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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY
MARCH 4, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 82 COPYRIGHT 2008 50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
 Republican party election clerks Helen Worthan, left, Loyce Phillips and Bo Fryar get the polls ready for voters early this morning. Voting continues through 7 p.m.

**Where to vote?
 Check your card**

Polls open until 7 p.m. across Howard County

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Where do I cast my ballot? It's a question many Howard County residents may find themselves faced with during today's political party primaries, and according to election officials, recent changes to voter precincts could cause some confusion. "There will be 10 boxes on the right side of the card. The state now mandates that the U.S. representative, state senator, state representative and state board of education



Bloom

districts be displayed," said Sandra Bloom, county elections administrator. "Also required are the county commissioner precinct and justice of the peace precinct. We then have the option of placing the city council district and school districts on the card, which we have. "Voters in the cities of Big Spring and Coahoma will also notice a change in their voter precinct. For Coahoma, it's simply the letter C added at the end of 207. This indicates you're inside the city limits and eligible to vote in city elections. For Big Spring, the voter precinct will be changing to a two-digit number, which rep-

See **VOTE**, Page 3A

Horton among incumbents filing for city council

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Long time Big Spring City Councilwoman Stephanie Horton has filed to run for re-election, bringing the number of candidates going into the May contest to three. Horton filed her candidacy for the District 1 seat with the city of Big Spring last week, making good on her announcement sev-



Horton

go up on things like taxes and water so much that people can't

eral weeks ago that she would be running for another term on the council. "I want to continue to help the city of Big Spring and the citizens," said Horton. "I want to make sure we don't

afford them." Horton has not yet drawn a challenger for her district, but fellow council member Jo Ann Staulcup — who filed to run for re-election last month — hasn't been so lucky. Local resident John "Huck" Huckabee — owner of Huck's Automotive — has filed to challenge Staulcup for the District 3 seat on the city council.

Forsan has three posts up for election. Those are occupied by Mayor Roger Hudgins and council members Rusty Baker and Allie Lansford. They are also all at-large seats. According to Forsan officials, all three incumbents have filed to run for re-election and have yet to draw a challenger. In the city of Coahoma there are three seats up for election

on the Coahoma City Council. All at-large seats, they are currently held by Ronnie Dodson, Paulette Lindsey and Dan Shelburne. According to Coahoma officials, no one has filed in the trio of races, although both Dodson and Lindsey have both indicated they plan to seek re-

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3A

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



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
 Following 80-plus degree heat Sunday, motorists on Scurry Street brave high winds and snow Monday afternoon. Temperatures prevented the snow from accumulating, however, with cloudy skies giving way to sunny conditions today.

Day of reckoning?

Clinton, Obama square off in Texas

By **TOM RAUM**
 Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON — Barack Obama sought a knockout against rival Hillary Rodham Clinton as voting began Tuesday in crucial contests in Texas and Ohio, where the former first lady desperately needs a win to salvage her once-powerful candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination. Both expressed confidence in their chances, but their campaign teams also acknowledged that split decisions and close votes could prolong the

See **ELECTION**, 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 6
Tuesday, March 4, 2008

IN BRIEF

Brackets set for Howard College at Region V Tourney

The Region V Tournament brackets for Howard College's men's and women's basketball teams was officially released today.

The men open with Temple College at 7 p.m. Thursday, while the women face McLennan Community College at 12:30 p.m. Friday.

THURSDAY

Men's 1st Round

Game 1, 12:30 p.m., Midland College vs Collin County Comm. College

Game 2, 2:30 p.m., Weatherford College vs South Plains College

Game 3, 5:00 p.m., Odessa College vs McLennan Comm. College

Game 4, 7:00 p.m., Temple College vs Howard College

FRIDAY

Women's 1st Round

Game 1, 12:30 p.m., McLennan Community College vs Howard College

Game 2, 2:30 p.m., South Plains College vs Collin County Comm. College

Game 3, 5:00 p.m., Midland College vs Temple College

Game 4, 7:00 p.m., Weatherford College vs Western Texas College

Big Spring High's Hughey sets school mark at state

Big Spring High School's Cameron Hughey recently advanced to the state swim meet in Austin, placing 12th in the 50 meters with a time of 22.60.

Hughey, a senior, broke a Big Spring record with the performance that has stood for more than 20 years.

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar TODAY

(Note: Coahoma's and Forsan's softball and baseball games against Colorado City originally scheduled for Monday were cancelled due to inclement weather. Only Coahoma rescheduled for today at 4 p.m.)

Big Spring softball at Lubbock High, 4:30 p.m.

Big Spring baseball at Midland High, 4 p.m.

Coahoma baseball vs. Colorado City, 4 p.m.
Coahoma softball vs. Colorado City, 4 p.m.

THURS. - SAT.

Big Spring baseball at Snyder Tournament.

Coahoma baseball at Llano Tournament.
Coahoma softball at Clyde-Eula Tournament.

FRIDAY

Big Spring softball at Andrews, 5 p.m.

Big Spring boys golf at San Anelo.

Big Spring girls golf at Andrews.

See BRIEFS, Page 2B

Steers win Lubbock Invitational

Herald Staff Report

LUBBOCK — Big Spring High School's boys' track team is now two for two.

The Steers opened the 2008 track season with a first-place finish in the Peoples Bank Relays in Wolforth and gave a repeat performance Saturday at the Lubbock Invitational, winning the event with 188 points — 55 points ahead of second-place Lubbock Estacado.

Three of the Steers district rivals — Estacado, Plainview and Frenship — have been at the first two meets with Big Spring

dominating the field.

The Steers earned four gold-medal finishes, 10 silver and six bronze.

Four different individuals ran to first-place glory. LaRay Woodard finished ahead of the competition in the 110-yard hurdles with a mark of 15.33. Woodard also had a second-place finish in the long jump and teamed with Sidney Parker, Josh Harris and Brandon Ontiveros for a silver medal in the 4x400 relay.

Ontiveros took his second consecutive gold medal in the 200

meters, racing to a first-place finish with a time of 22.99.

The Steers once again dominated the distance events in which they will often be favored to do with members of the 2006 state championship cross country team running.

Zach Dawson finished first in the 3200 meters with a time a 9:23.90. Dawson was just three seconds ahead of teammate Jordan Valle. Valle avenged the narrow defeat from Dawson in the 1600 meters, beating last year's third-place finisher at state in this event by three sec-

onds with a time of 4:37.54.

An improvement at this meet for Big Spring was the emergence of more athletes finishing in the top three in the field events. Last week at the Peoples Bank Relays, the Steers had on two athletes — Woodard and Sidney Parker — medal in field events. That number doubled this week.

Parker found some new competition in the triple jump — an event he won in Frenship — in his teammate Terrance Clemons.

See TRACK, Page 2B

Favre retires after 17 seasons

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Brett Favre has decided to retire from the NFL after 17 seasons.

FOX Sports first reported Tuesday that the Green Bay Packers quarterback informed the team in the last few days. ESPN.com said that according to Favre's agent the quarterback told coach Mike McCarthy of his decision.

The team did not immediately confirm or deny the report. An assistant to Packers general manager Ted Thompson said he was in meetings all day but would release a statement later Tuesday morning.

The news was a surprise to at least one of Favre's teammates. Most players expected Favre to return after a successful 2007 season.

"I just saw it come across the TV," Packers wide receiver Koren Robinson said, when reached on his cell phone by The Associated Press.

The 38-year-old Favre, a three-time NFL MVP and one of the NFL's grittiest players, has made his annual flirtation with retirement a winter tradition in Wisconsin. He has taken weeks and even months to make his decision after recent seasons, with Cheeseheads hanging on his every word.

But unlike the final game of the 2006 season — when Favre provided a cliffhanger by getting choked up in a television interview as he walked off the field in Chicago, only to return once again — nearly everyone assumed he would be back this time. They were wrong.



Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre looks to pass the ball after falling down during the second quarter of their NFL football game in Green Bay, Wis., in this Sept. 10, 2006 file photo. Favre has decided to retire from the NFL after 17 seasons. FOX Sports first reported today that the Green Bay Packers quarterback informed the team in the last few days.

Only two years removed from perhaps his worst season, Favre had a resurgence in 2007. He broke several career records. Among them was Dan Marino's career mark for career touchdown passes. He powered the Packers to an NFC North title and a 13-3 regular-season record and earned his ninth Pro Bowl spot.

Surrounded by an underrated group of wide receivers who proved hard to tackle after the

catch, Favre had a career-high completion percentage of 66.5. He threw for 4,155 yards, 28 touchdowns and only 15 interceptions.

It was a remarkable turnaround from 2005, Favre's final season under former head coach Mike Sherman, when he threw a career-worst 29 interceptions as the Packers went 4-12.

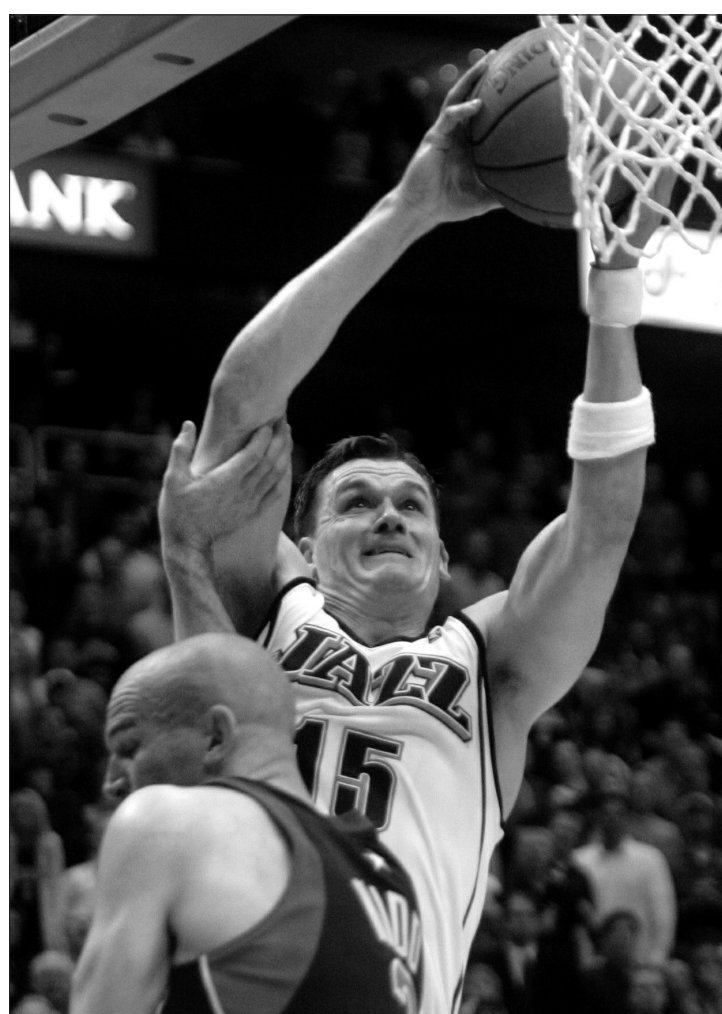
Given Favre's career resurgence, it was widely assumed that he was leaning toward returning for the 2008 season.

He even said as much just before the Packers' Jan. 12 divisional playoff game against Seattle, telling his hometown newspaper that he wasn't approaching the game as if it would be his last and was more optimistic than in years past about returning.

"For the first time in three years, I haven't thought this could be my last game," Favre

See FAVRE, Page 2B

Jazz hand Mavs third straight loss



Utah Jazz forward Matt Harpring (15) is fouled by Dallas Mavericks guard Jason Kidd (2) during the fourth quarter of a NBA basketball game Monday in Salt Lake City. The Jazz beat the Mavericks 116-110, handing Dallas its third straight loss.

By DOUG ALDEN

AP Sports Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah lost a starter, blew a huge lead and rallied to keep the best home record in the NBA.

The Jazz scored 16 straight points late in the fourth quarter in a 116-110 win over the Dallas Mavericks on Monday night, coming back after blowing a 21-point lead.

Utah made all 18 free throws in the fourth quarter and stayed near the top of the congested standings in the Western Conference.

"Everybody right know is fighting for their lives and fighting for a playoff spot. It was a fun game to be a part of," said Deron Williams, who had 20 assists and 17 points for the Jazz. "I wish we would have held on to that lead. We let that slip away. We knew they were going to make a run, but we should have put them away a little earlier."

Mehmet Okur had 20 points and 12 rebounds and Carlos Boozer scored 28 points for the Jazz, who won their 16th

straight at home.

Utah played most of the game without forward Andrei Kirilenko, who was knocked out of the game with 7:04 left in the first quarter after taking a flagrant foul from Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki. Kirilenko went crashing to the floor and bruised his right hip bad enough that he was taken to the hospital for X-rays, which showed no break.

The play angered Jazz fans, who shouted that Nowitzki should be ejected and booed him loudly every time he touched the ball. They also relished it when Boozer stripped the ball from Nowitzki two times in a row down the stretch.

"It was a playoff atmosphere," Boozer said. "You had people diving for loose balls, scrapping for rebounds. That's what the playoffs are about. That's what the last 20 games are going to be like as we try to position ourselves for the playoffs."

Josh Howard scored 25 points and Nowitzki finished with 23 for Dallas, which fell to 4-4 since acquiring Jason Kidd.

Kidd finished with 19 points and nine assists, and Jason Terry scored 21 for the Mavericks.

Dallas held Utah scoreless for almost five minutes early in the fourth quarter and opened the period on an 11-2 run to take its first lead of the game.

Then the Mavericks went on their own scoring drought.

"We found a way to get back in the game and take the lead, but again, we're just not able to close games like we should," Dallas coach Avery Johnson said.

After Kidd's 23-footer with 6:29 put Dallas up 92-89, Dallas didn't score again until Nowitzki's three-point play with 2:42 left. Utah scored 16 straight points, mostly from the foul line, and pulled far enough ahead that late 3-pointers by Nowitzki and Kidd weren't enough to lead the Mavericks back.

"It was anybody's ballgame there. We had a couple turnovers down the stretch, then missed some shots," Kidd said. "They scored. We didn't."

Obituaries

Hazel Cora Branham Flynt Crawford



Hazel Cora Branham Flynt Crawford, 91, of Big Spring died Saturday, March 1, 2008, at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez State Veterans Home. Graveside services will be at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Resthaven Cemetery in Midland with the Rev. Bill Ballard officiating. The family will receive friends from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born May 23, 1916, in Hatchell, Texas to Pearl and Elbert Branham. She grew up in Runnels County. She lived most of her life in Midland and in Big Spring. She was a beauty operator in San Angelo, Midland and Big Spring. She always had her shop in her home. She was a member of Airport Baptist Church.

She is survived by one daughter, Zeba Smith of Forsan; two grandchildren, Lynn Kligora of Big Spring and Bryan Sellers of Midland; nine great grandchildren; and three great great grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two husbands, T.B. Flynt and R.J. Crawford; one daughter, Zada Flynt; two brothers; four sisters; two great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

The family suggests memorials to the American Diabetes Association, Midland Office, 10 Desta Drive, Suite 220E, Midland 79705.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Paid Obituary

Edith Evans

Edith Evans, 50, of Big Spring died Monday, March 3, 2008, at Hospice House in Odessa. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

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

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

• Big Spring High School will be offering the Exit Level TAKS Retest, March 3-7, 2008. Please report to the High School Library at 8 a.m. Bring a picture I.D. Dates are, March 3, Social Studies; March 5, English Language Arts; March 6, Math; March 7, Science.

• 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

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Police blotter

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

- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
 - in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- **DEADLY CONDUCT - DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM** was reported in the 900 block of 16th Street.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:
 - in the 800 block of 17th Street.
 - in the 3800 block of Dixon.
- **ASSAULT BY CONTACT** was reported in the 1400 block of Sixth Street.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 41 inmates at the time of this report.

- **JUAN CABRAL**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of delivery of marijuana (three counts), possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and delivery of a controlled substance (two counts).
- **TERRY EDWARDS SHIRLEY**, 44, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of burglary of a building.
- **STEVEN ANDREW ISAAC**, 24, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **FRANCIS MAURICE OVERTON**, 24, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of N.W. Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1000 block of Stadium. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 900 block of Caprock. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1000 block of Utah. One person was transported to SMMC.

Take Note

them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina brand dog foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles, to A.C.S. & R. at P.O. 871, Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is still accepting old and used cell phones and ink jet cartridges, for drop off locations in Big Spring and Coahoma, Call Melanie at 267-7387.

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

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

• 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).

• Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

- VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.
- Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. in the clubhouse on the Andrews Highway.
- Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.
- Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.
- The Howard County Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. at the Sheriff's Posse building on the Andrews Highway. For more information, call Bert Sheppard at 263-4483 or Rose Armstead at 263-2769.
- Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- 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, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s. Southwest winds 10 To 15 mph.
Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. North winds 10 to 15 mph.
Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain or snow. Lows in the lower 30s. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.
Thursday...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain or snow in the morning. Cooler. Highs in the lower 50s. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph shifting to the southeast around 10 mph in the afternoon.
Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.
Friday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 50s.
Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.
Saturday...Sunny. Highs in the lower 60s.
Saturday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s.
Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s.
Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.
Monday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 5-7-27-30-35.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$27,594.
Winning tickets sold in: San Antonio.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 35-15-20-29. Bonus Ball: 18.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1.
Prize: \$200,000.
Winning ticket sold in: Dallas.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-7-6-7. Sum It Up: 29

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-4-7. Sum It Up: 13

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FAVRE

Continued from Page 1B

told the Biloxi (Miss.) Sun Herald. "I would like to continue longer."

Those comments sent premature shock waves across the state — all the way up to the governor's office, where the political version of a false start was committed.

"Like all Packer fans, I am thrilled that Brett Favre will return to action next year for the green and gold," Gov. Jim

Doyle said in a statement. "Brett Favre's tremendous work ethic and willingness to go out and play hard every day represent the true spirit of Wisconsin. I am hopeful that with this announcement behind us, Brett Favre and the Green Bay Packers can focus on the task at hand: defeating the Seattle Seahawks."

The governor's office later amended the statement to say Doyle was "excited to hear Brett Favre talking about returning to action next year."

It was another example of the state's fascination with the future of its favorite quarterback.

Favre then finished the season on a sour note, suddenly showing his age in the Packers' 23-20 overtime loss to the New York Giants in the NFC Championship game.

Favre struggled in sub-zero temperatures, throwing an interception on the Packers' second play from scrimmage in overtime to set up the Giants' game-winning field goal.

After that game, Favre was noncommittal on his

future.

McCarthy said he wanted Favre to take a step back from the season before making a decision. But it was widely assumed he would be back.

"I think he's going to come back," Packers receiver Donald Driver said in early January. "I wouldn't be surprised if he comes back. He's having a great year, so it'd be great to see him come back if he decides to."

Retiring Packers chairman Bob Harlan figured Favre would be back, too.

"Yeah, I think he'll be back," Harlan said, on his final official day as the Packers' top executive. "And I felt that way the last couple years, when we've had these long debates about it. I just think he's such a competitor that as long as he feels he can compete, he's going to keep coming back."

Still, in the week leading to the playoff game against Seattle, Favre said his injuries were starting to linger.

"I'm not getting any younger," Favre said. "I

wake up some days and think I can't even touch my toes. I think about that. I think, well, next year is not going to be like some refreshing, awakening season where all of a sudden you're going to feel great. That's not going to happen.

"I carry some of these things with me that maybe you wouldn't see. I tend to dwell on them, at least internally, more than I used to. I don't write them off as quickly as I used to."

TRACK

Continued from Page 1B

Clemons leaped to a second-place finish, while Parker settled for third.

Clemons' brother Tyrone placed second in the high jump, clearing the bar at six feet and four inches. Last but not least, Matt Casteneda emerged with a silver medal after throwing the shot put 42 feet and seven inches.

The Lady Steers had notable performances from Desiree Anderson, Iesha Simpson, Macy Graves and Leslie Leal.

Anderson upped her season medal count to five, placing in three events.

She was first in the triple jump and second in the long jump and 100

meters.

Iesha Simpson was one of Anderson's top competition in those events, finishing second in the triple jump and third in the long jump.

The Lady Steers actually heavily populated the winner's circle in the field events.

Leal was a force in the power events, winning the discus throw and placing second in the shot put.

Graves finished second in the high jump, clearing the bar at four feet and eight inches.

The Steers hit the track again Friday, taking part in the West Texas Relays in Odessa.

Meanwhile, the Lady Steers will be in Snyder, competing in the Tiger Relays.

Several other Crossroads' track teams

participated in the Stanton Relays Friday, including Coahoma, Forsan, Stanton and Grady. Stanton's boys and girls finished second in their respective fields. Merkel won both fields.

Stanton's boys were powered by first place finishes from Chase Pinkerton (discus and shot put), Albert Lozano (800 meters) and in the 800 and 1600-meter relays.

Grady finished third in the boys' field with 100 points, just two points behind Stanton. Roy Rodriguez medaled in four events with first-place finishes in the long jump, 3200 meters and 1600 meters and a silver medal in the triple jump.

Dylan Cox also contributed a gold-medal performance in the high jump and earned a bronze in the 110 hurdles.

Coahoma and Forsan's boys' had their highlights as well. Josh Jones finished first in the 200 and 400 meters and second in the 800 meters for Coahoma.

Jace Sandridge won the 100 meters and finished second in the 200 meters for Forsan.

Alex Huckabee won second place in the high jump.

Stanton's girls received two first-place finishes from Laci Luna, who won the pole vault and 3200 meters. The Lady Buffaloes also took home gold from the 1600 relay.

Forsan got a strong performance from Amanda Longorio, who claimed first in the discus and shot put.

Coahoma's Jennifer Pittman was Longorio's

main competition, finishing second in both events.

Coahoma's top performer was K'Leigh Fowler. Fowler won the 800 meters by a wide margin.

Kylie Gee fell just two inches short of winning the high jump and settled for silver. Gee was also third in the 100 hurdles.

BRIEFS

Continued from Page 1B

Big Spring girls track at Snyder for Tiger Relays.

Big Spring boys track at Midland for Tall City Relays.

Big Spring tennis at Seminole tournament.

MARCH 11

Big Spring softball at Greenwood, TBA.

Big Spring baseball at Fort Stockton, 6 p.m.

Forsan baseball at McCamey, 5 p.m.

Forsan softball at Sonora, 6 p.m.

Coahoma baseball at Haskell, 4:30 p.m.

Coahoma softball at Haskell, 7 p.m.

Big Spring Little League signups being held all week

Big Spring Little League baseball signups for the 2008 season are being held until Saturday at the Big Spring Mall.

Registration times are Monday through Friday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and then on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Good Partnership Defense

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A K Q 10 5
 ♥ 8 7 4
 ♦ A 7
 ♣ 9 5 2

WEST
 ♠ J 4 3
 ♥ K 9 2
 ♦ K J
 ♣ A Q 10 7 4

EAST
 ♠ 9 8
 ♥ 5
 ♦ Q 8 6 5 3 2
 ♣ K J 8 3

SOUTH
 ♠ 7 6 2
 ♥ A Q J 10 6 3
 ♦ 10 9 4
 ♣ 6

The bidding:
 West 1♠ North 2♣ East 2♥ South 3♠

Opening lead — ace of clubs.

Good defense is usually a cooperative effort, with both defenders making use of every inference and scrap of information they have at their disposal. An excellent example of two minds operating on the same wavelength is provided by today's deal.

West led the ace of clubs against four hearts, and East signaled with the eight. Had West now blindly continued with a club, declarer would have had no trouble scoring 11 tricks.

But West reasoned that since East had supported clubs twice during the bidding, South would surely ruff the

next club. It would then be a simple matter for declarer, after losing a trick to the heart king, to discard whatever losers he had left on dummy's spades.

So at trick two, West shifted to the king of diamonds! This did not figure to cost a trick even if South had the queen, because declarer's diamonds were due to disappear on dummy's spades eventually.

South took the king with the ace and led a trump to the queen, losing to the king. West returned the jack of diamonds, and it was now East's turn to shine.

He reasoned that since West had ignored the club signal at trick one, he must have known declarer had no more clubs. In addition, the unusual diamond lead from the K-J made it clear West was interested in obtaining a diamond ruff. So East overtook the jack with the queen and returned a third diamond, and West trumped with the nine to set the contract one trick.

East-West's excellent defense notwithstanding, South should have made his contract anyway. He should have recognized the danger of an opposing diamond ruff and taken one simple step to prevent it.

Had he ducked West's king of diamonds at trick two, he would have made it impossible for West to reach his partner's hand later, and the contract would have been secured.

Tomorrow: Rising to the occasion.
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BIG SPRING LITTLE LEAGUE SIGNUPS AT THE BIG SPRING MALL
 www.bsllbaseball.com

Saturday, March 1, 10am - 5pm
Monday March 3, 5:30 - 7:30pm
Tuesday March 4, 5:30 - 7:30pm
Wednesday March 5, 5:30 - 7:30pm
Thursday March 6, 5:30 - 7:30pm
Friday March 7, 5:30 - 7:30pm
Saturday, March 8, 10am - 5pm

CHILDREN 5-16 Who live within Big Spring Little League Boundaries are eligible to enroll. Registration required even if child played previously, at least one parent or legal guardian must be present and an original or state-certified copy of child's birth certificate is required.

A CHIP IN YOUR EAR

- ✓ **Virtually eliminates feedback,** no more annoying buzzing.
- ✓ **Manages noise** so hearing, comfort and quality are enhanced.
- ✓ **Adapts to changing environments;** As sounds change, so does the hearing instrument.
- ✓ **Improves speech intelligibility in noise;** Instantly reacts and responds automatically; no manual adjustments needed.

This is a true automatic hearing aid!

Micro hearing circuit

This week you can See...Demo...Try this amazing new technology - a technology so smart, it's nearly human. It allows the instrument to recognize, remember and classify the sounds YOU hear so you never have to make an adjustment.

NOW...A HEARING AID THAT LETS YOU HEAR LIKE YOU DID BEFORE YOU NEEDED A HEARING AID.

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- Cosmetically Appealing
- Comfortable
- Natural Sound
- Instant Gratification
- Directional Microphone
- Digital Sound Processing
- Natural Ambient Sounds

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UNBEATABLE LOW PRICE GUARANTEE

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211 Johnson St. in Big Spring
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Competitor's Advertised Price \$495 (Class A)
 Competitor's Advertised Price \$895 (100% Digital)
 Competitor's Advertised Price \$1,495 (All-In-Canal)

12 months NO INTEREST (for qualified buyers)

Map showing store location at 211 Johnson St. in Big Spring, near landmarks like Leonard's Pharmacy, Howard County Court House, and Wells Fargo.

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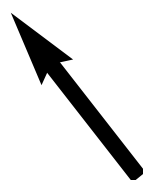
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4320 West Illinois, Suite A
Midland, TX 79703

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Midland, TX 79703

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Westwood Village Shopping Center
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Midland, TX 79703

Help Wanted

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

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.

DAY'S INN needs Night Clerk & Housekeeping. Apply at Front Office @ 2701 South Gregg Street.

DUNCAN DISPOSAL - Now hiring a driver for the Coahoma area. Need at least a Class B CDL. Experience Preferred for a driver's position. Must be able to pass mandatory DOT and corporate drug testing requirements. No phone calls please. The job includes 40+ hours weekly Mon-Fri., with some Sat. mornings. An hourly rate with benefits package is available. Equal Opportunity Employer. Please Call Arthur 432-770-3966.

7455 Cotton Strippers for sale

19 to choose from
1,000 to 3,000 hours
Pricing from \$45,000 to \$63,000
Many row configurations to choose from

For more information please call:
806-292-6147; 806-292-6157;
or 806-292-6159

If your idea of a high-powered job involves high-powered equipment and a rugged, outdoor lifestyle, then consider a career with BJ Chemical Services. We're a leader in the oilfield services industry and we're interviewing for Treater Truck Drivers in Big Spring, TX.

Treater Truck Driver

The rewards include an excellent benefit package and an opportunity to grow with a leading company.

Requirements

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All applicants are invited to call or apply in person:
BJ Chemical Services
4806 South US Hwy. 87
Big Spring, TX 79720
Ph: (432) 267-8408

We support a drug free work environment

Help Wanted

EVENING KITCHEN HELP Part-time. Must be Neat in Appearance. Honest & Dependable. No experience necessary will train. Inquire at Wagon Wheel, 2010 Scurry St. No phone call Please!



EXPERIENCED TRUCK Technician own tools required, A/C experience preferred. Full benefit and unlimited income potential. Apply at Travel Centers of America Shop 704 West I-20 or fax resume to 432-267-4262.

FARM HAND needed. Experience tractor driver only. House furnished. Call 432-353-4432 leave message or 432-270-3909.

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

FARM LABORER needed. Eddy Herm Farms 4601 WCR 50, Ackerly, TX, is hiring a person to drive tractor, assist with irrigating, planting, harvesting of grain and cotton crops, loading product, drive truck, repair fences. Job expected to last May 15, 2008 to January 31, 2009, at \$9.03/hour; May through November guaranteed; tools and equipment provided; free housing & transportation to job may be provided. Week-end work may be required. Apply at WF Network of Lamesa, 603 N. 4th St. Lamesa, TX or send resume to 1117 Trinity, Room 120T, Austin, TX 78701; Job Posting #6704976. Ad paid by an equal opportunity employer.

FRONTLINE NAT'L, EOE, seeks an LVN for FT work at the FCI, Big Spring. Credit and background check required. Fax resume to 513-528-9675.

GENERAL HELP wanted. SD Baker Construction, Stanton. Weekends off, overtime available. Good starting pay. Will train, experience with cutting torch and forklift a plus. Must pass drug test. Call 432-458-3270.

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

Gill's Fried Chicken looking for Cooks and Cutter. Competitive wages. Benefits package includes health, vision & dental. Apply in person, 2100 S. Gregg. No phone calls.

HOUSEKEEPING NEEDED under new supervisor. Bi-lingual okay. Competitive pay and paid holidays & vacation. Pick up application at Holiday Inn Express, 1109 N. Aylesford Street.

IMMEDIATE OPENING for File Clerks 8-5pm \$9.00/hr and Data Entry Clerks 5pm-12am \$10.00/hr. Apply at #6 Desta Drive, Midland, TX 79705 or email at lopezla@kellyservices.com Never an applicant fee. EOE

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.

LOCAL 20+ Year Construction Company seeking experienced help. General residential and light commercial repairs, remodeling, painting interior and exterior experience. Pay D.O.E. Call 432-267-2296.

LOOKING FOR A JOB? Apply for these positions today: **Police Officers Cert. & Non** \$32,427.20 Cert-\$29,966.56 Non-Cert. Test date to be announced **Utility Service Worker Jailer** **Cemetery Maintenance Worker** **Communications Officer**

We offer EXCELLENT BENEFITS including 100% paid Employee Health Ins. **Inquire to:** Human Resources City of Big Spring, Texas Phone: (432)264-2346 Fax: (432)264-2387 For more details go to www.ci.big-spring.tx.us

LOOKING FOR Welders for our tank shop. For more information and inquiries please contact Casey Clark at 432-816-9688 or call Deserts Tanks at 267-7141.

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.

PART-TIME JANITORIAL Work. Prefer women. Call (432)267-6027, (432)213-1186.

Help Wanted

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NEED BACK Hoe Operator. Only Experienced Need Apply. Must Pass Drug Test. Walker Construction, 432-264-2976 or 264-2975.

NEED BREAKFAST Host for Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Pick up application at Holiday Inn Express, 1109 N. Aylesford.

NEED EXPERIENCED pulling unit operator, and derrick man for Big Spring oil company. Competitive pay, most work is within 60 miles of Big Spring. Must be able to pass a drug test. Call 432-238-7715

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

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



NOW HIRING Lube Tech. Trainee. Apply at Travel Centers of America Shop, 704 West I-20 or fax resume to 432-267-4262.

NURSERY workers needed, 15-20 hours per month. Must be 21 or older. College Baptist Church, 1105 Birdwell Lane. Pick up application at Church Office, Mon.-Fri., 8:00-12:00 or 1:00-4:00. Gauranteed \$150.00 a month.

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PARKVIEW NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER We have immediate opening for a full-time janitor and laundry position. Experience preferred, but not required. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

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Now Hiring Certified Nurse Aides, which offers competitive pay, great benefits and a fantastic working environment. Be a part of our devoted staff providing resident care. Looking for reliable and caring C.N.A.'s to join our team. Apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

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The Workforce Network of Big Spring - has an opening for a Workforce Development Specialist. Duties will include case management of customers in specialized programs. Consideration for this position depends on prior work experience and education. Benefit Package. Anyone interested can go to www.workintexas.com or come by the Workforce Network office at 501 S. Main St., Suite 235 for more information. Posting will close March 6, 2008. PBRPC is an equal opportunity employer with equal opportunity programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

POLLARD CHEVROLET

- * Lube Tech/ Porter
 - * Experienced Mechanic
 - * Must have own tools
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 - * Computer knowledge & experience in automotive preferred.
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- Benefits: Health & Life insurance, 401(k). EOE
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- Apply at 1501 East 4th St.

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PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER needed full-time. Prefer 1 yr. exp., but will train, also needed a cook part-time. High School Diploma or GED required. Apply in Person, 1901 W. 16th Street, Learning Tree Academy.

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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.

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WESTEX AUTO Parts is growing and in need of an auto parts puller and/or auto dismantler. Mechanical experience and own tools are required. Please submit your application to Lucy at Westex Auto Parts @ 1511 N. Hwy 350 in Big Spring.

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

Items for Sale

2000 KEYSTONE Sprinter 275 RK Model, 5th wheel travel trailer. \$10,000.00 OBO. Call 432-935-6679 or 806-681-2769.

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.

SATURDAY: March 8 From 9am-1pm Only. American Limestone has stone panels, bits & pieces at low cost. Corner of 1st Ave. and Wright Ave., Southeast side in Air Park.

Lost and Found

FOUND Australian Shepherd with collar around 11th Place. Call 432-816-6055 to claim.

FOUND BORDER Collier on the 18th of Feb. between Midway Road & Moss Lake Road. Call 432-393-5298.

FOUND ON 3-1-08, two female Australian sheppard mixed puppies. Comanche Trail Park area. Owner claim by Wednesday or free to good home. Call 432-263-1314.

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BEAUTIFUL CHERRY 6pc louise philippe bedroom set, must see, \$550..... ALL LEATHER sofa/love, 3 pc table set. New, lifetime warr. \$695. 806-549-3110.

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- Quality Inspection
- Manufacturing

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EOE M/F



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TAMI DAVIS
ASSISTANT CITY SECRETARY
#5702 March 3 & 4, 2008

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Overnight, Mars grew protective as he entered nurturing Cancer. Emotions prickled. Locating the strength to act on our desires feels awkward, uncomfortable or just plain new. Don't worry. This Mars is the perennial tough-but-tender soccer dad (or mom) bringing along enough Kool-Aid, emotional encouragement and bandages for everyone.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Three is lucky for you today. Approach your day in triplets. Call three friends, eat three things for lunch, show a dear one your love in three different ways. Your rewards come tripled back to you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You figure out a sacrifice you can make in order to have the experiences that make your life rich. Like taking on a side job to pay for a future vacation, art classes or a child's college fund.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The stars introduce scary thoughts. Like, what would happen if your main problem were fixed? Dreaded uncertainty! You're ready to take that risk, and you'll get wonderful insights from Aquarius.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Instead of seeing and then believing, the stars ask you to believe first — and then you'll see. This approach opens you up for the kind of outrageous good luck that otherwise could not occur.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're driven to make improvements galore, and the projects all seem to have one thing in common — your credit card. Cost estimates are high. Ask around. Friendly connections can hook you up with the best deals.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Loved ones sometimes astound you with their strange interests. When you join them off the beaten path by being extremely interested in their odd quirks, you're met with enthusiasm and adoration.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When someone is on your side, that person acts like he or she is on your side. Pay attention to deeds, not words. Tonight, you're making memories that won't easily be erased.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Whatever it is you're selling, people are buying it. When you "testify," you can make the faithless man believe. Decide what your most important message is so that you don't waste these fantastic powers of influence.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Today points out the subtler differences between good service and bad, quality goods and substandard ones, infatuation and love. Once you learn, there's no going back.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When a certain someone looks at you with those big, watery eyes, you go weak in the knees, willing to give whatever is asked of you. It's best to avoid this person now when your own work needs your attention.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're going to make some mistakes in the next few days, but that's nothing to be afraid of — you'll never regret mistakes. It's the things you don't try that you'll regret.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're in an unusually competitive mood. You'll likely encounter a winner-take-all situation. Just be sure that the prize you'll be taking all of is really worth winning.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Libra and in high school. I dated a Pisces for several years. I broke it off because I felt like we were in different places in our lives. We have been apart for six years, however, and I've never 'gotten over' him, having never felt the same about another guy. We recently started talking again, and the spark is still there, but I'm unsure of what kind of spark it is. It could be left over from the past, or maybe there is potential for something genuine to happen in the future. At the same time, I am definitely open to meeting new people. What should I do?"

You separated because you were at different places then, but you

haven't indicated whether you're at the same place or not now. I ask because your "spark" could be a spark of attraction, wonderful! The Libra-Pisces dynamic is one of the more romantically idealistic pairings. Yet, without common ground and goals, the future could repeat the past. Our lives do intersect with old loves for various reasons, and that meaning isn't always obvious at first. Treat this connection like a good mystery, give it time to unfold and reveal its place in your life.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The prolific Billy Zane has the smoldering cinematic presence of an alpha Pisces male. With four luminaries swimming with the fishes, including Mars, he commands our imagination and our spiritual intrigue. And how. Like his Pisces counterparts, Billy picks up on the desires, emotions and impressions in the atmosphere and projects them back to us, without us ever having known.

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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talk to other family members and, though she lived in the house, was preparing an apartment elsewhere. My father was oblivious. Mom started fights and her health seemed in decline. I told her I thought she was suffering from depression, but she accused me of calling her "crazy." She is not working and gets by on temporary alimony. My sister visited her at Christmas and said Mom had no food in her pantry and was not taking her prescription medication. She also noticed a lump on my mother's neck. I cried when she told me this. I want to shake my mother back to reality. There is something wrong. If she is ill, I won't abandon her, but how do you help someone who refuses to see you? — Abandoned and Angry

Dear Abandoned: Between the lump on her neck and the irrational behavior, we think your

mother needs to see a doctor immediately. Talk to your father and also to any of your mother's extended family members. Ask for their help in convincing Mom to seek medical care. You cannot force her to do this, but you should not walk away without a fight. It sounds like Mom needs some serious assistance.

Dear Annie: My husband and I enjoy going out to breakfast or dinner on weekends. Recently, I've had the unfortunate experience of being seated near other diners who speak loudly about things you really don't want to hear, such as their bout of gastroenteritis or a recent ear wash. In both cases, the restaurants were small and crowded, so moving to another table was not an option.

Mind you, I'm not in any way squeamish, but this grossed me out. If I ever become body-function obsessed, I hope someone will clue me in if I start blabbing about it in public. Is there any polite way of letting them know that others don't really want to listen to such things while they're eating? — The Lab Lady

Dear Lab Lady: You mean you didn't want to start speaking about your hemorrhoids in hopes

they'd get the hint? There's not much you can do in these instances except tune them out. If it's particularly disgusting, you can casually lean over and say, "I'm sure you don't intend for the entire restaurant to hear all these personal details. You might want to discuss something else."

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "We'll All Die Sometime," whose friend thought she was terrible for leaving an abusive husband who was terminally ill. The friend insisted on calling the ex-husband and then telling her about it.

As a hospice social worker, I have encountered many situations where the couple was on the verge of divorce, but stayed together because one was diagnosed as terminally ill. Not once have I seen the situation go well. Such an illness is stressful enough when a marriage is healthy. She should not feel guilty for leaving him. — J. in Alabama

Dear J.: Guilt can sometimes make us do things we shouldn't, and estranged spouses need to make the decision that works best for them.

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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KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

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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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Forsan students raise funds; ready for contests

Forsan Student Council members sponsored two activities to raise money to provide a meal for Alon employees following the refinery explosion. The students paid \$1 to wear hats last Thursday and sunglasses this Thursday. Elbow Elementary and Forsan Junior/Senior High combined money derived



from the projects to provide the meal.

CX Debate teams Clint Lockhart and Alex Newsom and Rachael Wheeler and Michael Leal will take part in state competition in Austin next Monday and Tuesday. Lockhart and Newsom compete as the first-place team and Wheeler and Leal as the second-place squad as a result of a tie and coin toss. Their sponsor is

Jan Sims Student Council members will attend the District VIII Student Council Convention Wednesday, March 12. Clint Lockhart, president, has been recommended for a scholarship and for outstanding student council member from District VIII. Forsan serves as secre-

tary of the district. The council's sponsor is Jan Sims.

District 11 Zone One-Act Play Competition will be held at Forsan Wednesday, March 12. Competition begins at 1 p.m. with Forsan performing scenes from "I Remember Mama"; Rotan, with scenes from "And Poppies All

Around"; Hamlin, performing scenes from "Steel Magnolias"; and Roscoe performing scenes from, "The Foreigner." District contest will be held at Forsan the following Wednesday. Forsan's cast members are: Jessica Ballard, Mama; Clint Lockhart, Papa; Alex Newsom, See **FORSAN**, Page 6A

VOTE

Continued from Page 1A

esent your county precinct and city council district."

Bloom said a voter who lives in the county's Precinct 1 and the city's District 1 would have a voter precinct of

11. "This will allow us to combine and eliminate some of the 35 voting precincts in our previous system," said Bloom. "We hope this will make it less confusing for voters in the future. It shouldn't have a great impact on the polling locations and most voters won't see a change in their polling location. We plan to release more on the polling

places once we get closer to the next election."

Polling places and their corresponding precincts for today's election are:

- 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

• Polls are open until 7 p.m. Bloom said anyone with questions regarding their voter card can contact her office at 264-2273.

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

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

election in May.

Any eligible person residing

within the city limits of Coahoma and Forsan can run for office and can vote in the May election.

That's not quite the case in the city of Big Spring election.

While any eligible person living within the city limits can be a candidate to represent District 1 or District 3, only residents living in those districts will be allowed to vote.

Anyone interested in filing should do so at city hall in Coahoma, Forsan or Big Spring during normal business hours Monday through Friday. The deadline to file in all three

municipalities is March 10.

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

ELECTION

Continued from Page 1A

battle for at least another month — or more.

Obama began the day at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, where he shook hands with people at a Future Farmers of America exhibit, posed for pictures and climbed onto a tractor.

"I hope we do well, but we're working hard," he told reporters before heading to San Antonio, where he planned to await returns.

"I'm just getting warmed up," Clinton told reporters Monday night, a clear sign that she expects to press the campaign on beyond Tuesday no matter the outcome.

She opened Election Day a visits to a polling place in Houston, but planned to head back to Ohio later for more campaign events. She will await results in Columbus before returning to Washington Tuesday night.

Polls show tight races in both Texas and Ohio. The Obama campaign saw Texas as their best opportunity, while the Clinton campaign saw Ohio as theirs. Texas offers 228 delegates, Ohio 164.

Voters also went to the polls Tuesday in Rhode Island, which offers 21 delegates, and Vermont, 15.

"Your voice can win an election," Obama told a noisy late-night rally in Houston. Repeating a signature election refrain, he shouted: "I have only one question for you: Are you fired up? Ready to go?" When the crowd roared its approval, he added: "Let's go change the world."

His wife, Michelle, had a more subdued message for the cheering supporters: "We have a lot of work to do."

Eric Gingerich, 36, a junior high social studies teacher, normally votes Republican, but voted Tuesday for Obama at an elementary school in Hilliard, Ohio, near Columbus.

"I like how he can bring the two parties together and the country together," he said.

Republican scandals in Ohio have made him more open to Democrats, but Gingerich said Clinton is too polarizing.

"If anybody is going to pull me over to the Democrats it's Barack, not Hillary," he said.

The economy was on the mind of Gretchen Genung, 61, a state employee who voted for Clinton in Cincinnati.

"We know where the economy is right now, we know where it's going and we need somebody in there like Hillary who has the experience," Genung said.

Obama spent Monday campaigning in Texas, emphasizing his readiness to take over as commander in chief.

But he was dogged by allegations that he had overstated his opposition to the North American Free Trade Agreement to win votes in Ohio; and his ties to Chicago business-

man Antoin "Tony" Rezko on the day that jury selection began in the political corruption trial of the real estate developer and fast-food magnate.

"Tony Rezko was a friend and supporter of mine for many years. These charges are completely unrelated to me, and nobody disputes that," Obama said at a news conference in San Antonio.

Obama did receive a \$10,000 contribution made by a Rezko associate that is mentioned in the indictment. But Obama's campaign has long since sent the money to charity.

"There's no dispute that he raised money for us, and there's no dispute that we've tried to get rid of it," Obama said.

Meanwhile, Clinton waged yet another marathon day on Monday, shaking hands in the chill pre-dawn darkness with workers at a Chrysler factory in Toledo and winding up in Texas. She predicted a strong showing in the primaries and said she was looking ahead to contests down the road like Pennsylvania on April 22.

She sounded a populist economic theme as she courted voters who have suffered with the decline of manufacturing in the industrial Midwest and Ohio. Then, in military-friendly Texas, Clinton

broadened her theme to include veterans' issues and to trumpet her backing from a string of top military officers.

Clinton worked to underscore her core campaign theme that she's the more experienced on the issue. She held a one-hour town hall meeting where she strode the stage surrounded by a friendly audience and took questions selected from the thousands that were submitted on issues ranging from health care to education to veterans issues. Her campaign purchased time on a sports-oriented cable network to broadcast the event around the state, and the event was

streamed on the campaign's Web site.

Both Clinton and Obama launched new television spots in Texas and Ohio to make their closing arguments.

Clinton ended her day with a rambunctious rally in Austin before flying to Houston.

Obama campaign manager David Plouffe called Tuesday "the last big window of opportunity" for Clinton, noting that "enormous leads" she enjoyed as recently as two weeks ago had dwindled or evaporated.

Still, he said Obama was mindful that "this could go on for some time. We're prepared for what-

ever situation occurs."

Republican presidential contenders John McCain and Mike Huckabee also campaigned in Texas, though voter interest centered on the closer Democratic race.

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Rev. George R. Harrington, 99, died Thursday. Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Salem Cemetery. Hazel Crawford, 91, died Saturday. Graveside services will be at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Resthaven Cemetery in Midland. The family will receive friends from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Edith Evans, 50, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We again take pride in calling this our home

Once again, it's time for Big Spring and Howard County to take a bow. That's because you — all of you — have once again reminded us of just how blessed we are to be able to call this home.

It almost goes without saying, because we've written many times in this space that, our community never ceases to amaze us — whether it's the money raised by the local American Cancer Society Relay for Life, donations to numerous Christmas charities each year, or the way in which events like the Festival of Lights or Pops in the Park receive support.

But there has never been a time when we've been more proud of our community than we have been in the last couple of weeks.

The way in which this community responded to the Alon Refinery explosion on Feb. 18 has nothing short of remarkable.

Challenging situations often bring about the best in us. And while that can be said about many communities, it seems like residents of Big Spring and the surrounding area always seem to go one better.

Emergency personnel from Big Spring and Howard County distinguished themselves with the way they handled the emergency, as did first responders from numerous West Texas communities, most never having been asked to come. They simple came to help.

Even as firefighters worked to bring the blaze under control, our elected leaders were already in action — Mayor Russ McEwen, County Judge Mark Barr, State Rep. Joe Heflin and Congressman Randy Neugebauer were quickly at the site, and to our way of thinking, going the proverbial "extra mile" for all involved.

One of the most telling moments came when McEwen flatly refused when asked by television crews to stand where the smoke billowing from the refinery was in the background during an interview. It was, however, a time to make sure that he and Barr provided the best information they could to the public, not grandstand and provide cameramen with "great shots."

Another came the very next day when volunteers in the community began coordinating efforts to provide meals for the hundreds of Alon USA employees and others who'd already begun the task of making repairs and getting the refinery back in production.

And we could help but beam with pride when hundreds of local citizens gathered for Sunday night's "Refinery Miracle Thanksgiving Service" at the First Baptist Church to thank God for the blessing he bestowed on us that day.

But we were perhaps the most proud of our community last week when Sgt. Conrad Alvarez's body was returned home from Iraq and the 22-year-old soldier was buried at Mt. Olive Cemetery.

Big Spring Police Department and Howard County Sheriff's deputies were joined by the Patriot Guard Riders motorcycle group to escort Alvarez's casket from the airport to the funeral home on Wednesday and the next day from the funeral home to the cemetery.

Hundreds of local citizens, many of them holding American flags, stood along the streets and roadways for both processions, silently honoring not only one soldier's sacrifice, but that of his family, as well.

It was an experience that even members of the Army honor guard admitted they'd never seen before.

What an honor it is to call you our friends and neighbors!

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Thank you Lord, for everything You give us, may we be willing to give You the praise.

Amen

Losing well can end in triumph

How a man handles losing shows a lot more about his character than how he handles winning. It's easy to be gracious in victory, but harder to show resolve in the face of defeat and disappointment.

Coping well with a tough loss and returning to fight another day has brought John McCain to the brink of the Republican nomination. On the Democrats' side, Hillary Clinton's chances at the White House may very well be reborn if the public approves of the way she handles her series of unexpected primary losses or crushed if we don't.

Either way, both candidates are being judged by how they handle defeat and what lessons they learn from losing. Learning from losses has benefited many in politics, sports and in life in general. Too few of us grow from being beaten, though, choosing instead to wallow in the bitterness of our failures.

Losing, whether it happens on the ball field, in the political arena or in the proverbial boardroom, tends put a man down for good, especially when he expected to win. It's easier to lose when the

other guy was simply better than you, but tougher to swallow when you're on the losing end of a judgment call or at the wrong end of an upset.

Unfortunately, dealing gracefully with defeat has never been my strong suit. That seems odd because as a young athlete, I lost pretty much all the time. Not only did my teams lose, but we tended to lose badly, often humiliatingly, in part due to the fact that my ability never matched my desire.

Losing a lot, however, does not make defeat any easier to handle and not being good enough to help your team only adds to the frustration. Whoever said "it's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game" had clearly never seen me play the game or else he might have added a clause about people who play really hard, but are just plain awful.

Getting beaten pretty much always in a wide variety of sports did give me an unnatural ability to absorb punishment but still get back on the field. Desire may not trump talent, but tenacity, even in the face of foolish odds, has served me well throughout the rest of life.

My experience at losing often, but struggling on, has also given me enormous appreciation for people who come back from long odds. Whether it's McCain, whose political future looked bleak a few

months ago or a regular Joe who finds his way back from disappointment, failure or heartache, I'm a sucker for a comeback story.

Perhaps that's because as an adult, it's easy to be complacent and not stand up for what you believe in or fight for what you want. Not being complacent means taking risks and exposing yourself to the pain that comes from not getting what you want after admitting you want it.

If you don't ask she won't go out without you. If you never apply, they won't give you the job. And, we all know that if you never run, you can't be elected. That's why I'll always respect the loser who tried more than the guy who sat watching from the sidelines unwilling to get into the fray.

Maybe I won't support McCain just because he came back from failure and I most certainly won't support Clinton if she could do the same. Still, I respect those who can soldier on after being beaten, because while you can't win every battle, if you have the courage for it, you can always fight another day.

Daniel B. Kline's work appears in more than 100 papers weekly. His new book, a collection of columns, is entitled Easy Answers to Every Problem. He can be reached by e-mail at dan@notastep.com.



DANIEL KLINE



Becoming a modern-day prophet

When the history of our time is written, Ayaan Hirsi Ali will be remembered as a prophet — but one without honor in her adopted land.

That Europe is ashamed of the brave woman who should be its glory tells us more about the moral collapse of Europe than it does about the character of Hirsi Ali, the apostate Muslim who fled to the West from her native Somalia.

As she told a Dallas audience recently, she ran toward Europe for the West's fundamental values. Among them: Freedom to reject religion and to criticize the tenets of faith. Freedom to determine one's own path in life and not have it dictated by tribe, family or custom. Freedom to live as an independent woman. These are freedoms the West won for itself in blood and suffering, freedoms that have made Western civilization and its accomplishments the envy of the world. Ms. Hirsi Ali went to Holland with nothing. Through hard work, study and force of will, she rose to serve in the Dutch parliament and testifies by her words and example to the superiority of Western values. Having suffered physically and emotionally from the culture of Islam, she warns Europe, with its large and unassimilated Islamic populations, to wake up to the subversive threat it harbors in its immigrant ghettos.

For this, the bien-pensants hate her. Like Whittaker Chambers a half-century ago, in another great clash of civilizations, she is a witness to the reality of an ideological evil that crushes the individual. And like the great anti-com-

munist witness, establishment types despise her for making them look at what they would rather ignore. She calls them on their hypocrisy. They praise liberal values but appease the Islamic fundamentalists within their societies who wish to destroy those values.

"The Western mindset — that if we respect them, they're going to respect us; that if we indulge and appease and condone and so on, the problem will go away — is delusional," she told Reason magazine. "The problem is not going to go away. Confront it, or it's only going to get bigger."

Far too many Europeans are scared rabbits who believe the problem will abate if they, in the poet Philip Larkin's words, "could only keep quite still and wait." Disturbers of the peace like Hirsi Ali, who lives under constant threat of death, must therefore be marginalized as "right-wing" or "Enlightenment fundamentalists."

This is how Europe finds itself in the disgraceful position of an African-born feminist atheist proving a more courageous defender of Western civilization than the Archbishop of Canterbury, who opined recently that Shariah is "unavoidable," so England should lie back and enjoy it. Days later, Hirsi Ali begged the European Parliament for protection from her would-be assassins, pleading, "I don't want to die."

No one who cherishes freedom — left or right, religious or secular — should fail to defend Hirsi Ali, yet she is a tragic heroine because the people whose liberties she defends have no use for her. And doubly tragic, because the Enlightenment tradition she finds so liberating has proven at long last to be literally and figuratively sterile.

Native Europeans aren't having enough children to replace themselves. And the freedoms she risks

her life to defend are taken by many Europeans as no more than license for hedonism. Hirsi Ali has compared Catholicism to Nazism and communism, heedless of the historical fact that whatever its excesses, Christianity built Europe. True, the Enlightenment was a reaction against religious excess, but its defense of individual rights and human dignity derive directly from foundational Christian principles.

Hirsi Ali, like another outspoken atheist feminist, the late Orianna Fallaci, should fear that decadent European secularism might not have the moral or spiritual resources to save itself in the face of confident Islam. You can't fight something with nothing.

Besides, there are Muslims — I have met them — who don't want to live under Islamist tyranny but who worry about raising their children in a Europe where decent respect for religion and traditional values is mocked.

As Pope Benedict XVI has written, "The Muslims ... do not feel threatened by our Christian moral foundations, but by the cynicism of a secularized culture that denies its own foundations."

Nevertheless, Hirsi Ali is on the side of the angels, even if she disbelieves in them. She warns against see-no-evil complacency and a politically correct cowardice that refuses to name and confront the enemy.

"This is the beginning of a challenge with no possible compromise," she said yesterday. "There is no bargain that can be struck when the question at hand is one of basic human rights."

Rod Dreher is a Dallas Morning News editorial columnist. Readers may e-mail him at rdreher@dallas-news.com.

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Bird Poop: Mutilation keeps hawk from returning to wild

As the morning's sunlight warmed its feathers, the nestling stirred. Kept warm during the night by its mother's body heat, it looked forward to the bits of food she would soon be bringing. Pushing against the leaves and twigs in the bottom of its home, it stretched to lay its head and neck on the side of the nest. In the distance, the flapping of wings grew louder as its parent approached her hungry brood.



BEBE
MCCASLAND

Having satisfied their appetites momentarily, the mother bird flew away. If she couldn't capture a ground squirrel or mouse to feed herself and two offspring, then the large grasshoppers in the area would suffice.

Snuggling against its sibling, the baby slept. When the nest trembled slightly, the nestling thought its parent had returned. As it rose to meet another offering, it was startled when it was surrounded and jerked from the nest. Suddenly, the light of morning disappeared.

Another scorcher was predicted for the first day of August. Using the early morning for our outdoor work, we stopped to have a glass of tea. Having listened to our recorder, Art came back to the table with a worried look on his

face. "Bird call. A hawk."
Listening to the machine's message several times, I heard an intermittent noise as the speaker requested help. When I returned the man's call, the familiar sound continued as he described the problem. We left immediately for the south part of town.

After parking in front of the man's home, I heard the call as I stepped from the truck. Again as we walked toward the back yard came the desperate cry. Greeting us as we entered the gate, the homeowner stopped working on his home renovation project. He, too, would soon have to seek shade or the coolness of his home.

"It's in the easement. Been crying like that for some time," he noted as he pointed toward some tall, dry grasses on the other side of the fence. Leaving the yard and entering the easement, we walked to the area he had mentioned. Not seeing anything, we looked back toward the homeowner who added, "Gotta be there somewhere."

Checking every foot of the tall weeds, we finally saw the hawk crouched as low as it could get in among the grasses. Feathered, the young juvenile did not run when I approached it. As I knelt in order to be on its level, the raptor leaned back on its rump, with wings slightly open. Crouching again, the bird was quickly trapped as Art placed our pole net over it. Reaching

See **HAWK**, Page 6A



Courtesy photo
Roosting on a perch at South Plains Wildlife Center, Toe Nails no longer talks incessantly since adjusting to his new home. Although his long, pointed wings will never take him as far south as Argentina for the winter, this raptor of the prairies and plains exemplifies to the public the regal bearing of a bird of prey.

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Parent's Corner: Thinking how we've been blessed

This is a time to be thankful. A few days ago, I was preparing to go to an emergency operations meeting at the Alon Tech Center at the school bus barn when the "big bang" resounded across our community. As we all scurried around trying to make sure our students were as safe as possible and that the best procedures were being followed for their protection, we could see the smoke billowing from the refinery and we worried for those whose lives were at risk either from the initial explosion or additional explosions that might occur and the damage that could take place.



DARRELL
RYLAN

It was amazing to see how our community came together to assist and how so many people pitched in to help in any way they could.

And, isn't it amazing how totally blessed we are that so few folks were injured and no one was killed? It makes us realize just how thankful we should be for the things we take for granted.

I read a story about this same line about a mother who punished her 5-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of expensive gold wrapping paper to decorate a box which she put under the Christmas tree. When the little girl brought the gift box to her mother and said, "This is for you, Momma," the mother was embarrassed by her earlier over reaction, but her anger flared again when she opened the box and found it was empty.

She spoke to her daughter in a harsh manner. "Don't you know, young lady, when you give someone a present there's supposed to be something inside the package?"

The little girl had tears in her eyes and said,

"Oh, Momma, it's not empty! I blew kisses into it until it was full."

The mother was crushed. She fell on her knees and put her arms around her little girl and she begged her forgiveness for her thoughtless

anger.
An accident took the life of the child only a short time later and it is told that the mother kept that gold box by her bed for all the years of her life. Whenever she was discouraged or faced dif-

ficult problems she would open the box and take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had

See **RYAN**, Page 6A

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Dear New Client:

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,

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