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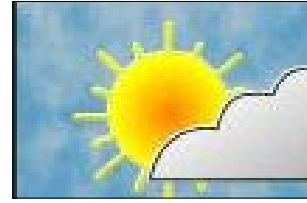
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BIG SPRING

HERALD

SUNDAY

APRIL 6, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 108

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Bloom: Runoff 'on and off' affair

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Jimmie Long or Winston Paschal Odom?

That's the question area residents voting in the Republican party primary runoff election will have to answer, as the two political hopefuls go head to head for their party's nomination and a place on the November ballot for the Precinct 3 seat on the Howard County Commissioners Court.



ODOM



LONG

Saundra Bloom, county elections administrator, said early voting — which ended Friday

— was a "on and off" affair, with voter traffic picking up toward the end of the early voting period.

"It was sort of on and off during early voting," said Bloom. "We had 451 people vote in this race in the March 4 election, so we're hoping to get around 450 ballots by the time the runoff is over Tuesday."

During the March 4 political party primaries, neither Long or Odom was able to garner the required 50 percent of the vote

to avoid the runoff election. Long finished ahead of the pack for the party's nomination with 310 ballots — 39.64 percent of the vote — while Odom finished the night with 197 ballots, accounting for 25.19 percent of the vote.

Bloom said Tuesday's runoff election will take place at First Baptist Church — located on FM 700, across from the VA Medical Center — from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

"Both the Republican and

Democrat runoffs will be held at First Baptist Church," said Bloom. "Voters need to go in the doors located on the north side of the church. Be sure to bring your voter certificate (card) with you."

Bloom said voters planning to cast their ballots in the runoff elections must vote with the same party they voted with in March.

"If they voted in the See **RUNOFF**, Page 3A

Powwow gets into full swing

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Mix a dance contest, senior prom and a celebration of cultural heritage and you start to get an idea of the attraction of a powwow.

The annual Big Spring Powwow kicked off Saturday morning in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum and before all is said and done, thousands of people are expected to attend and participate in the event.

Three sessions — two Saturday and one Sunday — are scheduled. Admission to the event is \$5 and children under 12 are free.

The first session began at noon Saturday with the traditional grand entry, featuring many participants dressed in their best Native American regalia.

A new feature this year is that dancers will compete for prizes, officials said.

Officials say you don't have to be of Native American heritage to appreciate a powwow.

"Most people consider powwow a religious ceremony, but it's not," said Robert Downing, president of the powwow organizing committee. "It's a social gathering. There are ceremonial aspects to it, but it's really more just about getting together and having a good time."

"It's like a Saturday sock hop, except everybody's dressed different," he added.

Downing also compared the event to a senior prom.

"It's like a fancy dance with everybody dressed in their finest," he said. "It's a lot of fun. I like participating and being part of that atmosphere."

Sunday's events begin with a special Christian worship service at 9:30, followed by gourd dancing and the grand entry.

Powwow will conclude this year's run around 5 p.m. Sunday, officials said.

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



David Townsend, left, looks over many of the jewelry items being sold by Flo Broff of RAD Designs of Amarillo at the Fourth Annual Big Spring Powwow, which runs through today in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

County to look at next budget

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Howard County Commissioners have decided it is never too early to talk about next year's budget.

Commissioners will hold their second preliminary budget workshop in as many weeks when they hold a special meeting at 1:30 p.m. Monday in the county courthouse.

County Judge Mark Barr said commissioners are getting a head start on the budgetary process in order to avoid any unpleasant surprises such as what happened in 2007, when unexpected costs arising from the jail's closure forced extreme belt-tightening measures.

While nothing that drastic is expected this year, commissioners see no harm in getting a jump on the process.

"I don't see much changing in the budget next fiscal year, unless we see some resolution to the Alon (tax dispute) situation ... and I'm not counting on that," Barr said. "Right now, it's pretty much what we

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Alon appreciation luncheon Monday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

While the Feb. 18 explosion that rocked the Alon USA Big Spring Refinery may have begun to fade from many local residents' minds, officials with the refinery want to make sure their appreciation for those who gave a helping hand doesn't.

The Big Spring Refinery will host a luncheon Monday to offer its appreciation and recognition of the emergency responders that helped turn what could have been a terrible tragedy into what

is now being referred to within the community as a miracle.

"We felt the need to recognize the people who responded to the Feb. 18 incident," said Verna Davis, executive assistant to David Foster, vice president of refining for Alon USA. "We want to show our appreciation for these men and women. There's such a long list of responders that were there from the beginning of the incident until well after dark that night. We wanted to get as many of them together as could attend and show our appreciation."

Davis said several state and local offi-

cial are expected to make presentations during the luncheon, which is expected to get under way with a sandwich buffet at 11:15 a.m. at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

"Congressman Randy Neugebauer will be attending, and he's expected to recognize the responders who were there," said Davis. "State Sen. Kel Seliger and State Rep. Joe Heflin are also expected to speak. Alon USA Executive Chairman David Wiessman, President and CEO Jeff Morris and Mr.

See **ALON**, Page 3A



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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

Page 1B
Sunday, April 6, 2008

IN BRIEF

Bulldogs third after first round of district golf tourney

The Coahoma Bulldogs boys golf team currently sits in third place after the first day of the District 5-2A tournament played at the Tin Cup Golf Club in Merkel Wednesday. Coahoma is just 14 strokes behind second place Anson and 24 away from tourney leader Merkel.

Mikey Mendoza and Jake Owens are pacing the Bulldogs, shooting an 80 and an 81, respectively, in the opening round. Matthew Taylor shot an 88, Jared Ringener an 89 and Dusty Salmon a 110.

Regan Reid and Kevin Kirkland are playing as individuals and shot a 112 and 119, respectively.

Hayli McCullough is the lone Bulldogette participating in the tournament. She shot a 119 on the first day.

Sands, Grady atop leaderboard in district golf tourney

Grady's girls golf team has a commanding lead after the opening round of the District 6-A golf tournament held at the Big Spring Country Club's golf course Thursday. Meanwhile, on the boys' side, Sands holds a 29-stroke lead over Grady.

Three of Grady's golfers are ranked in the top six with Kandace Schuelke leading the team with a 105, with is 12 strokes behind medalist leader Nichole Taylor of New Home. Lauren Robinson shot a 107, good enough for third in the medalist standings. Kenzie Madison finished with a 117, Kaitlyn Blocker a 129 and Maegan Blocker a 130.

The Lady Wildcats shot a 459 as a team, giving them a 54-stroke lead over their closest competition.

In the boys' division, Grady's Justin Tubb leads the field by 10 strokes with an opening day best 77. However, Sands has three golfers in the top five, paced by Mason Parker's 92. Logan Gaskins shot a 94 and Seth Fry a 96. Sands' 382 total was rounded out by a 100 from Landon Parker and a 120 from William Carson.

Grady's first day 411 was capped off by Josh Cloyd's 104, Lane Shands' 105, Zane Robinson's 125 and Casey Shands' 126.

Lady Bearkats win District 9-A track and field meet

Garden City's Lady Bearkats won the District 9-A track and field meet Wednesday in Water Valley and advanced nine individuals to the area meet.

The boys team finished third also advancing them to area with six individuals qualifying for the next level of competition.

See BRIEFS, Page 2B

Big Spring loses heartbreaker, 5-4

Herald Staff Report

LUBBOCK — If Lubbock Estacado's Matadors are considered the elite baseball team of District 4-4A, then it might be safe to say that Big Spring's Steers are not terribly far behind them despite falling to 0-3 in league play.

The Steers rallied from a 3-2 deficit, scoring a run in the sixth and seventh innings to lead 4-3 with only three outs standing between them and the program's biggest win in quite some time. However, three errors in the field allowed the Matadors to score two runs in the bottom of the seventh, giving Estacado a 5-4 win.

"This is a frustrating loss because we played a great game and didn't come away with a win," Big Spring Head Coach Burt Otto said. "We're making a statement, though. Teams can't take us for granted anymore. We're competing and we're going

to turn the corner and start winning some games. It's not a given that a district opponent is going to come in and have their way with us."

With one out, Estacado got a runner on base due to a fielding error. Then a throwing error on a stolen base attempt moved the runner over to third and the next batter tied the game with a base hit. Big Spring starter John Benavides was then called for, according to Otto, a controversial balk, putting the winning run in scoring position. A single to left on the next pitch scored the run and ended the game.

Benavides pitched 6 and 1-3 innings, giving up five runs — two earned — on six hits and a walk.

Jeremy Solis and Nathan Doport led Big Spring at the plate, each knocking in one run.

See STEERS, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull
Big Spring Steers shortstop Nathan Doport throws a runner out at first in District 4-4A baseball action from earlier this season. Big Spring fell to 0-3 in district Friday, losing 5-4 to Lubbock Estacado in Lubbock.



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull
Coahoma Bulldogettes catcher Janice Gonzales hits a triple in the Bulldogettes' 15-0 win over Haskell's Maidens in a District 5-2A softball game Friday in Coahoma. The win makes the Bulldogettes 7-0 in district play in which they are yet to surrender a run.

No contest: Bulldogettes shut out Haskell

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

COAHOMA — Winning District 5-2A without suffering a defeat within the league isn't foreign to Coahoma's Bulldogettes, considering they've lost only one district game in their history. However, in the 2008 season. The Bulldogettes are four games away from accomplishing what would be a historic run through district.

Not only did the Bulldogettes sustain a perfect 7-0 district record Friday night with a dominant 15-0 win over Haskell's Maidens, they're also yet to

allow a run in any of their league games.

"We're hitting the ball well, playing pretty good defense and with Heather (Newton) on the mound, we're going to be hard to beat," Bulldogettes Head Coach Tracy Tadlock said. "With Heather, if we play just a little bit of defense behind her then we're going to probably win. We've got a lot of team speed, too, and that helps with the defense. And then even if someone does get on base, then they have to play station to station because of Janice (Gonzales) behind the plate. That means teams need three hits in a row to

score and that's a tall order against Heather."

Coahoma only needed four innings to dispose of the Maidens, ending the contest with two outs in the bottom of the fourth inning.

Christie Rich put the game away with a single that scored Shelbi Paige from third, bringing three-inning mercy rule into effect. This marks the third consecutive district game the Bulldogettes have won via the 15-run rule.

Coahoma led 6-0 after two innings, but started flirting with

See COAHOMA, Page 2B

Bulldogs run-rule Haskell

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

COAHOMA — According to Coahoma Bulldogs Head Baseball Coach Brad Harman, the Bulldogs are only one facet away in their game from becoming a complete team.

The Bulldogs used a dominant pitching performance from Ray Guttierrez along with a lethal night at the plate to beat the Haskell Indians 14-4 in a District 5-2A game called after six innings due to the 10-run mercy rule.

It's not often that a game ended on the mercy rule has a dramatic conclusion. However, an exception was made Friday night when freshman Adrian Amaro brought the game to an early halt, crushing a 2-run homer over the left field fence. It's Amaro's second homer of the season.

"It's always fun to end a game like that," Harman said. "That's Adrian's second homer of the season. Not bad for a freshman."

Guttierrez pitched a one-hitter, striking out nine batters in the process. Only one of Haskell's four runs was earned and that's where the problem currently lies for the Bulldogs.

"Our bats are still clicking and we're hitting the ball very well," Harman said. "If we can continue to do that, then we can overcome two or three errors in the field and we've had to do that a lot this season. Our defense is still troubling although it's getting better. We're swinging the bat great, though, and it's hitters 1-9. Adrian is hitting home runs in the seven hole. All batters are contributing."

"Our mental focus is getting stronger down the stretch of the season," he continued. "If we can

See BULLDOGS, Page 3B

Bufs rally from 12-run deficit, beat Miles

By BRANDON HALLFORD

Special to the Herald

FORSAN — If there is one thing that most coaches know it's that no matter how ugly it may be. A win is a win.

And Friday evening the Forsan Buffaloes proved that adage as they came back from a 12-run deficit in their final three at-bats to come away with a 17-16 win over Miles in District 2-A play.

Entering the bottom of the fifth in the much anticipated clash with the Miles Bulldogs, who Forsan shared the district title

with last season, things didn't look good for the Bufs as the Bulldogs found themselves just three outs away walking away with the 14-2 win.

However, Forsan's bats finally heated up as the Bufs torched two Bulldogs' pitchers for 12 of their 16 hits in the final three innings for the miraculous 17-16 win.

"I have never been a part of something like that," Bufs Head Coach Jason Phillips said. "To come back from 12 runs down and three outs from being run ruled to win the game, I never

would have thought it possible." Impossible was the right word to describe any apparent comeback hope Forsan had with the way the Bufs looked for the first five innings.

Forsan committed eight errors in the field and except for a Cameron Parker triple along with three singles by the Bufs in the first inning, the bats were stagnant.

Then the fifth inning came and the heroics began. Spencer Briggs led off the inning by getting on base the hard way, taking a pitch in the helmet. With

Briggs on first, Jeremy Freitag worked the count full before taking a pitch that just missed the outside corner, putting runners on first and second with nobody out and the top of the order coming up.

From there Forsan sent 13 hitters to the plate during an eight-run outburst.

Jeremy Robbins, Parker, Evan Burton, Adam Bailey and Ryan Flores all singled and drove in five runs, cutting the Bulldogs' lead to 14-7.

See BUFFS, Page 3B

For 26 years, Glenda Low has dispensed both aspirin and hugs to local schoolchildren

Nurse knows best

Story and photos by Steve Reagan



Clockwise, from top: Big Spring Independent School District nurse Glenda Low inventories medications for individual students at her office in Washington Elementary; paperwork is a big part of Low's job as evidence by the files she must update on each student at the school; Low performs an ear examination on a student.

For more than a quarter-century, Glenda Low has seen more than her share of sore throats, tummy aches, runny noses and other assorted aches and pains. And she loves it. Low, a school nurse with Big Spring Independent School District, has spent the last 26 years treating all sorts of childhood ailments, dispensing hugs along with aspirins and cough drops. Along the way, she has seen her "kids" grow up and have kids of their own, which means Low

is now treating a second generation of Big Springers from her offices at Bauer and Washington elementaries. And she wouldn't change a thing. "I'd do it all over again, absolutely," she said. "Of course, there are days when you go, 'What in the world am I still doing here?'" but I always wake up the next day ready to go back to work. "It's the kids," she said, explaining her reason for staying on the job for so long. "I've had some of my 'kids' bring their

See **NURSE**, page 2C



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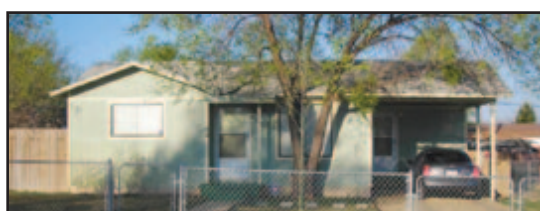
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Take Note

• Big Spring High School Student Council will sponsor a blood drive through United Blood Services from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday in the high school auditorium foyer. If you would like to sign up in advance, you may call the main office at 264-3641.

• The Class of 2009 will be having a prom meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 10, in the Big Spring High School Library. All juniors and their parents are encouraged to attend. For information, call Carrie Fox at 816-9687 or Karen Martin at 213-1388.

• Mobile Meals needs volunteers to deliver meals Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. The organization delivers approximately 70 meals each day and needs drivers to donate just one hour per week. Mobile Meals also needs back-up volunteers to fill in when regular drivers can't make it. For more information, contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

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

• Cross stitchers are needed to complete one or more blocks of this year's Howard County Fair quilt. All supplies are provided. Blocks may be picked up from Posey Cotton Office, 601 Scurry, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. For information, call 263-1267 or 263-4980. This year's quilt theme is "Wildflowers of Texas." All proceeds from the sale of tickets for the quilt are used to defray the expenses of the Fair. The quilt will be awarded the last night of the fair.

• Pediatric flu vaccinations for children ages 6 months to 35 months are now available at the Texas Department of State Health Services clinic in College Park Shopping Center. Cost is \$10, although no one will be turned away for inability to pay. For more information, call 263-9775.

• St. Mary's and friends of St. Mary's are holding a lap blanket drive to place approximately 400 lap blankets in the hands of every nursing home patient in Big Spring. Blankets can be taken to the church office, 1001 Goliad, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday or call Connie Fowler at 267-2713.

A beginning crochet class is being held at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the church's Parish Hall.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Friday:

- **JAMIE SERRATO**, 20, 2516 Langley, was arrested on a capias warrant.
- **MICHAEL RAY LEWIS**, 46, 1401 Highway 87 No. 202, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **THOMAS RIOS**, 26, 1321 Mulberry, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- **ERNEST WILLIAM CLARK**, 67, 4000 W. Highway 80, was arrested on a charge of criminal trespass.

Weather

Today — Sunny. Highs in the mid 80s. West winds 15 to 20 mph.

Tonight — Mostly clear. Lows around 50. Northwest winds around 15 mph shifting to the northeast after midnight.

Monday — Sunny. Highs in the mid 80s. East winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the south 15 to 25 mph in the afternoon.

Monday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s.

Tuesday — Sunny. Highs in the mid 80s.

Tuesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.

Wednesday — Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s.

Wednesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.

Thursday — Sunny — Cooler. Highs in the mid 70s.

Thursday night — Mostly clear. Lows 41 to 46.

Friday — Sunny. Highs in the upper 60s.

Lottery

Results from the Mega Millions drawing Friday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 3-5-40-45-49 MB: 17
Megaplier: 4
Number matching five of five plus Mega Ball: None.
Estimated jackpot for Tuesday's drawing: \$17 Million.

•••

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 3-8-24-26-27
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$27,849
Winning tickets sold in: Kirby.

•••

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday night, in order:

5-8-8-3. Sum It Up: 24.

•••

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night, in order:

0-9-9. Sum It Up: 18.

•••

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday afternoon, in order:

7-8-9-6. Sum It Up: 30.

•••

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday afternoon, in order:

3-9-3. Sum It Up: 15.

Support Groups

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

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

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

Bulletin Board

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

MONDAY

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

• Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.

• Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.

• The Christian Motorcyclists Association meets at 7 p.m. at TravelCenters of America truck stop.

• The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Dorothy Lamb meeting room in the Howard County Library. For more information, call 264-6116.

• Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.

• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

• Big Spring Society of the Order of Beacieants meets at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

• Big Spring Commandry meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

• The Christian Motorcyclists Association meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Dragon Chinese Restaurant, 1300 Gregg. Call 213-1599 for more information.

TUESDAY

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• The American Cancer Society meets at noon at the Home Hospice Office for lunch and its monthly meeting. For more information, call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599.

• The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.

• Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.

• Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.

• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

• Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

• Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.

• League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.

• American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.

• The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340.

• Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

FRIDAY

• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.

• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Courtesy photo

Garden City's Jake Schwartz clears 6 feet, 2 inches in the high jump at the District 9-A track and field meet held in Water Valley Wednesday. Schwartz won the event and medaled in four others as the Bearkats finished third overall as a team. The Lady Bearkates won district and both teams will participate in the area meet in Bronte Tuesday.

BRIEFS

Continued from Page 1B

The girls team was led by first-place finishes from the 4x400 relay team, Paige Niehues, Morgan Schwartz, Britton Avery and Vickie Garza.

Niehues, Avery and Schwartz were members of the 4x400 relay squad along with Lauren Wheeler. Niehues also won the 400 meters, while Schwartz nabbed a first-place finish in the 800 meters and third in the triple jump.

Avery won the 300-meter hurdles and Garza took first in the mile.

Niehues and Wheeler also advance with 4x100 relay team along with Leticia Ramirez and Samantha Kellermier.

Kellermier also placed high enough to advance in the 200 meters.

Wheeler will represent Garden City in the 400 meters after a fourth-

place performance.

Garden City's boys were led by Jake Schwartz, who won the 200 meters and the high jump, placed second in the shot put and was apart of a first-place performance in the 4x100 and 4x200 relays along with Jake Schwartz, Bo Eggemeyer, Adrian Arzola and Josh Colunga. Marcus Dalton will also represent the Bearkats, courtesy of a third-place finish in the mile.

Garden City's area meet is scheduled for Tuesday in Bronte.

Amigos Washer Club holding tournament April 12 at La Vedera

The Amigos Washer Club is holding a washer tournament at 1:30 p.m. April 12 at the La Vedera Club. Registration deadline is at 1 p.m. and cost is \$20 per team.

First, second and third-place trophies will be awarded plus a cash prize.

For more information, contact Larry Lara at 264-6060 or Richard Villa at 268-9590.

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.

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

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

Despite being winless in district and needing to pick up victories in order to advance to the playoffs, Otto says he's not going to throw must-win situations at the team.

"I'm afraid that if we starting thinking every game is a must win, then we'll start making a bunch of mistakes," Otto said. "We've got to just keep competing. There's five games left and anything can happen. We weren't supposed to be a playoff team this year. We were picked to be dead last in district without putting up a fight. But

we're making teams work to get their wins."

The Steers (12-13, 0-3) get another chance of picking up their first district win of the season, when they play San Angelo Lake View Tuesday in San Angelo. The Chiefs are also searching for their first district win of the season.

"Lake View is in the same boat we are searching for their first win in district," commented Otto. "We're going to find a way to take them. And if we don't, then we're going to go down fighting."

Big Spring 020 001 1-4 5 3
Estacado 000 300 2-5 6 2
W - Rocha. L - John Benavides.
2B: EHS - Lopez. 3B: EHS - Zepia. RBI: BSHS - Jeremy Solis, Nathan Doport.

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1B

the mercy mark in the third inning as they scored six runs in the frame. The Bulldogettes amassed four extra base hits in the inning, driving the ball to the outfield wall consistently.

However, with the bases loaded, a base running error allowed Haskell to turn a double play, bringing the inning to a close. It didn't look as if the game would end in the fourth inning either, though. The Bulldogettes had two outs on them before they added three runs to bring the game to an early close.

Newton recorded her eighth shutout of the season, giving up only one hit and striking out seven in four innings of work. She also leads the team in batting average, hitting .506 for the year. Newton was 3-for-4 against Haskell with a triple and two RBIs.

Laci Sterling, Gonzales and Paige each had three RBIs apiece. Sterling was 4-for-4 and also scored three runs. Every player in the Coahoma lineup had at least one hit.

Coahoma (19-8, 7-0) travels to Hawley Tuesday and despite beating the Lady Bearcats 11-0 already this season, Tadlock still feels they are the Bulldogettes'

toughest challenge within the district.

"Hawley will be ready to play at home and they're very capable of beating us," Tadlock said. "If we go over there and play a complete game then we'll be all right. This is a big rivalry. It doesn't take much to get the girls up for this one. I try to tell them throughout the season to just think about the next game, but now it is the next game so we can start thinking about Hawley."

Haskell 000 0-0 1 2
Coahoma 246 3-15 17 0
W - Heather Newton (14-7) L - Wheatley.
2B: CHS - Berkley Iden, Laci Sterling, Shelbi Paige, Breanna Conner. 3B: CHS - Janice Gonzales, Joanna Gonzales,

Newton. RBI: CHS - Ja. Gonzales 3, Sterling 3, Paige 3, Newton 2, Conner, Iden, Christie Rich, Krista Kerby.

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

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BIRTHDAY RECEPTION SLATED



Velma Reid will celebrate her 85th birthday Saturday, April 12, with a reception from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Coahoma Church of Christ. *Courtesy photo*

Menus

Big Spring ISD

Monday — rib sandwich, baby carrots, coleslaw, rainbow bars and milk.

Tuesday — chicken rings, mac and cheese, black-eyed peas, Rosy applesauce, cornbread and milk.

Wednesday — car meatballs, mashed potatoes, green beans, pear halves, wheat rolls and milk.

Thursday — beef/bean burritos, Mexican corn, mandarin oranges, pineapple tidbits and milk.

Friday — sausage pizza, potato rounds, garden salad, lemon pie and milk.

Forsan ISD

Monday — Breakfast, cereal, toast, juice, milk; lunch, chili dogs, tater tots, apple & orange smiles, sherbet cups and milk.

Tuesday — Breakfast, toast, peanut butter w/jelly, juice, milk; Lunch, enchiladas, Spanish rice, tossed salad, orange smiles and milk.

Wednesday — Breakfast, breakfast pockets, juice, milk; Lunch, taco salad,

pinto beans, seasoned corn, fancy gelatin and milk.

Thursday — Breakfast, donuts, juice, milk; Lunch, chicken spaghetti, green beans, hot rolls, pineapple tidbits and milk.

Friday — Breakfast, breakfast on a bun, juice, milk; Lunch, cheeseburger, lettuce, tomato, pickle, baked beans, baby carrots w/ranch, strawberry shortcake and milk.

Coahoma ISD

Monday — Breakfast, waffles, sausage, syrup, apple juice, milk; Lunch, hamburgers, chips, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, mixed fruit and milk.

Tuesday — Breakfast, sweetened rice, sausage, orange juice, milk; Lunch, Nacho Grande, baked beans, baby carrots, chocolate cake and milk.

Wednesday — Breakfast, Pop Tarts, ham, grape juice, milk; Lunch, chicken-fried steak, gravy, mashed potatoes, peaches, rolls, milk and burritos.

Thursday — Breakfast,

biscuits, jelly, gravy, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch, homemade burritos, salad, pears, milk, corndogs.

Friday — Breakfast, pancakes, ham, fruit, milk; Lunch, chicken and dumpling, sweet peas, grilled cheese, pickle spears, chips, apple turnovers and milk.

Spring City Senior Center

Monday — Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, cream gravy, squash medley, buttermilk biscuits and ambrosia.

Tuesday — Barbecue chicken, potato salad, pinto beans, cornbread and sliced peaches.

Wednesday — Roast beef with brown gravy, roasted potatoes, spinach, vegetable salad and apple crisp.

Thursday — Chicken and dumplings, Harvard beets, crackers, cottage cheese and pears and banana pudding.

Friday — Cod fish on a bun, oven baked fries, potato salad, beans and fruited gelatin.

NURSE

Continued from page 1C

kids to school and meet me. It makes me happy they remember me. I must be doing something good."

Low was born and raised in El Paso, graduating from high school there before moving to Big Spring in 1973.

She eventually found her professional calling while working as a nurse's aide under Dr. Nell Sanders.

"Doctor Nell talked me into it," Low said. "She encouraged me to continue my education in nursing, so I did and here I am."

In 1976, she graduated from the Howard College nursing program and a career was off and running.

She worked for five

years at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, first for Dr. James Tipton, then Dr. Ray Owens.

Working for Dr. Owens, a pediatrician, convinced Low she wanted to make a career out of treating children, so when an opening became available with the local school district in 1981, she leapt at the chance.

"It was all because of the children," she said. "It's just so rewarding helping them learn good, healthy habits when they're so young. It definitely wasn't the money ... this is where my heart is."

She began work for the district as school nurse at the Lakeview Head Start program. Later, when Head Start and BSISD parted ways, she moved over to Anderson Kindergarten Center. She has worked exclusively

at elementary campuses since then.

Despite her love for the work, Low quickly admits it is not all roses and sunshine.

"The biggest difference between working at a hospital or clinic and working at a school is the paperwork," she said. "You do paperwork on almost everything, it seems. You have to have immunization records, vision and hearing screening records, medication records, body mass index records ... it's a lot more paperwork than it used to be."

But that's about the only down side to the job, she said.

Along with the other school nurses, Low regularly screens students for special health needs, keeps tabs on their weight, checks for any dental problems and dis-

penses the occasional medication for children with chronic medical conditions such as asthma.

Sometimes, her treatments are as simple as providing a quiet spot for a child with a headache to lay down, bandaging a cut or scrape or even dispensing the occasional hug.

For more serious stuff, she notifies the student's parents or — if need be — summons an ambulance.

Low also helps prepare teachers and staff to help deal with life-or-death situations by providing instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation techniques and emergency first aid proce-

dures.

Away from work, she enjoys to golf — although the municipal course's closure and recent rotator-cuff surgery have cut back on that hobby — and scrapbooking.

A lot of those scrapbooking efforts are devoted to family — she is married to Isaac "Ike" Low, the first assistant nurse at Scenic Mountain Medical Center's surgical department, mother to Barbara Weiler, who lives with her family in Fort Worth and step-mother to Jimmy Low, a teacher/coach with the Odessa Independent School District.

Her "pride and joy," however, is 18-month-old grandson Aiden Weiler.

In fact, you cannot come into close proximity of Low without seeing several pictures of her grandson.

"And I have another grandchild on the way — it's due in September," she quickly added.

Her husband plans to retire from his job later this year, but Low intends to spend a few more years in her vocation.

"I've been doing this for 26 years now," she said. "I want to go at least 30 years before I make any decisions."

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



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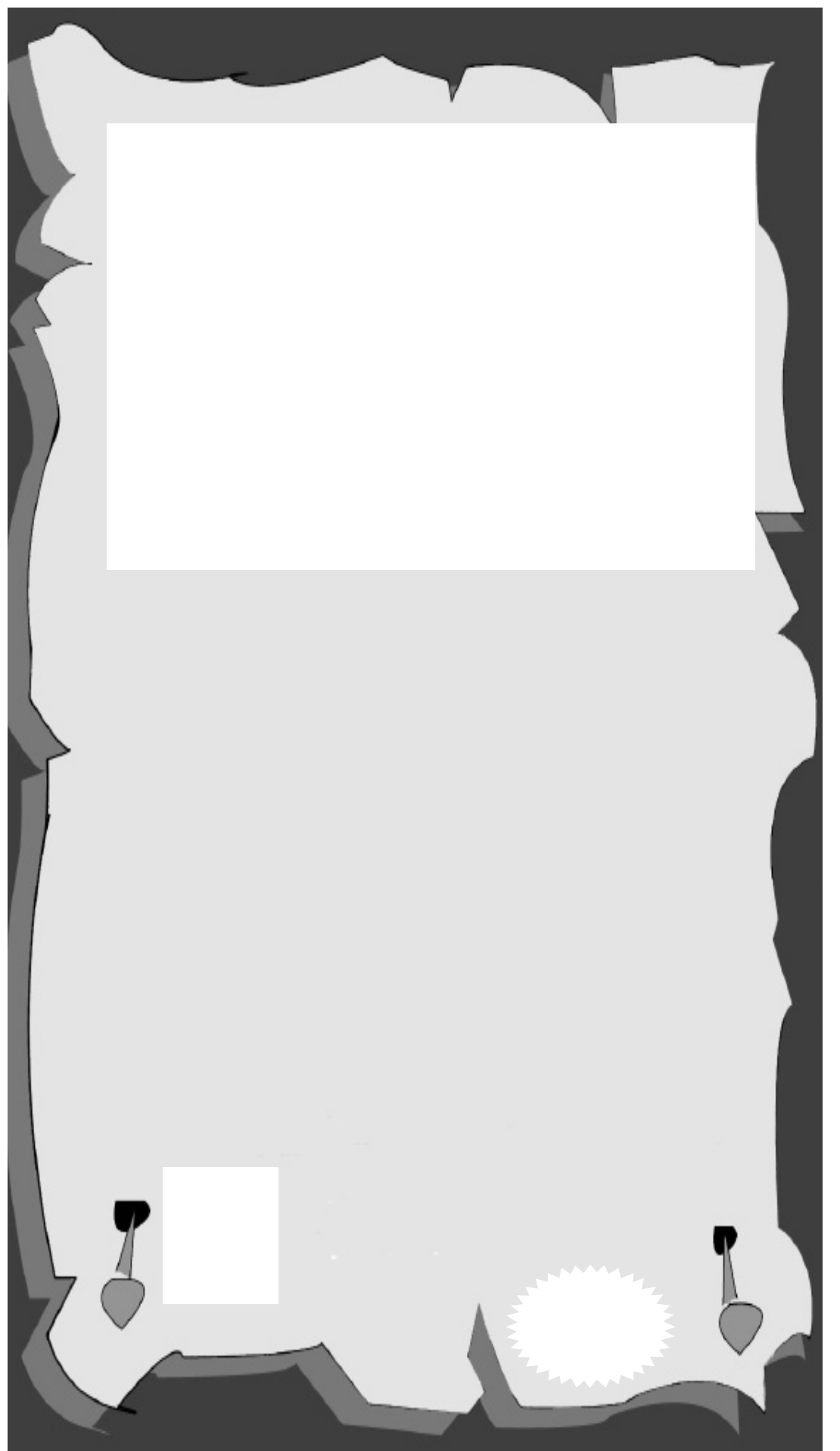


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Heflin receives WTCJCA honor

Special to the Herald

FORT WORTH — On March 26, State Rep. Joe Heflin, D-Crosbyton, was presented the Sam D. Seale Award of Excellence by the West Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association at its 79th Annual Conference.

Roberts County Judge Vernon Cook, president of the association, conferred the award during the General Session and noted that Heflin's achievements during his freshman term in the Texas House of Representatives were very impressive.

Heflin, a former Crosby County judge and past member of the association, told the group much of his success in the Legislature was due to their continued help during the session. He urged all those present to stay in contact with their representatives and to be involved in the legislative process.

Further, Heflin thanked the association for bestowing upon him such a meaningful recognition stating that he was humbled and pleased by the

Representative to be keynote speaker for state hospital's volunteer luncheon

Herald Staff Report

State Rep. Joe Heflin, D-Crosbyton, will honor Big Spring State Hospital's volunteers as the keynote speaker for a Thursday luncheon in the hospital's Allred building Auditorium.

Big Spring State Hospital honors the volunteers each April during National Volunteer Appreciation Week.

Service awards and special awards, includ-

ing the Jack Y. Smith Award will be presented to the more than 100 volunteers who provided more than 7000 hours this year to the patients.

This year's luncheon theme, "Volunteers — the Heart of the Community" will begin at noon. The luncheon is free to volunteers or to anyone who would like to volunteer.

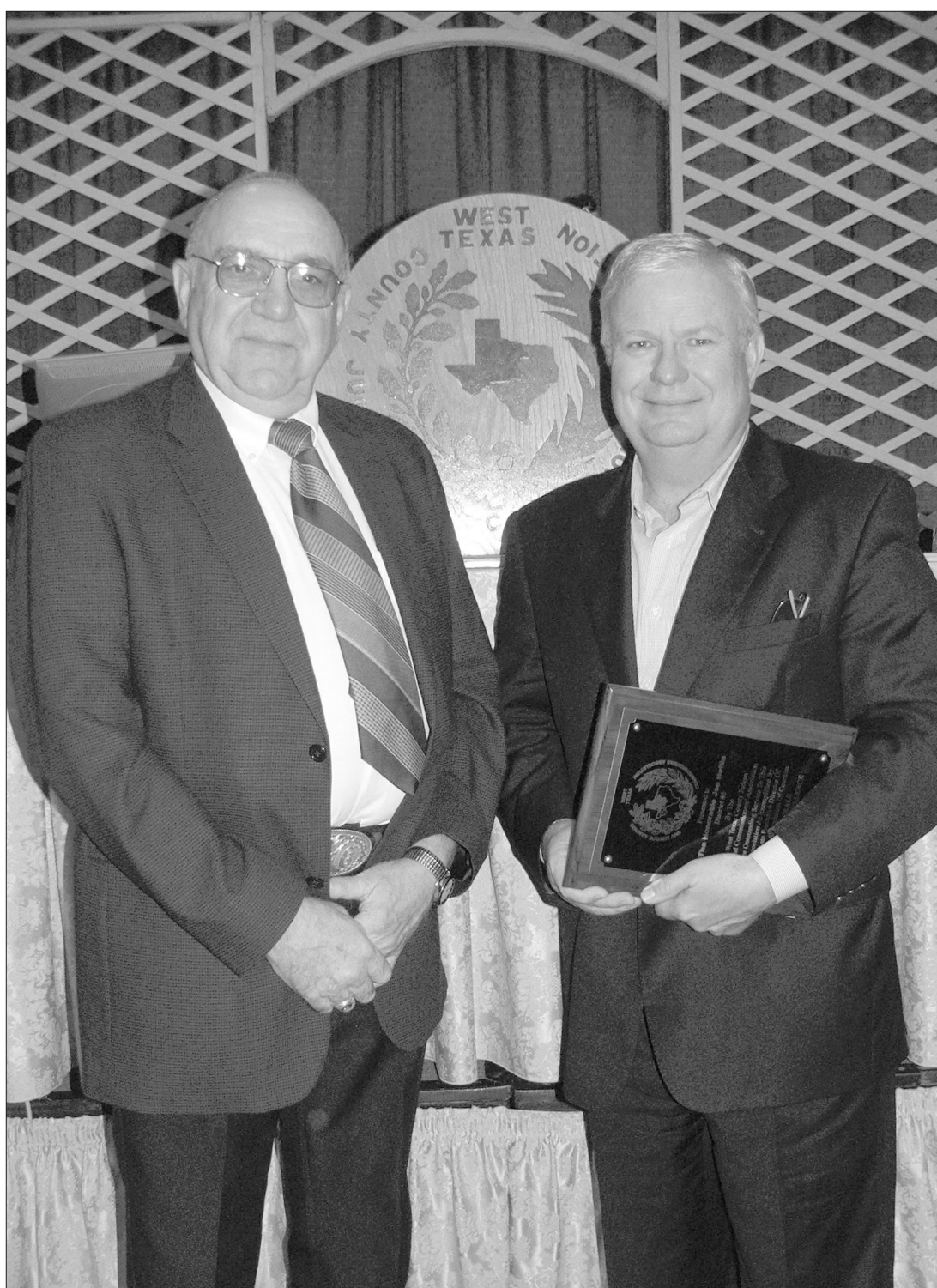
To make reservations by calling the BSSH Community Relations office at 268-7535.

honor because of his tremendous respect and admiration for the late Sam Seale. Association officials commented that Heflin is only the second person to receive the award, which recognizes outstanding service to the West Texas Association as exemplified by the late executive director of the TAC, Sam D. Seale.

Other awards Rep. Heflin has garnered for his work in the 80th Legislature include: 2007 Legislator of the Year by the County Judges and

Commissioners Association of Texas, Distinguished Legislative Service Award for 2007 from the Texas Municipal League, Freshman of the Year by the House Democratic Caucus and Honorary Legislative Star by the Texas Classroom Teachers Association.

Heflin, who serves on the House Committee on County Affairs and the House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock, represents Howard and Glasscock, counties in Austin.



Courtesy photo

State Rep. Joe Heflin (left) accepts the Sam D. Seale Award of Excellence during the West Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association's annual conference in Fort Worth on March 26. Heflin, who represents Howard County in the Legislature, is a former Crosby County judge and member of the organization.

ALON

Continued from Page 1A

Foster are also expected to make presentations during the luncheon."

An explosion ripped through the Big Spring Refinery at approximately 8:15 a.m. Feb. 18, sending a shock wave through the surrounding communities. At least one Big Spring business was shut down due to structural concerns caused by the blast, while several others

suffered damages, including blown-out windows and doors.

Five injuries were reported as a result of the explosion, according to Blake Lewis, spokesperson for Alon USA, including one Alon employee — identified by the Associated Press as Paul Berringer, who was treated for burns in a Lubbock hospital — a trio of contractors and a motorist that was struck by debris while traveling on Interstate Highway 20.

According to witness accounts, the cause of the explosion was a propylene tank leak that caused a mist-like vapor to gather in the refinery, eventually making its way into a cracker heater and an alkaline unit, causing both to explode simultaneously.

The Israeli-owned company confirmed the explosion did occur in the area around the propylene splitter unit, but has not yet released a definitive cause or estimates for the

cost to repair the facility.

Among the responders set to be honored Monday are fire departments from Big Spring, Midland, Odessa and Snyder; volunteer fire departments from Howard County and Mitchell and Glasscock counties; the Big Spring Police Department; Howard County Sheriff's Department; Texas Department of Public Safety; Texas Department of Transportation; the city of Big Spring, Mayor Russ McEwen and the

city council; County Judge Mark Barr and the county commissioners court; The Big Spring Refinery Red Hats; local Air Evac personnel and the Brownwood Air Ambulance; the Salvation Army and American Red Cross; the local Amateur Radio organization; and the Texas Forest Service.

"Anyone who has questions about the luncheon

can contact the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce at 263-7641," said Davis. "They have agreed to take calls and answer any questions people might have."

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

RUNOFF

Continued from Page 1A

Republican primary during the March election, they are only eligible to vote in the Republican runoff," said Bloom. "If

they voted in the Democratic primary in March, they can only vote in the Democratic runoff. However, if they did not cast a ballot in either primary in March, they are eligible to vote in either runoff election."

The winner of the

runoff will have to face Democratic nominee Dick Dubose — who won his party's nomination unopposed — in the November contest.

Voters participating in the Democratic runoff, they will have to choose between Railroad

Commission candidates Dale Henry (Austin) and Mark Thompson (Hamilton).

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

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

expected. We haven't run into anything we can't handle, yet."

Barr said commissioners are taking a department-by-department look at the budget; Monday, they will examine requests from the county justices of the peace.

After considering the budget, commissioners will likely recess until Tuesday, when they will discuss issues surrounding the new jail with architect Jeff Heffelfinger. Preliminary construction bids are likely to be the main topic of discussion Tuesday.

"We're starting to get into the meat of the jail project now," he said. "We're pretty excited about things."

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

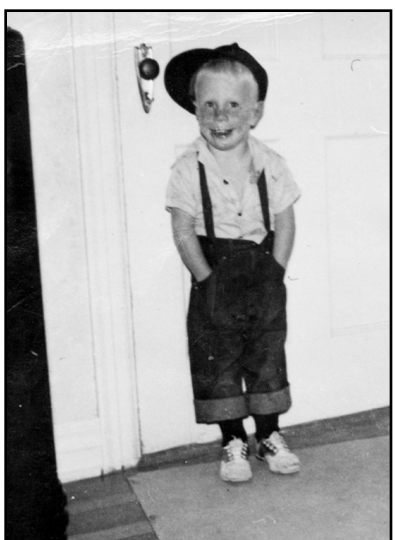


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Hannah

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Mommy, Daddy
And Joanna

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&
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Vinis "Jean" Murphree, 77, died Monday. Funeral Services were at 10:00 AM Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

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Odom leads Lakers' rally past Mavs, 112-108

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Lakers have completed phase one: making the playoffs. The next step is to get the best seed possible in the Western Conference standings during the final six games of the regular schedule.

Lamar Odom scored a season-high 31 points against a subpar Dirk Nowitzki, Kobe Bryant added 25 points and 10 rebounds, and the Pacific Division-leading Lakers put a crimp in the Dallas Mavericks' postseason push with a 112-108 victory on Friday night.

The Lakers have qualified for the playoffs in 55 of their 60 seasons as a franchise, winning 14 NBA championships and 27 division titles — hoping for a 28th with a magic number of five.

Phil Jackson has made the playoffs in all 17 seasons as an NBA head coach — eight with the Lakers and nine with the Chicago Bulls. Jackson, whose nine NBA titles are tied with fellow Hall of Famer Red Auerbach, also holds the all-time mark for postseason victories with 179.

Just 7-and-1/2 games separate nine teams battling for the eight spots in the West. Los Angeles is tied for second with San Antonio, 1-and-1/2 games

behind New Orleans. Dallas is seventh, a half-game ahead of Denver and a full game ahead of ninth-place Golden State.

Pau Gasol had 25 points and seven assists for Los Angeles, and Odom grabbed 10 rebounds. It was the sixth time this season that the Lakers have had three players with 20 or more points — all victories.

Gasol and Nowitzki, the reigning MVP, both were playing their second game since returning from ankle injuries. Nowitzki was 13-for-19 from the field and Gasol was 11-for-20.

Nowitzki led the Mavs with 27 points, Jason Terry scored 25 and Josh Howard added 23. Jason Kidd had 10 points, eight assists and seven rebounds. This was the Mavericks' 10th loss that was decided by four points or less.

Odom made 12 of his 14 shots, coming within three points of his career high.

The Lakers won three of the four meetings with Dallas, reversing last year's results when the Mavs won the season series for the first time since 1986-87 and only the second time overall.

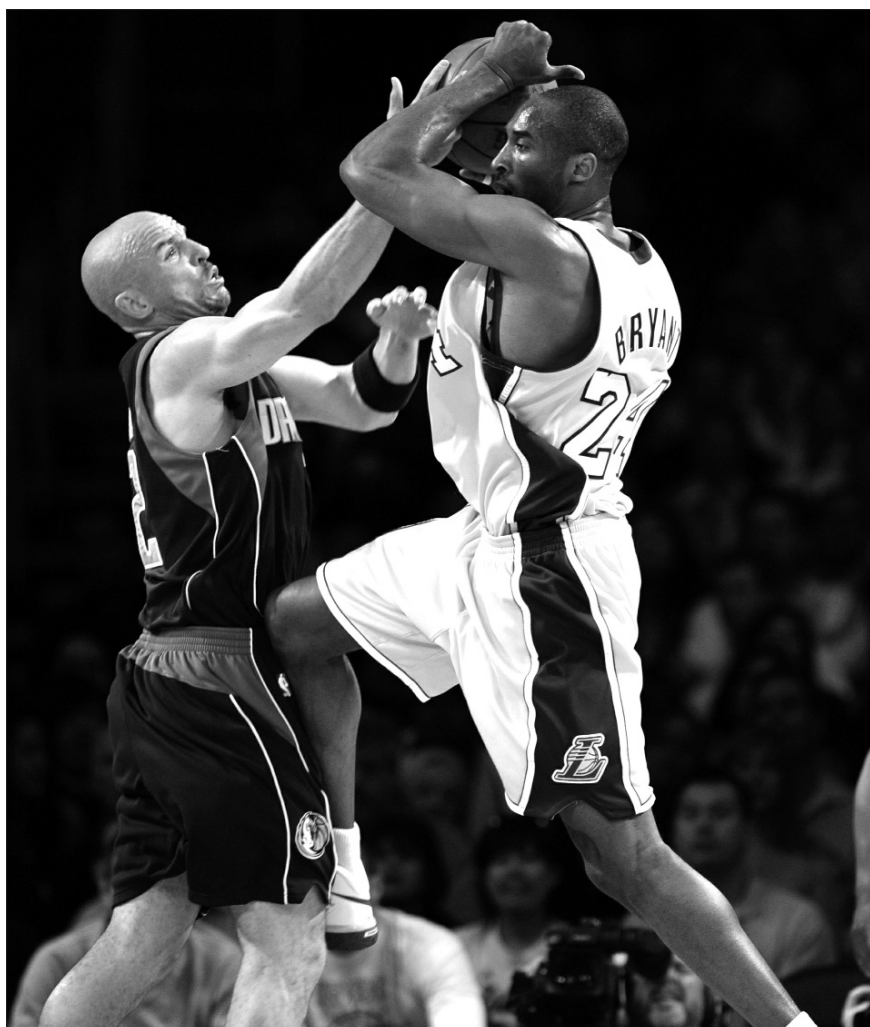
Odom's layup with 2:21 remaining gave the Lakers a 103-102 lead, their first since the final 3 minutes of the first quarter. They ended the game with a 9-2 spurt that included a

three-point play by Gasol and two free throws each by Bryant and Sasha Vujacic in the final 18 seconds.

Nowitzki, who was a last-minute replacement for Bryant in this year's All-Star 3-point shooting contest due to Bryant's dislocated right pinkie, did not attempt a shot from behind the arc until he connected with 8:51 left in the game to give Dallas a 94-89 lead. He did not go to the free throw line the entire night.

The Lakers' entire bench had produced just two points until Vujacic was fouled by Terry on a 3-point basket and made the ensuing free throw for a four-point play that sliced Dallas' lead to 86-80 with 1:21 left in the third.

Notes: Andrew Bynum and Trevor Ariza, two Lakers still on the mend, won't play in any of the final six regular-season games. Bynum, sidelined for the last 40 games by an injured left knee, will accompany the team on its two-game road swing so that his progress can be monitored during practice. ... Ariza has missed 38 games with a broken right foot, and doctors have asked the coaching staff not to have him run yet. He'll have another diagnostic test to see if the fracture is completely gone before he is given clearance.



AP photo/Kevork Djanshean
Dallas Mavericks guard Jason Kidd, right, knocks the ball out of the hands of Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant during the first quarter of a NBA basketball game at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, Friday. The Lakers overcame a 12-point deficit to win 112-108.

BULLDOGS

Continued from Page 1B

just tune our defense up, we wouldn't sweat very many innings."

Harman is excited about the progress Gutierrez is showing over the season.

"Rey gets stronger as the game goes on," Harman said. "He works his way into a rhythm and starts to dominate. He's had two really good outings in a row."

Gutierrez helped his own cause, scoring two runs. P.J. Daylong crossed the plate three times, going 3-for-4 at the plate with two triples. Donnie Garcia

was 2-for-4 with a double and four RBIs.

The Bulldogs improve to 17-5 overall and 5-2 in district play. They get a rematch with one of the teams that handed them a district loss Tuesday when they travel to take on the Hawley Bearcats.

The Bearcats embarrassed Coahoma 18-3 in the first meet-

ing. The Bulldogs are ready for revenge.

"It's been hard to keep the team focused on each game leading up to this because everyone wants to talk about Hawley," Harman said. "If we beat Hawley and they don't lose another game, then we still can't catch them. But more than anything, this is a pride

game for us. We haven't been beaten like that all year. We want to reclaim our pride with this one."

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

BUFFS

Continued from Page 1B

Zack Dykes joined the hit parade two batters later, lining his own single into the outfield pushing home Bailey. Briggs decided it was time to payback the Miles pitcher that hit him and drove the first pitch he saw into left putting runners on first and second with only one out.

Freitag moved the runners up 90 feet as the nine-hole hitter was barely cut down at first on a slow grounder to short.

Robbins finished off the explosion with his second single of the inning, scoring Dykes to cut the Bulldogs' advantage to only four, 14-10.

Miles pushed the lead back up to six in the top of the next inning, working Forsan starter Burton for two runs, courtesy of more sloppy play in the field and a single.

Forsan was not to be denied their resurrection from the ashes, scoring six more runs, this time sending 10 batters to the

plate highlighted by a double by Bailey and another triple by Parker, tying the game at 16 with one inning to play.

Parker took over on the mound and made sure the Forsan defense spent as little time in the field as possible, retiring the Bulldogs in order on just eight pitches to set up the dramatic conclusion.

Bailey led off the inning with a walk and Zack Herrin laid down a perfect sacrifice bunt two batters later, putting the winning run in scoring position with two gone in the inning.

It was then that Phillips and his senior leader decided it was time to end affair.

With Dykes at the plate Bailey took advantage of a lapse of concentration by the Bulldogs' battery, easily swiping third. It was here that Phillips decided to take a gamble.

"Adam taking third was all him, but I told him once he got here that this pitcher doesn't cover home," Phillips

explained. "So I told him that if he got a good enough jump he could

make it even if the ball didn't roll that far away."

Phillips was right two pitches later as a curve from the Miles pitcher scooted past the Bulldogs' catcher rolling halfway to the fence.

Bailey showed no hesi-

tation, taking off from third to score the winning run with ease.

"I can't say enough about these boys," raved Phillips. "They never gave up and fought their way back. This was a big win for us."

With the win Forsan moves to 3-1 in District 2-A play.

The Buffs will next be in action against the Winters Blizzards in Colorado City Friday. The game was supposed to be a home game, but due to

the number of students participating in a UIL event earlier in the evening, the game was moved to C-City because of the ability to play the game under the lights. First pitch is set for 7:30 p.m.

Workshop for Nurses and Students

"Unleashing Your Spirit of Inquiry" What questions have you asked today?

The purpose of this interactive workshop is to prepare the nurse for an increasingly active role in evidence-based practice (EBP). The workshop will outline the five-step decision-making process for implementing best evidence into practice in the educational and clinical setting. Provides 6.5 contact hours.

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Registration 7:30 am - 8:00 am
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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

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I want to first thank the *Big Spring Herald* for last Sunday's paper. If anyone who read the paper isn't proud to live in this area, I feel very sad for them because we have liberally seen a miracle. I attended the meeting at the First Baptist Church and thought it was a great privilege to honor the men who risked their lives in the recent refinery explosion.

In the newspaper, the comments from each one were so impressive and so humble. Not one comment was a "look at me" type of comment. How proud I am to live in a place where people are willing to protect our lives and our property at the risk of their own lives.

Another question I had was how do these men who make up the volunteer fire department leave their jobs to go to a fire. I did find that answer and was told that their employers do not restrict them from going to a fire when needed. A big thank you to those employers because most of us don't even know who they are.

Like a lot of the people who live here, I just can't stop thinking about all that was done at Alon and then just last week a fire broke out and some property was lost. But thank God no lives were lost. Once again, our volunteer firefighters were there to help.

I have always been told that "we are blessed to be a blessing" and since I, along with so many of my friends and neighbors feel blessed, I began thinking of how to give a blessing.

I found out the volunteer firefighters have no financial help from any of the money in our city or county budgets because they are volunteers. As we all know, their equip-

ment needs to be kept up and replaced. I know the people of our area want these volunteers to have good equipment.

I am going to put them on my list of people to send donations to and I thought maybe other citizens in the area would like to do the same. It took a few phone calls to find out where to send my donation and I want to pass the information on to others who would like to contribute. The address is Howard County Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 2877, Big Spring 79721. Let's make sure they have the best equipment possible.

SHIRLEY BEAUCHAMP
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

We would like to thank all of the people and volunteers who helped save our house from the fire Monday.

A very special thanks to Dennis Burns, Becky Thomas and Don Adams.

SUE BALIOS AND
JIMMIE LOU DRAKE
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who either lost or had damage to their homes due to this horrific fire (Monday, March 31).

The Pope family salutes our neighbors, their kids and the Atmos Energy crews who saved our house on Monday afternoon. Without their selfless and diligent efforts, would I be sitting in our kitchen writing this "Thank You?" Absolutely not.

Thanks to the Gainays on Stonehaven for allowing us to park our vehicles and for a much needed

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

How To CONTACT Us

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Important information for our life, Lord, comes from You and Your word.

Amen

Iraq destroying America's future

America reached two solemn milestones in March 2008. A week after entering the sixth year of the Iraq War, the number of Americans killed surpassed 4,000.

In the background, a new book by Nobel prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Bilmes debuted, projecting the full cost of the Iraq War somewhere in the neighborhood of \$3 trillion. That's trillion with a "T."

Although pundits have a tendency to reduce the war in Iraq to numbers — lives lost and dollars spent — there are real imperatives for keeping these figures high in the public's mind, especially when Iraq remains a top issue in the presidential election.

First, a five-year war borne on the backs of soldiers serving multiple deployments has separated the general public from the people who have to do the fighting. Media coverage of the war has dwindled, and a mere 28 percent of the public reported even knowing that

America had suffered 4,000 casualties, according to a March poll by the Pew Research Center.

True, measuring the cost in dollars can be complicated to convey. When the media report government spending in the hundreds of

billions of dollars, these astronomical sums can lose all perspective. That's why it's important to remember how much that \$3 trillion means for our tanking economy and American taxpayers.

We are spending approximately \$12 billion per month in Iraq. The next president will likely inherit a \$400 billion deficit and a national debt of \$10 trillion.

Meanwhile, almost a million homes were in foreclosure during the last quarter of 2007, the price of oil has climbed past \$100 a barrel, and the national average for a gallon of gas has risen 7 cents in the last weeks of March.

America is likely in the midst of a severe recession, which has prompted the Fed to slash interest rates in spite of the risks of inflation and the effect that higher energy costs will have on everyday household items like groceries.

And for every month that we are borrowing money to fight in Iraq, we are deferring investments in educating our children, in rebuilding our roads, bridges and other basic infrastructure.

According to Building America's Future, a coalition of governors, mayors and other elected officials from around the country, America will need to spend more than \$1 trillion over the next five years to meet our infrastructure needs.

For these reasons, the full cost of the war in American lives and treasure should offer a sober starting point when we discuss what to

do in Iraq.

This summer, the extra brigades deployed as part of the surge will end their 15-month tours. With no political reconciliation on the part of Iraqi warring factions, our surge strategy will have failed and our military will be less ready than in the past. On March 26, the Joint Chiefs of Staff told the president that while they can support this summer's suspension of troop reductions from Iraq, they are much concerned about our ability to deal with additional crises that might develop.

Whether or not you supported the war from the beginning, the costs of maintaining an indefinite occupation will only grow, the economy at home will suffer, and more lives will be lost.

Let's add one more number to the mix. The cost of making the Bush tax cuts permanent, as cited by the non-partisan National Priorities Project, would approach \$2.4 trillion over the next 10 years.

So, when Sen. John McCain, the presumptive Republican nominee for president, says in one breath that it would be fine with him if we stayed in Iraq another 100 years while he asserts his support for making the Bush tax cuts permanent, we should all stop to wonder how we'll pay for the folly of it all.

Vice Adm. Jack Shanahan (U.S. Navy Ret.) is the former commander of the U.S. Second Fleet.

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JACK SHANAHAN



Schools: Time to get coercive

Americans mostly want their schools to look like Norman Rockwell's. And in a steadily diminishing number of places they still do.

Elsewhere however, in a spreading stain, they're closer to the blackboard jungle.

And in between, many formerly sparkling institutions find more and more students needing special help. It shows up inexorably in their test scores.

The causes of this decay are no mystery. Our fabled economic system, momentarily indisposed, is carefully designed to steer the fruits of human labor to the top dogs, not to the bottom fish, thus leaving the poor less and less able to prepare their kids to move up.

Plus, with the white birth rate in decline, we treat our national borders with benign neglect so that regiments of immigrants can slip in to do our dirty work for us. Their kids naturally often struggle with that strange new language, culture and permissiveness.

In response to this deterioration, hordes of white families who can afford it move to purer places, or else sequester their kids in private school. And now there's competition even to do that. In New York City you often have to enroll your child while it's still in utero.

Most states have diligently sought cures. Formulas abound to

give more public money to poor rather than to rich school districts. In our state lawmakers have been searching 30 years for that elusive recipe. Additionally some districts utilize busing to lessen the impact of disparity. Magnet schools are also popular, as are charter schools and public "academies." Meanwhile, in the South, a few states perversely use "academies" to sustain segregation.

What a country!

But very few jurisdictions are ready either to spend the necessary cash or to reorder society enough to make a serious dent in the disparity problem. No Child Left Behind is good for a lot of column inches in the newspaper, but turned out to be mainly snake oil. Every state also has its own testing regimen, designed to codify for us the bad news about education that we already know in our hearts. These exams embarrass educators and spur them on to even greater futile efforts with their totally inadequate resources.

Unfortunately the true alternatives to our present decay are both expensive and intrusive. For starters they would mean state intervention with mothers from pregnancy test onward. The poor would be offered healthy food and counseling, with a cash bonus for giving up smoking, drinking, and drugs. From birth there would be special daily care for those families that needed it. Pre-school would begin at six months and medical care pre-natally. The fami-

ly would be awash with help to maximize healthy cultural influence.

On the school districting front, those states whose school borders follow town borders would have to give them up. Districts would need to be re-gerrymandered to include both wealthy and poor neighborhoods to the extent possible. And uniforms would be everywhere.

All this is definitely not Norman Rockwell, but maybe it's time for a new artist as well as a new system.

The world has changed. If, unlike most European nations, we purport to treat our legal immigrants fairly, we have work to do. But even if we insist on maintaining our growing unhealthy economic disparity, there are still penalties to pay. Free pre-school and universal health care are a couple big ones.

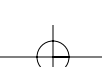
So far there seems little political enthusiasm for this or any other sort of fundamental education reform.

We remain powerfully wedded to neighborhood schools and to low taxes. Consequently other nations are passing us by.

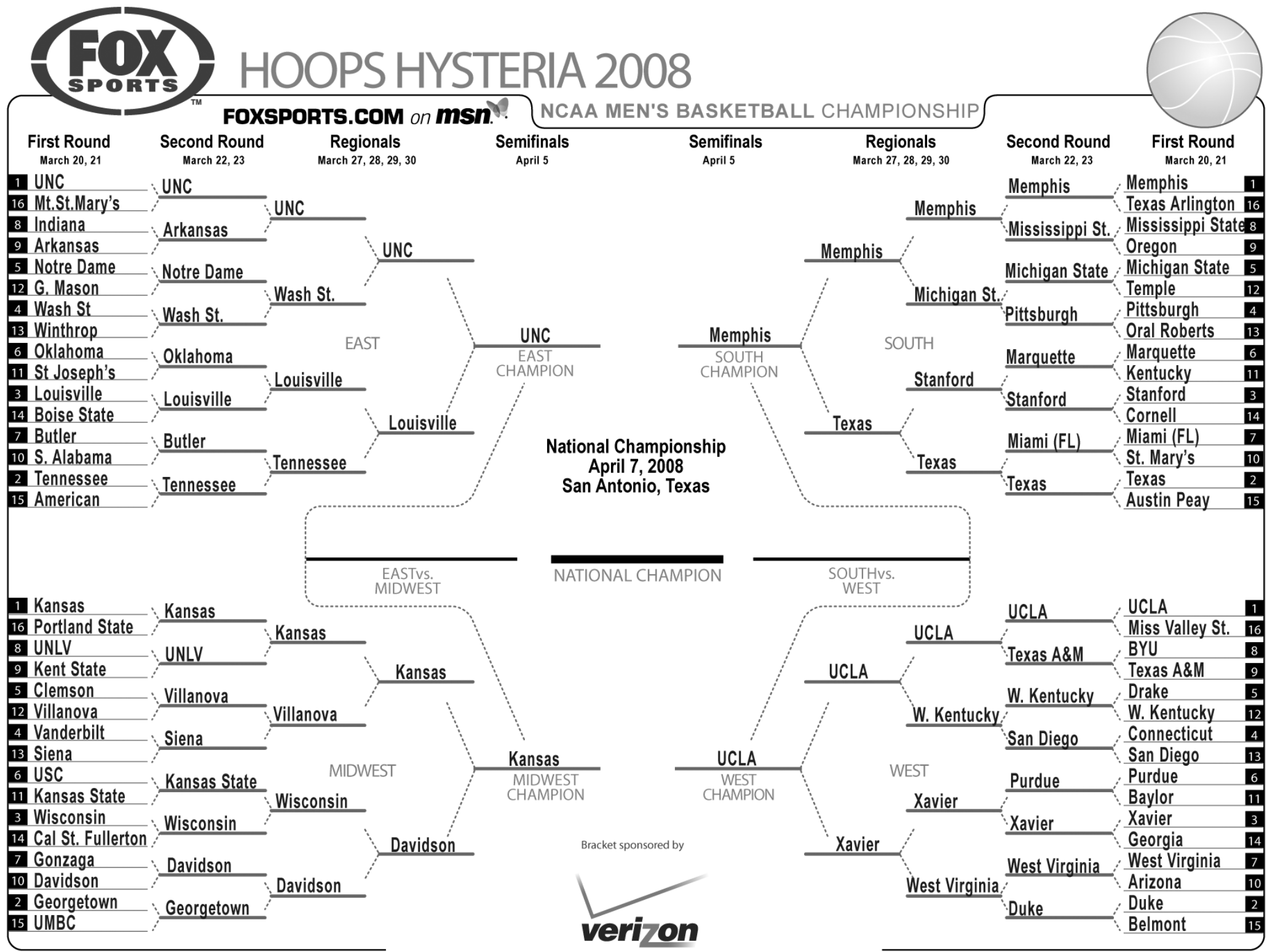
The likely result will be that education turns out to be a hefty chapter in "The Decline and Fall of the American Empire."

Columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn.

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2008 NCAA TOURNAMENT



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ROAD TO THE FINAL FOUR

BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE

Do you have an interesting item for the Business and Agriculture pages? Call Bill McClellan, 263-7331, Ext. 235, or leave a voice mail.

BIG SPRING HERALD

Page 4C
Sunday, April 6, 2008

SMMC OPENS NEW CENTER



Dr. Mario J. Castillo cuts the ribbon on the newly redecorated Mammography Center at Scenic Mountain Medical Center while Mammography Tech Natalie MacDonald and SMMC CEO George Parsley, joined by several local ambassadors and Chamber of Commerce officials, look on. The ribbon cutting celebrated the completion of March Mammo Madness at SMMC.

Energy Watch



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



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

In previous comments we've remarked on the weak profit margins for domestic refiners. Versus demand and average seasonal levels, gasoline inventories remain robust despite being drawn down over the past two weeks. To combat poor margins, we speculated refiners would eventually be forced into cutting production.

Last week, the nation's largest refiner, confirmed they had taken this step. At a Corpus Christi, TX refinery they are reportedly running their gasoline capacity at only 73%. Meanwhile, other refineries that were undergoing routine, seasonal maintenance have been hesitant to ramp runs back up because of the poor gasoline fundamentals. Until margins improve and the overhang in gasoline supply is corrected, we anticipate this supply cutting activity to continue.

However, according to Rueben Jeffrey, the U.S. coordinator for international energy affairs at the State Department, "Fundamentally, if one looks at the oil market today or at the futures market six months or a year or more beyond, these prices...are being driven by underlying considerations of supply and demand." His sentiment generally fits with the views in Washington that secular shifts in supply and demand force a longer-term strategy, and there is no quick fix to the comparatively high prices of recent years.

In practical terms, rising fuel costs, a weak economy, and concerns about a weakening dollar are complicating matters for citizens, airlines, retailers, and auto makers. Currently the price of diesel fuel in 17 states exceeds \$4 per gallon. Independent truckers tend to be the hardest hit by current pump prices.

- According to an AP article, "Of the 50 fastest-growing metro areas (in 2007) 27 were in the South and 20 were in the west." Only two were in the Midwest. None were in the Northeast. This is important. Population shifts to the south and west can impact the population weighted degree day accumulations which we like to use to gauge how temperatures are impacting natural gas consumers. Major metro areas that lost population included Detroit, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Buffalo and Youngstown, Ohio. Texas was the fastest growing state for the second consecutive year.

- PEMEX, Mexico's national oil company, said its proven reserves fell 800 thousand barrels last year. The nation annually suffers from low discovery rates and their output is in decline. The nation's congress is debating a new energy bill that could help energize output.

- Beijing News reported today that CNPC and Sinopec are both denying rumors there are plans to raise fuel prices in response to the shortages of diesel, particularly in the Guangdong province, a major export region. The state-owned companies attribute the recent shortages to spring plowing and reconstruction efforts following the winter storms. In addition, the companies suggest retailers are simply hoarding supply to sell later.

- The uncertainty surrounding the shortage of fuel, particularly diesel, in China continues. At this point, we do not believe the shortages simply reflect a distribution problem. In addition, the geographic area impacted suggests it's not a refinery glitch. A surge in economic activity (demand) is possible. This would result in a regional issue wherein demand is greater than supply.

- Russian President Putin and President Bush will meet a final time before Russia's leader steps down from office. Washington's hope is a new "strategic framework" for relations can be formed.

- Signaling Brazil's confidence in its place as the world's preeminent exporter of ethanol, firms in the nation are lining up to become the first to build and operate an ethanol-only pipeline. The line would carry the fuel between the state of Sao Paulo and the coast.

- As the energy infrastructure in India evolves, the nation faces a choice of pursuing nuclear energy with the U.S. or becoming more reliant on Iranian LNG. The path they gravitate to could determine whether gas or nuclear becomes the other predominant source of electricity in the nation. Coal is already a major source of power generation capacity.

- High fuel prices are forcing South Korea to cut usage. The military is asking soldiers to shower only once a week and air force pilots are being asked to do more training on computers instead of logging additional flight time. The measures are just a couple of those that came out an emergency meeting the armed forces convened to discuss how to reduce the fuel bill.

Portions of this article were produced on March 24th - 27th 2008 by Eric Wittenauer, Energy Futures Analyst, Global Investment Strategy A.G. Edwards. Its publication is a collaborative effort and the information is obtained from sources considered reliable, however accuracy is not guaranteed by W.S. LLC. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results and additional information is available upon request (432)684-7335.

Employers chopped 80,000 jobs last month; unemployment rate climbs to 5.1 percent

By **JEANNINE AVERSA**

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Employers buffeted by talk of recession slashed 80,000 jobs in March, the most in five years and the third straight month of losses.

At the same time, the national unemployment rate rose from 4.8 percent to 5.1 percent, the clearest signal yet that the economy might already be shrinking.

The new snapshot of the job market, released by the Labor Department Friday, underscored the damage that a trio of crises — in the housing, credit and financial sectors — has inflicted on companies, jobseekers and the economy as a whole.

"The labor market has indeed turned south," said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors. "That was the one last bastion of hope to stay out of a recession. Now the question is how deep and how long will it last?"

The unemployment rate was the highest since September 2005, when significant job losses followed the

devastating blows of Gulf Coast hurricanes.

Job losses were widespread in March. Construction, manufacturing, retailing, financial services and various business services all racked up losses. That overwhelmed gains elsewhere, including in education and health care, leisure and hospitality as well as in government.

The new employment figures were much weaker than economists were expecting. They were anticipating a drop of 50,000 payroll jobs and the unemployment rate to rise to 5 percent.

The 5.1 percent rate is relatively modest by historical standards, but was nonetheless the highest in 21/2 years.

Job cuts in both January and February turned out to be even deeper. Employers got rid of 76,000 in each month. The elimination of 80,000 jobs in March was the most since March 2003, when the labor market was still struggling to recover from the 2001 recession.

The economy is suffering the effects of a housing collapse, a cred-

it crunch and a financial system in turmoil. That's causing people and businesses to hunker down, crimping spending, capital investment and hiring. Those things in turn further weaken the economy in what has become a vicious cycle.

For the first time, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke acknowledged Wednesday that the country could be heading toward a recession, saying federal policymakers are "fighting against the wind" in combating it. Many other economists and the public believe the recession already has arrived.

Bernanke wouldn't tip his hand about the Fed's next move. However, many economists believe the central bank will lower interest rates again when they meet later this month.

The Fed has taken a number of extraordinary actions recently — slashing interest rates, providing financial backing to JP Morgan's takeover of troubled Bear Stearns and opening an emergency lending program for big investment houses.

See **ECONOMY**, Page 12C

DONATION TO YMCA



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

YMCA Executive Director Pete Thiry, center, receives a check for \$500 from Wal-Mart representatives Manny Negron, left, and Tim Walsh. The Wal-Mart donation will go to the Y's annual support campaign, which raises money to defray membership costs for low-income families.

Suit filed against Lubbock medical examiner

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

An Austin man has filed a complaint against the Lubbock County medical examiner and his office he claims could invalidate autopsies performed for more than 80 surrounding counties — including Howard County — going back as far as 1994.

David Fisher, a self-described document research consultant, filed the complaint last week with the Texas Medical Board, alleging Lubbock's medical examiner, Thomas Beaver, is fraudulently practicing medicine outside the scope of his medical license,

which limits him to practicing medicine as a teacher and to seeing patients under Texas Tech's supervision.

Fisher also claims autopsy reports were falsified by the office, and alleges conspiracy to commit fraud and tampering with a corpse, as well.

Howard County currently contracts with the Lubbock Medical Examiner's Office — which operates out of Texas Tech's Health Sciences Center — for autopsies, according to Howard County officials.

Beaver received and maintained a temporary faculty permit, which limits him to practicing medicine as a teacher and to

seeing to patients under the college's supervision. The state statute governing medical examiners requires all chief medical examiners to obtain a state medical license, but is unclear as to what type of license.

And while Beaver's license to practice medicine and serve as Lubbock County's medical examiner is in question, Fisher said the problems with the office go much, much deeper.

"Sometime in 2006 the Lubbock County Commissioners Court appointed Texas Tech Professor Dr. Thomas Beaver as chief medical examiner for Lubbock County," said Fisher in

his complaint to the Texas Medical Board. "The appointment was part of an on going conspiracy to commit fraud on the citizens of Lubbock and surrounding counties that involved the Lubbock County Commissioners Court, Lubbock County Hospital District and Texas Tech Health Science Center. The purpose of the fraud was to have the bodies of those who died and required an autopsy to be shipped to the Texas Tech Health Science Center to be used as teaching autopsies for the pathology students."

Fisher said the relationship between Texas Tech and the medical examiner's office is also a prob-

lem. "We're looking at contractual fraud here. Other than in paper, there is no medical examiners office in Lubbock County," said Fisher. "All you have is a cabal between Texas Tech and the hospital district. The medical examiner has to be a free and independent scientist so they can not be influenced. That way no one has leverage against them. In this case, Texas Tech pays the medical examiner's salary. So, in the end, the medical examiner is answering to the college, which is free to leverage him in any way they see fit. If they feel he needs to find less homicides, he finds less homicides. This

isn't just a problem with licensing. The whole thing is a disaster.

"The Lubbock County Commissioners effectively dissolved the Lubbock County Medical Examiners Office when they contracted with Texas Tech Health Science Center for autopsy services in 2000. Under Texas law, the authority and duty to perform inquests would then revert to the justice of the peace's office. No Texas statute authorizes a county commissioner's court the power to appoint a physician to the position of chief medical examiner of the county when that

See **SUIT**, Page 9A

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

ed drink of water for our dog and me.

Thanks to the firefighters that kept watch all night. My apologies if I forgot anyone. May God bless each and every one of you.

KEN, ANN AND ERIC POPE
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR

A big thank you to the Howard County Fire Department, Glasscock County Fire Department, Price Construction, as well as any and all other individuals who rescued our residence located on the east end of South Mountain.

A big thank you to the Texas Forest Service for the help with their helicopters as well as the chemical disbursement by their fixed wing aircraft. All of our property avoided any fire damage due to the wonderful work of the volunteers and many others of whom I have no knowledge. Even though I had cleared much of the vegetation with a good perimeter around the residence, there was still a lot of heat and fire that these individuals were certainly responsible for the preservation of the property. Obviously I am saddened others were less fortunate.

Howard County should certainly support these people, support these entities and especially the volunteer fire department for the work that they do. I would recommend and solicit all of us who had the assistance of the Howard County Fire Department to make donations to them so that we can preserve the equipment that they use for our protection.

I noted that on the side of one of their fire trucks

there is a thank you to the Dora Roberts Foundation and thus, I make a thank you to Dora Roberts for the fire truck which was used on our property in preserving our residence.

Again, thank you to all of you courageous individuals.

ROBERT D. MILLER
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

We would like to thank everyone who helped in fighting the fire in the Silver Heels area Thursday, March 27.

There is no way you all can be thanked enough for helping save our home.

RICKY JAMES AND FAMILY
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

We would like to express our profound appreciation to all who battled the fires on Monday. We live on Merrily and their efforts (and many prayers) are what saved our home.

As we were evacuated, we felt that the next time we came back, our home would not be there. We know that the efforts of all the fire departments, individuals, volunteers, forestry department and those from other towns are what saved our home of 30 years.

A house can be replaced but you cannot put a

value on or replace sentimental items and family heirlooms that are in most homes. Our hearts go out to those whose homes were lost or damaged. We feel very blessed that nobody was hurt or injured and that our home was spared.

Each of you and your families have our heartfelt gratitude.

SHELANE AND WAYNE
ROBERTS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I would just like to send out my sincerest appreciation to the firemen and law officers we have in our city and county. On Monday afternoon, my husband and I came home to start gathering as many of our precious belongings as we could before the huge grassfire reached our home. We live in the Kentwood neighborhood on Merrily and as everyone knows the fire passed right behind our homes.

As we were frantically gathering our things, a sheriff's deputy came into my house and said, "Ma'am, that's the last box, you have got to get out." I could see the flames from my back bedroom window. He graciously helped me carry out one last box and I left. My husband came out a few minutes later. As I drove away, I truly

expected my home to go up in flames. But, as I prayed and drove, the fire trucks and water trucks speedily came up Ann and went in behind mine and my neighbor's houses.

Heavy equipment was brought in behind the Kentwood Elementary School and they made a firebreak between the school and fire. I don't know how they accomplished it, but they kept the fire from reaching our homes and the school. Later that evening we had to show our IDs to get back into the neighborhood, as law officers kept vigil over both the Baylor and Birdwell entrances.

When we got back into our house that evening, of course the smoke was so bad, we could hardly sleep, but we did what we could to ventilate. We didn't unload our vehicles because we felt the fire might flare back up and we'd have to leave again. But again, all through the night, fire trucks patrolled the alley behind our homes to keep us safe. I felt like they were our "hedge of angels" and with that reassurance I did get some sleep.

So, I just want them to know how much they are appreciated for all they did, and I know I speak on behalf of my husband and my neighbors who have echoed the same sentiments.

Thank you so much for your tireless efforts in keeping our community safe.

BRENDA DUNLAP
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I know this year we passed a bond for the jail and the jail is under way.

I know last year we passed a bond for Main Street to be repaved. What happened?

Main Street is a disgrace and I feel sure people looking at our city, either to relocate or start a business, look at Main Street and leave.

It should be the showplace of our city. Our pride in our town is reflected in the way our Main Street looks.

Please, city fathers, tend to this.

BILLIE MORGAN
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I have had a student in Big Spring High School for the last seven years. During this time, I have had numerous dealings with Mike Ritchey. No matter the situation, I have come away from each encounter feeling that I had been heard and

the problem or incident would be addressed. I do not know anyone better suited to be the principal and/or athletic director than Mike Ritchey. I am so glad to hear that he is back, even if only temporarily.

I agree with Shirl Boyd. Children are at school to get an education. They need rules and structure. If they could make the right decisions at this age, they could live on their own.

Thank you Mr. Ritchey. Glad you're back!

LISA EMERSON
BIG SPRING


TO THE EDITOR:

Bonnie and I wish to express our appreciation to or church family at Berea Baptist Church and to friends across Howard County for prayer support and words of encouragement during my recent illness and hospitalizations.

We are grateful for the many expressions of care through cards, phone calls and visits. Thank you for assisting in my recovery in these ways.

DWAYNE AND BONNIE
WHEAT
BIG SPRING

From the Chavez Family a loving thank you.



The family of Ricardo Chavez:

We would like to extend a warm and loving appreciation to the West Campus Hospice for their help and care of our beloved relative, Ricardo Chavez. To the MPS staff of the Big Spring State Hospital who brought paper goods and other necessities. And most especially to all of our family and friends who brought food, paper goods and those that cooked a wonderful dinner for the graveside services. Also, thanks for the flowers, donations, and gifts that were given.


It means a lot to our family for those that took the time out of their schedules and busy lives to offer all of us support and companionship through this most difficult time. May God reward you and bless you as richly as you have blessed our family.

Thank you ~ The Chavez Family

When Annette Knox started a second career after raising her children, she only wanted a few things in a new job:

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Tickets are on sale at: Music World,
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Please call 575-738-1041 for more information

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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 Spurgeon, 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:

Howard County vs. Cherie Lynn Dorton estate, tax suit.
Howard County vs. George O. Taylor, tax suit.
Howard County vs. H.L. Thurman, tax suit.
Howard County vs. Joe A. Torres, tax suit.
Howard County vs. Johnny Ray Torres, tax suit.
Howard County vs. Trans Exchange Corp., tax suit.
Howard County vs. Richie Tubb, tax suit.
Howard County vs. Rene Villa and Laura Villa, tax suit.
Howard County vs. Jimmy Doyle Woods, tax suit.
Glenn Gibson vs. Kerr Management DBA Hillside Properties, accounts, notes and contracts.
Connie Mae Green vs. Lonnie Ray Green, divorce.
The State of Texas vs. Katavious Jerome Booker (\$4,679), civil suit.
Gloria Jean Hernandez vs. Frank Garza Jr., divorce.
Dianna Welch vs. Brian Scott Welch, divorce.

Marriage Licenses:

Jacob K Zant 24, of Oklahoma, and Stephanie A. Batchelor, 20, of Lamesa.
Joe R. Morales, 42, and Andrea McComb Alvarez, 32, both of Big Spring.
Richard D. Anderson, 41, and Tina Marie Chavez, 40, both of Big Spring.
Timothy D. Harshbarger Jr., 28, and Lisa Marie Rhoudes, 36, both of Big Spring.
Joe Paul Turner, 36, and Susan D. Wornell, 28, both of Big Spring.

Warranty Deeds:

Grantor: M. Dean Blake
Grantee: Stephanie Dyaney
Property: Lot 12, Block 14, McDowell Heights
Date: March 27, 2008

Grantor: Buddy Andrews and Mattie Andrews
Grantee: Daniel Andrews, Johnny Bedell and Steve Bedell
Property: Lot 15, Block 4, Wrights Airport Addition
Date: March 27, 2008

Grantor: David Neal Baird
Grantee: Kitty E. Schrecongost
Property: Two tracts out of Section 19, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 28, 2008

Grantor: Howard County 911 Communications
Grantee: Most Rev. Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Angelo
Property: The S/4 of Lot 3 and all of Lots 4-6, Block 44, Original Town of Big Spring
Date: March 28, 2008

Grantor: Ackerly Oil Co.
Grantee: Chris Evans
Property: A .3 acre tract out of Section 5, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 28, 2008

Grantor: Johnny H. Reed and Linda Reed
Grantee: Margaret Matthews
Property: A 4.8 acre tract out of Section 17, Block 31, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: April 2, 2008

Warranty Deed with Vendors Lien:

Grantor: Dick R. Earhart and Diane Earhart
Grantee: Michael Dean Mauzey and Melissa Mauzey
Property: A .5 acre tract out of Section 43, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 27, 2008

Grantor: Aubrey E. Hamilton and Jo Hamilton
Grantee: Harlan Morgan and Barbara Morgan
Property: Lot 1, Block 10, Coronado Hills
Date: March 27, 2008

Grantor: Dustin Baker and Lyndsey Baker
Grantee: Jesse Metcalf III and Meghan Metcalf
Property: Lot 8, Block 3, Suburban Heights
Date: March 28, 2008

Grantor: Rocky R. Schrecongost and Kitty Schrecongost
Grantee: Robert Aaron and Shawnda Aaron
Property: A 3.605 acre

tract out of Section 19, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 28, 2008

Grantor: Peggy Calhoun
Grantee: Jarred Drummond and Rachele Guinn
Property: Lot 24, Block 8, Douglass Addition
Date: March 28, 2008

Grantor: Patrick Carnahan and Jennifer Carnahan
Grantee: Deborah Light
Property: Lot 5, Block 12, Kentwood Unit No. 1
Date: March 28, 2008

Grantor: Janice Conaway
Grantee: Adella Rivera
Property: Lot 15, Block 9, Suburban Heights
Date: March 28, 2008

Grantor: Max Moore Properties
Grantee: Jacob M. Rios and Tina Baldomino
Property: Lot 2, Block 11, Suburban Heights
Date: March 28, 2008

Grantor: Cheryl L. Click
Grantee: Joe C. Chance
Property: A 1.6 acre tract out of Section 24, Block 27, H&TC RR Co. Survey

Date: March 28, 2008

Grantor: Vicki L. Alexander
Grantee: Wayne D. Larson
Property: Lot 1, Block 2, Replat of Wasson Place
Date: March 31, 2008

Grantor: Barbara Hall, Michael Hall, Catherine Wendland and Wendt Wendland
Grantee: Brenda Balios
Property: Lot 19, Block 1, Hillcrest Terrace
Date: March 31, 2008

Grantor: Donnie R. Reid
Grantee: D&D Coates Inc.
Property: A tract out of Section 6, Block 31, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 31, 2008

Grantor: Eric H. Walker
Grantee: Hester Juanita Stonerook
Property: A 1 acre tract out of Section 43, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 31, 2008

Grantor: Ronald L. Howell and Patricia Howell
Grantee: Odilia O. Granados
Property: Lot 34, Block 13, Douglas 2 Addition
Date: March 31, 2008

Grantor: Steven L. Blagrave
Grantee: Harold Houston Raney Jr. and Nancy Raney
Property: A tract out of Section 42, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 31, 2008

Grantor: Rosemary Cortez
Grantee: Rebecca Raney
Property: Lot 8, Block 6, Kentwood Unit No. 1
Date: April 1, 2008

Grantor: Scott McLaughlin and Mary McLaughlin
Grantee: Stevie J. Bodine and Brenda Bodine
Property: The W/20 feet of Lot 6 and all of Lot 7-8 and a part of Lot 9, Block 8, Edwards Heights
Date: April 8, 2008

Grantor: Robert D. Jenkins and Deborah Jenkins
Grantee: Fe Acosta
Property: Lots 3-4, Subdivision B, Block 17, Fairview Heights
Date: April 1, 2008

Grantor: Nancy Fields
Grantee: Estella Linferral
Property: Lot 19, Block A, Merrick Green Addition
Date: April 2, 2008

Investment firms tapping Fed for billions in emergency loans

By JEANNINE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Big Wall Street investment companies are stepping up their borrowing a bit from the Federal Reserve's unprecedented emergency lending program.

The Federal Reserve reported Thursday that those firms averaged \$38.1 billion in daily borrowing over the past week from the new lending program. That compared with \$32.9 billion in the previous week and \$13.4 billion in the first week the lending facility opened.

The program, which began on March 17, is part of the Fed's effort to aid the financial system.

The Fed, for the first time, agreed to let big investment houses temporarily get emergency loans directly from the central bank. This mechanism, similar to one available for commercial banks for years, will continue for at least six months. It was the broadest use of the Fed's lending authority since the 1930s.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues opened the facility as it raced to deal with the sudden crash of the

venerable Wall Street firm Bear Stearns, which was on the brink of bankruptcy. Fearful that other investment firms could be in jeopardy given the intense fear that gripped the markets at that time, the Fed moved to give investment firms a place to go for overnight cash loans.

Doing this was "a very substantial step," Bernanke told lawmakers at a Senate Banking Committee hearing on Thursday. "We didn't take it lightly."

The lending facility is seen as similar to the Fed's "discount window" for commercial banks, where the Fed acts as a lender of last resort. Commercial banks and investment companies pay 2.5 percent in interest for overnight loans from the Fed.

Banks also stepped up their borrowing from the Fed's discount window. Banks averaged \$7 billion in daily borrowing for the week ending April 2. That compared with \$550 million in average daily borrowing for the previous week.

The identities of commercial banks and investment houses borrowing from the Fed's emergency

lending facilities are not released.

The Fed's decision to extend emergency lending to investment houses — along with another controversial move — backing a multibillion lifeline as part of JP Morgan's deal to take over the troubled Bear Stearns — were under scrutiny by the Senate Banking Committee. Some Democrats and others worry that the moves could put billions of taxpayer dollars at potential risk.

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TOURNAMENT**



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April 19, 2008
9:00 Tee Time

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- \$ Cash Prizes \$
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\$\$\$ Million Dollar Shootout \$\$\$

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(watch for details)

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BirthPlace Tour:
Monday, April 7 at 7:00pm

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The smallest details matter most to us. Labor, Delivery, Recovery, and Beautiful Beginnings in The BirthPlace at Midland Memorial Hospital West Campus.

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Garage Sales

1508 EAST 5TH. Good stuff, furniture, desk, lugwin snare bell kit drum set, lumber, building material, lamps, misc. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. All must go!

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AUCTION PUBLIC AUTO AUCTION public **REPOSESSION** sale **LIVE BIDDING SALE** SATURDAY April 19 11:00 AM **RICK FAULKS AUCTIONEER** Tx 00012368 PH. 806-777-6370 6145 E. Hwy. 80 Odessa, TX. Lien Holder's Interest Satisfaction Sale **Information Line 432-580-4050**

Help Wanted

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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.



MUSSEWHITE TRUCKING is accepting applications for **Vacuum Truck Drivers Pump Truck Drivers Wench Truck Drivers Hot Oil Drivers Dispatchers Mechanics** Competitive Wages & Benefits **Pick up application at Texas Work Force Commission, 501 South Main Suite 235, Big Spring Post Office Building 2nd Floor**

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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.

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* 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.

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

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
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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 EOE

BLUE SKY Services is looking for a Journeyman Electrician. If interested please call 432-580-7332.

BLUE SKY Services is looking for an Experienced Backhoe Operator for the Big Spring area. If interested please call 432-580-7332.

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!

Help Wanted

CDL DRIVERS and Maintainer Operator needed. Good Pay, Insurance, and lots of hours. Job located in the Coahoma, Texas area. Must have dependable transportation and pass a drug test. Apply in person at 9400 South Service Road I-20, Coahoma, TX.

CDL DRIVERS needed. Vacuum truck. Experience preferred, but not necessary. Must pass drug test. Call (432)466-3838.

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Help Wanted

CLERK II
The Department of State Health Services Big Spring WIC Clinic is seeking a person with clerical experience. The WIC Clerk is responsible for assisting in eligibility screening, physical assessment of clients, data entry of client information, issuing program benefits, preparing monthly reports, teaching group classes and outreach activities. Must enjoy working with the public. Bilingual/Bi-literate (English/Spanish) required. Salary \$1661.00per month. For Complete Job Description and state application please access the State of Texas Web Site at https://rm.accesshr.hpsc.state.tx.us or the Texas Workforce Commission website at www.workintexas.com Reference Job Posting #86220. State applications must be completed and received by 04/11/2008. Applications can be completed online or faxed to 866-245-3646. For application assistance call AccessHR at 888-894-4747. EOE

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- Produce an original birth certificate or certified copy
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- Not have more than two speeding tickets in the past three years
- Not have a DWI in the past three years
- Not be on probation, parole or have charges pending
- Pass a drug and alcohol screen

An equal opportunity employer



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER is accepting applications for the following positions at the Ector County Jail. Successful candidates will be required to pass a security clearance.

Charge Nurse (Requisition #76144)
Licensed Vocational Nurse 2 positions available (Requisition #s 73659 and 75590)
Correctional experience a plus
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Nancy Rhoads, Director of Nurses
For additional information and to apply Log on to <http://jobs.texastech.edu>
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We are currently seeking Registered Nurses, Home Care Aides, and Clerical Staff in the Big Spring area. It is an honor to care for our employees & to serve our patients. We offer competitive salaries, benefit packages, supportive work environment, tuition assistance and online CE courses. Opportunities for advancement are offered to all who work hard with a great attitude. Happiness & joy are cornerstones of our workplace.

Prefer an RN and HCA with 1 year Home Health experience. Please call our office at: 432-264-1164 Fax: 432-264-1304 Email: Scott.Myers@FMS-Regional.com



ENERTECH Wireline Services is growing Wireline Service company that truly believes "Our People Make the Difference." We are seeking experienced people who "Can Make a Difference." We currently have the following opportunities in our Pipe Recovery Division located in Midland and Snyder:

Pipe Recovery Service Operators Service Supervisors

Applicants must be 21 years of age, have a current CDL A or B license with HazMat endorsement.

We offer excellent salaries and a benefit package that includes; medical, dental, vision, company paid life insurance, supplemental life, matching 401(k), company paid std/ltd, vacation, sick and personal paid time off.

Call our Midland office (432.683.1131) or Snyder office (325.573.8750) for an application or forward your resume and salary history to:

ENERTECH Wireline Services
3148 West Hwy. 180
Snyder, TX 79549
Snyder Office: 325.573.8750 / Snyder Fax: 325.573.7377
Email: smccollum@enertech-ws.com
Salaries Commensurate with Experience
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Help Wanted
LOOKING FOR Maintenance/Janitorial help for the Big Spring Mall. Apply in person or get application from lara@thebigspringmall.net

Help Wanted
NOW HIRING Mental Health Aides, Rotating Days 12:00am-8:00am shifts. Come by 2607 Chanutte and pick up application.

Help Wanted
COAHOMA ISD is accepting applications for two positions: Lead Custodian and Groundskeeper. Applications are available at the Administration Office, 600 N Main, Coahoma. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. Coahoma ISD is an equal opportunity employer.

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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.

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EXPERIENCED PAINTER for trucks and heavy equipment. Salary DOE, Health Insurance, and 401k plan. Apply at Price Construction, 2701 N. HWY 350, Big Spring, TX 79720 or fax resume to 432-236-6012. EOE.

NOW HIRING all positions. Apply in person at 802 West I-20 between the Exxon & Advantage Inn Motel.

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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
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FRONT DESK Cheerful Energetic Person. Computer Skills, Ability to Multi Task, Billing and Insurance experience helpful. Will train right person. Monday-Thursday 8-5. Bring resume by 1708 E. FM 700 Big Spring TX.

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.

HONEST HARDWORKING lawn and office maintenance person. 5 flexible hours per week. Equipment on site. Character references required. Great for a student. Call 432-263-5217.

Help Wanted

HANGAR 25 Air Museum is seeking a part-time Maintenance/Janitor. 16 hours a week. \$5.85 an hour. Duties include cleaning and event set up as well as all other duties assigned. Interested parties please call or come by and fill out an application.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT Mechanic Needed. Water Truck Driver Needed. CDL Class B or A Required. Laborers. Salary DOE, Health Insurance, and 401K Plan. Apply at Price Construction, 2701 N. HWY 350, Big Spring, TX 79720 or fax resume to 432-236-6012. EOE.



HELP WANTED!
UP TO \$8.00 HOURLY
for qualified applicants. DQ of Coahoma, 108 N. Broadway, is now hiring daytime help. Need to love working with people, meeting new faces drug and smoke-free environments. Apply with Manager JoAnn Abrego

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

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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.

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.

MAINTENANCE TECH needed, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm. Experience preferred but not required. Must pass criminal and credit check. Fax resume to 432-264-1761 or call 432-264-1735. EOE

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.

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.

Help Wanted

OPENING FOR Administrative Assistant for Canterbury. Desired skills include: Work, Excel, Publisher, reception skills and organizational skills. Salary DOE, Benefit package available, send resume to 1700 Lancaster Street.

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PARKPLACE RETIREMENT Living is seeking an evening Resident Clerk. This position is shift work from 4:30pm to 12:30am; week ends required (guaranteed 40 hours a week). Duties include facilitating activities, light housekeeping, assisting in during meal times, etc. Must be able to multitask and be active. Apply in person at 501 W. 17th Street.

PARKVIEW NURSING & REHABILITATION
Now hiring for the following positions:
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Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST NEEDED. Our growth has created an immediate opening for a full time, part time, or PRN Physical Therapist in our beautiful and new Legend Healthcare and Rehabilitation transitional care facility. Long Term/SNF experience is preferred, but not requested. Our dynamic team consists of Occupational, Physical, and Speech Therapies. For more information please contact Martha at 1-877-439-6277 or Martha@TruCare Solutions.com

Help Wanted

PART-TIME: THE National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (A Fair Opportunity Employer) needs survey interviewers in Martin, Midland and Howard counties. Applicants must have a valid driver's license and access to a pick-up truck or automobile. Starting pay is \$9.35 per hour including training time, plus 50.5 cents per mile for travel. A farm background is desirable, but not essential. If you are interested, please contact:
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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.

P.H.I.C. - John Deere Dealer of Big Spring, TX in need of Service Technicians. Pay is based on exp. Fax resume: Attn: Justin Parker, Serv., Mngr. (432)267-2757 or call (432)263-8344 Benefits Include: Health Ins., 401K; Pd. Vacation.

PORTER HENDERSON Implementation Co. is looking for a full and part time parts clerk. Farming knowledge a plus. Must have a valid driver's license. Apply in person at 3011 N. Hwy. 87.

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Needed to Guard Federal Inmates in Local Hospitals. Must be able to pass State and Federal background checks and credit check requirements. Full and part-time positions available. Starting pay \$12.50 per hr. Apply at Workforce Center in Big Spring or call 432-520-1573.

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

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.

YOUTH DIRECTOR needed for small Christian Church. Must be a positive role model and able to get along well with parents. Must be good at organizing events for youth and at giving reports to the board. Please contact First Christian Church at 432-517-4821.

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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. Questions regarding this position can be directed to Michael Cross, Employee Services Manager, mcross@bop.gov, (432) 466-2402, or Aramis Martinez, Health Services Administrator, 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. Questions regarding this position can be directed to Michael Cross, Employee Services Manager, mcross@bop.gov, (432) 466-2402, or Aramis Martinez, Health Services Administrator, axxmartinez@bop.gov, 432-466-2438. The BOP is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Contracts are available now for motor route carriers. For information, call 432-263-7331.

BIG SPRING HERALD

West Texas Centers for MHMR
Quality Service for Quality Life

Certified Medical Assistant: This new full-time position will be responsible for nursing assistance in a Mental Health Clinic. Additional duties will include conducting vital sign assessments, performing venipunctures, administering injections and providing clinical assistance. Salary \$9.02/hr (\$18,768.00 annually). Benefits. Must be a Certified Medical Assistant.

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 \$8.20-\$8.75 hr (\$17,052.00-\$18,192.00 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 \$8.20-\$8.75 hr (\$17,052.00-\$18,192.00 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 \$8.20-\$8.75 hr (\$17,052.00-\$18,192.00 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.

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

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

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 .505 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 .505 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 .505 cents per mile. Rental vehicles are available at various times. Services are provided in the natural environment. DOE.

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

Locations: Big Spring, Colorado City, Snyder, Sweetwater

Help Wanted

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.

WOODFOREST NATIONAL Bank is now hiring for Assistant Branch Manger at our Big Spring location. Please apply online at www.woodforest.com. EOE m/f/v/d

Items for Sale

2 TWIN Mattress sets and box springs. Both new. \$95.00 each. Will separate. Call 432-664-8980.

BRAND NAME queen pillow-top mattress set. New in plastic. Factory warranty. \$145. Can delivery 432-664-8980.

FULL SIZE mattress set. New in plastic. \$115.00 Call 432-664-8980.

GE SIDE-BY-SIDE refrigerator (black) and 16 foot fiberglass boat including motor w/trailer. Call 432-264-9900.

KING QUILTED Pillowtop mattress se. New in plastic with warranty. \$250.00 Delivery Available. Call 432-664-8980.

QUEEN ORTHOPEDIC mattress set. Factory sealed with warranty. "New" \$130.00. Call 432-664-8980.

RUBBERMAID SMALL pick-up tool box \$100. OBO. Call 432-466-3181.

TEMPUR-PUDIC TYPE memory foam mattress set. New in plastic. Retail \$1800 Must sell for \$550. Call 432-664-8980.

WASHER AND Dryer, Both for \$75.00 or \$40.00 each. Baldwin Overture with two keyboards and floor stand with pedals. Different Rhythms, \$200.00.

Lost and Found

\$200 REWARD: Female Bull Dog. Brown/ white. Lost on 3/29/08. Needed medication. High maintenance dog. Little boy misses her. Call 432-935-9171.

Miscellaneous

\$460 NEW 5pc Microfiber Livingroom Set. Stain Resistant, Factory Warranty. List \$1499.... **CHERRY** dining table, chairs, china cabinet, mirror finish, ALL NEW. \$700. 806-549-3110.

100% LEATHER 5pc. Livingroom Set. Lifetime warranty. Never used, in Crates. Retail \$2999, \$620..... **CHERRY DINING** table & chairs. Deep, mirror finish, Boxed. List \$600 Take \$225. 806-549-3110.

1998 TRAVEL Supreme 32ft., 5th wheel, 3 slides. Parked in Sand Springs. Call 325-280-2408.

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 325-944-3840.

2000 DUTCHMAN Supreme, 5th wheel, 2 slide outs, queen bed w/queen sleeper sofa, 31 foot 6 inches. Price \$16,000.00. Call 432-213-4332.

BIG RECLINER, Sofa, and loveseat, BRAND NEW, list #3330, sell \$990..... **BEAUTIFUL CHERRY** solid wood sleighbed with new mattress set. \$350. 806-549-3110.

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

FOR SALE: 2006, 30 FT. KEYSTONE BUMPER PULL TRAVEL TRAILER WITH 2 SLIDES, SLEEPS 6, PULLED ONLY 3 TIMES, EXCELLENT CONDITION. CALL 432-213-2167.

REMODELING: WHIRLPOOL Conquest Refrigerator, Jenn-iar double oven, dishwasher, space maker microwave, countertop stove, sink. All White. Great Condition. All for only \$1,800.00. Call 432-684-5418.

ROUND BALES- Coastal \$55.00. Call (432)213-4332.

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.

Miscellaneous

SELECT NUMBER air mattress set, two controls, pick comfort level, brand new, valid warranty. List \$2990. Sell \$880..... **BEAUTIFUL EXPRESSO** 6 pc contemporary bedroom set & comforter set, must see, \$595. 806-549-3110.

On the Farm

8N FORD Tractor with implements, disc, plow, cultivator and planter. \$3,500.00. Call (432)466-9277.

Pets

FREE 5 puppies, 2 months old, to good home. Will be medium size dogs. Call 432-466-9620.

Real Estate for Rent

SINGLE HOMEOWNER with two extra rooms available for persons working out at ALON. \$400.00 month per person. 3 miles from ALON. For more information, 432-264-1888.

FURNISHED SPACIOUS 1-Bedroom Duplex. Quite neighbor. Downtown. Near Post Office. Central Air, big closet. Non Smoking or pets. Good credit report required. \$300.00- One person. Utilities by tenant. McDonald (432)270-0707.

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
- Most Utilities Paid
- Senior Citizen Discounts
- 1 & 2 Bedrooms & 1 or 2 Baths
- Unfurnished

KENTWOOD APARTMENTS
1904 East 25th Street
267-5444 263-5555

Real Estate for Rent

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.

\$480/MO! BUY a 3 bed, 2 bath! 5% dn, 20 yrs, 8% apr! For listings 800-544-6258 x F086.

THE OFFICE Building, 710 Gregg Street, for lease, excellent space for a medical doctor or lab available, also have individual offices starting @ \$250. per month with bills paid. Call (432)770-5656 or (432)517-0038. Broker/ Owner.

WAREHOUSES for LEASE Newly remodeled. 3910 West Hwy 80 - (1) 30x40 with 16ft ceilings with roll up doors. (2) 25X25 8ft ceilings with roll up doors. Call (432)466-9277.

Real Estate for Sale

3BDR-2BATH WITH Carport, \$59,500 owner will finance with reasonable down payment. \$495.00 monthly, Call 512-940-5200 or 432-631-8100.

4-5 ACRES 2 Bdr/2bath older home newly remodeled. As is \$70K, OBO. 2 miles from town. No Owner Financing not for rent. Call 432-213-1187.

NEW TO THE MARKET

5607 MURPHY- 3 Bedroom, 3 bath country home, Coahoma Schools. Large open floor plan, \$144,900.00. Call Pam @ The Real Estate Company, 432-661-9712.

603 SOUTH 2nd in Coahoma. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath brick. Fenced, attached carport. \$47,500.00. Call (432)263-6948 for more information.

900 ACRES 1.5 miles of Colorado River, Highly improved. Saba County. Beautiful Ranch. \$5,500,000.00. Call 903-326-4851, 903-872-2022 or 325-623-5651.

BEAUTIFUL VICTORIAN Home. 3 Bdrm, 1-1/2 bath, wrap around porch, wooden deck, house sits on 2 lots, big back yard. 2101 Runnels. \$100K. Call 432-816-2525.

BY OWNER 30 acres, Tubbs addition. 6500 Kyle. Forsan ISD. Almost new 3/2/2, brick. Many Extras. \$215,000.00. Call 432-213-4203 or 405-613-5680 for appointment.

Real Estate for Sale

BY OWNER Lovely 3/2/2, large laundry room & living room w/fireplace, fenced backyard, fruit trees, underground sprinkler system. 2705 Coronado. \$137,500.00. Call 432-213-4203 or 405-613-5680 for appointment.

EXCELLENT CONDITION. Great floor plan. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 1760 sq. feet. \$123,500.00. 4121 Theo St.. Call 432-263-3135, 432-413-8656.

FORECLOSURE 3 bdrm. Only \$24,900! Must see! For listings 800-544-6258 ext. F906.

NEW REMODEL- Rock Home & 23.9 acres of Pasture & Trees, 8 miles NE of Big Spring, 3 Bdrm, 1.5 bath, 40x60 Metal Barn, Horse Barn, \$159,900. Brokers Welcome. 325-725-9693 Jeremy.

OWNER FINANCE. Lg 3 Bdrm, 1 bath, 709 Johnson. Low Down, Easy Terms. Call 325-277-4923.

OWNER FINANCED Houses for Sale. 510 State, 1609 Canary, 1114 Mulberry and 603 Circle. Easy Terms. Call Reagan at 432-634-6818.

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

Vehicles

1995 MITSUBISHI Eclipse \$600 OBO! Runs great! For listings 800-544-1092 xN237.

1997 GEO Metro LSI, 30+MPG. \$1000.00 Firm. For more information call 432-816-1631.

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PUBLIC AUTO AUCTION
public REPOSSESSION sale
LIVE BIDDING SALE
SATURDAY April 19
11:00 AM
RICK FAULKS AUCTIONEER
TX 00012368
PH. 806-777-6370
6145 E. Hwy. 80 Odessa, TX.
Lien Holder's Interest
Satisfaction Sale
Information Line 432-580-4050

Didn't Get Your Paper?
Call 263-7335
Mon-Fri. 8am-7pm
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HERALD
16162

BARCELONA APARTMENTS
\$299 MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP.
ALL BILLS PAID
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Vehicles

1998 JEEP Cherokee Classic 4x4: Maroon w/grey interior, Auto-Transmission, 4.0L V6, Power windows/locks, Kenwood CD/MP3 Player, 2-10" subwoofers w/600amp. \$4000 or Best offer. Call 432-816-2678.

2002 FORD F-150 Single cab. 262,000 miles. Runs good, looks good, \$3500 OBO. Call 432-894-6547.

2004 FORD MUSTANG GT. 5 Speed transmission, Silver with leather interior. Great Condition. \$14,000.00 OBO. Call 432-816-1413.

2007 HONDA Shadow 750 Custom. 2,300 Miles, comes with extras. \$7,500.00. Call 432-816-3958.

MUST SELL this week! 2006 38 ft. Franklin travel trailer. 4 slide outs, triple axle, fully self-contained, washer, dryer, two AC and more. \$23,000. or best offer. Can deliver. Call (512)317-6163.

su | do | ku

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ANSWERS

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
Howard College will receive competitive sealed bids for General Construction Work for a new **Vocational Technical Building**. Sealed bids (prepared according to the Instructions to Bidders) may be sent to **Jason Mims, Director of Business Services, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell, Big Spring, TX 79720**. The bid opening location will be held in SVICID Administrative Conference Room, 3201 AVE. C, Big Spring, TX at 2:00 P.M., local time, **April 23, 2008**. Bids received prior to this time will be securely kept, unopened. Bids received after this time will not be considered. Bid Documents will be available beginning April 4, 2008 for a refundable deposit of \$100.00 per set and may be secured from Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., Engineers- Architects- Planners, 5214 Thomason Dr., Midland, Texas- 432-697-1447.
#5746 April 7, 2008

Answer to previous puzzle

N	I	N	J	A	R	A	P	I	D	T	A	R
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Newsday Crossword **SATURDAY STUMPER** by Anna Stiga
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Clearly floored
- 6 Wild times
- 15 James Bond wore it in Fleming novels
- 16 Jack's connection
- 17 Coming up
- 18 Flights
- 19 Soft-palate sounds
- 21 ___ boost
- 22 Spongy brand
- 23 *Cinnamon Kiss* hero
- 26 Co. leader
- 27 Show stoppers
- 28 Rival of Elizabeth
- 30 Added horsepower
- 34 Ilene and Rosanna, to Strait
- 35 Works with tiles
- 36 As far as possible from
- 38 Encouraging words
- 39 Hopper of Hollywood
- 40 Sticky ___
- 41 23 Across et al.
- 42 Use no pedals
- 43 Went fishing, in a way
- 45 "A mystery," to e.e. cummings
- 46 Put-upon
- 52 30-mile-per-hour runners
- 54 Coke product
- 55 Its flag depicts Medusa's head
- 56 One who's no fun
- 59 Comic strip since '70

DOWN

- 1 Popped up
- 2 Fixin' to
- 3 Some trollers
- 4 *Ninety Degrees* North subject
- 5 Pro
- 6 Omega-3 fatty acid
- 7 PBS political pundit
- 8 Strong-willed herders
- 9 Olga, Masha and Irina's creator
- 10 In accordance with
- 11 *Sesame Street* shopkeeper
- 12 Shedding
- 13 Vital
- 14 Determines without assistance
- 20 Word-processor command
- 24 Pliable
- 25 Unwilling worker
- 29 Toner ingredient
- 30 2006 TV Land Pioneer Award recipient
- 31 Nonspecific quantity
- 32 Forced
- 33 French-born soprano
- 35 Lame ducks
- 37 Having
- 38 Quaff
- 40 Doctor's prescription
- 43 Scrapes out
- 44 Moon of Mars
- 47 Square things
- 48 Something to settle
- 49 Disney World meetable character
- 50 Inventor Sperry
- 51 Couples
- 53 Its mascot is Sonic the Hedgehog
- 57 Good deal
- 58 Flying Cloud or Royale 8

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Annie's Mailbox[®]: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for two years and are anxiously awaiting the birth of our first child — a boy.

My side of the family is very close. My husband's side is a different story. My mother-in-law and I have not spoken since the wedding, except for a heated phone conversation a year ago. She ended that phone call by saying, "I hope God never blesses you with the gift of a child."

My husband has pleaded with his mother to call and see how I am doing, but there is no desire on her part. Based on her rude and demeaning comments about me, I assume she'd prefer we divorce. Needless to say, I do not feel obligated to let her have anything to do with our son. If she cannot accept me, how can she accept something that is growing inside me?

My husband claims he supports me 100 percent, but I fear that the first time his mother throws one of her fake pity-party crying fits about seeing the baby, he will cave. Am I making the wrong decision? — Expecting and Stressed

Dear Expecting: One of the nice things about a new baby is it gives parents and grandparents an opportunity to mend fences. Your mother-in-law sounds like a tough case, but if you approach her with conciliation instead of anger, she may respond in kind. Don't bring up the past. When the baby is born, call and say you'd like to let bygones be bygones and invite her to meet her grandson. We're hoping she will be civil enough to start fresh. If not, you are perfectly justified in staying away, but please don't keep Hubby from bringing your son to see Grandma. He obviously still cares about Mom, and she will probably adore the baby, although he must promise that if she denigrates you to the child, the visits will end.

Dear Annie: I'm a 27-year-old female and have been with a wonderful guy for five years. We are engaged to be married in a small ceremony (immediate family only) with a larger reception after.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

My problem is this: My parents divorced when I was quite young, and my father's side of the family didn't have much interest in spending time with my brother or me. My father, now deceased, had a daughter from his second marriage, and I would love to invite her to my reception. Am I obligated to invite the rest of my father's family, whom I barely know? I don't want to start a feud. — Confused in Family Matters

Dear Confused: Are you in touch with your father's family? If not, you do not have to include them. However, if there is some contact, it would be nice to at least include grandparents, if there are any.

Dear Annie: You recently printed a letter from "Broke in Phoenix," a young college student who was barely scraping by financially. You offered a number of good suggestions. May I offer some more?

The writer mentioned car payments as one of her major budget items. She should consider selling her car and buying a cheaper one, or taking public transportation. She also can cut back her hours next semester. That should both reduce her tuition and free up some time, which might enable her to put in extra hours at work.

She might also suggest to her unemployed boyfriend that he get a paper route. It won't make him rich, but even a few dollars would do the pair of them a lot of good. There's no reason he couldn't get up early, run a paper route and still have all day to job-hunt. — Ann in Bismarck, N.D.

Dear Ann: There are

plenty of part-time, off-hours, minimum-wage jobs available for someone who is serious about earning extra cash while looking for better employment. Thanks for the suggestions.

Dear Annie: I need your advice. Last year, I asked my son-in-law to help with some work on my house and yard. One day, I came home from the office, kicked off my heels and lay down on the couch. My son-in-law came in from working outside to get a drink and we struck up a conversation. He made a few remarks about how tired I looked — and offered to give me a foot massage. I took him up on it.

Annie, I have been taking him up on it ever since. Any time he comes over after I get home from work, he asks and I accept. A colleague made me aware of foot fetishes and suggested my son-in-law could be getting

sexual gratification from doing this. Is that possible? Should I stop accepting? Did I start something inappropriate by saying yes the first time? — Embarrassed M-I-L

Dear Embarrassed: Let's not jump to conclusions. Yes, he could be enjoying the foot rubs more than you are. But it's also possible he is a loving son-in-law and knows a foot massage makes you feel better after a long day. Here's how you find out: Ask him to give you a foot rub when your daughter is in the room. If he has a foot fetish, she would know. And if he's reluctant to rub your feet when other family members are present, it may be because he considers it an intimacy — in which case, it's time to stop. We're certain you can find a way to do it

diplomatically.

Dear Annie: I am an attractive young woman with a history of anorexia. Thanks to loving friends, family and a wonderful boyfriend, I was able to recover and now enjoy eating healthful, well-balanced meals.

Here's the problem. I hold a very good job at a grocery store. On occasion, I will splurge and buy some snack I am craving, but I absolutely dread going through the check stand. My co-workers always feel it is necessary to comment on the food I buy, and it is inevitable that when I buy junk food, I will get a teasing remark. I know these comments are intended to be harmless, but it always fills me with heavy guilt about what I'm eating, as well as feelings of being fat or needing to lose weight.

None of my co-workers knows about my past struggles and I really don't want to explain. It's gotten to the point where I have stopped buying snacks at my store. Annie, I don't comment on my co-workers' purchases. Why do they need to do it to me? — Not Anorexic but Still Recovering in California

Dear California: They are trying to be friendly and don't realize what a sensitive issue this is for you. Since you don't want to share the information about your anorexia (nor should you feel obligated to do so), it's best if you can avoid reacting to the food comments. In time, the remarks will seem neither original nor amusing, and your co-workers will stop.

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Legals

CITATION BY PUBLICATION IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

TO: Eusebio Paredez
if living, and if any or all of the above named Defendants be dead, the unknown heirs of the unknown heirs of said above named persons, and the unknown owner or owners of the hereinafter described land, and the executors, administrators, guardians, legal representatives, legatees and devisees of the above named persons, and any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the land described in Plaintiffs' petition on file in this cause, to-wit:
A tract of land out of the East one-half (E/2), of Blk 17, Bauer Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: \$18,407.80, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and cost thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL as Plaintiffs, against EUSEBIO PAREDEZ and others, as Defendant(s), by amended petition filed on 31st day of March, 2008, in a certain suit styled HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. CHERI LYNN DORTON ESTATE, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 550Z that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are NONE.

Plaintiffs and all other taxing units who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property hereinabove described, thereon up to and including the day of judgment herein, and the establishment and foreclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as provided by law.

All parties to this suit, including Plaintiffs, Defendant(s), and Intervenor(s), shall take notice that claims not only for any taxes which were delinquent on said property at the time this suit was filed but all taxes becoming delinquent thereon at any time thereafter up to the day of judgment, including all interest, penalties, and cost allowed by law thereon, may, upon request therefore, be recovered herein without further citation or notice to any parties herein, and all said parties shall take notice of and plead and answer to all claims and pleadings now on file in said causes by all other parties herein and all of those taxing units above named who may intervene herein and set up their respective tax claims against said property.

You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 19th day of May, 2008 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 2nd day of April, A.D. 2008.

Clerk of the District Court
Howard County, Texas,
118th Judicial District.
#5744 April 6 & 13, 2008

Legals

CITATION BY PUBLICATION IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

TO: Lois Corning and Tessie Harris
if living, and if any or all of the above named Defendants be dead, the unknown heirs of the unknown heirs of said above named persons, and the unknown owner or owners of the hereinafter described land, and the executors, administrators, guardians, legal representatives, legatees and devisees of the above named persons, and any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the land described in Plaintiffs' petition on file in this cause, to-wit:
A tract of land out of the East one-half (E/2), of Blk 17, Bauer Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: \$1,154.12, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and costs thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL as Plaintiffs, against LOIS CORNING AND TESSIE HARRIS and others, as Defendant(s), by amended petition filed on 31st day of March, 2008, in a certain suit styled HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. LOIS CORNING AND TESSIE HARRIS, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 5396 that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are NONE.

Plaintiffs and all other taxing units who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property hereinabove described, thereon up to and including the day of judgment herein, and the establishment and foreclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as provided by law.

All parties to this suit, including Plaintiffs, Defendant(s), and Intervenor(s), shall take notice that claims not only for any taxes which were delinquent on said property at the time this suit was filed but all taxes becoming delinquent thereon at any time thereafter up to the day of judgment, including all interest, penalties, and cost allowed by law thereon, may, upon request therefore, be recovered herein without further citation or notice to any parties herein, and all said parties shall take notice of and plead and answer to all claims and pleadings now on file in said causes by all other parties herein, and all of those taxing units above named who may intervene herein and set up their respective tax claims against said property.

You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 19th day of May, 2008 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 31st day of March, A.D. 2008.

Colleen Barton
Clerk of the District Court
Howard County, Texas,
118th Judicial District.
#5741 April 6 & 13, 2008

Legals

CITATION BY PUBLICATION IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

TO: Lois Corning and Tessie Harris
if living, and if any or all of the above named Defendants be dead, the unknown heirs of the unknown heirs of said above named persons, and the unknown owner or owners of the hereinafter described land, and the executors, administrators, guardians, legal representatives, legatees and devisees of the above named persons, and any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the land described in Plaintiffs' petition on file in this cause, to-wit:
Lot 2, Blk 2, Highland Park Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: \$1,078.00, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and costs thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL as Plaintiffs, against LOIS CORNING AND TESSIE HARRIS and others, as Defendant(s), by amended petition filed on 31st day of March, 2008, in a certain suit styled HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. LOIS CORNING AND TESSIE HARRIS, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 5358 that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are NONE.

Plaintiffs and all other taxing units who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property hereinabove described, thereon up to and including the day of judgment herein, and the establishment and foreclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as provided by law.

All parties to this suit, including Plaintiffs, Defendant(s), and Intervenor(s), shall take notice that claims not only for any taxes which were delinquent on said property at the time this suit was filed but all taxes becoming delinquent thereon at any time thereafter up to the day of judgment, including all interest, penalties, and cost allowed by law thereon, may, upon request therefore, be recovered herein without further citation or notice to any parties herein, and all said parties shall take notice of and plead and answer to all claims and pleadings now on file in said causes by all other parties herein, and all of those taxing units above named who may intervene herein and set up their respective tax claims against said property.

You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 19th day of May, 2008 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 31st day of March, A.D. 2008.

Colleen Barton
Clerk of the District Court
Howard County, Texas,
118th Judicial District.
#5742 April 6 & 13, 2008

Legals

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 RFO". 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

Legals

Region 18 Education Service Center is issuing three (3) "Open Catalog" bids on behalf of approximately forty-three (43) Texas school districts. The bid categories are:

1. School and Office Supplies, Instructional Materials and Furniture (R18C048)
 2. Computer Hardware, Software, Supplies and Accessories (R18C049)
 3. PE and Athletic Equipment and Supplies (R18C050)
- Bids will be received until 11:00 a.m., May 15, 2008 at Region 18 ESC, PO Box 60580, Midland TX 79711-0580. Bids will be opened and recorded as they are received. Bids will be approved by the Region 18 ESC Purchasing Committee at a special meeting to be held at the above address after all bids have been received and recorded.
Bid forms are available from Gary Bond, Region 18 ESC at PO Box 60580, Midland TX 79711. Please call (432)567-3258 should you have any questions.
#5731 April 6 & 13, 2008

Legals

Advertisement and Invitation for Construction Bids

The City of Big Spring, Texas will receive bids for the Roy Anderson Park Sports Complex until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 8th at Big Spring City Hall in the Public Works office, located at 310 Nolan Street, Big Spring, TX 79720.

The project site is the 70 acre Roy Anderson Sports Complex, located at 1700 West Interstate 20, in Big Spring, West of U.S. Hwy. 87. Renovations to existing facilities include: ADA upgrades to the concession building and restrooms, concrete sidewalks, conversion of two softball fields into little league fields, additional irrigation, and additional chain link fencing. The new construction includes the following: three new asphalt parking areas, construction of two new concession/restroom buildings, sewer and water utilities including a lift station, a lighted four field softball complex with an alternate for a fifth field, one non-lighted football field, one lighted football/soccer field, one regulation soccer field, four youth soccer fields, two playgrounds, fabric shade canopies, concrete sidewalks, site furnishings and approximately twenty acres of new irrigated turfgrass.

Contract Documents are available at Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., 4222 85th Street, Lubbock, TX 79423, and at area plan rooms. Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained with a refundable deposit of \$100 with Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc. for each set of documents obtained.

A pre-bid meeting will be held on Thursday, April 24th at 10:00 a.m. at the project site. Additional project information is noted in the Contract Documents.
#5737 April 6 & 13, 2008

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Dozens of girls removed from polygamist compound

By **MICHELLE ROBERTS**
Associated Press Writer

ELDORADO — Child welfare officials are scrambling to find foster homes for dozens of girls removed from a secretive West Texas religious retreat built by polygamist leader Warren Jeffs after a 16-year-old living there complained of physical abuse.



Officials Meisner from Texas Child Protective Services, escorted by state troopers, took 52 girls, ages 6 months to 17 years, from the remote retreat on Friday afternoon.

By the end of the day, 18 were put legally into state custody, and CPS spokeswoman Marleigh Meisner said interviews would continue Saturday. A warrant has been issued for at least one individual.

The girls put in state custody were believed to be in danger, Meisner said. "Those are the ones we believe have been abused or they are in imminent risk of harm, and it would not be safe for those children to remain in the compound," she said.

Child welfare officials were looking for foster homes for the girls, most of whom have rarely been outside the insular world of the Fundamentalist

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. They were being housed for now at a civic center, she said.

"We're dealing with children that aren't accustomed to the outside world, so we're trying to be very sensitive to their needs," Meisner said.

The investigation began with a call Monday alleging physical abuse of a 16-year-old girl living there, Meisner said. Authorities first arrived at the compound Thursday evening. They interviewed and searched through the night.

On Friday, a search warrant and arrest warrant were issued.

The search warrant sought records dealing with the birth of children to a 16-year-old and any records listing a marriage between a 50-year-old man and the girl, according to the San Angelo Standard-Times, which cited court records released late Friday in Tom Green County.

The individual listed in the arrest warrant had not been located by Friday evening, said Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Tela Mange. She said she could not reveal whose name was on the warrant.

The ranch covers roughly 1,700 acres. It is north of this two-stoplight town, down a narrow paved road. Authorities blocked access to the compound's gate, keeping onlookers



AP photo/Brian Connolly/San Angelo Standard-Times

Two First Baptist Church buses are escorted by several law enforcement officers out of Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Compound in Schleicher County near Eldorado Friday. State authorities took custody Friday of 18 girls who had been living at a secretive West Texas religious retreat built by polygamist leader Warren Jeffs. Fifty-two girls, ages 6 months to 17 years, were put on a bus and taken away from the compound in the afternoon.

miles away. State officials said they did not know how many people lived at the retreat, but local officials in 2006 put the number at about 150, as members of the exclusive church moved from a community on the Arizona-Utah line.

The congregation, known as FLDS, has been led by Jeffs since his

father's death in 2002. It is one of several groups that split from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, based in Salt Lake City, decades after it renounced polygamy in 1890.

In November, Jeffs was sentenced to two consecutive sentences of five years to life in prison in Utah for being an accom-

plice to the rape of a 14-year-old girl who wed her cousin in an arranged marriage in 2001.

In Arizona, Jeffs is charged as an accomplice with four counts each of incest and sexual conduct with a minor stemming from two arranged marriages between teenage girls and their older male relatives. He is jailed in

Kingman, Ariz., awaiting trial.

The Eldorado retreat, about 160 miles northwest of San Antonio, is on a former exotic game ranch. The church bought the property in 2004 for \$700,000 and began an ambitious construction program anchored by an 80-foot-tall, gleaming white temple.

Ex-BP chief questioned about Texas City plant blast

By **JUAN A. LOZANO**
Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON — An attorney for victims of BP PLC's deadly 2005 plant explosion said the company's former CEO admitted Friday that budget cuts some blame for creating conditions that helped cause the blast were ordered so the oil giant could remain competitive in the petrochemical industry.

But Lord John Browne denied knowing there were major problems at

the company's refineries as a result of the budget cuts, said victims' attorney Brent Coon.

Browne was questioned by telephone for about an hour Friday by Coon for a deposition that is part of ongoing litigation resulting from the accident, which killed 15 people and injured more than 170.

Coon was in Houston while Browne was in London for the deposition, a sworn statement given under questioning. The deposition came

after a nearly two-year legal fight by attorneys for those killed and injured in the blast for the right to question Browne.

While the deposition revealed no "smoking gun," Coon said it providing valuable insight for the several hundred lawsuits he still has pending.

"What it shows is that he was preoccupied with many things including the phenomenal growth of BP," Coon said. "They were looking at where is our next business, what

are we doing to grow, as opposed to how do we keep the things we acquired in a safe manner."

BP acquired the Texas City refinery when it merged with Amoco in 1998. Soon after, it ordered a 25 percent, across-the-budget cut in fixed spending at its refineries.

Coon said these budget cuts contributed to equipment failures at the plant and created the conditions that caused the explosion.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, one of several agencies that investigated the accident, found that cost-cutting moves as well as bad management at the plant factored into the explosion.

Browne "denied knowing there had been numerous complaints about how the budget cuts were impacting the plants," Coon said. "He was aware that plants were having to have a tight budget with discre-

tionary spending, which usually affects maintenance."

BP spokesman Neil Chapman confirmed that the deposition took place on Friday but declined further comment.

Victims' attorneys had wanted to question Browne because they said he has unique knowledge about budget cuts and other company decisions that contributed to the accident.

London-based BP has See **BLAST**, Page 7A

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TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

Former TYC officer gets probation in plea deal

BROWNWOOD (AP) — A former Texas Youth Commission corrections officer has been placed on probation for a year for assaulting a female teen inmate and lying about it on a report.

As part of a plea bargain, the state reduced the assault charge against Dusty Ogle, 47, of Brownwood, to a misdemeanor. He pleaded guilty Monday and was sentenced to a year of probation and fined \$500.

Charges of tampering with a witness were dismissed. But Ogle also was sentenced to five years' deferred adjudication after pleading guilty to tampering with a government record. That means that if he successfully completes the terms of probation, the case will be dismissed and no conviction will appear his criminal record, although the arrest will remain on his record.

Ogle was fired from the TYC in June, three months after he was arrested on suspicion of excessive force with an inmate and allegedly making false entries about it in a report.

Revelations of inmate abuse and possible cover-ups shook Texas' juvenile corrections system last year and prompted state leaders to order a massive overhaul of the agency. Several top administrators were either fired or resigned, and some corrections officers across the state have been arrested on various charges.

Gunman kills doctor in San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A man shot and killed his wife's doctor Friday outside a medical office building, then was shot by a police officer who saw the husband standing over the woman with a gun, authorities said.

The suspect was listed in critical condition after undergoing surgery, University Hospital spokesman Leni Kirkman said. Authorities said they were withholding his name pending him being formally charged.

Julie Abbott, 47, died at the same hospital, according to a statement from San Antonio police.

Authorities did not know the motive. The shooting happened in a parking lot outside the

two-story medical office building on San Antonio's north side. An officer who was nearby went to the scene to see the suspect standing over the woman with a gun in his hand, San Antonio police spokesman Gabe Trevino said.

The officer ordered the man to drop the gun, then fired several rounds when the suspect advanced toward the policeman, authorities said. The officer, Michael Blanquiz, was not injured and was placed on administrative duty.

Abbott's name was listed on a placard outside the offices of iMED Internal Medicine on the building's first floor. According to the iMED Web site, Abbott attended medical school at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Dallas.

Lubbock man faces 59 years in prison

DALLAS (AP) — An investment adviser has been convicted in a tax fraud case in which he claimed to be a "child of God" with citizenship in heaven, not America.

A federal jury in Dallas on Friday convicted Lanus Evans Troxler of Lubbock on all 17 counts related to sham offshore entities.

Sentencing is June 25. The investment adviser faces a maximum 59 years in prison and a \$4.25 million fine. Prosecutors say Troxler did business in Dallas from at least 1998 through 2002.

He was convicted of corruptly endeavoring to obstruct and impede administration of IRS laws, four counts of attempting to evade and defeat taxes, and 12 counts of assisting in the preparation and presentation of false and fraudulent tax returns.

Supreme Court to rehear workers comp case

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Supreme Court has agreed to rehear a case from Jefferson County dealing with the scope of the state workers' compensation law.

The court has not yet set the date for new arguments but said Friday it will rehear Entergy Gulf States Incorporated versus John Summers.

Four lawmakers and the Texas AFL-CIO had asked the court in December to reverse its decision in the

case. They said it incorrectly expanded liability protections for employers under state workers' compensation laws.

The Supreme Court ruled against Summers, a contract worker injured in a 2001 accident at an Entergy Gulf States plant in Bridge City. The court said Entergy was immune from a lawsuit seeking damages because Summers was covered by an Entergy workers' comp policy, but the lawmakers disagreed.

Appeals court sets aside \$72 million award

HOUSTON (AP) — Both federal banking regulators and a Houston financier claimed victory Friday after an appeals court set aside an order that the government pay more than \$72 million to the executive prosecutors blamed for the collapse of United Savings of Texas.

In 2005, U.S. District Judge Lynn Hughes ordered the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. to award Houston financier Charles Hurwitz damages for pursuing a lawsuit against him over the defunct savings and loan.

The FDIC blamed Hurwitz, chairman and chief executive of Houston-based Maxxam Inc., in 1995, for the \$1.6 billion failure in 1988 of United Savings.

Hurwitz never owned United Savings. But he did own almost a quarter of United Savings' parent, United Financial Group, through MCO Holdings Inc., which later became Maxxam.

The FDIC dropped its suit in 2002, but Hurwitz countersued, claiming the FDIC improperly funded another government agency's investigation against Maxxam on the same matter.

In his ruling, Hughes was highly critical of the FDIC's efforts to sue Hurwitz, saying that "corrupt individuals within a corrupt agency" brought the litigation.

BLAST

Continued from Page 6A

said Browne does not have any such knowledge and fought against the deposition.

The legal battle to depose Browne went to the Texas Supreme Court, which ruled in January that Browne could not be questioned without limits about his knowledge of the accident.

Coon said that after the court's ruling, he negotiated with BP attorneys and quietly set up the deposition for Friday, hoping Browne would not change his mind. Coon

could not force Browne to give a deposition because he no longer worked for BP and lives outside the United States.

"When a refinery blows up and kills 15 people ... that CEO has a legal duty to give statements about what he knew and when he knew it," Coon said. "To try to hide from that is legally wrong ... is morally wrong."

Browne resigned from BP in May 2007 after admitting he lied to a judge when he tried to block a newspaper from printing allegations of wrongdoing made by a former boyfriend.

The explosion at the

plant occurred after a piece of equipment called a blowdown drum overfilled with highly flammable liquid hydrocarbons.

The excess liquid and vapor hydrocarbons then were vented from the drum and ignited as the isomerization unit — a device that boosts the octane in gasoline — started up. Alarms and gauges that were supposed to warn of the overfilled equipment did not work properly.

A much criticized plea deal that proposes to fine BP \$50 million for its criminal responsibility in the accident remains on hold.

A congressional committee is investigating the plea agreement, which prosecutors and BP have defended, saying it's the harshest option available in assessing criminal punishment for the blast.

But family members of those killed and workers injured by the blast say the fine is insufficient. They argue federal sentencing laws allow the fine to be as high as \$3.2 billion.

They also say the plea deal doesn't provide for an independent watchdog to monitor whether BP would meet its safety obligations at the refinery.

THE WORLD BRIEFLY

Clintons report \$109 million in income since 2000

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and former President Clinton reported \$20.4 million in income for 2007 and more than \$109 million since 2000 as they gave the public the most detailed look at their finances in eight years. Almost half the former first couple's money came from his speeches.

The campaign released tax returns from 2000 through 2006 and gave highlights from their 2007 return. The Clintons have asked for an extension for filing their 2007 tax returns, citing the dissolution of a blind trust last year.

The Democratic presidential candidate and her husband paid \$33.8 million in taxes from 2000 through 2007. They listed \$10.25 million in charitable contributions during that period.

Clinton has been under pressure to release her tax returns, especially from rival Sen. Barack Obama, who posted his 2000 to 2006 returns on his campaign Web site last week. Neither Obama nor Republican Sen. John McCain have made their 2007 tax returns public, though both say they will this month.

The Clintons last made their returns public in 2000 when they reported an adjusted gross income of \$416,039. Since then, the former president has embarked on a number of business ventures and has made millions from speaking engagements.

Iraqi prime minister reverses course, orders freeze in raids

BAGHDAD (AP) — In a dramatic reversal, Iraq's prime minister ordered a nationwide freeze Friday on Iraqi raids against Shiite militants, bowing to demands by anti-U.S. cleric Muqtada al-Sadr only one day after promising to expand the crackdown to Baghdad.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki issued the order after al-Sadr, whose Mahdi Army militia fought government troops last week in Basra and elsewhere, hinted at retaliation if Iraqi security forces continue to arrest his followers.

A statement by al-Maliki's office, broadcast on government television, did not mention the Mahdi Army by name or give a timeframe for the freeze. It said the move was designed to give a "chance to those who repented and want

to lay down their arms."

But the statement was issued less than 24 hours after al-Maliki told reporters he intended to launch security operations against Mahdi Army strongholds in Baghdad, including Sadr City, home to some 2.5 million Shiites and the militia's largest base.

Airport 'behavior' screeners hunt for terror, but mostly find fake IDs

NEW YORK (AP) — To the untrained eye, the man looked like any other traveler as he waited in line at Kennedy Airport. But something about the way he was acting caught the attention of two security screeners.

For 16 minutes, they questioned him, scanned every inch of his body twice with a metal-detecting wand and emptied his carry-on bag onto a table. Out came a car stereo with wires dangling from it.

The man was eventually found to have done nothing wrong — he said he had pulled the stereo out of his car because he was afraid it would get stolen — and he was sent on his way.

But it's the type of scene that has been unfolding on a regular basis over the past four years at the nation's major airports under a rapidly expanding "behavior detection" program set up by the Transportation Security Administration to spot terrorists or other dangerous air travelers by way of subtle clues in the way they act.

The agency's efforts drew attention this week when screeners trained in behavior detection in Orlando arrested an Army veteran after he tried to check luggage containing pipe bomb-making materials onto a flight to Jamaica.

But that collar was something of a rarity. In the four years since the program was launched, the TSA has yet to encounter any would-be suicide bombers. The most common catches have been people carrying fake IDs.

UK suspects' videos: Planned attacks on jets were revenge

LONDON (AP) — In chilling videos shown to a jury Friday, men accused of plotting to bring down jetliners over the Atlantic called for revenge for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and praised Osama bin Laden.

Six of the eight defendants videotaped messages denouncing the West for what

they said was its suppression of Muslims, prosecutor Peter Wright said as he outlined his case to jurors at a London court.

The defendants, all Britons with ties to Pakistan, are accused of plotting to blow up at least seven jetliners bound for the United States and Canada in 2006.

Some of the group were heard on secret police surveillance discussing plans to take their wives and young children on the suicide missions, Wright said.

Pirates seize control of French vessel off coast of Somalia

PARIS (AP) — Pirates seized control of a French luxury yacht carrying 30 crew members Friday off the coast of Somalia, the French government and the ship's owner said.

Attackers stormed the 288-foot "Le Ponant" as it returned without passengers from the Seychelles, in the Indian Ocean, toward the Mediterranean Sea, said officials with French maritime transport company CMA-CGM.

"The Defense and Foreign Ministries are mobilized to act as quickly as possi-

ble, I hope in the coming minutes or hours to try to win the freedom of these hostages," Prime Minister Francois Fillon told reporters.

He did not elaborate. France has considerable military resources in the region, including a base in Djibouti and a naval flotilla circulating in the Indian Ocean.

Woman gets death penalty for killing mother-to-be in Missouri

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A woman was sentenced to death Friday for killing a Missouri mother-to-be and cutting the baby from her womb. Lisa Montgomery becomes the third woman on federal death row.

She was convicted in October of kidnapping resulting in death in the Dec. 16, 2004, killing of Bobbie Jo Stinnett. Montgomery was arrested at her farmhouse a day after showing off Stinnett's baby as her own.

"I hope that today's sentence will bring some measure of closure to the family of Bobbie Jo Stinnett," U.S. Attorney John Wood said in a statement.



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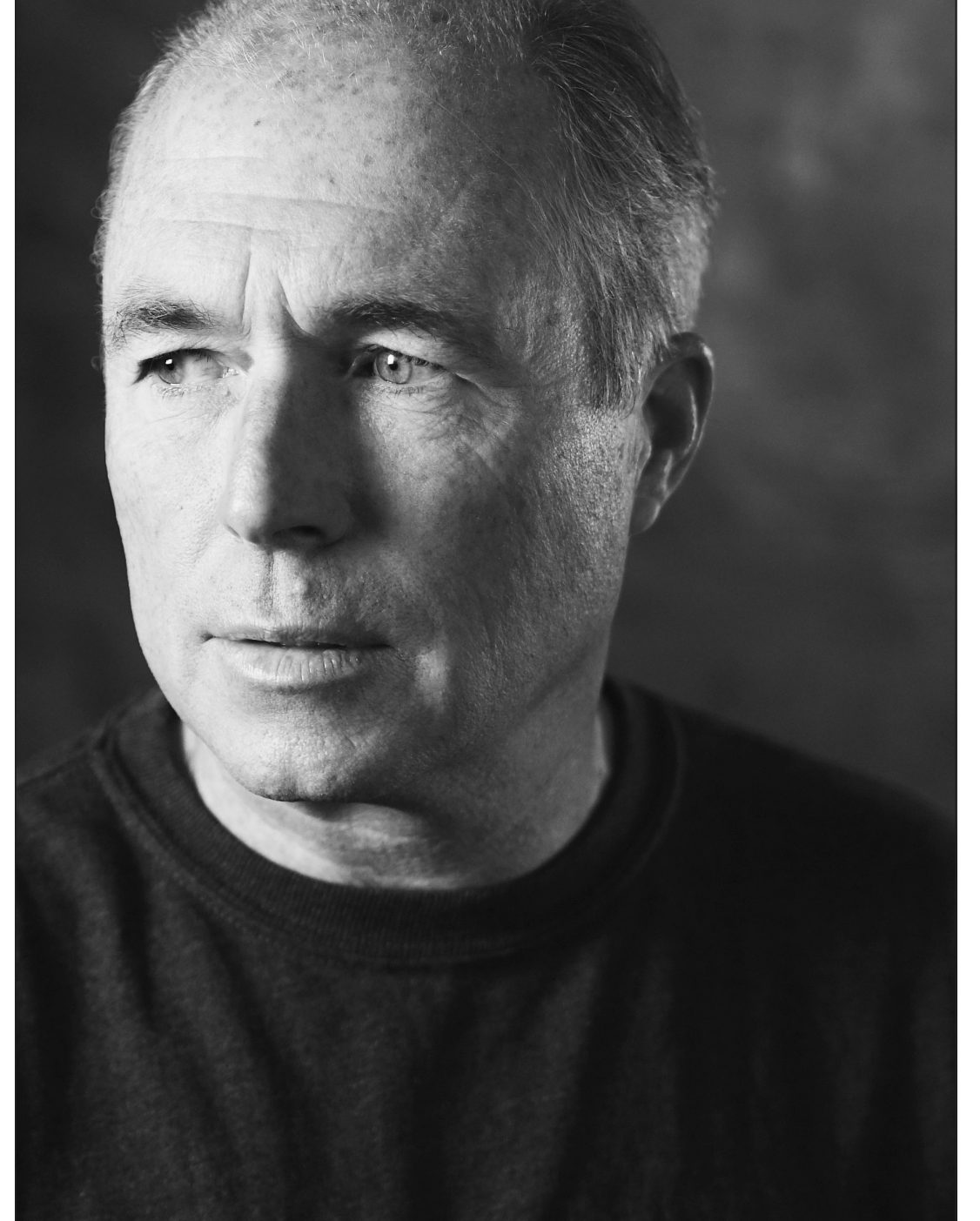
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Local officials taking 'wait and see' approach regarding lawsuit

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A recent complaint to the Texas Medical Board regarding the Lubbock Medical Examiner's Office has local officials in a "wait and see" mode, as autopsies going back as far as 1994 could come into question.

A complaint filed last week by Austin-based document researcher David Fisher alleges the office has committed fraud on an epic scale over the past 14 years, along with allegations of conspiracy between Texas Tech University and the

Lubbock Hospital District.

According to Howard County Justice of the Peace Katherine Wiseman, she has been made aware of the complaint.

"I have received a copy of the complaint, but I haven't had a chance to really pore over it yet," said Wiseman. "There have been a lot of murder cases involving autopsies in Howard County since 1994, so there's certainly some concern with this matter. However, I'm not sure what bearing these things Mr. Fisher is say-

ing will have at this point, so we're just waiting and watching. My best guess is nothing will happen, but you can't be sure."

Wiseman said the county is still contracting with the Lubbock Medical Examiner's Office for autopsies, and will continue to do so until directed otherwise.

"Yes, we are still sending autopsies to Lubbock," said Wiseman. "Until we're directed not to, we will continue to use the Lubbock office."

District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson said any possi-

ble fallout as a result of the complaint is simply speculation.

"We will really have to wait and see what the Texas Medical Board has to say about it before we can get any idea how this will affect us," said Wilkerson. "I really don't feel like this is a situation where you can come in and say all of these autopsies are invalid. They are

a matter of professional services rendered, and if they were done by a credible physician, they shouldn't be a problem for us. At this point, I have no reason to be suspicious of the services we received."

As for the effect a negative decision from the Texas Medical Board and other state offices would have on past cases,

Wilkerson said there's really no way to know.

"We would just have to wait and see what kinds of writs were given as a result," said Wilkerson. "Again, it's just one of those situations where you have to wait and see."

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

SUIT

Continued from Page 5A

physician's employer is a separate county or state, or other public or private agency. The county medical examiner is a salaried, appointed position, which makes the medical examiner solely answerable to the commissioner's court."

Fisher also claims the medical examiner's office

has been diverting bodies sent for autopsies to the Texas Tech Health Science Center to be used as teaching cadavers without the necessary permissions.

"The past and ongoing practice of diverting bodies contracted for autopsy by the surrounding counties of Lubbock County to the Texas Tech Health Science Center to be used as teaching cadavers violates both Texas and Federal Law," Fisher

wrote in his complaint. "This is especially true of 'in custody death,' where Federal Civil Rights Statutes are involved."

Fisher said the alleged infractions date back as far as 1994.

Counsel for the Texas Medical Board said said recently the issue would require an interpretation of the law and would require a court verdict or decision from the attorney general to resolve.

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ECONOMY

Continued from Page 4C

All the actions are ultimately aimed at limiting damage to the national economy.

With a public on edge, Congress, the White House and presidential

contenders are scrambling to come up with their own relief plans even as they engage in a political blame game.

With the pace of hiring slowing down, the number of unemployed people increased to 7.8 million in March; workers with jobs saw only modest wage

gains at the same time.

Average hourly earnings for jobholders rose to \$17.86 in March, a 0.3 percent increase from the previous month. That matched economists' forecasts. Over the past 12 months, wages grew 3.6 percent. With lofty energy and food prices, workers

may feel like their paychecks are shrinking.

Many analysts believe the economy shrank in the first three months of this year and could still be ebbing now. The government will release its estimate of first-quarter economic growth later this month. Under one

rough rule, if the economy contracts for six straight months it is considered in a recession.

Bernanke, however, has said he is hopeful the economy will improve in the second half of this year, helped by the government's \$168 billion stimulus package of tax

rebates for people and tax breaks for businesses, as well as the Fed's rate reductions. Still, even Bernanke predicted this week that the unemployment rate would rise in the months ahead. Some analysts say it could climb to 5.5 percent or higher by year's end.

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