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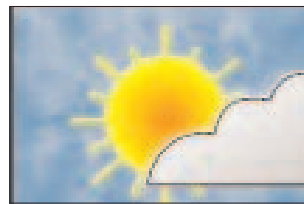
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**BIG SPRING**

# HERALD

**SUNDAY**  
MARCH 30, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 103

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Inside this issue!

Look at



at the Crossroads of West Texas

Profiles Edition

## Ecstasy drug invades city

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Area parents and guardians believing the big city drug woes are far away from their doorsteps may want to think again, as local law enforcement officials report a recent influx of the drug ecstasy.

Commonly referred to as "X," a quantity of the drug was recently confiscated by the Big Spring Police



Everett

Department's Narcotics Unit, according to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer for the BSPD.

"Within the past month, the Narcotics Unit executed a search warrant and located 69 dosage units of ecstasy, and believe it may just be a small portion of what is actually circulating

throughout Big Spring," said Everett. "We want to inform and educate local residents — especially parents and guardians — of this influx of the drug."

Everett said everything — from the drug's appearance to the paraphernalia surrounding it — is aimed at young people.

"Everything from its name

See **DRUGS**, Page 3A



## Best in district

*Big Spring High School claims 4-4A academic title*

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Big Spring High School was a very ungracious host during Friday's District 4-4A Academic meet.

BSHS ran away with the overall and several individual titles at the University Interscholastic League spring academic meet, held Friday at Howard College.

Big Spring collected 654 points to take the top team spot, easily outpacing Wolfforth Frenship, which finished second with 424 points. San Angelo Lake View was a distant third place, tallying 205 points.

Big Spring has become a force in district academic competition in the past few years and Friday was no exception.

### 4-4A tally

<b>Big Spring</b>	<b>654</b>
<b>Frenship</b>	<b>424</b>
<b>Lake View</b>	<b>205</b>
<b>Plainview</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>Estacado</b>	<b>71</b>

"We did about how we expected to do," Jennifer Adams, academic coordination for Big Spring, said matter-of-factly.

Adams credited the combination of students, teachers and administrators with helping to establish a winning academic tradition at BSHS.

"(Longtime principal) Mike Ritchey is the best

See **BEST**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

**Big Spring High School seniors Maurice Africh, left, and Roger Kauss look over results from Friday's District 4-4A UIL Spring Academic Meet at Howard College. Big Spring students scored a total of 654 points to win the meet. Several BSHS students qualified for the Class 4A Regional Academic Meet, scheduled for April 11 in San Angelo.**

## Runoff nears

*Early voting begins Monday at courthouse*



Long



Odom

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Early voting in this year's political party runoff elections is set to get under way Monday, with just one local race hanging in the balance.

Jimmie Long and Winston Paschal Odom, Republican candidates for the Howard County Commissioners Court Precinct 3 seat, face each other in a runoff made necessary by the March 4 political party primaries. Neither candidate was able to garner the required 50 percent of the vote to avoid a runoff.

Long finished ahead of the pack for the party's

See **RUNOFF**, Page 3A

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## HC officials choose renovation

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Howard College officials have apparently decided that renovation trumps new construction when best addressing infrastructure needs.

College trustees will receive an update on renovation and other bond-related projects when they hold their regular monthly meeting at 12:30 p.m. Monday in the Student Union Building Tumbleweed Room.

*"We will try to put as much of our effort and money into existing spaces. Based on engineering and architectural reviews, we feel that is a good decision. We have sound buildings, they just need some rehab work."*



Dr. Sparks

Ever since voters approved a \$21 million bond in 2007, college officials have debated the merits of renovation vs. new construction as the best

way to spend that money. It now seems the college can get the best bang for the buck by going with renovation, College President Dr.

Cheryl Sparks said. "We are going to place the emphasis on renovating our infrastructure — water, sewer, HVAC and related systems — that is going to be our first priority," Sparks said. "We also will rehabilitate our existing buildings, such as administration, practical arts, science and the student union building."

There will be at least some

See **HC**, Page 3A



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# Sports

**BIG SPRING HERALD**

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

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Sunday, March 30, 2008

## IN BRIEF

### Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

**TUESDAY**  
Big Spring baseball vs. Frenship, 4:30 p.m.  
Big Spring softball at San Angelo Lake View, 4 p.m.  
Coahoma baseball at Colorado City, 7 p.m.  
Coahoma softball at Colorado City, 7 p.m.  
Forsan softball vs. Miles, 5 p.m.  
Forsan baseball at Menard, 4:30 p.m.

### Relay for Life volleyball tourney set for April 5

The Yellow Dogs are sponsoring a volleyball tournament to benefit Relay for Life at the Big Spring Junior High gymnasium Saturday, April 5. Registration starts at 10 a.m. and costs \$5 per person. The first game will be played at 11 a.m. Teams must be comprised of three boys and three girls. A concession stand will be available.

### 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.

## Buffs surge too late, fall 9-6 to Eldorado

### Herald Staff Report

FORSAN — Friday's unexpected weather shared a common description with the way the Forsan Buffaloes took the baseball diamond — cold. The Buffs eventually warmed up, but it was too little, too late as a slow start in all facets of the game cost Forsan its first district loss to Eldorado's Eagles, 9-6.

"The weather didn't really have much effect on us at all. We haven't had a very good week of practice," Forsan Head Coach Jason Phillips said. "It was just a rough week and the focus wasn't on baseball. We settled down as the game went on, but we weren't focused early on and it showed. We decided to show up to play too late."

The Buffs struggled at the plate for most of the game and were shut out over the first four innings. Eldorado pitcher Rance Cathey struck out 13 Forsan batters.

The Buffs finally figured Cathey out in the fifth inning, scoring three runs, but they still trailed 8-3 after the frame. They added another three runs in the bottom of the seventh.

Forsan starter Adam Bailey surrendered nine

runs — six earned — on just six hits. Cathey proved to be Eldorado's most proficient hitter as well, belting a double and knocking in three runs.

Phillips was encouraged by the showing some of the younger Buffs delivered in the late innings.

"We had some young guys step up in the late innings and battle tooth and nail," he said. "Dylan Lowry was an example. He pinched hit in the seventh and knocked in two runs. We scored six in the last three innings. This is a team we feel like we can beat. There's no reason we can't, if we fix our focus."

Forsan (6-5, 1-1) travels to Menard for a game at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, hoping to regroup from what is ultimately a disappointing loss to Eldorado.

"We can still be the team to beat in this district," Phillips said. "We've got to play better and more consistent than we did today and it starts with better focus in practice. Sometimes a loss can help with that."

Eldorado 013 040 1—9 6 2  
Forsan 000 030 3—6 5 2

W — Rance Cathey. L — Adam Bailey (1-2).  
2B: EHS - Cathey. 3B: FHS — Evan Burton. RBIs: EHS - Cathey 3, Sanchez 3; FHS — Burton 2, Dylan Lowry 2, Jeremy Robbins.



Courtesy photo/Bob Fishback  
Forsan Buffaloes second baseman Cameron Parker moves to make a play in the field in the Buffs' 9-6 loss to Eldorado in Forsan Friday. The loss drops Forsan to 1-1 in district play.

## Hawks shut out NMMI twice

### By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

Traditionally, Howard College's baseball team is very well known for its ability in the batter's box. However, pitching has often been a quality that has held the Hawks back from experiencing too much success.

Change has occurred for Howard on the mound this season as the Hawks' shut out New Mexico Military Institute in a pair of games played Friday at Jack Barber Field, 10-0 and 9-0, with both contests being called early due to mercy rules.

The two wins are actually the third and fourth consecutive shutout victories Howard's pitching staff has won after the Hawks shut down Wayland Baptist's junior varsity squad, 10-0 and 12-0, Tuesday. Included in the stellar pitching performance earlier this week was a four-pitcher no-hitter.

"That's tough to do at any level, but to even pitch a shutout against a team using aluminum bats is extremely tough," Smith said. "We've pitched really well the last four games out."

After dominating NMMI in Game 1, ending the game with one out in the bottom of the fifth inning, the Hawks struggled to get a hit and were shut out in the first four innings of Game 2.

However, after Cameron Monger led off the bottom of the fifth with a solo home run to center field, the bats came alive and

Howard scored nine runs in the next four innings.

"We didn't score for the first four innings, but we lined out 14 of those 16 outs," Smith said. "We were hitting the ball hard, but we couldn't find the holes. Once we found them, then our production at the plate got back to normal."

Howard ended up scoring two in the fifth and added another two in the seventh, including a solo shot from shortstop Tyler Ladendorf that gave the Hawks a 4-0 advantage.

Ladendorf also knocked in the last two runs to end the game, hitting a double to score Monger and Tommy Vukovich for the 8-run mercy rule after seven innings to come into effect.

Danny Gidora and Chase Adams combined for the shutout victory. The win improves No. 5 Hawks to 31-3 overall and 7-3 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference play.

The ranking isn't meaningless for the Hawks, according to Smith, but it's just a nice compliment on their road to their main goal of the season.

"Our goal coming into the season was to win the national championship," Smith explained. "That's what we set our sights on and it's a lofty goal to achieve. Only one team in the country wins that one. It's been our focus. We haven't been too

See HOWARD, Page 4B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull  
Howard College's Travis Sample gets a base hit in the Hawks' 8-0 win over New Mexico Military Institute in Game 2 of a doubleheader played Friday at Jack Barber Field. Howard won 10-0 in Game 1.

## Bulldogs' bats stay hot, blast Anson, 16-4

### Herald Staff Report

ANSON — Coahoma's Bulldogs have had a trying first half of District 5-2A play with two unexpected hiccups in the first six games of the only part of the season that really counts to Stamford and Hawley.

However, the Bulldogs head into the second half of district on a high note, blasting Anson's Tigers 16-4 in a game ended early after five innings due to the 10-run mercy rule.

Ray Gutierrez picked up the win, striking out 10 Anson batters. Chance Hart and Adrian Amaro powered Coahoma offensively, driving in nine runs between the two of them. Hart

had two doubles and five RBIs, but Amaro's night might be remembered more.

Amaro jacked the first home run of his career and drove in four runs. He becomes the seventh of Coahoma's nine regular starters in the lineup to hit at least one homer this season.

"We're still hitting the ball very well. That hasn't been much of a worry for us," Bulldogs Head Coach Brad Harman said. "Adrian hits in the lower third of the order, so that shows the production we're getting all the way through the lineup. We still need to tighten up our defense a bit, but we're coming together. We haven't come close to playing up

to our capabilities, though."

Coahoma finished the first half of district 4-2, picking up its second loss last week from Stamford, 15-11. Both district losses came via disappointing defensive performances from the Bulldogs, according to Harman.

"Against Hawley and Stamford, we weren't ready to play the games mentally," he said. "We've got to continue to focus on each game at hand. Right now, we can only take care of what we can control. Hawley hasn't lost a game in district and now we have two losses and trail them. We have to have some help to catch them, but we can't worry about that. Our goal in the sec-

ond half of the district schedule is to go 6-0."

The Bulldogs (15-5, 4-2) start the second part of district on the road against Colorado City Tuesday. Harman notes that the team is pumped to face district opponents a second time, particularly Hawley's Bearcats, who embarrassed the Bulldogs 18-3 the first time they played.

"The guys are anxious to be in the second half of district and to see each opponent again," Harman said. "Seeing teams a second time around lets you know what they're really about. That game against Hawley is big

See BULLDOGS, Page 4B

# HOOPS, DREAMS AND GOALS!



Six basketball teams from 23 counties in West Texas competed in the Friday Hoops, Dreams and Goals 2008 Basketball Tournament.

West Texas Centers for MHMR hosts its own version of March Madness each year in conjunction with Mental Retardation Month and the NCAA Final Four.

Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen, along with State Rep. Joe Heflin, Howard County Judge Mark Barr and Stefanie Wilkerson, representing State Sen. Kel Seliger, assisted with the opening ceremonies.

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.

Six teams from around the region — the Big Spring Heat, Seminole Pink Panthers, Ballinger Longhorns, Sweetwater Red Rattlers, Snyder Wildkatz and Monahans Warriors, complete with their own cheerleading squads — competed in games and special events at the home of the Howard College Hawks and Lady Hawks,

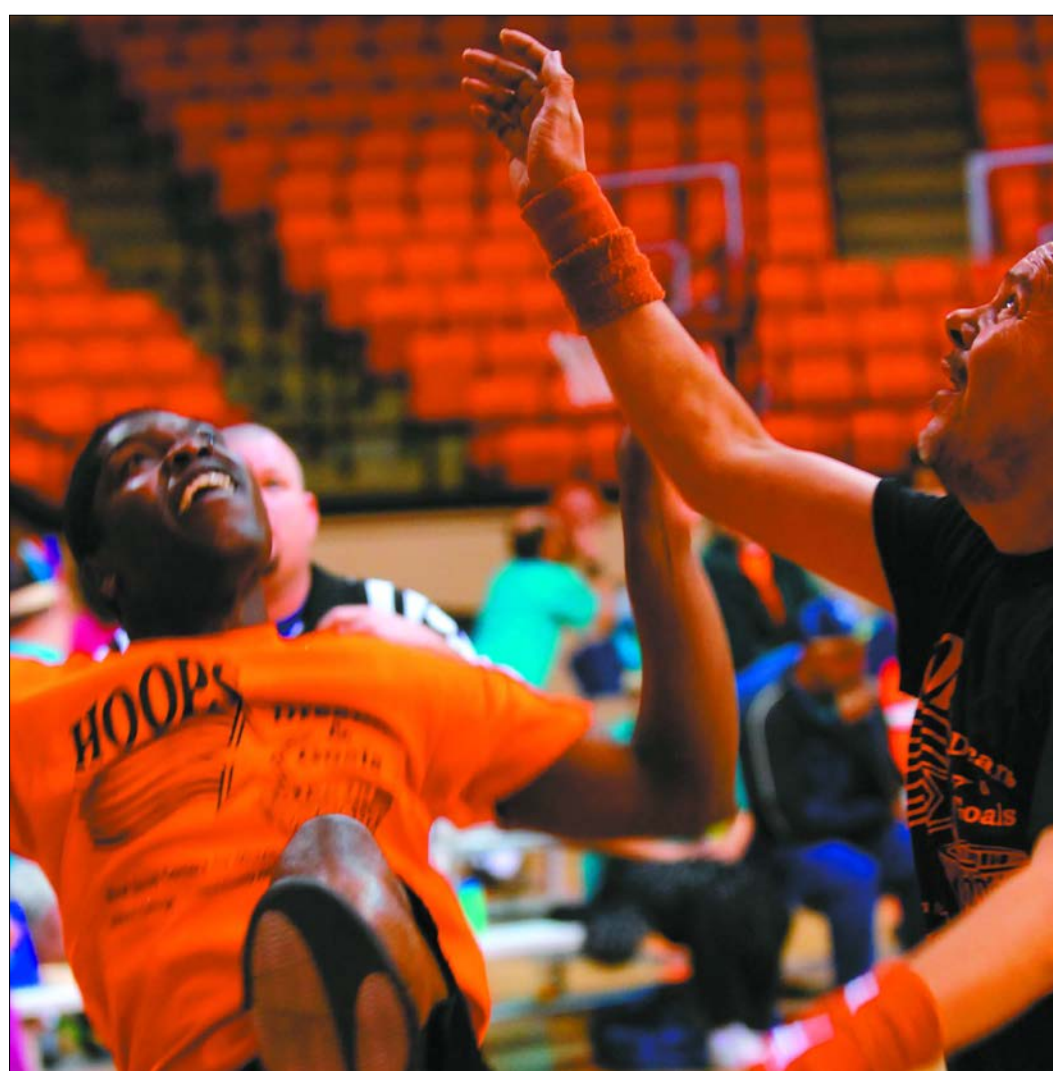
“It is absolutely the best day of the year,” West Texas Centers CEO Shelley Smith said.

West Texas Centers for MHMR provides care for more than 2,200 people with mental retardation and mental illness and their families.



Top, clockwise: Sammy Escobar of the Ballinger Longhorns battles for the ball with Richard Wynn of the Big Spring Heat during the Hoops, Dreams and Goals 2008 competition at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Six teams from the West Texas Centers for MHMR service area competed in their own version of the Final Four; Coaches Doris Johnson and Teresa Walker of the Big Spring Heat send instructions to their team Friday; Joseph Darpolar of the Big Spring Heat wrestles for the rebound; Jackie Byrd of the Big Spring Heat cheers on her team; and Shelley Smith, CEO, welcomes the athletes and their supporters to the competition.

Article and photos by Valerie Avery



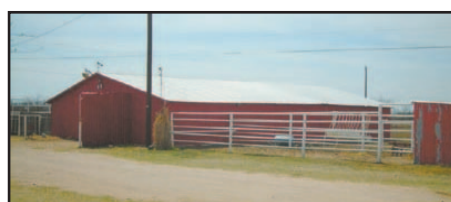
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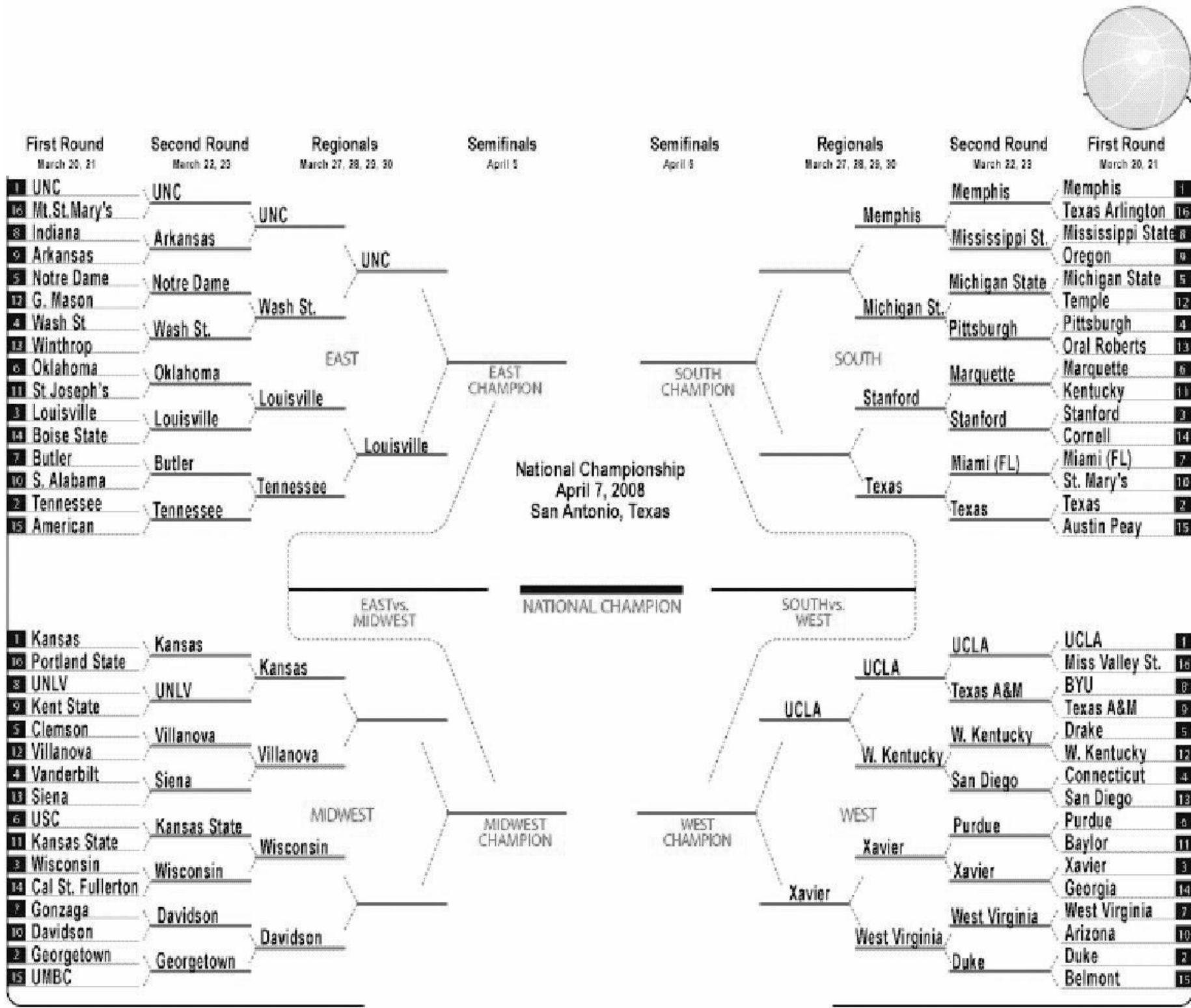
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## ROAD TO THE FINAL FOUR

# Engagements

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Dianna Lynn Coleman and Brian Ruiz

## Coleman and Ruiz

Dianna Lynn Coleman of Arlington and Brian Ruiz (formerly of Coahoma), both of Arlington, will unite in marriage on April 19, 2008, in Cleburne and will hold a wedding reception in Big Spring on May 10, 2008.

Dianna is the daughter of Hannah Coleman of Cleburne and the granddaughter of Naomi Coleman of Big Spring. She is a 1996 graduate of

Coahoma High School and is employed by the Fort Worth ISD as a school teacher.

Brian is the son of David and Linda Ruiz of Coahoma and the grandson of Pascuala Ruiz of Coahoma, the late Bernabe Ruiz and the late Nancy Lopez. He is a 1996 graduate of Coahoma High School and is employed by Weatherford Co.



Angela Tubb and Webster Crowley

## Tubb and Crowley

Richie and Jill Tubb of Big Spring are pleased to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Angela, to Webster Crowley, the son of Stephen Crowley of Kansas City, Mo., and Candy Crowley of Bethesda, Md.

The bride-to-be is the granddaughter of Robert and Janie Hunt and Horace Tubb and the late Jewel Tubb.

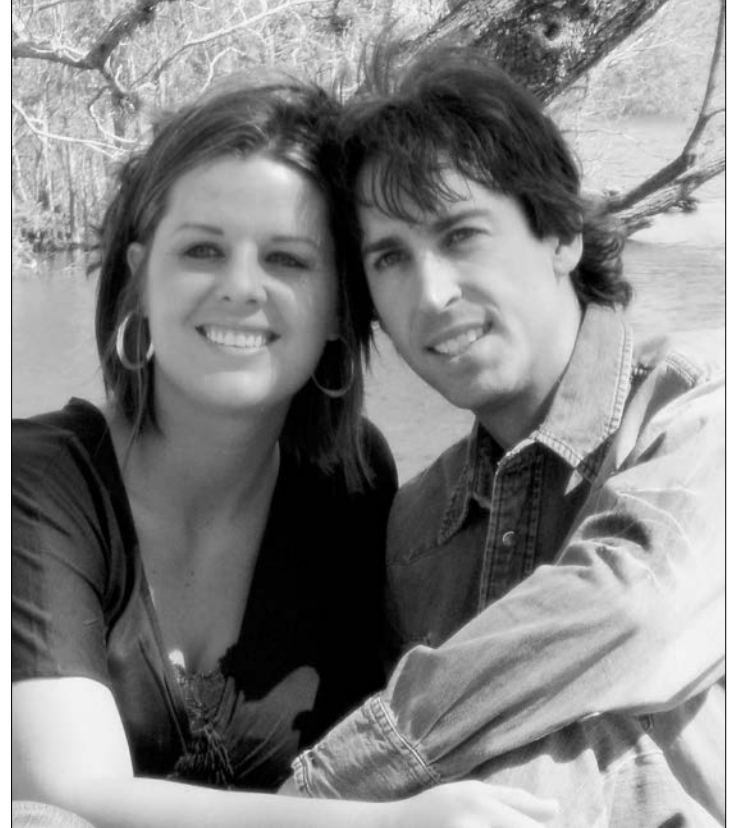
The prospective groom is the grandson of Nadine Alt Leonard and the late Richard Alt Jr. and the late John and Isabel Crowley.

Angela is a graduate of Grady High School and Lubbock Christian University. She attended medical school at Texas A&M University and completed an internal medicine residency at the

University of Utah. She is currently completing a fellowship in rheumatology at the University of Virginia.

Webster is a graduate of Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, Md., and the University of Iowa. He received a master's degree from the Medical College of Pennsylvania and attended medical school at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He is currently completing a neurosurgical residency at the University of Virginia.

The couple are planning a wedding for Aug. 30, 2008, in Charlottesville, Va.



Dr. Sharla Brooke Miller and Justin Terrell Robertson

## Miller and Robertson

Dr. Sharla Brooke Miller and Justin Terrell Robertson are pleased to announce their engagement.

Sharla lives in Granbury. She is the daughter of Guy and Tamra Miller of Welch and Mike and Pam Herring of Fluvanna. She is the granddaughter of Bob and Dorothy Miller of Welch and Dr. Dave and Geneva Mitchell of Las Cruces, N.M.

Sharla attended Eastern New Mexico University and Texas Tech University for her undergraduate education and went on to Parker College of Chiropractic to complete her doctorate degree. Sharla owns and practices at Clearview Chiropractic Life Center in Granbury.

Justin Terrell Robertson lives in New Braunfels. He is the son of Cheryl Robertson of Big Spring and Terry Robertson of Murfreesboro, Ark. He is the grandson of Helen Hobson of Lamesa.

Justin attended Howard College and went on to receive his bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas. He is currently working toward his master's degree in sports management.

Sharla and Justin will be married July 20, 2008, at a destination wedding in Tennessee. They will have a reception to celebrate with family and friends Saturday, Aug. 2, 2008, in Lamesa at 6:30 p.m. Invitations will be sent.

## Who's Who

Chelsea Churchwell Pearce has been admitted to the School of Veterinarian Medicine at Texas A&M University.

She graduated from Big Spring High School and was a honor graduate of Texas Tech University where she was also in the marching band.

Mrs. Pearce is married to Phillip, who was the girls' softball coach at Big

Spring High School. The couple live in College Station where Mrs. Pearce has worked at the A&M Veterinarian Hospital for the past year. She also worked for the Boseman Veterinarian Clinic in Lubbock for three years while attending Texas Tech.

She is the daughter of Dennis and Debbie Churchwell of Lubbock, formerly of Big Spring, and the granddaughter of Tom and Eva Churchwell and Vaughn and Helen Martin, all of Big Spring.



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# Discovering humility

Those who consider humility reject it for one reason — they refuse to be considered someone's doormat. They equate humility with weakness, and then the old pride is rubbed in the wrong direction.

Moses was one of the great men of the Bible. He boldly led the nation of Israel to the border of the Promised Land. During those 40 years, he brought his people a code of the law that still serves as a guide some 3,500 years later.

Moses was filled with power, courage and wisdom and was the most humble man on earth. True humility recognizes that there is nothing we have received that did not have its source outside of ourselves. Our gifts and talents are to be used for God's glory.

Children who learn the golden nuggets of true humility early in life grow up to live a honored life of many blessings.

**Dear Jerrie,**

I come from a very large family. There are eight siblings, including two sets of twins. All of us will be celebrating Mother's Day this year at our parent's home in Houston. We are a close family and show our love for one another with lots of hugs and kisses.

Two years ago, our oldest brother, Marcus, moved to Hollywood and

has involved himself in the movie business. He has had several small parts in some low-budget movies.

The problem is, when we are all together, he talks endlessly about the movie stars he meets, the parts he plays and the places he goes. After awhile, we are all bored stiff, but he never lets up. How can we handle this graciously and in a mannerly way without hurting his feelings? — *BeBe*

**Hello BeBe,**

Since you are a close family, he is the oldest brother, and you are the oldest sister, perhaps you might give him a big hug and let him know in a kind and loving way that enough is enough. Let him know the family is happy for him and supports him, but it's time he cools it and gives others a time to share. Even if he does not, don't let this bring a split into your big and loving family. Sometimes, we just have to take the good along with the not-so-good. Be patient and hopefully he will wind down soon. God bless.

**Dear Jerrie,**

What do you do when you are invited to a restaurant and you think the person asking is paying? You have no money with you, and suddenly you are confronted with paying half the bill. — *Thanks, Martin*

**Hi Martin,**

This situation happens quiet often and can be embarrassing. To avoid this happening again, keep a credit card with you or some money you have tucked away for emergencies.

In situations such as this, you may have to

ask your friend to pay the tab until you can get to the bank and cash a check. When this happens, be sure you are prompt to repay the friend your part, as well as your part of the tip.

Remember, you can always ask for a rain check when someone asks you to lunch and you have no cash with you. Never assume the person asking will pay your tab. This will save you an embarrassing moment.

**Dear Jerrie,**

If you're giving a party in a restaurant, should you wait for your guests in the entrance of the restaurant, or should you ask the waiter to take you to your table? Also, how long do you wait for a "no-show"? — *Thanks, Vivian*

**Hello Vivian,**

If the waiting room is small, you should ask the waiter to take you to your table. You might let him know how many others you are expecting. If you have a no-show, you should call the person. If you don't reach them, wait another 15 minutes or so and then go ahead with your party.

**Hi Jerrie,**

Recently, my husband and I took our pastor and wife to dinner. They brought along their 2-year-old grandson without notifying us in advance. This child was a storm from the minute they put him in the child seat until we left.

It was impossible to talk and visit. Other customers stared at us and we were embarrassed beyond words. This child threw his food across the table, kicked, cried and screamed. The grand-

mother did not seem to let his actions bother her. But finally, before the meal was over, she excused herself and went to the car with him.

What would have been the polite thing for us to have done, since his behavior disturbed other customers as well? — *Molly*

**Hello Molly,**

The first mistake was the pastor and his wife bringing the grandson without letting you know in advance. I'm wondering, did they not know about their grandson's behavior?

When the child began throwing his food, crying, kicking and would not settle down, you should have asked the couple if they would like to leave and go to a drive-in restaurant where you all could be more comfortable. Or you could have said to your guests, "In respect to other customers, let's go to a drive-in restaurant."

I'm surprised the owner or manager of the restaurant did not approach you. These things happen, but when parents or grandparents take a misbehaved child to any public place, they should leave with the child rather than stay and disturb others. This is the polite and courteous thing to do.

*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.*

## Engagements

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Marisa Elizabeth Mojica and Jefery Alan Flentge

### Mojica and Flentge

Marisa Elizabeth Mojica and Jefery Alan Flentge will unite in marriage at 1 p.m. May 17, 2008, at Saint Stephens Catholic Church in Midland.

Marisa is the daughter of Gene and Isabell Lopez of Midland and Joe Mojica of San Antonio and the granddaughter of

Juan and Ofelia Lucio of Lamesa.

Jefery is the son of Vernon and Tina White of Big Spring.

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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

# Rubbernecks, please, please stay at home!

All right, enough is enough! In the past couple of weeks, Howard County has seen two instances where grass fires were made much more dangerous than they naturally were by the presence of countless onlookers, who apparently had nothing better to do than get in the way of emergency personnel.

In the aftermath, we can't help but be reminded of the satirist who placed a wrecked van along a roadway somewhere in the Northeast and painted a message on its side that read: "Rubbernecks are morons."

We couldn't agree more, especially in the wake of Thursday evening's grass fire that scorched more than 400 acres in the Silver Heels area south of Big Spring and destroyed at least two homes.

While there were no injuries reported as a result of the blaze, and we are extremely thankful for that, we do have to wonder if that fire might have been contained much more quickly and maybe even a little more easily had it not been for the hundreds of people who clogged the roadways in that area, making it difficult for emergency personnel and their equipment to access the flames.

Obviously nobody can claim with any certainty that rubbernecks kept firefighters from saving one of the homes that was destroyed in Thursday's fire, but there is one thing that is absolutely certain — there were hundreds of people in the area that had no business being there.

What's more, they made the already difficult and dangerous task firefighters faced more difficult and dangerous. They deserve better.

Extremely dry conditions have created a nightmarish situation for Howard County Volunteer Fire Department personnel. They have literally exhausted themselves in the past few weeks battling numerous blazes.

We would be remiss here if we did not offer a large measure of praise for the work they've been doing for us, and kudos are also tendered to the Big Spring Fire Department, Glasscock County and Martin County volunteers, the Westbrook Volunteer Fire Department and Texas Forestry Service personnel, who also responded to Thursday's blaze.

We also commend construction firms which provided bulldozers to help build fire breaks and the various local oil companies that provided water trucks.

But we have nothing but contempt for those who seem to have nothing better to do than flock to such scenes and do nothing but literally get in the way.

While those with homes in the Silver Heels area had reason to be in the area Thursday afternoon and evening, the rest had no business being there and, we think, should be ashamed of themselves.

If the business of fighting fires is of that much interest, perhaps these rubbernecks should consider becoming HCVFD volunteers, undergo some training and help these beleaguered firefighters in the future.

Otherwise, please, please, please stay out of the way.

## LETTER POLICIES

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

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When we are overwhelmed by everything that drops on our plate, Lord, may we pass the plate to You.

Amen

# Some days you get the Bear

**I**f the Fed can extend \$30 billion to help Bear Stearns address their financial crisis,"

Hillary Rodham Clinton argued, "the federal government should provide at least that much emergency help to families and communities to address theirs."

That's a savvy appeal to Americans' strong sense of fundamental fairness — that if goodies go to Wall Street, then they also should go to Main Street.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

Voters, like buyers, should beware. You might think that Democrats oppose the \$30 billion Bear Stearns bonanza, because it's a big government bailout that rewards bad business practices.

Wrong. Like Republican presidential candidate John McCain, Clinton and her Democratic rival, Barack Obama, support the Bear Stearns deal. It's one of those things that nobody likes much, but many economists on both the left and right nonetheless support — even if it goes against their principles of fairness or free markets.

As economist Chad Stone, of the nonpartisan but left-leaning Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, explained to me, "Achieving an orderly liquidation of Bear Stearns without having a fire sale on assets is a good thing, especially if the people who made bad decisions have to take their lumps. The injection of liquidity by the Fed makes sense as a triage measure to be withdrawn when

the crisis passes."

On the right, economist Irwin M. Stelzer wrote in The Weekly Standard, "The era of free-market, no-government-intervention purists is over, if indeed it ever existed."

The ugly fact is that some businesses are too big to fail when their demise would shake confidence in the market and assuming \$30 billion of Bear Stearns debt could thwart a recession.

The question is: If Washington put up \$30 billion for Bear Stearns, then must Washington, as Clinton suggested, throw a like amount at bad home loans?

For McCain, the answer is no. "I will not play election-year politics with the housing crisis," was McCain's answer Tuesday. McCain wants the government to focus on improving accounting practices, changing the law to protect lenders who want to cut deals with delinquent mortgagees and concentrating on helping only what he called "deserving homeowners."

Critics can dismiss McCain for calling on lenders to do what already is in their interest. But McCain is right to focus on helping people who can hold onto their homes, rather than putting off the day of reckoning for people who can't afford their homes — and never will.

In a speech Tuesday, McCain noted that housing prices rose by "nearly 15 percent every year" from 2001 and 2006, a statistic based on Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller indexes, which measure the residential housing market in major metropolitan areas.

If you live in what was a booming housing market, you may

recall that few wanted the government to step in and control the market when real estate prices rose beyond all reason to the benefit of working homeowners. Now that prices have fallen, as was inevitable, some folks want the government to step in with more bailouts.

Clinton has proposed a 90-day moratorium on foreclosures, a five-year rate freeze on sub-prime adjustable-rate mortgages and a \$30 billion program to help state and local governments reduce the number of foreclosures. McCain economic adviser Doug Holtz-Eakin dismissed Clinton's plan as a \$30 billion "slush fund." Obama has proposed a \$10 billion foreclosure prevention program to provide foreclosure counseling and money for people who have to sell homes they cannot afford. Such proposals run the risk of keeping real estate prices inflated longer and prolonging the pain.

I have a lot of sympathy for people who bought homes that they could not afford in the mistaken belief that savvy bankers would not approve a loan that they could not pay. They reached for the American dream, and if they lose their homes, their hold on that dream will loosen as well.

But do I trust the government to spend more bailout money wisely? Au contraire, the longer the government tries to make bad loans good, the longer it will take for the market to correct. That means spending more tax dollars to make the problem worse.

*E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@schronicle.com.  
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## YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to Ms. Fryar's letter, I think Mr. Ritchey is doing the best he can. He is having to clean up what another man left.

I feel it is very important for students to have rules set and learn to follow them. It gives them structure and prepares them for life after high school. What employer would hire someone that comes to an interview unshaved, wearing black fingernail polish and holes in their ears?

The students at the high school have gone most of the year with no rules. The result? An increase in fights, threats of shootings, rumors of guns at school, an overflowing

ISS room and a full AEP. It is time for someone to take control of these kids.

School is a place for learning, not expressing yourself. If these rules are driving kids away from school, then an education is not what they were there for in the first place. Keep up the good work Mr. Ritchey and the rest of the staff at BSHS!

SHIRL BOYD  
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I have been gone from "home" a long time, but I keep up on the goings on. I am very sad to hear about all the gang-related activity

there.

I live in a fairly mid-sized town (Eugene, Ore.) and we luckily do not have gang-related shootings very often, if at all. Over the years though, I have lived in very large cities where gangs were a reality for me every day. It is frightening. There are no easy answers, I know, but this makes me wonder... What is going on there?

I have had e-mails from others that live there or used to, and they say there is a problem with the Hispanic community. Is this true? Are there no programs set up to help these kids?

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

# Forsaking space weapons good idea

Tensions, it seems, between the U.S. and Russia heighten daily. Increasingly hostile rhetoric is slung from both sides in a tactical volley best characterized as dumb and dumber. One side's foolhardy plans to deploy missile defense sites in Eastern Europe are met with even dumber threats to withdraw from key arms control treaties. Add to this the continued existence of tens of thousands of nuclear weapons — thousands of which are still on high-alert status—and a cold war re-run seems just around the corner.



RHIANNA TYSON

Thankfully, though, the peoples of the two countries are not interested in another arms race. According to the University of Maryland's Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA), a vast majority of both Americans and Russians believe that they can better attain security through treaty-based cooperation than through unilateral aggression.

According to PIPA's newest poll, 80 percent of Americans and 72 percent of Russians favor a treaty that bans all weapons in outer space, that crucial arena of economic, military and political security. Majorities in both countries also support a prohibition against systems that attack or interfere with satellites, even when it was suggested such interference could be militarily useful. This attitude reflects a broader concept of security than is touted by either government.

Current U.S. policy blatantly

opposes treaty-based cooperation in space, and views it as an infringement of its "rights" to develop and test weapons in or through space. Since 2005, the U.S. is the only country in the United Nations General Assembly to vote against the non-legally binding resolution calling for negotiations on a treaty to prevent an arms race in space. (Prior to that, it had been adopted each year since 1990 without any votes against it.)

Russia, on the other hand, has offered a pledge not to be the first to place weapons in outer space. They have even prepared a draft treaty banning space weapons, and they hope to circulate it at the disarmament negotiating forum in Geneva. However, while they have yet to release the treaty text, it is rumored to exclude missile defense systems (which, like some theorized anti-satellite weapons, will be earth-based but can target space-based objects). Further, the Russians say their treaty will exclude verification provisions, a necessary element of any effective arms control measure.

Thus both the U.S. and Russia fall short of what their populations want, and what civilization needs to continue to flourish. Humanity's reliance on space applications for communication, weather tracking, disaster relief, treaty verification and other civilian and military applications continues to grow exponentially. The number of space-faring actors—both states and private companies—is destined to parallel our growth in technological capability. As our reliance on outer space increases, so does our need to protect our outer space assets from anything that can interfere with, interrupt, harm or destroy them. And in the zero-gravity arena of

outer space, even a dislodged bolt from a discarded rocket has the kinetic kill capacity of a safe dropped from a five story building's roof.

Should the US and Russian governments heed the desires of their populaces and negotiate such treaties, the cooperation that it would engender would have a "trickle down" effect to other regimes. Other arms control and security initiatives—such as those jeopardized by recent dumb and dumber moves—would receive a major boost from a robust arms control regime in space. President Gorbachev, for instance, recalls that his and Reagan's failure to agree on outer space security was the primary reason why their talks at Reykjavik did not result in total nuclear weapons abolition. Imagine our world today if we had managed to cooperate in space back then.

We cannot risk, once again, losing such an opportunity to create a more secure planet. To lose this chance could just bring us back to the brink, towards a mutually assured destruction as mad as its acronym warned. The peoples of the world, apparently far more in tune with the interdependence of our 21st century planet, have already figured out that our continued existence is dependent on our continued cooperation. Our security needs in space and on Earth demand such cooperation, and the people of the planet demand it, too.

*Rhianna Tyson is program manager of Reaching Critical Will which is a project of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.  
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**HOWARD**

Continued from Page 1B

high about any win in a game or series. We've set a very lofty goal, but it's good for the team to have high goals."

The Hawks emphasize this goal in the locker room where a sign shows Howard's current ranking and reads "It doesn't mean anything until May 31." For Smith, however, getting out of Region V presents more of a challenge than winning the World Series.

"I'll be honest, I think the toughest part is getting out of our regional," Smith said. "The eight teams that make up our regional are much tougher than the World Series field. That doesn't mean we won't run into a buzz saw at the national tournament, but we've been priming ourselves all year for the regional."

"The ranking is nice. It's the highest this

school has ever been rated. The national championship team from 1991 went into the Series ranked ninth," he continued. "It's good for the players. They've earned it, but we also know it's just a poll."

Howard finished its four-game series with NMMI Saturday with another doubleheader.

The Hawks travel to take on El Paso Community College Friday for the first of two doubleheaders in El Paso.

**Notes:** Howard College's softball team swept the first of two doubleheaders from Clarendon Community College Friday, winning 7-2 and 5-2, in Clarendon.

The two wins push Howard's overall record to 22-9 and 14-4 in conference play.

The Hawks wrapped up a four-game series with Clarendon Saturday and host Western Texas College for a four-game series starting Friday at Foundation Field.

**Rangers hope to win under pressure**

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**  
AP Sports Writer

There needs to be a disclaimer attached to those feel-good stretches of success the Texas Rangers had last season.

"Obviously, it did give us a little bit of momentum going into the off-season and we played well in the second half," Ian Kinsler said. "But there wasn't a lot of pressure on us."

Right before the All-Star break, Texas was unbeaten in seven consecutive series for the first time since 2001. The Rangers then won 23 of their first 38 games after switch-hit-

ting slugger Mark Teixeira, closer Eric Gagne and center fielder Kenny Lofton were traded.

But all that came after the Rangers were already out of playoff contention under rookie manager Ron Washington.

"We want pressure games late in the season," Kinsler said.

That's something the Rangers have had only once, in 2004, since winning their last division title in 1999. For once, the Rangers went into spring training seeming set with their starting rotation.

But Brandon McCarthy will miss at least the first

month of the season because of a forearm strain and left-hander Kason Gabbard, who came from Boston in the Gagne deal, gave up 21 runs in 16 2-3 innings.

With McCarthy headed to the disabled list, Gabbard moved up from fifth to fourth in the rotation behind Kevin Millwood, Vicente Padilla and Jason Jennings. Rookie Luis Mendoza probably gets the nod the first time a fifth starter is needed in mid-April.

Millwood, the scheduled starter for Monday's opener at Seattle, threw five shutout innings in his only major league

spring training start.

Josh Hamilton's major league debut came nearly eight years after Tampa Bay drafted him No. 1 overall. He was out of baseball 3 years because of his addictions to cocaine and alcohol, neither of which he had ever tried until he was hurt and on the disabled list in the minors.

Sober now for more than two years, Hamilton quickly became a fan favorite in Cincinnati with his play and the openness about his past. With Texas, he has been at ease in the clubhouse and impressive on the field.

**BULLDOGS**

Continued from Page 1B

for us. We want that one back. But first, we've got to stay focused and get

wins in the next two games (Colorado City and Haskell) before we play Hawley again.

"The most encouraging thing about the season so far is that we haven't peaked yet," he contin-

ued. "I don't know if Hawley has, but it's nice to know we haven't. That's a good thing. Hopefully, we can gel, put it all together and go 6-0 in this last stretch of district play."

**Coahoma 450 52—16 10 2**  
**Anson 013 00—4 5 5**  
W - Ray Gutierrez (4-1). L - Whitaker.  
2B: CHS - Chance Hart 2; AHS - Woodward. HR: CHS - Adrian Amaro. RBI: CHS - Hart 5, Amaro 4, Corey Roberts 2, Donnie Garcia 2; AHS - Cates, Heller.

**HOOPS**

Continued from Page 1B

Villanova, throwing alley-oop passes off the backboard and raining 3-pointers from all over the court without breaking a sweat.

Brandon Rush scored 16 points, Russell Robinson had 15 and top-seeded Kansas routed

the 12th-seeded Wildcats. The Jayhawks (34-3) will try to reach the Final Four for the first time since 2003.

Kansas coach Bill Self is in the regional finals for the fifth time — at three schools — since 2000 and is a win away from no longer being regarded as the best coach without a Final Four on his resume.

Villanova (22-13) trailed 41-22

at halftime. Scottie Reynolds, who had scored at least 20 points in his previous three NCAA tournament games, finished with 11.

**Memphis 92, Michigan State 74**

HOUSTON — The mighty Memphis Tigers humiliated Michigan State and embarrassed all those naysayers who

suggested they were the most suspect of the top seeds in this year's NCAA tournament.

Next up for the top-seeded Tigers in the South Regional, a game Sunday against Texas with a trip to the Final Four on the line. But the message on this overwhelming night was clear: Don't mess with Memphis.

Freshman Derrick Rose will

play at least one more college game after a 27-point, five-assist night that showed he's ready for the NBA. He exited early in the second half with a cut on his forehead that required stitches, but later returned.

Memphis (36-1) led 50-20 at halftime. Goran Suton led the fifth-seeded Spartans (27-9) with 23 points and Chris Allen had 20.

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# Reader's Corner

## The House Where I Once Lived

Just up the road  
There stands a  
house.  
The house where  
I once lived,  
Way back in  
my childhood.  
The house my  
daddy built.

The house he built  
for us a home  
it sheltered us  
from winds  
and storms.

Deep dark shadows  
creep with in,  
Listen to  
the howling wind.

That same old wind

that use to blow,  
reminds of  
long years ago,

I walked with mule  
down cotton row,  
Hey! This is the land  
where cotton grows.

I stand and look  
at house so old  
my dreams and  
memories all unfold

For many years  
I still survive  
and in my dreams  
I often drive,

By that old house  
where I once lived  
this is the house  
my daddy built

by Bernice Reed Jones

## Births



Sydney Kate White

Sydney Kate White, a girl, was born at 2 a.m. Feb. 24, 2008, weighing 6 pounds, 8 ounces and was 19 inches long. She is the daughter of Justin and Ashley White of San Angelo.

He is the son of Cristal Lopez and Jesse Lendell Woodruff of Big Spring. His maternal grandparent is Bonnie Lopez. His

paternal grandparent is Sheila Woodruff. Jayvyn was welcomed home by big sister Kaisza Marie Woodruff.

Her maternal grandparents are Jim and Susan Alexander of Forsan. Her paternal grandparents are Rita Powell of Forsan and David White of Colorado.



Jayvyn Jay Woodruff

Sidney Drew Kilgore, a girl, was born at 7:59 a.m. Feb. 5, 2008, weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces and was 21 inches long.

She is the son of Stacey and Tracy Kilgore of Lubbock. Her maternal grandparents are Brenda Jackson and Terry Wynn, both of Lubbock. Her paternal grandparents are Jerry and Darla Kilgore of Big Spring.

Sidney was welcomed home by siblings Logan and Sarah.

Jayvyn Jay Woodruff, a boy, was born at 12:02 p.m. March 23, 2008, weighing 7 pounds, 13

## Menus

### Spring City Senior Citizen's Center

Note: Coffee, tea, juice and low-fat milk served with all meals.

Monday — steak fingers with cream gravy, mashed potatoes

seasoned cabbage, cornbread and birthday cake from In Home Care

Tuesday — smothered chicken, macaroni and cheese, okra and tomatoes, buttermilk biscuits and cottage cheese and peaches.

Wednesday — large baked potato, chili and crackers, broccoli and cheese, calico salad and lemon pudding.

Thursday — baked ham, macaroni and tomatoes, black-eyed peas, tossed salad, pears and cornbread.

Friday — cracker crumb fish (baked), scalloped potatoes, baby carrots, vegetable salad and banana cake with icing.

Coahoma ISD

Monday — Breakfast, Pop Tarts, sausage, applesauce and milk; Lunch, pizza, salad, mixed fruit, cookies and milk.

Tuesday — Breakfast, pancake sausage on-a-stick, applesauce, milk;

Lunch, lasagna, salad, oranges, bread, McRib's.

Wednesday — Breakfast, French toast, ham, orange juice, mild taco beef pie, pinto beans, pears, milk, burritos.

Thursday — Breakfast, biscuits, sausage, gravy, jelly, apple juice, chicken patty, gravy, rolls, cream potatoes, pineapples, milk.

Friday — Breakfast, donuts, ham, grape juice, milk, smothered steak w/gravy, sweeten rice, corn, strawberries, bread, milk; Lunch, hot pick-ets/chips. Early Release.

### Forsan ISD

Monday — Breakfast, cereal, Pop Tarts, juice, milk; Lunch, burritos, Spanish rice, tossed salad, fresh fruit choice and milk.

Tuesday — Breakfast,

pancakes, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch, corn dogs, macaroni cheese, tossed salad, chilled pears and milk.

Wednesday — Breakfast, eggs, toast, juice, milk; Lunch, chicken stir fry, rice, egg rolls, apples and milk.

Thursday — Breakfast, donuts, juice and milk; Lunch, steak fingers, mashed potatoes/gravy, English peas, hot rolls, yogurt and milk.

Friday — Breakfast, biscuits, sausage, gravy, juice, milk; Lunch, pizza, seasoned corn, tossed salad, chocolate cake, orange smiles and milk.

### Stanton ISD

Monday — Breakfast, pancakes; Lunch, burritos or hot dogs, chili, corn, vegetable sticks and pineapples.

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Coffee @ Parkplace Retirement Living Center, 10 a.m.  
Supper Club, "Spanish Inn" 5:30 p.m.
- April 2** — Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
- April 3** — Mall Walking, 8 a.m.  
Just Peachy Café "Coffee Club," 10 a.m.  
Bunko, 5 p.m. (New Time)
- April 4** —Lunch Bunch & Birthdays, 11:30 a.m.  
"Just Peachy's Cafe"
- April 7** - Hobbs Casino, 9:00 a.m., RSVP required
- April 8** — Mall Walking, 8 a.m.  
Supper Club, "Texas Cajun Cafe", 5:30 p.m.
- April 9** — Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 p.m.
- April 10** —Mall Walking, 8 a.m.  
Just Peachy Cafe, Coffee Club, 10:00 a.m.
- April 12** —Big Spring Health Fair, 9:00 - 1:00 p.m.
- April 13** —MCT - "Alice in Wonderland", 1:00 p.m.
- April 14** —Games, 1-3:00, p.m.
- April 15** —Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.  
Supper Club "Herman's", 5:30 p.m.

Call Anita Cline today at 268-4721 to find out what the Circle is all about.

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# A hot design

## Automobile designers try making Hot Wheels for new competition

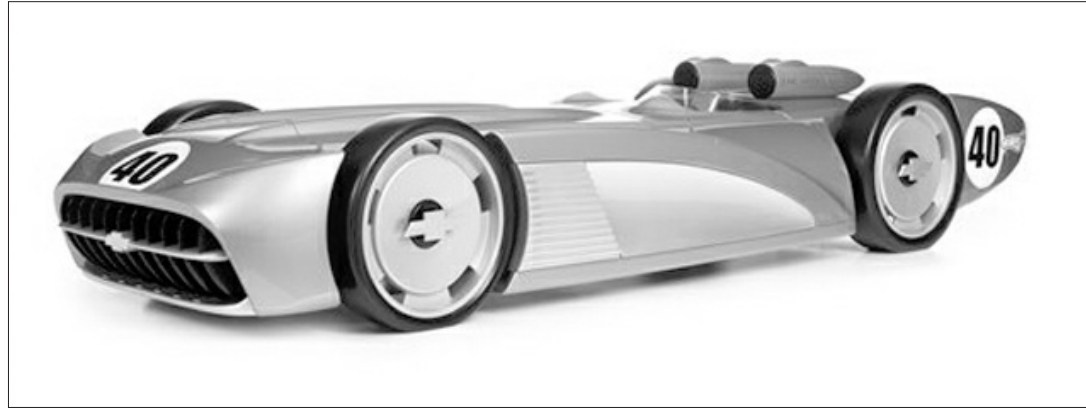
By **DEE-ANN DURBIN**  
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. designer Amaury Diaz Serrano still remembers the day in 1968 when his father bought him his first Hot Wheels car — a blue Camaro — at a Sears in his native Puerto Rico.

So imagine Diaz Serrano's thrill when Hot Wheels announced a competition for auto company designers to come up with a new series of the miniature cars.

"The chances of designing a Hot Wheel are like going to the moon," Diaz Serrano said.

Diaz Serrano's Hot Wheels design, a sky blue race car called the "Chevroletor," is among the seven winners in the Designer's Challenge series that will be hitting stores between now and June. Designers from Chrysler LLC, Honda Motor Co., Ford Motor Co., Mitsubishi Motors Corp., Lotus Cars and El



AP Photo, Mattel Inc./Tom Wolfson

**Mattel Inc. provided this photo of the Chevroletor, a Hot Wheels miniature car designed by General Motors Corp. designer Amaury Diaz Serrano. Diaz Serrano's design was the winner of a competition for auto company designers to come up with a new series of the miniature cars.**

Segundo, Calif.-based Mattel Inc.'s own Hot Wheels design studio also contributed winning designs.

Hot Wheels design director Alec Tam said Hot Wheels designers have long copied real cars, such as the Chevrolet Camaro and Ford Mustang, for their 1:64 scale die-cast models. But this year, the 40th anniversary of Hot Wheels, marked the first time non-Hot Wheels

designers were invited to participate. Tam said he was thrilled with what automotive designers came up with when they didn't have to think about practicalities like road-worthiness and air bags.

"They took some chances on design and did things they are unable to do in their day jobs," he said. "Hot Wheels is one of the few places where a car designer can not only be a kid but can really realize the vision of their

design."

Tam said each car had to capture the Hot Wheels core values — speed, power, performance and attitude — as well as reflecting the distinctive look of each automaker. Each car also had to be able to perform a loop on a Hot Wheels orange track.

Each automaker chose three top designs, and the winners were chosen by a

See HOT WHEELS, Page 6C

## Energy Watch



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



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

As reported March 16, we were unsure how long (or if) crude oil prices could remain supported without the products, gasoline in particular, pitching in. Though last week's inventory data was modestly supportive, a strengthening dollar and ongoing weak demand numbers offset any bullishness found in the inventory report.

Last week, the dollar rose against the Euro while anticipation of reduced demand for raw materials pushed gold and oil lower. A currency strategist at Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi in London said: "The main driver (of the dollar) is the liquidation of long commodity positions, specifically crude oil. That's potentially been a positive for the dollar on the back of the drop in commodity prices."

The Euro also weakened after a report showed growth in Europe's service and manufacturing industries slowed more than economists forecast. Meanwhile, gold headed for its biggest weekly drop in 25 years, plunging 12 percent from its record \$1,032.70 an ounce. Oil fell below \$100 a barrel for the first time since March 5 and copper had its biggest two-day decline in seven months.

All in all, it was a challenging week for commodities.

- The U.S. Natural Gas Council estimates a carbon-capping system like the one being considered in Congress may result in natural gas consumption increasing 20 percent over the next decade.

- The new Pakistani parliament was inaugurated last week. The government is dominated by opponents of President Musharraf. A senior ally of Musharraf said the leader is not about to quit despite parliament vowing to limit his powers and question his U.S. supported policies.

- Last year, Chinese imports from Africa accounted for roughly one-quarter of their total. Yesterday, Zhiming Zhao, executive president of China Petroleum and Petro-Chemical Industry Association, said that over the next decade, China plans to boost that percentage to 35-40 percent. This underscores the Chinese willingness to go after "risky" oil and is likely a reflection of their desire to diversify supply away for the geopolitically unstable Middle East.

- Energy Intelligence reports fuel shortages in China are again emerging. The southeastern province of Guangdong is reportedly seeing some service stations run out of diesel. The scenario is this, retailers are simply unwilling to sell diesel when wholesale prices are higher than the government controlled retail price.

- The Russian Ministry of Economic Development and Trade proposed a plan to cut refined product export duties. The hope would be a cut in export duties leads to investment in the refining infrastructure.

- Regarding Kosovo, the Serb riots in Mitrovica resulted in the death of one U.N. police officer. Yesterday's clash was the worst since Kosovo's Albanian majority declared independence. According to reports, 50 to 60 grenades were launched at peacekeeping forces.

- The International Maritime Organization is debating new global specifications for marine bunker fuels. Currently more than 75 percent of global shipping fuel demand is met by heavy fuel oil. If changes come, Energy Intelligence reports they will likely be approved later this month, adopted by the end of the year, and enforced in early 2010. The worst-case scenario for bunker suppliers is a switch to marine diesel that currently has a maximum sulfur content of 1 percent.

- The Argentine government announced initiatives aimed at averting or reducing the impact of gas shortages during their upcoming winter. The gas crisis in the nation is so severe that two natural gas-fired power plants scheduled to be added to the grid this year are being delayed as the turbines are converted to run on diesel.

Portions of this article were produced March 18 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. A.G. Edwards is a division of Wachovia Securities, LLC.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

**The local Wal-Mart Supercenter donated \$1,000 to the Big Spring Vietnam Memorial Committee to defray construction costs for the planned All-Veterans Memorial. Shown during the check presentation are, from left, Manny Negron and Tim Walsh from Wal-Mart, and VMC members Jim Wilson, Jerry Groves and Clarence Hartfield Jr.**



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

**Drew Darby, co-owner of Surety Title, cuts the red ribbon to celebrate the official opening of the business' new office at 805 Scurry St. Standing left is Darby's business partner Cindy Pitman holding her granddaughter London Mitchell. Also pictured are members from the Big Spring Ambassadors and the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.**

COMPUTER

Continued from Page 5A

Power supply

In order to run a meaty machine, you'll need an equally meaty PSU (power supply unit). For high power parts, I'd opt for nothing less than an 850W, stretching to 1000W if you've got a lot of drives or SLI/Crossfire graphics setup. In my case, I'd look for the well-trusted OCZ Game Xtreme 850, which you can pick up as low as \$150.

Motherboard

The foundation of your PC. You'll want a trusted brand with a well-made chipset. You'll also need to make sure it's going to house your choice of processor. In this instance, I'm leaning towards Intel, so the X38 chipset motherboard is perfect. It incorporates 2 PCI-express slots which will let you install dual graphics cards should you want to. Specifically, I would go the extra mile for an Asus Formula Maximus X38 board, offering great cooling and monitoring options which you'll definitely benefit from given the kit you're plugging into it. You can find this board for around \$280.

Processor

Intel and AMD have been battling it out for the processing top spot for an age and a day. The bottom line at the moment though, is that Intel is way ahead on research and development. Both Dual Cores and Quad Cores can serve you well right now, and this is where you have a choice to make.

Although only two cores are used during 3D games currently (rendering the extra pair in a Quad Core redundant) it will only be around 18 months before they'll be harnessed properly, thus the Quad, though more expensive will be future proof.

Dual Cores are cheaper, and are easy to over-clock to the same speed. I would consider an Intel Core 2 Quad Q9300 2.5GHz, and over-clock it to 3.25GHz. Over-clocking is easy to do through the motherboard, but be careful if experimenting: you don't want to blow your chip. This will set you back approximately \$400.

RAM

OCZ brand RAM is a perfect choice when it comes to memory for gaming. The Raptor range are durable, fast

and have a built-in heatsink on the top helping them keep as cool as possible. DDR3 (double data-rate) RAM has been released, but it's currently shockingly expensive. Where 4GB of DDR3 will cost you about \$800, the OCZ PC2-6400C4 800MHz Reaper memory will only cost you \$140 for the same amount, which is more than enough. I call that a win.

Sound Card

Environmental sound is a massive part of gaming, heightening the immersive experience and giving you a better sense of orientation. Recent first person shooters like Bioshock and Crysis use it to great effect, and to harness that I'd recommend nothing less than the Creative Soundblaster Fatal1ty X-Fi Platinum Champion Series, which clocks in at a meaty \$130. In addition to full Digital DTS and dedicated audio RAM, it has a front panel which you can use to plug in all sorts of devices, and a remote to run your movies should you tire of shooting people.

Cooling

As mentioned earlier, extra cooling is imperative to keep your components running smoothly.

Water cooling is extremely effective, but can cost hundreds of dollars to set up. OCZ have an alternative which you'll love - the OCZ Vendetta cooling stack. It's comprised of a 130mm high set of copper heat pipes and aluminum fins which conduct heat well away from your CPU, and through the fan situated on the side. It's an ingenious little device, and will only set you back a measly \$40.

Hard drive

Speed is the concern here. The top end hard drives usually run at around 10,000 RPM. What we're going to do is bind two of these together into one, called a RAID. I like the Western Digital Raptor drives to do the job. At about \$140 and 36GB each, they are the equivalent of 20,000RPM when working together. You'll not need more than about 70GB for a system drive and games. You can run all your media from a separate drive or even an external disk so you can sport it around with you.

Optical drive

With the advent of Blu-Ray, DVD writers have plummeted in price. I like the Pioneer DVR-

215BK 20x, which is plenty fast, writes dual layers and can be found for under \$50 these days. If you're interested in watching Blu-Ray too, then you might want to take a look at LG's Blu-Ray burner, which is relatively affordable at \$340.

Operating System

Gamers are divided over which OS performs best for games. Windows XP seems to throw up less problems with certain machines, but Windows Vista includes support for Direct X 10. For the sake of not standing in the way of progress, I'd go with Windows Vista. Plus the added media options and desktop widgets make for an improved look and more intuitive interface.

Mouse and keyboard

Peripherals really come down to personal preference. I'm a big fan of the CyMotion Expert USB keyboard, which comes in at about \$25, and a Microsoft Sidewinder Mouse, which will set you back about \$60. The Sidewinder is a brilliantly customizable bit of technology, with removable weights and interchangeable Kevlar feet.

Monitor

You want big, you want sharp and you want responsive. And if you also want good value, then look no further than the modestly-priced Samsung SM245B for around \$560. Great contrast range and viewing angle, a response time of 5ms and resolutions up to 1920X1200 make this an obvious choice.

Speakers

To compliment your soundcard's output, a good 5.1 surround setup will be a great addition. Logitech has the X-540 surround speakers for about \$100, which has a solid subwoofer and a monitor-mountable front satellite speaker.

And there you have it. A grand total under \$3,000. And when you put it all together, you get something that will make the geek down the street and his Alienware 'puter envy you day after day, game after game. Compared to other computers in the same price range, this setup has out-benchmarked others by a country mile, and comes in at a fraction of the cost the same type of setup would bring at your neighborhood Best Buy or Circuit City.

Cops bust party where kids were drinking from keg of root beer

WAUSAU, Wis. (AP) — Cars lining the street. A house full of young people. A keg and drinking games inside. Police thought they had an underage boozing party on their hands.

But though they made dozens of teens take breath tests, none tested positive for alcohol. That's because the keg contained root beer.

The party was held by a high school student who wanted to show that teens don't always drink alcohol at their parties. It has gained fame on YouTube.com.

Dustin Zebro, 18, said he staged the party after friends at D.C. Everest High School got suspended from sports because of pictures showing them drinking from red cups.

The root-beer kegger was "to kind of make fun of the school," he said. "They assumed there was beer in the cups. We just wanted to have some root beer in red cups and just make it look like a party, but there actually wasn't any alcohol."

Nearly 90 breath tests were done, and officers even searched locked rooms for hiding teens.

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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  
David Canales Jr., 803 E. 15th Street, Big Spring  
Iginio Cervantez, 1905 N. Monticello, Big Spring  
Jared Coby, 901 S. High St., Longview  
Doyce Ray Coyle, 3301 Auburn, Big Spring  
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  
James Randal Gardner, PO Box 1490, Lyons, Colo.  
Naomi Gonzales, 1606 E. Fifth, Big Spring  
Brittney Gross, 1010 E. 20th Street, Big Spring  
Nora Gutierrez, 606 N. Eighth Street, Lamesa  
Kristin Hawkins, 405 N. Moss Lake Road, Big Spring  
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  
Joshua David Mackenstein, 414 Hickory/3417 N. Midland

Drive, Midland  
Shawn G. McKay, 3107 Bonham Ave, Odessa  
Krista Moore, 411 N. 13th Street, Lamesa  
Anna Marie Moreno, 4656 St. Frances Ave., Dallas  
Sylvia Moreno, 1107 Douglas, Big Spring  
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  
Veronica Rodriguez, 3010 Cherokee, Big Spring  
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 Spurgeion, 1212 Wadley, Midland  
Shawn Spurgeon, 106 N. Adams, Denver City  
Tonya Taylor, 1111 Moseley Circle, Hobbs, N.M.  
Ricky Waltenbaugh, 801 W. Marcy Apt. 23, Big Spring  
Christina Williams, 400 Macarthur, Odessa

District Court Filings:

Carie Dunnam vs. Craig

Dunnam, divorce.  
Fiber Composite Company Inc. vs. Key Energy Services Inc., injury or damages not involving a vehicle.  
Mark Gomez and Carla Gomez vs. Julie Gomez Puga and Carlos' Inc., civil suit.  
Jacob Calvio vs. Irma Calvio, protective order.  
LVNV Funding LLC vs. Leon Ramey, accounts, notes and contracts.  
Nancy Avalos vs. Linda Schafer, injury or damages with a motor vehicle.  
Janette Loya vs. Margarito Loya, divorce.  
William Neal Buchheimer vs. Nicole Marie Buchheimer, divorce.  
The State of Texas vs. Terrance L. Essix for \$1,090, civil suit.  
Kim Saenz, M.D., and Kimberly J. Saenz, M.D., PLLC vs. George Parsley, Big Spring Hospital Corp. dba Scenic Mountain Medical Center, Community Health Systems Inc. and Community Health Systems Professional Services Corp, injury or damages not involving a vehicle.  
Frank Sanchez vs. Monica Ramon Sanchez, divorce.  
Rebecca A. Overton vs. Jerry D. Overton, divorce.

Marriage Licenses:

Aaron Wayne Hensley, 23, and Lisa Marie Viasana, 22, both of Big Spring.  
Jose L. Rodriguez, 22, and Marisa Rodriguez, 17, both of Big Spring.  
Billy John Lamar, 31, and Jennifer Lee Brown, 25, both of Big Spring.

Carmen Shane Burris, 46, and Carrie E. Arnold, 46, both of Big Spring.  
Thomas Smally Marvin Jr., 48, and Sammie Ruth Walker, 46, both of Big Spring.  
Shannon Lemar Hood, 23, of Hale Center, and Katherine Elaine Bryant, 22, of Big Spring.  
Daniel Frederick Hembree, 40, and Wanda Herron Brown, 35, both of Big Spring.  
Jason A. Partlow-Aguilar, 20, and Natasha M. Yanez, 18, both of Big Spring.  
Marcus Theon Gray, 23, and Brandee Jo Johnston, 23, both of Big Spring.

Warranty Deeds:

Grantor: David A. Difrancesca and Sandra Difrancesca  
Grantee: Jennifer Bowman  
Property: Lot 2, Block 3, West Cliff Addition  
Date: March 20, 2008

out of Section 41, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey  
Date: March 25, 2008  
Grantor: Frank Parker  
Grantee: Marcellous Weaver  
Property: Lots 8 and 9, Block Capehart Addition  
Date: March 25, 2008  
Grantor: April Dawn Long and Marcus Bailey  
Grantee: Jimmy Bailey and Diana Bailey  
Property: Three tracts out of Section 44, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey  
Date: March 26, 2008  
Grantor: KCE Partnership  
Grantee: Mabelle Williams  
Property: Lot 14, Block 7, Stanford Park  
Date: March 26, 2008  
Grantor: Mabelle Williams  
Grantee: Prosperity Management LLC  
Property: Lot 14, Block 7, Stanford Park  
Date: March 26, 2008  
Grantor: Rene Beall Inc.  
Grantee: Teton Ranch LLC  
Property: The NE/4 of Section 12, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey  
Date: March 26, 2008  
Warranty Deed with Vendors Lien:  
Grantor: Terry O. McDaniel and Kay McDaniel  
Grantee: MCBW Properties LTD  
Property: The N/2 of Lot 4, Block 29, Original Town of

Big Spring  
Date: March 20, 2008  
Grantor: Jennifer L. Walker  
Grantee: Frank Aciri and Mary Ann Aciri  
Property: Lot 10, Block 16, Kentwood Unit No. 2  
Date: March 25, 2008  
Grantor: Jimmy Randall Sherrod  
Grantee: Saciel R. Brito  
Property: A 5.9 acre tract out of Section 19, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey  
Date: March 25, 2008  
Grantor: Walter Kenneth Moore and Lucille Moore  
Grantee: Stephen W. Purdy and Roberta Purdy  
Property: A 3.1 acre tract out of Section 28, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey  
Date: March 25, 2008  
Grantor: Sheri M. Sherrod  
Grantee: Emmett Woodard  
Property: Lot 9, Block 4, Mittel Acres  
Date: March 26, 2008  
Grantor: Walter Dickerson and Dianne Dickerson  
Grantee: Marcus Hyatt and Jackie Hyatt  
Property: lots 7 and 8, Block 6, Park Hill  
Date: March 26, 2008  
Grantor: Matthew Ricketts  
Grantee: Brenda Hernandez  
Property: lot 15, Block 22, College Park  
Date: March 26, 2007

HOT WHEELS

Continued from Page 5C

jury that included Hot Wheels executives and designers as well as editors from the Los Angeles Times, Men's Journal and Car and Driver. The winning cars will sell for just

under \$3 in the first year and about \$1 in subsequent years and will be made for as long as they're selling, Tam said.  
Tam said most Hot Wheels cars sell for about \$1, but the designer series has special paint and tires. Fans probably won't mind the inflated price; one of the cars, a Dodge XP-07, is already selling for \$6.99 on

eBay.  
Diaz Serrano said he based his car's lines on the short-lived 1957 Corvette SS race car and its exaggerated proportions from race cars of the 1930s. The blue color matches the original car, he said, and the "40" on the side refers to Hot Wheels' anniversary.  
The 48-year-old designer said

it took him five weeks to build a cardboard prototype, which beat out 120 other entries from GM designers. He is grateful GM changed long-standing policy and allowed him to use his "Chevroletor" name instead of Chevrolet.  
These days, he's back to work at his day job, but even that is one that would make most Hot

Wheels enthusiasts swoon. Diaz Serrano is putting the finishing touches on the new Chevrolet Camaro, which is due out next year.  
"I've been doing fan cars at work and fan cars for toy companies, so I have no complaints," he said. "I get paid to play."

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**Southwind**

**Sandpiper 5th Wheel**

**Trioga Class "C"**

**Sierra 26' Fifth Wheel**

**Winnabago 30' Class "C"**

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**Southwind 29'**

**Terra 32' Motorhome**

**Montana 29'**

**'06 Everest 34'**

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**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
**Mon-Sat. 9-6 Sunday 9-4**

**KEEP BIG SPRING BEAUTIFUL**

**FOURTH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Big Spring Country Club 267-5354**

**April 19, 2008**

**9:00 Tee Time**

**Four-Person Scramble**

**Entry fee - \$65/person**

**Prizes for:**

- Closest to the pin
- Longest drive
- \$ Cash Prizes
- Hot Dogs, Chips, Drink
- "Split Jackpot" Putting Championship \$10 per chance

**\$\$\$ Million Dollar Shootout \$\$\$**

Sponsored by **RED MESA Grill**

**All proceeds go to Keep Big Spring Beautiful**

7799

# CLASSIFIEDS

710 Scurry

263-7331

www.bigspringherald.com

**Business Opportunity**

**WANTED: RETIRED** man wanting to work 20hrs a week as maintenance man. Call James Padgett (806)549-2366. Background check will be required.

**Cemetery Lots**

**CEMETERY LOTS.** Payout plans available. No interest or carrying charges. \$10.00 down. The Little Red Barn across from Mt. Olive Cemetery. 432-264-7722.

**SAVE \$\$\$\$\$** on monuments/markers. We deliver to all cemeteries. Little Red Barn across from Mt. Olive Cemetery. Mt Olive Monuments. 432-264-7722.

**SHEPPARD MEMORIALS** Custom Headstones in a variety of Bronze, Marble and Granite. Contact Honey Joy at 432-714-4656 or come by 605 Gregg for your monument.

**SPECIAL SALE.** Two grave spaces for the price of one. Pay-out plan available. \$50.00 Down. The Little Red Barn across from Mt. Olive Cemetery. 432-264-7722.

**STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!**  
**VOTE!**

**Educational**

**A BRIGHTER FUTURE!**  
Train to become an Electrical Technician!  
Career Placement Assistance  
Financial Aid for those who qualify.

Call now for more information!  
**800-497-1557 dept. 212**  
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Westwood Village Shopping Center  
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Midland, TX 79703

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Train for a new career as a Medical Assisting, Medical Office Specializing, or Dental Assistant!  
Call now for more information!  
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Westwood Village Shopping Center  
4320 West Illinois, Suite A  
Midland, TX 79703

**STOP LOOKING! START DOING!**  
Train for a new career as a **Medical Assistant,** Career Placement Assistance  
Financial Aid for those who qualify.  
Call now for more information!  
**800-497-1557 dept. 200**  
**Southeastern Career Institute**  
Westwood Village Shopping Center  
4320 West Illinois, Suite A  
Midland, TX 79703

**Garage Sales**

**GARAGE SALE:** 1310 Colby, Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday 7:00am-7:00pm. Life time of collections. Don't miss this one.

**Help Wanted**

**AFTERNOON STAFF-**  
1:30a.m.-7:30p.m.-\$7.00-9.00  
DOE. Apply at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.

**ANIMAL CARE** takers needed. 2 full-time positions available. Apply in person at the Howard County Humane Society, Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm.

**ASSISTANT MAINTENANCE TECH** needed at Cimarron Place. Own tools a plus. Company benefits included. Apply in person, 4136 E. 52nd St, Odessa. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

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

**Help Wanted**

**"DRIVERS"**  
Want to be home daily? Want scheduled days off weekly? Want a sign on bonus up to \$4000.00?

Excellent benefits include:  
\* Health  
\* Dental  
\* Vision  
\* 401K  
\* Safety bonus  
Coastal Transport is now seeking individuals to deliver petroleum product in and around surrounding areas of Big Spring. Must be 23 years of age, have a Class A license with Tanker and Haz-Mat endorsements with 1 year tractor/trailer experience. Please contact Russell @ 1-888-527-7221 for more information.


**MECHANIC: FLEET/BUS** PM service. Strong knowledge AC Systems, Brakes, Electrical Fault Tracing. Experience a plus. 432-561-8529 bert@allaboardamerica.com

**Help Wanted**

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

**Help Wanted**

**HELP WANTED** with AC Heating & Electrical Experience. Call Robertson Mechanical & Electrical (432)264-9396, 213-3390 or 816-6327.



**West Texas Centers for MHMR**

**Licensed Vocational Nurse:** Provides nursing for clients and training for clients, families, and staff, as an LVN by the State of Texas/Salary \$12.90-14.71 (\$26,832.00-\$30,588.00 annually) **Salary dependent on experience.** Benefits. Mon.-Fri. 8-5 Licensed.

**Residential Support Technician:** Position provides services within the community and in the home to individuals with mental retardation. Must be proficient in reading and writing. High School Diploma or GED preferred but not required. Hours vary. Salary \$7.71-\$8.20 hr (\$16,044.00-\$17,052.00 annually.) Benefits.

**Vocational Services Manager:** Provides supervision of staff, acting as liaison between other agencies and the community, and building maintenance in order to insure safety standards. High school diploma or GED required plus two years of work experience as a Human Services Technician. Salary is \$8.75-\$9.30/hr (\$18,192-\$19,344 annually.) Benefits.

**Part Time After Hour Crisis Worker:** Will perform crisis response work for mental health consumers. This exciting, flexible position provides an excellent opportunity as a second job to earn extra dollars. Please contact us if have a Bachelor's Degree with 24 hours in psychology or related field.

**Support Service Tech:** Provides support services to individuals with mental retardation. Must be proficient in reading and writing. High School Diploma or GED preferred but not required. Hours vary. Salary \$7.71-\$8.20 hr (\$16,044.00-\$17,052.00 annually.) Benefits.


**Vocational Service Tech:** Provides instruction and directs the trainee in the accomplishment of a specific job. Must be proficient in reading and writing. High School Diploma or GED preferred but not required. Hours vary. Salary is \$7.71-\$8.20 hr (\$16,044.00-\$17,052.00 annually) Benefits.

**Part time Direct Care Staff:** Responsible for training clients in work and social related skills. Must be proficient in reading and writing. High School Diploma or GED preferred but not required. Salary \$8.20/hr. Hours vary.

**Patient Assistance Tech:** Position responsible for screening financials for Medicaid eligibility; maintains various reporting data; general clerical duties. High school diploma or GED plus one year experience in a related field. Salary \$8.20/hr-\$8.75hr (\$17,052-18,192 annually - DOE.) Benefits.

Applications available at 409 Runnels or [www.wtcmhmr.org](http://www.wtcmhmr.org) or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769. EOE.

**RNs**  
**ALL SHIFTS**  
Earn up to \$25.34/hr (DOE)  
Plus  
Up to 20% shift differential  
Our benefit package includes:  
Paid Vacations, Sick Leave, Holidays,  
Paid Insurance, Retirement, Bonus Program,  
Nursing Educational Stipends.  
  
Contact Job Center  
432-268-7341,  
fax resume to 432-268-7285  
or complete an application online at:  
<https://accesshr.hhsc.state.tx.us>  
**Big Spring State Hospital**  
1901 North Highway 87  
Big Spring, TX 79720



**FT & PT Teller positions.**  
Motivated persons with good attitude may apply in person at **406 E. FM 700, Suite 102** between 9 and 4 M-F  
Good math and people skills, dependable, accurate, HS grad.



**LEASE OPERATOR**  
Westbrook, Texas

Because of our continued expansion and growth through an aggressive acquisition program, Energen Resources, a subsidiary of Energen Corporation, has an immediate opening for a **Lease Operator** at our Westbrook field located near Westbrook, Texas. Responsibilities include:

- Pump as needed monitoring, recording, and optimizing production data
- Operating and maintaining production equipment
- Conducting on-lease activities for assigned area making minor repairs and adjustments as needed
- Assuring that all leases are operating safely within regulatory guidelines
- Successful applicant must be willing to live within 30 miles of field located approximately 4 miles NW of Westbrook, Texas

The qualified applicant will have 1-3 years production experience with a broad knowledge of all types of production equipment. Experience working in secondary recovery environments a plus. Computer skills and proficiency with spreadsheets a must. We offer a highly competitive salary and bonus plan with a complete benefits package.

To become a part of our outstanding Westbrook team and a growing Industry Leader in the Permian Basin, for immediate consideration please go to: [www.energen.com](http://www.energen.com) to complete an online application.

An Equal Opportunity Employer



**PRODUCTION ASSISTANT**

Because of our continued expansion and growth through an aggressive acquisition program, **Energen Resources**, a subsidiary of Energen Corporation, has an immediate opening for a **Production Assistant** in our Westbrook, Texas office. Responsibilities include:


- As receptionist, will be responsible for answering phone, filing, greeting and directing guest to appropriate offices and other general office duties.
- Will be responsible for tracking and recording material transfers and purchase requisition information.
- Responsible for scanning, verifying and coding of electronic operations invoices in the Westbrook office.
- Successful applicant must be willing to live within 30 miles of field located approximately 4 miles NW of Westbrook, Texas.

The qualified candidate will have 2-3 years experience with some understanding of oil & gas activities. General knowledge of production operations, accounts payable and office procedures a plus. Proficient in the use of Excel, Word and Access a must.

Energen Resources offers a highly competitive compensation plan, which includes an incentive bonus with a complete benefits package.

For immediate consideration please go to: [www.energen.com](http://www.energen.com) to complete an online application.

An Equal Opportunity Employer



**WEST TEXAS VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**  
300 Veterans Blvd  
Big Spring, TX

West Texas VA Health Care System currently has the following nursing positions available:

**REGISTERED NURSE**  
\* Med-Surg  
\*Outpatient Clinic  
\*Extended Care & Transitional Unit  
\*Urgent Care/Monitored Care Unit  
\*Community Based Outpatient Clinic (Odessa)

**Recruitment Bonuses Authorized**

Contact: Leslie Williams, Nurse Recruiter at 432-263-7361, ext. 7030.  
To learn more about employment opportunities, Please visit us on the web at [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov).

**We offer:**

10 paid holidays	Stable Work Environment/401(k) Plan
RN's - 26 vacation days	Child Care Tuition Assistance Program
Educational Assistance	Educational Debt Reduction

Find out what it means to belong to the team that serves America's Heroes.

**Correctional Officers**  
**\$14.99 Starting Pay**

**Cornell Companies, Inc.**  
**Big Spring Correctional Center (BSCC)**

BSCC is currently seeking correctional officer applicants with the determination, commitment and desire to succeed in the field of corrections.

To be considered, you must meet the following requirements:  
Earned a high school diploma or GED. Must be able to pass pre-employment physical, drug screen, criminal background investigation and credit check for employment purposes as described in the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

Cornell offers competitive benefits including medical, dental, and vision insurance, 401(k), tuition assistance, paid time off, opportunities for advancement and more.

Please contact the Human Resources Department at:  
1701 Apron Drive, Big Spring, TX 79720  
or call 432-264-0060 for more information.  
EOE.



<p><b>Help Wanted</b></p> <p><b>RN POSITION</b>  <b>No Shift Work, No Weekends &amp; Lots of Paid Holidays!</b>                  The Texas Department of State Health Services is recruiting an RN to be responsible for providing public health nursing services to the residents of Howard County &amp; surrounding area. Serves as the Team Leader for Family &amp; Community Health Services at the Big Spring Clinic. Perform population-based community focused health promotion activities, child &amp; adult immunizations, HIV/STD &amp; TB services. Duties require independent clinical &amp; leadership skills. Work hours M-F, 8-5. Travel 10% day, 5% overnight. Must have a current license to practice as RN in the State of Texas. Apply at website: <a href="https://accesshr.hpsc.state.tx.us">https://accesshr.hpsc.state.tx.us</a>. Position Requisition #85310 or complete application at 501 Birdwell Lane, Suite 28B in Big Spring. For additional information, contact Melony Bennett at 432-571-4132.                  EEO/ADA. 6881</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted</b></p> <p><b>NOW HIRING</b> Paramedics and EMT's. Competitive Salary and Benefits for Full-time Employees plus Quarterly Bonuses. Apply at 1817 E. 6th St. or Call 432-580-3699.</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted</b></p> <p><b>OUTSIDE SALES</b> and cleaning people needed to clean offices part time. Good pay. Call (432)353-4849 or email breathe_ez1@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted</b></p> <p><b>NEED A job today?</b> Come be a delivery driver for Domino's Pizza. We pay competitive hourly wages &amp; put cash in your pocket daily! Working for the other guys? Bring your experience over to Domino's Pizza and get paid top dollar. Part time and full time positions available. Need day hours? Need night hours? We have all shifts available. We work with ALL types of schedules. <b>Apply now and get hired on the spot (some restrictions apply).</b>                  2111 Greg Street                  EOE, Drug Free environment  <b>FARM HAND</b> Wanted! Experience only apply. Call after 7:00 p.m. (432)684-5418.</p>
<p><b>Help Wanted</b></p> <p><b>PLS IS HOSTING A JOB FAIR</b>  <b>APRIL 1, 2008 FROM 9AM TO 2PM</b>                  We are seeking 3rd shift energetic motivated individuals to unload trucks at our warehouse in Odessa, TX. Good pay/benefits. For immediate interview apply in person at Workforce Network of Odessa, 2626 JBS Pkwy, Bldg D or call 1-800-644-8436 ext. 1803 mention code 1950TX &amp; leave msg. Must pass criminal background check and required documents to complete I-9. PLS is a Drug Free Workplace.                  EOE 6890</p>			

**BUSINESSES & SERVICES**

\$54.60 Per Month  
Call 263-7331 to place your ad today!!





<p><b>AC &amp; HEATING</b></p> <p><b>Johnson Air Conditioning, Heating &amp; Sheet Metal</b>                  • Servicing All Air Conditioners                  • All Sheet Metal Work Including Duct Work                  • Registers &amp; Grills                  We Carry All Air Conditioning Parts, Filters &amp; Belts                  1408 E. 4th • 263-2980</p>	<p><b>HEATING &amp; AC</b></p> <p><b>Crossroads Refrigeration</b>                  Air Conditioning, Heating &amp; Ice Machines                  We service all makes and models!                  Cell: (432) 270-0501                  24 Hour Service                  TACLA26711C</p>	<p><b>AIR CONDITIONING</b></p> <p><b>WARREN REFRIGERATION</b>  <b>AIR-HEAT-ICE</b>                  Pre Spring Check &amp; Clean \$45 per unit (Limited Time)                  Lorán Warren                  NATE Certified Service Technician Licensed and Insured TACLA26537C                  CALL (432) 263-5144</p>	<p><b>AUTO CARE</b></p> <p><b>G &amp; M Auto Care</b>                  Locally Owned &amp; Operated Service 1972                  263-1091                  George &amp; Mary                  900 E. 3rd St. Big Spring</p>	<p><b>AUTO PARTS</b></p> <p><b>WESTEX</b>                  A Modern Auto Dismantler Since 1947                  • 14 Acres of dismantled vehicles                  • 20,000 sq. ft. of Warehouse storage                  • Specialize in late model quality auto parts                  • Foreign and domestic parts for cars, trucks, mini-vans, 4x4 and sports utility vehicles                  Hrs. 8 a.m.-5:30 Wk/day 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Sat.                  1511 Hwy 350 • (432) 263-5000</p>	<p><b>CARPET</b></p> <p>Carpet Tile Laminate Hardwood Vinyl "All instock carpet ON SALE!"                  Come see us @ 2810 E. FM 700                    Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm                  432-268-0008  <b>Hopper Homes</b>                  "the carpet store"</p>
<p><b>BED LINERS</b></p> <p><b>C &amp; D Truck Accessories</b>                  2706 N. HWY 87                  432-263-3600                    THE SPRAYED-ON LINER</p>	<p><b>COMPUTER</b></p> <p><b>THE SPECIALIST</b>                  Matthew Grayson • 432-263-3885                  15 Years Experience                  ALL your computer needs Commercial and Residential Onsite work - networks large and small Windows and Linux OS - \$35.00/hr</p>	<p><b>CONCRETE</b></p> <p>All Types Concrete Work Block &amp; Brick Repair Trenching &amp; Tractor Service &amp; Landscaping  <b>Tommy Campbell Concrete Contractors</b>                  (432) 466-0623 2006 Runnels                  (432) 935-3644 Big Spring, TX 79720</p>	<p><b>CONCRETE</b></p> <p><b>MARQUEZ FENCE CO.</b>                  All types of fences, tile fence &amp; repairs.                  Concrete work, carports, stucco work All work guaranteed. Free Estimates                  Benny Marquez-Owner                  267-5714</p>	<p><b>CONCRETE</b></p> <p>STUCCO DRIVEWAYS SIDEWALKS BLOCK FENCES  <b>Chico and Sons Concrete</b>                  (432) 466-0573                  (432) 816-6561                  621 Sgt. Paredes                  Fred Rubio Big Spring, TX 79720</p>	
<p><b>CONCRETE</b></p> <p><b>J. T. Builders</b>                  Remodeling • Drywall Ceramic Tile • Electrical Plumbing • Roofing Brick &amp; Concrete Work Driveways • Sidewalks Swimming Pool Decks                  JOHNNY TALAMANTEZ                  (432) 213-0882 Cell                  (432) 935-6310 Res.</p>	<p><b>FENCES</b></p> <p><b>Quality Fence Co.</b>                  Jimmy Marquez-Owner                  Finest In Fencing                  Wood &amp; Chainlink                  Free Estimates                  432-267-3349</p>	<p><b>FENCES</b></p> <p>Now Accepting    <b>B &amp; M Fence Co.</b>                  COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL GET OUR PRICE &amp; COMPARE FREE ESTIMATES                  ROBERT MARQUEZ                  263-1613 •                  1-800-525-1389                  2117 N. Hwy. 87 • Big Spring</p>	<p><b>HOME IMPROVEMENT</b></p> <p><b>ENTRY DOORS/ GARAGE DOORS/OPENERS</b>                  Remodeling • Contractor Repaired/Remodeled Refinishing                  Kitchen &amp; Bath Specialist  <b>BOB'S CUSTOM WOODWORK</b>                  409 E. 3RD 267-5811</p>	<p><b>HOME IMPROVEMENT</b></p> <p><b>Gibbs Remodeling</b>                  New home Construction • Room Additions                  Dry Wall Hanging &amp; Finishing Ceramic Tile • Installation &amp; Repair                  All Remodel Needs Of Any Room In Your Home.                  Call 263-8285</p>	<p><b>HOME IMPROVEMENT</b></p> <p><b>R S HOME REPAIR</b>                  Custom Wood Decks, Remodel, Carpenter, Painting, Plumbing, Minor Electrical  <b>FREE ESTIMATES</b>                  Garage door repair, Appliances installed                  816-3030</p>
<p><b>HOME IMPROVEMENT</b></p> <p><b>L &amp; R Construction</b>                  Painting, Dry Wall, Tape &amp; Bedding, Texture, Repairs, Remodeling, Addition, Tile &amp; More.                  432-213-5540</p>	<p><b>HOME IMPROVEMENT</b></p> <p><b>J &amp; J's Handyman Service</b>                  (FREE ESTIMATES)                  Tile, Remodeling, Painting, Carpentry, Drywall, Garage Doors, and Home Repairs                  Jay Flores Sr. (Owner)                  264-6412 (Home)                  816-2437 (Cell)</p>	<p><b>INTERNET SERVICES</b></p> <p><b>Westex Telecom</b>                  High Speed DSL OR Dial-Up Internet Access                  Local Customer Service                  268-8800</p>	<p><b>LANDSCAPING</b></p> <p><b>We Dig And Move Trees, Lot Clearing.</b>                  Call Us For Your Landscaping Needs  <b>Decker Farm Supply &amp; Nursery</b>                  Stanton • 756-3444</p>	<p><b>LAWN SERVICE</b></p> <p><b>Gary Lee</b>                  Raking Leaves Mowing, Tilling Tree Trimming Hedges Hydromulching Fescue Grass Clean Flower Beds                  Call 432-264-0299</p>	<p><b>LAWN SERVICE</b></p> <p>CLEAN YARDS &amp; ALLEYS, CLEAN OUT STORAGE SHEDS, HAULING, TILLING, TREE TRIMMING &amp; STUMP REMOVAL  <b>Scoggin Lawn Service</b>                  267-5460                  CELL 816-6150</p>
<p><b>LAWN SERVICE</b></p> <p><b>CYC Lawn Service</b>                  Yard Mowed \$25.00                  • Hedge Trimming                  • Tree Trimming                  • Hauling                  • Odd Jobs                  CALL DAVE at 432-558-0287 or 935-2406                  Senior discounts Free Estimates</p>	<p><b>NAIL SALON</b></p> <p><b>Pro Spa Nail Salon</b>                  Pedicure: \$21.99                  Manicure: \$11.99                  Full Set: \$20.00 &amp; up                  Refill: \$13.99 &amp; up  <b>SPECIAL</b>                  Solar Nails: \$29.00                  111 E. Marcy Dr. Ste 110 (432) 263-6245                  (Next To Wal-Mart)</p>	<p><b>PEST CONTROL</b></p> <p>Southwestern A-1 Pest Control Since 1954                    (432) 263 - 0441                  Max F. Moore                  2008 Birdwell Lane                  swa1pc.com New Website                  mm@swa1pc.com Check It Out !!</p>	<p><b>RENTALS</b></p> <p><b>VENTURA COMPANY</b>                  432-267-2655                  Houses • Storages Commercial Buildings For rent/sale  <b>Reduced</b>                  1402 Main                  1003, 1011 E. 11th</p>	<p><b>ROOFING</b></p> <p><b>JOHNNY FLORES ROOFING</b>                  Shingles, Hot Tar &amp; Gravel. All type of repairs! Work Guaranteed. Specializing in Hot Tar Roofs and Doctor of Repairs!                  Free Estimates!!                  Big Spring &amp; Surrounding Areas.                  267-1110</p>	<p><b>SIDING</b></p> <p><b>Four Seasons Insulation &amp; Siding</b>                  Specializing In Wall Insulation Thermal Replacement Windows &amp; Siding                  Call 264-8610</p>
<p><b>SCHOOL</b></p> <p><b>Maranatha Baptist Academy</b>                  School Age Pre - 4-5 K-12 • A.C.E. Home Schooling Individualized Tutoring Available                  903 Johnson                  263-7696</p>	<p><b>REALTY</b></p> <p><b>J. RUTLEDGE REALTY</b>  <b>Jeannie Rutledge</b>                  Broker / Owner                  1600 S. Gregg                  432-714-4900  <b>Leah Hughes</b>                  432.270.2416  <b>Christie Larson</b>                  432.213.4647  <b>Vanessa Ochoa</b>                  432.816.5490  <b>Zac Hall</b>                  806.544.9211</p>	<p><b>RETAIL</b></p> <p><b>Zimmerman's</b>                  Gifts &amp; More                  GIFTS COLLECTIBLES HOME &amp; GARDEN GIFT REGISTRY  <b>25% OFF ON ALL ITEMS</b>                  WWW.ZIMMERMANSANDMORE.COM                  432-267-2605</p>	<p><b>SECURITY SERVICES</b></p> <p>LIC #B14058                  Alarm Systems &amp; Camera Systems Courier &amp; Guarded Service  <b>Spring City Security, Inc.</b>                  Security Services                  6501 Craig Rd.                  Big Spring, TX 79720                  TONYA GRIGG Phone: (432) 816-4421                  President Fax: (432) 264-7765                  Owner/Manager tonya_tel@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b>WEB/PRINT</b></p> <p><b>Big Spring Pack &amp; Ship</b>                  Your Wrapping, Packing, and Shipping Solution                  *No waiting Lines *Lots of help * More Shipping Choices                    Free Shipping Supplies with all carriers !!                  Pickup Service, Moving/Packaging Supplies Copying Services, Faxing, Photo and Doc. Scanning, Office Supplies, Full Service Printing, Marketing Supplies, Ad Design, Web Design.                  (432) 599-8018                  808 Gregg St.                  Big Spring, TX 79720                  bigspringpackandship.com</p>	<p><b>WEB DESIGNS</b></p> <p><b>Bond Web Designs</b>                  web designing and hosting                  www.bondwebs.com                  Lane Bond                  2605 Ann Drive                  Big Spring, TX 79720                  (432) 263-4033                  (432) 213-0391 cell                  lane@bondwebs.com</p>
<p><b>STORAGE</b></p> <p><b>LONE STAR STORAGE</b>                  Now Open                  Located on I-20, 10 min. from Big Spring. Regular units and climate control units available  <b>PARK AND SELL</b>                  432-394-4499</p>	<p><b>TAX SERVICES</b></p> <p><b>FAST CASH</b>                  On Line Tax Refund Refund Loan Within 24 Hrs.*  <b>TAX ASSOCIATES</b>                  406 Runnels (Across From Bargain Mart)                  CALL (432) 264-6134                  "Se Habla Espanol"                  *With RAL Approval</p>	<p><b>TREE TRIMMING</b></p> <p><b>LUPE'S TREE TRIMMING</b>                  More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and removal.                  Call                  Lupe Villalpando                  432-268-6406</p>	<p><b>WINDOW TINT</b></p> <p><b>C &amp; D Truck Accessories</b>                  2706 N. HWY 87                  432-263-3600  <b>Solar Gaurd Window Tint</b>                  5 year limited warranty</p>		

**Help Wanted**  
**ATTENTION POLICE OFFICERS & FIRE FIGHTERS**  
**Are you the Best?**  
**Can you make the top 10%?**  
If so.....  
Apply for these positions today:  
**Fire Fighters**  
\$27,361.15-\$36,202.28 DOE  
Deadline for applications is Wednesday, May 7th, 5:00p.m.  
Testing begins 9:00a.m., Sat. May 10th  
**Police Officers Cert. & Non**  
\$32,427.20 Cert.-  
\$29,966.56 Non-Cert.  
Testing April 17th & 18th  
Additional testing dates TBA  
**Jailer**  
**Animal Control Officer**  
We offer  
**EXCELLENT BENEFITS**  
Including 100% paid Employee Health Insurance.  
**Inquire to:**  
Human Resources  
City of Big Spring, Texas  
Phone: (432)264-2346  
Fax: (432)264-2387  
For more details go to [www.ci.big-spring.tx.us](http://www.ci.big-spring.tx.us)  
EOE

**CLINE CONSTRUCTION** is hiring experienced Excavator-Backhoe- Loader & Grader Operators. Excellent hours- Immediate openings. Come by 1807 North FM 700 or Call 432-267-6006.

**EXPERIENCED COMMERCIAL/ Industrial Sales Rep's** needed. Excellent commission structure. Roofing knowledge helpful but not necessary. Only mature, responsible individuals need apply. Call 1-877-918-0411.

**Help Wanted**  
**COTTONWOOD TRANSPORTATION IN SWEETWATER, TX IS HIRING AGAIN!**  
We need 10-15 owner operators who have flatbed experience. Your trailer or ours. Run Regional & be home most weekends. 3 yrs OTR CDL-A, good driving record. **Come by office on 9101 So I-20 or call 888-800-6097 for application.**

**CROSSROADS HOSPICE** is hiring for:  
CNA-PRN  
Big Spring/  
Howard County area  
Hospice experience preferred. Come by 421 South Main Street (EOE). Ask for Debbie Read.

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

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

**PART TIME** Janitorial position available at The Salvation Army. Apply 811 West 5th.

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

**FORSAN ISD** is now accepting applications for manager/cook positions at the JR/SR High School for the next school year. Contact Cindy Graves at (432) 457-2223, Ext. 330 for application information. Applications will be accepted through April 10th.

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

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

**GREAT PAY & BENEFITS!**  
Hiring class CDL Drivers. Clean MVR. Call 432-756-2875 or apply at Key Energy, West I-20 South Service Road, Stanton, TX.

**LAUNDRY AID** needed with experience. Very fast paced environment. Competitive pay and paid holidays & vacation. Pick up application at Holiday Inn Express, 1109 N. Aylesford Street.

**Help Wanted**  
**LICENSED PLUMBERS** and apprentices, helpers, and HVAC technicians, apprentices, helpers. Doing commercial work in Midland and Big Spring. Insurance and retirement. Good wages, growing company looking for long term employees. Call (432)699-7747.

**Help Wanted**  
**LOCAL 20+** Year Construction Company seeking experienced help. General residential and light commercial repairs, remodeling, painting interior and exterior experience. Pay D.O.E. Call 432-267-2296.  
**OWN A Computer?** Put it to work! Up to 1,500 to 7,500 a month. PT/FT. Free Info! [www.reviveyourretirement.com](http://www.reviveyourretirement.com)

**Faye's Flowers**  
**Looking for fresh new faces**  
Part-Time or Full-Time  
Experience preferred ... will train the right people, benefits.  
NO PHONE CALLS.  
**See Debra - 1013 Gregg**

**Western Container Corp.**  
How would you like to spend the rest of your career in a true team-based work environment where no time clocks exist, hourly members make the final decision on new hire offers, and a rule book that simply states "4 things that matter" - Personal Responsibility, Adult Behavior, Integrity, and Mutual Respect.  
We are the world-class manufacturer of Pet Coca-Cola bottles in North America and we are currently seeking applications for Entry level positions.

- Ability to work 12 hour rotational shifts
- High school diploma or GED

Benefits:

- 9 paid holidays
- Paid vacations
- Health benefits
- 401k retirement plan

Apply at:  
**1600 1st Street Big Spring, TX 79720**  
Between the hours of 8am and 4pm  
Monday through Friday

**ECI WANTS YOU!**

Want to work with families and young children? Interested in making a difference in the life of an infant and toddler with special needs?

**Degree required-one of the following:** MSW, LPC, LBSW, Psy Asso, PT, OT, RN, SLP, LCSW  
Salary dependent on degree and experience - **Contract Opportunities available too!**

*Positions Available:*

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

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

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

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

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

**Locations: Big Spring, Colorado City, Snyder, Sweetwater**

**Dentist**

Incumbent serves as a general dental practitioner responsible for diagnosis and treatment of difficult dental problems in a correctional environment. Provides comprehensive dental care to the inmate population, who may have behavior and communication problems. Assists in the coordination of the dental program, providing input regarding proposed modifications to operating procedures. Incumbent is required to meet suitability as well as qualification requirements to be selected for this position. Applications and more information can be obtained from [www.usajob.opm.gov](http://www.usajob.opm.gov). Questions regarding this position can be directed to Michael Cross, Employee Services Manager, [mcross@bop.gov](mailto:mcross@bop.gov), (432) 466-2402, or Aramis Martinez, Health Services Administrator, [axxmartinez@bop.gov](mailto:axxmartinez@bop.gov), 432-466-2438. The BOP is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Pharmacist**

The incumbent serves as the Chief Pharmacist at a Federal Bureau of Prisons' correctional facility and has responsibility for complete pharmacy services at the institution clinic. He/she is responsible for all aspects of pharmacy operations including dispensing, pharmaceutical care, clinical and community relations, and accreditation compliance. Incumbent is required to meet suitability as well as qualification requirements to be selected for this position. Applications and more information can be obtained from [www.usajob.opm.gov](http://www.usajob.opm.gov). Questions regarding this position can be directed to Michael Cross, Employee Services Manager, [mcross@bop.gov](mailto:mcross@bop.gov), (432) 466-2402, or Aramis Martinez, Health Services Administrator, [axxmartinez@bop.gov](mailto:axxmartinez@bop.gov), 432-466-2438. The BOP is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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<p><b>HELP WANTED</b></p> <p>Earn Extra Income assembling CD cases from anywhere. <b>Start Immediately. No experience necessary.</b> <a href="http://easywork-greatpay.com">easywork-greatpay.com</a> <b>1-800-267-3944</b> Ext. 2020 (Void in SD, ND, WI, &amp; MD)</p>	<p><b>BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY</b></p> <p><b>\$700-\$800,000+ FREE GRANTS/PROGRAMS! 2008!</b></p> <p><b>NEVER REPAY!</b> Personal/Medical Bills, School, New Business- As seen on T.V. <b>NO CREDIT CHECK!</b> Live Operators! <b>1-800-270-1213</b> ext. 20 (NOT VALID IN TN)</p>	<p><b>MISCELLANEOUS</b></p> <p><b>DISH NETWORK SAVE MONEY!</b> NO Equipment to Buy! Over 165 Digital Channels! Lifetime Equip. Warranty! <b>FREE INSTALLATION! FREE DVR UPGRADE! FREE 4 ROOMS!</b></p> <p><b>ONLY \$29.99 Month!</b> <b>CALL NOW!!!</b> <b>1-800-425-5728</b> Promo Code: 12711</p>

Or Call:  
**Mark Weingarten**  
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**Newsday Crossword SATURDAY STUMPER** by Daniel R. Stark Edited by Stanley Newman [www.stanxwords.com](http://www.stanxwords.com)

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>55</b> Monitor of a sort	<b>9</b> Warsaw Pact mem.	<b>37</b> Dilatory
<b>1</b> Truck group	<b>56</b> Accomplishes	<b>10</b> On	<b>38</b> Reverse, once
<b>8</b> Safari specialist	<b>58</b> Not first	<b>11</b> Leads	<b>39</b> Meal setting
<b>15</b> Chinese symbol of wealth	<b>60</b> Bugle call	<b>12</b> Lights up	<b>40</b> Cognate
<b>16</b> Phone service	<b>61</b> Core	<b>13</b> Commit	<b>41</b> Travel service
<b>17</b> Obviously happy	<b>62</b> Combs out and does up	<b>14</b> Sources of satisfaction	<b>42</b> Still
<b>18</b> Volumes	<b>63</b> Parasite	<b>21</b> Refuges	<b>45</b> Hard covers
<b>19</b> War story		<b>24</b> Watch carefully	<b>47</b> More sweeping
<b>20</b> Flight		<b>25</b> Short-circuits	<b>49</b> Flies
<b>22</b> San __ Bay, CA		<b>28</b> Old characters	<b>51</b> New Zealand prime minister
<b>23</b> Mudville team		<b>29</b> Ram	Clark
<b>24</b> Military wear		<b>32</b> Come together	<b>53</b> Draws
<b>26</b> Dig		<b>34</b> Comic-opera princess	<b>55</b> Barley product
<b>27</b> Giant of fame		<b>36</b> Arrives earlier than	<b>57</b> "___ man can tether time or tide": Burns
<b>28</b> Two-wheeler			<b>59</b> Racer relative
<b>30</b> French direction			
<b>31</b> Sources of culture			
<b>33</b> Flickers, at times			
<b>35</b> Puts to bed			
<b>36</b> Settled			
<b>37</b> Dished out			
<b>40</b> Credit concern			
<b>43</b> __ Center (Louisville museum)			
<b>44</b> Hollow parts			
<b>46</b> Museum piece, maybe			
<b>48</b> Squire			
<b>50</b> Power systems			
<b>51</b> One way to tell a story			
<b>52</b> Receive			
<b>54</b> W.C.'s daughter in <i>The Bank Dick</i>			

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2008 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 3/29/08

**Help Wanted**  
**NEED EXPERIENCED** Tool Pusher for Big Spring oil company. Competitive pay & benefits, most work is within 60 miles of Big Spring. Must be able to pass a drug test. Call 432-238-7650.

**NEEDED L.V.N.** for very busy adult practice willing to be trained for multiple procedures and treatments done in clinical setting. Please send resume c/o P.O. Box 1431/177, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

**NOW ACCEPTING** applications at Mitchell County Hospital District in Colorado City, Texas for:  
1. Medical Biller (Experience-A MUST)- Mitchell County Hospital  
2. CRNA for Surgery - Mitchell County Hospital  
*These are full time positions with upgraded salary scale and good benefits.*  
Contact Human Resources at (325)728-3431, ext. 7105.

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

**OILFIELD ELECTRICAL** construction and maintenance company located in Midland, Texas is seeking a Supervisor for Oilfield electrical work. Will meet with customers, estimate jobs, and oversee installation. Must have a current Master or Journeyman Electrician's License. Salary is DOE. Please fax resume and salary requirements to (432)684-7607.

**SAND BLASTER** and painter wanted. Experience preferred, willing to train right person. Must be hard worker and dependable. Call 432-213-3399.

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

**PART TIME** position available at The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club. Apply in person. 811 West 5th.

**PIZZA INN**  
EARN \$12-\$14 PER HOUR DELIVERING PIZZA'S. \$100 HIRING BONUS. MUST BE 18YRS. OLD WITH CLEAN DRIVING RECORD. ALSO TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT POSITIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.

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

**ROUTE SALES.** \$140.00 to \$170.00 per day. Excellent benefits. Call 432-580-0059.

**WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY** Wanted for local Rental Store. Benefits include paid vacation, retirement & health insurance. Requirements are background check, drug screening, good driving record and be at least 21 years old. Starting pay \$8.50 per hour. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

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

**Help Wanted**  
The Colorado River Municipal Water District seeks an experienced Electrical/Electronics Superintendent. Responsibilities include the supervision of electrical and electronics crews and the maintenance and repair of heavy, medium and light voltage electrical equipment, SCADA, microwave and radio. Successful candidate must have experience in industrial electricity and/or electronics and communication with supervisory experience. CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave. Resume should be sent to CRMWD, Attn: Electrical/Electronics Superintendent Position, P.O. Box 869 (400 E. 24th Street), Big Spring, Texas 79721-0869. Applications for employment are available at this same address and will be require of all candidates selected for interviews. Questions regarding this position may be directed to Mr. Cole Walker at 432-267-6341.

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

**Items for Sale**  
2 **TWIN** Mattress sets and box springs. Both new. \$95.00 each. Will separate. Call 432-664-8980.  
**BRAND NAME** queen pillowtop mattress set. New in plastic. Factory warranty. \$145. Can delivery 432-664-8980.  
**FOR SALE,** Rigid Pipe Threader with extra's \$2300.00, Two wedding dresses with veils \$375.00, Three formal/prom dresses \$175.00. Call 432-264-0832 for more information.  
**FULL SIZE** mattress set. New in plastic. \$115.00 Call 432-664-8980.  
**KING QUILTED** Pillowtop mattress se. New in plastic with warranty. \$250.00 Delivery Available. Call 432-664-8980.  
**NEED TO DO SPRING CLEANING!** Call us we buy and sell from a small amount to a whole household.  
**CROSSROADS AUCTION** 432-264-9900

**ONLY SATURDAY,** April 5 Only 9am to 1pm American Limestone has stone panels, bits & pieces at low cost. Corner of 1st Ave. and Wright Ave. Southeast side of Air Park.  
**QUEEN ORTHOPEDIC** mattress set. Factory sealed with warranty. "New" \$130.00. Call 432-664-8980.  
**TEMPUR-PUDIC** memory foam mattress set. New in plastic. Retail \$1800 Must sell for \$550. Call 432-664-8980.  
**VERY NICE** 2001 21' Trail Lite camper. Awning, air, one slide out. Sleeps 8. \$8,500 OBO. Call 432-528-5080 or 262-5859.

**Jobs Wanted**  
**CNA** would like to sit and help in your own home. Available any hours. For more information call 432-263-2904.  
**Lost and Found**  
**FOUND** on FM 821 2 yellow Lab mixed females. To reclaim contact The Pet Connection 432-267-7387.

**Miscellaneous**  
**1993 LONDONAIRE** 40 foot Park Model. Washer & dryer, awning and slide out. \$18,000.00. Call 432-816-4888 for more information.  
**1999 JAYCO** Designer Camper, 37' with 3 slides, fiberglass. \$19,500.00. Call (432)263-6948 for more information.  
**2000 28 FT** overall Fleetwood Prowler RV, low mileage, large slide out, clean interior, queen size bed, large storage unit, build in radio and CD player, TV included. Will deliver from San Angelo. Call 325-944-2840.  
**50X40 STORAGE** Room, insulated walls and walk thru door. \$300.00 month, \$300.00 deposit. Call 432-213-2319.  
**BEDROOM SUITE-** Beautiful Heirloom Quality!!! Large Mansion Bed, Huge Dresser, mirror, chest, nightstand, MARBLE TOPS, All Wood, suggested retail, \$9k, Forfeit \$3900. New in boxes. SELECT your COMFORT air bed, brand new, boxed, 2 controls, separate settings, \$880. 806-549-3110.  
**CAKES:** Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceanarias. Arches, Candelabras and florals. FREE DELIVERY. Call Grishams (432)267-8191.  
**CHIPPENDALE** 10 pc, double pedestal table & 2 leafs, 6 cushioned chairs, china cabinet, heirloom quality, NEW & BOXED, list \$4296, Sell \$1995.....  
**PUB TABLE,** solidwood & 4 chairs. New in crate. List \$1190, Asking \$425. 806-549-3110.  
**LARGE STORAGE/SHOP,** overhead door and walk thru door \$300.00 month, \$300.00 deposit. Call 432-213-2319.

**NEW CAL KING-KING** 6-pc bedroom set: bed, dresser, mirror, nightstand. List \$3950, Sell \$980. Can del..... Microfiber, sofa, love, chair and 3 pc table set, brand new, lifetime warranty. \$500. 806-549-3110.  
**SACRIFICE QUEEN** orthopedic mattress set. New in wrapper. Only \$129. Can del.....  
**DOUBLE/FULL** mattress set. \$105. **TWIN** mattress set. \$95. **BOTH** NEW. 806-549-3110.  
**STEEL BUILDINGS** 30x40, 40x60, 50x100. Advertising Discount Prices Limited, Up To 50% Off. Can erect. www.scg-grp.com Source #0ZF 432-897-4488.  
**STRUCTURAL PIPE:** 2-3/8- \$30. per joint, 2-7/8- \$36. per joint and 4-1/2, 7 ft. corner post- \$40.. Call (432)459-2565 or 270-4698.

**Pets**  
**3 ADORABLE** Fluffy little Peek-a-poos- 1 white, 1 black & 1 black w/white. \$300.00. Call 263-0020 after 4:30 p.m.  
**ENGLISH POINTER** pups born 1-16-08. Parents on site. El-hew, Big Country, and Southern Hills breeding. \$300.00. Call 432-528-5684 or 361-815-2814 in Big Spring.

**Real Estate for Rent**  
**FOUND FEMALE** Dachshund on the 1600 Block of Runnels. Call 432-816-6801 to identify.  
**FREE PUPPIES** (1) American Eskimo (1) Pomeranian mixed. Has first shots. Also have (2) Timber Wolf mixed dogs (1) 1 yrs. old and (1) 2 yrs. old. Great with kids and other animals. Call 432-816-7942.

**Real Estate for Rent**  
**BEAUTIFUL GARDEN COURTYARD**  
• Swimming Pool  
• Private Patios  
• Carports  
• Appliances  
• Most Utilities Paid  
• Senior Citizens Discount  
• 1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished  
**PARKHILL TERRACE APARTMENTS**  
800 W. Marcy Drive  
263-5555 267-5444

**LOVELY NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLEX**  
Swimming Pool  
Carports,  
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Senior Citizen Discounts  
1 & 2 Bedrooms & 1 or 2 Baths  
Unfurnished  
**KENTWOOD APARTMENTS**  
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**2 & 3 Bedrooms**  
*Rent Based on Income*  
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\$299 MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP.  
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**FREE PUPPIES** (1) American Eskimo (1) Pomeranian mixed. Has first shots. Also have (2) Timber Wolf mixed dogs (1) 1 yrs. old and (1) 2 yrs. old. Great with kids and other animals. Call 432-816-7942.

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**RETAIL BUILDING** on Gregg Street. High traffic area with parking in front & back. 2200 sq. feet. \$400.00 Per month with 1 year lease. Please contact Lucy 432-263-5000.

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**su | do | ku**  
© Puzzles by Pappocom  
ANSWERS

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

Answer to previous puzzle

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

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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."

**BIG SPRING HERALD**

Advertise to keep the spider away from your door.  
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS**  
We've all had days wrestling with where we want to be and where we are right now. We tried too hard. Maybe we "pushed the river" so far it tried to alter its course by attempting to bend into a new direction. As Mars angles with the sun today, it's by loosening our grip that we harness

the motivation and energy to power on.  
ARIES (March 21-April 19). What's yours is yours. Even if you lent it, lost it or gave it away, it would come back to you. You're realizing what you own and what you do not. And it's a reassuring to figure out.  
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Sometimes you look at a family member and wonder, (SET ITAL) If we weren't related, would we be friends? (END ITAL) Today, the answer is, absolutely, yes. You're not only getting along, you're having fun.  
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Trying to figure out what others want is enough to make you neurotic now. You'll be as productive as you are autonomous. Serve up your best, and then go your own way, following the whims of your busy mind.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're boosting your attractiveness with a few keen decisions. Decide to approve of yourself, no matter what. Get behind your unique so-called "flaws." What makes you different also makes you beautiful.  
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're keeping that promise you made, even though you might prefer not to now. Because you reinforce that you are good for your word, someone will soon make an extra effort to do the same for you.  
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your stars support you when you give up being scared of a certain thing happening. This frees up your energy since fear is so exhausting. Gandhi said, "There would be nothing to frighten you if you refused to be afraid."  
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your wells of creativity will be replenished by your experiences, so long as they are fresh, stimulating and varied. This is no time to fall into your routine. If you've been there, don't return today.  
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov.



HOLIDAY expectations will be MATHIS met.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your considerable influence is met with resistance -- this too will pass. The easiest way to get others to do what you wish is to find out what they want to do and then wish that for them.  
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're good at catching the hints that loved ones drop in your path. But today their unspoken wants are so obvious that you'd have to try hard not to get the message. And you are in a unique position to deliver.  
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You know the story. And you know the story behind the story. That's the part your friends are hoping you'll keep a secret. Take pause before you reveal anything about yourself or anyone else. Someone trusts you.  
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Does everyone

around seem smug? Try not to judge too harshly. You're more sensitive to the subtle degrees of selfishness, so it may seem to you that even the flowers are picking themselves.  
FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: As Mercury and then Venus move into the feisty and deliciously provocative sign of Aries this week, let's talk about Aries. The first sign in the zodiac, Aries is the original go-getter. If it's never been done before -- or, better yet, if it can be done better -- Aries is all over it. Like a dog with a bone, or a teenager with a new set of wheels, we goad our Aries bravado onward when we say "let's take her for a spin and see what this baby can do." And we go far -- because we're young and haven't learned our limits. So we're granted the cosmic grace to rebound, pardoned in our innocence (at least once or twice). The original conversation starter, this week, Mercury in Aries draws independent thinkers into discussion with other thinkers. Many of us find the confidence to speak, and by speaking, we hear our own thoughts for the very first time. Don't

hold back. Venus's entry into Aries makes the bold beautiful. We're emboldened to dive right in, to risk everything for people and things we care about. This week, speak your truth, go after your heart's desire and go on with your bad self.  
CELEBRITY PROFILES: Aries Norah Jones has already sailed away with seven Grammys for her musical prowess. We're thrilled. And speciously suspect. After all, this sign calls to mind heavy metal or good old fashioned rock 'n' roll! While the Aries sun defines Norah's very self, with Mercury, Venus and Mars in Pisces, she pulls from the legacy of all artists, living and deceased, owing to her versatile style.  
*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.*

Legals

LEGAL NOTICE:  
This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on April 7, 2008. You have until October 4, 2008, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#765 Monthly Bonus** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.61.  
These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on April 14, 2008. You have until October 11, 2008, to redeem any tickets for these games: **#757 Mega Slots** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.63, **#796 Deluxe 7-11-21** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.12, **#1000 Crocodile Cash** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.73, **#1001 X's & O's** (\$3) overall odds are 1 in 3.91, **#1010 Loteria@ Texas** (\$3) overall odds are 1 in 3.87, **#1014 Stocking Stuffer** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.05, **#1015 Merry Money** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.52, **#1018 Holiday Lucky Times 10** (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 3.36.  
This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on April 21, 2008. You have until October 18, 2008, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#784 Fantastic 5's** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.65.  
The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including \$599. Prizes of \$600 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form; however, annuity prizes or prizes over \$999,999 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at 1-800-37LOTTO or visit the Lottery Web site at [www.txlottery.org](http://www.txlottery.org) for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, transactions, players, and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A Scratch-Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. The Texas Lottery Supports Texas Education.  
#5720 March 30, 2008

Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Barbara Ann Cordes, deceased, were issued on March 25, 2008, in Cause No. P-13631, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas to Jim David Cordes, Independent Executor.  
The address to which claims should be presented is as follows:  
Jim David Cordes  
4400 Andrews Highway, Apt. 704  
Midland, Texas 79703  
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and manner prescribed by law, in care of the representative at the address above set out.  
Dated this the 25th day of March, 2008.  
LAW OFFICE OF TIMOTHY D. YEATS, P.C.  
P.O. Box 2830  
Big Spring, Texas 79721-2830  
432/267-5211  
432/267-1907 (Fax)  
By: Timothy D. Yeats  
State Bar No. 22151200  
#5730 March 30, 2008

CITY OF BIG SPRING  
CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2008  
5:30 P.M.  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
307 E. 4TH STREET  
BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720  
for  
PROPOSED AMENDED  
ZONING ORDINANCE

The City Council will hold a Public Hearing to consider the proposed Ordinance as an addition to Article 8 Supplemental Use Standard by adopting Section 8-7 to be described as "Freight and Portable Storage Containers" as to regulate the placement of freight and portable storage containers for the City of Big Spring, Howard County Texas; containing a cumulative clause; containing a savings and severability clause; providing for a maximum penalty or fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00); and establishing an effective date of May 1, 2008. Citizens will have the opportunity to express any oral or written comments to Todd Darden, Assistant City Manager, City of Big Spring, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, Texas 79720 or call (432)264-2500.  
#5727 March 23 & 30, 2008

Advertisement for Proposal  
The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive qualification proposals until 4:00 p.m., April 30, 2008, for the following area:

Audit Services  
Specifications and proposal documents may be found on the Big Spring ISD Web Site: <http://bsisd.esc18.net/>, at the bottom of the home page under "Audit Services RFQ". Proposals will be received in the Big Spring Independent School District's Business Manager's Office located at 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648, until the above listed date and time. Proposals received after the above deadline will be returned unopened. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, waive any formalities or technical defects in a proposal, and accept the proposal most advantageous to the school district.  
#5734 March 30 & April 6, 2008

CITY OF BIG SPRING  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:30 P.M., TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2008 IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 307 EAST 4TH, BIG SPRING, TEXAS TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:  
The owner of Block 5, Mesa Addition, located at 4107 West Highway 80 has requested a Specific Use Permit for the proposed use of a Travel Trailer/Recreational Vehicle Park.  
#5726 March 23 & 30, 2008

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I recently learned from my wife that my in-laws have been accusing me of theft for over a year. My mother-in-law has told everyone I stole her wedding ring, and my father-in-law says I took his bottles of Kahlua.

This is preposterous. I have never stolen so much as a pencil in my entire life. Besides, I don't even know where my mother-in-law keeps her wedding ring since I have never seen her wear it, and I don't drink hard alcohol.

I composed a letter to my in-laws asking them either to retract their statements or meet me at the police station so we all could take polygraph tests. They did not respond.

My wife said she saw a similar problem in your column and you suggested the parents' wild accusations could be due to dementia. This gave my wife much relief because she would rather consider her parents ill than evil. However, if they are suffering from dementia, it would make me a real heel to keep insisting they talk to the police.

I now have to live with these outrageous accusations hanging over me. Just last week, we saw my father-in-law's



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

consultation with all siblings, so the subject can be addressed and you can be exonerated.  
Dear Annie: Six months ago, I moved to another state. A former friend and co-worker writes and calls me rather often. We've known each other a long time, and although we socialized outside of work, I'm really not interested in continuing this friendship.  
It seems too blunt to simply stop returning her calls. How do I end this without hurting her feelings? — Former Friend  
Dear Annie: You don't have to cut her off completely. The way to let a friendship lapse is to lengthen the time between contact until you are no longer a regular part of each other's lives. When she writes, take a while to respond. When she calls, be too busy to chat and say you'll catch up later. And do so. In a couple of weeks.  
Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Gay Shrink," who said women often misinterpret friendship with gay men as flirtation. Maybe so, but there's another side. As a woman who has worked for years in the theatre, I have many gay friends. I once made friends with a man who was sweet, kind, bought

Your wife should discuss her concerns with the doctor, preferably in

me flowers, held my hand and kissed me often. When I wanted more, he said, "Sorry you misunderstood. I'm gay and have a partner." One of my gay friends told me he was aware such flirting was wrong, but he liked the attention and wasn't ready to tell someone new he was gay. Of course, then things get out of hand and everyone is hurt.  
I know not all gay men do this, but almost every woman I know has a variation on the story. So while women should definitely take "Gay Shrink's" advice, gay men who often have this problem should take a hard look at their behavior. — Canadian Actress  
Dear Actress: Thanks for pointing out how hurtful it can be to lead someone on — gay or straight — when you are not truly available or interested.

me flowers, held my hand and kissed me often. When I wanted more, he said, "Sorry you misunderstood. I'm gay and have a partner." One of my gay friends told me he was aware such flirting was wrong, but he liked the attention and wasn't ready to tell someone new he was gay. Of course, then things get out of hand and everyone is hurt.  
I know not all gay men do this, but almost every woman I know has a variation on the story. So while women should definitely take "Gay Shrink's" advice, gay men who often have this problem should take a hard look at their behavior. — Canadian Actress  
Dear Actress: Thanks for pointing out how hurtful it can be to lead someone on — gay or straight — when you are not truly available or interested.

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# Professor works to preserve gospel recordings

**By GROMER JEFFERS JR.**

The Dallas Morning News

WACO — Deep in the basement of Baylor University's Moody Library, a slightly worn 45 nestled around a high-tech turntable starts to spin, producing a mysterious voice from the past.

The Mighty Wonders and lead crooner John Stewart Jr. deliver a moving version of the gospel standard "Old Ship of Zion." He exhorts listeners to "get on board if you want to see Jesus," as the rest of the Wonders keep pace in the background.

Like so many of their contemporaries in the

late 1950s and early '60s, the group's emotional solos and rich harmonies were buried at the bottom of collectors' cardboard boxes or lost to time — until now.

Robert Darden, a journalism professor and music historian, has made it his life mission to preserve every gospel record made from 1940 to 1970, which includes the genre's golden age.

He's been stretching a \$350,000 grant from a Connecticut investor for the Black Gospel Music Restoration Project at Baylor. With a staff of three, Darden buys and solicits old records from

collectors, average fans, record companies and other schools.

Along the way, he is finding some lost or forgotten gems, such as the Wonders' track.

"It blew me away," he said of the recording that brought tears to his wife's eyes. "I've never heard anything like it. It just makes you want more. I have not been able to get that song out of my head."

Since the project began more than a year ago, Darden and his staff have preserved more than 1,000 rare and classic gospel records.

Their work has thrilled gospel lovers.

The Rev. Bryan Carter, pastor at Concord Baptist Church in Dallas, said old-time gospel music is still performed in many churches but is not easy to find on CD.

Churchgoers are familiar with songs because they have been sung for years, though the original recordings have faded with time.

"It's a great project that's long overdue," Carter said. "The oral tradition has been passed down and is still around. But a lot of the actual music has been lost, so this undertaking helps preserve an important part of African-American history."

Darden recognizes the challenge but says it's worth it.

"This music to me is as pure as it gets," Darden said. "Even the stuff that's rugged and a little bit out of key, there is a passion and heart to it that I don't hear in other music."

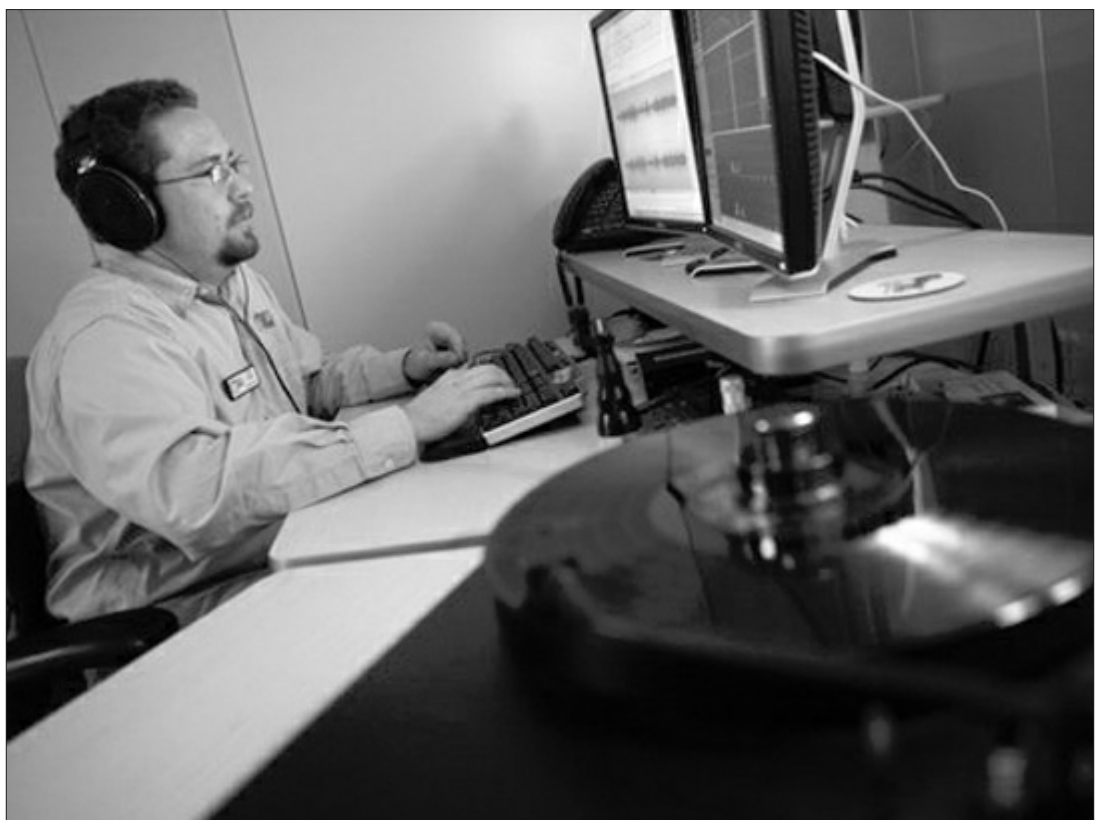
**Rooted in slave songs**

There was a time when

gospel was a dominant sound in black culture. It evolved from spirituals that were moaned by slaves on plantations. The

melodic pleadings were often coded messages about the Underground

See **GOSPEL**, Page 8A



Dallas Morning News photo/Tom Fox

Audio engineer Tony Tadey makes a digital recording of an old gospel record in a sound room of Moody Memorial Library on the Baylor University campus. Journalism professor Robert Darden and his staff are taking rare out-of-print gospel records and preserving them on disc.



## There's a Reason Children Want to Be Doctors When They Grow Up.

Doctors are lifesavers. Doctors are role models. Doctors are larger than life — and not just to children. For the lives they have saved, for the pain they have eased, for the comfort they have provided, and for all they have done throughout the year, we honor our medical staff and say thanks on Doctors' Day, March 30.

Alan Abel, M.D.  
General Surgery

Steve Ahmed, M.D.  
Pediatrics

Kim Bango, M.D.  
Family Medicine

Erich Byerly, M.D.  
Obstetrics/Gynecology

Manuel Carrasco, M.D.  
Internal Medicine

Mario Castillo, M.D.  
Radiology

Joseph Chavez, M.D.  
Pediatrics

William Collier, M.D.  
Emergency Medicine

Carlos Dimidjian, D.P.M.  
Podiatry

John Farquhar, M.D.  
Family Medicine

Sai Gundlapalli, M.D.  
Anesthesiology/  
Pain Management

Rudy Haddad, M.D.  
Urology

Robert Hayes, M.D.  
Orthopaedics

Daniel Hinckley, D.D.S.  
Dentistry

Rudy Izzard, D.D.S.  
Dentistry

Melencio Juan, M.D.  
Family Medicine

Cezary Kuprianowicz, M.D.  
Pulmonology/  
Internal Medicine

Keith Ledford, M.D.  
Obstetrics/Gynecology

David Long, M.D.  
Family Medicine

James Mathews, M.D.  
Family Medicine

Clark McDaniel, M.D.  
Family Medicine

Tin Nyunt, M.D.  
Psychiatry

Susan Roberts, D.O.  
Family Medicine

Cynthia Rutledge, D.O.  
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Kimberly Saenz, M.D.  
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**GOSPEL**

Continued from Page 7A

Railroad to freedom. Newly freed blacks who lived mostly in the South modified those songs, with groups from Texas helping lead the way.

Gospel, by definition, refers to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The religious themes of the music often created a dichotomy for the performers, many of whom performed gospel music and blues.

The Rev. Thomas Dorsey, for instance, wrote the historic "Take My Hand, Precious Lord" 76 years ago after losing his wife and child during childbirth. He had been a blues performer called "Georgia Tom."

It's the music of Dorsey and others that Darden wants to preserve.

Darden was introduced to gospel as a boy in the 1950s, when his father, an Air Force lieutenant, used his \$15 a month raise and bought a hi-fi player and three recordings — a Perry Como album, a collection of movie tunes and a Mahalia Jackson record.

"The Mahalia Jackson record is the one I played," Darden said.

Through the years Darden, who was once the gospel music editor at Billboard magazine, amassed a collection of his own and wrote about the music. He became frustrated that his research brought stories of great performances,

but little else.

"I would write about this particular song, and then I wouldn't be able to find it," he said. "People would tell me they never see one or didn't have a copy."

An article by Darden about the music, published in New York, brought interest from Connecticut businessman Charles Royce, who ultimately gave the historian the grant to start to restoration project.

Among Darden's uncovered crop of old tunes are rare cuts from the Soul Stirrers, the Trinity, Texas, quartet that moved to Chicago and influenced the secular sound that would be refined by artists like Ray Charles, Wilson Pickett and

Aretha Franklin.

Great soul groups of the 1960s and '70s got their harmonic styles and practice of switching lead singers to build the intensity of a song from the Soul Stirrers, whose alumni included R.H. Harris, Sam Cooke and Dallas soul man Johnnie Taylor.

"Gospel helped launch the whole R&B era," said Carter, Concord Baptist's pastor. "It's directly linked to the R&B music we hear today."

Darden also has rare 45 r.p.m. records from the Texas-bred Pilgrim Travelers, who also migrated to Chicago.

While gospel enthusiasts know the Soul Stirrers and Pilgrim Travelers, other artists

rediscovered by Darden are rare treasures.

Baylor now has largely unknown records by the Bells of Joy, an Austin group that wowed crowds in Central Texas but recorded sparingly.

The Bells' most ubiquitous track is "Let's Talk About Jesus." But, as Darden points out, they also really "tear it up" with the rarely heard "Do Lord Remember Me" and "I Found Another Soldier."

Many of Darden's newly restored sounds were never meant to be heard by wide audiences. These include the rare recordings of the Mighty Wonders that were donated to the project from a Chicago collector.

It's believed that the

Wonders, like many fledgling gospel artists of the time, would pay for studio time and cut only a box full of records. The Aquasco, Md., group probably sold the records at the churches in venues where they held concerts or musicals.

About 70 percent of rare gospel music is in the hands of about 15 collectors worldwide.

Getting them to come together to develop a catalog has been challenging.

So Darden is seeking collaboration with other universities to bolster his collection.

He hopes to get donations from the University of Texas, the University of Michigan and the University of Southern California.



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**News Briefs**

**Bush says recent rash of violence in Iraq is 'defining moment' for fragile government**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush declared on Friday that Iraq stands at a defining moment as it struggles to put down heavily armed Shiite militias in new flare-ups of violence that threaten to undercut security gains and sway his decision about U.S. troop drawdowns.

In Baghdad, Shiite extremists lobbed rockets and mortars against the U.S.-protected Green Zone, which has come under steady barrages this week. The U.S. sent a Hellfire missile into a Shiite stronghold in the city. And in the south, fighting escalated in Basra where the mettle of Iraqi security forces is being sorely tested.

"Any government that presumes to represent the majority of people must confront criminal elements or people who think they can live outside the law," Bush said at the White House. "And that's what's taking place in Basra and in other parts of Iraq. I would say this is a defining moment in the history of a free Iraq."

It's also a key juncture for Bush in the five-year-old war that has claimed 4,000 American lives, worn U.S. forces thin and dominated his presidency.

Bush said Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's crack-down in Basra against Shiite militias vying for control of the oil-rich region is a positive milestone in the birth of a democratic nation. The Iraqi prime minister's decision to move against enemy elements in Basra shows "evenhanded justice" and the Iraqi government's willingness to go after both Sunni and Shiite insurgents and outlaws, he said.

**Obama gains endorsement of Sen. Casey in Pennsylvania; Leahy nudges Clinton to quit**

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Barack Obama got a surprise boost in the last big state of the long Democratic campaign Friday with an endorsement from Pennsylvania Sen. Bob Casey Jr., while another Obama supporter sought to nudge Hillary Rodham Clinton out of the race.

Clinton leads by double-digits in Pennsylvania polls, and Obama hopes Casey's endorsement will earn him a second look from the state's white, working class and Catholic voters — groups that have leaned toward Clinton in other Democratic contests this year.

Clinton, on the other hand, is hoping a victory in Pennsylvania will help persuade party "superdelegates" to support her and allow her to catch Obama in the race for National Convention delegates.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Vermont senator who endorsed Obama in January, said she was never going to win enough delegates, and he suggested she should throw in the towel in "the interests of a Democratic victory in November." A number of Democrats have expressed concern that Republican John McCain is getting a head start while Obama and Clinton fight on.

**Police arrest suspects in series of Virginia highway shootings after storming a farm**

CROZET, Va. (AP) — Authorities believe a pair of troublemaking teens were behind a series of random shootings in an area where memories of the Washington-area sniper shootings six years ago are still fresh.

Investigators on Friday charged Slade Allen Woodson, 19, of Afton, after authorities stormed a farm and fired at an unidentified man carrying a gun. Authorities also charged a 16-year-old from Crozet, whose name also was not released.

"Everyone can, I think, rest compared to the state that we were in overnight," State Police Superintendent Steven Flaherty said at a news conference Friday in Charlottesville.

Investigators said they now believe the shootings that slightly injured two drivers were part of a long night of random gunfire in which the pair also shot at a credit union and a residence.

Woodson was charged in the shootings at the home and the credit union, as well as shootings along Interstate 64. He and the other teen were charged with two felony counts of malicious wounding, one count of attempted malicious wounding, two counts of the use of a firearm in a felony and five counts of maliciously shooting at an occupied vehicle.

They were being held pending bond hearings Monday.

According to police, the shootings began early Thursday in central Virginia. Gunshots hit two cars, a van, a tractor-trailer and an unoccupied dump truck. Shots also were fired at the credit union and a residence in Waynesboro.

**Ga. town reeling after 3 shot, allegedly by man holding grudge in mother's death**

COLUMBUS, Ga. (AP) — Armed with a three-year grudge and more guns than he could hold, a former substitute teacher stormed a west Georgia hospital looking to punish the nurse he blamed for his mother's death.

The nurse, another employee and a bystander are dead, the alleged shooter is being treated for a gunshot wound police gave him and a military community accustomed to grieving is reeling.

Charles Johnston, 63, was expected to face murder and assault charges in Thursday's rampage at Doctors Hospital, Police Chief Ricky Boren said. Johnston was being treated at another hospital.

"Apparently it had been on his mind for a while," Boren said. "It's a horrible crime, a crime that never should have taken place."

Johnston went to Doctors Hospital with a gun hidden in his waistband and other guns in his pants and jacket pockets, authorities said. He made his way to the fifth-floor intensive care unit, where his mother had

been treated in 2004 before she died of natural causes.

Boren said Johnston was looking for a nurse he knew only as "Pete," and followed nurse Peter D. Wright into a hospital room after hearing Wright's name called out. Wright, 44, was shot in the chest and head after trying to leave the room, Boren said.

"He held a grudge against 'Pete' because he believed Pete to be an individual that did not properly take care of his momma while she was in the hospital," Boren said. "It had been bearing on his mind ... and yesterday he decided to do something about it."

Wright may have administered care to Johnston's mother, Boren said.

As Johnston started to leave, he shot a 44-year-old administrative assistant who crossed his path, Boren said. Officials had not released the name of that victim.

After shooting Wright and the administrative assistant inside the hospital, Johnston got into his station wagon in the parking lot, Boren said. James David Baker, 76, pulled in to a spot facing Johnston, who shot him in the head as he got out of his car, the chief said.

Boren said Johnston may have thought that Baker, 76, was a police officer trying to arrest him.

A plainclothes detective shot Johnston in the shoulder moments later, after Johnston pulled a gun. He was in satisfactory condition at the Medical Center in Columbus.

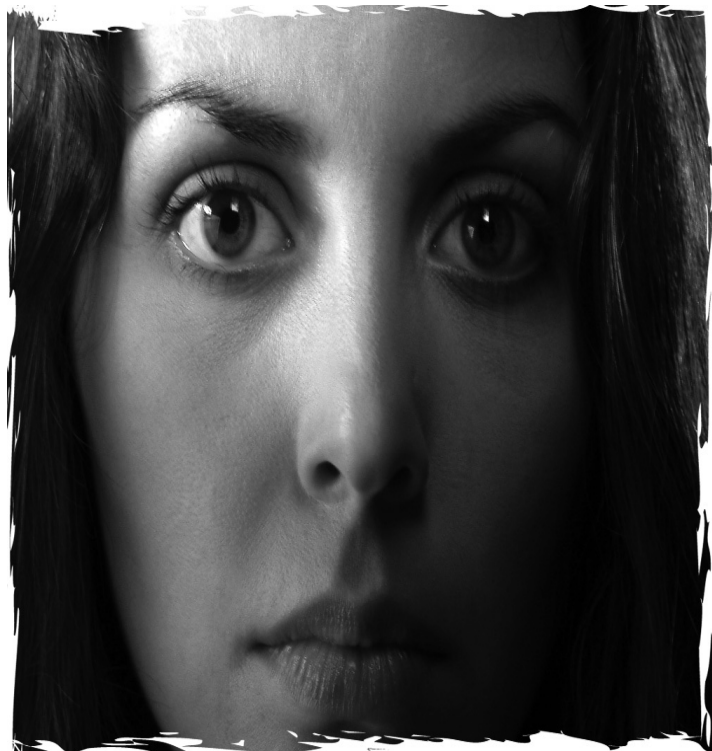
**Brothers attacked by tiger at SF Zoo allege negligence, defamation**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Two brothers who were attacked by an escaped tiger at the San Francisco Zoo have filed claims against the city alleging negligence and defamation.

Kulbir and Amritpal "Paul" Dhaliwal are seeking monetary compensation for "serious physical and emotional injuries." The claims filed this week are a prerequisite for filing a civil lawsuit.

The pair were injured on Christmas Day after a 250-pound Siberian tiger scaled the walls of its enclosure, attacked them and killed their friend, 17-year-old Carlos Sousa Jr. The animal eventually was shot dead by police.

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# 'I AM A MAN' — a legacy lives on

King's final campaign in Memphis as relevant today as it was 40 years ago

By LEONARD PITTS JR.

McClatchy Newspapers

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Forty years later, they are old men, many with bent backs and gingerly steps. And they are taciturn, strangers to an era of confession, getting in touch with your feelings.

So if you ask them what it was like, being a black man and a sanitation worker in this city in the 1950s and '60s, they will say simply that it was "tough" or it was "bad."

And it will take some pushing for them to tell how you had to root through people's back yards, collecting their tree limbs and dead cats and chicken bones, because there was no such thing as a garbage can placed out by the curb. Or about white bosses who carried guns and called you "boy" and worked you 10, 12, 14 hours a day but only paid you for eight, at as little as \$1.27 an hour. Or about how it was when the metal tubs you toted on your head rusted through and the garbage leaked.

"I have got maggots out of my head, what done fell in there. Sometimes, you find 'em in your collar," says Ozell Ueal, 68.

"I come home on the bus," says Elmore Nickelberry, 76, who, like Ueal, is still working. "(people) couldn't sit next to me. They say, 'You stink.' Most of the time, I'd get way in the back. Most of the time, I'd walk



Joe Warren, 86, a retired Memphis sanitation worker, becomes emotional as he recalls the brutal treatment that he and others received during the sanitation worker's strike of 1968 in Memphis, Tenn.

home."

This is a story about the Memphis sanitation workers' strike of 1968, how black men who were, in their words, treated like "beasts," like "animals," like the garbage they collected, decided enough, no more. It is a story about how a demand for higher wages and better working conditions soon turned into a demand for something more.

And it is a story about Martin Luther King's last campaign — the one that took his life, 40 years ago this Friday.

### A trying time

The great civil rights leader was besieged from all directions that season. Estranged from the White House for his stand against the war in

Vietnam. Ridiculed by young blacks who thought him out of touch with the new militancy of guns and separatism. Tormented from within by depression, fatigue and a haunting presentiment of his own death.

That presentiment entered a sermon, "The Drum Major Instinct," he preached that February. "Every now and then," King said quietly, "I think about my own

death and I think about my own funeral." And then he told them how he wanted it to go. The person who delivered his eulogy was not to talk too long, was not to mention where King went to school, was not to bring up his Nobel Peace Prize.

"I'd like for somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to give his life serving others!" His voice was like a clap of summer thunder.

Because he saw death coming. In Memphis, it had already come.

Sanitation workers Echol Cole and Robert Walker had climbed into the back of one of the old garbage trucks to get out of the rain. But as the vehicle rumbled along, the hydraulic ram that compacted the trash started up on its own. Cole and Walker were crushed. Just like garbage.

The men had complained for years about that truck in particular, about raggedy, malfunctioning old trucks in general. The city never listened. Now it gave each

man's widow one month's salary — likely less than \$300 — added an additional \$500 apiece, and called it square. Burial expenses alone were \$900 a man.

"They felt a garbage man wasn't nothing," says Nickelberry. "And they figured they could treat us any way they wanted to treat us. ... Make you feel bad, 'cause you know you wasn't no

garbage. You supposed to been a man."

It was, finally, one indignity too many.

At a mass meeting 10 days later, years of accumulated anger exploded. Hundreds of men, represented by no union and taking no formal vote, decided, Enough. The next day, 930 of 1,100 san-

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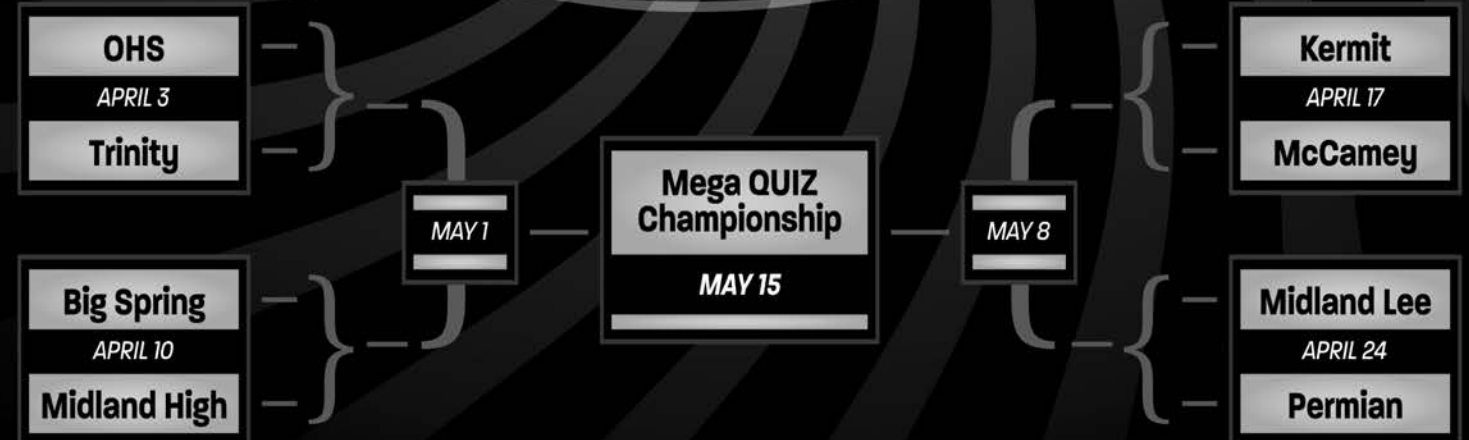
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**LEGACY**

Continued from Page 10A

itation workers, 214 of 230 sewer and drainage workers, did not show up for work. The final act of the civil rights movement had begun.

**Mayor and mayhem**

No one knew it at the time. At the time, it was just a strike, just the workers against the city, the latter represented by its newly elected mayor, a stubbornly intransigent cuss named Henry Loeb who drew a line in the sand early on and refused to budge, even when his advisers advised him to, even when budging seemed a matter of plain common sense. In his book, "Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King's Last Campaign," historian Michael K. Honey paints a striking picture of the mayor: racist, virulently anti-union; stridently anti-communist.

"Anti-communism was just a huge layer over the white population at that time in Memphis. In the first negotiation that (union organizer) Bill Lucy had with them, Mayor Loeb brings up the communist issue and the war in Vietnam. (Lucy) was dumbfounded and he said, 'What did that have to do with anything?'"

The men were talking about raises. About a place to shower the filth off before they went home. About getting paid for time worked. About having a place to urinate. The mayor was talking communism.

In the minds of white conservatives, says Honey, "If you stood up for civil rights, you were automatically a communist."

So instead of moving toward settlement, the

strike only grew. It drew in national union leaders trying to help the men win recognition. Then came preachers, local activists, high school kids, college students. It also attracted a militant youth group, the Invaders. They were disciples of revolution and Black Power who scorned daily marches, sit-ins, boycotts, negotiations and other tools of working through the system. They demanded confrontation. They demanded disruption.

It was an unwieldy coalition of egos and agendas, answerable to no one authority. Worse, from the city's point of view, were rumors that the workers would call in "outside agitators." Maybe the fiery black power advocate Stokely Carmichael. Maybe Martin Luther King himself.

On Feb. 23rd, the strike exploded into violence. Sanitation workers were holding one of their daily marches when police appeared, riding five and six to a car, brandishing rifles and using their vehicles to force the marchers, who were walking several abreast and commandeering much of the street, back toward the sidewalk. Cars brushed dangerously close. March leader the Rev. James Lawson told the marchers, "They're trying to provoke us. Keep going."

Then, say the workers (the point is still disputed, 40 years later), a police car ran over the foot of a woman marcher. And parked there. And the men had had enough. "They picked that car up," says Joe Warren, an 86-year-old retired sanitation worker, "and turned it over on its side. That's when all hell broke a loose."

Out came the night sticks. The violence was



At the age of 71, sanitation worker Ben Jones is still working so he can pay off the mortgage on his house. Jones holds a replica of the sign 'I AM A MAN' that many strikers carried during the Memphis sanitation worker's strike of 1968 in Memphis, Tenn.

indiscriminate: women, old men, ministers, not resisting, just standing there, didn't matter. Some policemen took off their badges as they whaled away.

"Them white police was mean with those sticks," says Warren. "They hit you with those sticks; they juke you with those sticks." Some men fought back with their protest signs.

And then, out came the Mace, sprayed into eyes and nostrils at close range. Lawson got three shots full in the face. He fell, eyes burning, throat raw, disoriented, unable to breathe. His offense: he asked the police to stop.

"When you hit Main Street," says Nickelberry, "that was just like a war zone. People marchin', people hollerin', people gettin' tear gas throwned all over them."

"I had on a long coat," says Ueal. "I was trying to cover my head up. (A police officer) went under my coat and sprayed Mace in my face, told me,

'Nigger, go jump in the river.'"

**Words that bind**

Soon after, a new slogan appeared on the signs the black men carried. Four words, but they were provocative. Four words, but in that time and place, they were incendiary. Four words, but they managed to encapsulate at long last something black men had never quite been able to get America to understand.

Four words.

I AM A Man. "When you been overseas fighting," says Nickelberry, who served in Korea, "... look like you should be treated as a man. But they always call you a boy. Come here, boy. Do this here, boy. Do that there, boy. Come in the office, boy.' You just come from a war zone and be treated, not as a soldier, not as a man, just a boy. It's real hard."

What had been a strike was now fully something more.

Miami Herald photo/Carl Juste

back to him, shouting "Amen!"

And "Yes!" King was in his glory. He told them it was a crime for the citizens of a wealthy nation to subsist on starvation wages. He told them America would go to hell for failing its humblest citizens. He told them to stand together.

And then he told them what he had not meant to tell them, what came to him unplanned in that moment of inspiration and heat. They should "escalate the struggle." They should mobilize a work stoppage. Not only the sanitation men, but the teachers, the students, the clerks, the clerics, the maids, the mechanics.

They should shut Memphis down.

A march was set. And King, having floated the idea, had little choice but to lead it.

"King," says historian Honey, "was always a strong supporter of the unions, from his teenager years when he had summer jobs and saw how the workers were treated when they didn't have unions — including the white workers." He had spent years trying to get the AFL-CIO to "get off this Cold War bandwagon" and join organized labor in common cause with the civil rights movement. So Memphis seemed tailor made for him.

But Memphis had become poisonous and chaotic. There was

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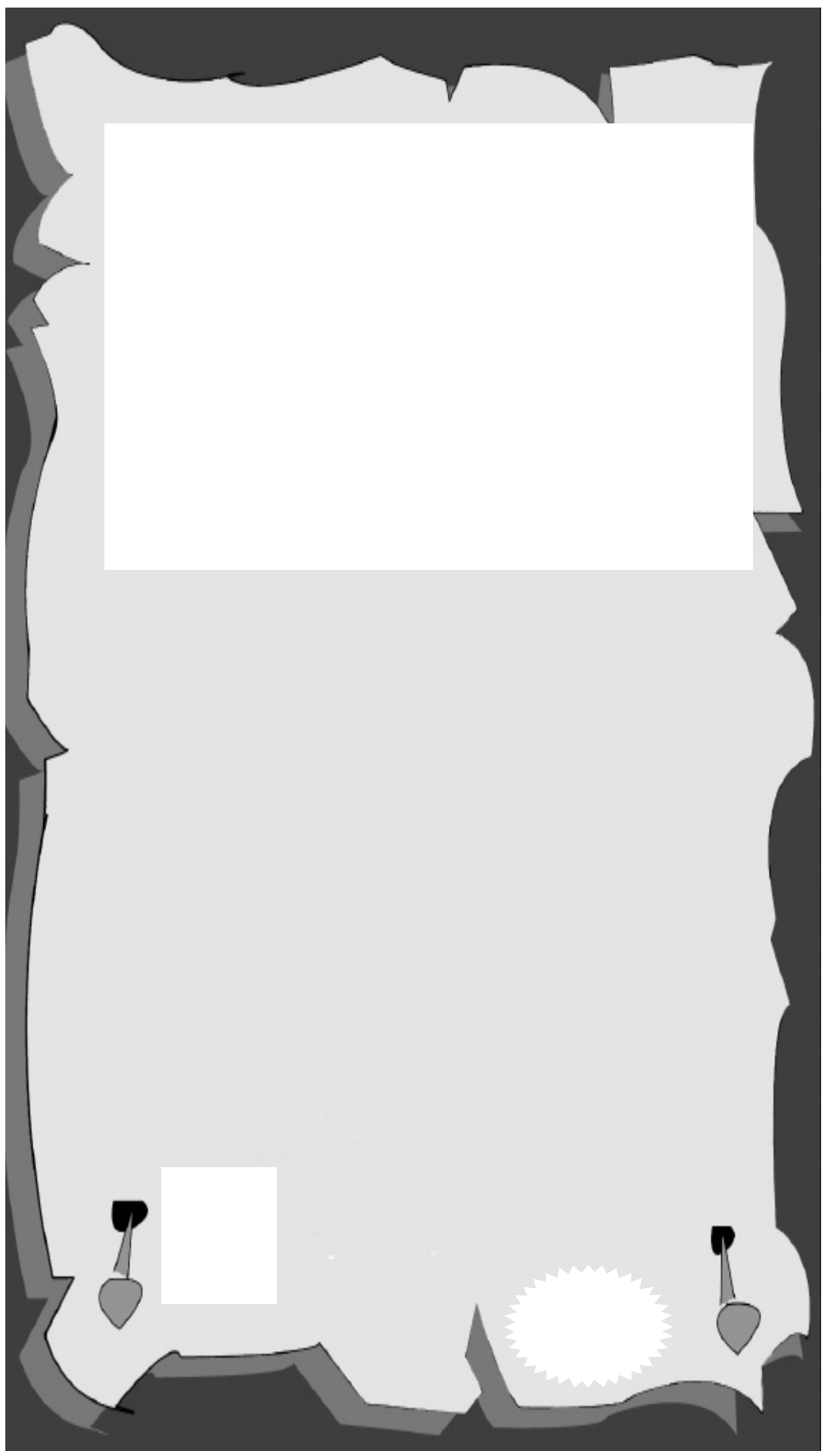
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LEGACY

Continued from Page 11A

garbage in the streets, sit-ins at City Hall, mass arrests. High school students picketed downtown. Rocks were thrown through the windows of businesses owned by Mayor Loeb. There were trash fires. Gunfire.

Sanitation worker Ben Jones, 71, says, "I would tell my wife, when I leave home, 'I might be back and I might not.' Just lettin' her know, don't keep your hopes up."

You had to accept the reality of your own death, they say. Make your peace with it. "I didn't care," says Warren. "And don't care now." His voice breaks and tears fall. "We worked hard," he gasps. "Some hard times."

The march was a disaster. Unlike demonstrators in the early days of the struggle, these had not been drilled in the discipline and tactics of nonviolent protest. They were excited and unruly and when King arrived, they pushed and shoved, trying to get near him.

"The people were tram-

pling over my feet," recalled King's best friend and confidante, the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, "crowding over me. The atmosphere was just wrong."

The march stepped off with King and his ministerial allies in the lead, flanked by sanitation workers. But young people soon elbowed their way to the front, shoving the sanitation workers aside. And then, from behind, came the sound of shattering glass.

Members of the Invaders had taken bricks and pipes to storefront windows, screaming "Black Power!"

The nation's premiere pacifist found himself at the head of a mob. He would not, he said, lead a violent march. Fearful for his safety, his men swept him away.

Behind them, police gassed and clubbed looters and bystanders alike. A black boy was seen stomping a white department store mannequin. "I wish this was a real live one," he cried.

A lone police officer surrounded by a menacing black mob was rescued by two black women in a car.

An apparently unarmed black boy was shot to death at close range by police. Finally, National Guardsmen sealed off the black neighborhoods.

The media response was scathing. King, they said, had stirred up trouble and then run away. Even those sympathetic to King said the violence had damaged his credibility. And so he had to return, to lead a new march, to prove nonviolence was still a viable tool of social change. "Either the movement lives or dies in Memphis," he said.

King's return

On April 3rd, he returned to a city under storm watch. The skies were menacing, the winds, punishing. Exhausted, King begged off speaking at the rally planned for that night and sent Abernathy in his place. He settled down to bed.

But Abernathy called. The hall was packed. The people wanted him, would accept no one else. So King dressed and went out into the storm. He spoke to them without notes as the wind howled

and the rain drummed down. There was a valedictory quality to it as King recounted the triumphs and tragedies of the 13-year civil rights movement. He linked the sanitation workers' plight to that of the beaten and robbed man in the Bible who is rescued by the Good Samaritan.

Then, the presentiment touched him and he spoke, one last time, of his own death.

"Like anybody, I would like to live a long life," he said. "Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over and I've seen" — singing the word — "the Promised Land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the Promised Land."

A spirit of defiance seemed to seize him now and he roared in the face of his own demise. "So I'm happy tonight," he cried. "I'm not worried about anything! I'm not fearing any man! Mine eyes have seen the glory

of the coming of the Lord!"

It came the very next evening. Standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel, bantering with his men in the parking lot below, Martin Luther King was shot to death by a sniper.

And we lost, says Honey, the one man who was able to speak to rabbis and working men and preachers and militants alike, "to communicate across almost all the barriers and boundaries of the 1960s."

"I was shocked," says Nickelberry. "I was mad. It hurt me. Even hurt me now, just to think about it and talk about it."

The strike was settled April 16. The city recognized the union. The workers got a raise of 10 cents an hour, with another nickel an hour hike to take effect in September. The city agreed to make promotions on the basis of seniority and competence — not race.

The men also won the right to have union dues automatically deducted from their paychecks.

And 40 years later, you

arrive in an era where a black man is running for president and, for all the myriad issues of race and identity with which he is forced to grapple, he is not required to prove himself a man. His manhood is a given. The men who helped make that possible are aged and dying and largely forgotten. And feeling, some of them say, cheated.

They say the union they won is not strong and receives little support from younger workers. The job benefits aren't great, either. Ben Jones says he's still working at 71 because he needs to pay off his house; when he retires, his only income will be from Social Security. Sanitation workers have no pension.

Nor did racism disappear. "Some of 'em still call you boy," says Nickelberry. "In some of 'ems eyes, you ain't nothin' but a boy. Still a boy."

But there is, he says, a difference: you don't have to take it anymore. "I tell 'em, 'I'm 76 years old. I'm old enough for your daddy. I ain't no boy. I am a man.'"



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# PROFILES 2008

# Look at



# at the Crossroads of West Texas

# Into the fire

## 'It's what we do,' says Jerry Crawford

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

As area residents and motorists on Interstate Highway 20 did everything they could to distance themselves from Alon USA's Big Spring Refinery following the Feb. 18 explosion that swept through the plant, a brave group of men and women were fighting their way into the facility.

Jerry Crawford, assistant chief for the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department and an employee of Kel-Tech oil-field chemicals, was one of the area firefighters called on to put out the blaze.

"I was about 100 miles away when it all went down," said Crawford. "I was between Bronte and Blackwell on some lease property that belonged to one of our customers. Both of my sons are volunteer firefighters, and one of them called me and told me the refinery had exploded. I told them they would probably be busy for about six hours, because I was thinking of the fire they had there back in 2002. Basically, you just go in and man a couple of monitors and block out one thing and it's no big deal. My other son called me — he was in Westbrook at the time — and told me he felt the explosion and saw the cloud. He told me this is the big one, and I had better get back. So I put it in the wind and came back."

Crawford, who moved to Howard County in 1990 after serving 25 years with the volunteer fire department in Rankin, had no idea what was waiting for him back in Big Spring.

"Tommy (Sullivan, HCVFD chief) told me that when they first got in there, they didn't have a lot of the water established — a lot of the pilots were blown up — and they didn't have enough water to fight," said Crawford. "I circled around and saw it across the road and checked in on the radio and let them know I was there. That's when they told me they had a couple of tanks with impending flames on them, and I needed to get in there right then. So I just pulled my pickup



Herald photo/Bill McClellan  
**Jerry Crawford, assistant chief with the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department, was one of many firefighters who responded to the Feb. 18 fire at the Alon USA Big Spring Refinery after an explosion leveled a portion of the facility.**

right before you get in the gate and got my bunker clothes in and jumped in the truck they sent."

After seeing the fire for the first time that morning, Crawford said the first question that came to mind was the same question countless area residents were also agonizing over.

"How many people are dead? That's the first thing that went through my mind," he said. "I couldn't see any way it could blow up with that big of an explosion and flatten out that much stuff without killing people. I came in from the east, and coming through the service road was just like going through a war zone. There was stuff crushing over the fence, and stuff scattered all through the service road. The Interstate had basically closed itself. There was no way to get through there without running

over stuff. I figured there were people dead, and I had been listening to the radio on the way in and they didn't have any reports of any."

Tucking those thoughts

away for later, Crawford said he and the other firefighters marched into the gut of the blaze intent on containing the fire, which

See **CRAWFORD**, Page 3



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**CRAWFORD**

Continued from Page 2

was leaping hundreds of feet in the air.

"They had the pumper set up and one 2 1/2-inch line laid in, and Big Spring had set theirs up over by the service road and had a monitor cooling the two overhead tanks, which were full of gasoline," said Crawford. "They had a one-inch leak — I didn't know how big it was at the time — and gasoline was spraying down under the tanks, and the flames were curling up around them.

"That's the worst situation you can have. Burning fluid that's impinging on its own tank causes a BLEVE — a boiling leak with expanding vapor explosion — and you get the worst kinds of explosions from these situations. And we knew, as close as those were to the cat cracker, if the tanks blew up they were going to take out the cat cracker, and when you lose that you've lost it all, at

**"I was never scared. I just kept thinking of what we needed to do next. I didn't really think we could valve it out, as much liquid fire as was coming out of that thing and as far spread as it was on the ground spill. The wind was right or God was just helping to fan the flames, I'm not really sure."**

—Jerry Crawford

least at the Big Spring Refinery."

With a fire of that magnitude, Crawford said he knew the only way to get it out before the tanks exploded was to shut down the valve that was feeding the flames, an arduous task at best.

"We knew we weren't doing any good with what we had, so I told them we

needed to string another hand line and get some more water on it," said Crawford. "We needed to foam up the line because foam will take out more heat. So we got those foam lines established and began pushing enough fire out from under it that I could see what we had up the steps. I knew we couldn't go up the steps because all of the braces had been knocked out, so I just sort of crept over there and stepped on them to see how stable they were. I figured if I stayed to the left, the welding of the hand rails would hold me up.

"So I went up about halfway and looked and I

See **CRAWFORD**, Page 8



Courtesy photo  
**Fires raged for several hours following the explosion at the Big Spring Refinery as the blaze threatened several large storage tanks and consumed the facility's asphalt production division during the Feb. 18 accident that rocked Big Spring and the surrounding area.**

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# Retirement's no option

*Gina Salazar has 50 years on the job and isn't stopping now*

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

In an age when some people change jobs almost as often as they change socks, Gina Salazar's work history is mind-boggling.

For 50 years — yes, 50 years — Salazar has been an almost-daily fixture at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, first as a kitchen worker and eventually moving up the ranks to her current position as head of sterile equipment supply.

Needless to say, a lot has changed in the five decades Salazar has worked at the hospital — starting with the hospital's name.

When she first reported for work at Malone-Hogan Hospital in May 1958, Dwight Eisenhower was president, rock 'n' roll was a fairly new attraction to teenagers, television was black and white and space travel was still a dream.

Presidents have come and gone, countless cultural changes have occurred and the

hospital has changed its name, but Salazar has been a constant, much to her co-workers' admiration.

"She's extremely reliable and honest and obviously very loyal," said Stacey Parum, head of surgical services at the hospital.

"We go and ask her questions, because she knows everything," Parum said. "She's always happy and smiling and she never gets upset. That's probably her secret.

"She can't quit," Parum semi-jokingly added. "We won't let her."

Not to worry. Salazar said she enjoys her job too much to even consider retirement.

"I like my job ... and the people I work with are wonderful," she said. "Everybody's great and they make me feel young ... It's just like a big family."

In 1958, Salazar and her brother dropped out of school to work and help their family. Little did she know she had found a professional home for life.



Herald photo/Steve Reagan  
**Gina Salazar is shown with her granddaughter, Sophie, during a recent reception honoring Salazar's 50 years of service to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.**



Courtesy photo  
**Gina Salazar, second from left, poses with co-workers in front of Malone-Hogan Hospital in 1958.**

"I had no idea I would stay this long," she said. "I really can't believe I've been here 50 years."

After several years of working in the hospital kitchen, Salazar decided she wanted a change of scenery, if not employer.

"I stayed in the kitchen until the new hospital opened (on Martin Luther King Boulevard)," she said. "I didn't want to work in dietary

services anymore, so I earned my GED and got a nurse's aide certificate, but there weren't any openings for that, so I went to work for sterile supply in the 1970s."

Working at the hospital also held an unexpected bonus for Salazar's personal life — that was where she met her future husband, Tim, who passed


away nine years ago. Salazar has two daughters, Denise Salazar and Debbye ValVerde, the executive director of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

Although Salazar is past the age when most people retire, she has no intention of leaving SMMC.

"The hospital went down for

awhile, but now it's getting busy again, which is good," she said. "I'm not planning on quitting anytime soon. I wouldn't know what to do at home."

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



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# Ride fast, ride smart

*For young Jason Miramontes, it's off to the races*

**By JONATHAN HULL**  
Herald Sports Editor

Who knew the need for speed could start at such a young age?

For Kentwood first-grader Jason Miramontes, the desire swept over him at the age of 6. That's when Jason, son of Amy and Isaac Miramontes, started racing mini-quads and he's been hooked ever since.

"It's fun to race," the 7 year old said. "I like getting to ride fast and the way it feels when I do the jumps."

Jason's addiction to the sport was initiated by chance. He and his family often spend their weekends riding as a family at the Outback Adventure Track near Stanton.

On one occasion, the Miramontes family happened to park next to Ken Sapien, whose son was already racing on mini-quads on a circuit for children ages 4 through 7. Sapien noticed Jason's skill on the four-wheeler and approached Isaac about the prospect of him racing.

"After talking to Ken, we decided to enter Jason in some races," Isaac said. "Since then, he's raced in Odessa, Hobbs and Amarillo."

Success wasn't immediate. Jason crashed in his first race, flipping over his handle bars. Although Jason said he cried at first, Isaac noted his son got over the wreck quickly.

"My first instinct as a parent was to rush over and pick him up. I wanted to be sure he was all right," Isaac said. "He looked at me and told me to put him down. He didn't want the other racers to see me holding him. Jason was more worried that he had broken his key off in the ignition of the bike and wouldn't get to race the next day."

After that race, the family adopted a motto: Ride fast. Ride smart.

"A lot of times at these races you'll see kids going too fast, getting out of control and wrecking," Isaac said. "Jason had a pretty bad spill in his first race, so we adopted that motto after that first wreck."

"I tell him all the time that he knows his limitations," he continued. "He knows what's too fast and when he needs to slow down. He loves the speed, but his safety is more important. We have a little bit of a prerace ritual and we say our motto before he gets to the starting line."

Since adoption of the motto, Jason has found his niche as a racer. Competing in the Cycle City Promotions Mini-Quad Circuit, Jason finished fourth in the main event of the final race of the series, pushing him to third overall in the points standings. His father says that's not bad for a first-year racer.

"He catches on very quickly," said Isaac. "He's a fast learner when it comes to sports. He did the same thing in soccer this year. He just started playing the game and scored 37 goals this season. He's just a smart kid."

Jason proves his intelligence on and off the race track. One of the stipulations of his getting to compete in races is keeping good grades in school.

The reward of competing is enough for him as he makes straight A's in the first grade.

"It makes me try harder in school because I like to race so much," Jason said.

"If he even gets a B, then he knows he's not going to be racing," Isaac explained.

Competition drives Jason, according to his father, but he's been taught to show respect to his opponents.

"Jason is very competitive and wants to win, but he's not too cocky," Isaac said. "Whether he wins or loses, he shows respect and is very congratulatory. He's a humble kid."

Jason's competitive side doesn't subside even with his family. His younger brother, Josh, will join Jason on the same circuit next year. When asked if he gives his brother any pointers, Jason said no.

"I just want to beat him, too," he said.

Jason will take part in a new circuit — the Clutch City Motorcross Circuit in Amarillo — meaning



the family will be traveling north twice a month for competitions.



Courtesy photos  
Above: Jason Miramontes poses with his mini-quad and the plaques and trophy he won during the 2007 Cycle City Promotions Mini-Quad Circuit. To the far left, Miramontes speeds down a straight-away at a track in Odessa. Left: Miramontes (32) clears a hill on the same course, trying to overtake riders in front of him.

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# Culture shock

*Things are a bit different in the U.S. than they are in Iain Sloan's beloved Scotland*

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

Coming to the United States from his homeland of Scotland on the heels of the Sept. 11, 2001, tragedy, Iain Sloan knows all about culture shock.

However, the differences between Scotland and Coahoma haven't stopped the 41-year-old man from raising a beautiful family and excelling at his job at the Big Spring State Hospital.

"I came to the U.S. in late September of 2001, just after the attacks (on the World Trade Center and Pentagon)," said Sloan. "My wife is from Coahoma, and after we were married, she moved to Scotland with me. We met online a couple of years earlier and got married in the U.S. in April of 2000. Quail Dobbs did the job, and we were married in my sister-in-law's house. I went back to Scotland a couple of days later, got a house over there and the family came over in October of the same year.

"We stayed there until the next September. My oldest, Chance, who is attending Colorado State University, didn't like it in Scotland as much. He missed things from here, plus the level of education over there just couldn't keep up with him. He was too advanced for high school and he was a sophomore when he left Scotland to come back to the U.S. But he was beyond anything they could teach him. Beside the level of education, the quality of life here is much better. I have a house here that I could never dream of having back home. I couldn't even dream of having the same amount of land my house sits on, which is just an acre. So it's a whole different situation here than in Scotland. The scenery is wonderful — it's not flat. But those are things I am more than happy to give up for being here."

Sloan said life in Scotland is very different than life in the United States, with much more focus placed on sports — namely, soccer — than education.

"I was born in Glasgow — which is basically the second (largest) city in the country — way back in 1967 in a hospital that no longer exists," said Sloan. "Obviously, things have changed in Scotland with the kids today, but back then, I was never home. From whatever age I can remember I played soccer. Pretty much from the time I could stand and kick a ball at the same time, I played soccer. That was my life for many years.

"We don't have a lot of the things you guys have, such as the level of organized school sports. All our school sports are organized through the youth branches of professional teams. We don't have proms or graduations, and school isn't as big a deal over there as it

is here. It doesn't have the same kind of impact on your life. Of all the people who were in my graduating class, if that's what you want to call it —

there were well over 1,000 people — I still talk to two of them."

Sloan said his first dose of culture shock came during his initial visit to America, a sight many may take for granted, but something the boy from Glasgow couldn't

believe. "Culture shock? The first thing I saw was a police officer with a gun on his side. That just blew me away," said Sloan. "Our police do not carry side arms. They use wooden batons and they don't use them very often. So seeing a police officer with a sidearm — this was just outside of Abilene the first time I came here — shocked the life out of me. I just wasn't prepared for that. However, I do see a difference with the way people are (here vs. in Scotland). "The heat was another big shock for me. I'm still

not used to this, and I don't think I'll ever be used to it. We are lucky if we break 85 degrees on the hottest day of the summer. I can deal with the cold a little better. Strangely enough, the coldest I've ever been is at a sporting event game in Forsan, which was really a surprise, because it was in April."

And while there are plenty of differences between the people of Scotland and the people of West Texas, Sloan said

there is one thing that brings it all together.

See SLOAN, Page 7D



Courtesy photo  
Iain Sloan, originally from Scotland and now living in Coahoma, shares a moment with his family during a trip to Europe. Sloan is an IT team leader with the Big Spring State Hospital and a network specialist with the Statewide Information Technology Department.

**"The first thing I saw was a police officer with a gun on his side. That just blew me away. Our police do not carry side arms. They use wooden batons and they don't use them very often."**

—Iain Sloan

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Courtesy photo  
**Coahoma resident Iain Sloan helps build a moat to a sand castle on a beach in Scotland during a trip to Glasgow. Also pictured are landscapes from Sloan's native Scotland.**

**SLOAN**

Continued from Page 6D

"There are plenty of differences, but the biggest, joining factor is the people. The friendliness of the people, their willingness to help each other. That's the same in both places," said Sloan sternly. "The people are very much the same."

You might think Sloan's defining moment as an American would come shortly after his departure from his homeland, but that's simply not the case.

"Believe it or not, I think the defining moment was just last year, during my son's first game of varsity football," said Sloan. "That's something that's going to stick out in my mind for many years. Just the fact that this is something he had been looking forward to since he was any age, and I played sports semi-

professionally. And to see him out there doing his thing — and being so good at it — really made it all worth while for me. It's one of those things as a parent, when you see your kid doing something and they are really good at it and get attention for it, it really makes it all worthwhile."

One subject Sloan can speak on for hours — quite literally — is soccer, or as it's known in Scotland, football.

"Some people have a difficulty in understanding the game. They think its not as manly a game (as American football), however, there are more bones broken than in football, rugby or any other sport," said Sloan. "In Scotland, football — we had the name first — is fierce. People have actually had their throats cut for wearing the wrong color jersey in the wrong areas. It's that fierce. When I went to my first American football game, I

was expecting to hear the same sort of screaming and abuse, but it was just quiet. I couldn't believe it."

And while Sloan — who is a network specialist with the Statewide Information Technology Department and the local IT team leader for the Big Spring State Hospital — isn't shy about sharing his opinions on soccer, football, or any other sport for that matter, the red-haired Scot is just as adamant about patriotism.

"We're both fierce patriots of our countries," said Sloan. "The only thing that kills me here is the

mass embarrassment when the national anthem is played. Back home, there are grown men — 300-pound, 6-foot-3-inch bears — with tears streaming down their face when the (Scottish) national anthem is played. What's the problem here? People here should be as proud of their country as we are of ours, because they are both great countries. To see, when the national anthem is played, the embarrassed mumbling that goes on just saddens me."

Sloan said there are a few things from home he misses, however.

"There are a lot of foods that I could get there than I can't here," he said. "There's different flavors of chips, such as smoky bacon and roast chicken. There's also a soda there that out sells both Coke and Pepsi. It's called Irn-Bru. It's made in Glasgow and the recipe is just as secret as Coke's. Right now, I have to either order it online or pick some up from a British food store in San Antonio."

"The other thing is the rain. I miss the rain. I was told I would miss it by a friend who once served in the British Navy on submarines. I thought it was a stupid thing to say. However, he was totally right. I do miss it."

One thing Sloan doesn't have to do without in the U.S. is computers, which have been a large part of

his life.

"I've been working in IT since I left school in 1984. I've probably seen and worked on computer equipment that people would be amazed at these days. Things that more resemble a car engine than a computer," said Sloan with a laugh. "I've been working for the BSSH since November of 2001. It's very likely though that I'll be working in the computer industry in some form until I retire someday. I enjoy working at the state hospital because, in a small way, I'm helping health care professionals make a difference in peoples lives."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

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### CRAWFORD

Continued from Page 3

told Tommy if we got a crew on the hand line and got them over to the left a little and could push it out from under the valves, maybe I could get to them. They got it lined up and I crept up the steps. They had a little give, but the further up I went, the better it was.

"The top of the walkways was blown out, but they were laying across the braces. So I just walked up on them and shut one valve off, then I got to the other and shut it off, and that was basically the end of the fire. We still had two tanks of hot gasoline, but they weren't nearly the danger they were at the time we got there. We adjusted our cooling and added some

line and just started going through there and putting out some spot fires."

With plenty of time to look back on what happened and his climb up the wobbly structure, Crawford said there was never any question in his mind he and his fellow firefighters would come out ahead.

"I guess I'm just too stupid to be scared," said Crawford with a grin. "I was never scared. I just kept thinking of what we needed to do next. I didn't really think we could valve it out, as much liquid fire was coming out of that thing and as far spread as it was on the ground spill. The wind was right or God was just helping to fan the flames, I'm not really sure.

"I've been doing this for 33 years and I've been teaching it at Texas A&M for 20 years, and we do a

lot of projects where you do a valve-out on this stuff. If I had never done it before, I would have been scared to death and wouldn't have even tried it. But we do it all the time."

And while being able to put out the blaze with the turn of a couple of valve handles was certainly a surprise, Crawford said the biggest surprise for him and his men came shortly after.

"I heard there were no fatalities while we were

eating lunch," said Crawford. "I was so thankful. It just blew me away. That was basically the same size cloud they had down in Houston at the BP refinery that blew up in 2002, and it killed 16 or 17 people, and no telling how many people were injured. What we had was the best fire scene you could have, the way it ran. Big Spring firemen, Snyder firemen, Midland firemen... They would all just hustle to do whatever we said. It all

fell together. I've seen grassfires go worse than that, where everybody just sort of runs and does their own thing. Everyone was doing exactly what we told them to do, and it worked really well."

Asked if he'd run back into the same situation again knowing what he knows now, Crawford just smiled.

"Of course. It's what we do," he said firmly. "The standing joke in the fire service — especially with

volunteers — is if you had to go take a psychological evaluation to get a job, there's no way you're going to pass it. When all the people are running out of the fire, you're running in. That's against everything you're supposed to do, if you're smart."

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# A leap of faith

*The Benders are sustained by their belief in the Lord*

By JOHN A. MOSELEY  
Managing Editor

God supplies for every need.

There are perhaps no two people who believe that more than Big Spring's Evelyn and Everett Bender, because they'll tell anyone willing to listen that they live their lives by that belief every day.

In fact, they say it sustains them.

And they spend a great deal of their time carrying that message to others through the Christian Training Center they have established and operate out of Evelyn's business, Miss Royale.

Some might say it would be impossible for

an upscale women's fashions business to survive in Big Spring. It is, after all, a niche that draws less of the nation's overall women's clothing retail market every year, and in many cases, similar boutiques in larger cities are struggling.

**"God made us and sent his son, Jesus Christ, to die for us so that we can fulfill God's plan in our lives. We just need to look at what people can be."**

—Everett Bender

is something Evelyn has held all her life, but for Everett, it wasn't until he married his wife almost 25 years ago that he began to learn.

A Big Spring native, Evelyn was the daughter

tiques in larger cities are struggling.

"We know, we know ... sometimes it even amazes us," Everett said. "You wouldn't think it's possible, but it is. Our needs are always met."

That belief in provision Herman and Opal Wilkerson, who operated Herman's Restaurant, the business her brother and sister-in-law, Homer and Stina Wilkerson, now own.

It was her parents' belief that the Lord would provide all their needs, she says, and it was only



HERALD photo/John A. Moseley

Evelyn and Everett Bender operate Miss Royale, a high-end women's fashion boutique in Big Spring. While similar businesses throughout the country seem to struggle these days, Miss Royale continues to thrive because, according to the Benders, God provides all their needs.

natural for her to believe it as well.

"I'm a product of my parents. My grandfather was an alcoholic and a lot of people considered him the 'town drunk,'" Evelyn explained. "They called him 'Sleepy,' because when he wasn't drunk, he was asleep. Anyway, he

went to a Salvation Army revival one night and was saved. That would make a huge change in the entire family.

"He had nine children, and there was such a drastic change in his life that it had an effect on all of his adult children. They were all saved, too,"

she added. "And as a result of my parents being saved, I grew up in a Christian home."

It was an extremely strong Christian home, one that weathered numerous challenges.

In the 1950s, Herman

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*"No One Knows The Country Like We Do"*

FAITH

Continued from Page 1E

found himself bankrupt and suffered a heart attack. The family wasn't without support long, however, because Opal borrowed money from her mother and the family went into the restaurant business.

"That took a lot of faith in itself," Everett noted. "They really didn't know anything about the restaurant business. But they believed, they prayed and worked hard and in the long run, I think you have to admit that Herman's Restaurant has been a success."

"There were some tough, trying times," Evelyn admits. "I'll never forget that one time an evangelist was coming into town and my parents had been asked to take him into their home for the revival. My mother said something about there not being enough food in the house and that they couldn't afford to go buy many groceries, and I remember my father saying, 'God will supply what's needed.'"

"Of course, my father gets a telephone call telling him that a truck carrying a load of watermelons had broken down on the highway and if he'd come get the watermelons, he could have them," she continued. "Don Newsom bought the watermelons to sell in his grocery store and that not only paid off our family's grocery bill we had at the store, there was money left over."

"There was another time when things had gotten pretty slow at the restaurant and the waitresses were concerned, but my father told them not to worry. I remember him telling them, 'God will bring them in if he has to fly them in.' A few days later, a group of Cosden executives flew into town. They asked people at the refinery if there was a good steakhouse in town and they brought them to Herman's."

Evelyn admits she counted on the same provision when she opened Miss Royale in the old Highland Mall. She didn't have any experience in retail business, but she began by praying and fasting. And maintaining faith that God would provide — tithing to her church in advance the amount she hoped to do in furs each season.

"As a result, the Lord showed me the business," she said.

"And she's outlasted all her competitors," Everett interjected.

Evelyn moved the shop to its current location at the corner of Gregg and 16th streets in 1985. It was



HERALD photo/John A. Moseley  
Pat Simmons (left) joins Everett and Evelyn Bender in looking over a Sunday School lesson just prior to the classes start. The Benders conduct the non-denominational class at their business, Miss Royale, each Sunday morning.

a location her father purchased shortly after moving the restaurant to its current location.

The youngest of three brothers, Everett was born in El Paso, but grew up in Vienna, Va., a suburb of Washington, D.C. His father was a career federal employee, working first for the Department of Defense and later for the CIA.

While Everett spends little time talking about his youth, it was clearly not the happiest of times.

"My father was always under a lot of pressure," he explains. "For a large part of his career, he couldn't even tell people who he worked for, much less what he did."

"And my dad was a pretty strict disciplinarian," Everett added, making it clear there were some serious episodes of corporal punishment. "It wasn't until later, when I was a young man, that I realized it had been an abusive situation."

After graduating from high school, Everett

attended George Mason University where he received his bachelor of science degree in computer science and marketing, which led to a job with the American Lawyers Association and working on Capitol Hill and contact with many members of Congress and a great number of government attorneys.

While working for the ALA, part of his training involved taking a Dale Carnegie course, and it would be that experience that would ultimately make a huge change in his life.

"I loved that course above all the training I'd had," Everett recalled. "I'd had IBM and Xerox sales training, but none of them had the impact Dale Carnegie training had. I went to work for Carnegie full time, wound up moving to Albuquerque and traveling the New Mexico and West Texas region. I sold courses during the day, taught classes at night and on weekends I'd hire and train instruc-

tors." The third time he visited Big Spring to set up a class, he met Evelyn and signed her up for the course.

He admits he was attracted to Evelyn immediately.

"It wasn't just that she was beautiful, I'd been around beautiful women before," Everett explained. "But there was a magnetism about her. Carnegie had a policy of not letting us date students and I found out why — they wound up getting married and Carnegie loses an instructor."

"I didn't know the Lord then, and church was everything to Evelyn," he added. "I was interested in the Lord, but not committed."

That's when Evelyn employed the help of a family friend. "We began praying and fasting, ask-

ing that Everett would come to the Lord," she explained. "I knew then it was God in my life, but I didn't say anything."

"Evelyn had an inner strength I didn't have ... an inner strength and peace," Everett said. "I was struggling with it though. Finally one Thursday night, I threw up my hands and said, 'I've had enough of this religious stuff. It might work for you, but not for me.'"

"I was living in Midland at that time and I remember going home and opening up the Bible and wound up reading Romans, Chapter 10. It wasn't so much the words, but it was finally like God was speaking to me. It was like the Lord was saying, 'This is it. There aren't going to be a lot of chances.'"

"That changed things

for me," he continued. "I started going to church and God started manifesting the gifts of the Spirit — things I'd never been exposed to before. I needed that."

He began seeking out older, more mature men and seeking their counsel.

"I found men who could mentor me, men who knew the ways of God," Everett noted. "I could go to them in the dry times, when it wasn't working for me and when I was being challenged. Unfortunately, I'm afraid we're losing a lot of them and people aren't stepping up to fill the void."

Many of Everett's friends, however, will argue he was being trained to be one of those to fill that role.

"He spent almost a year studying the Bible and praying," Evelyn recalled.

See FAITH, Page 3E

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**Excerpt from Romans  
Chapter 10, KJV**

4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

5 For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

**FAITH**

Continued from Page 2E

"He hardly left the house the first year of our marriage, that's how much he was in the Word. Only God could put that hunger and desire in his heart.

"When he'd get frustrated, and there are always times like that for all of us, I told him God wanted him to take what he'd learned and put it to work."

As a corporate trainer, Everett had seen "night and day" changes in people, but he wasn't seeing that in his church life.

"I was going to church and saw that people weren't changing," he acknowledged. "It frustrated me. I could see people were missing something. They'd tell me to pray, but not how. They tell me what to do, but not

how."

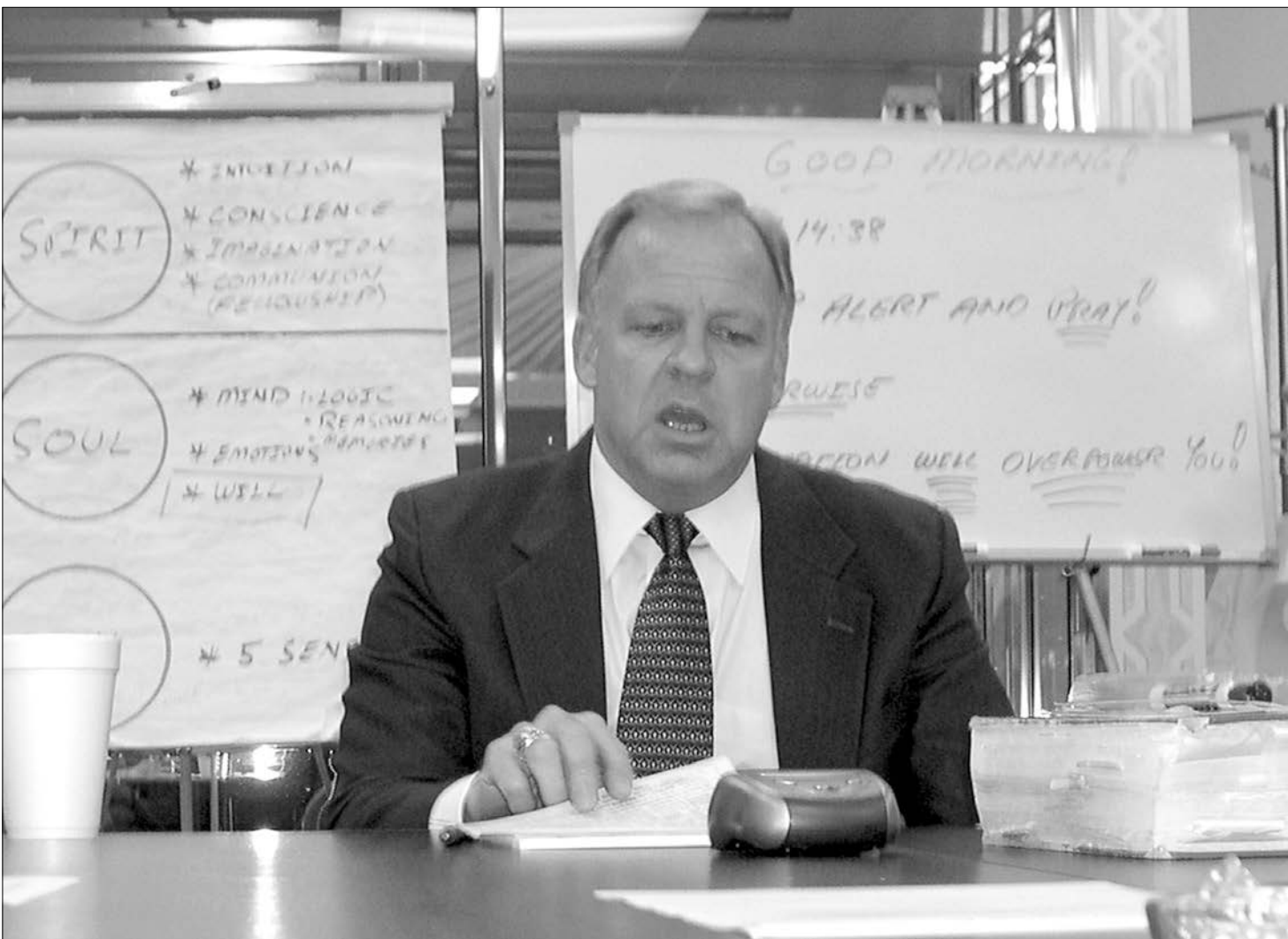
There were other frustrations and challenges.

"I'd moved to a small town, entering into a new marriage, was leaving my career and was not being a bread winner. All of those challenges were stressful," Everett admitted. "But God was humbling me.

"That's when I got my promotion," he said with a broad smile. "I started steaming clothes and being janitor here at Miss Royale. That gave me lots of time to pray and it gave me lots of time to minister to people."

And that has become Everett's all but full time calling, save for his janitorial duties at Miss Royale, of course.

"I remember being asked to minister to a young man who was in jail, he'd been convicted in a murder case," Everett said. "In minister-



HERALD photo/John A. Moseley  
**Everett Bender provides instruction on the importance of prayer and fasting to members of his Sunday School class during a recent session at Miss Royale.**

ing to him, he asked me to go see his family because he knew they were going through a tough time. At first the father didn't even want to talk to me, until he found out his son had asked me to come see them."

"He wound up leading the father to the Lord," Evelyn interjected, "and that, in turn, wound up leading the entire family to the Lord. We've seen lots of miracles in that family since then."

Everett says he realized from that night on the Lord had been showing him how to pray and to minister to people during that difficult year. "What I realized is that I can be

an ambassador for Christ," he said.

Since that time, Everett and Evelyn have had numerous opportunities to minister to people — all sorts of people in all walks of life.

"The Lord's given me the opportunity to minister to everyone from street people to a man who would one day become governor and later president," Everett said. "Who'd have believed it? In fact, my mom once said, "Of all my sons, I never thought it would be you that would get religion."

But it's not so much "religion" that Everett got, but Christian love,

understanding and fellow-

ship. "We believe what we all need to look at is what all of us can be," Everett explained. "God made us and sent his son, Jesus Christ, to die for us so that we can fulfill God's

plan in our lives. We just need to look at what people can be."

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# Food: It's a passion

## Theresa Andrews loves to cook

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Food is life. It's a mantra anyone who spends a considerable amount of time around local resident and chef Theresa Andrews knows well, as the coastal castaway prepares to bring a taste of the south to Big Spring.

Andrews — who claims she isn't really "from" anywhere thanks to her father's career in the Air Force and gypsy lifestyle — is anything but shy when it comes to discussing food, but to understand where her culinary ideas are going, it helps to understand how they came to Big Spring.

"After Hurricane Katrina, after we spent a few weeks on our lawn, my brother showed up and said we couldn't stay there," said Andrews. "So we went to Baton Rouge and had our first shower in three weeks. Then we looked around and realized everyone from New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast had moved to Baton Rouge and there was no place to stay.

"We didn't know what we were doing. My husband has family here in Big Spring, and they didn't really give us a lot of options. They just told us we were moving somewhere we had family, and that's how we ended up in Big Spring. I've been married for 28 years but I

feel like I'm a newlywed again. When we first got here we were living on used furniture. I feel like I'm starting my whole life over again."

Andrews' career in food service began many years before the hurricane winds all but destroyed her home in Gulfport, Miss., as necessity and practicality set her on her



life's course. "I needed a job and had three kids. My husband was in the military and I needed to find a job that would allow one of us to be home with our children at all times," said Andrews. "We didn't want our kids raised by anyone other than us. The food service industry had flexible hours, so I started out waitressing tables. However, I found myself spending more and more time in the kitchen than out front. I was always asking questions, so I sort of just worked my way into the kitchen, and after a while people started ask-

ing me why I didn't go to culinary school.

"I went to culinary school at Horry-Georgetown Tech, which is now part of the University of South Carolina, located in Myrtle Beach. My husband got out of the Air Force while we were living there and we stayed there for 10 years just so we could play golf everyday," she said with a laugh. "And through the years I've taken breaks from the culinary business and done other things. I sold golf equipment in Myrtle Beach for five years and got to play just about every day."

Andrews thought her extensive training and experience in high-end food service would help her land a job in Big Spring, but the local job market wasn't what she expected.

"People told me I could find a job here in my career field. Come to find out, I could find a job if I was willing to work for \$6 an hour in a kitchen somewhere. I couldn't find a restaurant that really needed a qualified chef," said Andrews. "No one really had an extended menu along the lines I was used to preparing and had the desire to work in. I don't know a lot about barbecue. Even though we do barbecue in the south, we make a very different type of barbecue than we make here in

See **ANDREWS**, Page 5E



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins  
Theresa Andrews, owner of Tee's Catering, flambes some scallops in the kitchen of her new restaurant, located on Moss Creek Road (left) and smiles for the camera during the State of the City Address (above).





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**ANDREWS**

Continued from Page 4E

Texas. So my knowledge of the food here was limited, and because I couldn't find a job where anyone would pay me what I owed in bills, I created my own business.

"I had done this type of work off and on while I was a chef, working as a private chef and catering parties and special events. I worked for a very exclusive clientele. So I figured if I could do it for them, I could do it right here and make a business. I did something similar right out of culinary school with a friend of mine. We opened a cafe and a catering business. Our catering business was centered around theaters. We did all kinds of events, including the grand opening for the Hard Rock Cafe, the Dixie Stampede when TNN was there, as well as some television and movie productions. So it centered mainly around the entertainment and resort industry."

Andrews said it's taken more than a year to build her list of clientele and establish a reputation in the Crossroads area, all leading to the eventual opening of her own restaurant.

"It's taken me the entire time I've been here to slowly and quietly build a reputation so I can market myself to the clientele I want," she said. "To the people who are really going to enjoy this food. I'm not saying the food here isn't good, it's just that I'm bringing something that's totally different. I'm going to do things a little different. We expect to be up and doing dinners Friday and Saturday nights toward the end of April. I have to get everything in and get my staff trained."

And while the idea of opening a restaurant puts a big smile on Andrews' face, there are plenty of challenges to overcome.

"It's an experience in Big Spring," she said with a laugh. "We don't have a lot of restaurant suppliers. We don't have a lot of restaurants that have all of the modern conveniences, so it's hard to find and buy used equipment. That makes it pretty tough here. There's such a small restaurant community, and it's not a restaurant community like I'm used to where all the owners belong to an association and get together

periodically. In that type of setting, everyone knows everyone, and if you need a vendor or something you can call them up and say, 'Hey, I need a refrigerator guy and I need him quick. I have 40 people coming for dinner and my refrigerator just went down. I need him on the fly.' I can't call people here like I can back home and ask for help.

"The restaurants here are family owned and they are very self-sufficient. So my biggest obstacle has been finding the tools for the business. I've been so fortunate, however, because I've had family helping me out. My nieces have all stepped up to the plate and helped out wherever I needed them. If it wasn't for them, I really don't feel like I would have been as successful as I've been over the last 17 months. When I'm in a pinch because someone doesn't show up, they step right in, and that's a great blessing."

And while a traditional Big Spring location, such as in the downtown area or along Gregg Street, might appeal to other entrepreneurs, Andrews has a much more rustic location in mind.

"I've gotten together with Bob Price and he's opening a hunting lodge on his property on S. Moss Lake Road," said Andrews. "They have some lodges there so they can keep hunters and then we have the yellow house, which is eventually going to be a bed and breakfast. We've turned the bottom of the home into a restaurant, and we'll be doing Friday and Saturday night dinners. They will be inclusive menus, which means there will be three-course, five-course and seven-course options with prices based on market prices."

"It's going to be an adult atmosphere. It's going to be geared toward adults, so people have a place to go on their birthday, anniversary or other special occasions. We're not really gearing toward a family restaurant because I feel there are lots and lots of family restaurants here. There's just no place to go for that special event, like getting engaged. We also offer catering services. We even do catering for two, if you want to have a wonderful gourmet dinner at home and pop the question to your girl. We can cater to parties up to 750 people, as well."

And while the economics of

the business are certainly a concern for Andrews, the real pay off for the Mississippi woman is in the food and doing what she loves.

"A lot of times you don't get to see the end result of your work in your job, unless you're a doctor and you cure someone. When you create something, you see the end result," said Andrews. "When a plate comes back to me and it's empty, I know I created something really nice. I don't really have an artistic talent. I can't draw a straight line or a perfect circle, but I can look in a refrigerator and create a meal. It's my talent, it's my passion. I love to eat and I love to feed people. Food is life. If you know anything about food and its history with the family, we were always in the kitchen. In my part of the country, we're discussing what we're going to have for lunch while we're eating breakfast. We're talking about the dinner we had the night before. Food is just such a big part of who we are."

"You can take a piece of catfish and cook it, and I can take a piece of catfish and cook it, and I guarantee when you taste mine you'll say you've never had that kind of catfish before. It's so wonderful because you can take things you would never think of, like a jar of mustard from the cupboard, and make fish with them. Where most people would just say, 'Well, I guess I'll just fry this piece of fish up,' I'm going to fry it, but I'm going to season it with a little something. I might put some crawfish etouffee on top, which is one of our signature dishes, the catfish Creole. It's just beautiful. It's all about being creative and loving what you do."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspring-herald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspring-herald.com)



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Local chef Theresa Andrews takes some cheesecake desserts out of her oven (above) and slices roast beef for the masses gathered for the recent State of the City Address at the Dora Roberts Community Center (below).



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# Student by day, rocker by night

*Love for playing the drums has Josh Lang leading a double life*

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Local musician Josh Lang is hoping to carve out a spot in metal-music history with his drumming — just as soon as he finishes his homework.

Lang, who plays the skins for Big Spring's own Down The Machine — a metal band currently on the rise in and around the Lone Star State — is also a senior at Forsan High School, a combination the young man says is tough to maintain.

"It's tough. I'm not going to lie to you man," said Lang with a laugh. "It's so hard to find time for your friends on the weekend, because I'm either practicing or I'm at a gig. We're working musicians and we're asked to play all the time. It's hard. Doing homework the same night you have a gig, it's just ridiculous. Sometimes you just can't do it all."

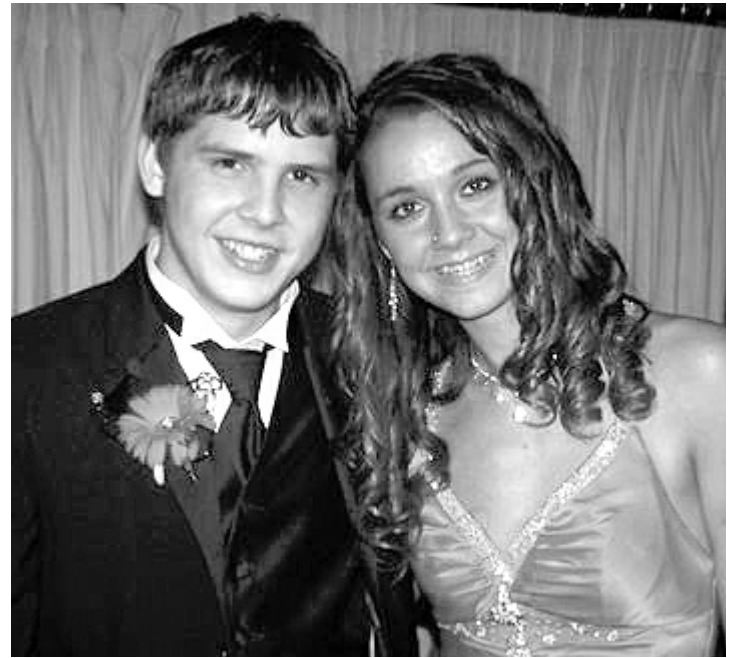
However, to understand what drives Lang to live a double life — high school student by day and budding rock star by night — it helps to understand how he got involved in music.

"I've always been involved in music, even when I was little," said Lang. "Even when we went to church, I was always checking out the drummer, who had this cage around him. It was just the coolest thing in the world. I always wanted to play drums. My sister was No. 2 in the state of Texas in the clarinet, so there was always music around. I begged my dad to get me a drum kit, and my eighth grade year he did, and I've been playing drums ever since. It was a Tama Rockstar with brushed chrome. I still have it, I just never play on it anymore."

"I played that kit every day for three years



**(Above, clockwise) Local musician and Forsan High School senior Josh Lang wails on his drum kit during a recent performance with his band, Down The Machine; poses with long-time friend Morgan Garrett on prom night; and sports a rather non-traditional haircut for the camera.**



straight," he said. "I forced myself to play three hours each day. So, three hours a day for three years, and this is where I am now."

Lang said he met the rest of the guys in Down The Machine — vocalist Ben Chronister, bassist Jeff Forshee and guitarist Trey Terry — through a friend and the rest is history.

"I was working at H-E-B, and this guy — he's the manager's cousin — was telling me there were these guys who were looking for a drummer," said Lang. "He told me they played stuff like As I Lay Dying, and I thought that

was pretty cool. And then I asked him how old these guys were, and he told me they were like 25 years old. I was like, no way! These guys are old!"

"Trey and Jeff (Forshee) worked at StarTek, and they had heard about some kid who played drums, and they were thinking it was two or three different people. Turns out, it was just me. So I got hold of them and took my drums over to Marshall's house, and I set up my kit in this little bitty room. They had this little Crate amp that was pushing out 20 watts, and we just started jamming. And they did not sound

like As I Lay Dying, but they were really good. Trey is just an amazing guitar player. And it just went from there."

Lang said his foray into the music industry has been a first-class education in the realities of the world.

"You find so many fake people, it's ridiculous. Before I went to Forsan, I was in school in Big Spring," said Lang. "One

See **LANG**, Page 9E

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# Community minded

## Manny Ramirez Jr. does his part for a better Big Spring

By **JOHN A. MOSELEY**  
Managing Editor

When Big Spring City Councilman Manny Ramirez Jr. says that he takes pride in his community, it's not just lip service or some campaign slogan. Instead, the first-term councilman is getting personally involved in making Big Spring a more attractive place to live.

In fact, he's enlisted his whole family and they've joined the Texas Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway program. The Ramirez family will be regularly clearing litter from a two-mile stretch of Business 20 (both Third and Fourth Streets) from Settles Street to Tulane Avenue.

When asked how he came up with the idea of his family adopting a highway, Ramirez said it was "just something I thought was a good idea" after having participated with his co-workers at the VA Medical Center in that group's Adopt-A-Highway efforts along U.S. Highway 87.

"I just want people to take more pride in our community. I want the town to look nice ... it's just that simple," he continued. "The staff at the VA Hospital had adopted Highway 87 and I just decided this was something we could do."

While Ramirez said he initially had asked state

officials if he could adopt the Third and Fourth Street areas downtown, he said he's really looking forward to getting a chance to help clean up the area his family finally adopted.

"If you go down there to that stretch of Business 20, it's obvious that we need to keep that entrance to our city looking as good as we possibly can," he said. "I'd imagine that's the first part of town that more than 50 percent of the visitors who come into Big Spring from the east on Interstate 20. That needs to be a priority."

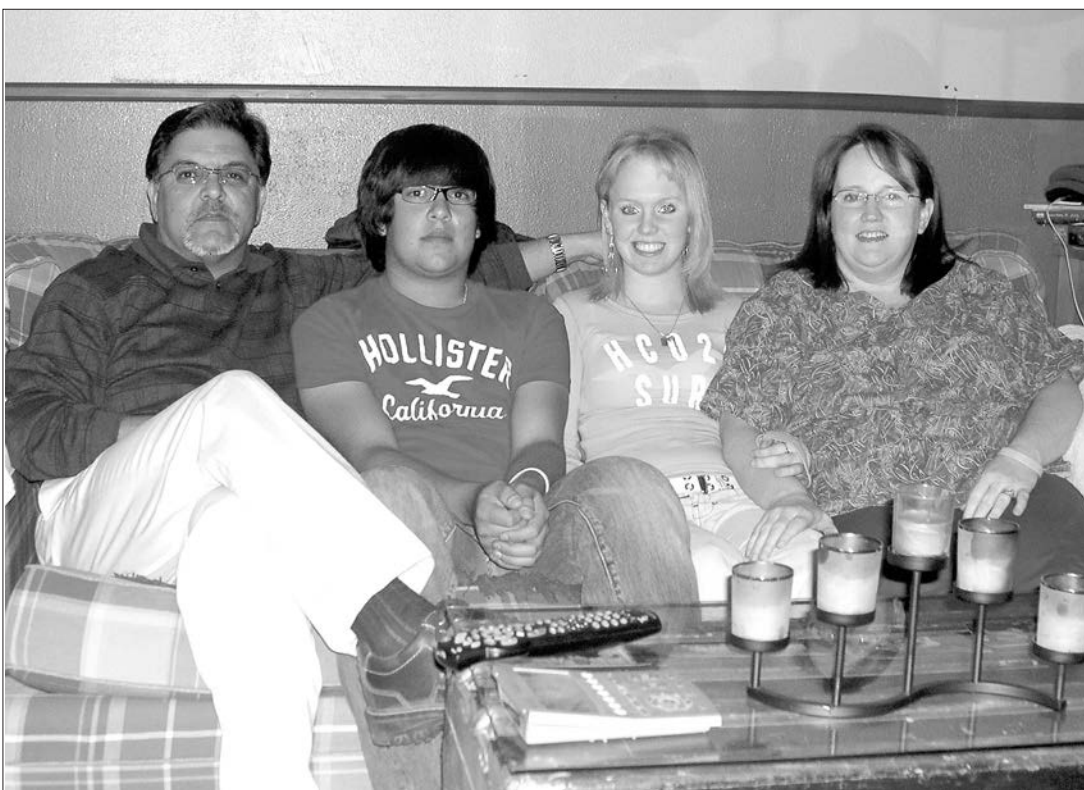
While Ramirez said his wife Debbie and 18-year-old daughter Randye were supportive of the idea of getting involved in the Adopt-A-Highway Program as a family, he admits his 16-year-old son Matthew was at first less than thrilled about the idea.

"Debbie said, 'Sure, let's do it,'" he noted, "and my daughter thought it was great because she has to do some public service as a project for school. My son kind of rolled his eyes, but he's come around to the idea."

And it won't just be the councilman's household involved in the periodic cleanups during the two-year term of the family's commitment with the state.

"I told the rest of my family about it and they thought it was a good

HERALD photos  
At the photo at right, Big Spring City Councilman Manuel Ramirez Jr. is shown during a recent council meeting; below, he's shown with his family, from left, son Matthew, daughter Randye and wife Debbie.



idea, too," he explained. "My brothers and my parents have all said anytime I need help they'll be there."

Those who know Ramirez have no doubt the family will definitely be serious about their

commitment to the program.

Simply put, when Manny decides to do something, he sticks with it. And he believes others

should do the same.

Take, for instance, his desire to be a member of the Big Spring City Council.

An IT specialist at the

VA hospital, Ramirez won his council seat on his second attempt at running for office. "It's something I'd always wanted to do ... even back when I was in my 20s," he said. "I had an older cousin who was a justice of the peace and I admired that. I think that's what really got me interested in public service."

But in his first bid for office, Ramirez was defeated by a slim margin. The setback did not deter him. Instead, he became more determined.

"I lost that race by something like 12 votes," he continued. "And I'm pretty sure from the turnout of that election, there were more than 12 people who I'd talked to and said they supported me and would vote for me that didn't go to the polls. But the most frustrating part of the experience was the literal handful of people who voted in that election. Here we were deciding who would represent thousands of people on the council and only a tiny portion of them cared enough to go vote."

"We need to inspire more people to get involved — not only in voting, but in making our community the absolute best it can be," he added.

There are things Ramirez says he'd like to see being accomplished in Big Spring, among them a concerted recycling effort.

"That's something the VA is getting more involved in and I think we, as a community, need

See **RAMIREZ**, Page 9E

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# On the road again

## Bill Phelps donates his time as a driver for the local VAMC

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

If there is a soundtrack to Bill Phelps' life, the theme song would probably be "On The Road Again."

The Ohio native has made many stops in his 86 years on this planet, but that mileage is almost chicken feed compared to what's been accumulated in service to his fellow military veterans.

As coordinator of the veteran's transportation network program at the Big Spring VA Hospital, Phelps, quite literally, gets around.

On any given day, he can be found somewhere on the road between the medical center and a town in its service area, transporting indigent veterans to and from appointments at the hospital.

"We serve veterans without transportation of their own within our outlying district — about an 80-mile radius," Phelps said. "We pick them up, bring them in for their appointment, then take them home ... We also take them to consulting appointments in hospitals in this area."

With a service area

encompassing a large swath of West Texas and Eastern New Mexico, Phelps and his fellow drivers can log a lot of miles.

"Some of our drivers log 300 to 400 miles a week," he said. "Some of us drive as much as 20,000 miles in a year, simply because we don't have enough drivers."

The local VA hospital is always short of drivers because the program is totally voluntary.

"The Disabled Veterans of America helps with the program, but you don't have to be a disabled vet to participate. But ... there's no (monetary) compensation at all," Phelps said. "That's what drives a lot of people away."

Still, the program provides a vital service.

"It's very, very important," said Iva Jo Hanslik, director of community relations for the VAMC. "With so many of our veterans living on fixed incomes — and with the rising cost of fuel — many of them couldn't receive the health care they deserve if we didn't provide transportation."

The reason Phelps has stayed with the program is simple — he cares for his fellow veterans.



Herald photos/Steve Reagan  
Above, Bill Phelps stands besides the van used to transport veterans to and from appointments at the Big Spring VA Medical Center; at left, he talks with the VAMC's Iva Jo Hanslik.

"The job is self-rewarding," he said. "To see the veterans of today and their needs and to be able to alleviate those needs in some matter is very self-satisfying."

"Actually sitting down and driving and listening to other people's experiences — the good things and bad things, the kudos and the gripes — is something else," Phelps added. Phelps is an ideal fit for

the program, Hanslik said.

"He's a very dedicated volunteer who loves veterans, enjoys their company and wants to give back to his fellow comrades," she said.

In the little more than three years he joined the program, he's logged at least 25,000 miles, although he's uncertain on the exact amount.

Then again, long-dis-

ance engineer for several government projects across the country that he wasn't at liberty to discuss. Then, after retiring, he moved to Big Spring in 2001.

He joined the local Retired Senior Volunteer Program, which eventually led to his current posting at the VAMC.

"Because of being in RSVP, I heard about the different volunteer programs here at the medical center," Phelps said. "I applied for the transportation program, and here I am."

Phelps enjoys camping, reading and "working around the house," but it's clear transporting veterans to and from the VAMC is high on his list of priorities.

Aside from calling the work rewarding, Phelps finds it difficult to describe exactly what he enjoys about his hours on the road.

"I guess you'd just have to come in and find out for yourself," he said. "If you've got a soul, you're going to be satisfied with what you do. It's a thing that's very close to my heart."

For more information on the veterans transportation network, contact the VAMC volunteer services at 263-7361, ext. 7135.

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

tance travel is no stranger to Phelps.

Born and raised in Ohio, he joined the U.S. Navy in 1940 and served in the Pacific theater during World War II as a pharmacist's mate aboard a gunboat.

During a 14-year military career (he spent six years on active reserve) he hopped across portions of the globe, he said.

After finally leaving the military in 1954, he began what he called a "circuitous" route to Big Spring. For many years, he was a quality assur-

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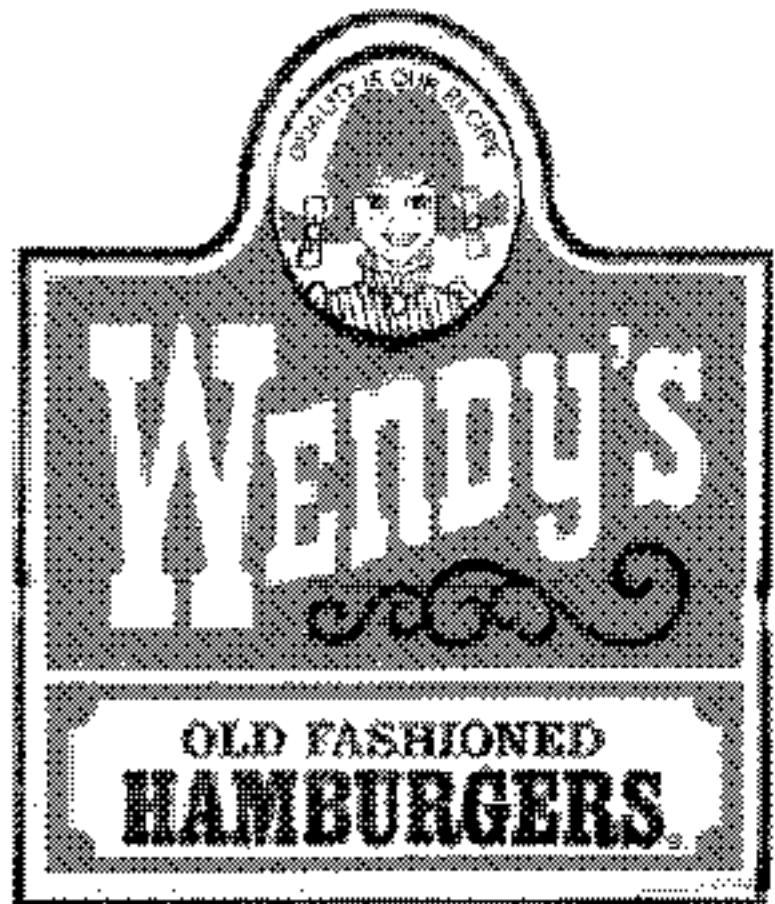
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**RAMIREZ**

Continued from Page 7E

to do so as well," he explained. "People need to realize how little space is left in our landfill and what it's going to cost, not only to open a new landfill, but to close this one and monitor the closed facility in the future. "It think expanding

recycling efforts only makes sense, because it's going to be the most effective way of extending the life of our landfill. Of course, it's not just a dollars and cents proposition, it has a lot to do with saving natural resources. But the real interest for most people will be what effect recycling has on saving the city and county money. If it saves tax-

payer money over the long run, that's something we all ought to be interested in." Ramirez said it's only natural that he should be interested in issues like the Adopt-A-Highway program and expanding recycling efforts in the community. "I'm the tidy one in the family," he explained with a smile. "I do my own yard work

because I want things done a certain way." While far from being obsessive-compulsive about such things, he admits that "everything has a place and it ought to be there. If it's not, fix it." It's clear that Ramirez's commitment his family, job and community leaves little time for himself, however. But it's not something that bothers

him very much. That was made clear when he recalled his being hired by the VA. "I'd just finished my courses at Midland College," he noted. "I came home, grabbed my golf clubs and was out on the course playing golf when my dad called to tell me they had a job opening at the hospital. I left right then, went in and inter-

viewed for the job and was hired immediately. "I haven't had a chance to play golf since," he said, a broad smile coming across his face.   
*Contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230, or by e-mail at editor@bigspringherald.com.*

**LANG**

Continued from Page 6A

day I wore a Metallica T-shirt to school, and the next day I wore a My Chemical Romance T-shirt, and everyone was running around saying, 'He's a poser! He knows nothing about music!' I don't care what people say about me, I just know they're fake. You start realizing how people are your friends because you're a musician, which is apparently some kind of high honor or something. And that's kind of sad, because all you have to do is work at it. "The friends I have right now, there's no way you could replace them. They're family, part of my family, and I'd never give them up. These are the people who have stuck by my side, even before I was a musician, through all the bad stuff and everything in between. And when I became a musician, nothing changed between us. Some people changed — they want to be my best friend all of a sudden — but I know they aren't my friends in the long run." And while many 18-year-olds in his position

might be tempted to quit school to chase fortune and fame in the world of music, for Lang, it's simply not an option. "It's an insurance policy. Education is an insurance policy when you're a musician," Lang said firmly. "You can't go on hopes and dreams and run around saying you're going to be famous some day. Suppose you're right on the edge of being signed to a major label, and they say, 'Hey, we found someone else. Get lost.' You don't have a job, you don't have money. Sure, you might be touring, but do you know how old that gets? It's ridiculous. It's fun, but you get tired of that lifestyle every so often. "I'm going to South Plains College next summer. I'm planning to take some commercial music classes, and they have a wonderful program there. So I'm really looking forward to it." And while the perpetual party image of the music industry is certainly alluring, Lang said it's not all fun and games. "It takes serious work. It's not fun and games 24 hours a day by any means," said Lang. "It's not a situation where you


go out and party every night and play music for a bunch of chicks. We've played shows where there was no one there except like three people. It's about work. "When I started at Forsan, I always wanted to play percussion in the band. I never got the chance, though. The guy

never even gave me the light of day to try out. But I didn't let that stop me. You can't let something stupid like that stop you. If this is your passion, you have to keep working toward it, no matter what gets in your way." In the end, Lang said he understands his long-term goals and won't stop

until they are a reality. "I'm doing what I love. You can't do any better than that. I know it's not really a job I can say I support myself with, but it's income. I don't have to work at H-E-B eight hours a day," he said with a laugh. "That's what I want to do with my life. I want to be a musician and

support myself with it. I'm not looking to get famous or rich, I just want to be able to support myself by being a musician."   
*Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com*


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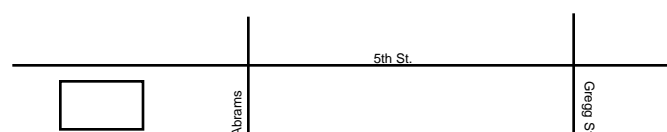
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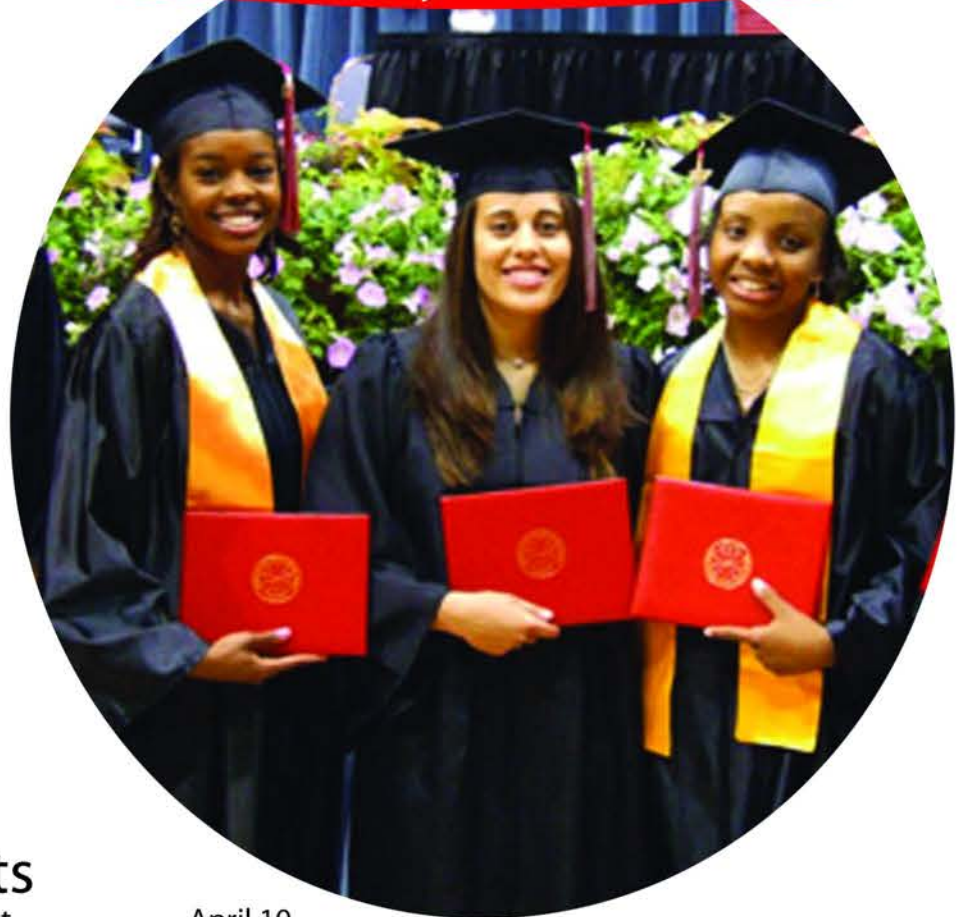


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**HOWARD COLLEGE**

# Looking for a little respect

## *Cyclist Cadet Bryant aims to prove that he's among the elite*

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

Nothing comes easy.

This is a lesson well known to Cadet Bryant.

Bryant competes in a sport where respect and advancement is difficult to achieve — cycling, or endurance mountain bike racing to be exact.

Bryant, 32, is a 1992 graduate of Coahoma High School and, after spending two years at Howard College and finishing his higher-education studies at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, returned to his home county to teach freshman composition at Howard in 2003.

However, teaching is truly just a means of financing his true passion.

"I never planned on being a teacher. The opportunity just kind of arose," Bryant explained. "Really, it's just a means for me to get some money and make ends meet so I can race."

Although the road, or trail in Bryant's case, to success in competitive mountain biking has been long and trying, it's no longer foreign for the semi-pro rider.

"I've discovered that all

you can do is get your body used to doing this," Bryant explained. "It's taken years for me to get my body conditioned to endure this. It takes years and years to get up to that level. If I was still competing just locally, I'd never be able to compete with the elite guys. It takes seeing those guys to understand what you need to do to get better. Everytime I've moved up a division, I've gotten my butt whipped. But I just work my way back up."

"It's funny how it works," he continued. "You feel like you're never going to get to that next level and when you do, you don't even realize it."

Bike riding has long been a part of Bryant's life. Like most of us, he started riding at a young age, but unlike most of us, he never stopped. It's always been a means of escape for Bryant, allowing him to free his mind of burdens.

"I've been riding all my life. I was in my first bike-a-thon when I was seven or eight years old and I outlasted just about everyone in the event," Bryant said. "When I was

Continued on Page 2F



Cadet Bryant poses with the bicycle he rode to a second-place finish in the 2008 State of Texas MTN Bike Marathon Series. Bryant now moves on to a national circuit, hoping to improve on his 11th-place finish from 2007. Courtesy photo



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rode in the Texas series together. I finished second and he finished a distant third. He knows who I am now."

Another challenge for Bryant is training in an area that isn't exactly known for its mountainous terrain.

"I have to get creative sometimes with the way that I train," Bryant explained. "There's not really any big mountains here. There's Scenic Mountain, but I've been kicked out of Big Spring State Park by the park ranger because he says I'm riding too fast. I'm going to have to just create my own trail with my mountain bike or something. Sometimes I just ride to Stanton and back. A typical ride for me lasts about 50 or 60 miles."

However, despite all the odds pitted against him, Bryant has beaten some of the better riders to ever compete in the sport. In the 2007 national series, he finished one place ahead of 1995 Pan Am Games gold medalist David "Tinker" Juarez. Bryant has also lined up next two a couple other riders whose names are much more synonymous with the sport — Lance Armstrong and Floyd Landis. It's a situation that can be overwhelming to an unknown rider, if he can't control his emotions and focus.

"Being right there at the starting line with these guys is a bit intimidating. I tell myself, I'm not sup-

Continued on Page 3F



Continued from

a kid, my dad wasn't around much, but I didn't want to be at home when he was. So, riding was a way for me to get out of the house. I'd ride my BMX bike 20 miles a day."

Competitive riding, however, is fairly new for Bryant.

"I didn't start seriously competing until 2003 when I started doing some triathlons," Bryant said. "I went to just racing on the bike after a few of those races, though. I wasn't a good swimmer. I'd be the last one out of the water usually. But when I got on the bike, I would pass everyone and make up a lot of ground. I figured since I'm doing so good on the bike, I might as well just ride."

Since focusing on cycling, Bryant has steadily climbed up the ranks of professional mountain biking. He recently completed the 2008 season in the State of Texas MTN Bike Marathon Series, earning second place overall. That's an improvement of five spots over his seventh-place finish in 2007.

Bryant is the 2007 ACA West Texas XC MTN Bike Series champion in the expert cat division. He begins the 2008 version of the National Ultra-Endurance MTN Bike Series April 19 with a 100-mile race in Ducktown, Tenn. Bryant enters the circuit after placing highly overall in the 2007 series.

Bryant's expectations are high this year with the possibility of winning the national circuit implanted firmly in the back of his mind.

"I started out at some local races, then moved up to some statewide events and I started competing on a national level just last year," Bryant noted. "I'm a nationally ranked racer right now. I finished 11th last year in the Elite Ultra Marathon series and I'm ranked second in the state of Texas. I'm competing with guys that get paid to ride. That's all they do for a living and I'm keeping up with them."

Bryant would love to ride for a living, but lacks having enough notoriety from sponsors in order to do so. He races for a company called Giant, which furnishes him with a bike and clothing. However, he lacks extra funds to help pay entry fees as well as gasoline, among other expenses.

"The places where I travel on the national series are several states away and anyone that knows how much gas is costing right now under-

stands the type of money I need to get there," Bryant said. "Last year, I was only able to compete in five of the eight races because I ran out of money. I simply couldn't afford to make the trip to the last three events. I finished 11th despite that and if I could've finished the circuit, I would've had a chance to win it all."

Money has proved to be the biggest hindrance in Bryant advancing to the next level of competition and he was actually worried he wouldn't even be able to compete in the national circuit until recently. "I didn't think there was any way I was going to get to compete in the national circuit this year because I was out of money after the Texas series," Bryant confessed. "So over Spring Break, I sold all of my bikes on eBay except for the one Giant has provided me. It's sad when I have to sell off my bikes just to compete because no one will help me."

Because competitive biking isn't in the mainstream sporting world at all, gaining sponsorship or a team to ride with hasn't come easy for Bryant, despite the success he's having. Several nationally recognized teams have simply ignored him.

"I've been blown off by a

lot of these guys," Bryant said. "I've written a lot of teams and asked them to pick me up because I'm doing well in the national series. Lance Armstrong's team, Trek Volkswagen, blew me off. There's a national team from Texas and I wrote the leader asking to join his team. The guy pretty much didn't give me the time of day because he didn't know who I was, even though I was having some success nationally. We



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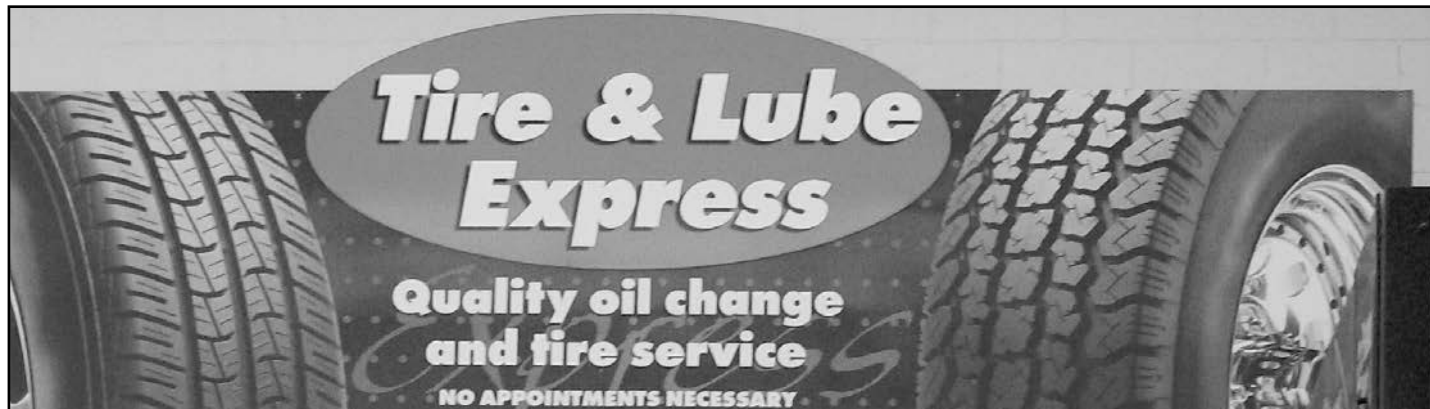


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Cadet Bryant pushes his bike on the trail in a 2007 National Ultra-Endurance Mountain Bike Series race in Breckenridge, Colo. Courtesy photo

Continued from Page 2F

posed to be here," Bryant said. "Some of these guys like Lance Armstrong and Floyd Landis are guys who I've watched race and compete for years. I have to take them off of the pedestal and learn that I can be just as competitive as them. I might not be able to beat them, but I can at least give my best effort no matter who they are."

Means of travel and living conditions at the races even differ between a guy trying to make his way into the sport as compared to the Armstrongs and Landises who are already established.

Bryant has gone as far as to hitchhike his way to a race. Stuck in Chicago and needing to get to Manistee, Mich., Bryant's train had been delayed to the point that he wouldn't be at the starting line in time. So he and three other racers hitched a ride from a family, making it to Manistee in time to compete.

"It's different to see how these guys get to each race. The big guys making a lot of

money doing this show up in fancy RVs, while I might have taken a train just to get there," he continued. "They're sleeping in a bed and I'm in a tent. Still, I take those guys off the pedestal and I tell myself I'm just as good as they are. I might not win this race against them, but in the end I'm going to try and beat them in the series."

As a teacher, Bryant doesn't try to be an inspiration with his commitment, although students should admire his dedication. Instead, he tries to relate his lifestyle to theirs in order to reach a positive result in the classroom.

"My students think I'm crazy. They don't understand it," Bryant said. "They don't get that I ride my bike competitively. I don't try to inspire anybody to ride. I try to relate to the students by means of showing how much can be completed in college despite having a busy life outside of school. I know they have families or athletics to deal with, but if I

can get my stuff done for the classroom, then so can they."

So the pursuit goes on for Bryant, not just for a national title, but also for recognition from sponsors and the respect of his opponents. It doesn't matter how much more difficult the road, or trail, may become. Cycling is a sport of perseverance and Bryant appears to have that part of it figured out.

"It seems like the better I get and the further I advance, the harder it becomes to earn respect and get recognized," noted Bryant. "It can be frustrating. There are moments when I don't want to train. We all face things like that. I keep going, though. I have a goal this year to finally impress enough people that I don't have to worry about financing my way to each race. I don't want to have to sell personal possessions anymore to do this. This year, I want to become known for my achievements so that all I have sacrificed to get here proves to be worth it."

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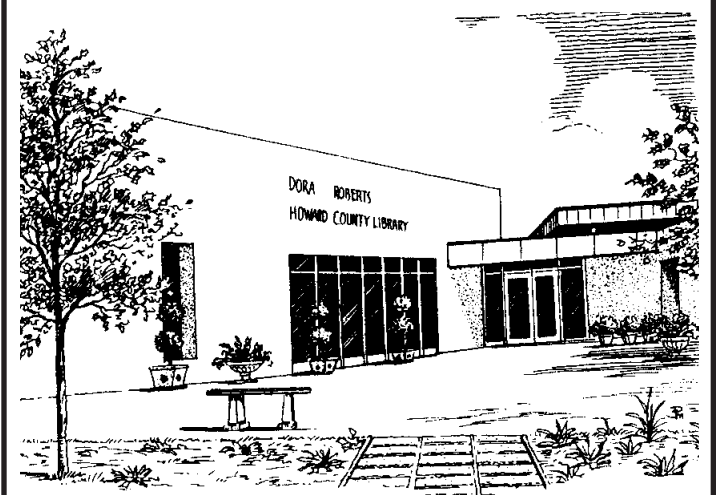
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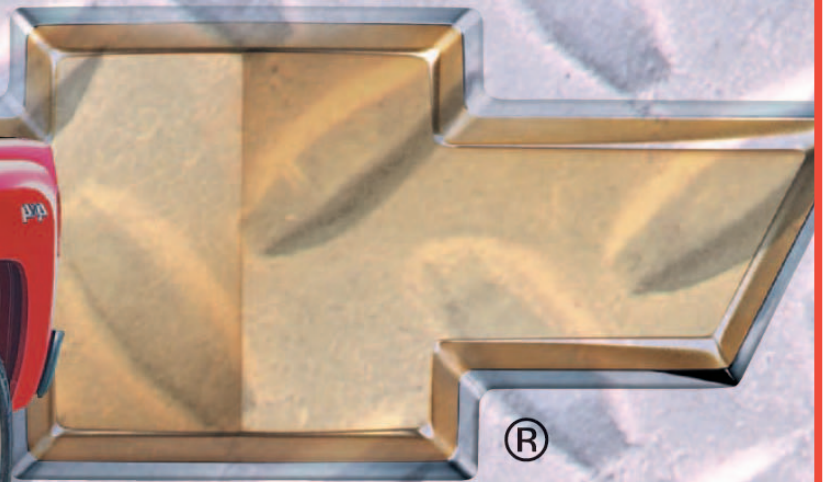
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Deacon Juan "Johnny" Arguello has always known God had a purpose for him.

HERALD photo/Bill McClellan

# Servant of the Servant

*Deacon Arguello III knows God has called him to 'feed My sheep'*

By **BILL McCLELLAN**  
News Editor

Juan "Johnny" Arguello III has always known God had a purpose for him.

It took some time. There were obstacles along the way. But he knows his purpose. He is a servant of the Servant.

Strong-willed but respectful, Johnny has always spoken his mind. Despite his stature — at 5-foot-7 he doesn't tower over anyone — he stands up for himself. Moreover, he stands up for his Lord.

The deacon of the Holy Trinity Parish traces his formative years to his grandfather.

"My grandfather, Johnny R. Arguello Sr., was a man with a lot of integrity, lot of respect. When his grandchildren and sons would come up to him they would kiss his hand and hug him, you know, lot of respect," said Johnny. "And I guess that is where I learned to show a lot of respect, not only for my

elders and others, but for the priests in the church and for my Jesus, for my God."

Despite the sense of respect, Johnny admits he was a troubled young man in the 1950s and early 1960s. Raised in the Catholic church, he was appalled at how society strayed from the teachings of the Bible.

"Hispanics were discriminated against, blacks were discriminated against," he recalled. "St. Thomas Catholic Church was built for the Anglos. It was made for the railroad. And they started a little old shack for the poor called Sacred Heart. Then St. Thomas was abandoned when the Anglos went to Immaculate Heart, so the Hispanics picked it up. And there was division between Sacred Heart and St. Thomas. If you lived on that side of the highway, you went to St. Thomas. If you lived on this side, you went to

Continued on Page 6F

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Sacred Heart.”

Johnny became an altar server at St. Thomas Church for Fr. Robert McDermott in 1957.

His desire was to become a priest and in 1966, at the age of 15, he was sent by Fr. McDermott to the St. Anthony Seminary in San Antonio. It didn't work out.

Johnny said one day at the seminary after football practice — Johnny was a quarterback on the team — one of the big linemen kicked him from behind.

“Scripture tells you to turn the other cheek. Well, I wasn't about to,” said Johnny. “It made me angry because I was tired of hearing ‘Mescin, Mescin, Mescin.’” He was tired of being treated differently.

Johnny related that when he was growing up, he and his brothers and sisters worked in the cotton field. The work was difficult and long, but it provided them with an allowance.

“We'd go to this hamburger joint and get a hamburger. But we couldn't go inside. Hispanics were not allowed. We had to order and go around back and get our hamburgers and leave.”

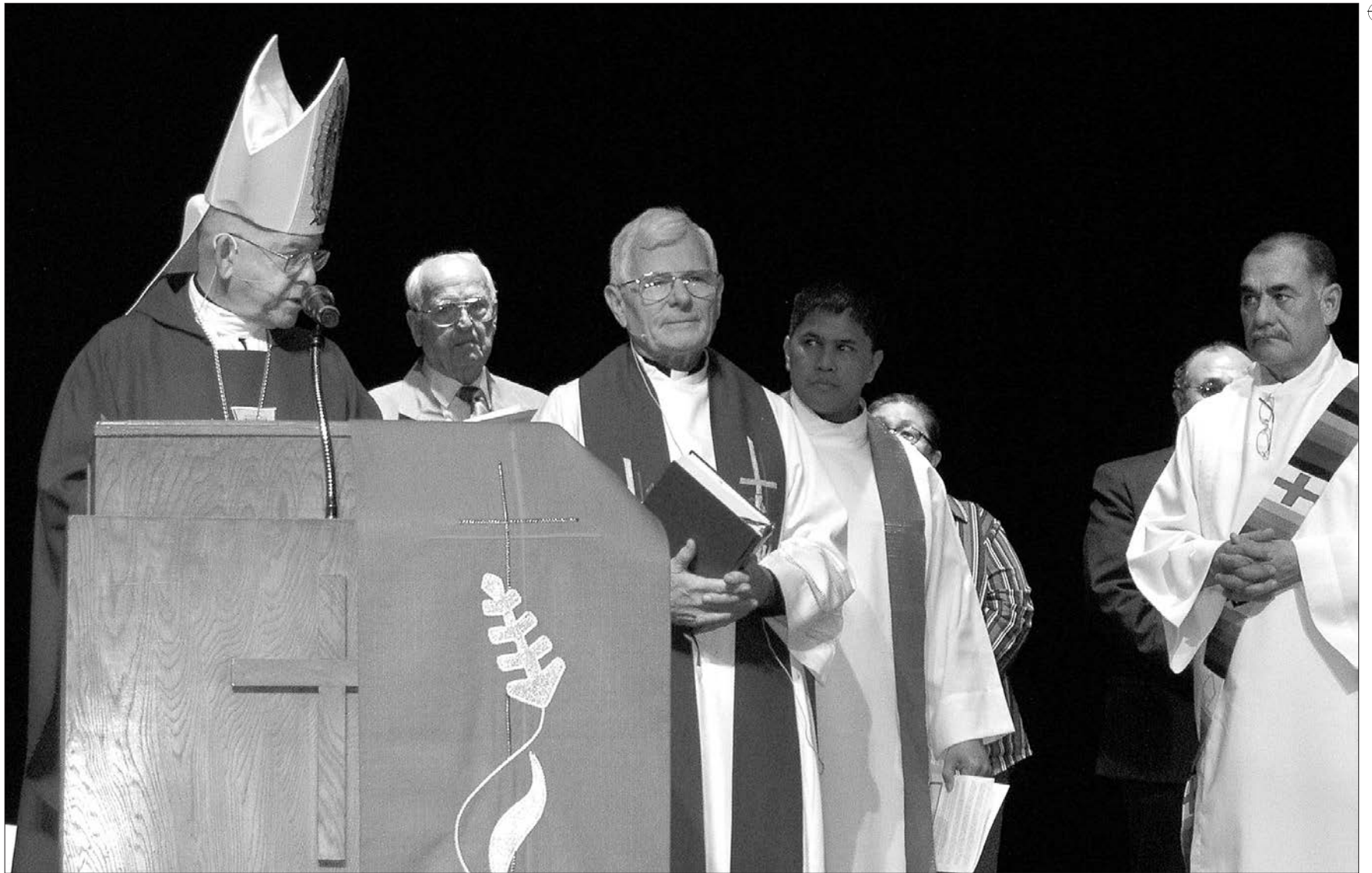
Discrimination was something Johnny was all too familiar with, but encountering it in the church and at seminary was too much. Wasn't it true that all were equal in God's eyes?

The altercation started by the burly lineman pushed him over the edge.

“So after this guy mocked me and made fun of me and then kicked me, I ran up to him and I gave him the same treatment. I kicked him. Then he turned around and I gave him a black eye,” Johnny recalled.

The next day during class, Johnny excused himself to go to the restroom. While there, he heard the door open and saw that it was the lineman — and the bigger boy was coming toward him.

“I didn't know what to do. Out of fear, I kicked him and he went down and started screaming,” said Johnny, whose actions landed him in front of



From left, The Most Reverend Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, DD, conducts the installation ceremony for the Rev. Bernard L. Gully, pastor; the Rev. Ariel Lagunilla, parochial vicar; and Juan Arguello III, deacon, as the members of the Pastoral Council of Holy Trinity Catholic Parish look on.

Photo courtesy of Connie Arguello

the Father Superior.

“He never gave me an opportunity to let me say what happened, why I did what I did,” said Johnny, of the confrontation with the Father Superior. “He just let me have it and said ‘We won't tolerate your kind’ and on and on.”

“He said ‘You go get your stuff. I am sending you back home to Big Spring.’”

The incident changed Johnny dramatically.

“On the way back home I remember looking out of the window of that Greyhound bus, leaving San Antonio. And I said ‘You know Lord, I came here, I wanted to be a priest, I wanted to serve You. And this is what I get? From now on Lord, I am going to do what I am going to do. Johnny is going to do what Johnny wants to do and I don't

want nothing to do with You.’ I rejected Him. From then on my life was nothing but pure hell.”

Despite remaining close to the Church — upon returning to Big Spring he was an altar server and played the organ for the youth choir at Sacred Heart under Fr. James Delaney — Johnny was in turmoil.

He graduated from Big Spring High School in 1969 where he was a member of the swim team and Speech Club. He went to Texas Tech on a swimming scholarship and worked for the Texas Tech Law School.

Still, he was angry inside.

Over the years, Johnny married. The couple had a son and daughter, but the union didn't last. He married a second time and had two more sons and another daughter. That marriage failed as well.

“When you start rejecting God, you feel like a failure. I had good jobs. I worked for General Motors, I went into the service,” said Johnny, who enlisted into the Army, served with the 2nd Armored Division and received an honorable discharge in 1975. “I worked for the railroad, I worked for Oilfield Industrial Lines as a cost accountant. I've had good jobs but I still felt like a failure.”

He completed his associate degree in bilingual education at Howard College in 1978, the same year he met the woman he has pledged to share the rest of his life with. And, he made amends with the Lord.

“I got on my knees and asked God to forgive me, to help me and to let me have a wife who would stick by my side. And I

was blessed with Connie,” said Johnny.

But the real turning point in his life came about 10 years later.

“It wasn't until I came down with a tumor that I humbled myself before my Lord and said ‘I surrender. Enough is enough.’ And then he started calling me.”

Johnny developed a tumor in the bone of his left leg and had it surgically removed at Santa Rosas Hospital in San Antonio.

“That was my conversion,” said Johnny. “After that, I started taking my family to church every day, every morning.”

Johnny began working with youth through the Search for Christian Maturity program

Continued on Page 7F

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Continued from Page 6F

with the San Angelo Diocese.

He started helping a young man diagnosed with AIDS, each day taking him the Eucharist, also known as Holy Communion.

At first he was afraid, but after awhile he began laying his hands on the man and praying over him. The fear went away, and Johnny said he began to see not the young man with AIDS, but the reflection of Christ.

Still, as the man grew weaker it became harder for Johnny to deal with. One day, after taking Holy Communion himself, Johnny told God he could not go on.

"Lord, I can't do this any more, I can't do this any more. Lord, I feel all that he feels. I feel all his pain. And the Lord said 'Look up to your left and tell me what you see.' And there were the Stations of the Cross. And I looked at the first one, and I said Lord, that is where you fell the first time. And He said 'I fell the first time. I fell the second time. And I even fell the third time. And that was the hardest one. And I did it for you and for everybody. Get up and feed my sheep.'

"That gave me courage and I was able to continue to bring that man communion until he took his last breath," Johnny said.

Years later, while struggling with a family matter, Johnny would hear God tell him those same words "Get up and feed my sheep."

It occurred in 2004, soon after Johnny was ordained to the Holy Order of Deacon after seven and a half years of study. After the ordination, he and others went to Rome, had an audience with Pope John Paul II and got to celebrate Mass at St. Peter's Basilica on

the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi as Deacon of the Altar.

While there, Johnny talked to the Lord about his struggles and the family matter he was having difficulty with. Again, the Lord reminded him of the walk at Calvary and the times He fell. And He reminded Johnny, "Feed my sheep."

"He was telling me to carry His message. He called me first to work within my family. Then He called me to work with the youth and I am still doing that. And then He called me to the diaconate," said Johnny.

Through the years, Johnny has experienced many events which have helped him grow spiritually. In 1996, he wrote Mother Teresa Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India and received a reply.

The letter, dated Oct. 28, 1996, read "Dear Johnny Arguello III. Thank you for your love and all the prayers offered for me. Let us take whatever God gives and give whatever He takes with a smile. That is holiness. Let us pray. Mother Teresa MC. P.S. I am praying for your family, especially for Andy and Tony."

Andy and Tony are Johnny and Connie's twin sons.

Johnny also started a prison ministry at Cornell in 2002, made a trip to Jamaica with Food for the Poor in 2005 and began a prison ministry at FCI Big Spring in 2006 which is on-going.

Today, Johnny continues to work with Search for Christian Maturity. As deacon, he preaches in Spanish mass, performs baptisms, quinceneras, weddings — he performed the wedding ceremony for two of his daughters — counsels people, conducts funerals and visits hospitals and nursing homes, among

other duties.

Connie, RN, BS, is a nurse at Scenic Mountain Medical Center and an excellent amateur photographer. They have five children, Sonya Bravo, Naomi, Joshua and Andy and Tony Arguello. Johnny's other children are Noe, Stacy, Johnny IV, Jacob and Susana Marie Arguello.

His purpose in life, Johnny knows, is to be a servant to the Servant. To spread Jesus' message. To "feed the sheep."

"I have to remind myself that Jesus came to preach good news to the poor, to feed the hungry, to set prisoners free," Johnny wrote for a Catholic magazine. "There is only one gospel, the good news of Jesus. Like a schoolboy writing an essay, we have to continually lift our eyes off the page and look again at the title — and make sure that's what we are writing about. Jesus came to comfort the afflicted, but he also came to afflict the comfortable."

"There are two statements of Jesus in the gospels that must always and ever be kept to the fore and meditated and acted on. 'Whatever you did to the least of these, that's what you did unto me' (Matt. 25:40) The second statement is, 'I am going away and the world won't see Me anymore — but you will, because you know Me' (John 14:19). The world has never seen Jesus in the poor, the down-trodden or the oppressed, or, indeed, the unborn. The acid test of our knowing him, however, is that we will see Him in all of these brothers and sisters. 'You will, because you know Me.'"

"Be Holy," said Johnny. "For our God is a Holy God."



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# Davis is a Senior Center saint

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

It would be a tough order of business to find someone who works harder at the Spring City Senior Citizens Center than local resident Billy Davis.

Davis, who washes dishes, cleans floors, moves tables and chairs — just a few of his daily chores — is at the center most days, sometimes working a 40-hour work week like most other residents.

What makes Davis special, however, is he does it for free.

Davis is one of several volunteers who donate their time and muscle to the center each week, helping to provide meals and activities for area seniors. And while Davis

still has a while before he qualifies as a senior himself, that doesn't stop him from giving his all to the facility, day in and day out.

"It's the friends I've made out here," said Davis with a smile. "That's what keeps me coming back. There are some really good people out here. I like coming out here. You get the chance to meet people and talk with them, and I have a lot of good friends at the center."

Davis said his first trip to the center didn't necessarily come under the best of circumstances, but it's kept him spending approximately eight hours a day at the facility for nearly a decade.

"About nine years ago I had to do community ser-

vice out here," said Davis sheepishly. "And ever since then, I've just kept coming back out here. I wash pans and trays — basically, I just do anything that needs to be done. I wipe off tables, make coffee, move the tables around, you name it.

"I enjoy everything out here. I enjoy the work," he added. "The last couple of years have been the best. Everything has been changing, and they've done the remodeling to the building and the dance floor. It's really shaping up."

And while Davis is extremely modest about the role he plays in the day-to-day operation of the Senior Center, facility director Leslie Grantham said the local man

deserves every ounce of praise he receives.

"Billy is a wonderful volunteer. He will do just about anything you want him to do," said Grantham. "Doing dishes isn't what you would consider a very glamorous job, but he enjoys it. He always has a smile on his face and he's always willing to help out. I've never heard a single complaint out of Billy. He always has something nice to say.

"Volunteers make the center a very pleasant place to be, and without them, we'd be in deep trouble, I believe."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com).



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins  
Billy Davis volunteers almost daily at the Spring City Senior Citizens Center in many different capacities.

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# One sharp individual

*After several careers, Richard Steinberg has found one he enjoys best*

By **JOHN A. MOSELEY**  
Managing Editor

If you are of a certain age, probably in your mid 50s or older, you can remember a time when tinkers visited your door. Among them would be a man who'd arrive a couple or three times a year offering to sharpen knives and scissors for the women of the house and saws and other cutting tools for the men.

Those days are obviously long past. It's doubtful someone will knock at your door asking if you need knives and tools sharpened.

That doesn't mean you can't get the work done, according to Richard Steinberg, who along with his wife, Susan, own Bear Claw Co. It just means you have to go to the workman's shop instead of waiting for him to come to you.

"With the cost of fuel being what it is, not to mention the cost of maintaining a truck, you just can't do business that way anymore," said Steinberg, whose business for the past seven years has been sharpening blades — all sorts of them.

Mobile sharpening units aren't completely a thing of the past, however. It's just much more specialized these days. Bear Claw does have a mobile

sharpening service. And in fact, the day Richard sat down with his interview with the *Herald*, Susan had taken it to the San Antonio area.

"Most of the work our mobile service does is sharpening beauty shears and the like," he explained. "When we go out, we call on beauty shops, barbers, veterinarians, dog groomers ... people that use power shears. There aren't a lot of people that can sharpen those, so there's still quite a market for going to commercial clients."

Steinberg, a native of Connecticut, admits he took a somewhat strange route on his way to Big Spring and ownership of Bear Claw Co.

"Believe it or not, before I came here, I was a professional entertainer," he said, explaining that he played guitar and sang in clubs, restaurants and other venues all over the country. "Before that, I'd owned a number of different businesses."

Operating Bear Claw, however, is clearly his favorite.

"It's not a bad business to be in," he admitted. "Like I said, I've owned lots of businesses and this has to be my favorite."

There is little doubt that one of the things that makes the business enjoyable is the opportunity to



HERALD photo/John A. Moseley

**Richard Steinberg, owner of the Bear Claw Co., sharpens a customer's hunting knife on one of the machines in his shop. Steinberg, who's owned numerous businesses, as well as spending time as a professional entertainer, says he enjoys his current profession more than any other undertaking.**

ply his trade in Big Spring.

"I'm from Connecticut, but don't hold that against me," Steinberg says with a smile. "I got here as quickly as I could. Now I'm a proud Texan. No, I'm a proud West Texan. I really do love the people here ... they're salt of the earth."

Had it not been for a father-in-law with a keen eye, Steinberg says he might have never found his calling.

Continued on Page 10F

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Continued from Page 9F

"Bear Claw has been here over 20 years, but we bought it about seven years ago," he explained. "Susan and I had just gotten married and moved down here about a year before we bought the place. I'd just finished making a swing performing up North and really wanted to get closer to home."

"My father-in-law had looked at this place and told us about it, so when I was driving by one day, it caught my eye. We took a look at it and we decided to buy it from the owner."

Knowing little about the sharpening business wasn't much of a deterrent. After all, Steinberg had proven he wasn't afraid to shift gears in his career when he left the business world to become an entertainer. The key, he says, was lots of hard work and study.

"I'd always sharpened my own pocket knives, like most people, and I'd done some woodworking," he said. "But I had a lot to learn."

"I spent about 14 hours a day, seven days a week learning what I needed to know about this business," he explained. "Of course, I'm still learning. That's something that never stops, no matter what you do. You're always learning something."

Steinberg has learned at least one part of the business — sharpening beauty shears — extremely well, and now gives seminars on the subject nationally.

"As a matter of fact, we're a model for the industry," he said. "Beauty shears are very difficult to sharpen. There's a lot more to it than most people would think. You actually have to go to school to learn it properly, so that's part of our business, too."

And clearly one of the things the Steinbergs have learned is that the Bear Claw Co. has to keep changing with the times.

For example, Steinberg noted that at one time, a large part of Bear Claw's business involved serving industrial customers. That's just not the case any more.

"We found that certain items, because of cheap

imports, primarily from China, are no longer cost effective for sharpening. As a result, that part of the business is basically gone," he explained. "So, we've gravitated toward sharpening things like knives and scissors for regular folks in addition to our service for businesses that use professional shears. We also have individuals that bring in gardening tools and woodworking tools. People bring in lots of things for us to work on."

**"I spent about 14 hours a day, seven days a week learning what I needed to know about this business. Of course, I'm still learning. That's something that never stops, no matter what you do."**

What's more, Bear Claw has added a retail area where Steinberg says customers can choose from a large selection of pocket knives and kitchen cutlery. "So, we can not only sharpen people's knives, but we can provide customers with much higher quality knives than they can get most places."

Steinberg says the business also gets support from the local agricultural community by providing clippers and replacement blades. "It's not necessarily something you can make a living on, but we get quite a bit of business, especially around the time just before the local stock shows."

Simply put, the Steinbergs have taken what experience they've garnered and applied it to whatever people have asked them to work with.

Not surprisingly, the Steinbergs have encountered a small group of

local knife collectors interested in forming a club and Richard says Bear Claw seems a logical place for the group's first meeting set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 1. Anyone wanting more information can call Steinberg at 267-5050.

"That's something they haven't had here in Big Spring from some time," he said of the fledgling club. "We think we'll have a lot of fun."

While the Steinbergs are getting involved in the knife collectors club primarily as enthusiasts themselves, there's little doubt club members will be wanting to use their services.

"There's something about knives ... there's almost an instinctual need to have sharp tools," Steinberg noted. "The thing is, dull knives are dangerous. Lots of people have cut themselves or been injured because of trying to use dull knives and tools."

"And everyone gets frustrated by trying to use dull knives and tools," he continued, "The problem is that they're frustrated when they're trying to cut something, they're not frustrated at the time that when they could put it in the car with them and bring it to me. The trick is to think about it and bring them to me before they get frustrated."

"I don't think a lot of people know how quickly we get take care of their needs," Steinberg added. "Most of the time we can get them their knives, scissors or tools back the same day. Sometimes it's not until the second day and there are some things that take longer, but a lot of things we can handle on a same day basis."

Contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230, or by e-mail at editor@big-springherald.com.



HERALD photo/John A. Moseley  
Bear Claw Co. owner Richard Steinberg handles a customer's pocket knife to see whether it needs sharpening.

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# She enjoys bridging the gap

*Lisa Brooks is a district representative for Congressman Randy Neugebauer*

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

For many area residents, listening to other people's problems is an annoyance that must be tolerated.

For Big Spring resident Lisa Brooks, it's part of her dream job.

Brooks, a Big Spring native, recently took over as district representative for Congressman Randy Neugebauer.

"Terry Blackshear had this position for four years, and she decided to buy Kay Bancroft's interior design business," said Brooks. "Her following her dream led me to my dream, because I love this job."

"In my prior position in marketing for the Reflections Unit at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, I spent about 500 to 800 miles each week in my car traveling. I was on the road a lot. This is an opportunity to come back and be an active part of Big Spring and get reacquainted with the people."

Brooks said her goals for the Big Spring office are simple.

"I just want to provide the services the congressional office would provide in any region. And the fact that I'm in

District 19, the case work assigned here is mainly concerned with the Department of Veterans Affairs," Brook explained. "That doesn't just mean the VA Hospital here in Big Spring. It means any division of the Department of Veterans Affairs that the people would have a concern with."

"Tracking those concerns and trying to advocate on those people's behalf is sometimes just a matter of navigating the bureaucracy. And it's really satisfying when we have a resolution with a positive outcome and everyone seems to be happy. It can be overwhelming for some people and it may be their first opportunity to be part of that system. So it's nice to get to help them with that."

In a recent press release, Neugebauer expressed confidence in Brooks' ability to serve this part of the 19th District.

"Lisa, as a district representative, will handle all constituent inquiries and casework for Howard, Borden, Lynn, Garza and Kent counties," said Neugebauer. "Constituent service is one of my highest priorities, therefore it

is critical to have helpful and devoted staff that can assist those who need it most. The federal government and its bureaucracies are tremendously confusing and I am fully confident that Lisa will be an excellent asset to my office and to the people of those counties."

"Lisa is well known in the Big Spring community. Her professional and personal experience, as well as her extensive volunteer work, show her deep commitment to Big Spring and its surrounding communities."

And while Brooks may be the only employee operating the Big Spring office — much like Blackshear for the past four years — she said she feels like she's part of something much larger.

"While I'm a one-person office here, the office in Lubbock is e-mail available immediately," said Brooks. "Also in Abilene and Washington, D.C., as well. I feel like I'm part of a really great team."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins  
Above, Lisa Brooks, district representative for Congressman Randy Neugebauer, recently took over duties for Terry Blackshear in the Big Spring office. Below, Brooks folds a flag that was flown over the nation's capitol.



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# Hoping to roll a strike

*But its been tough for the Dodds*

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

If nothing else, John and Diana Dodd have had an interesting first few months as owners of the local Bowl-A-Rama. The California transplants took ownership of the bowling center last December and were just establishing themselves and their business when things changed — dramatically — Feb. 18.

On that date, explosions at the nearby Alon USA Refinery caused serious structural and utility damage to the bowling alley, forcing its closure.

Bowl-A-Rama was open for business and hosting a group of Big Spring High School students when the explosion occurred at 8:20 a.m. on that Monday.

"The whole building moved," Diana Dodd said. "At first, we thought the snack bar had exploded ... Ceiling tiles were falling all over the place."

Fearing for the safety of the students and other customers, Dodd and her husband ordered everyone outside the building, she said.

"No one was hurt — not even a scratch," she said. "But it was a very scary experience for everyone."

The Dodds initially thought their business would be closed for a couple of weeks, but "It seemed that every day, we found something else damaged," John Dodd said.

While initial fears of serious structural damage proved to be unfounded, few things in the interior emerged unscathed.

"The explosion caused the roof to shift; that was the main thing that went wrong," John said. "The main air conditioning trunk line fell about four inches, and they had to jack that back up."

But the problems went beyond that. Among the problems facing the Dodds were:

- Electricians found that wiring in the ceiling — most of it at least 30 years old — had to be brought up to code.

- Fixing the wiring necessarily means that ceiling tiles, lights and insulation also need replacement.

- The explosion caused a power surge that fried computers and the automated scoring system in the bowling alley. Those systems also will have to be replaced.

On the good side, the bowling lanes and machinery appear undamaged, although the Dodds have not run a full-up test on the equipment.

In all, the Dodds estimate repair costs to reach near the \$250,000 mark before work is finished in the near future. That's not accounting for lost revenue from the business being shut down for more than a month.

Fortunately, the building is insured and Alon officials were quick to contact the Dodds to say they would pay for necessary repairs.

"They told us we were a high priority for them," John said. "I guess they really like our hamburgers."

The Dodds have also taken advantage of the unexpected down time to perform renovation to the center's snack bar and restrooms, work they had decided to put off before the explosion.

With new scoring systems, lighting, ceiling tiles and the like, "it'll be like a brand-new bowling center when we reopen," Diana said.

The couple hope to be back in business soon.

"I've been telling people, 'We'll reopen Friday' for about five Fridays now," John said. "But I feel pretty confident we'll be open for league bowling within the next week or two ... and we should be totally back in business by April 25."

And the Dodds plan to offer plenty of reasons for local residents

For the Dodds, who are both life-long bowlers, running their own bowling alley is the culmination of a dream.

"We've always wanted to own a bowling center," Diana said. "We've been bowlers since we were kids and both of us have always loved bowling. We've seen how bowling centers are run by corporate owners and we thought we could do better."

The Dodds were high school sweethearts — and bowlers, of course — in Ojai, Calif. Despite a separation of almost 30 years

(John moved to Australia and later retired after a lengthy stint in the Australian Army), both their passion for each other and their sport have survived.

After reuniting, the couple moved to Midland nine years ago. But a particularly good bowling game on Diana's part played a part in them eventually moving further east.

"About a year ago, we bowled in a league game here ... and I rolled my best game ever," Diana said. "And I told John, 'We need to buy this place' ... the owner happened to be walking by and said, 'I'll sell it to you.' And that's how we ended up over here."

The Dodds have several upgrades planned for the Bowl-A-Rama. A fully-stocked pro shop is in the works, while the building's snack bar and grill are being refurbished.

In addition, the couple are both licensed bowling instructors, so lessons are available, and John is a certified technician, allowing him to customize bowling equipment to the customer's order.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan  
John Dodd, co-owner of the Big Spring Bowl-A-Rama, explains remodeling plans for the facility, which has been closed since the Feb. 18 explosion at the Alon USA Refinery.

John said that the couple plans a fun, family friendly environment.

"Bowling is a lifetime sport. It's something I did as a kid and here I am at 59, still bowling," he said. "It's a sport where no one is trying to knock you down ... and the nice thing is that the ball always comes back to you."

The Dodds said operating hours for the bowling center when it reopens will be from 8 a.m. until midnight, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. until 1 a.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday.

The center will host two leagues a night from Monday through Friday, but open bowling times are readily available.

Also, birthday and corporate parties can be arranged.

For more information, contact Bowl-A-Rama at 267-7484.

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

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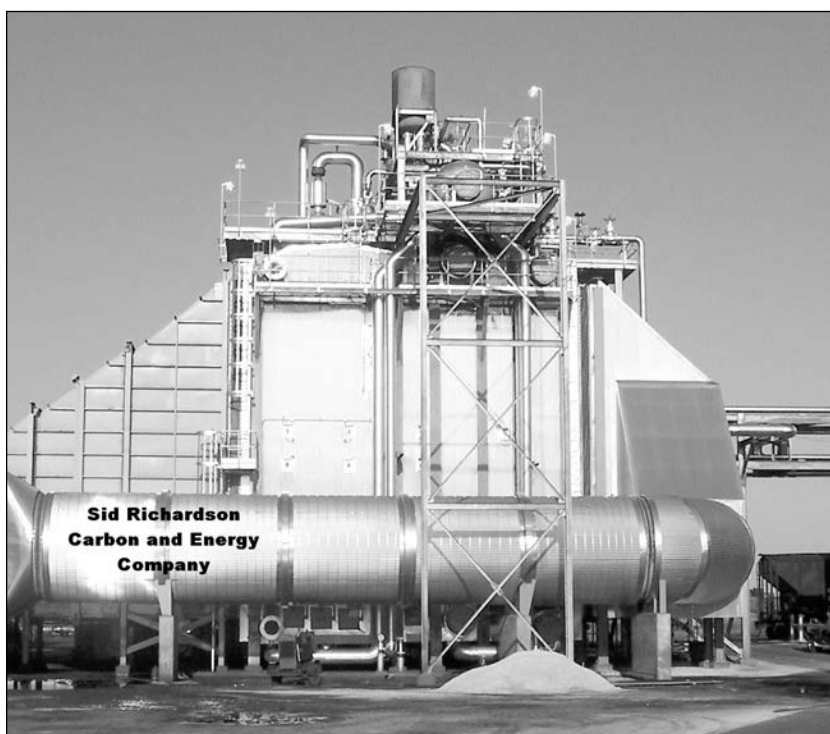


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# A farmer's story

*Larry Shaw didn't need to stray far from home at the cotton patch*

By **BILL McCLELLAN**  
 News Editor

Things have changed a lot in Larry Shaw's 80 years, except for where he calls home. You see, Larry still lives less than a mile from where he was born June 19, 1927. That's because all his life, Larry has been a cotton farmer.

"I bought my first tractor back in the 1940s," he recalled, "a Massey-Harris four-row. I laugh now when I think about how much it cost — \$3,632. But it was a lot of money back then."

"Now, you can find big tractors for \$100,000. I never had one though," he said with a laugh.

There have been many changes, "Mostly for the better," said Larry.

Back then, he farmed on a quarter-section of land, about 180 acres, pretty typical, he recalls. Now, a farmer may work an average of 600 to 800 acres. Larger, more efficient equipment has made it possible to get more acres

covered than in the past. That wasn't the case, however, when Larry was growing up around Knott. The family worked the land with mules and horses, milked cows and raised chickens.

There was no running water, no electricity, no phones. Even haircuts were hard to come by.

Larry recalled that the haircuts his dad gave him and his three brothers — the family would grow much larger in a few years — were painful and nothing to brag about.

"We used to raise cane and cut that and put them in bundles. Dad told the four of us that the barber had agreed if we took him 100 bundles, he'd cut our hair," said Larry. "The cane cold for a penny a bundle and a haircut was 25 cents. "So for 100 bundles, he'd give all us boys a haircut. That sounded like a good deal to us. But I'll tell you, it was about two hours of work and then we had to haul the

bundles into town on a wagon."

There were several grocery stores and four gins in Knott back then. Not much remains except for one gin and a couple of churches.

Larry graduated from Knott School in 1944 and was talked into going to California to work in the shipyards soon after.

"We stayed less than a year and then I moved back to Texas. It was a good experience but I was used to being in a place where you could see for miles and miles. Out in California, it was all trees and buildings," said Larry.

It wouldn't be long before he would return to California. He was drafted and though he chose to serve in the Navy, he ended up in the Marine Corps.

His time in the service was uneventful. He spent it working in a post office



HERALD photo/Bill McClellan  
 Larry Shaw farmed cotton a few miles from where he was born in Knott for more than 50 years.

Continued on Page 14F

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COME MEET THE NEW OWNERS - **John & Diana Dodd**

⊕ continued from Page 13F

in San Francisco where he was paid \$75 a month. He found room and board just a few blocks away, so he could either walk or take public transportation to work. The war ended soon and when Larry received his discharge, he headed back to Knott.

The 1950s were tough times for farming. Drought forced most farmers to pick up other jobs and Larry was no different. He got a job welding — a skill he learned in the service — at the railroad yard in Big Spring and later went to work in the supply department of the VA Hospital — which had recently been constructed.

“I learned a lesson then,” said Larry. “One day a friend said ‘I had a real good rain and I am going to quit this job and go back to farming full-time. Why don’t you do the same?’”

“I thought about it and thought about it and I decided to quit, too. And I think that was the last rain we had all year,” Larry said, grinning. “I learned not to be too quick to make a decision like that.”

Larry went to work measuring cotton for an agency in Stanton. In those days, the government put limits on the amount of cotton farmers could plant. If they planted too much, part of it had to be plowed under.

“It worked pretty good because I knew what I was doing,” said Larry. “They gave the choice of getting paid by the hour or by the farm and I chose by the farm because I figured I could make more



courtesy photo  
Raymond Martinez, left, and Eloy Garcia are “walkin’ in high cotton” in a field worked by Knott farmer Kenneth Schuelke, Larry’s nephew. Above, cotton plants grow taller than Larry in 2005.

money that way. It turned out all right and I did that until I felt like I could get back on my feet.”

There were lean years, as there always are for those making a living tilling the land.

“I recall 1959 being a real good year, and there were others, of course,” said Larry.

Planting techniques, equipment and seed varieties changed over the years and the government stopped limiting the amount of cotton a producer could grow.

The area experienced a record crop in 2005 and again in 2007.

“It rained at just the right time for me. We made about two crops in one and I was surprised that we didn’t have a lot of insects,” Larry said of the 2005 crop. “Usually, when it rains, you have to get after the insects. And most of the cotton was well above average.”

He’s served on numerous boards over the years. “I’ve always been concerned about cotton because that is how I made my living,” explained Larry, who also worked some fall seasons at the gin in Knott.

Larry grew up as part of a large family. The boys were Marlin, Gene, Larry and Verl. Then came the triplets — Franklin, Delano and Roosevelt — and then Ronald. There was also Summer Lee, who died after a few months. The girls were Rhodell, Nelda Ann and Nila Joann. Delano and Rhodell have passed on.

In the late 1940s, Larry married Bertie Faye Hinson, invading Ackerly to do so. “We thought those Ackerly girls were prettier,” Larry said with a wink in his eye.

Bertie died about three years ago. “She was my best friend for 56 years. She was a very good person,” said

Larry. “That’s all a man like me can ask for. She was in the hospital but we had talked about going home for Thanksgiving dinner when she was released and she thought that was a good idea.”

But her condition grew worse and Larry got a call to come to the hospital. Before he arrived, she had died.

The couple had two children, Linda and Larry Don. Linda had been living in Albuquerque, N.M., for a long time, but returned to Knott with her husband Eric Johnson a few years ago. She teaches at Coahoma High School.

Larry Don is a former Texas State Representative who continues to live in the Austin area.

He has two grandsons, Shawn and Chris Lepard and three granddaughters, Brooke Schuelke and Brittany and Aubrey Johnson.

big deal’ — one of which left him in the burn unit in Lubbock for a while.

Life on the farm has been rewarding for Larry, who is proud of what he’s accomplished. There have been tough times, but he learned early on things wouldn’t always be easy.

“Us kids had to milk the cows. When I was little I thought that would be a great thing to do. There was this one real gentle cow, and we’d learn on her. I practiced and practiced. I wanted to be good at it, too. Little did I realize, it put me in a situation where I had to milk cows regularly. It’s not that fun after a while,” Larry said with a laugh.

Bill McClellan can be reached at (432) 263-7331, ext. 235 or by e-mail at [newsdesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:newsdesk@bigspringherald.com).

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# Helping others is their calling

## Paul and Patty Smith are not your typical retirees

By JOHN A. MOSELEY  
Managing Editor

Being of service to others is something some talk about, but for Paul Smith and his wife, Patty, it's simply a way of life — particularly the life they've led since moving to Big Spring 10 years ago and becoming heavily involved in the First Christian Church's outreach program, Isaiah 58, as well as a number of other endeavors.

Paul was 60 when he retired and moved to Texas from Charleston, Ill., where he'd been a

professor at Eastern Illinois University, teaching accounting and "every once in a while pinch hitting in economics."

A native of California, he was born in Oakland, Paul could be described as being well traveled, having been an Army veteran who saw service in the Korean War and received his collegiate degrees at the University of Denver, Southern Mississippi University and the University of Arkansas.

Oddly enough, the

Smiths hadn't intended to make Big Spring their retirement home.

"Actually we were thinking about settling in Alpine," Paul said. "We were on our way there and stopped here in Big Spring. Believe it or not we ran into some people who knew some people living here that were from Illinois. And we were asked to church and everything kind of fell into place."

"Everyone was so nice here," Patty interjected.

Continued on Page 15F



Courtesy photo

Patty Smith looks on as her husband, Paul, received the Golden Trowel Award from members of the Staked Plains Masonic Lodge in Big Spring on Feb. 28. The award recognized Smith for his service to Masonic principles, assisting the needy in our community and assisting members of the lodge.

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The Church of Christ that now meets at 14th and Main in Big Spring was first assembled in 1912. Believers in this restoration plea first began meeting in the "Old School Presbyterian church building. By 1924 the group had out grown that facility. They purchased land at the corner of 4th and Gregg where a small meeting place was built. By 1928 the membership was approximately 160 members and still larger facilities were needed. After lots were obtained at the corner of 14th and Main, a building was begun in January 1929 and completed in March. Other buildings have been added through the years as needed.

Today the Christians meeting at 14th and Main remain true to the restoration plea. The Bible is the only source of direction for conversion, worship and living. Jesus is the head of the church. Elders, deacons, preachers and teachers are appointed by the guidelines of the Bible. Unity is achieved by letting God's Word be the final word in all matters.

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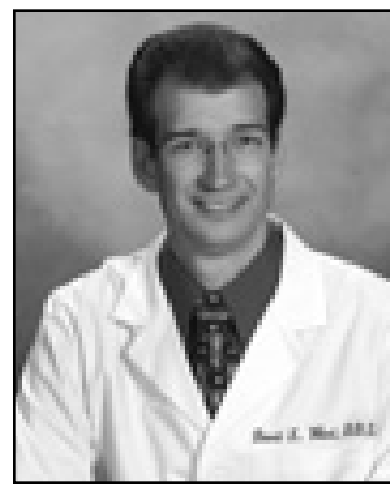
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Paul Smith

Continued from Page 15F

"Big Spring had just about everything we were looking for, the church, the library, the college. And a good veterinarian — that was an absolute must."

Indeed, when Paul retired and the couple began planning their move to Texas, his avowed intention was to be a provider for those in need. It was at that point the couple made a deal. She would help him in his church and community service work and he would help her with her desire to help any animal who needed feeding or medical help.

Since arriving in Big Spring the Smiths have lived up to that deal. And in the process, they've been extremely busy.

"We got here just as Isaiah 58 was getting started," Paul explained, "and we jumped in with both feet because we wanted this outreach of the church to succeed. And over the years it's become clear that there's certainly a need in this community."

"There are lots of people who need help with food and clothing," he continued. "We're here to help them. We also try to help with rent, utility bills and prescription medication needs. In just the first three weeks of this month (March), we've provided food, clothing or monetary help to 151 families."

Isaiah 58 gets most of its food, about 4,000 pounds a week, from the West Texas Food Bank. And clothing money for rent, utility and prescription subsidies provided by the outreach ministry come from the public's donations and from the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

With their commitment to Isaiah 58, it's clear the Smiths' retirement isn't like what most people would contemplate.

"This is sort of like a small business," Paul explained. "There's a lot of paperwork that has to be done behind the scenes..."

"And normally the phone's ringing off the wall," Patty added with a smile.

"The guidelines (for Isaiah 58 assistance) are pretty liberal," Paul continued. "They need to be. When people are in real need, the last thing they need is for people to nagging them about every little detail."

While the outreach is anything but loose with its money and services, Paul makes it clear his primary interest is providing help for those in need.

"That's the bottom line ... that's what we're here for," he explained. "And that's one of the reasons we really loved Big Spring from the outset. This is a good community that really does have a

heart." Luckily, Isaiah 58's offices, which are located at 107 Runnels, are only open Mondays and Tuesdays. Otherwise, the Smiths wouldn't have the time they need for their other avenues of service.

In addition to his work with Isaiah 58, Paul is a volunteer at the Howard County Library where he's involved in the Learn to Read program, tutoring adults who want to learn to read and who are trying to learn conversational English.

He also is an AARP volunteer for the 55 Alive safe driver program, as well as the Tax Aide Program that helps local citizens prepare their tax forms each spring.

In addition, he serves as a volunteer for the Emergency Services Chaplains Corps, helping provide services to the personnel of the Big Spring Police Department, Howard County Sheriff's Office, Department of Public Safety, Big Spring Fire Department, Victim Services of Big Spring and the Scenic Mountain Medical Center Emergency Room.

Paul was also a director of the Evening Lions Club of Big Spring for six years, spending a great deal of time working with the community's youth. He and Patty interviewed families with special needs children and sponsored them to the Texas Lions Camp. Quite often the couple would take the children to the camp in Kerrville and pick them up at their own expense.

He is also a Master Mason and Stewart of the Staked Plains Masonic Lodge No. 598 in Big Spring where he was honored Feb. 28 as a recipient of the Golden Trowel Award for his "devoted service to Masonic principles in general, assisting the needy in his community and in the lodge."

While the Smiths admit their activities in retirement aren't what most might envision for their golden years, Paul says he's convinced they are "a calling."

"The really great thing, though, is that you feel like you've accomplished something when you go to bed each night," he said. "That's an absolutely wonderful feeling."

Contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230, or by e-mail at editor@bigspringherald.com.

# Always putting the kids first

## Retiree Estelle Meeks brightens the school day at Moss Elementary

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

To use a baseball metaphor, Estelle Meeks is Moss Elementary's all-purpose utility player.

Need someone to substitute teach? Estelle's your person.

Need help grading papers? Ditto.

Meeks fills in a lot of roles and performs several duties as a five-day-a-week volunteer and the east end school. In addition, she draws a paycheck as an Assisted Reading Instructor at the campus.

"I take about three kids at a time and help them read a story, or anything like that that a teacher needs," Meeks said of her duties.

From 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. each school day, Meeks helps students with reading troubles. After that, however, she becomes Moss' Ms. Fix-It.

"From 11:30 on, I just do whatever they need doing," she said. "If any of the teachers need some papers graded, or they need copies run, I help out."

The Big Spring native has become a welcome fixture at Moss.

"We are very fortunate to have her and the other ladies who help out here,"

said Moss Principal George Martin. "There's nothing she wouldn't do for the kids. She always puts them first."

After retiring from private sector work in 2004, Meeks found life as a retiree to be a bit on the boring side. So, when daughter Tracy Watson, a second-grade teacher at Moss, asked her mother if she'd like to help out at the school, Meeks was more than willing to lend a hand.

"Very few people realize just how much teachers have to do," Meeks said. "So you realize you can help them with the little things ... It was just something that I fell into that I enjoy doing every day."

Meeks said the most rewarding part of her workday is helping children with reading difficulties.

"I really enjoy the one-on-one work with the kids," she said. "At the first of the school year, you can tell that they don't know practically every other word ... Then, when they can read an entire page without you telling them any of the words, that makes you feel good."

Being a teacher's helper, however, is about

Continued on Page 17F



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan  
Estelle Meeks, a volunteer teacher's aide at Moss Elementary, files away paperwork at the school recently.

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# At home in the water

*Cameron Hughey is a record-setting swimmer*

By **JONATHAN HULL**

Herald Sports Editor

Seventy percent of the Earth's surface is covered by water.

For Cameron Hughey, that still might not be enough.

Hughey is a junior swimmer at Big Spring High School and recently advanced to the state meet at the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swimming Center in Austin. While he finished only 12th at the meet, he still made Big Spring High history.

Hughey broke a 16-year old record in the 50-meter freestyle, finishing the race in 22.61 seconds. The time bested Jay McVean's 1992 mark of 22.62 by a hundredth of a second. In doing so, Hughey achieved a personal goal he set for himself at the start of the season.

"In prelims, I kind of messed up and finished with a 22.9, but in finals I ended up breaking the school record," Hughey said. "I barely got it, but that's the reason I even went to state. I just wanted one more race to try and break the record."

Hughey had flirted with the record on several occasions before the state meet, but could never quite eclipse it, despite many attempts. Even the one time he thinks he did break it, the result couldn't be counted.

"My sophomore year, I was told that I beat the record, but the timing wasn't official," Hughey explained. "I had come very close to it all year. I mean I had gotten within .05 of a second of it, but never quite broke it. Finally, I got it at state."

Swimming success at Big Spring High is quickly becoming a family tradition for the Hugheys. Hughey, along with his older brother and sister Ryan and Jessica, started swimming competitively at a young age, when their mother, Kim, signed them up at the YMCA.

"I've been swimming since I was six or seven years old," Hughey said. "My mom signed up my brother and sister and I and I've been doing it a lot since. I didn't swim in junior high, but I started back up my freshman year in high school."

Swimming practice is both strenuous and rigorous and the temptation of giving up during workouts crossed Hughey's mind on more than one occasion. Still, he had an even deeper drive, and the support of those close to him, to push him along toward success.

"Swimming is hard and there were so many times I wanted to call it quits," Hughey admitted. "All my friends were playing football, but I was really good at swimming and I won a lot. So I decided I would just pursue it and keep going until I broke a record."

"Swimming is an every day kind of thing for my family," he continued. "My mom would just take all three of us to swim practice every day. It was what we did. I hated practicing, but my brother and sister would push me.

I just wanted to go to the meets. I'm still like that, but I really looked up to my brother and sister and wanted to be like them, so I keep pushing myself through practice."

And why wouldn't he want to be like his siblings? Both Jessica and Ryan are also record holders at Big Spring. That and the thrill of victory also contribute to Hughey sticking out his underwater training.

"I loved winning," Hughey said. "And I wanted to break a record. It helped that my brother

and sister had done it. I had a few friends on the team as well. Just a lot of people see me as a swimmer."

Continued on Page 18F



Courtesy photo  
**Big Spring High School junior swimmer Cameron Hughey (right) poses with senior teammate Kelly Sage. Hughey advanced to the 2008 Class 4A state swim meet in Austin.**

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Continued from Page 16F

as far as Meeks wants to go in the education field.

"I couldn't be a teacher. I know that," she said. "They have too much responsibility. When I work with the kids, I can have fun with them without thinking, 'Oh, no. If I don't teach them everything they need to know, they'll be in trouble — and I'll be in trouble.'"

Meeks said she will likely continue helping at the school until "they say they're tired of me."

"Everybody up here is just so good-hearted and dedicated," she said. "If I can do anything to help them out, that's fine with me."

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Continued from Page 17F

mer, so I just kept pursuing it."

Cameron, the son of Kim and Jeff Hughey, also mentioned that his parents' support contributed heavily to his success.

"My parents are incredibly supportive of me," Hughey said. "They've supported every decision I've ever made and have never pushed me to do something I didn't want to. A lot of parents get too involved and interfere in their kids' athletic careers, but mine have always left it up to me whether I wanted to be good at it or to be bad. That made me mature a lot faster, but they would support me, no matter what decision I made."

Every artist needs motivation and with the 50-meter freestyle being Hughey's masterpiece, he easily found his muse in the form of Pecos' Matthew Flores. Flores was Hughey's top opponent for the 2007-08 district title and thoughts of losing to the Pecos Eagle drove Hughey to practice harder.

"My main motivation is my competition," Hughey explained. "Every morning I would wake up to a picture of my main competition just to remind myself how much I want to beat him everyday. Each day when I'm practicing, all I thought about was that person. I didn't think of my coach or my parents or my friends. I thought about that one person and how much I wanted to be better than him. I was always thinking that he's doing a lot of work to beat me, so I've got to do this much more

to stay ahead of him."

Some of the training regimens Hughey uses would seem uncommon to the general public. However, Hughey makes the odd seem even odder.

Swimmers commonly train in clothing in order to add weight and resistance in the water. Hughey figures if he's going to training in clothing, then he might as well dress nicely. He'll often buy second-hand tuxedos at the Chalet to swim in.

Other means of training include swimming with paddles or tennis balls. Both items serve as buoys on his hands and hinder his stroke, making him work harder for movement. Hughey also lifts weights, but doesn't just concentrate on muscles that would improve his performance. He also

works on his appearance.

"I work out the swimming muscles and glory muscles," Hughey said. "Face it. If I'm going to be out there in a speedo, then I need to be looking good."

Hughey has decided to add to his athletic resume in his senior season and, in the process, feels he'll also improve his conditioning for swimming.

"I want to play football my senior year," Hughey said. "I was pretty good in junior high and I know that was only junior high, but I think I can contribute. After football, then I'll go back to swimming, compete at district and try to make state again. I think I'll be stronger because I have to get bigger to play football, so that should help me be better next year. I just

don't want to feel like I missed out on anything my senior year.

"I'm a sprinter in the pool and in order to do that you have to have a very strong upper body because it's only a 20-second race," he continued. "The workouts are pretty demanding in football. If I keep lifting weights like I'm doing now, plus working on my speed and my legs, then I'll be better next year in swimming."

Just because he owns one record at Big Spring doesn't mean his lowering his standards for his senior year. If anything, Hughey is setting even loftier goals for his final year in high school.

"In football, I want to start as a linebacker. If I can do that, then I'll be happy there," Hughey said. "In swimming, I

want to set two more records. I need to keep working on my stroke technique and getting faster. I want to return to state, too. If I'm not in the top five at state, then I'll be very unsatisfied."

Hughey has no intentions of pursuing competitive swimming after high school, but plans on using his skills in the water for an even more important cause.

The Coast Guard appeals heavily to the Big Spring junior, who plans on attending either Texas A&M or Texas State University. He's already checked into the Coast Guard and has received an offer to have his third and fourth years of college paid for as well as a job opportunity with the military branch.

"I've heard from a lot of

people that the Coast Guard is a lot of fun," Hughey said. "I've always wanted to do something in the military and I'm not going to lie, I kind of want to jump out of the helicopters into the water, too. I've already got a lot of swimming experience. I'm pretty dedicated to going to the Coast Guard right now. There's not much that can change my mind. I plan on making it a career and someday retiring from it. I can't see myself ever having a desk job. I want to stay active. I might become a firefighter after the Coast Guard. I just want to spend the rest of my life in or around the water."

*Jonathan Hull can be contacted at 263-7331 ext. 237.*



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Howard County Volunteer Firefighters who received the county's Medal of Valor for their efforts in battling the Feb. 18 fires at the Alon USA Refinery are, first row, left to right: Eric Barber, Jerry Crawford, Mitchell Hooper and Ryan Kennedy; second row, from left, Kem Hooper, Josh Sullivan, Justin Jernigan, Paul Starr, Codee Barraza and Zach Johnson. Howard County Judge Mark Barr lauded the group's courage during that day, saying, "They are the unsung heroes of Howard County ... these guys are volunteers, but they're professional in every way. They knew what they were doing."

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# A journey into Hell

The men who fought the Feb. 18 fires following the explosion at the Alon USA Big Spring Refinery

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Imagine you were dropped into the middle of a child's worst nightmare of Hell.

Imagine you and your colleagues were surrounded by fire, smoke, twisted metal and thou-

sands of gallons of highly flammable liquid.

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When the Alon USA Refinery was ripped by explosions on the morning of Feb. 18, the nightmare became a frightening reality for a group of Howard County Vol-

Continued on 3G

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Continued from Page 2G

lunteer firefighters. The 11 men, headed by Chief Tommy Sullivan, were tasked with what was arguably the most important mission that morning — to put out fires threatening the “cat cracker” unit, the most vital — and volatile — facility at the refinery.

In the weeks following the refinery fire, the word “miracle” has been tossed around a lot to explain how no one was killed or seriously injured in the incident and how a fire that was expected to burn for days was subdued in hours.

While divine intervention can't be discounted, that happy outcome can also be attributed to a lot of hard work by emergency responders — including 11 men who drove into Hell and lived to tell the tale.

**'We may not walk away from this one'**

Tommy Sullivan became a firefighter after literally becoming an object lesson for fire safety.

As a youth in 1965, Sullivan was playing with matches at his father's service station when he accidentally caught a bucket of gasoline on fire.

The results were almost fatal.

“I suffered third-degree burns over most of one leg and my chest,” Sullivan said. “They said I died three times on the operating table ... and I spent most of the next year in a burn hospital.”

The harrowing incident served to inspire Sullivan to stop playing with fire and start fighting it instead.

In 1984, he joined the HCVFD, eventually becoming chief of the department in 1993.

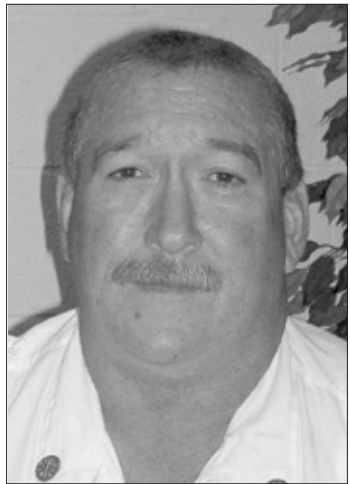
Sullivan concedes that firefighting has its inherent dangers, but is ultimately rewarding.

“I just like helping people,” he said. “When you're a firefighter, you're doing things other people couldn't fathom doing. I couldn't imagine being a police officer — I don't like handling guns — but if the world is on fire, I'm going in after it.”

On the morning of the refinery explosion, Sullivan was at home with his wife and son — also HCVFD members.

“When I heard the explosion, I knew immediately it was the refinery,” he said. “I grabbed my stuff and called on the radio to the dispatcher. I learned that it was a Level 3 fire — that meant they had to evacuate everybody — so I knew it was bad and that I'd need everybody.”

Units arrived on scene within minutes and Sullivan was greeted with



Chief Tommy Sullivan

a sight he'll never forget. “It looked like Hell,” he said. “There were flames reaching 600 to 700 feet in the air and explosions going off all around us.”

“For the first time in my life, I thought that this may be the one we don't walk away from,” Sullivan added. “So, when we were at the front gate, I gave my guys the option on whether they wanted to go in with me.”

To a man, Sullivan's

crew of 10 firefighters all said, “Yes.”

**'It was like being at the gates of Hell'**

Mitchell Hooper followed in this father's footsteps in becoming a firefighter and has battled all manner of blazes in his four years with the HCVFD.

Not that any of that prepared him for the Alon conflagration.

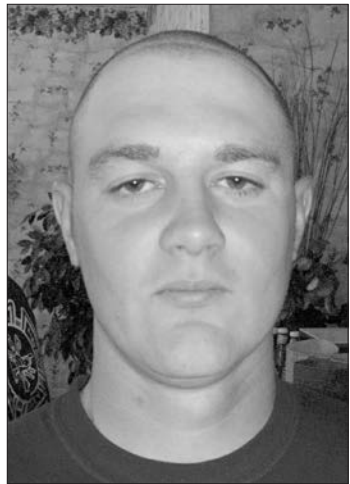
“It was, by far, the worst fire I've ever fought,” he said simply.

Hooper, 21, was driving to his job at Trinity Memorial Park when he heard the first explosion.

“I knew immediately what it was,” he said. “So I went to our station in the Tubbs Addition and then headed to the refinery.”

On the drive in, he admitted to suffering from a case of nerves.

“I was scared; the adrenaline was really pump-



Mitchell Hooper

ing,” he said. “Mostly, I was wondering how many people were injured.”

His apprehension only grew as he arrived at the refinery.

“It was like being at the gates of Hell,” he said. “Stuff was exploding everywhere.”

Despite his fear, he gave no thought of taking up Sullivan on his offer to “sit this one out.”

Continued on Page 4G

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Continued from Page 3G

"I was scared, but once we started fighting the fire, I was OK," he said. "This is what we trained to do."

**'Stuff was blowing up all around us'**

Codee Barraza, 21, points to his friend Mitchell Hooper when asked why he became a firefighter.

"Mitchell talked me into it," Barraza said with a smile.

Since joining the HCVFD, however, he has found firefighting to his liking.

"I think it's pretty cool when people thank you



Codee Barraza

for what you've done," he said. "It's nice when they are complimentary and give you a handshake or a pat on the back."

To Barraza, the explo-

sion and fire at the refinery took on a deeper meaning — he works as a security guard at the facility.

"I was sleeping when the first explosion occurred," he said. "I didn't hear the explosion, but somehow I heard Tommy calling us on the radio ... so I just high-tailed it out of there."

Upon arriving at the refinery, Barraza recalled a recent tragic chapter in U.S. history.

"It was scary; there was stuff blowing up all around us," he said. "The heat was intense and the rubble reminded me of

Continued on Page 7G



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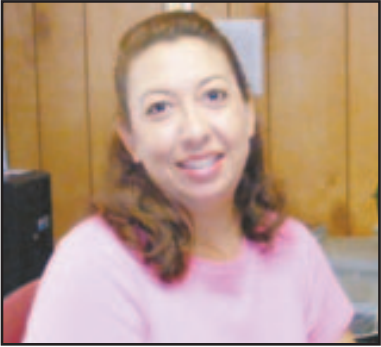
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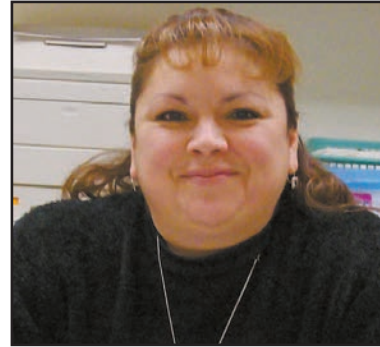
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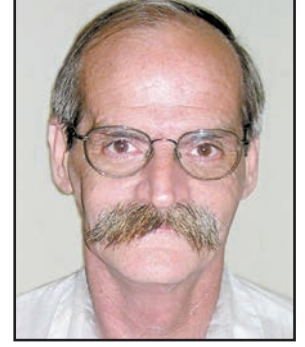
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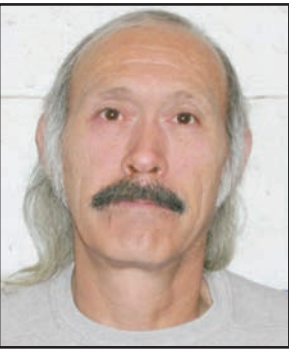
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"They talked to me and

got me interested in it," he said. "So here I am." On Feb. 18, Jernigan

was enjoying a day off from his job as a correctional officer with Cornell

Corrections, a day off that was abruptly cut short. "I was asleep when the

first explosion occurred and it woke me up," he said. "At first, I didn't know what was going on. My wife walked in and asked me, 'Are you going in? Because if you are, you need to take our son to his grandparents' house.'"

"I looked at her and asked, 'Where am I going?'"

Upon learning of the refinery explosion, Jernigan quickly dressed and headed toward the fire.

"I was awestruck," he said in describing the scene. "There's no words to explain it. I guess it

was a mix between nervousness and shock. I'm a born-again Christian and I definitely said a prayer before going in there."

It was that faith that sustained him after hearing Sullivan's offer to stay out of the firefight.


"I was there to stay," he said. "I looked at Tommy and said, 'I trust you.'"

Another prayer and a quick thought about his family later, Jernigan passed through the front gate.

Continued on Page 12G



Smoke billows from fires that erupted at the Alon USA Big Spring Refinery Feb. 18. Despite extensive damage to the facility, no serious injuries were reported.



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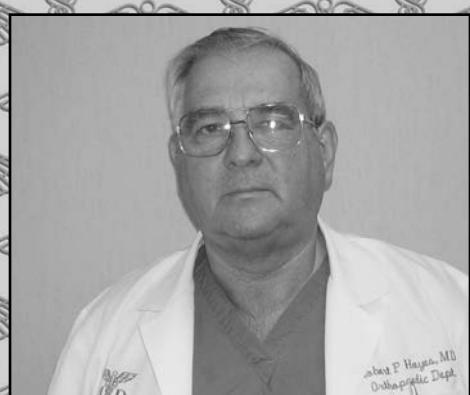
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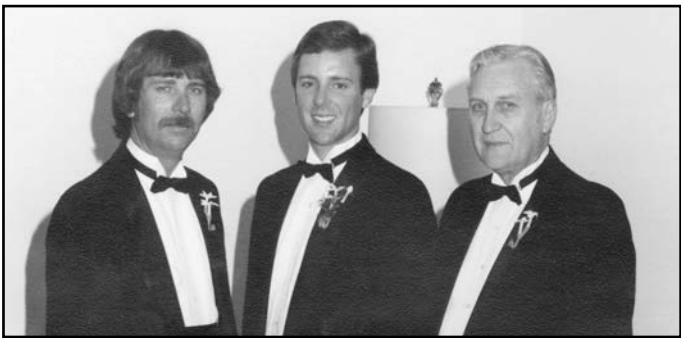
Dr. Loran Warren

**It has truly been a blessing from the Lord to see thousands upon thousands of people helped through chiropractic.** Dr. Warren practiced out of a small 800 sq.ft. office that his uncles built in 1949. After his receptionist/assistant retired, he worked many years by himself. Patients were often amazed at how many patients he could treat without any help. Patients would "line up as the clinic opened and at times, would have to wait several hours to be treated. People would drive from all over West Texas and Eastern New Mexico to see him in hopes that he could help them with their ailment. People that knew him would all say the same thing ... **"He was the kindest, most loving man they ever knew ... He had gentle hands ... He was a listener and would never get in a hurry with his patients."**



Our Early Beginnings

Dr. Loran Warren got sick in 1988 just as his youngest son, J.Wray (or Jay) was finishing up chiropractic college in Houston. Jay moved back home with his wife, Beverly, to take care of his parents and continue the practice that his father had worked so hard to build for 38 years. In 1991, Dr. Jay Warren built the current 9000 sq. ft. chiropractic clinic and rehabilitation center on the same site as the original clinic. The old clinic was moved off of the location as soon as the new facility was completed. The new clinic was the culmination of many years of planning by father and son. That same year, Dr. Jay Warren began working on his post graduate specialties in rehabilitation and nutrition. In 1993, he opened Big Spring Rehabilitation. **Dr. Jay Warren has been in practice 20 years maintaining the same integrity and passion for chiropractic that his father instilled in him over decades in practice.**



Dr. Loran Warren And His Sons

Warren Chiropractic has truly been a **multi-generation family affair.** Dr. Jay's wife, Beverly, has been intimately involved after retiring from teaching in 1990. She was the rehab director and office manager until 1998. Dr. Jay's brother, Loran, has been a consultant for the business since Dr. Jay took over in 1988 and currently oversees the logistics of the clinic. **Dr. Jay's sons, Jay Jay and John John, seem to be following in their dad's footsteps.** Jay Jay, age 7, wants to be a chiropractor, pediatrician, engineer, architect, construction company owner and have a big stick and kill snakes. John John, age 5, has shown a keen interest in chiropractic at a very young age but cannot decide between chiropractic and "owning the largest hotel in the world." Our latest family addition is Callie, Dr. Jay's niece. She currently fills the post as office manager and receptionist.

**The final family connection is our incredible caring and compassionate staff** who have truly become part of the Warren family. Marcie Lykken who has been with the clinic for 20 years, Belem Cervantes who has been at the clinic for 16 years, Amy Christian who has been with the clinic for 12 years, Joan Meyer who has been in health care in Big Spring for 20 years and at Warren Chiropractic for 2 years and Lucie Atkinson and Dr. Peter Warner who are coming up on their one year anniversary.

### Warren Chiropractic Today



### Our Staff



Top Row: Joan Meyer, Belem Cervantes, Lucie Atkinson, Callie Warren, Marcie Lykken, Amy Christian, Beverly Warren.  
Bottom Row: Dr. Peter Warner, Dr. Jay Warren

## What Others Say About Warren Chiropractic

*I started coming to Warren Chiropractic in 1960. Dr. Loran Warren was the kindest, most gentle man I ever knew. When Dr. Jay took over I told him you have hands just like your daddy, warm and tender to the touch. I have arthritis. I have tried everything and all the medicine upsets my stomach. Chiropractic is what gets me moving again. Dr. Jay can certainly give me relief when I can't get it any other way!*

**Emma Jean Hall**  
Patients for 48 years

*I will always come to Warren Chiropractic Center. The staff is so nice and attentive. My job requires lifting, and bending. Chiropractic keeps me feeling GREAT! I know that continuous care helps keep the pain away. I can now go a 12 hour day without pain patches!*

**Marie Pipes**

**Gary & Patricia (Big Spring, TX):** "Our whole family goes to Warren Chiropractic. But what we want to remind everyone is that Chiropractic is for the WHOLE family (infants included). Our son began going to Warren when he was 8 weeks old. He was having problems with GERD (or Reflux as some know it). Within 8 months he was off of two medications that he was taking for this. Now he's 2 1/2 and continues to go. Warren also helps with his allergies with the ALL Natural Medications. Thanks Warren Chiropractic!"

**Rene Kennedy (Odessa, TX):** "I am 84 years old and live in Odessa. I started coming to Warren Chiropractic Center in 1955. My whole family has come to Warren Chiropractic Center for many years. I first started coming to see Dr. Loran Warren, and I remember Dr. Jay Warren when he was just a little boy. Dr. Jay is extremely thorough and compassionate and he makes me feel better! Anytime anything happens, I drive over from Odessa to see Dr. Warren even though it makes my kids nervous for me to drive. I try to drive over twice a month. It helps me with my severe back, hip, and neck pain and helps me to walk. I had a stroke, and Dr. Warren helped me walk again. My brother lived in Odessa and when he got down, he moved to Big Spring so he would be closer to Dr. Warren and the V.A. Hospital. I would not have been able to work at the Odessa Schools and at the flea market into my eighties if it had not been for Dr. Warren and and chiropractic. Dr. Jay keeps me going! I'd rather go to someone who knows me and my whole family. Dr. Jay Warren is so kind and that means a whole lot to all of us!"

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Continued from Page 9G



Paul Starr

**'I loved those shiny red trucks'**

HCVFD members come from all walks of life. Paul Starr is the group's resident Yankee.

The Pennsylvania native moved to Big Spring shortly after meeting his wife, Katherine, on the Internet. Shortly afterward, he joined the volunteer firefighters.

"I got into firefighting as a small child," he said. "For some reason, I loved those shiny red trucks and the flashing lights. I'd chase them down the street every chance I got ... Basically, I'm just fulfilling a childhood dream and doing what a lot of people can't do and what a lot of people don't want to do."

Starr, a truck driver for M&M Construction, was at home when the first explosion occurred Feb. 18.

"It sounded like a truck was coming through the house," he said. "I walked to the front door and looked out and all I saw was black smoke coming from the refinery. So I grabbed my radio, kissed

my wife good-bye and headed to the station."

En route to the refinery, Starr noticed the column of smoke getting bigger and bigger.

"I was feeling very apprehensive right about then," he conceded.

But that feeling was soon replaced by a determination to get the job done.

"I remember someone asked, 'What if the cat cracker blows?'" he said. "Tommy said, 'In that case, you'll never feel a thing.' At that point, we started thinking, 'Well, then, why worry about it?' We had a job to do and we went and did it."



Eric Barber

**'I thought I had a blowout'**

Eric Barber might be described as a firefighting junkie. Not only is he a member of the HCVFD, but he also fights fire professionally as a member of the Big Spring Fire Department.

Considering his firefighting "double dip," however, Barber admits to not giving a lot of thought to his career.

"I just joined with a



Photo courtesy of Bob Price

bunch of buddies about four years ago," he said. "It seemed like a really good idea."

The good idea panned out, he said.

"I'll just be sitting at the gas pump or something like that, and someone will notice my uniform and come up and thank me for the job I'm doing," he said. "That's pretty great."

On the morning of the refinery fire, Barber was talking to his father on the phone while driving on FM 821.

"At first, I thought I had a blowout," he said.

"Then I scanned to my left and saw this big cloud. I knew right then what it was. So I stepped on the gas, got to the station, hopped on the fire engine and went in.

"When I got up close to the fire, I was scared," he admitted, "but I also knew we had a job to get done ... Just pulling into the gates and seeing all those flames, the only thing I thought about was, 'How many people died?'"

**'How many of my co-workers are dead?'**

Zach Johnson came by firefighting naturally.

"It runs in the family," he said. "I'm a sixth-generation firefighter, so I guess you could say it's in my blood."

The refinery fire struck Johnson especially hard — he's an operator at the facility, as well as a member of Alon's "Red Hats"

Continued on Page 13G

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Continued from Page 12G



Zach Johnson

emergency response team.

"I was on my way to work when the first explosion occurred," he said. "It almost blew my truck off the road. I think my reaction was just like

everyone else who works there: How many of my co-workers were dead?"

Pulling up to the scene, Johnson was shocked by what he saw.

"I don't think I've ever been that scared of fire before," he said. "But working at the refinery, knowing what's in that refinery and knowing the potential hazards, I knew something like this could happen ... It felt like David and Goliath — and I was David."

As a Red Hat, Johnson actually had a head start on fighting the blaze before his HCVFD colleagues joined the fray.

"I was asked to help coordinate between the volunteers and Alon's Emergency Response Team. When I first got there, it was kind of chaotic. It basically was a

matter of deciding where to start."



Kem Hooper

**'It was kind of overwhelming'**

Kem Hooper is a 13-year veteran with the HCVFD and during that time has fought innumerable fires under almost every condi-

tion. Then, there was the refinery fire.

"Just from the devastation of that blast, it was kind of overwhelming," Hooper said.

Hooper was convinced by his father-in-law — who was a volunteer firefighter — to join the group.

"That's how I got into it," he said. "But I enjoy it. I just enjoy helping people in the community and saving their property."

Hooper was preparing to go to work at Trinity Memorial Park on the morning of Feb. 18 when the first explosion occurred.

"I was just bringing the coffee cup up to my lips when I heard it and felt it," he said. "My first thought was that they

were blasting over at the caliche pit near my house ... and then I pulled the curtain back and saw the plume of smoke coming up from the refinery."

Hooper immediately reported for duty.

"I came from South Highway 87, and I could see the fire," he said. "I had totally forgotten it was a holiday, so my first thought was about the refinery employees."

Like his colleagues, Hooper felt trepidation.

"It was pretty intense," he admitted. "But at that point, you just have to go into firefighting mode and do what you have to do to get the job done."

**'This was the real thing'**

Being a volunteer firefighter is a family affair



Josh Sullivan

for Josh Sullivan — after all, his dad is the chief.

"I've been around firefighters so long, I really don't remember when it was I joined the volunteers," said Sullivan, 21. "I've grown up around it my whole life."

Continued on Page 14G

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⊕ continued from Page 13G

Sullivan was at home early on Feb. 18 getting ready to start his day when the house shook.

"I felt the explosion; it woke my wife and son up," he said. "I ran outside and saw the smoke. That's when I realized this wasn't any drill — this was the real thing."

After arriving at the refinery, Sullivan's first thoughts were of the potential victims.

"It never crossed my mind that it was a holiday," he said. "I was thinking, 'How many, and how bad?'"

Like his colleagues, he pushed his private thoughts aside as the crew entered the refinery.

"With the training we do, it's almost second nature in a way," he said.

"You plan for the worst and hope for the best. There was always fear — there were explosions going off all around us — but you have to set the fear aside and realize it's not just you in this situation, but the rest of the crew, as well."

**Fighting fire with foam**

The crew's first — and most important — task was to safeguard the cat cracker.

"That was the most critical point," Chief Sullivan said. "So, the first thing we did was bring in the foam truck ... that was built especially for this situation."

Three units — Pumper 10, CAFS (Compressed Air Foam System) 50, and CAFS 55 — were brought

in during the initial phase of the fight.

Sullivan's crew was surrounded by fire in three dimensions — on each side and from above — when they got down to work.

"The first thing we used was the 'deck gun' on Pumper 10 and shot foam on a fire on the cat cracker that was about 170 feet up," he said.

That fire was extinguished fairly quickly, but the crew was soon faced with an even more pressing problem — gasoline was leaking from ruptured lines, feeding a fire underneath the cat cracker.

The crew's task there was two-fold: Beat back the fire; and find some way to stop the flow of gasoline that was fueling the blaze.

"We were able to bring the intensity of the fire down some and pushed it back to the point we could see some valves," Sullivan said. "We were able to get a guy up to those valves and shut them off, which eventually starved the fire in that section."

"That secured the cat cracker," Sullivan said. "Then we turned our attention to the tank farm."

**Angel's halos and devil's horns**

While Sullivan's crew was busy with their particular problems, more

were cropping up elsewhere. Secondary explosions from ruptured lines and storage tanks began going off intermittently.

One explosion in particular, which occurred very close to the crew, got everyone's attention, to say the least.

"When we got out beside the cat cracker, there was just this big ball of fire coming out of one of the tanks," Jernigan said. "I remember thinking, 'Holy crap!'"

"There was one really loud explosion that everyone noticed," Starr said. "We looked at each other — and I know I was look-

ing to see if anyone had halos or devil's horns sticking up from their head. I didn't see any, so we went back to work."

"When those explosions went off, everyone would drop and see what was happening next," Kennedy said. "I think everyone was scared, but we didn't let the fear get to us. We just pushed forward."

**'We all walked out the gate'**

For several more hours, the crew battled fires — and decreased water pres-

Continued on Page 16G

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Continued from Page 14G

sure from the lines — as they fought to keep the fire from ravaging the refinery's tank farm alongside units from Big Spring and Snyder.

"We entered the refinery at 8:30 a.m. and the last truck came out at about 6:15 p.m.," Chief Sullivan said. "After that, we stood by the rest of the night to make sure the fires didn't reignite. We finally left the scene

about 8 a.m. the next day."

The group's actions that day earned them accolades from several quarters. The biggest honor came from the Howard County Commissioners Court, which bestowed the Medal of Valor on each of the 11 men who drove through Alon's front gate that fateful morning.

Deservedly so, crew members are proud of the part they played in pre-

venting a disaster from turning into a tragedy.

"There's a saying: 'You can't pay me to do this. I volunteered,'" Chief Sullivan said. "I'm most proud of the teamwork that was on display. Although everyone had the fear of death, everyone acted as a team and performed their tasks flawlessly."

"They figured it would take us about two or three days to get the last fire out," Starr said. "It took us, what, eight or nine hours? That's what I'm most proud of."

Like his father, Josh Sullivan was proudest of the teamwork that was displayed during the day.

"I'm most proud of all the entities working

together as they did," he said. "No one complained, no one played favorites. Everybody worked together."

Johnson's source of pride was even more direct.

"All of us out there fighting that fire walked out the gate," he said. "That stuck more in my mind than anything else,

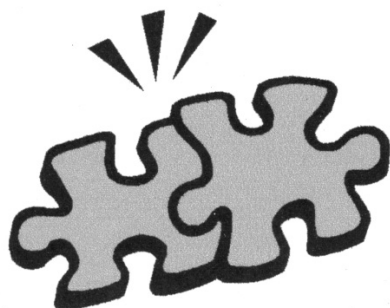
that we were all able to go home."

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

An article on Assistant Chief Jerry Crawford begins on Page 2D of this Profile edition.

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## Roofs by Nicholas wants you to save money



When was the last time you replaced or repaired your roof? Was it after last year's hailstorm? Or was it after one of our frequent windstorms when you picked up shingles from your yard?

Roofs by Nicholas wants you to know that a new metal roof can go a long way toward saving you money and increasing the safety and property value of your home.

"You'll never need another roof," says owner Dan Nicholas.

Metal roofs come in a wide range of styles and colors. Stone-coated metal roofing is available that looks like wood shakes, shingles or Mediterranean tile to complement your brick or stucco home.

These roofs defy winds up to 120 mph as well as golf-ball sized hail, and they are class "A" fire resistant. Because of their durability, many insurance companies offer homeowners' insurance discounts of up to 35 percent on these impact-resistant roofs. "Check with your insurance agent for details," Dan suggests.

Today's metal roofing is unlike that of yesteryear. It is lightweight, strong, rust-resistant and attractive. And it is an excellent insulator - it won't heat up your home - in fact, the opposite is true.

"When a metal roof is properly vented, air moves between the interlocking steel panel and the underlying deck," Dan says. "Heated air disperses through the ridge line while cooler air is drawn through eave vents."

While a metal roof is gaining popularity, Roofs by Nicholas still offers shingles of all types - composition shingles, cedar shingles and wood shakes - anything residents need to replace or repair their roofs. And if you don't know which type of roofing would be best for your home, the company offers knowledgeable suggestions and solutions.

Now in its 20th year of roofing, Roofs by Nicholas has developed the reputation with Permian Basin residents as the roofing company they can rely on for top-quality roof replacement and repair. Their crews have an impeccable reputation for high-quality craftsmanship throughout the Permian Basin.

If you're wondering how long it will take to replace your roof, replacement of composition roofs can usually be accomplished in one to two days, depending on weather conditions and the size and steepness of the roof. And the job doesn't end once the roof is covered. Roofs by Nicholas cleans up any debris and finishes by using a magnetic roller to make sure any stray nails are picked up.

Roofs by Nicholas is located at 6600 W. Highway 80, Midland. For more information, call (432) 520-7348 or (800) 266-7348. You can visit their website at [www.roofsbynicholas.com](http://www.roofsbynicholas.com)

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith has been in law enforcement for 30 years. He celebrated the milestone last October.

# Upholding the law

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Lonnie Smith and the Big Spring Police Department have seen a lot of changes in the last 30 years. About the only constant at BSPD during that time, however, has been Smith.

Smith, who has moved up the ranks from patrol officer to chief at BSPD

during his career, was the guest of honor at a reception last October to mark his 30th year in law enforcement.

The Big Spring native said so much has changed in law enforcement — particularly in the areas of technology — in the last three decades, but some things have stayed the same.

“There’s lots of things I’m proud of as chief administrator of this department,” Smith said. “You’re only as good as the people around you, and we’ve had some outstanding people here over the years.”

Smith followed in the footsteps of his older brother, Wayne Tollett, in becoming a police officer

and was hired by BSPD on Oct. 23, 1977, to work the night shift as a patrol officer.

“I think we had five portable radios in the entire department back then,” he said, contrast

Continued on 18G

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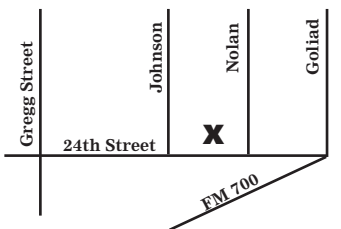
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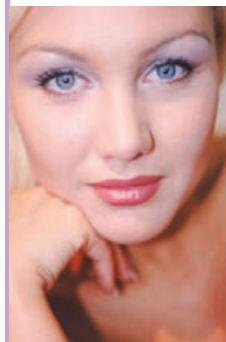
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Continued from Page 17G

ing the environment to today, where every officer is equipped with portable communication. "As for patrol cars, you had to wait until the afternoon shift officer was finished before you got one."

During his tenure, he has done a little bit of everything at the department, from patrol officer to detective to court officer to supervisor of both patrol and detective divisions. His advancement also has been steady — he was named a patrol sergeant after four years and a lieutenant a year later.

Eventually, Smith was promoted to captain, a rank he held until he was named to replace the late Jerry Edwards as chief in 1997.

As head of the department, he has overseen upgrades in technology —

for example, each officer carries a laptop computer with him while on patrol — but his biggest challenge has been maintaining personnel levels.

"The biggest change in 30 years is that fewer people are getting into law enforcement," Smith said. "This is not just a problem for Big Spring, but nation-wide, also."

Recruitment problems mean that officer retention becomes a priority.

"All you can do is try to ensure that the work environment for officers is as good as you can make it," Smith said. "You have to care for them, both professionally and personally. If you take care of them, they will provide a very beneficial service to the community."

Still, Smith admits a career in law enforcement can be challenging.

"Some of the things

you'll see will break your heart," he said. "People tend to forget that police officers are human and have emotions — we're not made of stone — and there are things we encounter that affect us, as well."

It's a career, however, that Smith has loved — and will continue to love, for the foreseeable future.

"As far as the time frame goes, I don't know when I'll retire," he said. "I thought about some things I'd like to do after I retire, but I enjoy my work ... I do know I don't want to work for any other police department than Big Spring. When I end my



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan  
Mayor Russ McEwen and Police Chief Lonnie Smith look over some historic photographs at the Big Spring Police Station.

career, I'll end it with the BSPD."

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

## City of Big Spring



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