex now. Dare to ask out the one you've been flirting with. Tonight, someone is keeping score, contrary to what this person might say.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Love has a way of bringing out the best and the worst in you now. Romantic hopefuls make a play for your attention. Do the sweet, selfless thing, even though it will probably seem terribly inconvenient.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). On a day as lucky as this one is, it's a crime to let a dream linger in the ether. Act! Ask for help. Others are not only receptive, they seem to care as much as you do about moving your vision forward.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Don't let conflict drag on — it should be easy to solve. Chance is on your side. So the best solution to a problem could very well be a flip of the coin.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It feels so good to contribute to others that you're not even keeping track of how much you are giving. Be sure to receive graciously, too, or you rob the giver of the wonderful benefits of generosity.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Clear your head. Get some distance from stressful scenarios so you can sort through them with greater ease. Humor heals. A movie ticket to the latest comedy is just what the doctor, and the financial adviser, ordered.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Pisceans looking for love dream of Prince or Princess Charming and find it easy to impress that image upon the objects of their affection, whether reality driven or not! In this way, Pisces Kristin Davis does resemble her "Sex and the City" character, Charlotte. Both share a sweet-natured resiliency in love — she may be crestfallen but not broken. The Piscean heart quickly bounces back.

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to her, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
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Annie's Mailbox®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I am a newlywed of three months. From the day I met my husband, he pulled out all the stops, impressing me with little surprises, candlelit lovemaking sessions and compliments galore, and kept me laughing until my ribs ached. He was exactly what I was looking for and I wouldn't settle for less.

A month after our wedding, all of that has been forgotten. He's apparently won his prize and now doesn't have to work for it. Granted, he brings me flowers once or twice a month and still spends all his spare time with me, but I miss the endless romantic he was before. He has stopped initiating sex entirely. On our honeymoon, we were intimate exactly once.

It seems too early in the marriage for romance to fizzle so completely. Am I being selfish and expecting too much, or should I stand my ground and battle it out for what I need and want? — Want My Romeo Back

Dear Want My Romeo: Yes and no. You are expecting too much to think Romeo is going to romance you with the same energy he did when you were dating, and we must say, flowers every month is nothing to complain about.

However, never initiating sex and being intimate once in a honeymoon sounds like it could be a problem. Ask him to talk to his doctor and have a complete blood work-up and a physical, and if he is OK, please consider counseling to see if there's more going on



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

than meets the eye.

Dear Annie: I lost my 18-year-old granddaughter in a car accident last September. I am still grieving.

My question is, I have videos of my granddaughter taken since the day she was born until the day before she died. I have put together photo albums of her entire life. When she was 2, I purchased a cabinet for her to place some of her keepsakes in. I had intended to give her all these things when she married. I wanted her children to enjoy her history with her. This is not going to happen now.

What am I to do with all these things? Her mother has no interest in any of it. I will keep the videos because I watch them, but I don't know what to do with the cabinet and photographs. Shall I hang on to everything and let someone else worry about it after I die? — Missing My Angel

Dear Missing: Please accept our condolences on your heartbreaking loss, and understand that it is much too soon to be

making this decision. Her mother may change her mind down the road, or if your granddaughter had siblings, one of them may someday want these keepsakes. You might bring up the subject again when your family's grief is not so fresh. For the time being, we recommend you transfer the videos to DVD so the technology won't outpace your ability to watch them. We'll be thinking of you.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Falling Out of Love," whose husband is in a "narcotic fog."

Physicians and pain researchers have only recently begun to appreciate that men who are prescribed long-acting opioid medications for chronic pain frequently experience the signs and symptoms of testosterone deficiency, which include decreased libido, erectile dysfunction, tiredness, depressed mood, and hot flashes or night sweats.

The good news is that testosterone deficiency is readily diagnosed by a blood test and can be safely and successfully treated with a variety of testosterone preparations, including injections, transdermal patches and topical gels. "Falling Out of Love" should encourage her husband to be evaluated for testosterone deficiency and treated if he has it. It could improve their relationship and possibly save their marriage. — Norm Mazer, M.D., Ph.D., Framingham, Mass.

Dear Dr. Mazer: Thanks for your informative

letter. We hope any man in a similar situation takes this column to his physician for further discussion.

Dear Annie: "Dennis" has been my boyfriend for over 10 years. We have lived together and apart, and the reason for the apart has been a conflict over marriage. I am 55 years old, he is 57, and we are both divorced. Over the years, I have brought up the subject of marriage three times and it has been the cause of a great debate each time, resulting in my moving out. We then get back together because we still care about each other.

I recently told Dennis how important marriage is to me. I understand it's just a piece of paper, but to me, it makes us a team. Just living together gives me a sense of impermanence.

I moved out after the last argument and Dennis has not called much. I am pretty sure he feels I am giving him an ultimatum, which I guess I am. Is there any happy medium for this sort of issue? — Resentful

Dear Resentful: Not really. Either you're married or you're not. Based on prior experience, Dennis believes you will come back even if he doesn't agree to marry you. So decide whether you want Dennis or that piece of paper, because it doesn't look as if you are going to have both.

Dear Annie: I am 14 years old and in the eighth grade, and I LOVE baseball. My goal in life is to play shortstop in the Majors. I'm not a small kid, but I don't want to hurt myself and take away my chance of making it to the big leagues. The problem is there are people who want to beat me up. And to make it worse, some of the girls I have huge crushes on call me "gay."

I go to school every day with a knot in my stomach. I have no friends and I don't know why. My parents are making me see a therapist for my ADHD. I am getting good grades in school, but the only time I'm happy is when I'm playing baseball. I used to be a really bubbly kid. Now I just want to stop being bugged and concentrate on school and baseball. What can I do? — S.S.

Dear S.S.: Eighth grade can be a really difficult time. If other kids are taunting you or threatening to beat you up, you and your parents should report this to the principal. It's bullying and needs to stop. It will also help if you can find some friends, and this means expanding your participation in after-school as well as school-related activities so you can get to know kids with interests other than baseball. You should discuss this problem with your therapist and ask for specific suggestions. It will help.

Dear Annie: I have additional advice for "Cathy," the snoring girlfriend. I've been through four sleep studies, two surgeries, two years with a CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) machine and various face masks, and two oral devices. The CPAP didn't work for me. I couldn't stay in that position all night and have air blowing on my face. I eventually quit using it.

After she has a sleep study, Cathy should ask about an oral device from her dentist. I use the

Adjustable PM Positioner, which has helped both my snoring and my sleep apnea — and I can cuddle with my husband. — Sleep Like a Baby in Jackson, Mich.

Dear Jackson: Thanks for the recommendation. Readers who are interested should discuss all options with their doctor. Here's more:

Dear Annie: My husband and I each use a CPAP, sleep comfortably and quietly, and cuddle all night. Travel is no problem; we take them with us and there are now travel-sized machines. — D.

Dear Annie: My husband snores louder than a lion and won't go to the doctor, so I bought a \$17 sound generator that stays on for up to one hour. Now when his snoring keeps me up, I press a button and drown him out with the sound of crickets or waves or wind. — Grass Valley, Calif.

Dear Annie: A year ago, I had an affair that lasted nearly 12 months. I confessed the whole thing to my husband, answered all his questions and endured the subsequent hurt, anger and doubt. I have done everything I can to prove that I am trustworthy, and we are more connected to each other now than we have ever been.

I also wrote a letter of apology to the wife of the man with whom I had the affair. She didn't respond and I didn't expect her to, but it made me feel better to come clean. Several months after the affair ended, her husband called my cell phone, but I didn't pick up. I told my husband about the call and made sure his wife was also informed. I'd hoped to prove I was not having any contact with him, and to make it clear to him that I would not tolerate any more phone calls.

Here is my problem: I've been on a competitive sports team for nearly 10 years. Before the affair, the wife was on my team. When the affair ended, I voluntarily joined a different league. But I miss my old friends and would like to rejoin the old team. It is likely the wife will not appreciate this. Although I have no idea how she will react, I feel ready to face it.

In view of the hurt and violation I have caused this woman and the likelihood that I may reopen old wounds by rejoining the team, am I obliged to stay away forever? Do I have a right to go back? — Want to Play

Dear Want to Play: You may be ready to "face it," but we highly doubt the wife feels the same. We commend you for ending the affair and being totally aboveboard. However, there are still consequences, and one of them is when you encounter the wronged spouse, YOU are the one who must retreat. This league is hers now. Unless she decides to quit, please stay where you are. Otherwise, it will look as if you are throwing the affair in her face and we don't believe that is the impression you wish to give.

Dear Annie: I am a freshman in high school and I like wearing black and neon colors. But people stereotype me because of that and think I'm a deadbeat.

I'm in honors classes and am very involved in school. I usually don't care what people say about me, but someone

started a rumor that I use marijuana. My religion is against all drugs and I find such rumors extremely offensive. I also am concerned that I may get into legal trouble if someone believes it. How can I get people to stop starting rumors about me without changing how I appear? — No Druggie

Dear No Druggie: You aren't going to be arrested on the flimsy basis of innuendo. It's a shame people judge you on the basis of your appearance, but that is always going to be a fact of life and you'd best learn to deal with it. This kind of rumor can be quashed by holding your head up and showing others who you truly are. Also, ask your friends to help spread the word that the pot-smoking is a lie. If it gets out of hand, discuss it with your parents and the principal.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Missing My Little Brother," who kept receiving mail addressed to her late sibling. The same thing happened to me when my son died.

I wrote to the three main credit bureaus asking that his credit report be marked "Deceased." I included his social security number and a copy of the death certificate. After that, I stopped receiving mail addressed to him. — Roanoke, Va.

Dear Roanoke: A great suggestion. Readers can contact Equifax (equifax.com) at P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374; TransUnion (transunion.com) at P.O. Box 505, Woodlyn, PA 19094; and Experian (experian.com) at 901 West Bond, Lincoln, NE 68521, Attn: Consumer Services Department.

Dear Annie: I am a 16-year-old girl. When I was about 7, I began experiencing visual and auditory hallucinations. I never told anyone, but now they're getting worse. I have them a few times a week and can't concentrate in school.

I am depressed and have trouble sleeping. I sometimes get irritated around other people. For complex reasons, my parents absolutely cannot know. Should I talk to someone, and if so, who? — Hurting in Montreal

Dear Hurting: Hallucinations are often a sign of serious neurological problems, which means you need to see a doctor immediately.

Your parents should know, but if you don't think you can tell them, please talk to your school counselor or nurse, a close relative, the parents of your best friend, or a trusted neighbor. You also can call your doctor and explain what's going on. The doctor may be willing to see you even without your parents' knowledge, but we don't think you should hide this from them. Your health is more important than anything else going on in their lives. Please don't wait.

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, 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.

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Legals

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

THE STATE OF TEXAS § COUNTY OF HOWARD
By virtue of an ORDER OF SALE issued out of the District Court of Howard County, Texas, pursuant to judgment rendered in 118th Judicial District Court of Howard County, Texas, by the District Clerk of said Court, in the hereinafter numbered and styled suits and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff of said County, I did on the 31st day of January, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., levy upon and will proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder at public auction on the 4th day of March, 2008, being the first Tuesday of said month beginning at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on said day, at the North Courthouse door of said County, all the right, title, and interest of the Defendants in such suits in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said Defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Howard and the State of Texas, to-wit:

CAUSE NO. STYLE PROPERTY DESCRIPTION
T-4687 Howard County, et al vs. Kenneth Wade Lot 3, Blk 2, Highland Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-4794 Howard County, et al vs. Macedonio Landin, Jr. and Mary Linda Landin Being all of Lot 8 and the North 41' of Lot 9, Blk 16, Saunders Addn., City of Coahoma, Howard County, Texas T-4856 Howard County, et al vs. Randall Rose and Shavae Rose Lots 12-18, Blk 8, Original Town of Coahoma, Howard County, Texas T-4868 Howard County, et al vs. Johnny Rangel and Linda Rangel Lot 4, Blk 4, Settles Heights Add., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas; (Save & Except the E 60') T-4893 Howard County, et al vs. Angela S. McDowell aka Angela S. Yarbrough Part of the NW/4 of Sec. 46, Blk 32, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas T-4903 Howard County, et al vs. Jesse L. Blewett, et al A tract of land 100.0' by 435.8' out of the SW/4 of Sec. 32, Blk 32, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas T-4906 Howard County, et al vs. Sylvia Arguello A tract of land 209.5' and 450' out of Sec. 42, Blk 32, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas T-4915 Howard County, et al vs. Adolf Gutierrez Lot C, (Save & Exc W/50') Blk 2, Highland Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-4915

Howard County, et al vs. Adolf Gutierrez Lot 11, (Less W/22'), Blk 102, Original Town of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-4983 Howard County, et al vs. William J. Dean A 1.0 acre tract of land out of the West Part of Section 25, Blk 33, T-1-S, Howard County, Texas T-4983 Howard County, et al vs. William J. Dean A 1.0 acre tract of land out of the West Part of Section 25, Blk 33, T-1-S, Howard County, Texas T-5026 Howard County, et al vs. Sydney Johnson and Violet Johnson Lot 13, Blk 5, Avion Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5105 Howard County, et al vs. Terry Springer, MD and James Fox Lot 8, Blk 4, Central Park Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5119 Howard County, et al vs. Loyce Jane Thorp Lot 5, Blk 4, Thorp Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5160 Howard County, et al vs. Miguel F. Hernandez Lot 4, Blk 5, Government Heights to Bauer Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5160 Howard County, et al vs. Miguel F. Hernandez Lot 4, Blk 5, Government Heights to Bauer Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5232 Howard County, et al vs. James R. Grant and Barbara A. Grant Being a 0.27 acre of land out of a 2.0 acre of land in the NW/4 of Sec. 44, Blk 31, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas, T-5250 Howard County, et al vs. Leroy Hitchcock Lot 1, Blk 46, Original Town of For-san, Howard County, Texas (to include mobile home 14x76 LBL#DLS0017223) T-5267 Howard County, et al vs. Edward Jacobs, Vernice Jacobs, Christopher Evan Roberts, Allan Roberts Janis Roberts and Johnny Puga Lot 2, Blk 5, Tennyson Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5269 Howard County, et al vs. Jimmy O. Johnson and Ann Marie Murphy W/77' of the S/50' of Lot 3, Blk 80, Original Town of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5284 Howard County, et al vs. Jolene Miller Lot 2, Blk 3, May Thixton Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5299

Howard County, et al vs. Jan M. Guzman Lot 3, Blk 1, Moore Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5307 Howard County, et al vs. Simon Martin Sanchez Lot 27, Blk 3, Wright's Airport Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5309 Howard County, et al vs. Mark Smith, Leanne Smith and Ashley Smith Lot 25, Blk 1, Bates Addn., City of Coahoma, Howard County, Texas T-5313 Howard County, et al vs. Miguel Reyes Lot 1, Blk 60, Original Town of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5330 Howard County, et al vs. Cheryl J. Weaver Ward Lot 5, Blk 1, Seton Place Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5332 Howard County, et al vs. Emmett Lee Warren, III A parcel or piece of land out of and a part of Sec. 26, Blk 33, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas T-5344 Howard County, et al vs. Stephanie N. Banks Lot 3, Blk 1, Hall Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5346 Howard County, et al vs. Alonzo Velasco Lot 1, Blk 36, Cole & Strayhorn Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5349 Howard County, et al vs. John Arista 2 tracts of land out of Sec. 45, Blk 31, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas T-5399 Howard County, et al vs. Ray Nix Improvements only-House sits on SW/4 of Sec. 32, Blk 32, T-1-S, Howard County, Texas T-5417 Howard County, et al vs. Brigida Canales Lot 15, Blk 5, Settles Heights Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5426 Howard County, et al vs. Chester Selman Lot 9, Blk 2, Denton Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment(s) rendered in the above styled and numbered cause(s), together with interest, penalties and costs of suit, and the proceeds of said sales to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs. Witness my hand this 1st day of February, 2008. DALE WALKER SHERIFF OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS BY: Dale Walker Deputy #5669 February 10, 17 & 24, 2008

Howard County, et al vs. Jan M. Guzman Lot 3, Blk 1, Moore Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5307 Howard County, et al vs. Simon Martin Sanchez Lot 27, Blk 3, Wright's Airport Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5309 Howard County, et al vs. Mark Smith, Leanne Smith and Ashley Smith Lot 25, Blk 1, Bates Addn., City of Coahoma, Howard County, Texas T-5313 Howard County, et al vs. Miguel Reyes Lot 1, Blk 60, Original Town of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5330 Howard County, et al vs. Cheryl J. Weaver Ward Lot 5, Blk 1, Seton Place Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5332 Howard County, et al vs. Emmett Lee Warren, III A parcel or piece of land out of and a part of Sec. 26, Blk 33, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas T-5344 Howard County, et al vs. Stephanie N. Banks Lot 3, Blk 1, Hall Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5346 Howard County, et al vs. Alonzo Velasco Lot 1, Blk 36, Cole & Strayhorn Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5349 Howard County, et al vs. John Arista 2 tracts of land out of Sec. 45, Blk 31, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas T-5399 Howard County, et al vs. Ray Nix Improvements only-House sits on SW/4 of Sec. 32, Blk 32, T-1-S, Howard County, Texas T-5417 Howard County, et al vs. Brigida Canales Lot 15, Blk 5, Settles Heights Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas T-5426 Howard County, et al vs. Chester Selman Lot 9, Blk 2, Denton Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment(s) rendered in the above styled and numbered cause(s), together with interest, penalties and costs of suit, and the proceeds of said sales to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs. Witness my hand this 1st day of February, 2008. DALE WALKER SHERIFF OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS BY: Dale Walker Deputy #5669 February 10, 17 & 24, 2008

Air Force: B-2 stealth bomber crashes on Guam



AP Photo/U.S. Air Force, Gary Ell

In this photo provided by the U.S. Air Force, a B-2 bomber is seen during a training exercise near McGuire Air Force Base, N.J. A B-2 stealth bomber crashed at an air base on Guam but both pilots ejected safely and were in good condition, the Air Force said. Thick black smoke could be seen billowing from the wreckage at Andersen Air Force Base, said Geanne Ward, a resident in the northern village of Yigo who was on the base visiting her husband.

HAGATNA, Guam (AP) — A B-2 stealth bomber crashed at an air base on Guam but both pilots ejected safely and were in good condition, the Air Force said.

Thick black smoke could be seen billowing from the wreckage at Andersen Air Force Base, said Geanne Ward, a resident in the northern village of Yigo who was on the base visiting her husband.

Ward said she didn't witness the crash but noticed a rising plume of smoke behind the base's air control tower.

She said crowds began to gather as emergency vehicles arrived Saturday morning local time.

"Everybody was on their cell phones, and the first thing everyone wanted to know was did the pilots make it out in time," she said.

A board of officers will investigate the accident.

Each B-2 bomber costs about \$1.2 billion to build. All 21 stealth bombers are based at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri but the Air Force has been rotating several of them through Guam since 2004, along with B-1 and B-52 bombers.

The rotations are designed to boost the U.S. security presence in the Asia-Pacific region while other U.S. forces diverted to fight in the Middle East.

The accident occurred 11 days after a Navy plane crashed into the ocean about 20 miles northeast of Guam's Ritidian Point. Four aircrew members ejected from the EA-6B Prowler electronic warfare aircraft and were rescued by helicopter.

Guam is a U.S. territory 3,700 miles southwest of Hawaii.

Driver of van that hit Minn. school bus charged with homicide in crash that killed 4

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The driver of a van that hit a school bus in a crash that killed four children was charged Friday with four counts of criminal vehicular homicide and two lesser charges, authorities said.

The woman, identified as Alianiss Nunez Morales, 23, of Minneota, failed to stop at a stop sign Tuesday before hitting the bus, which was carrying 28 students from Lakeview School, a prosecutor said. The accident happened near the small town of Cottonwood in southwestern Minnesota.

Morales was also charged with a stop sign violation and for driving without a valid license, Lyon County Attorney Richard Maes said.

Authorities said Morales is not the woman's real

name, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents were trying to figure out her true identity. Claude Arnold, special agent in charge of investigations, said Morales told investigators she was from Mexico, and his agency believes she is in the country illegally.

Morales does not have a Minnesota driver's license, and "she doesn't have a (driver's license) anywhere that we're aware of," said Lt. Mark Peterson of the Minnesota State Patrol.

The criminal vehicular homicide charges are felonies, each punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine. The other charges are misdemeanors.

Morales told police through an interpreter that she stopped at the stop sign, according to a criminal complaint filed Friday.

"She stated that she stopped for the stop sign and that when she took off, the bus hit her," according to a statement of probable cause.

The bus driver, Dennis Devereaux, told police it appeared the van wasn't going to stop, and "he did not have time to hit the brakes or accelerate."

Two brothers, the daughter of a teacher at Lakeview School and the son of a former teacher, all passengers on the bus, were killed.

Seven people, six of them students, remained hospitalized.

Funerals for Hunter Javens, 9, and Jesse Javens, 13, were to be held at the school Monday. A funeral for Emilee Olson, 9, was set for Sunday at a Cottonwood church, while arrangements for Reed Stevens, 12, of Marshall, were pending.

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Preparing for the Unexpected

North dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A K J 8 2
♥ 8 3
♦ A 6
♣ Q 7 5 3

WEST

♠ 10 6 5 3
♥ J 10 9 6 2
♦ J 9 7 4
♣ —

EAST

♠ 9 4
♥ Q 7 5
♦ 10 8 5 2
♣ K 10 9 4

SOUTH

♠ Q 7
♥ A K 4
♦ K Q 3
♣ A J 8 6 2

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	Pass

Opening lead — jack of hearts.

There is no time clock that compels declarer to rush headlong into the play. Speed has its reward in some games, but bridge is not one of them.

South went down quickly on this deal, where he lost a slam he could have made by playing more slowly. He won the heart lead, played a diamond to the ace, returned a low trump and finessed the jack. The finesse succeeded, but West showed

out. Since East still had the K-10-9, South had to lose two trump tricks and go down one.

The hand demonstrates an important principle of play. South's view from the start should have been one of confidence tempered with caution. He should realize that making the slam is a virtual certainty if the trumps are divided 2-2 or 3-1. His only real concern should be a 4-0 trump division.

South should conclude that the slam is unlikely to be made if West has all four trumps, but that it can be made if East has them. Accordingly, South should lead a low trump toward dummy at trick two! After West shows out, dummy's queen loses to the king, but declarer later has no trouble finessing East out of his 10-9-4.

The principle that applies here is a fundamental one. Declarer shapes his play to cater to the normal 2-2 or 3-1 division, and at the same time makes allowance for the abnormal 4-0 division.

It is true that declarer will sometimes cost himself a trick by guarding against a bad break, but he will gain many more points in the long run by taking whatever steps he can to improve the likelihood of making his contract.

Rufus MARK

For U.S. Congress • Texas 19 • Democrat



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Rufus Mark, M.D.



- Radiation oncologist at Joe Arrington Cancer Center in Lubbock.
- Bachelor of Science from Yale University
- Doctor of Medicine from UCLA.
- He and his wife of 20 years are parents of three children.



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Attachment parents break from the mainstream

By **STACY DOWNS**

McClatchy Newspapers
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Tara Smith wears her 2-month-old son, Ronan, in a fabric sling she sewed.

The sling frees Smith's hands for household tasks and helping her other children, Lily, 3, and Aden, 6. It is also a symbol of Smith's commitment to attachment parenting, a child-raising style that advocates extensive physical contact between parents and child as a way of strengthening the familial bond.

"This society prizes independence so much, and I believe attachment parenting has made my kids more independent," says Smith, a 30-year-old stay-at-home mother in Overland Park, Kan. "Aden has no problem running off and playing with other kids because he knows his parents are always here if he needs them."

The popularity of attachment parenting has grown nationwide largely because of online forums. A Kansas City, Mo.-area forum, www.kcapfamilies.com, has quickly climbed to more than 200 members, including Smith, in the last 18 months. Members of the forum meet at playgroups and events to share information and support one another.

Parents become interested in attachment parenting after reading child-raising books by William and Martha Sears, the doctor-and-nurse husband and wife who collectively have become the modern Dr. Spock. They wrote "The Attachment Parenting Book" (Little, Brown & Co., \$14). Others hear about attachment

parenting through La Leche League or Mothering magazine; both encourage the approach.

"It sounds like a throw-back to good, instinctual parenting," says Larry Ro-Trock, a psychologist and family therapist in Kansas City. "Kids and parents need to be connected before they separate. A lot of adults who have problems didn't have a sufficient parental bond."

Attachment parenting differs from traditional parenting in many ways: Mothers tend to have drug-free births, sometimes at home. They often use cloth diapers, natural baby-care products and organic food.

"Attached parents often question mainstream thinking," says Brookie-Lee Glaser of Lee's Summit Mo. The 22-year-old mother uses the parenting style with her two sons, ages 2 and 10 months, and is opening a store, Happybottomus, next month in downtown Lee's Summit that will carry attachment parenting supplies such as fabric slings and offer classes. "Parents make their own choices based on their research."

Some tenets of attachment parenting are controversial:

Co-sleeping

Amy Lande, a child and family therapist in Overland Park, says attachment parenting is based on the work of British psychoanalyst John Bowlby in the 1950s. She believes the original principles are solid but fears today's attachment parenting has evolved into a new form she



MCT photo/Jim Barcus

Tara Smith, of Overland Park, Kansas, wears her 2-month-old son Ronan in a fabric sling she sewed. Smith is committed to attachment parenting, a child-raising style that advocates extensive physical contact between parents and child as a way of strengthening the familial bond.

thinks can be dangerous, especially when parents and their children sleep in one bed. "It's a safety issue, especially when you have an infant, adults, blankets and pillows," says Lande, who counseled a client

who slept with her baby and the infant suffocated.

The American Academy of Pediatrics also cautions against parent-and-child co-sleeping because of the risk of suffocation. Some parents who practice attachment parenting use co-sleep mattresses that secure to the parents' bed or keep bassinets or cribs in the master bedroom so they can easily breast-feed in the middle of the night.

But some parents who use a king-size bed believe they can safeguard the infant by positioning him or her away from pillows and fluffy bedding. Attachment Parenting International, an organization based in Alpharetta, Ga., advises co-sleeping only for parents who don't use drugs, alcohol or sleep medications and who have a firm mattress.

Parental intimacy

That's the first thing people ask about attachment parenting because of co-sleeping, attachment parents say. They point out that intimacy doesn't have to happen in the bedroom.

"You just have to be creative," Smith says.

Lande has reservations. "I don't think it's good for adults and their relationship. I have a lot of clients who have problems getting their children out of their beds," she says.

See **BONDING**, Page 9A

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vant during those picky toddler years. Plus, it's comforting and nurturing."

Smith's husband, Derek Smith, at first thought it was weird seeing mothers breast-feeding toddlers.

"The kids can talk," he told his mother, a lactation consultant. "She replied, 'So what?' I didn't have an argument to that."

Dads

Attachment parenting often revolves around moms and their kids. Dawud Hasam remembers feeling left out for the first few months of his son's life.

"Breast-feeding just kind of naturally does that with dads," he says.

But Hasam says he bonded with his infant son because he was best at swaddling him, wrapping him up like a burrito in a blanket, and rocking him. Hasam also carried his son around the house in a backpack carrier.

Derek Smith has carried his kids next to his body in fabric slings and has fed them pumped breast milk from bottles.

Discipline

A major aspect of attachment parenting is positive discipline, which means consequences for actions are explained without raising voices or spanking. Many attachment parents don't give timeouts.

"With negative discipline, more is caught than

taught," Ro-Trock says. "It shows the child it's OK to yell and argue."

But Lande says attachment parenting can go overboard, especially when it comes to positive discipline.

"I think it can foster dependency if you meet every need of children toddler-age and older," she says. "Kids need to learn there are good and bad choices and that it's OK to fail. They need the chance to become their own person."

The 8 ideals of attachment parenting

Preparation for childbirth: Making decisions about birth that allow for immediate bonding between mother and baby.

Emotional responsiveness: Being connected to the baby's physical needs and spending enjoyable time interacting.

Breast-feeding: Baby wearing: Using a fabric sling or soft carrier to create close physical contact.

Shared sleep: Sleeping

in the same bed so the child is close by for breast-feeding.

Avoiding frequent or prolonged separations from a baby: If both parents work, having a consistent, loving caregiver is the next best option.

Positive discipline: Setting limits for a child in a warm, loving manner.

Maintaining balance in family life: Avoiding "parent burn out" by not neglecting personal needs.

Source: attachmentparenting.org

BONDING

Continued from Page 8A

Extended breast-feeding

American Academy of Pediatrics recommends breast-feeding infants for at least one year for developmental and bonding benefits. But they say children should be given whole milk between the ages of 1 and 2 to get dietary fats needed for development.

Many attachment parents breast-feed their children longer, even past the age of 3. Pediatricians say it's OK as long as the child also gets whole

milk.

Smith breast-fed her son, Aden, until he was 21 months old. She also gave him whole milk.

"I considered breast-feeding like giving a vitamin tablet," Smith says. "That's especially rele-

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Man gets 28 years in \$190 million investment scam

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An 81-year-old man was sentenced to 28 years in prison Friday in an investment scam that prosecutors say seeped across half the country and bilked 1,800 people, many of them elderly, of about \$190 million.

John Heath, who was convicted last month alongside his son Daniel Heath and another man, also was ordered to pay \$117 million in restitution to the clients who invested directly through him.

He dabbed at his eyes during the hearing and left court in a wheelchair. Jurors found the three guilty of running a Ponzi scheme that funneled money from new investors to pay off people who had already pumped in cash. John Heath was convicted on 52 counts including grand theft, selling false securities and theft from the elderly.

About 100 letters from victims were sent to the Riverside County Superior Court, and about a dozen of them were read to Judge Ronald Taylor, said Ingrid Wyatt, a spokeswoman for the district attorney's office. The notes talked about how the victims' lives had been affected after learning their investments with Daniel W. Heath & Associates had been lost.

Some of Heath's adult children spoke at the hearing, pleading for leniency for their father. Heath's attorney, Chad Firetag, asked the judge for probation, citing his client's age and failing health. Firetag has said the elder Heath wasn't

aware of the scam and had enough trust in his son that he plowed his own commissions back into the investments.

Prosecutors said the company ran a scam dating back to the early 1990s that promised clients their money would go into fixed investments with little or no risk. Instead, it went to money-losing real estate and small business projects controlled by the company that had offices across Southern California.

Investors have had some money returned, but a court-appointed receiver said they will get only about 22 cents on every dollar.

Company president Daniel W. Heath, 51, was convicted of nearly 400 counts and could face up to 100 years in prison. A former business associate, Denis O'Brien, 53, could face up to 30 years in prison. Both men are to be sentenced in the coming weeks.

Another business associate, Larre Schlarmann, is serving a 15-year prison term after pleading guilty in 2005 to money laundering and fraud for his involvement in the scheme.

Southern Methodist University in Dallas will host Bush presidential library

DALLAS (AP) — Southern Methodist University will be home to George W. Bush's presidential library, officials formally announced Friday after a yearlong

approval process that some faculty and religious opponents failed to derail.

The decision became official as SMU's board of trustees approved an agreement with the Bush Foundation, which will manage construction and raise money for the project, expected to cost more than \$200 million.

The only surprise was when — not if — the deal would be announced. First lady Laura Bush is an SMU graduate, and the couple is expected to live in Dallas when Bush leaves office next January.

The library, museum and public policy institute will be on the east part of the 11,000-student, private university in one of Dallas's wealthiest neighborhoods.

The library and museum will be run by the National Archives and Records Administration, while the institute will be run by the foundation.

SMU was named the lone finalist in December 2006, edging out the University of Dallas — which withdrew a month later — and Baylor University in Waco near the Bushes' Crawford ranch, which still held out hope for hosting the library until recently.

The Bush Foundation and institute will have separate boards of directors elected every year, but each will have at least one member from SMU. The university and institute also will create an academic advisory committee with representatives from SMU and the

foundation to examine joint ventures.

Last spring semester the issue dominated many SMU Faculty Senate meetings as some members voiced their opposition, mostly to the partisan think tank that will promote the Bush administration's views and will not be under SMU's control.

Some Methodist ministers also joined the fray, launching an online petition drive that garnered about 11,000 signatures from those opposed to

SMU hosting the library, museum and institute. The group said some Bush administration policies — going to war with Iraq, torturing foreign prisoners — conflict with church teachings.

Despite Friday's announcement, one of the petition organizers said the fight is not over.

The Rev. Andrew Weaver said that although a Methodist mission council gave SMU permission last year to lease land for the project, delegates from a larger

church body must vote on that decision. There also could be a lawsuit, he said.

"It's David vs. Goliath, but the first time that fight went on, David did win," said Weaver, a New York research psychologist who graduated from SMU's Perkins School of Theology.

Texas also has the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station and Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum in Austin.

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Howard County Sheriff, Republican Party



Gary Morgan, age not provided, director of environmental services, Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Veterans Home
High school football letterman, all-state, college football, all-conference with Flint Jr. College, University of Michigan, Chattanooga State and the University of NE Alabama. Degree in mechanical engineering, contractors license (HVAC) and master gas

fitters license.

1. What unique perspective or experience do you feel makes you the best candidate for Howard County Sheriff?

I served with the best and highly trained servicemen in the Army. I was a military intelligence specialist, recon scout and trained with the Ranger School at Fort Benning, Ga. I served in Germany and had a top secret clearance. I trained with the Navy Seals on beach assaults at Little Creek, Va. I trained on every weapon the Army had at that time. I trained soldiers in jungle warfare, escape and evasion, map reading, mine warfare, light weapons and survival. I can train deputies and run a sheriff's depart-

ment and control a budget.

I have a tremendous amount of education and administrative experience running businesses. Budgets are a big concern to the public, but the problem facing the jail is the rising cost of fuel, food and maintenance, and this will bring a burden on the department. If we don't have a preventative maintenance program in place, we will be back in the same bind we were in with the old jail.

The things that I will be most concerned with are the maintenance and care of the cars, insurance care and health of the deputies. I will be looking for better prices for the products that we use, such as uniforms for the prisoners, food and supplies. The new jail is not going to be under the

umbrella of the courthouse and it is a stand alone building. I now run a 76,300-square-foot building and I am familiar with the cost of running a building of this size and its upkeep and maintenance. I now have 146 residents and we can house up to 160.

2. With the construction of a new county jail facility imminent, what do you see as the biggest challenge facing its administration and how do you propose to overcome it?

I have been in construction management and life safety for 18 years and I have had projects as high as \$56 million for an ambulatory care center at Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn. I have been through many state and

federal inspections of my facilities and I am up to date on life safety and fire codes.

3. Other than the implementation of the new jail, what do you see as the most critical issue facing the sheriff's office in the coming years, and how would you handle it if elected?

I feel the biggest thing the new sheriff will have to face is to bring the department up to the standards the public expects of it. I feel I can accomplish this through communication with the public.

My grandfather was a professional police officer in Chattanooga for 38 years. I did say professional. They took pride in being an officer. People looked up to them

and respected them. I saw a decline in status in the 1960s with the so-called peace movement, and even up to today. The officers of today have a much harder time getting respect from the public, but they are still professionals and it will take more effort on my part as sheriff, if elected, to bring the trust and integrity and confidence back to you, the ones we protect.

We need to be more visible, friendly, courteous and respectful to you, the public. I will give you everything I have to give to make it a better sheriff's department. I feel it is one of the greatest honors I will ever have, being the sheriff of Howard County.



Stan Parker, 43, self-employed small business owner with an associate degree from Howard College, graduate of Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas with a Master Texas Peace Officer Certification.

1. What unique perspective or experience do you feel makes you the best candidate for Howard County Sheriff?

I have almost 20 years law enforcement experience, seven of those being in an administrative position. I currently operate a successful local business. Being able to combine my law enforcement experience and business experience gives me the unique ability to operate the sheriff's office with a better perspective of business administration and law enforcement operations.

I understand how important it is to keep expenses down but also not compromise the safety and security of employees or the citizens we serve. I have lived here all of my life. My wife Shelley, who is an accountant at Alon USA, and I have been married for 22 years. We have raised our two kids — Kade, 17, and Chelsey, 12 — here in Howard

County. Howard County is very important to us it has been our home and will continue to be our home.

2. With the construction of a new county jail facility imminent, what do you see as the biggest challenge facing its administration and how do you propose to overcome it?

The new jail will face many challenges. As with any new building, I want to get in and identify any problems in a timely manner and start addressing them. Once any issues with the build are addressed, it will be important to assess the budget and expenses of the facility to ensure it is running efficiently and within budget.

With these concerns about the new jail, I took the time to visit the

Lamb County Jail, which was constructed by the same company that is constructing our jail. I spent time watching the operations of the facility and talked in length with the jail administrator about the likes and dislikes of their facility. This gives me a better working knowledge of the facility and some ideas of what to expect of the new jail once it opens.

3. Other than the implementation of the new jail, what do you see as the most critical issue facing the sheriff's office in the coming years, and how would you handle it if elected?

Getting the budget under control is going to

be the most critical issue. According to public records in the Howard County auditors office, when the current sheriff took office his expenditures were \$1.48 million, and at the end of 2007 his expenditures were \$2.93 million, a 97 percent increase.

It is critical to this county that the budget be properly administered and unnecessary spending be stopped immediately. Law enforcement is a profession that changes quickly. Hiring qualified people is becoming increasingly difficult. Crime is rapidly growing all over the country. These issues have to be addressed now.

Community involvement is now more important than ever. You have to have the community's

support and confidence to be effective. Our schools are a critical point in this process. I feel it is important to have a good working relationship with the school administrators, as well as the students themselves. Working in the communities and schools is a must.

The budget is also a factor in this process. I realize the money spent on law enforcement comes from taxpayers, and I have to be responsible for those expenditures and ensure the money spent on law enforcement is spent wisely because I realize it is your money and you want the most out of it.



Dale L. Walker, 45, Howard County Sheriff. I was born and raised in Howard County and was elected Sheriff of Howard County in November 2000. I took office on Jan. 1, 2001. I am a licensed Texas Peace Officer with a Master Certificate level, Texas' highest certificate level in law enforcement. I am the only Republican candidate that holds a Jailer License, and I hold a Law Enforcement Instructor Certificate. I am current with all state requirements and training hours. I have over 23 years of hands on experience in county law enforcement as a peace officer, jailer and a sheriff. I have two terms experience and hard work as a county sheriff. I have handled the stressful decisions and issues that a sheriff must be capable of handling 24 hours a day — seven days a week — 365 days a year, while maintaining my faith, my family and my job.

1. What unique perspective or experience do you feel makes you the best candidate for Howard County Sheriff?

My experiences as I listed above are mostly related to the sheriff's office. I have had the pleasure of learning under other sheriffs' administrations of "what works and doesn't work" in a sheriff's office. I have retained good working relations with those still in office.

A sheriff is responsible for so many financial reports, quite unique to any other law enforcement experience, i.e. civil processes (serving of subpoenas, writs, forcible detainers, tax warrants, protective orders and various suits), inmate fund accounts, forfeiture funds, etc. I am the only candidate that has this wide array of experience. These requirements are a huge responsibility and personal liability for a sheriff and they must be managed closely.

As your sheriff, I see to it the public is protected by hiring well trained and qualified patrol deputies that are involved with the communities we serve. When Howard County was faced with a homicide, I saw to it that each case was investigated with the highest priority. Since elected in 2000, every homicide case my agency worked was solved, with the persons responsible convicted with long prison sentences, a record I am very proud of. I give this credit to my excellent staff. They all work long hours and most have multiple inter-departmental responsibilities, a common issue with small departments.

I have attended more than 2,100 hours of specific training in my field of work. I have literally worked thousands of hours on the current and future jail for Howard County. I have worked closely with the Texas Commission on Jail Standards for seven years. I have a working knowledge of the state requirements and have personally seen to it the standards are followed by my well trained and responsible jail staff.

On numerous occasions over the past five years, the commissioners, my jail administrator and myself have traveled all over Texas and New Mexico touring newly constructed county jails, getting ideas and concepts for the new jail project. An old, wise sheriff-friend once told me it really takes about eight years for a sheriff to learn how to do his job. I have learned a tremendous amount as sheriff for the past seven-plus years, through my mistakes and successes. This on-the-job experience makes me unique, and better qualified to continue the job as your sheriff.

2. With the construction of a new county jail facility imminent, what do you see as the biggest challenge facing its administration and how do you propose to overcome it?

Something is a challenge only if you are not prepared for it. There are several issues that are

See WALKER, Page 13A

ELECT STAN PARKER FOR HOWARD COUNTY SHERIFF

I have almost 20 years law enforcement experience, seven of those being in an administrative position. I currently operate a successful local business. Being able to combine my law enforcement experience and business experience gives me the unique ability to operate the Sheriff's office with a better perspective of business administration and law enforcement operations. I understand how important it is to keep expenses down but also not compromise the safety and security of employees or citizens we serve.

I have lived in Howard County all of my life. My wife Shelley and I have been married for 22 years; she is an accountant with Alon. We have raised our two kids here in Howard County, Kade 17 and Chelsey 12. Howard County is very important to us it has been our home and will continue to be our home.



I am asking for your Vote,
Please Vote Stan Parker
for
Howard County Sheriff

**Early Voting starts February 19, 2008
Primary Election is on March 4, 2008**

PD. POL. ADV. BY STAN PARKER

OFFICIAL BALLOT (BOLETA OFICIAL)		REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION (ELECCIÓN PRIMARIA DEL PARTIDO REPUBLICANO)	
(Condado de) Howard County, Texas March 4, 2008 (4 de marzo, 2008)			
FEDERAL FEDERAL	STATE ESTADO	COUNTY CONDADO	
President (Presidente)	Chief Justice, Supreme Court (Jefe Presidente, Corte Suprema)	County Attorney (Fiscal del Condado)	
<input type="radio"/> Alan Keyes	<input type="radio"/> Wallace B. Jefferson	<input type="radio"/> Joshua Hamby	
<input type="radio"/> Hugh Cort	Justice, Supreme Court, Place 7 (Jefe, Corte Suprema, Lugar Núm. 7)	Sheriff (Sherife)	
<input type="radio"/> Rudy Giuliani	<input type="radio"/> Dale Wainwright	<input type="radio"/> Stan Parker	
<input type="radio"/> Mike Huckabee	Justice, Supreme Court, Place 8 (Jefe, Corte Suprema, Lugar Núm. 8)	<input type="radio"/> Gary Morgan	
<input type="radio"/> Hoa Tran	<input type="radio"/> Phil Johnson	<input type="radio"/> Dale L. Walker	
<input type="radio"/> Fred Thompson	Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 3 (Jefe, Corte de Apelaciones Criminales, Lugar Núm. 3)	County Tax Assessor-Collector (Asesor-Collector de Impuestos del Condado)	
<input type="radio"/> Mitt Romney	<input type="radio"/> Tom Price	<input type="radio"/> Kathy A. Sayles	
<input type="radio"/> Duncan Hunter	Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 4 (Jefe, Corte de Apelaciones Criminales, Lugar Núm. 4)	County Commissioner, Precinct No. 1 (Comisionado del Condado, Precincto Núm. 1)	
<input type="radio"/> John McCain	<input type="radio"/> Robert Francis	<input type="radio"/> Edwin O. Ware	
<input type="radio"/> Ron Paul	<input type="radio"/> Paul Womack	County Commissioner, Precinct No. 3 (Comisionado del Condado, Precincto Núm. 3)	
Uncommitted (No Comprometido)	Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 9 (Jefe, Corte de Apelaciones Criminales, Lugar Núm. 9)	<input type="radio"/> W. Paschal Odom	
United States Senator (Senador de los Estados Unidos)	State Senator, District 31 (Senador Estatal, Distrito Núm. 31)	<input type="radio"/> Steve Gray	
<input type="radio"/> John Cornyn	<input type="radio"/> Cathy Cochran	<input type="radio"/> Fred Green	
<input type="radio"/> Larry Kilgore	State Representative, District 85 (Representante Estatal, Distrito Núm. 85)	<input type="radio"/> Jimmie Long	
United States Representative, District 19 (Representante de los Estados Unidos, Distrito Núm. 19)	Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 1, Place 1 (Jefe de Paz, Precincto Núm. 1, Lugar Núm. 1)	<input type="radio"/> Bennie Green	
<input type="radio"/> Randy Neugebauer	<input type="radio"/> Kel Seliger	Constable, Precinct No. 1 (Condestable, Precincto Núm. 1)	
STATE ESTADO	Justice, 11th Court of Appeals District, Place 2 (Jefe, Corte de Apelaciones, Distrito Núm. 11, Lugar Núm. 2)	<input type="radio"/> Kneel Stallings	
Railroad Commissioner (Comisionado de Ferrocarriles)	State Representative, District 85 (Representante Estatal, Distrito Núm. 85)	County Chairman (Presidente del Condado)	
<input type="radio"/> Michael L. Williams	<input type="radio"/> Isaac M. Castro	<input type="radio"/> Margarita Durand-Hollis	
	District Attorney, 118th Judicial District (Fiscal del Distrito, Distrito Judicial Núm. 118)	<input type="radio"/> Hardy Wilkerson	

WALKER

Continued from Page 12A

my responsibility as sheriff to address, but fortunately I am equipped to handle them. Contrary to what ill-informed or uninformed opponents are saying, I have had the extensive and well documented travels to so many jails throughout the country and received specialized training pertaining to their design and operations over the past several years. I am intimately involved with the operational, mechanical, life safety, clerical, administrative, security electronics and software systems of this jail, as the designers and architects have sought my input on cost effectiveness and operational applications of these systems. This is another reason I have traveled and learned the particulars on many of these systems allowing me to offer educated opinions and suggestions for this facility.

I have involved my staff in the process as well, so when the day comes to transition to the new jail my administration will be up to speed and on the same page without having the hurdle of trying to educate someone without this type of experience. This is a process that has been ongoing for all eight years of my administration, not just the last few months that my opponents have been involved. Touring a jail is one thing. Designing and developing specifications is a whole other matter, and one that requires a working knowledge and relationship with the state jail commission. The Police Department jail does not fall under these guidelines and is operated in a much different manner.

I am experienced in handling the transfer of large groups of inmates between facilities. I have conducted drills and training on this process. I am the only sheriff in this county's history to do this preparation and training. I have developed the relationships and inter-agency agreement contracts necessary to make this transfer happen. My staff and I are conducting training sessions to revise and renew the safety and operational plans and policies that are needed for the new facility, so when the moment comes they can walk in there fully trained and ready for a smooth transition.

3. Other than the implementation of the new jail, what do you see as the most critical issue facing the sheriff's office in the coming years, and how would you handle it if elected?

The most serious issue this county will continue to face is the amount of revenue in tax dollars received versus outgoing expenses. Due to this, each department will face budgetary issues that

affect how their services can be delivered to the community. I am currently working closely with my staff, the commissioners court, administrators of similar-sized modern facilities and the state jail commission, preparing a proper staffing and operational budget for the new Howard County Detention Center.

With the new facility having 96 beds, we should start off with some open beds which I plan to lease to other counties, providing immediate revenue for the county. I intend to prove that this county can be proactive and produce revenue when given the opportunity. This added revenue can be used to offset other budgetary expenses for the jail. I also intend to continue pursuing grant options for needed items we do not have the budget to provide. Some grants are also available for educational programs for the inmates.

A good example of using grants is our grant we already received to obtain a AFIS (live scan) fingerprint system for the jail. This system has proven to be effective in identifying individuals who gave false identification to officers at the time of arrest. By simply scanning a person's fingerprints through this system we can identify a person in a matter of minutes, instead of hand rolling fingerprints on a card and mailing them to be identified in several days.

We have also worked closely with the Big Spring State Hospital and have identified two missing "John Doe's" suffering with amnesia or other related mental conditions. I have always tried to move the progress of the department forward with new technologies and equipment, while remaining under budget.

The area of the jail budget that neither I nor the commissioners court can predict or have complete control over is the numbers of arrests of individuals by officers within the jurisdiction of Howard County. With increasing arrests and incarcerations statewide, the new facility will bring the relief we need locally to reduce the cost of leasing beds and traveling elsewhere.

This has been such a frustrating time for all of us, and I am proud to say we can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel with the new facility plans of opening in late 2008. I ask that you, the voting citizens of Howard County realize that this campaign is not about who has the most signs. This race is about honesty, integrity and dependability. I have been in office as your Sheriff for 7-plus years and have shown through my leadership that I meet the above criteria. I am honest, I have integrity and I am dependable. I have been there... I will be there.

Local candidates

Howard County Sheriff (four-year term)
• Gary Morgan (Republican)
• Stan Parker (Republican)
• Pat Carter (Democrat)
• Dale Walker (Republican)

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1 Place 1 (four-year term)
• Bennie Green (incumbent, Republican)

County commissioners, Precincts 1 (four-year term)
• Yolanda Mendoza (Democrat)
• Emma Brown (Democrat)
• Edwin O. Ware (Republican)

County commissioners, Precincts 3 (four-year term)
• Dick Dubose (Democrat)
• Winston Paschal Odom (Republican)
• Jimmie Wayne Long (Republican)
• Steve Gray (Republican)
• Fred Green (Republican)

Tax Assessor-Collector (four-year term)
• Kathy Sayles (incumbent, Republican)

County Attorney (four-year term)
• Mike Thomas (incumbent, Democrat)
• Josh Hamby

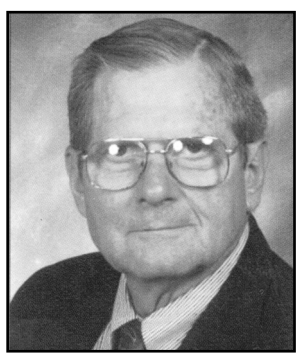
Constable, Precinct 1 (four-year term)
• Bill Holden (Democrat)
• Kneel B. Stallings (Republican)

District Attorney (four-year term)
• Hardy Wilkerson (Republican)

PARTY REFERENDUM REFERENDUM DEL PARTIDO
<p>INSTRUCTION NOTE: Darken in the oval provided to the left of the statement indicating the way you desire to vote.</p> <p>(NOTA DE INSTRUCCIÓN: Llene completamente el espacio ovalado a la izquierda de la frase que indica la manera en que quiere votar.)</p> <p>Immigration Federal, state, and local officials should be required to enforce U.S. immigration laws in order to secure our borders.</p> <p>(Inmigración) (Oficiales del condado, del estado, y del gobierno federal deben requerir que las leyes migratorias sean enforzadas para asegurar la seguridad de nuestras fronteras.)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES (SI) <input type="radio"/> NO (NO)</p>
<p>Photo ID The Texas Legislature should make it a priority to protect the integrity of our election process by enacting legislation that requires voters to provide valid photo identification in order to cast a ballot in any and all elections conducted in the State of Texas.</p> <p>(Identificación con foto) (La Legislatura del Estado de Tejas debe proteger la integridad de nuestro proceso electoral en pasando la ley requiriendo identificación con foto para poder votar en cualquier elección en el Estado de Tejas.)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES (SI) <input type="radio"/> NO (NO)</p>

PARTY REFERENDUM REFERENDUM DEL PARTIDO
<p>Controlling Government Growth Every governmental body in Texas should be required to limit any annual increase in its budget and spending to the combined increase of population and inflation unless it first gets voter approval to exceed the allowed annual growth or in the case of an official state of emergency.</p> <p>(Controlando el crecimiento del gobierno) (Cada cuerpo gubernamental en el Estado de Tejas debe ser requerido a limitar sus aumentos anuales en el presupuesto y gastos en acordancia con los aumentos de población y inflación, al menos que sea aprobado por el voto de la población para exceder el presupuesto aprobado o un estado de emergencia.)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES (SI) <input type="radio"/> NO (NO)</p>

Elect
W. Paschal Odom
Republican Candidate for
Howard Co. Commissioner
Precinct 3



- Born, raised & worked in Big Spring
- Engineering graduate from Texas A&M with nation-wide engineering & construction experience
- Managed \$500 million projects and was superintendent for a Cape Canaveral launch facility

An independent-minded responsible taxpayer running in the Republican Primary who pledges to represent all the concerns of all citizens in Howard County

OFFICIAL BALLOT (BOLETA OFICIAL)		DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION (ELECCIÓN PRIMARIA DEL PARTIDO DEMOCRÁTICO)	
(Condado de) Howard County, Texas March 4, 2008 (4 de marzo, 2008)			
FEDERAL FEDERAL	STATE ESTADO	COUNTY CONDADO	
President (Presidente) <input type="radio"/> Barack Obama <input type="radio"/> Joe Biden <input type="radio"/> John Edwards <input type="radio"/> Bill Richardson <input type="radio"/> Christopher J. Dodd <input type="radio"/> Hillary Clinton	Chief Justice, Supreme Court (Juez Presidente, Corte Suprema) <input type="radio"/> Jim Jordan Justice, Supreme Court, Place 7 (Juez, Corte Suprema, Lugar Núm. 7) <input type="radio"/> Baltasar D. Cruz <input type="radio"/> Sam Houston Justice, Supreme Court, Place 8 (Juez, Corte Suprema, Lugar Núm. 8) <input type="radio"/> Susan Criss <input type="radio"/> Linda Reyna Yañez	Sheriff (Sherife) <input type="radio"/> Pat Carter County Commissioner, Precinct 1 (Comisionado del Condado, Precincto 1) <input type="radio"/> Emma Puga Brown <input type="radio"/> Yolanda Deleon Mendoza County Commissioner, Precinct 3 (Comisionado del Condado, Precincto 3) <input type="radio"/> James (Dick) Dubose	
United States Senator (Senador de los Estados Unidos) <input type="radio"/> Richard J. (Rick) Noriega <input type="radio"/> Ray McMurrey <input type="radio"/> Rhett R. Smith <input type="radio"/> Gene Kelly	Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 3 (Juez, Corte de Apelaciones Criminales, Lugar Núm. 3) <input type="radio"/> Susan Strawn Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 4 (Juez, Corte de Apelaciones Criminales, Lugar Núm. 4) <input type="radio"/> J.R. Molina	Constable, Precinct No. 1 (Condestable, Precincto Núm. 1) <input type="radio"/> Bill Holden County Chairman (Presidente del Condado) <input type="radio"/> Ro Gore	
United States Representative, District 19 (Representante de los Estados Unidos, Distrito Núm. 19) <input type="radio"/> Dwight Fullingim <input type="radio"/> Rufus Mark	State Representative, District 85 (Representante Estatal, Distrito Núm. 85) <input type="radio"/> Joe Hefflin		
Railroad Commissioner (Comisionado de Ferrocarriles) <input type="radio"/> Mark Thompson <input type="radio"/> Dale Henry <input type="radio"/> Art Hall	County Attorney (Fiscal del Condado) <input type="radio"/> C. E. (Mike) Thomas III		

Commissioner Pct. 1, Democratic Party



Emma Brown, age not provided, Howard County Commissioner Precinct 1. Has served on the Big Spring Main Street board of directors, the ambulance committee and is a member of A.R.C.

1. Departmental fund balances for Howard County are at all-time lows. How do you propose to replenish those funds, and how do propose to maintain healthy fund balances and reserves in the future?

With the new jail we will have more room for inmates. By jail standards, we have not been able to house women here in Big Spring. With the new jail we will be able to house women. As of right now, we still have to transport women and men to other counties which costs money.

Therefore, by housing all inmates, men and women, we will be able to help build up the balance.

2. What unique perspective or experience do you feel makes you the best candidate for Howard County commissioner?

I have been a Howard County commissioner for three terms. Every year we are required by the state of Texas to attend 16 hours of continuing education. I have always exceeded these required hours to help solve the problems here in Howard County. I have done this and gained experience and knowledge on county government.

3. With taxes in the Howard County area already elevated due to several recent bond issues, what will you do as commissioner to ease the tax burden on the taxpayers?

I will make every attempt to keep expenses down and watch the budget very carefully to avoid any future tax increases on the taxpayers. I have the interest of my precinct always in mind.

Commissioner Pct. 3, Republican Party



Stephen W. Gray, 43, service center superintendent for the city of Big Spring

I have an associates degree in applied sciences from Howard College, was named the 2002 Supervisor of the Year at the city of Big Spring and have served on a Moore Board subcommittee and on the parks board. I am active in several service organizations, such as Boy Scouts, Sheriff's Posse and Midland Mounted Patrol search and rescue unit. I am also an active member in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

1. Departmental fund balances for Howard County are at all-time lows. How do you propose to replenish those funds, and how do propose to maintain healthy fund balances and reserves in the future?

There are a limited number of ways to increase any fund balance. These are reduce spending, increase taxes, increase tax collection rate, fees and fines, receive grants and reim-

bursements from private and other government entities.

The commissioners court is ultimately responsible for spending. The county spends money for outside services and products just like any business. The more repairs, maintenance and upgrades that can be done by county employees or inmate labor, the better the budget will look.

As citizens in Howard County, we all pay taxes as private individuals or businesses. The tax office usually allows for a 3 percent delinquency rate. The county needs to continue to try to collect on delinquent taxes. The Moore Board works with the local taxing entities, getting tax abatements to attract new businesses or help with business expansion. Once the abatement period runs out, these businesses need to pay the full amount of their taxes. When taxes are not paid, it may affect your road maintenance, our schools ability to teach our children effectively and hamper advance education opportunities in our county.

In visiting with department heads at the county, I have been impressed with how much they try get state and federal reimbursements and try to get grants for new equipment. The commissioners court needs to further encourage these hard working people to do all they can in this area.

The commissioners court needs to take better care of the infrastructure

we already have. It concerns me when I go into the library and see where the roof has been leaking. We must not let all our attention be directed toward the new jail and let our other buildings deteriorate. A proactive approach is always better than a "we'll get to it sometime" attitude.

The county needs to do better than "break even" every year. We need an operating reserve of at least six months. I believe most of us understand having financial difficulties in our own lives. Very seldom is there a quick fix to repair personal finances and the county is no different. Getting the budget back on track and the county's reserves built up won't happen overnight, but it will happen with a very conservative spending attitude, a willingness to embrace new thinking and being proactive about our county's future.

2. What unique perspective or experience do you feel makes you the best candidate for Howard County commissioner?

I have been employed in municipal government for 19 years and have been in the ditches, worked on garbage trucks, run the loaders, dozers and dump trucks. I've helped on numerous "special projects" within the city and community. I assembled the team of people who disassembled, transported then reassembled the majority of airplanes at Hanger 25.

I've helped with the golf course renovation and raised money for the Kids Zone project.

I enter my department budget yearly. My staff and I work through our budget line by line. Usually, we have to repeat the process several times before we come up with a completed budget that is ready to send for approval. I've had to move money around from line to line to keep an existing budget in the black. Sometimes that means having to cut items that my department needs.

I also spend several hundred hours a year helping administration

See **GRAY**, Page 16A



Yolanda Mendoza, 57, Howard County deputy clerk, City of Big Spring Traffic Commission board member.

1. Departmental fund balances for Howard County are at all-time lows. How do you propose to replenish those funds, and how do propose to maintain healthy fund balances and reserves in the future?

In order to replenish county funds we need to control spending. During budget workshops it should be made clear to department heads they should see that spending on items that are not necessarily need to be done away with. Spend only on what will be used.

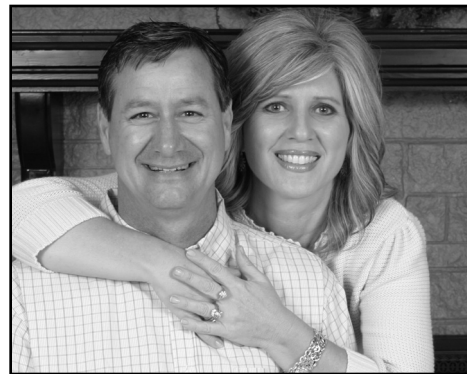
Control of county vehicle usage should be implemented. County vehicles should only be used for county purposes. The cost of fuel is extremely high. Using county vehicles for personal use should be prohibited.

Criminal fines should be collected. Allowing the people that owe fines to lay out their time in jail is only costing the county more money. Those individuals have to be fed and housed. Not only does the room and board cost the county, but the original fine is still not met.

2. What unique perspective or experience do you feel makes you the best candidate for Howard County commissioner?

I have been intermediate director for the two previous employers, one being the Senior Citizens Center which was under the management of Howard County. During the time I was employed by the Senior Center, I managed all of the office work and maintained the yearly budget, which was

See **MENDOZA**, Page 16A



Elect JIMMIE LONG
Republican For Howard County
Commissioner Precinct 3
www.electjimmie.org

I am asking the citizens who live in Precinct 3 for the opportunity to serve them as their representative in the Commissioner Court in this upcoming Republican March Primary.

- Life long resident of Howard County
- Extended family has made Howard County their home for 6 generations
- I have 17 years experience as a farmer in Howard County.
- I am an experienced business man who has handled a 16 million dollar budget as VP of Alemat Corp. for the last 12 years and I am currently Co-owner of Faith Builders, a residential construction contractor.
- I will be dedicated to making decisions that are in the best interest of all generations of Howard County residents.
- I will be a proactive voice in identifying problem areas and finding sensible solutions.
- I will bring a balanced view of what is good for both the citizens in the rural areas as well as the city.

My name is Jimmie Long and I am asking for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Precinct 3 progressively today for our tomorrow

Commissioner Pct. 3, Republican Party



Green," vote Fred Green for County Commissioner Precinct 3

1. Departmental fund balances for Howard County are at all-time lows. How do you propose to replenish those funds, and how do you propose to maintain healthy fund balances and reserves in the future?

I believe in maintaining a healthy fund balance and financial accountability in all county departments. I will be thorough with the budget and county invoices. I will meet with department heads and look for places where we

can save money. Repairing and maintaining our existing county equipment and infrastructure must be a priority. Our county's farmers, ranchers and oil industry account for a large percentage of our county's funding. We need to maintain good roads and bridges throughout our county so these people can do their jobs.

We need to take care of problems as they arise, not putting them off until they can not be fixed. We can not and should not put off needed repairs.

We need to work with our Moore Board to bring in new industry. Increasing our tax base

is the key to replenishing our fund balances and creating reserves. New industry will create more jobs. More jobs will bring new families. These industries and families will buy or build businesses and homes, bringing in more taxable revenue.

Creating a reserve fund is important because, as with all things, there are always unforeseen expenditures. A healthy reserve would serve as a safety net for those expenditures.

2. What unique perspective or experience do you feel makes you the best candidate for Howard County commissioner?

3. With taxes in the

I have successfully run KC Steakhouse for 30 years. I know how to run a business, and I think it's time we run our county like a business. I work with and enjoy serving a wide variety of people every day. This gives me a unique perspective.

As your county commissioner, I will continue to be easily accessible and responsive to all county taxpayers. If there is a problem, I will do my best to work with the other commissioners to find a positive resolution in a timely manner.

3. With taxes in the

Howard County area already elevated due to several recent bond issues, what will you do as commissioner to ease the tax burden on the taxpayers?

Our county's tax burden would be eased with the introduction of new industry and people. By increasing our tax base, we can spread the burden between a larger group of people. Our city officials and county commissioners need to continue to work together as a whole to reach creative solutions.



Jimmie Long, 46, Howard County farmer for 17 years, vice president of Alemat Corporation and co-owner of Faith Builders, a residential construction contractor.

I was born and raised in northern Howard County and have made it my home for 46 years. My wife, Kimberly, and I have been married 12 years and we attend Life Church in Big Spring. We have three children, Brad of Shreveport, La.; Amber of Lubbock; and Kyle and his wife, Rachel, of Big Spring; and a new grandson, Caden. Also, my extended family has made Howard County their home for over six generations.

My education includes being a graduate of Coahoma High School, certificate of completion in Petroleum Lease Management from Permian Basin Petroleum Institution of Midland, Life and Health Insurance License from the Texas State Board of Insurance, certificate of completion in Fastener Manufacturing and Purchasing of Domestic and Foreign Fasteners from the Los Angeles

Fasteners Association, and an Ordained Minister's License with Christ for the Nations in Dallas.

With my farming background, my duties included budgeting, banking and hands on experience. In 1987, I was awarded "Agriculture Producer of the year" for Howard County. My responsibilities at Alemat Corp. as vice president were purchasing, sale and transportation working with a \$16 million budget. As co-owner of Faith Builders, responsibilities include overseeing and maintaining a projected budget, organizing a team of sub-contractors and overseeing a residential construction.

1. Departmental fund balances for Howard County are at all-time lows. How do you propose to replenish those funds, and how do you propose to maintain healthy fund balances and reserves in the future?

Unfortunately the answers to this question are not going to be easy to hear, however, with patience and hard work I strongly believe that Howard County has the ability to replenish those funds and maintain the fund balances and reserves by changing the way we've done business in the past.

For approximately 40 years our county government has stayed at the same economic pace while the rest of the state of Texas has drastically advanced forward. Our first step would be to identify and separate

fixed contract expenses from flexible expenses. Fixed contracted expenses such as service contracts must be proactively renegotiated to reduce cost across the board.

Through these savings we would be taking our first step toward replenishing those funds and reserves.

Secondly, we must thoroughly examine our flexible expenses and minimize those as much as possible until our reserves can support such items. I want to make it clear that I do not support cuts considering our county employees. Quite to the contrary, I support cost of living and longevity raises for each year based on performance, just like most Americans receive. I've always believed that it is more cost efficient to support your current employees rather than dealing with turnover and training new ones, and I believe that anyone with business management experience would support that idea.

In order to maintain healthy fund balances our county must never spend more than what we deposit into the funds and reserves annually. We must stop the "Rob Peter to pay Paul" mentality that the county has used in the past. If Paul has a need, he must wait until his reserve is able to support those expenses. Through applying these changes I strongly believe that Howard County will be able to replenish and maintain those funds and reserves, and by doing so, be brought up to speed economically with the rest

of the state of Texas, as well as bring stability and opportunity for growth in our county in the future.

2. What unique perspective or experience do you feel makes you the best candidate for Howard County commissioner?

I believe that through my experience in farming for 17 years in this community, as well as my experience as vice president of Alemat Corp. and currently the co-owner of Faith Builders, I would bring a unique mix of hometown understanding and common sense, as well as big business logic to the table.

I strongly believe that in order for me to be prepared to become Howard County Commissioner for Precinct 3, I must approach this as if I were preparing to purchase a business. That is why I have been proactively preparing myself for the position. I began attending commissioners court in November of 2006, depending on the agenda, so I could be familiar with the day-to-day business, as well as the type of topics presented to the commissioners court.

Several months ago I also went to the courthouse and requested copies of the county's financial reports, as well as the individual department budgets, and I have studied them thoroughly to gain an understanding of where the county is at and what steps need to be taken in the immediate future. I believe if you fail to plan, you plan

to fail. As of Feb. 15, 2008, I am the only candidate in the Precinct 3 race to do so.

Rather than waiting to see if I am elected, I believe that my extensive preparation for this position gives me quite an advantage over the other candidates. Through reviewing our county's reports I discovered that some budgets have grown at a rate of 20 percent to 30 percent, while some have risen as high as much as 730 percent since 1999.

My review of these records also brought to my attention another tough challenge that Howard County will be facing in the next few years, which is the status of our landfill, which is scheduled to be closed by 2020. Howard County contributes annually to the operation of this facility while the city oversees operation of the facility and receives all the revenue. Howard County and the city of Big Spring also contribute funds annually each year into a savings account for the future purchase and relocation of the landfill. Unfortunately, as of this date, we are more than 50 percent behind in the estimation of funds needed. If elected, I would react now and make the necessary changes so that we can break the cycle of the past and be prepared for the future. I don't think anyone in Howard County wants to go through another situation similar to the jail bond issue and I would do everything in my power now to prevent that from happening 10

years later.

I know I've said this several times during my campaign, and I'll say it again. An ounce of prevention beats a pound of cure. Another unique perspective that I feel is that if elected, I will be a commissioner who represents the values, needs and opinions of all Howard County residents, not just one demographic or age range.

3. With taxes in the Howard County area already elevated due to several recent bond issues, what will you do as commissioner to ease the tax burden on the taxpayers?

I believe the citizens of Howard County as a whole want to see growth economically, physically and spiritually. I believe most citizens realize taxes are a part of living in this great nation and do not mind paying reasonable taxes, as long as they see their tax dollars being used wisely and not wasted. If elected, I pledge to work diligently at maintaining, and if possible, reducing our taxes. I'll be proactive at identifying problem areas and finding sensible solutions before the problem comes to a head. I will be dedicated to representing your interests and bringing a balanced voice to the commissioners court, and by doing so, I will ease the concerns of the tax payers in Howard County. I, Jimmie Long, will progressively serve you today for our tomorrow.



W. Paschal Odom, 71, retired engineer.

A Big Spring native, I graduated from Big Spring High School and have an engineering degree from Texas A&M. I am married with two grown children. My community is important to me. I serve on the Airport Board, Festival of Lights Committee, have worked on the hang gliding competition, the Citizen's Advisory Industrial Panel and am very active at my church where I have served as an officer and a volunteer.

I worked 21 years for

the Colorado River Municipal Water District as assistant manager.

Responsibilities included budget preparation and spending control, purchasing, hiring and training, maintenance, operations, pollution control, water conservation, water source utilization, designer of small projects and owner representative for the larger projects. The district more than doubled its water sources and miles of supply lines during these 21 years.

After leaving CRMWD, I went to work for Bechtel, one of the top engineering/construction companies in the world, on a project in Saudi Arabia overseeing the completion of a \$500 million industrial cooling water system. I stayed for three years and returned to the U.S. After a year, I then returned for three more years, with increasing responsibilities for operations and to modify the system as needed. These were completed.

I returned to the U.S. and my next project with Bechtel was at JFK Airport for a year. I then went to Houston Port for an automated cargo handling facility. The plant was a design/build facility. I stayed a year to make major modifications to the plant's operations. Bechtel then assigned me to a launch facility for the Titan IV rocket that was to launch the Mars Observer at Cape Canaveral. I was there for eight months, and then transferred to San Diego, Calif., for a project engineer's position for a 96-inch steel water line through parts of San Diego. I also worked for a year and was responsible for completion and start-up of a groundwater recharge system at Apple Valley, Calif.

I then went to work for Black & Veatch, a major engineering/construction firm in Kansas City, Mo., doing consulting work on different projects from California to Minnesota,

and parts in between. I worked on eight different projects. Most all of my work experience has been problem oriented that required budget and expenditure control to get the project completed at the least cost.

1. Departmental fund balances for Howard County are at all-time lows. How do you propose to replenish those funds, and how do you propose to maintain healthy fund balances and reserves in the future?

Being only one of four commissioners, I would only be able to have input to reduce expenses and be conservative with each of the various departments' budgets being closely controlled. I would like to use my result-oriented experience in budget preparation and control to aid in this. There is not one magic pill or cure-all available for this. The only way to increase

fund balances is to take care of the income stream and make the county more accountable on expenditures.

2. What unique perspective or experience do you feel makes you the best candidate for Howard County commissioner?

My years of work experience in budget preparation and construction controls were all results-oriented and would enable me to make reasonable decisions for the best efficient operation of Howard County. There are to be many decisions that will be made in the constructing, equipping and operating of the new jail. These decisions will make a large economic impact on the county's expenditures. I am an open minded person and will request any input and suggestions from the employees and citizens of Howard County for better operations.

I would like to visit

similar counties in Texas and also attend available conferences to expand knowledge to bring new concepts to Howard County. I have had unique experiences working and interfacing with professionals from all parts of the world that give me a different viewpoint.

3. With taxes in the Howard County area already elevated due to several recent bond issues, what will you do as commissioner to ease the tax burden on the taxpayers?

I would strive to be fair to all taxpayers in the county. Increase the tax base by attracting additional industries and grow Big Spring and Howard County. My major goal would be to make it attractive for the existing industries to expand and for new industries to move here.

GRAY

Continued from Page 14A

and department heads write specifications for new equipment, supplying real "apples to apples" comparisons to get the most cost effective equipment for the city. I thoroughly understand equipment leases, guaranteed buy-backs, extended warranty plans and billing procedures. Above all, the thing I am most proud of in my tenure with the city has been the team of people I assembled to work with. They are hard workers and innovative thinkers. As a team, we save taxpayer dollars every year.

I have "real world" experience in municipal government and have studied the county's budget. I am a very effective leader, very thorough at what I do and I never give up. I am the best

qualified candidate for Howard County commissioner Precinct 3.

3. With taxes in the Howard County area already elevated due to several recent bond issues, what will you do as commissioner to ease the tax burden on the taxpayers?

I will work my hardest to make sure our taxpayer dollars are stretched as far as they will go. The commissioners court needs to be more receptive to working with other taxing entities in our county. Currently, our local governments do not operate as a team for the betterment of our county. There is heavy equipment that is not shared between entities, which forces each entity to spend taxpayer dollars for multiple pieces of the same equipment. There are skills and abilities

that are not shared between the entities that sometimes cause unnecessary burdens. If the elected government leadership in our county cannot put their personal agendas aside and work together to build a better Howard County, you and I, as taxpayers, will always pay the price with elevated tax rates.

I will always do my best to work through county problems with an aggressive "can do" attitude. Much of Howard County's current financial difficulties were in reality caused by past commissioners courts that would not address the jail issue. I know I would have much rather paid construction costs for a new jail facility at 1980 prices, when concerns about our existing jail first arose. Now, all taxpayers have to bear the financial cost of what I see as mismanagement

by past commissioners. The blame rests squarely on their shoulders.

I will not vote for any unnecessary tax burden upon our citizens. I will go further and state that if there are any additional cuts that have to be made either in county personnel or operating budgets, the commissioners court should cut their

own salary at the same time. Elected leadership should lead by example. I will not ask any employee to suffer any financial hardship without me sharing the same fate. I do not believe in an "ivory tower" government.

If the commissioners court will watch expenditures, do as much work

in house as possible, and work with our surrounding cities' leadership, taxpayers will see their tax rates go down.

There is no "silver bullet" way to fix the county's finances. It will take dedicated consistent leadership coupled with a can-do attitude to solve this problem and get our taxpayers the lowest rate

MENDOZA

Continued from Page 14A

approved by the county judge. I worked at the Senior Center for eight years.

3. With taxes in the Howard County area already elevated due to several recent bond issues, what will you do as commissioner to ease the tax burden on the taxpayers?

Being a county employee and a taxpayer, I know what its like to have to make ends meet at the end of the year. I will do my best to keep property taxes from going up and using every tax dollar that is collected be spent wisely so future bond issues will not need to be raised again.

Polling Places

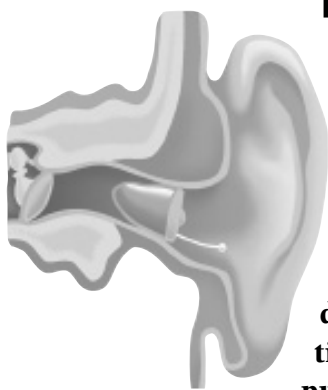
Howard County
Northside Fire Station: 11-14, 16, 103-105, 112
Life Church: 22, 24-26, 205, 208
Coahoma Community Center: 207, 207C, 408, 409
First Baptist Church: 33-35, 304
Dorothy Garrett Coliseum: 42, 44-46, 404-407

Martin County
Community Center: Box 1 Precinct 1, Box 2 Precinct 2, Box 3 Precinct 3, Box 4 Precinct 4
Grady School: Box 3A Precinct 3
Flower Grove Gin: Box 4A Precinct 4

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Drumright Community Center: Precinct 3
Garden City Senior Citizens Center: Precinct 4

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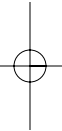
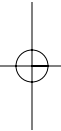
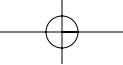
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