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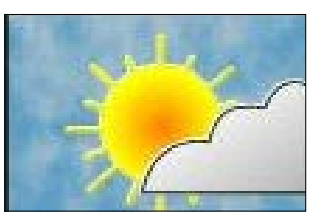
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BIG SPRING

HERALD

SUNDAY
MARCH 23, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 97

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

'Another day at the office' for firefighters

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Firefighting crews Saturday were still dousing hot spots from a Friday blaze that threatened several structures in the northeastern portion of Big Spring.

In what is fast becoming a depressing routine, an errant spark, coupled with high winds, proved the impetus for the fire, which ended up burning hundreds of acres north of Interstate 20 and east of Highway 350.

Fortunately, no structures were damaged and no one was injured.

Units from the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department, Big Spring Fire Department and state Forestry Service fought the blaze through the

"We planned for this back in November, because we knew it would be like this come spring. So many parts of West Texas have had bad fires recently, I guess it's just our turn now."



Sullivan



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Firefighters and emergency rescue personnel observe the progress of a grass fire that erupted near the juncture of Interstate 20 and State Highway 350 Friday afternoon. No houses were damaged and no injuries were reported in the blaze.

afternoon and evening and several units were still on site Saturday morning ensuring hot spots didn't re-ignite the blaze.

HCVFD Chief Tommy Sullivan said the fire started when an errant spark from a welding torch caught some brush afire in the 2500 block of Hilltop Road Friday afternoon.

"After that, it was off to the races," Sullivan said. Pushed by a strong westerly wind, the fire moved rapidly toward the I-20/Highway 350 junction. See **BLAZE**, Page 3A

Time short for Tax Aide program

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Time is quickly running out for area residents to file their 2007 Federal Income Tax Returns, and the volunteers with the AARP Tax Aide program are getting ready for a final run at the April 15 deadline.

With just four Mondays left until the federal deadline, AARP spokeswoman and program coordinator



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Nathaniel Barreras, left, and his brother, Brandon, were among hundreds of local youngsters who were on hand to scoop up goodies during the annual Easter Egg hunt sponsored by Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home Friday afternoon.

A court of their own at Hoops, Dreams and Goals

By VALERIE AVERY
Special to the Herald

Basketball teams from around the region are perfecting their hook shots, free throws and suffocating defense in preparation for the March 29 Hoops, Dreams and Goals Basketball Tournament.

West Texas Centers for MHMR will host their own version of March Madness when the eight teams tip off at 9 a.m. at Howard College's Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The tournament is also a time for the consumers of West Texas Centers for MHMR to exercise in an



Smith

energized environment and celebrate March as Mental Retardation Month, West Texas Centers CEO Shelley Smith, LMSW, said.

Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen, along with State Rep. Joe Heflin, D-Crosbyton, and Stefanie Wilkerson, representing State Sen. Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, will assist with opening ceremonies.

"This is the fourth year

See **DREAMS**, Page 3A

INDEX

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



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

Murder investigation continues

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

GARDEN CITY — The search continues for suspects in the first homicide investigation in Glasscock County in almost 50 years.

Timothy Wayne Sanchez, 18, of Odessa, was found stabbed to death late Saturday evening about 12 miles south of Stanton on Highway 137, said Keith Burnett, Glasscock County

Sheriff's Deputy. Deputies received a 911 call at 9:46 p.m. in reference to a person being hit by an automobile. When they arrived at the scene, they found Sanchez lying by the roadway, Burnett said.

"The caller initially thought it was a deer that had been hit," Burnett said. "When he turned around to get a closer look, he discovered that it was a human body."

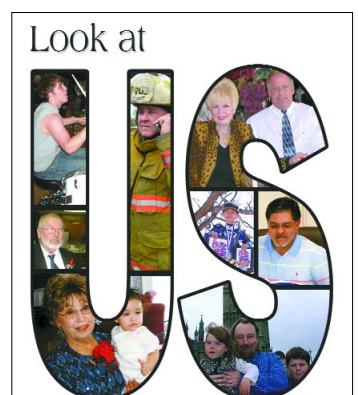
Sanchez was subsequently declared dead at the scene, officials said.

The murder victim had last been seen driving a 1997 Dodge Neon Saturday afternoon. The vehicle was found Sunday parked in the 1500 block of South Grant in Odessa, Burnett said.

An autopsy was performed on Sanchez's body by the Tarrant County Medical

See **MURDER**, Page 3A

Coming March 30



Look at **US** at the Crossroads of West Texas
Profiles Edition

J. RUTLEDGE REALTY
 1600 Gregg Street 432-714-4900

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Vanessa Ochoa 432-816-5490	2001 Allendale	1005 S. Moss Lake Rd.	1800 Brent	710 Colgate
Christie Larson 432-213-4647	Zac Hall 806-544-9211			

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, March 23, 2008

IN BRIEF

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

MONDAY

Forsan baseball at Winters, 4:30 p.m.
Forsan softball vs. Eldorado, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY

Big Spring softball vs. Plainview, 4:30 p.m.
Big Spring baseball vs. Plainview, 6 p.m.
Coahoma baseball at Miles, 4:30 p.m.
Coahoma softball vs. Midland Christian, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Big Spring baseball vs. Kermit, 4:30 p.m.
Coahoma baseball at Anson, 7 p.m.
Forsan baseball vs. Eldorado, 4:30 p.m.
Forsan softball at Menard, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY

Big Spring softball at Frenship, 1 p.m.
Coahoma softball at Monahans, 2 p.m.

Big Spring Country Club hosting 3-person scramble

The Big Spring Country Club is hosting a 3-person scramble April 5 and 6 with a 1 p.m. shotgun start on both days.

Entry fee is \$60 per player plus a golf cart, however, private carts are welcome.

Entry includes a barbecue lunch on the course for the first day of the tournament.

The field will be flighted by first-round score and the number of flights will be determined by the number of entries.

An optional cash players pool will be available for both rounds.

Call the Pro Shop at 267-5354 for details.

Crossroads of West Texas Golf Classic scheduled

The Big Spring Chamber of Commerce and ATMOS Energy are sponsoring the Crossroads of West Texas Golf Class to be held at the Big Spring Country Club May 17 and 18.

The tournament is limited to the first 100 paid teams with a two-man scramble format being used.

A handicap is required and the tourney will be pre-flighted by a tournament committee and local golf pro.

Entry fee is \$180 per team. All entries are to be paid in advance. The fee includes access to the ATMOS Energy hospitality tent, free beverages, a barbecue lunch for both days, an afternoon shootout on May 16 and a golf goodie bag.

Winners may receive pro shop merchandise at 100 percent or may take 70 percent of winnings.

Call the country club's Pro Shop at 267-5354 or the Chamber of Commerce at 263-7641 for more information.

Lady Steers lose pitchers' duel, 1-0

Herald Staff Report

BROWNWOOD — There were very few mistakes made by Big Spring's Lady Steers on the softball field in Brownwood Friday afternoon.

Unfortunately, it only took one miscue to allow Brownwood's Lady Lions to score the only run of the game for a 1-0 victory.

The contest turned out to be a pitchers' duel with Kenzie Hunt manning the pitcher's circle for Big Spring and Katie Atchley toe-

ing the rubber for Brownwood. The two hurlers combined for 19 total strikeouts and allowed just three total hits.

Brownwood scored the only run of the game in the bottom of the sixth inning. Sayla Parsons drew a walk with two outs in the frame and then crossed the plate after a hard hit ball to right field caused a Lady Steers error, letting the ball reach the fence and giving Parsons enough time to score from third.

It was the only error of the contest for Big Spring and the Lady Steers couldn't recover from the 1-0 deficit as Athchley struck out seven batters and allowed one hit.

"We struggled to get good contact the whole game," Lady Steers Assistant Coach John Sparks said. "We can hit the ball, but we never seem to hit it at the times we need it most."

Hunt had the Lady Steers' only hit of the contest and struck out

12 Brownwood batters in seven innings. She hasn't allowed an earned run in her last four starts.

Unfortunately, Hunt hasn't had much run support either.

"Our two pitchers (Hunt and Kelly Sage) are focused on what they're doing and are pitching very well," Sparks said. "They know they're going to have to step up because we're not getting

See **BSHS**, Page 4B

Hawks take three of four from Bulldogs

By ERIC RODEWALD

Special to the Herald

The Howard College baseball team is predominately one of the nation's top hitting teams under the tutelage of Head Coach Britt Smith and currently is second in the NJCAA with a .433 team batting average. However, the Hawks came across the top-hitting team in Clarendon College Friday, splitting with the Bulldogs, dropping Game 1 7-4, before winning Game 2, 9-8, in dramatic fashion at Jack Barber Field. This after the Hawks earned a sweep in Thursday's contests, winning 14-4 and 17-11.

However, Howard was unable to finish off Game 1 Friday after jumping out to a 4-1 lead. Clarendon scored a run in the third and two runs in each of the fourth and fifth innings to take a 6-4 lead into the seventh. Clarendon, who is batting .463 on the season, tacked on an additional run to arrive at the 7-4 final, which was only the third loss of the season for the Hawks.

"They are the No. 1 hitting team in the country and for good reason," Smith said. "It's one and two going against each other all weekend. It was a battle the whole way. What really carried us through the series was we hit home runs and they didn't. They club you to death with single after single after single."

In Game 1, Howard had trouble maintaining their focus, according to Smith, after jumping out to the lead.

"They had their best guy going on the mound and we got to him early. We lost that first game because the players thought it was over. We got the four run lead, hitting balls out of the park

See **HAWKS**, Page 4B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Howard College's Andrew Collazo swings at a pitch in action from earlier this season. The Hawks won three games of a four-game series against Clarendon College over the weekend. The Hawks lost their first game against Clarendon Saturday, 7-4, but came away with a dramatic 9-8 win in Game 2.

Bufs open 1-1 at Morton Tournament

Herald Staff Report

MORTON — With the baseball district season right around the corner, Forsan's Buffaloes are using one last tournament in an attempt to straighten out their pitching staff and make certain that arms are ready for the only games where wins and losses really count.

Progress is being made, according to Buffaloes Head Coach Jason Phillips, as Forsan finished 1-1 in the first day of the Morton Tournament.

"All four pitchers who saw action today improved from their last outings," Phillips said. "That's important because we start district Monday. Our four starters look like they'll be ready to go."

Phillips kept each pitcher on a pitch count and, once they reached that total, they were removed from the mound.

Sophomore Evan Burton pitched Game 1 for the Buffs — a 12-6 loss to Ralls. Burton lasted 2-2/3 innings, giving up eight runs in the process. However, many of those runs were unearned as

the Buffs committed six fielding errors.

"We had a tough time catching flyballs against Ralls," Phillips said. "The field in Morton had the outfielders facing the sun and it caused our outfielders a lot of struggles."

Burton fared much better at the plate, hitting a double and a triple while knocking in three runs. Zach Herrin had a double and a RBI. Ray Martinez and Zach Dykes each knocked one run in.

Jeremy Robbins relieved Burton on the mound with one out remaining in the third inning.

In Game 2, senior left-handed hurler Cameron Parker picked up the win as he pitched four innings in the Buffs' 10-8 victory over tournament host Morton. Dylan Lowry pitched the final three innings of the contest.

Parker helped his own cause, knocking in two RBIs. Adam Bailey also brought in two runs and Burton used another triple to push two more runs across the plate.

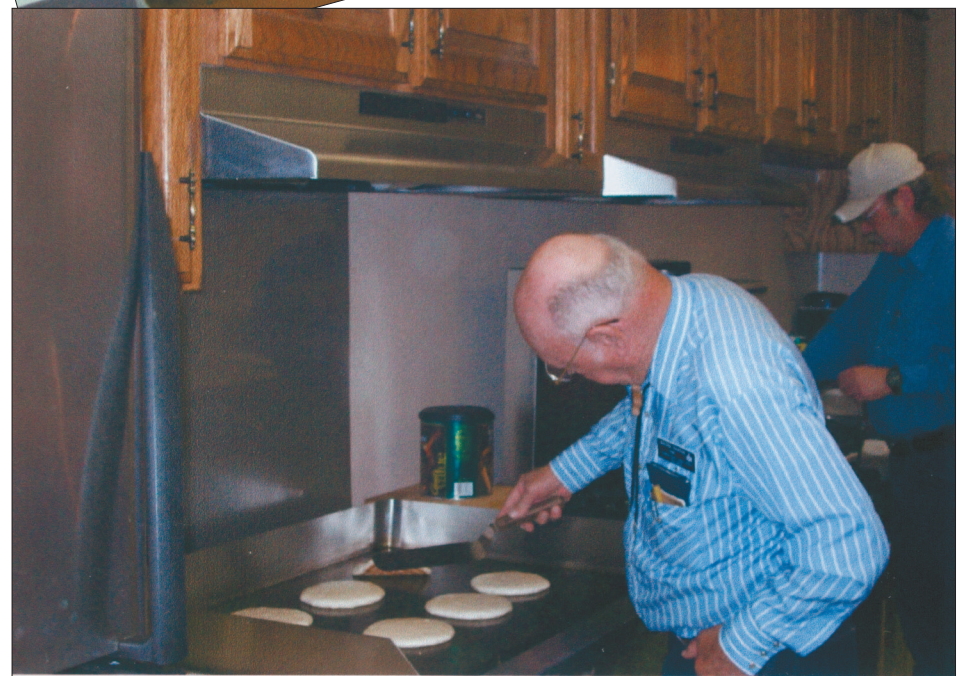
See **FORSAN**, Page 4B



Herald file photo

Forsan's Evan Burton takes a hack at a pitch in Buffaloes' baseball action from the 2007 season. Burton hit two doubles and a triple in the first day of the Morton Tournament Friday and knocked in five RBIs. Forsan was 1-1 in the tourney's opening day, losing to Ralls and defeating Morton.

Appreciating our teachers



Teachers appreciate pats on the back just as much as anybody. Local Masons with the Big Spring Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 took that advice to heart March 11 when they hosted a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast for more than 100 Big Spring Independent School District educators.

Jerry Barker of the Masonic lodge said members are very cognizant of the important role teachers play in preparing young people to become productive citizens, and the breakfast was

The Masons' way of saying, "Thank you."

"This is just our way of giving them a pat on the back," Barker said. "We appreciate what they do ... It's a tough job, and not one I'd want for the pay."

Barker estimated that 115 BSISD educators took advantage of the free breakfast.

Free food is not the lodge's only sign of appreciation, though. Later this year, it will present its Mirabeau Lamar Award to the top teacher within the local school district, Barler noted.

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The United Country family wishes you peace, love and happiness this Easter.



Obituaries

Caden Raine Biddison

Caden Raine Biddison, 3 months, of Big Spring died Friday, March 21, 2008, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Trinity Memorial Park with Chaplain Rick Foster, of the Big Spring State Hospital, officiating. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She is survived by her parents, Michelle and Marty Biddison of Big Spring; four brothers, Chris Biddison, Alex Biddison, Nick Biddison and Ethan Biddison, all of Big Spring; one sister, Sophia Biddison of Big Spring; maternal grandparents, Paula (Raef) and Adi Parschalk of Amarillo; paternal grandparents, Lois and Charles Biddison of Big Spring; a number of aunts and uncles, including Greg and Shana Biddison of Big Spring; and a number of cousins.

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



Weather

Sunday...Mostly cloudy with showers likely. Much colder. Highs in the mid 40s. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph decreasing to 10 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Chance of showers 60 percent.

Sunday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Monday...Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Warmer. Highs around 70. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Monday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 40s.

Tuesday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s.

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

Wednesday...Sunny. Highs in the lower 80s.

Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s.

Thursday...Sunny. Highs in the lower 80s.

Thursday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 40s.

Friday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 70s.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Friday:

- **JERRY GOMEZ**, 61, 908 E. 15th, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **BELÉN HERNÁNDEZ LOPEZ**, 58, 1515 Sycamore, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **BILLY SHAWN KENNEDY**, 29, 1104 Nolan, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **SAMANTHA CASTRO**, 23, 538 Westover, was arrested on a charge of assault Class C/family violence.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 400 block of Birdwell and the 2000 block of Gregg.
- **HARASSMENT** was reported in Courtney Place and the 400 block of Fourth.
- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING** was reported in the 700 block of Interstate 20.
- **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1100 block of Lancaster.
- **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON** was reported in the 1800 block of Main.

Lottery

The jackpot in the multi-state Mega Millions lottery drawing grew to \$95 million Friday.

None of the tickets sold for Friday's \$83 million drawing matched all five lotto numbers and the Mega Ball. The next drawing will be Tuesday.

The winning numbers from Friday's drawing were: 5, 8, 17, 19 and 41. The Mega Ball number was 21.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 13-21-24-33-34.
Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:
3-1-3-7. Sum It Up: 14

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:
6-3-8. Sum It Up: 17

Take Note

• The SMMC/FMC Relay For Life team is hosting a scrub sale. The vendor will be selling in the hospital's first floor classroom on Wednesday, March 26 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a percentage of the proceeds going to Relay For Life.

• The Howard County Pachyderms will have their monthly meeting Thursday, March 27, at noon at the Big Spring Country Club. Speakers will be runoff candidates W. Paschal Odom and Jimmie Long for County Commissioner Precinct 3. Everyone is invited to hear them speak. People who live in Precinct 3 are encouraged to come and meet their candidates. Lunch is available for a nominal fee. For more information, contact the country club at 267-8241 or Melanie Gambrell at 267-7387.

• American Red Cross Lifeguarding and CPR classes will be held in two sessions this year, March 31-April 5 and April 14-19. Cost will be \$125. Those interested can sign up with Coach Randall Shaw at rshaw3535@hotmail.com or at the Big Spring YMCA. Times of the class will be given at the time of registration. Spots are limited and fees must be paid at registration. Individuals who register must be present for all classes. After the first day of class, no refunds will be given.

• 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.

• 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.

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. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

• 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.

THURSDAY
• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.
• League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.

FRIDAY
• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
• Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Support Groups

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

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

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

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.

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

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

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

BIG SPRING HERALD

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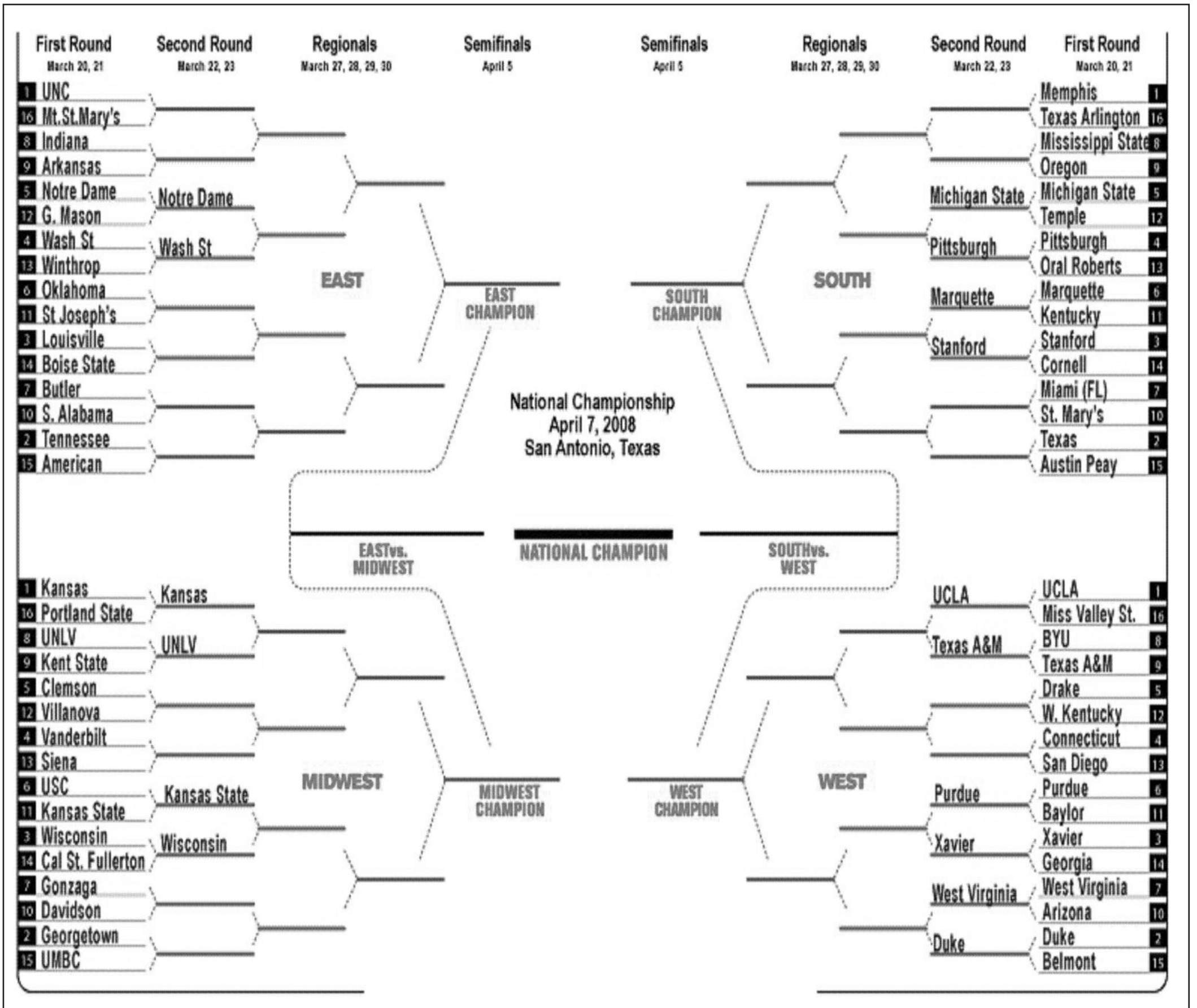
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"We wish to clarify the prior notice regarding reporting of claims resulting from the incident at the Alon Refinery on February 18th. The prior notice stated that claims must be reported by no later than Saturday March 15th. In fact, the notice was intended to state that claims would no longer be handled over the phone after such date. Due to the need for this clarification, the date for submitting claims over the phone at the below number has been extended to Monday, **March 31st**. After that date, individuals wishing to make a claim may call the number below to receive recorded instructions for submitting a claim in writing **1-800-451-4527**."

2008 NCAA TOURNAMENT



87 AUTOS
267-8787

MEMPHIS

7900

FIRST BANK OF WEST TEXAS

KENTUCKY

8035

CODSEN FCU
264-2620

TEXAS A&M

7911

DOMINOS
267-4111

MICHIGAN ST.

8056

BIG SPRING MALL

TENNESSEE

7901

CODSEN FCU
264-2620

TEXAS

7912

FIRST BANK OF WEST TEXAS

NOTRE DAME

8034

DOMINOS
267-4111

MIAMI-U

8054

DOMINOS
267-4111

KANSAS ST.

8055

87 AUTOS
267-8787

UCLA

7899

COMET CLEANERS
267-2584

PITTSBURGH

8039

WAGON WHEEL
267-2851

BOISE ST.

8050

FIRST BANK OF WEST TEXAS

CLEMSON

8033

BILLY SIMMS TRAILER TOWN

STANFORD

8037

DOMINOS
267-4111

DRAKE

8057

CODSEN FCU
264-2620

WASHINGTON STATE

7910

87 AUTOS
267-8787

KANSAS

7897

87 AUTOS
267-8787

NORTH CAROLINA

7898

H & R Block
263-1931

XAVIER

7909

BIG SPRING FARM SUPPLY
263-3382

GEORGETOWN

8040

FIRST BANK OF WEST TEXAS

DUKE

8036

BLUM'S Jewelers
267-6335

GEORGIA

BLUM'S Jewelers
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PURDUE

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Casie Beth Harmon and William Chase Bennett

Harmon and Bennett

Casie Beth Harmon and William Chase Bennett of Snyder are pleased to announce their engagement.

Casie is the daughter of Rolland and Lisa Rose of Big Spring and Michael and Becky Harmon of Abilene. She is the granddaughter of Harold and Gaile Shelton of Abilene, the late David E. and Mitsue Harmon of Abilene and Mary Lou Bottoroff of Soldotna, Alaska.

She graduated from Forsan High School in 2004 and attended the Texas School of Cosmetology in Abilene.

William is the son of Donald and Delinda Reid of Coahoma and Kyle and Michelle Bennett of Andrews. He is the grandson of Billy and Veta Spears of Coahoma, Sheila Bennett of Sand Springs and Carl Dale and the late Earlene Reid of Coahoma.

He graduated from Coahoma High School in 2001 and is employed by Mitsubishi Wind as a site manager.

The couple will be married April 12, 2008, in an outdoor wedding at the Meadows in Abilene with the Rev. Greg O. Rake officiating.

Births



Lexi Grace O'Brien

Lexi Grace O'Brien, a girl, was born on Nov. 26, 2007, weighing 2 pounds, 1.1 ounces and was 14 inches long. She is the daughter of Matthew and Sami O'Brien of Abilene.

Her maternal grandparents are Sam and Linda Buchanan of Big Spring. Her proud aunt is Kimberly Buchanan of Big Spring. Her maternal great-grandmother is Marcia Ruggles of Sand Springs.

Lexi was welcomed home on Feb. 13, 2008, by her big brother, Sam.

His maternal great-grandparents are the late Clara Richey, Dorothy Bloom, Norman and Mary Young and Richard and Sandra Bloom.

His paternal grandparents are Maurice and Evelyn Bennett. His paternal great-grandparents are the late Joe and Evelyn Paul.



Alexandria Simonae Muñoz

Alexandria Simonae Muñoz, a girl, was born at 8:05 a.m. March 4, 2008, weighing 5 pounds, 11.2 ounces and was 18 inches long.

She is the daughter of Sandra Muñoz of Big Spring. Her grandparents are Sammy and Sally Muñoz of Big Spring. Her great-grandparents are Manuela Moron and the late Simon Moron of Big Spring and the late Mariano and Claudia Muñoz.

Alexandria was welcomed home by sibling Johnny.



Kaden Joseph Baker

Kaden Joseph Baker, a boy, was born at 9:33 p.m. Feb. 15, 2008, weighing 6 pounds, 1 ounce and was 19 1/4 inches long.

He is the son of Brandon and Kasey Baker of Big Spring. His maternal grandparents are Shane and Angie Skaggs and Jackie Richey.



Jack Hayden Nichols

Jack Hayden Nichols, a boy, was born at 3:17 p.m. Feb. 25, 2008, weighing 9 pounds and was 20 1/2 inches long.

He is the son of Kyle and Kayla Jo Nichols of Big Spring. His maternal grandparents are Keith and Debi Smith of Greenwood and Teresa Combs of Grandbury. His paternal grandparents are Allen and Cara Nichols of Big Spring.

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the Herald
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BLAZE

Continued from Page 1A

Sullivan said firefighters decided to make their stand at Highway 350 for two major reasons — because the area to the east of the area was largely inaccessible to department vehicles, and to keep the fire from jumping 350 and burning its way through Mt. Olive Cemetery and several buildings to the east of the highway.

To guard against the fire turning south with a shift in the wind, officials had firefighting units posted at several areas along the north service road of the interstate.

With the fire thus boxed in, Sullivan directed firefighters to light back fires along 350 to, in effect, starve out the main blaze and not give it sufficient fuel to make the jump across the highway.

“If it had crossed (350) it would have started running toward Highway 87 and the truck stop and the nursing home there,” Sullivan said. “Trying to chase it would have been very difficult. That’s why we worked so hard to keep it

east of 350.”
It did cross the highway at one point — near the old Crossroads Warehouse just south of the cemetery — but a pumping unit quickly doused the fire before it could spread further, Sullivan said.

In all, nine HCVPD units were joined by three units from Big Spring, as well as a Forestry Service helicopter, in combating the blaze.

The combination of high winds and high, dead grass in so many of the outlying areas in the county have kept firefighters busy the last several days and Sullivan expects no let-up anytime soon.

“Heck, we’re ready for a half-day off, much less a full day,” he joked. “But it’s like I tell them, it’s just another day at the office.”

“We planned for this back in November, because we knew it would be like this come spring,” Sullivan added. “So many parts of West Texas have had bad fires recently, I guess it’s just our turn now.”

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



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
A pumper unit with the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department sprays water on a grass fire that erupted near the juncture of Interstate 20 and State Highway 350 Friday afternoon.

TAXES

Continued from Page 1A

Gloria Hopkins said she and her volunteers are bracing themselves for a late rush.

“Some people will put off filing their tax returns to the last minute. I’m sure everyone has been guilty of it at some point,” said Hopkins with a laugh. “We’ll be getting ready for any last-minute rush that comes our way.”

Hopkins said a late rush of filers could be spurred by the federal government’s recent decision to pass an economic stimulus package.

“Even if you normally wouldn’t file a tax return,

if you made more than \$3,000 last year you’ll need to file a return before April 15 to be eligible,” said Hopkins. “That \$3,000 can come from Social Security benefits, veteran disability benefits, actual pay — basically any combination that does not include money from state welfare, such as TANIF, or SSI (Supplemental Security Income) counts toward that \$3,000. However, you have to file a 2007 tax return to be eligible for the rebate. If you don’t file, you won’t get it.”

According to information at www.irs.gov, the first of the tax rebates — estimated at \$600 for single filers and \$1,200 for joint filers, with additional funds for eligible chil-

dren — is expected to go out in May.

The tax aide program is conducted at the Howard County Library from 8 a.m. until noon on Mondays only.

“People need to be sure to bring all of the pertinent information with them, including a tax booklet if one was received through the mail, W-2 forms and 1099 forms,” Hopkins said. “They also need to bring any forms that show their 2007 earnings and their 2006 tax returns. We also need a Social Security card for every person named on the return and a photo ID for the person filing.”

“For those who are homebound and can’t get to the library with their

tax information, if they will call us, we’ll be happy to pick up the information and get the taxes ready,” said Hopkins.

According to Hopkins, the program is aimed to serve area residents without the means to file a tax return.

“The AARP program provides free federal tax preparation assistance to people who cannot afford professional tax help, such as seniors, people with disabilities, those that don’t speak English and people with low-to-moderate income,” she said. “AARP volunteers explain many special tax credits and deductions and how people may claim them on their tax returns. These volunteers

help people complete their returns, right down to any refunds that may be due them.”

Those volunteers, according to Hopkins, are the lifeblood of the annual program.

“I simply can’t say enough about them,” said Hopkins. “They come in and work hard. They give their time and hard work without looking for a paycheck at the end of the day, and that really is something special. At the beginning of the season we were really worried about whether we would have enough volunteers and equipment, but they have come through in fine fashion.”

For more information on the program and volunteering, contact

Hopkins at 267-6733.

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

DREAMS

Continued from Page 1A

West Texas Centers has sponsored the tournament,” Smith said. “And every year is more successful and more fun than the last.”

The event, co-sponsored by The Howard County Arc, Howard College and West Texas Centers, recognizes and honors the many individuals and families who live with mental retardation on a daily basis, Smith said.

Six teams from around the region, including the Big Spring Heat, Seminole Pink Panthers, Ballinger Longhorns,

Sweetwater Red Rattlers, Snyder Wildkatz, Monahans Warriors, complete with their own cheerleading squads, will compete in games and special events at the home of the Howard College Hawks and Lady Hawks.

“We play music that you find at many basketball arenas around the country and that coupled with our spirited cheerleaders just adds to the excitement of the games,” she said.

The teams compete for a first-place trophy but everyone is declared a winner, Smith said.

“I wish everyone would come out and watch the games and all of the other

special events we have on this day. I can’t think of any other day in my life that I look forward to more than the day we host Hoops, Dreams and Goals. The tournament is the highlight of my year.”

West Texas Centers for MHMR provides care for more than 2,200 people with mental retardation and mental illness and their families in 23 counties in West Texas. Counties served by West Texas Centers for MHMR are Andrews, Borden, Crane, Dawson, Fisher, Gaines, Garza, Glasscock, Howard, Kent, Loving, Martin, Mitchell, Nolan, Reeves, Runnels, Scurry, Terrell, Terry, Upton, Ward, Winkler and

Yoakum counties.

The event is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to come out and join in on the fun. If you would like to more information or would like to volunteer, contact Rodney Jones at 263-9795 or Rodney.Jones@wtcmhmr.org

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Juanita Faulks, 80, died Wednesday. Funeral Services were at 10:00 AM Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Ismael Franco, 69, of Ackerly, died Wednesday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Caden Raine Biddison, 3 months, died Friday. Graveside services will be at 10:00 AM Monday at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 7:00 PM Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

MURDER

Continued from Page 1A

Examiner’s office, which determined cause of death to be from multiple stab wounds.

This marks the first murder investigation to occur in Garden City since the early 1960s, Burnett said.

No suspects had been identified as of Friday afternoon.

Burnett urged anyone

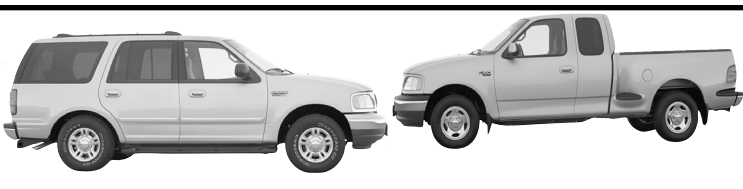
with information into Sanchez’s death to contact him by calling (432) 270-2270.

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

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First of all, I want to thank all of my supporters who voted their conscience in the Primary Election on March 4th. As those of you who know me well, know I stand for honesty, integrity and respect. I take my oath to uphold the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Texas, as well as local laws and ordinances, seriously. I have the training and experience to enforce the laws of the land and bring a history of strong leadership, good judgment and maturity to the office of the Sheriff. Those experiences include, but are not limited to: Service in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy; Owner/Operator of a successful Restaurant Business; Operations Manager for other businesses; and training and leadership as the Safety Officer for various Oil-Field Service Companies. Those experiences, coupled with my training and experience as a Peace Officer and my skills as an Investigator, make me most suited to serve the citizens of Howard County as their duly elected Sheriff. I am a Commissioned Texas Peace Officer. I am also a licensed Jailer which affords me extra training and experience in the operation of the new jail. There are rumors circulating about the different candidates in the various elections, and I am sure there will be many more. Most rumors are pretty silly, when you think about it, but, sometimes, need to be addressed. My OPEN-DOOR Policy starts now. I invite anyone who is concerned about rumors concerning me to phone the number below and I will be glad to discuss and dispel whatever the current rumor is, with you.

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Elect Pat Carter, Democratic Candidate for Howard County Sheriff, on November 4th
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Turmoil in Tampa

Upsets rule on tourney's second day

By **FRED GOODALL**

AP Sports Writer

TAMPA, Fla. — First Drake, then Connecticut. Vanderbilt and Clemson, too.

If you're looking for Upset City, then Tampa's the place for buzzer-beaters and bracket-busters in the NCAA tournament.

Western Kentucky's Ty Rogers and San Diego's De'Jon Jackson made the shots of their lives Friday, sending their teams into the second round of the West Regional.

Siena pulled off a shocker in the Midwest before Villanova made it a historic clean sweep — four teams seeded 12th or lower winning first-round games at the same site.

A pair of No. 4 seed and two No. 5s are headed home.

"It's incredible. I'm sure this is going to be talked about. They're going to have some name for this," Villanova coach Jay Wright said after his Wildcats capped an upset-filled day with a 75-69 victory over Clemson.

Sunday's second matchup: 12th-seeded Villanova vs. No. 13 Siena in the Midwest Region, followed by 12th-seed Western Kentucky against No. 13 San Diego in the West Region.

"It's got to be the Tampa Turmoil or something," Wright said. "It's incredible what happened here today."

All of the upsets were keyed by clutch shooting performances.

First, Western Kentucky knocked off Drake 101-99 in overtime with Rogers making a desperation 26-footer at the buzzer. Then, Jackson hit a long jumper with 1.2 seconds left in overtime to oust UConn 70-69.

Siena kept it going in the night session, leading from the start and sending Vanderbilt home, 83-62.

Villanova made it 4-for-4, erasing an 18-point deficit thanks mostly to Scottie Reynolds' timely shooting in a 75-69 victory.

It was the perfect ending for a zany day in Tampa, the first site in NCAA history to have four 12 or lower seeds win. In fact, no other place had even had two in one day.

"It's crazy," said Vanderbilt center A.J. Ogilvy, an Australian making his tournament debut. "It's why it's called madness."

San Diego 70, Connecticut 69, OT

Gyno Pomare had 22 points and Brandon Johnson added 18, however both fouled out and were not on the floor when Jackson's pull-up jumper gave the Toreros their first victory in four trips to the NCAA tournament.

UConn (24-9) played most of the game without leading scorer A.J. Price, who suffered a knee injury midway through the opening half and did not return. The Huskies overcame an 11-point second-half deficit and led 69-68 after Jerome

Dyson made two free throws with 10.4 seconds left in overtime.

Jeff Adrien had 18 points and 12 rebounds for UConn. Dyson scored 14 and Hasheem Thabeet finished with 14 points, six rebounds and four blocks.

UConn hadn't lost in the first round of the NCAA tournament since 1979 and never during Jim Calhoun's 22 seasons.

Siena 83, Vanderbilt 62

Kenny Hasbrouck scored 30 points and Tay Fisher added 19 on 6-for-6 shooting from 3-point range to add to their school's NCAA tournament legacy. The Saints never trailed, becoming the first Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference team to reach the second round since Manhattan in 2004.

Until now, Siena's program was best-known for a first-round upset of Stanford in 1989 — a 14 seed over a 3. This one might have been just as shocking, considering it came against an SEC team in Vanderbilt that reached the round of 16 last year and had aspirations of doing at least that much this year.

A.J. Ogilvy scored 18 points for Vanderbilt (26-8), which got 13 from SEC player of the year Shan Foster — who became the 22nd player in SEC history to eclipse 2,000 points — and 10 from Ross Neltner.

Villanova 75, Clemson 69

Villanova, which has more wins as a lower-seeded team in

the tournament than any program since 1979, trailed by 18 with five minutes remaining in the first half and didn't take its first lead until Reynolds banked in a 3-pointer to put the Wildcats ahead 50-49 with just under 12 minutes to go.

Reynolds finished with 21 points and freshman Corey Fisher added 17 for Villanova, which made nine of 10 free throws in the final 2:25 to stay in front.

K.C. Rivers led Clemson (24-10) with 15 points. Demontez Stitt scored 14 and Terrence Oglesby added 11, however the Tigers were only 9-for-33 shooting 3-pointers, with Oglesby missing seven of eight attempts.

Texas 74, Austin Peay 54

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A.J. Abrams scored 26 points, and along with Connor Atchley and Dexter Pittman nearly outscored Austin Peay on their own in a first-round victory.

Abrams was 6-of-10 from 3-point range, Atchley added 12 points and Pittman had 11.

At 29-6, Texas is now one victory away from matching the school record for wins. The 2005-06 squad, which lost to LSU in the regional finals of the tournament, finished 30-7.

Ernest Fields led the Governors (24-10) with 14 points. Todd Babington added 11.

The victory sets up a second-round game Sunday with for-

mer Longhorns assistant Frank Haith, now the coach at Miami.

Oklahoma 72, St. Joseph's 64

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — David Godbold scored a career-high 25 points, including the Sooners' first 11 of the second half, and they survived a late rally to beat Saint Joseph's.

Godbold and the Sooners (23-11), who had a 25-year postseason streak end last season, built a 19-point lead and watched it dissipate against a Hawks team eager to prove it belonged.

Ahmad Nivins' putback for the Hawks made it 65-61 with 3:29 to play, then Oklahoma's Blake Griffin scored back-to-back baskets inside to double the lead with about 2 minutes left.

The Hawks (21-13) managed just three free throws after that.

Longar Longar had 14 points for the Sooners, who shot 57 percent. Griffin finished with 12.

Rob Ferguson helped keep Saint Joseph's in the game with 21 points.

Davidson 82, Gonzaga 76

RALEIGH, N.C. — Stephen Curry scored 30 of his 40 points in the second half and hit the tie-breaking 3-pointer with just over a minute left, leading 10th-seeded Davidson to an 82-76 win over Gonzaga on Friday in the first round of the NCAA tournament's Midwest Regional.

See **HOOPS**, Page 4B

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Military News

Air Force Airman Okla W. Thornton has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

During the six weeks of training, Thornton studied the Air Force mission, organization



Thornton

and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches; and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises and special training in human relations.

He is the son of Okla and Nancy Thornton of Big Spring and a 2006 graduate of Coahoma High School.

Who's Who

Bryan Juan, a sophomore at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, is included on the recently released undergraduate honor roll for the Fall 2007 semester.

To be listed on the SMU honor roll with high distinction, students must be in the top 5 percent of their school of record.

SMU's Fall 2007 enrollment included 6,047 undergraduate students

pursuing degrees in Deedman College of Humanities and Sciences, Meadows School of the Arts, Edwin L. Cox School of Business and the School of Engineering.

Bryan is the son of Drs. Melencio and Lorna Juan of Big Spring.



Juan

Gifts, giving and thank-yous

My philosophy of gift giving has never been about how expensive the gift, but in how blessed I am in giving to another. My appreciation for this philosophy comes from the Bible scripture in Acts 20:35, when Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." And who would know better than God?

The law of reciprocity is the law of cause and effect. It means when you give, you will receive.

This principle affects our relationships with our loved ones, our neighbors, our friends and even strangers. But the No. 1 thing it affects most is our relationship with God. When giving gifts, give from the heart. Give the best that you can, freely, willingly and without a grudge. You need never to be concerned about the price tag as long as your giving is from your heart.

Dear Jerrie,
I'm a 26-year-old male dating a 22-year-old young lady who will be graduating from college this summer. Louann comes from a well to do family, but is very low key and quiet. In the year I have known her, I have never heard her make mention of her family's wealth. The family will be hosting an elaborate graduation party for her in June and I will be attending. I want to give her a gift,

but am at a loss as to what I should give a girl who has it all. I know she is very health conscious and shops at an upscale health food store. However, I don't know the first thing to look for in a gift there. I make an excellent salary and have made some nice investments, but no where on the financial level as her family. What do you suggest?

Thanks,
Lawrence

Hello Lawrence,
First you should know, it's not how expensive the gift, it's the thought behind the gift. Talk to Louann's parents and ask if they could recommend a gift for you to give. You could consider a donation to her favorite charity in her name, a stand of pearls, or a gift certificate to her favorite restaurant. You mentioned that she is health conscious. Why not have her favorite health food store make you up a pretty gift basket with lot of her favorite things? Include some nice herbal lotions and soaps, as well as foods. I bet this will be a winner.

Dear Jerrie,
An older couple who lives in our neighborhood picks up our paper and mail for us when we are out of town. The lady often bakes bread and brings it to us when we return home from work. This summer, they will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, and we want to give them a cash gift of \$50 along with a card. Since we don't know anything about the things they enjoy, would this be appropriate, or should we give some-

thing in gold that is more in line with the traditional order?

Thanks,
Lajeane

Hello Lajeane,
The cash gift is appropriate and very nice as an anniversary gift. It is not always necessary to give the traditional anniversary gift of gold as it was some years ago. Many people feel it is more meaningful to do so, but the traditional anniversary gift list has been somewhat modified in recent years, and money, as well as other gift items have been included. So give your gift of money happily and enjoy the celebration.

Dear Jerrie,
When you receive an invitation that says "No gifts, please," should you honor the request or do you bring a gift anyway? Thank you,
Linda

Hello Linda,
When an invitation says "No gifts, please," you should honor the request. However, if you are close to the guest of honor, you may send a gift to the home, but to take it to the celebration is only embarrassing to the host or hostess and rude to the guests who have honored the request.

Thank You Notes
A thank-you note is a must for any gift you receive. If you receive a joint gift from several friends, it is permissible to write one note or letter of thanks and post it on the bulletin board at church or in the company office.

Recently, etiquette rules have changed slightly regarding thank you notes by e-mail, but the cardinal rule is and has always been, a handwritten thank you note.

Be prompt in sending your thank you cards. This shows respect on your behalf and appreciation for the gift as the recipient. It's disrespectful to the person who gave the gift to have to wait weeks and even months for an acknowledgement of the gift.

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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Permian Basin UWCD announces education Web site

Special to the Herald

Permian Basin Undergraduate Water Conservation District announces a new component of its education outreach program. In order to make information readily available to clients and residents, Education Coordinator Judy London recently published an education Web site.

Online browsers can find the information at www.groundwaterd.org. The site features details about programs and activities sponsored by area water conservation districts. A page entitled

"Fun Web sites" takes youngsters to a variety of interactive learning sites, most with lessons and activities for teachers.

Other outreach projects include the calendar art contest, State 4-H Water Camp and teacher workshops. The site offers water conservation tips and an explanation of all the resources available through the education cooperative.

Anyone interested in obtaining more information should e-mail save-water@windstream.net.

Activities or presentations can be scheduled for classrooms, home-school groups, civic, youth, or other organizations.

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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

Remember what Easter is all about

Today we celebrate Easter. But we need to remember that this holiday is a holy day and we definitely need to take heed of what it is really about.

Because this holiday is not about the Easter Bunny; or Easter baskets filled with plastic grass; those pastel foil-covered chocolate candies or jelly beans; not even those dyed Easter eggs.

No, at Easter we celebrate the historical fact that nearly 2,000 years ago a man died, lay in a grave for three days and then got up and began walking around again, telling people that God loves them.

But more than that, he died perhaps the most brutal and cruel death ancient man knew — crucifixion.

He died and was resurrected so that we might be saved from our sins and have eternal life.

Easter should be the most openly joyful time of celebration of the year for Christians.

After all, this holiday is a living expression of the hope that God has given the world, thanks to the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ.

For those of us who believe, there can be no more holy a day.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

Loitering has been on ongoing issue here at the mall. We have issues of vandalism, profanity, horse playing and other destructive issues. The mall management and tenants will not tolerate this type of behaviour anymore. We have hired security and I am on the property watching for this type of behaviour.

Children under the age of 17 are not permitted in the mall without adult supervision. If they are being dropped off at the movies to watch a movie, that is OK, as long as they are dropped off no more than 15 minutes before the movie and picked up within 30 minutes after the movie is over. The security officer or I will ask them to leave the premises if these rules are not followed. This rule pertains to the children who come in and loiter inside the mall.

The mall is a place to shop and have fun, not a baby sitter. We appreciate everyone's help in making the mall a better place to shop.

LARA SPAULDING
MANAGER
BIG SPRING MALL

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing to people out there who think it is all right to starve their animals to death. I know I have seen it all over Howard County, not to mention all over the U.S.

It makes me sick to see these animals, who depend on their owners to sustain them, just ignored, or worse, tortured. What is wrong with you people?

Did your mother drop you on your head as a small child? Momma not love you enough? You people don't deserve the

See LETTERS, Page 5A

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

No matter which way we turn, Lord, may we live for You.
Amen

Best stimulus package is free trade

The lagging national economy is tough on consumers and businesses alike.

While the new federal economic stimulus package will help consumers by slowing rates on home foreclosures, it does nothing to help employers when their businesses struggle.

Congress has lost sight of what will stimulate business by continuing to leave the U.S.-Columbia Trade Promotion Act (CTPA) on the back burner.

Although recent passage of the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) reauthorizes trade relations with some countries in South America, it does nothing to help American businesses that need to lift the barriers to compete.

The current tariff burden will continue holding down our small and medium-sized companies that want to engage the Columbian market.

Almost all Columbian imports enter the United States markets duty free. In exchange, American exports are loaded with heavy tariffs when traded to Columbia. U.S. manufactured goods alone are hit with an average 14 percent tariff in Columbian markets. Corn, wheat, and other major agricultur-

al exports have a tariff up to and sometimes over 50 percent.

Fresh flowers are a major Columbian import received by the U.S. marketplace, duty-free. However, to keep the flower crops looking healthy, the U.S. exports fertilizer to Columbia with up to 15 percent charged in tariffs.

Compare apples to bananas. American orchards export apples and other fresh fruit with a 15 percent tariff. Bananas arrive from Columbia by the bushel with zero tariffs levied.

Columbia is one of our four largest trading partners in the world, bringing billions of dollars to the U.S. economy each year. In less than one decade, Columbia has emerged as a leader in commerce and a voice of democracy in South America. Today, it is a country with a bright future, a strong economy, a fair legal system, and improved access to education.

The Columbian government also stands strong against the continued international threats posed by neighboring Venezuela.

Columbia today is a critical partner in South America. The continuation of a healthy relationship is vital. However, it is equally vital that the relationship be fair. While the original passage of the ATPA benefited both countries, we need free trade, by way of the CTPA, to strengthen our economic ties in the region.

The CTPA will eliminate the economic barriers that stand between American business and Columbian consumers.

Of the 9,000 U.S. businesses exporting to Columbia, 85 percent are small and medium-sized companies.

Even at those numbers, thousands more would compete if the trade law was more forgiving.

Passage of the CTPA will open access to Columbia for businesses of all types and sizes. The Columbian government has agreed to immediately eliminate duties on 53 percent of current U.S. exports. Other tariffs will be phased out in coming years.

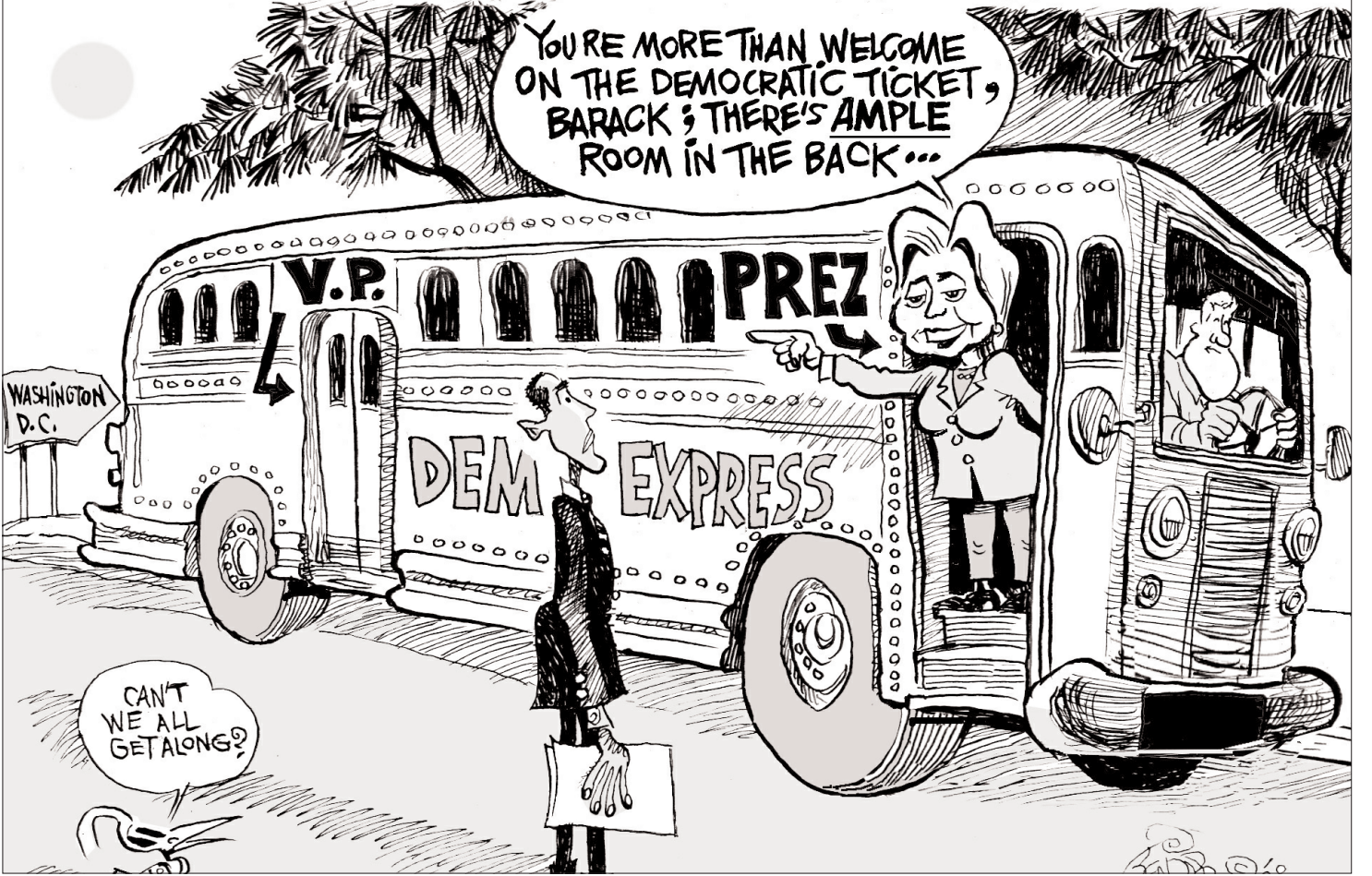
TAB and over 700 partners nationwide are urging Congress to pass the CTPA. Free trade with Columbia is a stimulus package for businesses that cannot currently overcome the barriers set by the ATPA. Let's face it, Congress may give a "booster shot" to the economy by helping Americans at home, but the economy will only improve if lawmakers vote to stimulate commerce by approving free trade.

Bill Hammond is president of the Texas Association of Business. Founded in 1922, the TAB is a broad-based, bipartisan organization representing more than 140,000 small and large Texas employers and 200 local chambers of commerce.



BILL HAMMOND

BEHIND IN THE POLLS, HILLARY CLINTON STILL OFFERS OBAMA THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL POST



Are the Democrats trying to lose?

If the presidential campaign were a heavyweight fight, I'd say the Democrats were trying to throw it.

Six months ago, I was getting out my old FDR campaign buttons and going around the house whistling "Happy Days Are Here Again." There was no way the Republicans were going to win.

Consider the evidence:

- Their field of candidates was lame: a guy the Religious Right didn't trust, one nobody but the Religious Right trusted, a snarling New Yorker with more baggage than a luggage shop and an old guy Real Republicans couldn't stand.
- They all supported the never-ending war in Iraq, the political equivalent of being in favor of diphtheria.
- The economy was lurching toward recession or worse, the D word. And, mark this, never in living memory have the American people returned an incumbent party to the presidency during a recession.

In short, the election was all but wrapped up. The Democrats, I thought, had merely to choose among a number of excellent candidates and wait for Inauguration Day.

I should have known better. Unnoticed by all of us was the fact that the Democrats had carefully choreographed a train wreck.

It wasn't enough to bring forward the first woman to mount a serious run at the presidency, they also produced the first black

candidate with a chance to win. This split two core Democratic constituencies, ensuring that at least one segment of their most reliable supporters would feel betrayed and abandoned yet again. They then cleverly arranged to exclude from the primary process two of the states most important to their success in the fall, in effect telling Michigan and Florida to get lost.

Not content, they adhered to a selection system that made it almost certain that any contest between two evenly matched opponents would be inconclusive.

And to put a cherry on this banana-republic split, they put the final deciding power in hands of "super delegates" — a polite term for party hacks — taking us back to the days of the "smoke-filled room."

As a result, Democrats are facing three months of guerrilla warfare between two estimable candidates, one of whom will leave the convention as the triumphant nominee — nose bent to one side, an ear hanging by a thread, missing three front teeth.

To be greeted by a tanned, rested John McCain who will then summon the justly famous Republican attack machine whose engineers will have spent the previous six months taking notes.

When Will Rogers said: "I don't belong to an organized party; I'm a Democrat," he wasn't kidding. You might say: "Sens. Clinton and Obama shouldn't attack each other. They should just play nice."

They have very little choice. They are both center-left liberals; the difference between the programs they offer is miniscule. They are separated mainly by

race, gender and personality, not issues. So they are forced to attack each other's personal flaws and inadequacies.

Sen. Hillary Clinton's approach is particularly problematic. Her main argument against Sen. Barack Obama is that she is more experienced and would make a stronger commander-in-chief "from day one."

However specious those claims may be, she is taken seriously when she makes them. She will be laughed off the stage, however, if she makes them against John McCain, who has more experience and is a war hero besides.

Obama's message of change, hope and soaring rhetoric might be a bit ephemeral for some but it at least provides a contrast to McCain, whose speeches are Rotarian in style and who offers only more of President George W. Bush's magic elixir.

Now...it could be that the economy is such a horror show by November that a Republican victory is truly impossible.

But should the economy go that far south, the Republicans are perfectly capable of convincing voters that the Democrats are at fault.

Remember, you don't have to fool all of the people all of the time; you have to fool half of them for a single day in November, once every four years.

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

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HOOPS

Continued from Page 3B

Curry hit 8 of 10 3-pointers, and his two free throws with 14.5 seconds left iced it for the Wildcats (27-6), who won their first NCAA game since Lefty Driesell was coach in the 1960s. Jason Richards added 15 points for Davidson, which extended the nation's longest winning streak to 23 games. Andrew Lovedale had 12 points, and one of his 13 rebounds came on the offensive glass, which led to Curry's deciding 3-pointer.

Davidson advanced to play the region's second seed, Georgetown, on Sunday.

Freshman Steve Gray hit seven 3-pointers and scored 21 points for Gonzaga (25-8), which blew 11-point leads in both halves to make a first-round exit for the second straight year.

Tennessee 72, American 57

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — JaJuan Smith finished with 19 points, Wayne Chism added 16 and Tennessee woke up just in time to avoid a big upset in the first round.

Ahead 53-51 with 5:45 left, Tennessee (30-4) escaped from a team making its NCAA tournament debut.

The Vols held the 15th-seeded Eagles to only one basket the rest of the way.

Garrison Carr, the MVP of the Patriot League tournament, poured in 24 points for American (21-12), even the Vols threw five different defenders at him to no avail.

The Volunteers survived to play seventh-seeded Butler on Sunday.

Butler 81, South Alabama 61

Pete Campbell hit eight 3-pointers and scored 26 points, and the Bulldogs won their fourth straight first-round

game to set a school record for wins.

The Bulldogs (30-3) were a No. 7 seed and a popular first-round upset on many brackets. But the 10th-seeded Jaguars (26-7) couldn't live up to its much-criticized at-large bid.

North Carolina 113, Mount St. Mary's 74

RALEIGH, N.C. — Tyler Hansbrough and Ty Lawson each had 21 points to help the Tar Heels cruise by Mount St. Mary's in a game played a short drive from their Chapel Hill campus.

Wayne Ellington added 16 points for the Tar Heels (33-2), who have won 12 straight and continued their near-perfect run in NCAA games played in their home state. North Carolina improved to 22-1 in those games and will face Arkansas in the second round Sunday.

Arkansas 86, Indiana 72

Sonny Weems scored a career-

high 31 points and Darian Townes added 17 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Razorbacks to the victory.

Weems hit 12 of 14 shots for Arkansas (23-11), which shot 54 percent and snapped a five-game losing streak in NCAA tournament games dating to a first-round victory against Siena in 1999.

D.J. White had 22 points in his third straight 20-point game for Indiana (25-8).

Louisville 79, Boise State 61

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Guards Earl Clark scored 15 points and Juan Palacios had 13 as Louisville cruised to the easy victory.

The third-seeded Cardinals rushed to a 10-1 lead and Derrick Character's slam made it 42-26 late in the first half.

Leading scorer David Padgett didn't even take a shot before the break and Louisville still breezed, helped by a dozen 3-pointers.

The Cardinals next play

Sunday against Oklahoma.

Memphis 87, Texas-Arlington 63

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Chris Douglas-Roberts led five Tigers in double figures with 23 points, and he also had seven rebounds and four assists.

Derrick Rose and Antonio Anderson added 17 points each, and Robert Dozier had 12 for Memphis, which improved to 34-1 with its eighth straight victory.

Next up is eighth-seeded Mississippi State (23-10).

Anthony Vereen led the Mavericks (21-12), who were making their first tournament appearance in school history, with 20 points on 7-of-11 shooting. Jermaine Griffin had 11 points and eight rebounds, and Rog'er Guignard added 10.

Other scores: Georgetown 66, UMBC 47; Mississippi State 76, Oregon 69; Miami 78, Saint Mary's 64.

BSHS

Continued from Page 1B

it done on the offensive side right now."

The Lady Steers begin District 4-4A play Tuesday when the Plainview Lady Bulldogs come to town. Sparks notes how important it is for Big Spring to solve its hitting woes and feels Plainview can provide an ample opportunity to gain some confidence at the plate.

"We've got to get to

where we believe we can get hits," Sparks explained. "Plainview has some hitters. Their first baseman is being pretty highly recruited. But we should be able to hit their pitchers. This is a good chance for us to get on track with our bats."

With the team getting strong outings from its two pitchers and playing solid defense, Sparks feels the Lady Steers are just a few hits away from contending for a district title.

"I think district is going to be between ourselves, Frenship and Lake View

with Frenship being the favorite," commented Sparks. "We can be at the top if we can get the bats going. We've seen some real positives over the past couple weeks. Our pitching is coming together and we're starting to play very good defense. Now, we just need to put it all together and hit more consistently."

First pitch Tuesday is scheduled for 4 p.m. at Lady Steers Park.

Big Spring 000 000 0-0 1 1
Brownwood 000 001 0-1 2 1
W - Katie Atchley. L - Kenzie Hunt.

FORSAN

Continued from Page 1B

Phillips expressed pleasure with the way the Buffs are currently performing at the plate.

"We're getting much better at bats than what we had been having," Phillips said. "We're making better contact and our

patience is much improved. We drew eight walks in the second game."

The Buffs play Olton and O'Donnell Saturday to wrap up round-robin tournament play. Then Monday, Forsan travels to Winters to take on the Blizzards in the Buffs' first district game of the season.

Ralls 404 310-12 9 2
Forsan 011 040-6 8 6
W - Martinez. L - Evan Burton (0-2)

2B: FHS - Burton, Zach Herrin.
3B: FHS - Burton. RBI: FHS - Burton 3, Herrin, Ray Martinez, Zach Dykes.

Forsan 203 120 2-10 5 4
Morton 103 012 1-8 9 6
W - Cameron Parker (2-1). L - Bracket.

3B: FHS - Burton. RBI: FHS - Burton 2, Adam Bailey 2, Parker 2.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

off of their ace and all of a sudden we just shut it down and we take a couple of bad at-bats," Smith said. "They just outplayed us in the first game."

Colt Simon started Game 1, throwing the first four innings, while surrendering four runs on four hits and five walks. He recorded four strikeouts.

David de la Chapelle finished out the seven inning contest allowing three runs on two hits, while striking out two in taking the loss.

Game 2 had the Hawks facing a 3-0 deficit out of the gate, but Howard responded by scoring two runs in the bottom half of the first inning, pulling within a run, 3-2.

Eventually, Howard worked its way to an 8-5 lead heading into what turned out to be a very dramatic ninth inning.

In the top of the final frame, Clarendon had runners at first and second with one out following a walk and a hit batter. Howard pulled out all the stops and called upon their third baseman Andrew Collazo to close the game out on the mound. Pitching for the first time all season, Collazo earned a strikeout for the second out of the inning, but served up a line drive that was dropped in the outfield, allowing two runs to score and pulling Clarendon within one, 8-7.

With the error, Clarendon had a runner on second, who tried to steal third and the pick-off ended up in left field, allowing the tying run to score. Collazo was able to end the inning with an 8-all tie.

In Howard's half of the ninth, Bryan once again got hit by a pitch to lead off the inning and Riley executed a sacrifice bunt

to move Bryan into scoring position. After saving the day on the mound, Collazo hit a chopper up the middle and the short-stop's throw sailed into the dugout, allowing Bryan to score the game-winning run.

With the Hawks winning three out of the four games vs. WJCAC leader Clarendon, Smith now believes that Howard has a chance to control their own destiny in terms of winning a conference championship.

"We've got an opportunity to kind of make some hay now," Smith said. "We've got to come out and play because every day we are playing for a championship."

Howard, 27-3 overall and 5-3 in the WJCAC, is ranked No. 6 in the first regular season NJCAA Division I Baseball Poll released earlier this week.

Howard hosts New Mexico Military Institute at noon Friday in double-header action.

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- Southwind 29' Queen Bed, #1 Floorplan without Slide, 50K Miles **\$257 per month**
- Terra 32' Motorhome Big Slide-Out, Incredibly Clean **\$426 per month**
- Montana 29' Triple Slide **Used \$292 per month**
- '06 Everest 34' 5th Wheel, Triple Slide **Used \$343 per month**
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BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE

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

BIG SPRING HERALD

Page 4C
Sunday, March 23, 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.

Tuesday Hamas publicly announced the terms it seeks in a ceasefire with Israel. Hamas' Gaza leader, Ismail Haniyeh, called on the Jewish state to end its raids into Gaza, lift the economic blockades, and open the crossings Israel currently controls. It appears Egypt is taking the lead and attempting to broker a comprehensive period of calm between Israel, Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, and Fatah.

Both Egyptian and Israeli officials signaled the current situation remains tenuous following one of the most deadly weeks seen in the region in recent years. Publicly Prime Minister Olmert has not recognized ongoing negotiations for a ceasefire. However, he did say that if the militants in Gaza halt their rocket attacks and weapon smuggling, then Israel has no reason to fight.

The lull in violence seen in recent days was broken Tuesday when a rocket was fired into southern Israel. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine took responsibility for the attack, but Israel is holding Hamas accountable.

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Gates announced his acceptance of Admiral William J. Fallon's resignation. Fallon was serving as the commander in chief of U.S. Central Command and he headed strategy for both Iraq and Afghanistan.

His resignation follows the recent Esquire magazine article entitled "The Man Between War and Peace." The article can generally be described as being critical of the Bush administration. Fallon publicly opposed those pushing for confrontation with Iran. He also favored a significant drawdown of U.S. troops from Iraq. His position stands in sharp contrast to that of General David Petraeus, the top commander of troops in Iraq. Petraeus is a front-runner to replace Fallon. The fact Fallon granted the Esquire interview suggests he knew he was not going to retain his position. Whether or not he left in protest of something is a question we have.

Also of Middle East interest, according to energy consultancy PFC Energy, Venezuela is the OPEC nation most reliant on a high barrel price. The Financial Times notes this year the nation will require a minimum of \$94 per barrel to balance its external accounts. Nigeria requires \$68, Iran \$55, and Saudi Arabia \$55. Algeria, Kuwait, Qatar, and the U.A.E. all require less than \$50 oil. The study offers a clue into each nation's reliance on oil revenue. This could give some insight as to where the cartel may decide to protect prices by cutting production.

- Synthetic Genomics estimates that within 18 months its advances in microbiology and genomics will result in a microbe capable of eating CO2 and producing methane as a waste product. Theoretically, this could result in an alternative source of natural gas.

- Moody's Investors Service recently wrote, "Inflation rates in most Gulf economies have eroded the financial incentives for many laborers..." Many workers in the Gulf region are expatriates who have moved there in pursuit of work associated with the region's growth. The workers are generally paid in local currencies that happen to be tied to the dollar which has weakened to record low levels. The result of the surging inflation is some workers either demanding higher pay or them returning home. This suggests inflation may actually be beginning to impact growth in the Gulf.

- According to AAA, pump prices reached an all-time high of \$3.22 a gallon. Versus last year, prices are up 27 percent. To fill up the tank on a midsize SUV it costs over \$70. Ten years ago it would have cost around \$25 or \$30.

- As consumers react to years of rising prices, we note the American Public Transportation Association says the use of public transportation, as measured by the number of trips, reached its highest level in 50 years during 2007.

- Some trucking companies are installing software that shuts off the engine after idling too long. In addition, others are installing speed monitoring software.

- Chinese inflation in February was the highest rate seen in 12 years, 8.7 percent.

- In 2009 the EIA estimates diesel demand will grow 1.6 percent, twice the rate of demand growth for gasoline.

Portions of this article were produced March 12 by Eric Wittenauer, Energy Futures Analyst, Global Investment Strategy Wachovia Securities, LLC. Its publication is a collaborative effort and the information is obtained from sources considered reliable, however accuracy is not guaranteed by W.S. LLC. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results and additional information is available upon request (432) 684-7335.



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Stefanie Wilkerson and her son Jared enjoy a few of the treats offered by Tee's Catering at a open house Thursday evening for Moss Creek Ranch located near Moss Lake. The ranch offers more than 3,000 acres of hunting, a place for corporate retreats, family reunions and bed and breakfast accommodations. Dinners on Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday brunch are provided by in-house chef Theresa Andrews but seating is limited. For reservations call 393-5455.

Economy forces some 'kids' to move home with parents

By EMILY FREDRIX
AP Business Writer

MILWAUKEE — After being laid off from her job as an events planner at an upscale resort, Jo Ann Bauer struggled financially. She worked at several lower-paying jobs, relocated to a new city and even declared bankruptcy.

Then in December, she finally accepted her parents' invitation to move into their home — at age 52. "I'm back living in the bedroom that I grew up in," she said.

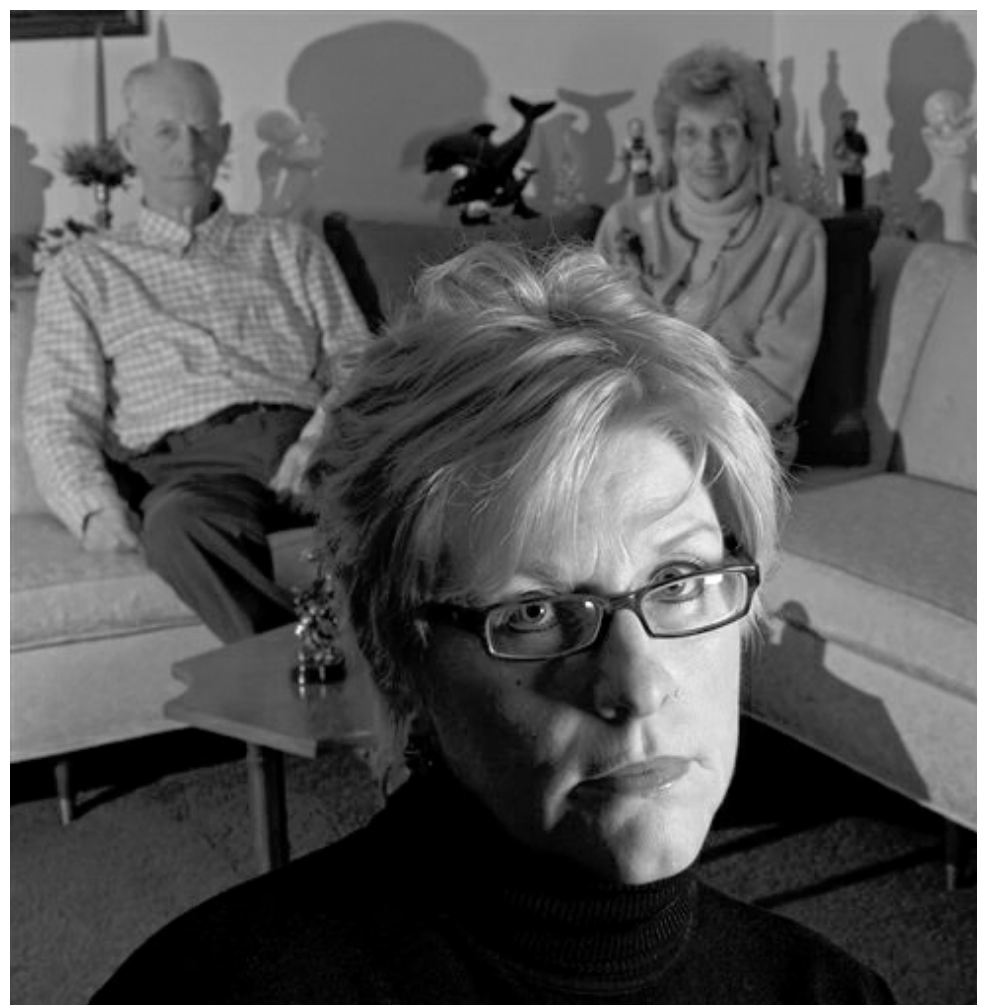
Taking shelter with parents isn't uncommon for young people in their 20s, especially when the job market is poor. But now the slumping economy and the credit crunch are forcing some children to do so later in life — even in middle age.

Financial planners report receiving many calls from parents seeking advice about taking in their grown children following divorces and layoffs.

Kim Foss Erickson, a financial planner in Roseville, Calif., north of Sacramento, said she has never seen older children, even those in their 50s, depending so much on their parents as in the last six months.

"This is not like, 'OK, my son just graduated from college and needs to move back in' type of thing," she said. "These are 40- and 50-year-old children of my clients that they're helping out."

Parents "jeopardize their financial freedom by continuing to subsidize their children," said Karin



AP Photo/Morry Gash
Jo Ann Bauer is seen with her parents Bill and Shirley Smith in their home in Eden, Wis. Laid off from her job as a special events manager at an upscale resort, Bauer struggled for four years on her own until December, when she accepted her parents' offer to move into their central Wisconsin home.

Maloney Stifler, a financial planner in Hudson, Ohio, and a board member of the Financial Planning Association. "We have a hard time See **HOME**, Page 5C

Permian Basin UWD election set May 10

Special to the Herald

An election for at large district directors for the Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District has been ordered for Saturday, May 10.

Howard County will elect one director from that portion of the county within the district. This position has been vacant since the death of D.L. Newton. Martin County has two positions on the

ballot. Christopher Stone and Johnny Louder are incumbent district directors.

Anyone living in the district may file an application for place on the ballot. Candidates may file until 5 p.m. Monday, March 10.

Candidate packets may be requested Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District, 101 N. St. Joseph St. in

Stanton, or by calling (432) 756-2136.

Eligibility requirements for district director are the same as other public offices in the state of Texas.

Some of the major qualifications are that candidates must be citizens of the United States, must be 18 years of age or older on the first day of the term to be filled, must have resided continuously in the state for 12 months and must have resided in the territory from which

the office is elected/appointed for six months.

Members of the Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District's Board of Directors serve a four-year term. They meet monthly to consider legal, financial, and business matters.

Early voting for this election is set for April 18 to May 6.

Polling place information will be published at a future date.

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

love of an animal!

The thing that makes me the sickest is that these abused animals will come to you wanting love no matter that their previous owner has almost killed them.

I think that there should be stiffer jail sentences and larger fines for torturing animals, and not feeding them is torture!

You know who you are. If you can't feed an animal, give it to someone who will. There are plenty of people out there who feel the same way I do.

Our local law enforcement doesn't seem to care.

DANYA JAMES
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Why are the police at the schools stopping people when there is no school going on?

I know the flashing yellow lights are on, but that is for when school is actually going on, not for Christmas break and spring break.

It looks like it would be better to have them there when the kids are in school, not out.

FRANK SICKLES
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to take exception with the letter published in the Sunday, March 16, edition and written by William O. Adams. Have you, Mr. Adams, been to Iraq or even talked to anyone who has, or are you simply basing your opinion on what the media reports? If the latter is the case, then it stands to reason that what you say could make sense.

I, on the other hand, have talked to some of those who have been there. My son-in-law, Army Sgt. Jeff Nelson, has served two tours there and my grandson-in-law, USAF Staff Sgt. Andre Byrd, has served one. I have talked not only to these fine young men but to others in the military as well.

Jeff told me when he returned from his first tour in 2005 that it would probably be necessary for us to be there for 10 years in order to see that country stabilized. He also has told me that there are many reconstruction jobs underway as well as many completed by the end of his second tour. Unlike what is so regularly reported in the news media, all of the people do not hate us and many are very friendly. I have pictures he sent me with locals there if you would like proof. The children love the GIs and often play with them when time permits.

Do you really believe after Desert Storm that they would trust us? I don't, and can you really blame them? However, they are coming around. Now, I ask you, do you really think we should desert them again before the job is done? I feel that would be a huge mistake.

No, I don't want to see more Americans die or have my taxes raised. I am human after all. However, I am willing to send my loved ones back to help in this, if that is necessary, and they are both willing to serve again if called by our great country. They, as all the service persons these days, are volunteers who joined of their own free will. If they are opposed, then they can get out when their tour of duty is up. As for mine, I am very proud to say they are both making a career of it. So, I just want to say, lets give it a little more time.

I would also like to point out that all media are not as biased. The *Big Spring Herald* is a good example of a media outlet that truly seems to support our troops, and for that, I am most grateful.

SHIRLEY BODIN
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

My name is Joey Ballard. I am doing a state report on Texas. If you could, publish this in your paper and ask your readers to send me things that would help me understand Texas some more.

If they have e-mail for me, they can send it to: pslab@evansville-dayschool.org. If you have items to send me please send them to: Joey Ballard, Evansville Day School, 3400 North Green River Road, Evansville, Ind. 47715.

JOEY BALLARD
EVANSVILLE, IND.

TO THE EDITOR:

Prom and graduation are exciting events and many teens celebrate these occasions with friends and family. While we want our students to enjoy this time, we want them to make smart, responsible decisions surrounding these events, including not drinking or getting into a car with anyone who has.

According to the National Academy of Sciences, two-thirds of teens report getting alcohol from their parents or other adults. Adults may be well-intentioned, thinking they're keeping teens safe when providing alcohol to kids and collecting their keys but in reality this thought process is like going to the casino, winning and thinking you will win every time. It is illegal

and just plain dangerous.

A parent hosting such a party sends the wrong message to their kids — it's OK to break the law sometimes — and this may lead them to do so again under other conditions. As parents, there is nothing more important to us than our children's safety and the good news is when it comes to influencing teens about important decisions, it is parents who have the power.

According to the 2007 Roper Youth Report, the majority of teens — 70 percent — say parents are the No. 1 influence on their decisions about whether or not they drink alcohol.

Parents must help children navigate through an adult world. Teaching them right from wrong, self control and respect of themselves, others and the law is part of the job. We do a disservice to our efforts if we show them it is OK to disregard the law sometimes.

Recognizing the important role parents and other adults play, our responsibility program, "Prevent, Don't Provide," uses advertising and point-of-sale materials at retail establishments to remind adults and parents to "Think Again" if they believe it's acceptable to buy alcohol for teens.

Most parents agree that it is never OK to host a teen drinking party and most teens — 72 percent — don't drink.

Standard Sales Company is adamantly opposed to underage drinking. Many of our employees have children, too, and it is important to remember as parents, we have the greatest influence on the decisions our teens make about drinking. Talk with your teens and help them find a good time without drinking.

For more information

about "Prevent Don't Provide," "Family Talk about Drinking" and other programs designed to offer parents information on how they can prevent underage drinking, visit www.familytalkonline.com.

RETHA FORTENBERRY
ODESSA

TO THE EDITOR:

I am attempting to find my husband's family. He grew up in Big Spring and believes he still has family there. His name is R.J. Lawson.

I'm hoping that you can help me in this matter. If so I can be contacted by email at izzbywhite@yahoo.com.

KAYCE LAWSON
EL DORADO, ARK.

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to tell you about a person I met this week, so that if you should be lucky enough to meet him, you can tell him what a fine, brave young man he is. Oh, please don't forget to give him a pat on the back, too, because what he did is really something to be proud of.

This week is such a very special time of year because many years ago our dear Savior Jesus Christ lay dead in a tomb until God awakened him so that he could live forever in heaven and in the hearts of all men. And because it's so special, I like to clean my yard so that on Easter morning I can put a sign in my yard that reads "Rejoice," because I truly am thankful for the gift of life I was given.

That is how I came to meet this young man (a teenager really). I was busy hoeing the weeds in my yard when I heard a crashing sound. I went around the corner of my house and saw this young

man and his friends had once again kicked open the door of the vacant house next to mine and that they had stolen the plastic cord I had used to secure the door.

True, the house is old and in need of repair, but it still doesn't give anyone the right to go on someone else's property and tear anything up.

Since that was the fourth time that they had kicked the door open in the past two weeks, I knew I needed to try to secure the door to prevent them from breaking it down again.

I gathered up some old fence planks and was nailing them to the door frame, and for some reason, one of the young men in the group decided that it would be funny to throw a rock at me. His aim was good because he hit me on the arm.

While I wasn't seriously hurt, it could have been worse. If it had hit me in the face, I could have lost an eye because I've had a lens implanted following cataract surgery.

I dropped my hammer and started to get someone to call the police, but I didn't because I knew a couple of the young men in the group and know they aren't bad boys. I asked one of them to ask his friend — the one who threw the rock — why he did that, because I wasn't doing anything to hurt him. All I was trying to do was help the man who owns the house. He's disabled and knows I try to keep an eye on his property.

I told the young man to tell his friend that if he would tell me he was sorry for throwing the rock, I wouldn't call the police.

Well, he did tell me he was sorry, but at the same time he was laughing, which tells me he wasn't really sorry.

I, however, feel really sorry for him because it takes a big, fine person — really it takes a coward — to throw a rock at an old lady who has fought cancer three times and isn't able to talk after having lost her voice to throat cancer years ago.

I try my best not to bother or hurt anyone, and I know this young man's parents must love and be proud of him because he's such a fine, brave young man.

If he keeps on doing things that are wrong, in a few years, maybe less, he will find himself looking at another kind of door and wishing that he could kick it open, too. He won't be able to, though, because that door will be a steel door that holds him a prisoner in his jail cell.

LANA F. ANGUIANO
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

As chairperson of the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Shamrocks Against Dystrophy, I want to take a moment to thank businesses and patrons in the Big Spring area for their generous participation in our 2008 campaign. I'm delighted to say that this year's fundraising efforts were a great success.

Those little green and gold Shamrocks mobiles sold by local businesses help support MDA's vital programs of research, health care services and public education right here in Big Spring and across the country.

On behalf of all the individuals and families coping with muscle-wasting diseases, I send a big warm "thank you" to Big Spring residents. You've certainly put a smile in these Irish eyes!

MAUREEN MCGOVERN
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF.

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Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

Christine Avalos Bara, 1405 N. Sixth Street, Lamesa
Sonia M. Barlow, 4209 Parkway, Big Spring
Casey D. Bernal, 901 Grand, Hereford
Richard Henry Burk, PO Box 171933, Arlington
Latonya Campbell, 5948 Callaston Lane, Fort Worth
David Canales Jr., 803 E. 15th Street, Big Spring
Lenard Carson Jr., 102 S. Peach, Pecos
Iginio Cervantez, 1905 N. Monticello, Big Spring
Jared Coby, 901 S. High St., Longview
Doyce Ray Coyle, 3301 Auburn, Big Spring
Patrick C. Criss, 8030 Catalpa, Texas City
Stephen Cruz, 1707 Donley, Big Spring
Susan Cuellar, 2301 N. Pecos, Midland
Ramona Davila, 2143 Texas Ave., San Antonio
Randy James Ellis, PO Box 391, Snyder
B. Nicole Foust, 2505 Chanute, Big Spring
Hilda L. Fuentes, 502 S. Seventh, Lamesa
Aldo Gustavo Galindo, 922 Jeter, Odessa
Claudet Garza, 3106 E. Elm, Laredo
Naomi Gonzales, 1606 E. Fifth, Big Spring
Raul Gonzales, 2106 Johnson, Big Spring
Jeffrey Grams, 224 Lelon Lane, Springtown
Brittney Gross, 1010 E. 20th Street, Big Spring
Nora Gutierrez, 606 N. Eighth Street, Lamesa
Dana L. Havink, 600 Star Linda Ct., Arlington
Kristin Hawkins, 405 N. Moss Lake Road, Big Spring
Gerald R. Hodges, 4312 Crane, Houston
Allan J. Hoey, 1401 N. Highway 87 Apt. 2, Big Spring
Lucas Shane Hughes, #1

Courtney Place No. 7, Big Spring
Jeanie Renee Ivey, 5326 Old State Hwy. 7, La Grange
Sharon Annette James, 1215 Cedar, Colorado City
Shauna Danielle Jenkins, 2208 45th Street, Snyder
Brandy Johnson, 24327 Pleasonton, San Antonio
Rene M. Johnson, 9205 W. County Road 174, Midland
Alana Marie Lee, 2711 66th Street, Lubbock
Patricia Lutrell, 2726 Redwood, Odessa
Joshua David Mackenstein, 414 Hickory/3417 N. Midland Drive, Midland
Shawn G. McKay, 3107 Bonham Ave, Odessa
Carol Lee McNeil, 2601 Westridge, Snyder
Ebaline Flores Mendoza, PO Box 291, Mertzon
Melissa Merket, 402 W. Eighth, Colorado City
Elizabeth Rose Mills, 1204 Mulberry, Big Spring
Krista Moore, 411 N. 13th Street, Lamesa
Angela Moreno, 1712 N. Third Street, Lamesa
Anna Marie Moreno, 4656 St. Frances Ave., Dallas
Esiqueiro 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
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
Gustavo Alfredo Rios, of 1804 Scurry, Big Spring
Veronica Rodriguez, 3010 Cherokee, Big Spring
Sofia Romero, 409 N. Ave. G, Lamesa

Jennifer Ann Rositas, 1429 E. Sixth, Big Spring
Steven G. Ross, 60 Cinamon Lane, San Angelo
Blanca L. Saenz, 1202 N. Sam Houston Ave., Odessa
Rudy Salazar, PO Box 1275, Stanton
Harl Bradford Shaffer, 5603 Gail Hwy., Big Spring
Syretta Diane Shellman, 1101 N. Goliad, Big Spring
Janie Spurgeon, 1212 Wadley, Midland
Shawn Spurgeon, 106 N. Adams, Denver City
James Sutton, 2225 Oakland, Abilene
Tonya Taylor, 1111 Moseley Circle, Hobbs, N.M.
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
Ricky Waltenbaugh, 801 W. Marcy Apt. 23, Big Spring
Christina Williams, 400 Macarthur, Odessa
Bernest Elgen Woolridge, 4110 S. Jackson, Amarillo
Jerry Lee Wrightsil Jr., 2816 Ridge Road, Fort Worth

District Court Filings:
Ticor Tital Insurance Co. vs. Joseph Leyva — accounts, contracts and notes.
Cach LLC vs. Frank Salazar — accounts, contracts and notes.
Jess Boyd Sodowsky Jr. vs. Lucinda Anne Sodowsky — divorce.
Isabel Medina vs. Rene Medina — divorce.
Guadalupe Olivarez vs. Francisco Olivarez — protective order.
Isabel Calderon vs. Ycidro Villareal III — protective order.

Marriage Licenses:
Daniel Dehoyos, 42, and Vickie A. Sanchez, 44, both of Big Spring.
David Jerome Franks, 31, and April Jeanette McGee, 26, both of Big Spring.

Macario Rangel Rivera Jr., 31, and Yolanda Ann Lopez, 27, both of Big Spring.
David Lewis Spence, 50, and Lou Beth McCarthy, 45, both of Big Spring.

Warranty Deeds:
Grantor: 810 Johnson Street Apartments Inc.
Grantee: Antonio Zavala and Maria Zavala
Property: The S/75 feet of Lot 4, Block 73, Original Town of Big Spring
Date: March 13, 2008

Grantor: Jan M. Guzman
Grantee: Jaime and Viola Salgado
Property: Lot 3, Block 1, Moore Addition
Date: March 13, 2008

Grantor: John Doyle Landers, Terry Scott Webb and Susan C. Smith
Grantee: Joe Rodriguez
Property: Lot 28, Block 13, Douglass Addition No. 2
Date: March 13, 2008

Grantor: Lee Harris
Grantee: Brown Exchange Properties Inc.
Property: Two tracts out of Section 7, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 14, 2008

Grantor: Robert C. Wegner Jr. and Sherry Wegner
Grantee: Robert Haney
Property: The S/40 acres of Section 39, Block 32, T-2-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 14, 2008

Grantor: Robert L. Noyes and Janis Dean-Noyes
Grantee: Marvin Casey
Property: A 1.96 acre tract out of Section 44, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 14, 2008

Grantor: Arthur Olague, Orlando Olague and Diego Olague
Grantee: Tessa Olague
Property: The Velma Marlin Tract

described in Vol. 128, Page 63, Deed Records
Date: March 14, 2008

Grantor: William T. Brewer and Lillian Brewer
Grantee: Thomas Brewer and Lawanda Brewer
Property: Lot 31, Block 8, Douglas Addition
Date: March 14, 2008

Grantor: Ashley Ellison
Grantee: Ronald L. Howell and Patricia Howell
Property: Lots 5 and 6, Subdivision D in Block 18, Fairview Heights
Date: March 18, 2008

Grantor: Cheryl L. Click
Grantee: Iden Investments Inc.
Property: A 15.2 acre tract out of Section 9, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 19, 2008

Grantor: Cheryl L. Click
Grantee: Jerry Iden
Property: A 35.36 acre tract out of Section 9, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 19, 2008

Grantor: Lee Harris and Laurie Harris
Grantee: First United Methodist Church of Big Spring
Property: Lots 11 and 12, Block 16, Edwards Heights
Date: March 19, 2008

Grantor: Patricia Locklin
Grantee: Anna Briscoe
Property: Lot 8, Block 24, Cole & Strayhorn Addition
Date: March 19, 2008

Warranty Deed with Vendors Lien:
Grantor: Craig Dunnam and Carie Dunnam
Grantee: Dennis P. Schwartz
Property: Two tracts out of Section 4, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 19, 2008

Grantor: Foxwest Properties LTD
Grantee: Trent Edmondson and

Cheryl Edmondson
Property: Lot 24, Block 6, Douglass Addition
Date: March 14, 2008

Grantor: Foxwest Properties LTD
Grantee: Jose Luis Munoz
Property: Lots 3, 4, 25 and 26, Block 2, South Haven Addition
Date: March 14, 2008

Grantor: Foxwest Properties LTD
Grantee: Daniel Olivas
Property: A tract out of Section 5, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 14, 2008

Grantor: Michael J. Nairn and Melissa Nairn
Grantee: Woodrow A. Mize
Property: Lot 8, Block 18, Monticello Addition
Date: March 17, 2008

Grantor: Sheree Phillips Crow
Grantee: Daniel A. Gibbs
Property: A 13.3 acre tract out of Section 44, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 17, 2008

Grantor: Brett McKibben and Jennifer McKibben
Grantee: Stephen M. Campbell and Betty Campbell
Property: Lot 15, Block 3, Indian Hills
Date: March 18, 2008

Grantor: Jim Weaver
Grantee: William H. Burghart
Property: Lot 2, Block 6, Hall Addition
Date: March 19, 2008

Grantor: Jennifer Bowman
Grantee: James Jackson Hill and Maria Hill
Property: Lot 1, Block 3, Lockhart Addition
Date: March 19, 2008

Grantor: Crossroads Housing Development Corp.
Grantee: Stephen Wallace
Property: The N/51.7 feet of Lots 11 and 12, Block 29, Amended Cole & Strayhorn Addition
Date: March 19, 2008

HOME

Continued from Page 4C

saying no as a culture to our children, and they keep asking for more.”
Bauer’s parents won’t take rent money or let her help much with groceries. She’s trying to save several hundred dollars a month for a house while working as a meetings coordinator.
Bauer would prefer to live on her own, but without her parents’ help would “probably be renting again and trying to stick minimal money in the bank,” she said.
Shirley Smith, 80, said she and her husband didn’t hesitate when they invited Bauer to return to their home in Eden, Wis. Buying groceries for another person isn’t stretching her budget too much, she said.
“I’ve got three kids and

any of them can come home if they want,” she said.
But plenty of well-meaning parents must delay retirement or scale back their dreams because they have to help their children, Stifler said.
Some of Erickson’s clients are giving as much as \$50,000 at a time to their kids, many of whom have overextended themselves with big houses or lavish lifestyles. And the sliding economy might threaten their jobs.
Parents feel guilty if they don’t offer help, but she warns them to be careful with their savings.
“I almost have to act like a financial therapist if you will,” she said. “Here is the line I’m drawing for you. That’s fine. You can do up to this point, but at this point, now you’re starting to erode your own wealth.”

Anna Maggiore, 27, lost her job as a publicist in Los Angeles about three years ago and moved into her parents’ house in Los Alamos, N.M.
She tried to find jobs, but nothing stuck, so she enrolled full-time at the College of Santa Fe to finish her bachelor’s degree in business.
She figures her parents spend about \$1,000 a month on her, including a car payment, car and health insurance, school and other costs. Her father is a retired nuclear physicist and her mother, a guidance counselor, will retire this spring. Now Maggiore is looking for work so she can supplement their income.
“It’s kind of hitting me finally that I need to get out there and find a job,” she said. “Even if it’s just part-time just to help out however I can.”
A new survey by the

retiree-advocacy group AARP found that one-fourth of Generation Xers, those 28 to 39 years old, receive financial help from family and friends.
The online survey of nearly 1,800 people ages 19 to 39 also found 57 percent believed they were “financially independent.” But in a separate question, 33 percent said they received financial support from family and friends.
Bauer was caught by surprise when her job at a resort in Kohler, Wis., was cut four years ago, one year after she got divorced. The single mother bounced around to several lesser-paying jobs, declared bankruptcy and even moved 60 miles south to Milwaukee.
Her daughter, now 12, moved in with Bauer’s ex-husband near her hometown.
Bauer decided to move

to be closer to her and in December she found a job with the Experimental Aircraft Association in nearby Oshkosh. She tried to buy a house but needed 5 percent down. She only had 2 percent. She’s now saving for a down payment and hopes to have it as early as June.
Bauer said she gets

along well with her parents and knows she’ll never get to spend so much time with them again. But it hurts her ego to live at home.
“I’ve had people say to me, ‘Oh God, I could never do that,’” she said. “But you take humble steps in order to move forward.”

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'Big Give' gives pastor and wife big surprise

By LORI BASHEDA

Orange County Register

SANTA ANA, Calif. — Every night for years, Leesa Bellesi would kneel beside her bed and say a prayer for Oprah.

The pastor's wife still prays for the talk show queen. But she won't watch her show anymore. Not since Oct. 30, 2006.

Leesa was sitting in her living room that day watching Oprah, as usual, when the daytime superstar told her audience that she had come up with her best giveaway ever. Then she gave 300 audience members \$1,000 each. She told them to "open your hearts ... be really creative" and go out and spend the money helping others in need; then return to her show in a week to report what good deeds they had done.

Leesa's jaw dropped. Six years before, her husband Denny had handed out \$100 bills to 100 random people one Sunday service at Coast Hills Community Church in Aliso Viejo, Calif., and asked them to go out and do good and report back with their stories in 90 days.

He based his living Bible lesson on the Parable of the Talents and called it the Kingdom Assignment. By the time church members reported back, the \$10,000 had multiplied into hundreds of thousands and amazing stories abounded. Word spread and churches, individuals and businesses across the nation began doing the Kingdom Assignment.

Bellesi's ministry made headlines. And Oprah's people apparently read one of them.

In May 2003, Denny and Leesa got an invitation to



Orange County Register photo/Eugene Garcia
Leesa Bellesi is pictured Sept. 4, 2005, with her husband Denny, who were putting out the word that they want to give \$50,000 to 50 churches across the U.S., \$1,000 each.

sit on Oprah's couch. It was for a show called "The Best Money I Ever Spent." A picture of the couple on Oprah's couch under a heading that reads "Paying it Forward" is still on Oprah.com alongside the words "Pastor Denny Bellesi and his wife had an idea."

Bellesi was giddy. Sitting next to Oprah was a dream come true.

Leesa says she later wrote a letter to the show offering to donate money that Oprah could hand out to the audience so they could do the Kingdom Assignment, but her letter was never answered.

Now, in 2006, she was watching Oprah hand out \$1,000 bank cards to audience members: "Isn't it an awesome idea?" Oprah asked her audience. "My idea! My idea, my idea, my idea. Fantastic!"

That was the thing that upset Leesa.

"It would have just really softened the blow if there had been some recognition for the contribution of the idea," she says. "It was a rough moment. When she said it was her idea over and over again it was just really painful. I just remember going fuzzy."

Messages began arriving in Leesa's e-mail from people who were familiar with the Kingdom Assignment and had caught the 2006 Oprah show. "Just, ya know, feelings," Leesa says.

Leesa says she prayed and wrote in her journal. "I was a huge fan," she says of Oprah. "Huge. Huge. She had us on her show. She's totally gracious. This doesn't discount all the things I learned on her show."

Now she could no longer bring herself to watch the

show. Then Oprah announced her new primetime reality show "The Big Give." On the series, which began airing a few weeks ago, 10 contestants crisscross the country, handing out "hundreds of thousands of dollars" that the show gives them in a competition to "find ways to impact the fates and for-

tunes of unsuspecting people," according to the Big Give Web site.

At the end of each hour, the contestants report back their story of who they helped and how. A panel of judges considers the "leadership, accomplishments and creativity" each contestant displays, kicking off the weakest. The contestant left at the end of the series wins \$1 million.

Since the show aired, the Bellesis say, they get comments everywhere they go. "I was asked today again on the golf course, 'What's the deal with Oprah?'" Denny says.

On Friday, the couple posted a statement on their Web site, Kingdomassignment.com.

"First let us say ... we like Oprah," the statement begins.

Regarding the 2006 show where Oprah handed out money to audience members:

"We must admit we were surprised and in all honesty hurt that when she launched this as 'her' new idea we were not contacted or made aware that this was going to become a major part of what now has become a huge Oprah Winfrey project, even

becoming the latest "Reality Show" on ABC. Even though this idea has become the key theme and brand of our ministry since November of 2000, giving away money to watch it grow to God's glory."

Another portion of the statement reads: "We have no doubt that Oprah's reality show will be done in first-class fashion and that it will be found touching and fascinating. Our hope is that it will point people toward intentional giving as a way of life, but more importantly also point out that all good gifts come from the Creator and not a created human being."

Don Halcombe, a spokesman at Harpo Productions, said the "Big Give" has nothing to do with the Kingdom Assignment.

"The idea of using 'seed money' as a platform to gather even larger donations is an idea as old as charity itself," he said in an e-mail statement.

Furthermore, he wrote, "In the 'Big Give,' the challenges vary from episode to episode and sometimes don't involve finances at all. While

See GIVE, Page 7A

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GIVE

Continued from Page 1A

there is no connection between the Kingdom Assignment and the 'Big Give,' we admire any person or organization who helps to spread the spirit of giving back."

In a People magazine article a few weeks ago, Oprah is quoted saying that the idea for her "Big Give" stemmed from a show she did on "Paying it Forward." Halcombe says Oprah was not referring to the show the Bellesis were on in 2003, but the show where she handed out money to her audience members in 2006.

Denny Bellesi is no longer pastor at Coast Hills. He and his wife live in Lake Forest, Calif., and he travels around the world speaking at churches about the Kingdom Assignment. The couple has written two books about their ministry.

Currently, they say, about 75 churches around the world are doing the Kingdom Assignment, as are several businesses.

"The thing that's frustrating, if you will, is that the people who know us ask 'What's the deal with Oprah?' and the people who don't know us... are we going to be asked... 'What's the deal with the Kingdom Assignment? Are you trying to rip off Oprah?' That's probably the most concern to me," Denny says.

The Bellesis say they have no intentions of pressing the matter further now that they have put their statement out there. "We are not bitter," Leesa says. "The Kingdom Assignment is for everyone."

And that includes Oprah.

Shouldering a slump by renting instead of selling

By **JESSIE MILLIGAN**

McClatchy Newspapers

Time to sell the house, but the market is sluggish.

Should you rent it out instead?

Real estate agents and property managers say more and more people in areas like Tarrant County, Texas, are opting to rent their homes, although being a landlord can be an expensive headache instead of an easy way out.

"Absolutely, we are seeing an increase in people deciding to lease their homes," says Ginger Pinkerton, property manager for Century 21 in Keller, Texas. She and other property managers caution prospective landlords about the potential pitfalls, and it always comes down to this: Leasing out property can be a money-making move for savvy long-term investors who consider it a business.

Anything less and you have the potential for trouble.

Here are basic tips from the pros on how to avoid the landlord blues.

Why being a landlord takes bucks

It's quite a list.

—If you want good tenants, you have to fix up the home before putting it on the rental market.

—It's common to go 30 to 60 days between tenants. You can get stuck making mortgage payments on two houses.

—The cost of damages to a home may far exceed what the damage deposit will cover. Many repairs are the landlord's legal responsibility, particularly those that involve

health and safety.

"Owners have to have a cash flow," says LaJuan Zachary of Home Sweet Home Property Management in Fort Worth. "If an air-conditioner compressor goes out in August, they have to replace it right away. They can't just wait until they get the rental check in September to fix it," Zachary says.

At the very minimum, a month's rent should be kept in reserve, she recommends.

How to get good tenants

—Check the background of all applicants.

At Home Sweet Home, as at most property management companies, Zachary checks to make sure applicants have good credit.

"If they won't make their car payment then they won't pay their rent," Zachary says. "If they have unpaid utility bills, they won't be able to turn on the electricity."

Her successful applicants must not have had an eviction. They can't have a felony conviction.

Property management companies routinely do such research. Individuals can do similar research by logging on to a tenant screening Web site such as www.tenantcheck.com. Expect to pay \$50 to \$60 to find out information about not just credit but also criminal history, registered sex-offender status and whether the applicant is on a terrorist watchlist.

"You really have to be diligent about who you are letting in your property," says Michael Cade of Prime Realtors Property Management in

Arlington.

Consider hiring a property manager

The typical property manager's fee in Tarrant County is half of the first month's rent and then 10 percent of the monthly rent.

For that price you can get someone experienced in the details of the law. They know what to include in leases. You also get someone who can handle the midnight calls about broken plumbing. Most important, you have someone nearby who can keep an eye on the house.

It's a good idea to interview more than one property manager to see what services they provide.

Some, like Zachary at Home Sweet Home, schedule home walk-throughs every three months.

Others, such as Cade at Prime Realtors, don't routinely go inside your rental home.

"The good tenants get insulted and the bad tenants don't want you to come in," Cade says. "You need some program where at the very minimum someone is regularly driving by the outside of the property," he says. Usually, but not always, he notices that when things are going OK on the outside, the inside is fine, too.

Make friends with a CPA

It's smart to visit with an accountant before you make the decision to rent out your home. An accountant can tell you what records to keep and what to expect when income tax time comes around.

Many people aren't aware of when they can

and can't take deductions on rental property, says Marjorie Kottler, a certified public accountant in Fort Worth.

"A lone star house is a headache on an audit," Kottler says. That "lone star" is her favored term for a single home rented by a more casual landlord, rather than someone who owns multiple homes and runs them as a rental business.

She finds one- or two-home landlords don't always keep adequate records to provide the proper documentation for deductions. Potential landlords should prepare to set up detailed home filing systems that keep track of maintenance and improvements, security deposits, advertising costs, mileage to travel to work on the home, homeowners insurance, property taxes and mortgage interest. It's even better to work with a property management company that keeps those records and provides a report at the end of the year.

When renting your home is not such a good idea

Homeowners often consider renting out homes for six months to a year. Perhaps, they reason, they'll make more money on a sale when the market improves.

Not a good idea, says Pinkerton of Century 21 in Keller.

"It's not worth the time or energy," she says. "When the lease is up, they'll have to turn around and put all that money back into the house to fix it up for resell," she says.

Homeowners who have little to no equity sometimes opt for renting out instead of selling and, so do owners who actually owe more than the house is worth, says Craig Campbell, a broker at Re/Max Advantage, in Fort Worth and a landlord himself. If they sold, they could find that the check they receive is less than what they owe, especially after all the closing costs are deducted.

Advice: Learn the laws

A new book, "American Landlord: Everything You Need to Know About Managing Your Properties" by Trevor Rhodes (\$30, McGraw-Hill) includes a CD that includes ready-to-print checklists, rental applications, lease agreements and landlord-tenant laws for every state.

To more thoroughly understand the responsibilities of becoming a landlord, read your state regulations. It can be dry reading, but it is information worth knowing.

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'Lunatic Asylum' renaming sparks fury

By VICKI SMITH

Associated Press Writer

WESTON, W.Va. — It's an intriguing and provocative name that translates to Web hits, phone calls and tour tickets: the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum.

To some, the title acknowledges history by readopting one of the many names previously held by the long-vacant, 19th century mental institution known most recently as Weston Hospital.

But others say the new owners of the massive Gothic Revival hospital have gone too far, disparaging the suffering of former patients and reopening wounds with planned events like "Psyco Path" dirt bike races on the grounds.

They say words like "lunatic" and "retarded" have gone the way of "colored" and "Negro" and should never be resurrected.

"It's like turning back the clock to a time we don't want to go back to," said Ann McDaniel, executive director of the Statewide Independent Living Council, one of several mental health advocacy groups to object.

"I think they could still do what they want to do without being offensive."

Scott Miller, director of Mountain State Direct Action Center, said one former patient burst into tears after seeing the name on a sign.

"It's not just that I'm a liberal and I think it's not a good idea; it's seeing people physically hurt," he said. "That's about all I needed to know."

Rebecca Jordan, whose family owns the 307-acre complex, sees things differently.

"This part of history is vital, and you cannot bury what you don't like," she said. "Should we take down the Holocaust museum? Should we completely deny all that happened because it's not favorable? Because it might hurt a few feelings?"

The daily tours that began last week — which cost \$10 to \$30, depending on duration — focus on issues such as the evolution of mental health care, the Civil War, the Great Depression, even architecture.

"Not one person who has gone through this place and taken the tour has said that one thing was offensive," Jordan



AP Photo/Preservation Photography, Matt Palmer

After struggling to find a suitable, sustainable use, the state sold the Weston Hospital at auction last summer for \$1.5 million to Joe Jordan, an asbestos demolition contractor from Morgantown.

said. "It's not a freak show." The hospital is one of the world's largest hand-cut sandstone structures, a National Historic Landmark that once housed more than 2,000

patients but has stood largely silent since 1994.

After struggling to find a suitable, sustainable use, the state sold it at auction last summer for \$1.5 million to Jordan's father, Joe, an asbestos demolition contractor from Morgantown.

The Jordans plan events on the grounds year-round: "mud bog" races, in which trucks try to speed through a pit without getting stuck; a reunion of former employees; "Hospital of Horrors" haunting tours in October; and a "Nightmare Before Christmas" tour on Dec. 23.

But their approach to marketing "cheapens and denigrates the whole field of psychology," argued Jerry Kirkpatrick, an international business and marketing professor at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

"They are sending mixed signals about the nature of the product they are selling. Are they selling history? Or dirt bike races and Halloween nights?" he said. "Sooner or later, one of these themes will have to move to the forefront and the

other will fall to the side."

Kirkpatrick said serious treatment of the institution might mean putting recreational opportunities into a separate business and preserving the hospital as "a proper memorial."

"I can't imagine a long life for the present operation," he added, "unless they have a lot of money to throw at it."

It appears the Jordans don't.

With renovations projected to cost tens of millions of dollars, "it's going to be 50 years before we see revenue on this property," Rebecca Jordan said.

"But this county is going to benefit in the next month because of the business we're going to bring in."

That's why Glenn Brown Jr., who lives within a stone's throw, is happy about the change.

"We don't want to see it deteriorate. We want to see it grow," said Brown, environmental services director for the hospital for 26 years. "I see something in the future. Before, I'd look at it and say, 'Nah. It's going to sit there and just rot to the ground.'"

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News in brief

Flakey sale: Virginia sisters sell Illinois-shaped corn flake for \$1,350 on eBay

CHICAGO (AP) — Two sisters from Virginia sold their Illinois-shaped corn flake on eBay Friday night for \$1,350.

"We were biting our nails all the way up to the finish, seeing what would happen," said Melissa McIntire, 23. "There's a lot of relief involved."

The winner of the auction, which lasted more than a week, is the owner of a trivia Web site who wants to add the corn flake to a traveling museum.

"We're starting a collection of pop culture and Americana items," said Monty Kerr of Austin, Texas. "We thought this was a fantastic one."

Kerr owns TriviaMania.com and said he will likely send someone to Virginia to pick up the flake by hand, so it won't be damaged. This isn't the first corn flake that Kerr has tried to buy. He said he purchased a flake billed as the world's largest, but that by the time it was delivered it had crumbled into three pieces.

McIntire and her sister Emily, 15, listed the corn flake on eBay last week, but eBay canceled the auction.

The sisters restarted their Ebay auction, advertising a coupon redeemable for their corn flake, instead of the cereal itself.

The McIntires said they'll likely use the money for a family vacation.

Iowa police chase Ill. doughnut shop's stolen delivery van at 100 mph; suspect held

TOLEDO, Iowa (AP) — A bevy of officers chased a doughnut delivery van at speeds up to 100 mph before arresting the driver at gunpoint, authorities said.

But the cops weren't simply hankering for doughnuts.

The van, owned by Donut Delite of Moline, Ill., was stolen early Thursday while the driver was making deliveries at a hospital in nearby Rock Island. The driver had left the van running, and a man jumped in and headed for Iowa, just over the Mississippi River.

A Benton County, Iowa, sheriff's deputy spotted the van later in the morning, and eight other officers eventually joined the chase. Authorities finally cornered it in neighboring Tama County.

Frank Alvarado, 46, of Moline, Ill., was charged with theft and other counts and was held on \$15,000 bond.

Security video showed Alvarado milling about before driving off in the van, but he was not listed as a patient, said officials at Trinity Medical Hospital-West in Rock Island. A jail official said he was assigned a public defender, whose name wasn't immediately available.

Tama County Sheriff Dennis Kucera said his officers had no idea what the unmarked van was carrying.

They were rewarded for their efforts anyway — the doughnut shop gave them the purloined goodies.

Fake coach scamming Pa. McDonald's restaurant with bad checks for 'team' orders

WARREN, Pa. (AP) — Police in three western Pennsylvania towns are looking for a man who pretends to be a basketball coach and scams McDonald's restaurants out of food and money using bad checks.

Police say the man drives up in a school-type bus and enters the restaurants ordering about \$50 of food for his

"team." The man then pays with a \$150 check that appears to be from a school district and takes his food and his change, in cash.

The stores learned they were scammed when the checks bounced.

Police say it happened March 14 at McDonald's in Warren and Grove City and the next day in Titusville.

Police say Friday they have a suspect but haven't arrested anyone.

Faced with slow housing market, builders' group forced to put headquarters up for sale

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — How bad is the housing market? Bad enough that a cash-strapped builders' group is forced to sell its own home.

Three years after moving into its posh,

new \$3.5 million headquarters, the Home & Building Association of Greater Grand Rapids is putting the building up for sale.

Chief Executive Judy Barnes said the association is hampered by the weak economy, a sluggish residential building industry and declining membership. The setbacks have resulted in some pledges made toward paying for construction of the 15,000-square-foot headquarters going unfulfilled.

The association spent \$1.5 million of its own money on the building. The remainder was to be covered by donations and the sale of its previous headquarters.

Barnes declined to release the amount still owed on the new building but said the association was not in financial trouble.

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'Heartbreaking,' investigator says of pregnant woman's death

By JIM SUHR

Associated Press Writer

ALTON, Ill. — Banished to the basement, the 29-year-old mother with a childlike mind and another baby on the way had little more than a thin rug and a mattress to call her own on the chilly concrete floor.

Dorothy Dixon ate what she could forage from the refrigerator upstairs, where prosecutors say housemates used her for target practice with BBs, burned her with a glue gun and doused her with scalding liquid that peeled away her skin.

They torched what few clothes she had, authorities say, so she walked around naked. They often pummeled her with an aluminum bat or metal handle.

Dixon — six months pregnant — died after weeks of abuse. Police have charged two adults, three teenagers and a 12-year-old boy with murder in the case that has repulsed many in this Mississippi River town.

"This is heartbreaking," police Lt. David Hayes said. "It was almost as though they were making fun of the abuse they were administering. This woman was almost like



The Alton Telegraph photo/John Badman
Officer Manuel Espinoza, left, and detective Peter Vambaketes of the Alton (Ill.) Police Department, help Michelle Riley from a house in Alton after the body of Dorothy Dixon, 29, was found inside.

living in a prison."

Investigators put much of the blame on Michelle Riley, 35, who they said befriended Dixon but pocketed monthly Social Security checks she got because of her developmental delays.

Dixon saw little, if any, of the money, Hayes said. For months she weathered the torment to keep a roof over her head and that of her year-old son, who weighed just 15 pounds when taken into state custody after his mom's death.

"I've never seen an

almost conspiratorial effort by a group of people to continuously torture someone until she finally died, then not really show

any remorse," Hayes said. "It was just a slow, torturous, tragic way to die. I highly doubt Dorothy Dixon even knew she was dying."

Riley, 43-year-old Judy Woods and three teenagers, including Riley's 15-year-old daughter, LeShelle McBride, are charged with first-degree murder, aggravated and heinous battery, intentional homicide of an unborn child, and unlawful restraint. Riley's 12-year-old son is charged as a juvenile.

Riley, her daughter, Woods and 16-year-old Benny Wilson have public defenders who did not immediately return messages for comment. An 18-year-old defendant, Michael Elliott, planned to get his own attorney, court records show.

All remain in jail on \$1 million bond.

Riley and Dixon, police said, had lived in Quincy, a Mississippi River town about 100 miles north of St. Louis, Mo. Quincy is where Riley worked as a coordinator for a regional center that helps the developmentally disabled with housing and other services. Dixon was a client.

For years, an impoverished Riley struggled raising her children. Her use of methamphetamine and cocaine brought drug convictions in 2002 and 2004. But with treatment and housing help from the

Quincy YWCA, Riley put her life in order — so much that in February of last year, the Quincy Herald-Whig did a story on her comeback.

Last summer, Dixon and Riley moved into the \$800-a-month, three-bedroom rental in Alton about 15 miles north of St. Louis. From the start, neighbors Chad Hudson and Terri Brandt considered Riley trouble.

"Michelle was evil, vindictive. Manipulative," said Hudson, convinced the teenagers were Riley's powerless minions.

See TORTURE, Page 11A

Community Education Classes

Medication Aide Certification

Not long ago only doctors and nurses were allowed to administer medications. Times have changed! Medication aides now may administer medications in nursing homes and state correctional facilities. They must hold a permit issued by the Texas Department of Health. A permit holder must function under the direct supervision of a licensed nurse on duty or on call by the facility. Medication aides are a cost effective option now open to Medicare skilled nursing facilities as well as Medicaid nursing facilities. Medication aides must also comply with certain nurse aide requirements. Since there are several prerequisites that must be met for this course, an enrollment packet detailing these prerequisites must be obtained and signed prior to enrollment. (NURA 1013, 140 hours, 14.0 CEU's)

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

3x3 Sudoku grid with numbers 2, 3, 8, 4, 5 in the top row and other numbers in various cells.

Big Spring State Hospital offered Amy Clemmer a deal she couldn't pass up. They paid for her to attend and finish nursing school. As a single mother, she needed the financial assistance, stable employment, flexible hours, and paid health insurance. She later found other benefits that can't be measured.

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She benefited from the family atmosphere at Big Spring State Hospital, and the patients are benefiting as well. We need nurses, nursing assistants and support staff. Visit us at www.dshs.state.tx.us for more information on joining our team.



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Step-by-Step Approach

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

- NORTH: K 7 4, 6 5 2, A 8, A Q 9 5 3
WEST: J 8 6, A 10 8 4 3, J 9 3 2, 6
EAST: 10 9 3 2, Q 9, Q 10 7 5, K 8 4
SOUTH: A Q 5, K J 7, K 6 4, J 10 7 2

The bidding: South 1 Club, West Pass, North 3 Clubs, East Pass

3 NT

Opening lead — four of hearts.

Most winning plays in bridge are arrived at by simple step-by-step reasoning. While this process may be applied at any time during the play, without question the most frequent occasion for its use occurs at trick one.

For a typical illustration, consider this deal. West leads a low heart against three notrump. East plays the queen, at which point declarer should take the time to analyze the situation before doing anything. Here is what should go through his mind:

1. I cannot make the contract without utilizing the club suit.

2. The best way to play the clubs is to finesse against West. If he has the king, I will make the contract with overtricks.

3. Suppose I win the first heart with the king, try the club finesse and it loses to East? The outcome will then depend on how the opposing hearts are divided. If West started with only four hearts, I am safe. But if he started with five hearts, a heart return by East through my J-7 will allow West to score four hearts, and I will go down one.

4. Is there any way I can protect against West having five hearts and the king of clubs?

5. Eureka! I can assure the contract regardless of how the opposing cards are divided. All I have to do is to allow East's queen of hearts to hold the first trick, retaining the K-J as a stopper. Assuming East returns a heart, if he subsequently gains the lead with the king of clubs and the hearts were originally divided 5-2, he won't have a heart to return. And if the hearts are divided 4-3, the opponents can't get more than four tricks no matter how they defend.

The ducking play at trick one thus assures South of scoring at least nine tricks, and, as the cards lie, he finishes with 10.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Like a soap opera heroine, today's moon contemplates: Should I stay in Libra or move into the unknown with Scorpio? It's a question befitting this quiet drama queen. The Easter holiday does herald springtime renewal, so by the time the moon enters Scorpio, many of us feel we've been given a second, third or ninth life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Mark Twain said, "I've known a lot of troubles in my time — and most of them never happened." Resolve not to worry. Take it as it comes without speculation as to what will happen next.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The stars sharpen your powers of observation. You can use this to figure out what your

loved ones want. You don't have to fulfill these needs, but you should, at the very least, know what's on the list.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Forget about opposites attracting today — that's only for magnets. The people around you want to connect with you on common ground. Share the part of you that's just like them.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're especially aware of your emotional attachment to objects. Souvenirs and keepsakes set off a sentimental mood. You could give one such possession as a meaningful gift.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're enthusiastic about drumming up some mischief, and the rest of the world is standing by, waiting to be entertained. With your special brand of playful gusto, you won't disappoint.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In great literature, true love is seldom happy and usually comes at a steep cost. But this is real

life. You can, and do, find a comfortable satisfaction in relationships, end of story. Accept your happy lot!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Again you're asked to solve tangled dilemmas, which may annoy you. Then again, you're so good at this! And when you come up with the perfect solution, which you usually do, you'll be celebrated by grateful souls.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're so much more effective while on your own turf. Wherever possible, make them come to you. Whether entertaining, working or playing, you shine best in your own environs.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You want it all, and you want it all at once. However, temperance will please you better. Let life open to you in stages. Your delight will build with each new phase.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A relationship is going through a slow transformation. It would

be easy not to detect the details of this change. Instead, sensitize yourself to the subtleties so you have a hand in the direction it's taking.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your life experiences have had a terribly practical slant as of late. Let's face it, pragmatism is not what you're all about. Set out this afternoon intent on beefing up your bag of tricks with rare and whimsical delights.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll run across the dear friend or family member who loves to hear the fine particulars of your many successes. Such an opportunity is uncommon. So go on, brag your heart out.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: This week begins with Easter Sunday, celebrated as a "movable feast," a term for a holiday that's observance, or date, moves. That's because it's tied to the moon's cycle. Easter always occurs on the Sunday following the first

full moon following the vernal equinox, but the ecclesial calendar (a calendar devised by the Roman church) names the vernal equinox as March 21 each year so Easter doesn't always coincide with our astronomical full moon. Easter is a Christian religious observation, but has deep roots in paganism, which explains the bunnies, the eggs and, oh, the chocolate! While theories on Easter's ritual and customs vary, on one point both paganism and religion converge — fundamentally Easter (and springtime) is about renewal and rebirth; winter has released the night for light, the dark night of the soul has passed for the arriving dawn. All hail springtime! Mother Nature is waking up, inspiring little sprouts of newness to push through the surface in each and every one of us. And that's cause for celebration — or at least a good reason to dye some eggs and hide them — even if

we're unsure why we're doing it!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Aries women distinguish themselves as leading ladies, and Sarah Jessica Parker is no exception. An Aries woman rarely tries to be anyone other than herself, as the approval she's looking for isn't dependent on social cues but internally motivated by her own impeccable standards. With Mars in Virgo, SJP is one smart cookie, methodically analyzing what she wants — then going for it.

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: My 21-year-old daughter, "Celia," has always been a compulsive nail biter. The past few years, her compulsive tendencies have gotten worse. She is a beautiful girl, but she constantly picks at her face. She wears bangs to hide what she's done to her forehead, and now she has started picking at her chin and already has a scar.

I've encouraged Celia to get counseling, but she ignores me. She insists she can't help it and shrugs it off. Every time I see her, she has a new sore, but she gets irritated when I bring it up.

Celia leads a stressful life. She is in her last year of undergraduate school and also works part time. But it's hard to stand by while my gorgeous daughter ruins her face. Please give me some practical advice. — Frustrated Mom

Dear Mom: This type of compulsive skin picking is known as neurotic excoriation, and some psychiatrists believe it is a form of body dysmorphic disorder. If Celia would speak to a therapist, she might find ways to control this behavior. It also might help for both of you to contact the Obsessive Compulsive Foundation (ocfoundation.org) at P.O. Box 961029, Boston, MA 02196.

Dear Annie: My best friend, "Denise," recently moved back to our hometown after two years away. When we aren't together, we talk on the phone several times a day. There is hardly anything we keep from each other.

The problem is, Denise is perpetually unhappy. Her sourpuss behavior is something I have put up with because she has many sparkling qualities.

However, since she has moved back, her negativity has started to conflict with my own life. I have made several good-hearted attempts to get her to join my social circle and acclimate her to a life here. Each time, she makes excuses and instead spends her time alone. As a result, I end up splitting my activities between Denise and my other friends and inevitably making someone a little annoyed.

Whether it is complaining about her job, her school, her boyfriend or her home life (all of which are not as extreme



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

as she would have you think), the whining is endless and my other friends are starting to be offended by her demeanor.

The last thing I want is for this divide to become bigger and more permanent, but I have run out of ideas. Any suggestions? — Grumpy's Best Friend

Dear Best Friend: Since you and Denise "hardly keep anything" from each other, it's time for the truth. Tell her she seems out of sorts since she moved back.

Explain that her constant complaining indicates she may be suffering from depression and ought to speak to her doctor. If Denise makes a sincere effort to be more positive, it will be reflected in her reality, so remind her, nicely, when she kvetches too much.

Dear Annie: You printed a bunch of responses to "Craving Intimacy in

Indiana," whose husband wasn't interested in sex. All the responses were from women. Here's one man's viewpoint:

About 10 years ago, I found out my testosterone level was in the bottom half of the scale. I was tired, somewhat depressed and lacked interest in sex. I had no energy. My urologist prescribed a testosterone cream and that got me back to "average" on the scale, but I still wasn't myself. I tried a different treatment, which turned out to be more satisfactory, moving my testosterone levels up even higher.

I learned that "average" on the scale does not mean "normal" for me. Guys need to find out what their own "normal" is. You'll know by how you think, feel and respond. It's well worth the effort. — N.N.

Dear N.N.: Thank you for making it clear that what is considered normal may not be adequate for everyone. We hope those with this problem will talk to their doctors. Happy Easter to all of our Christian readers.

Dear Annie: I work in a small restaurant. One of our regular customers (I'll call him "John") has a mental disability. He's very nice and I know he means well, but he really makes me uncomfortable.

John comes into the restaurant and stays until

we close. When we're not busy, my boss lets him come back into the kitchen. This is when my comfort level really drops. John follows my every move and watches me constantly. If I look up at him, he looks me straight in the eye and gives me a huge smile. He hits on all the girls who work here and has given us his phone number. Sometimes he'll stare at us and say, "Wow!" It's really awkward, especially when my boss leaves us alone with him.

I feel bad that I'm weirded out by John, but I can't help it. Can you please give me some advice? — A.R.

Dear A.R.: It might help if you understand that John's illness prevents him from controlling some of this behavior. He likes you. He thinks you're pretty. He'd like you to call him. He doesn't understand that being so direct is disconcerting. Ask your boss to talk to him and explain that staring and saying "wow" is not an acceptable way to behave around girls. He can help teach John more appropriate ways to conduct himself. John likely poses no danger to you, especially if he remains in the restaurant area, but he should not be in the kitchen for health as well as safety reasons. Tell the boss John's presence hampers your work and makes you nervous,

and that you'd appreciate it if he would stay in the main area of the establishment at all times.

Dear Annie: I don't mean to sound like a whiner, but at this stage of my life (I am 37 and divorced), every day is overwhelming and I seldom, if ever, enjoy one life-fulfilling day. My job is stressful, but it is very rewarding and provides for my son. I like what I do and don't want a career change. However, I just don't seem to be able to live my life to the fullest.

I know that in many respects I am to blame because of my personality. My divorce continues to hurt me. I am very sensitive and too easily stressed, but I can't help it. Sometimes I even feel the bad vibrations I emit. I get nervous when I talk and sometimes blurt out things I don't intend to say. I only have a few friends, but rarely socialize because I am not a drinker. Can you help? — El Paso, Texas

Dear El Paso: You are a prime candidate for counseling to help you learn to control your anxiety, balance your oversensitivity and develop some self-confidence. Consider it a gift to your son, who will learn his social skills from you. Ask your doctor to refer you or use the employee assistance program if your job offers one.

Dear Annie: I read the responses to "Craving Intimacy in Indiana" and wish I could tell the husbands of these women what a mistake they're making.

I lost interest in sexual intimacy with my wife of 32 years. I didn't have a testosterone problem, I wasn't depressed and I wasn't gay. Frankly, my wife's body changed quite a bit over the course of our marriage and I responded accordingly.

Somewhere along the line, I had an awakening. I realized my wife had been loving, faithful and supportive for our entire marriage. She provided indispensable contributions, which resulted in the successful and happy life we enjoy. Our two adult sons are fine young men, in large part because of their mother.

I asked for my wife's forgiveness and promised things would be different, and I've kept my word. To the husbands of those women who are feeling neglected: Whatever your problem is, fix it! Your wife deserves better. — Thankful I Woke Up in Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Thankful: We know a lot of women are going to clip your letter and put it on their husband's pillow tonight. Thank you.

Happy Easter to all of our Christian readers.

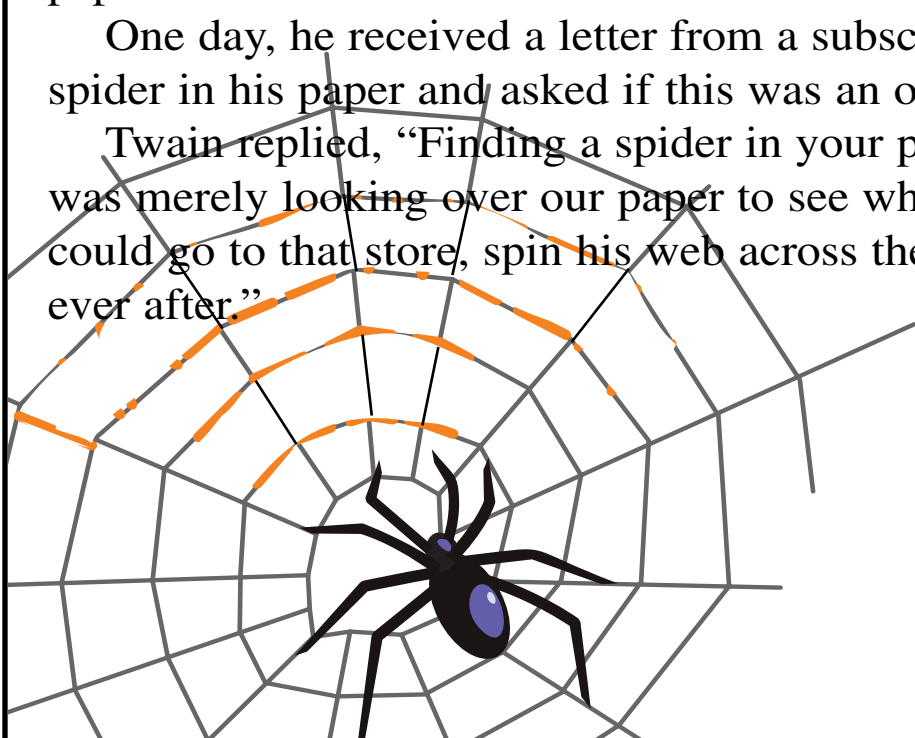
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The Spider

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

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

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



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SURVEYING EGGLAND



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Young Hayden Martinez appears a bit apprehensive before the start of the annual Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home Easter Egg Hunt Friday afternoon.

TORTURE

Continued from Page 1A

"She was angry, vicious," added Brandt.

Riley considered Dixon her slave, making her rub Riley's feet until Riley fell asleep and forcing her to run naked around the house when she got in trouble, the neighbors said.

"Being in their house was like being in a prison day room," Hudson said. "They just sat around the kitchen table and fought." There was little question that Riley ruled the roost.

While doing fix-ups on the home last fall, landlord Steve Atkins saw Riley "barking orders" at the children and everyone else. Atkins joked to her whether he needed to call the Army and see if they wanted their drill sergeant back.

"She didn't laugh about it at all," Atkins said. "Obviously, I hit a nerve."

Atkins said Dixon generally kept to herself "but

was always nice when she spoke to you." He saw no hints she'd been suffering or tortured.

"I would have never, ever suspected something like this," he said. "It's definitely shocking."

Police said Dixon was allowed out of the house but didn't say under what conditions.

Hayes didn't know who the father of Dixon's fetus is.

Hayes said things apparently came to a head Jan. 30, when investigators believe that Woods, during a dispute, beat Dixon on the head with an object Hayes wouldn't identify. The next day Woods found her dead. Hayes watched the

autopsy and found her injuries disturbing. X-rays revealed roughly 30 BBs lodged in her. Deep-tissue burns covered about one-third of her body — her face, her chest, her arms and feet — and left her severely dehydrated. Her face and body showed signs of prolonged abuse. Many of her wounds were infected.

None of the injuries, Hayes said, proved singly fatal to Dixon. Her system already was taxed by her unborn baby.

"The autopsy sort of indicates her immune system just shut down," he said. "It was not capable of fending off any more."

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ConocoPhillips chief exec pay package rises slightly to \$15.1 M

By **JOHN PORRETTO**

AP Business Writer

HOUSTON — ConocoPhillips chairman and chief executive Jim Mulva got a pay package valued at about \$15.1 million in 2007, only slightly higher than his compensation a year earlier, the company said in its annual proxy statement.

Mulva, who's chaired ConocoPhillips' board since October 2004, received a salary of \$1.5 million, a performance bonus of \$3,442,500 and other compensation of \$387,647 that included \$35,309 for use of company aircraft, \$22,740 for a company car and \$20,000 for financial planning services, according to the filing Thursday with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The biggest boost to Mulva's pay package was from stock options and awards, which the company valued at about \$9.8 million on the date they were granted early last year.

Mulva's 2006 compensation was \$15 million, including the same \$1.5 million salary.

The Associated Press calculations of total pay include executives' salary, bonus, incentives, perks, above-market returns on deferred compensation and the estimated value of stock options and awards granted during the year.

The calculations don't include changes in the present value of pension benefits, and they sometimes differ from the

totals companies list in the summary compensation table of proxy statements filed with the SEC.

In January, ConocoPhillips reported 2007 earnings of \$11.9 billion, down from \$15.5 billion the year before. Excluding a \$4.5 billion charge in the second quarter to write off its Venezuelan assets, the company's earnings amounted to \$16.4 billion — its best-ever result.

ConocoPhillips is the third-largest integrated U.S. oil company, behind No. 1 Exxon Mobil Corp. and No. 2 Chevron Corp.

Earlier this month, ConocoPhillips lowered its long-term production

growth rate to 2 percent from a previous forecast of 3 percent, saying the company's goal was value not volume. The company also said it expects its reserve-replacement rate to exceed 100 percent over the next five years.

Reserve replacements represent the ratio of reserves found over production for a given period. Analysts typically say a company's reserve replacements should average more than 100 percent over a three- to five-year period to indicate growth.

The company has said it plans to fund a capital program of \$15.3 billion in 2008, up from about \$13 billion in 2007.



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Members of the Big Spring Ambassadors and the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce joined Theresa Andrews of Tee's Catering, pictured left, and Kim Halfmann, in charge of marketing of Moss Creek Ranch, in a ribbon cutting celebration Thursday evening to celebrate becoming members of the Chamber of Commerce. Also pictured is Stan Hanes, who is in charge of the ranch's operations. Held at Moss Creek Ranch, the business followed the ceremony with an open house which drew a large crowd.

Banks remain wary of home loans

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just when consumers and the U.S. economy need banks to lend more freely, the mortgage industry is making it harder to borrow — even for those with good credit.

Mortgage insurers, whose backing is required for borrowers who can't afford the traditional 20 percent down payment on a home, have already flagged nearly a quarter of the nation's ZIP codes where they refuse to insure some home loans.

That encompasses a wide variety of neighborhoods: McMansions in Scottsdale, Ariz.; luxury Miami condos; 1960 ranch houses in Flint, Mich.; and early 20th century kit homes in Metuchen, N.J.

The entire states of California, Florida, Arizona, Michigan, Ohio and Nevada — which have seen the highest foreclosure rates and the worst price declines — are blackballed on some mortgage insurers' lists.

Banks that have lost billions because of bad bets during the housing boom are now reverting to strict lending standards not seen in nearly 20 years, according to industry data and interviews with lenders.

For new home buyers and those seeking to refinance, it can mean higher down payments and a higher bar for credit scores, among other requirements. The toughest restrictions are in markets where home prices are falling, though regions where property values are rising are not immune.

"We're in the midst of an epic, broad, sweeping change in the mortgage industry," said Chris Sipe, a loan officer with America East Mortgage in Frederick, Md.



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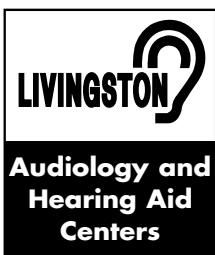
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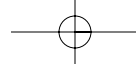
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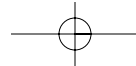
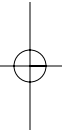
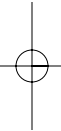
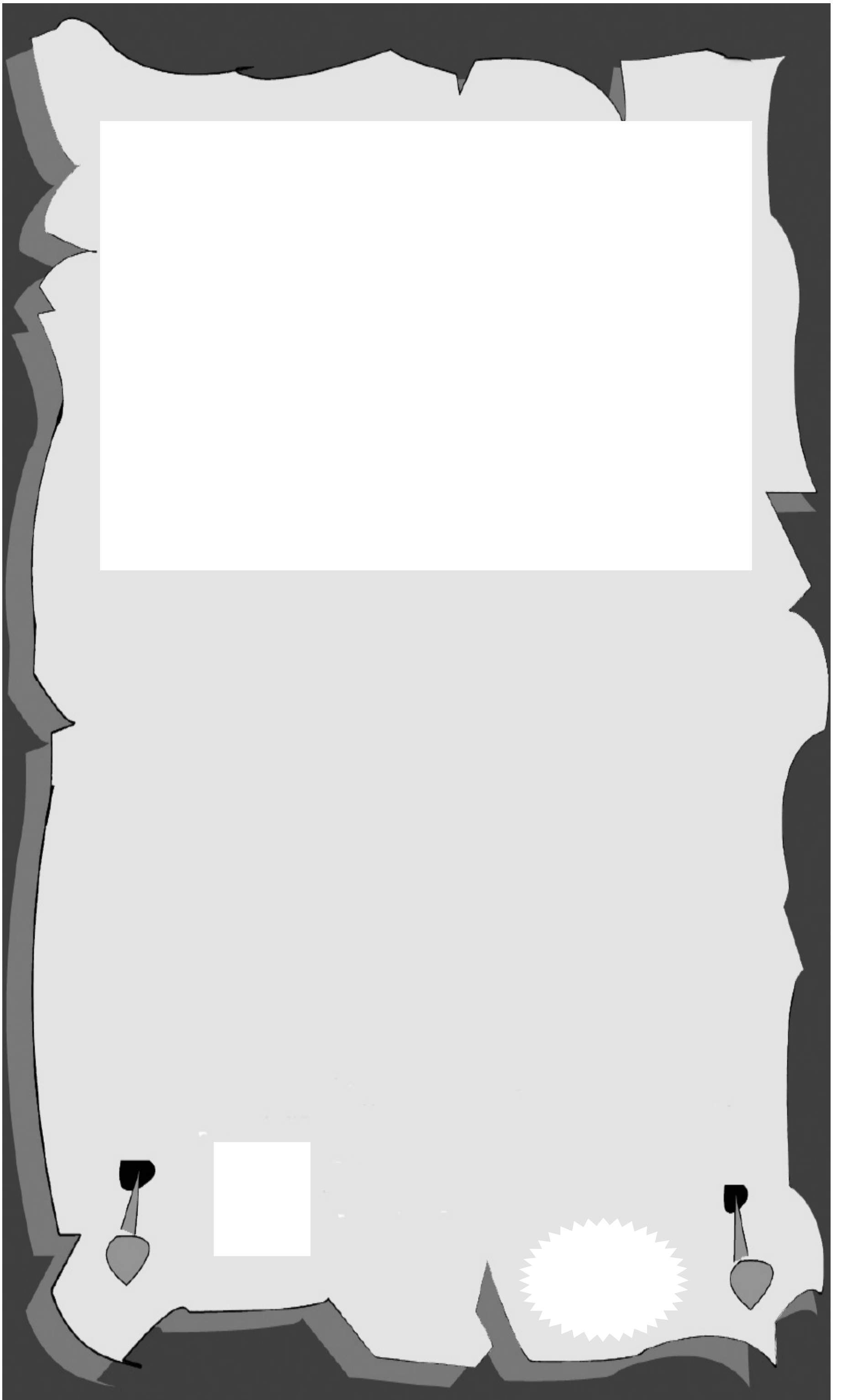
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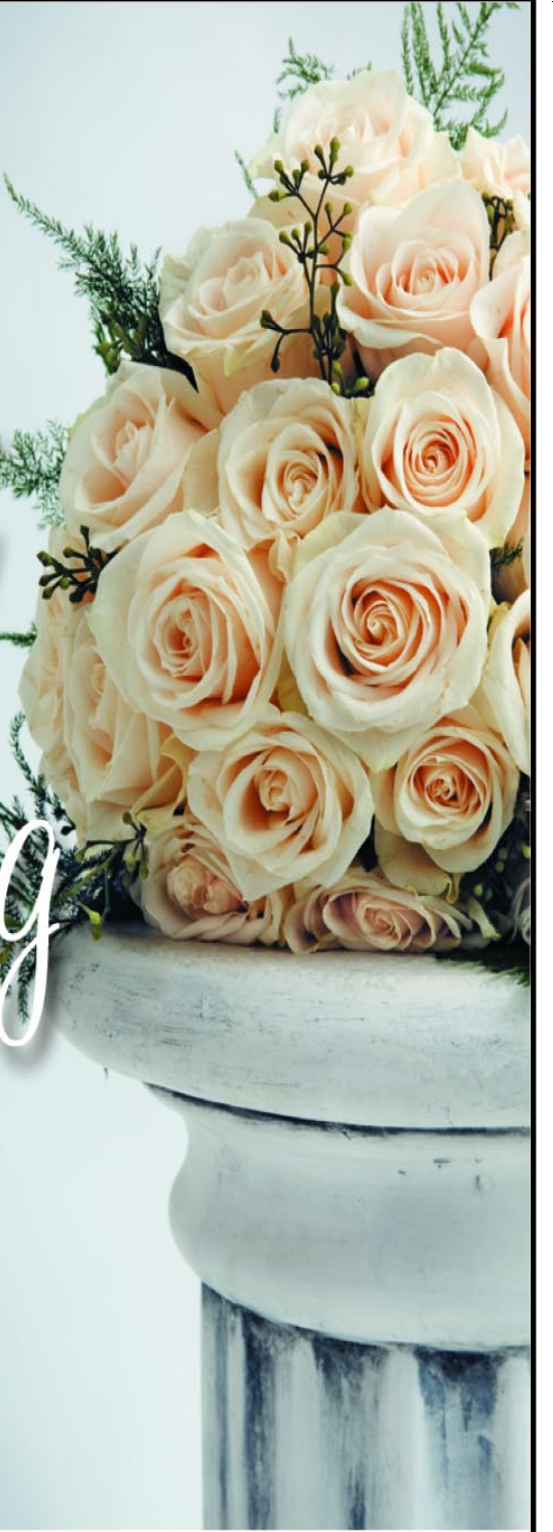


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▶ Menus

Coahoma ISD

Monday — Holiday
Tuesday — Breakfast, waffles, sausage, grape juice and milk; Lunch, pizza, corn-on-cob, peach cups and milk.

Wednesday — Breakfast, biscuits, gravy, sausage, apple juice and milk; Lunch, breaded-chicken, gravy, creamed potatoes, green beans, bread and burritos.

Thursday — Breakfast, oatmeal, sausage, grape juice and milk; Lunch, hamburgers, chips, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, apple turnovers and

milk.

Friday — Breakfast, pancakes, sausage-on-a-stick, orange juice, syrup and milk; Lunch, cheese-burger pockets, potato salad, oranges, milk and corn dogs.

Forsan ISD

Monday — Breakfast, cereal, yogurt, juice and milk; Lunch, tacos, lettuce and tomatoes, Spanish rice, pinto beans, peaches and milk.

Tuesday — Breakfast, cinnamon toast, juice and milk; Lunch, grilled-cheese sandwiches, vegetable soup, saltine

crackers, strawberries and bananas and milk.

Wednesday — Breakfast, eggs, toast, juice and milk; Lunch, spaghetti w/meat sauce, seasoned corn, tossed salad, Texas toast, fancy gelatin and milk.

Thursday — Breakfast, breakfast pizza, juice and milk; Lunch, chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes/gravy, sliced carrots, hot rolls, apples and milk.

Friday — Breakfast, French toast stixs, sausage, juice and milk; Lunch, chicken patty sandwich, baked chips,

baked beans, chocolate chip cookies, orange smiles and milk.

Stanton ISD

Monday — Breakfast, waffles; Lunch, burrito or hot dog, chili, corn, vegetable sticks and pineapples.

Tuesday — Breakfast, oatmeal; Lunch, corn dog or baked fish, macaroni & cheese, mixed vegetables, apples and French bread.

Wednesday — Breakfast, biscuits, sausage & gravy; Lunch, pizza or cheese sticks, green beans, garden

salad, pears and ranch dressing.

Thursday — Breakfast, French toast; Lunch, steak fingers or popcorn chicken, mashed potatoes, carrots, fruit cocktail, hot rolls and gravy.

Friday — Breakfast, burritos; Lunch, barbecue, riblet or chicken, patty on a bun, French fries, strawberries and animal crackers.

Spring City Senior Citizen's Center

Monday — chopped steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, lima beans, but-

termilk biscuits and tapioca pudding.

Tuesday — vegetable beef stew, cornbread, tossed salad and cherry crisp.

Wednesday — chicken fajitas, tortillas, spanish rice, cheese, lettuce and tomatoes, guacamole with chips and ambrosia.

Thursday — catfish, french fries, pinto beans, coleslaw, cornbread and fancy fruit mix.

Friday — beef tips and rice, california blend vegetables, whole wheat rolls, oranges and pineapples and gingerbread.



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