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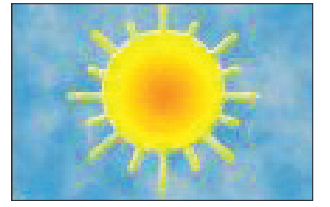


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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 13, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 298

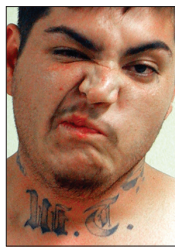
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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Local man charged with armed robbery

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A Big Spring man remains in custody this morning following a robbery at the 7-Eleven convenience store located at the intersection of 18th Street and Gregg. Paul Viera Jr., 22, of 1907 S.



Viera

Main St., was arrested Wednesday and charged with aggravated robbery after he allegedly robbed the convenience store at knife-

point, according to police officials. "The call came in at approximately 4:13 a.m.," said Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department. "Upon arrival, officers learned the suspect had fled the store. The clerk told them a

Hispanic male had entered the store and grabbed him while brandishing a knife, and ordered him to give him the money from the cash register. The clerk did as he was told and the suspect fled the scene on foot with an undisclosed amount of cash."

man reportedly causing a disturbance at another convenience store matched the description provided by the 7-Eleven clerk.

"Officers responded to the Town & Country on the N. Lamesa Highway in reference

Everett said an hour later a See **ROBBERY** Page 3A

Empty Bowls II

Annual United Way fund-raiser reminds of those less fortunate

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

United Way campaign officials are bringing back an event that satisfies both the soul and the stomach.

"Empty Bowls II," which features both artistic effort and good food, will be held from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Nov. 20 at First Baptist Church.

Big Spring High School and Howard College art students, along with private citizens, have created more than 90 highly



Hansen

decorated soup bowls for the event, said Jan Hansen, United Way executive director. On Nov. 20, people can purchase one of those bowls for \$15 and promptly fill it with one of several different soup offerings. Proceeds go directly to United Way.

"This event helps peo-

See **BOWLS**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Judith Tereletsky, Big Spring High School art teacher, examines some of the many bowls created for the United Way's Empty Bowls II event, which will be held Nov. 20 at First Baptist Church.

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



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Joani Sarkis of J. Sarkis and Associates explains some of the benefits a County Health Center could provide for the Crossroads community during a luncheon at the County Library Wednesday afternoon.

Health Center will provide quality, affordable care, consultant says

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The consulting company in charge of developing the Howard County Health Center reached out to local officials Wednesday afternoon, asking them to step up and provide information and assistance with the new project.

"A federally qualified health center in a community is good news because more people have access to quality, affordable health care through a health care home," said Joani Sarkis, lead consultant for J. Sarkis and Associates. "Community health centers provide preventative care and a holistic approach to health care."

"It tailors its approach to meet the public health needs of the community, address-

Center project director excited about position

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

It won't take the newly-hired project director of the proposed Howard County Health Center long to get in tune with life in the Crossroads area, as Big Spring native Ann Farley was named to the position Wednesday afternoon during a community luncheon showcasing



Farley

the effort. Farley, a former parole board investigator for the U.S. government, said she left the Lone Star State for the big city lights of Oklahoma for more than two

See **DIRECTOR**, Page 3A

ing those health issues that most affect the community. This is accomplished through a patient-majority governing board that determines how

the health care services are delivered. The community health center approach is as

See **CENTER**, Page 3A

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MONDAY THRU SATURDAY

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Steers start playoff run Saturday

Canyon presents Big Spring with favorable matchup

By **JONATHAN HULL**
Sports Editor

Big Spring's Steers couldn't have asked for a better ending to their regular season, crushing rival Hereford, 31-0. It was the most dominant performance of the year for the Steers.

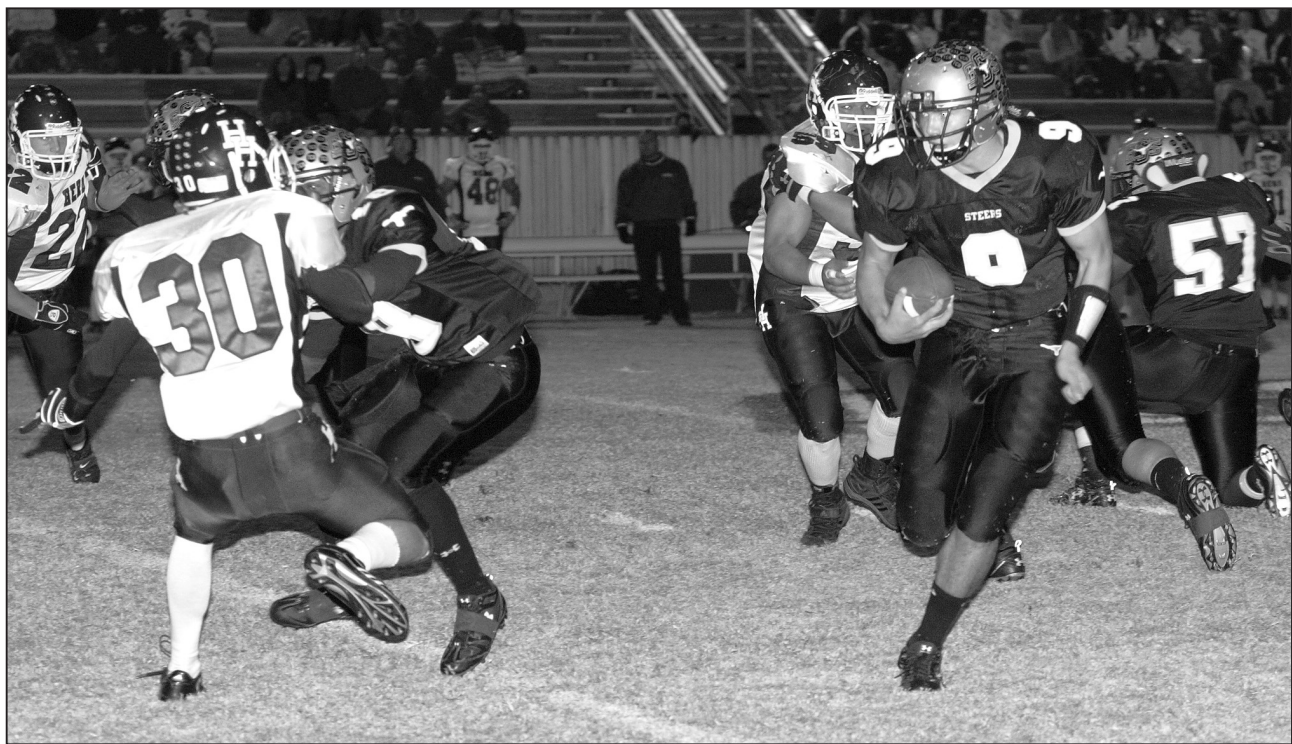
Now Big Spring tries to figure out how to carry that momentum over into the postseason. The Steers (6-4) face Canyon's Eagles (6-4) in a Class 4A, Division II bi-district playoff at 5 p.m. Saturday in Frenship ISD's Tiger Stadium in Wolfforth.

Big Spring will be the home team as it serves as the top seed from District 4-4A in the small-school division. Canyon is the second seed from District 3-4A.

According to Big Spring Head Coach Phillip Ritchey, the Eagles could present a favorable matchup for the Steers based on how well they have played against teams that prefer to throw the ball instead of run it.

"Canyon probably throws the ball more than any other team we've faced this season," said Ritchey. "They probably put it in the air 85 percent of the time. They have a good quarterback and some skilled receivers. Their air attack should present us with a challenge."

It's a challenge the Steers have



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring Steers quarterback Matt Ritchey picks up a block as he turns the corner in the Steers' 31-0 win over Hereford last week at Memorial Stadium. Ritchey and the Steers open the Class 4A, Division II playoffs at 5 p.m. Saturday, playing Canyon at Frenship's Tiger Stadium in Wolfforth.

handled well so far this season. The Steers have faced two pass-heavy offenses this season — Pampa and Hereford — and have arguably put together their most impressive defensive performances in those games.

"We match up well with our secondary. We've got a lot of speed in the defensive backfield," said Ritchey. "We've played well against Hereford and Pampa. There's a lot of confidence for our defense going into this game."

Last week against Hereford, Big Spring intercepted quarterback Parker Bridwell five times

with each member of the starting secondary recording at least one pick. LaRay Woodard had two interceptions, while Kaegan Hunt, Zamir Linton and Tyrone Clemons accounted for one apiece.

Canyon is coming off of a thrilling 35-34 victory over Amarillo Caprock last week. Caprock scored with 1:08 left in the game, but decided to go for 2 since its placekick holder was out of the game with a concussion.

The Eagles stuffed a run in the backfield, sealing the victory and clinching a playoff spot.

Quarterback Spencer Church has posted some of the more impressive stats in the region, passing for 2,894 yards and 22 touchdowns and just seven interceptions while completing 232-of-356 passes.

Church has three receivers he relies on most. Chris Rhoten, who actually threw what turned out to be the game-winning touchdown last week against Caprock, leads the team with 76 receptions and 822 yards. Hunter Coffman is the team's leading scorer, snagging nine

See **STEERS**, Page 2B

CROSSROADS FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD BI-DISTRICT PLAYOFFS

FRIDAY

Stanton (5-5)
vs.
Van Horn (6-4)
7:30 p.m. in Pecos

Sands (7-3)
vs.
Dawson (6-4)
7:30 p.m. in Lamesa

Garden City (9-2)
vs.
Ira (7-3)
7:30 p.m. in Lenorah

SATURDAY

Big Spring (6-4)
vs.
Canyon (6-4)
5 p.m. in Wolfforth

Explosive

Garden City, Ira figure to score plethora of points

By **JONATHAN HULL**
Sports Editor

GARDEN CITY — It's not like a high scoring affair is very uncommon in six-man football. However, the Garden City Bearkats and Ira Bulldogs have the ability to take it to another level Friday night.

The Bearkats (9-2) and Bulldogs (7-3) face off in a Six-man Division I bi-district game at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Lamesa. Both squads boast high-powered offenses led by all-state running backs.

Leading Garden City is Jake Schwartz, who received honorable mention all-state honors in 2007 as a utility back.

Schwartz is Garden City's leading scorer this season, proving to be a talented receiver and return man as well as a rusher. He has, however, benefitted from the emergence of quarterback Levi Schaffer, who has thrown for more than 10 touchdowns in the past three games.

Much of Ira's offense is based around first-team all-state back Andy Rivera. Rivera rushed for more than 3,000 yards in 2007 and has topped that mark again this season.

Ira's ability to post a significant amount of points has been well noted over the past two seasons. Last year, the Bulldogs scored more than 100 points in a game. This season, Ira's largest output is 76. The Bulldogs put up 75 points on long-time Garden City rival Grady two weeks ago and are averaging more than 50 points per contest.

Ira surrendered just 31 points defensively in its last five matchups in District 7, of which the Bulldogs claimed the championship.

See **BEARKATS**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

Stanton running back Robbie Noland runs around right end in action from Oct. 31 in Stanton. Noland leads the Buffs into their Class A, Division I bi-district playoff matchup against Van Horn at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Pecos.

Sands plays first playoff game in six seasons

By **BRANDON HALLFORD**
Special to the Herald

ACKERLY — To hear Sands Mustangs Head Coach Wayne Henderson talk, the best thing that happened to his team this season was a 64-58 loss to the Dawson Dragons. A game that his Mustangs never led in, but one Henderson says made his team aware of what it would take the Mustangs to make the playoffs for the first time since 2002.

Now the Mustangs get a rematch in a much more important setting as they face the Dragons in a Six-

man Division II bi-district playoff set for 7:30 p.m. Friday in Lamesa.

"That game really woke us up," Henderson said. "It showed us that they weren't the same team that we beat year after year and I think that it surprised them some. It showed that we had to come ready to play every week."

In that game the Mustangs had just cracked the state's Top 10 rankings, something Henderson says very well

See **SANDS**, Page 2B

Run, run, run

Stanton, Van Horn share similar offensive schemes

By **JONATHAN HULL**
Sports Editor

STANTON — If you like it when a passing attack dominates a football game, then stay out of Pecos Friday night.

The Stanton Buffaloes (5-5) begin what they hope will be a long playoff run at 7:30 p.m. Friday, taking on the Van Horn Eagles (6-4) in the bi-district round of the Class A, Division I playoffs.

Both teams are known for power running games, but do utilize different formations to achieve success on the ground.

Stanton lines up predominantly in the I-formation. Van Horn, on the other hand, lines up in variations of the flexbone, using motion and misdirection to baffle opposing defenses.

Regardless, it's a safe bet both teams will combine for more than 80 handoffs in this game and no more than 10 passes.

"This is really a good matchup. Both teams play similar styles of football," said Stanton Head Coach Lee McCown. "We really match up well against

See **STANTON**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

Sands running back Daniel Armendariz dives for more yardage in action from Sept. 5. The Mustangs begin their first playoff run since 2002 at 7:30 p.m. Friday, facing Dawson in Lamesa.

Obituaries

Ernestine Rebecca Hammack



Rebecca Hammack, 90, of Midland died Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2008. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, 2008, at the funeral home. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 15, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel in Midland with Gary Tate and Gary Stain officiating. Interment will follow at 3 p.m. Saturday at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring.

Ernestine was born July 5, 1918, in Hamilton to Nellie and Ernest Tippie. She married Rex Hammack Sr. in May of 1935 in Sweetwater.

She had worked at Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring as a clerk. She was a member of Golf Course Road Church of Christ.

Survivors include a son, Rex Hammack Jr. of Alice; a daughter, Rebecca Nell Foster of Coden, Ala.; daughter and son-in-law, Rosie Lee and Larry Barkman of Cleburne; son and daughter-in-law, Ronnie and Vickie Hammack of Gatesville; son and daughter-in-law, Roger and Mary Hammack of Gatesville; daughter and son-in-law, Roberta and Robert Riley of Midland; son and daughter-in-law, Randy and Mary Hammack of Spokane, Wash.; daughter and son-in-law, Ruth and Ted Bronson of Whitefish, Mont.; son and daughter-in-law, Rodney and Ann Hammack of Plano; son and daughter-in-law, Ralph and Mickey Hammack of Harper; 32 grandchildren; 53 great-grandchildren; and three great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; one son, Roland; two sisters, Mealdine Principe and Christine Hartley; and a granddaughter.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Elbert (Don) Green

Elbert (Don) Green, 67, passed away Nov. 2, 2008, in Las Vegas, Nev.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Sagnis of Las Vegas, Nev.; and mother, Catherine (Bea) Green of Big Spring.

He was preceded in death by his father, Harry Elbert Green.

Emma Mae Carlton

Emma Mae Carlton, 87, died Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008, in San Antonio. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Kay Frazier Davis

Kay Frazier Davis, 51, of Stanton, died Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008, in a Midland hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

• Vendors are needed for the Christmas Bazaar to be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at Canterbury South. Please contact Jennifer Mendez at 263-1238 or leave a message.

• Confidential memory screenings are being offered by Accolade Home Care as part of National Memory Screening Day, a national initiative of the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA). They will be held from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Nov. 18 at Room 214 at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 1601 W. 11th Place. For information, call Accolade Home Care in Big Spring at 264-1164.

• The Permian Basin Foundation has awarded West Texas Opportunities Inc. \$130,000 through the Texas Resources for Iraq Afghanistan Deployment fund. WTO will assist current and former military personnel serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Funding will serve Howard, Martin, Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry and Upton counties. For more information, contact Diana Martinez or Debbie Wilson at 110 Johnson in Big Spring or call (432) 267-9536.

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Relay for Life team is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. The cookbooks can be purchased at the PBX operator's booth for \$10 apiece. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 268-4952.

• HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is now available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr. Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915.

• 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.

Police blotter

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

- PAUL VIERA JR., 22, of 1907 S. Main Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of aggravated robbery.
- LONNELL LOTT, 48, of 2911 W. Highway 80, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- SHARI ANN MINTZ, 33, of 207 Washington, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- ERICA MARIE MONTOYA, 18, of 2523 Hunter, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- KIMBERLY LANESE DAVIS, 25, of 1205 Mulberry, was arrested Wednesday on charges of disregarding a stop light, failure to appear (two counts) and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- RENE SALAZAR PEREZ, 22, of 1212 Mesquite, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ERNEST AGUINAGA JR., 22, of 1314 Harding, was arrested Thursday on a charge of animal at large.
- RAYMOND IGLESIAS JU ALVEAR, 30, of 906 Lancaster, was arrested Thursday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- THEFT was reported:
 - in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
 - in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.
- FRAUDULENT USE/POSSESSION OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION was reported in the 400 block of Edwards.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 2600 block of Dow.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 500 block of N.W. 10th Street.
- AGGRAVATED ROBBERY was reported in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 51 inmates at the time of this report.
- MICHAEL ALLEN GARZA, 25, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.
 - JAMES LYNN PARKER, 28, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for failure to identify — giving false information.
 - FELIPE LOUIS MELENDEZ, 30, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of duty on striking unattended vehicle and criminal mischief (two counts).

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1700 block of Purdue. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of Robin. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of Stanford. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of 10th Street and Goliad. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported near the intersection of 9th Street and Goliad. Two people were transported to SMMC.

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.

FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

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

Your Local Weather

Fri 11/14	Sat 11/15	Sun 11/16	Mon 11/17	Tue 11/18
74/40	62/39	71/43	71/40	71/43
Mostly sunny skies. High 74F.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	Sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.	Sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.	Sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. 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.

SATURDAY

• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

MONDAY

• The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

• 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.

• Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffett.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 1-20-40-47-50-53. Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 1-3-21-34-35. Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-3-8-3. Sum It Up: 15.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-4-7. Sum It Up: 18.

Support Groups

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.

CHANGING DATES

• The local National Alliance on Mental Illness group meets every two weeks in the basement of the Howard County Library. For dates and times, contact Ramona Blassingane at 263-9748.

TUESDAY

• Grief share, sponsored by Home Hospice and the First Presbyterian Church, Seventh and Runnels (north end door), meets at 6 p.m.. Drop-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Sherry Hodne3tt at 264-7599.

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PIGSKIN PREDICTIONS

This week's games



Jonathan Hull



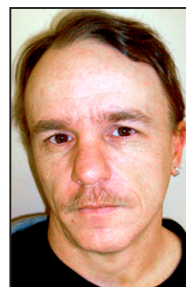
Jeff Lane



Robert Smith



Troy Hyde



Brandon Hallford



Art Barrera



Tim Knox

Big Spring vs. Canyon
Stanton vs. Van Horn
Garden City vs. Ira
Dawson vs. Sands
Lubbock Cooper vs. Snyder
Colorado City vs. Bangs
Klondike vs. Borden County
Texas at Kansas
Texas A&M at Baylor
South Carolina at Florida
BYU at Air Force
Boston College at Florida State
Vanderbilt at Kentucky
Tulsa at Houston
SMU at UTEP
Arizona at Oregon
Cal at Oregon State
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Texans at Colts
Jets at Patriots
Broncos at Falcons
Ravens at Buccaneers
Vikings at Buccaneers
Chargers at Steelers
Browns at Bills

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Cowboys
Colts
Jets
Broncos
Giants
Vikings
Steelers
Bills

Last week	15-10 .600	19-6 .760	18-7 .720	17-8 .680	17-8 .680	18-7 .720	15-10.600
To date	182-92 .664	196-78 .715	187-87 .682	190-84 .693	184-90 .672	176-98 .642	175-99 .639

REGIONAL SCHOOLBOY PLAYOFF PAIRINGS

CLASS 4A
DIVISION I
Region I
EP Chapin (8-2) vs. EP Del Valle (7-3), 8 p.m. Friday, EP Address
Canyon Randall (8-2) vs. Abilene Cooper (6-4), 1 p.m. Saturday, Lubbock's Lowrey Field
Denton Guyer (8-2) vs. Saginaw Boswell (5-5), 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Southlake Carroll
FW Arlington Heights (8-2) vs. Arlington Seguin (4-6), 7 p.m. Thursday, FW Brewer
EP Address (5-5) vs. Canutillo (8-2), 8 p.m. Friday, Canutillo
Amarillo Palo Duro (3-7) vs. Wolforth Frenship (10-0), 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Amarillo's Dick Bivins Stadium
Denton Ryan (7-3) vs. NRH Birdville (7-3), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Saginaw Boswell
FW Southwest (6-4) vs. Mansfield Timberview (5-5), 7 p.m. Thursday, Bedford's Pennington Field
DIVISION II
Region I
EP Austin (10-0) vs. EP Parkland (7-3),

8 p.m. Friday, EP Austin
Dumas (6-4) vs. San Angelo Lake View (5-5), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Lubbock's Lowrey Field
WF Rider (7-3) vs. Springtown (6-4), 7 p.m. Thursday, Mineral Wells
FW Dunbar (9-1) vs. Stephenville (7-3), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Burleson
EP Burges (7-3) vs. EP Riverside (5-5), 8 p.m. Friday, EP Riverside
Canyon (6-4) vs. Big Spring (6-4), 5 p.m. Saturday, Wolforth Frenship
Lake Dallas (7-3) vs. Aledo (10-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Justin Northwest
FW Eastern Hills (5-5) vs. Everman (10-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Bedford's Pennington Field

CLASS 3A
DIVISION I
Region I
Lubbock Estacado (3-7) vs. Abilene Wylie (8-2), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Midland's Grande Communications Stadium
Seminole (6-4) vs. Fort Stockton (6-4), 7 p.m. Thursday, Odessa's Ratliff Stadium
Burkburnett (7-3) by

China Spring (10-0) vs. Burnet (5-5), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Killeen HS

DIVISION II
Region I
Lubbock Cooper (6-4) vs. Snyder (7-3), 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Andrews
Monahans (8-2) vs. Clint, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Clint
Bridgeport (10-0) by
Glen Rose (8-2) vs. Llano (7-3), TBD
Dalhart (6-4) vs. Sweetwater (8-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Plainview
Midland Greenwood (6-4) vs. Pecos (4-6), 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Midland's Grande Communications Stadium
Vernon (5-5) by
West (5-5) vs. Liberty Hill (10-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Temple

CLASS 2A
DIVISION I
Region I
Bushland (10-0) vs. Muleshoe (10-0), 7 p.m. Friday, Canyon's Kimbrough Stadium
Littlefield (10-0) vs. Kermit (10-0), 7:30

p.m. Friday, Seminole
Bowie (7-3) vs. Clyde (9-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Mineral Wells
Tuscola Jim Ned (6-4) vs. Early (4-6), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Abilene's Shotwell Stadium

DIVISION II
Region I
Panhandle (9-1) vs. Friona (5-5), 7 p.m. Thursday, Canyon's Kimbrough Stadium
Idalou (9-1) vs. Alpine (8-2), 2 p.m. Saturday, Andrews
Holliday (10-0) vs. Merkel (6-4), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Breckenridge
Ballinger (7-3) vs. Brady (9-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, San Angelo Stadium
Sanford-Fritch (5-5) vs. Childress (7-3), 7 p.m. Friday, Canadian
Lubbock Roosevelt (6-4) vs. Crane (8-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Andrews
Henrietta (6-4) vs. Cisco (9-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Graham
Colorado City (6-4) vs. Bangs (8-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Brownwood

CLASS 1A

DIVISION I
Region I
Canadian (9-1), bye
Boys Ranch (6-4) vs. Wellington (10-0), 8 p.m. Friday, Amarillo's Dick Bivins Stadium
Morton (7-3) vs. Olton, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Wolforth Frenship
Stanton (5-5) vs. Van Horn (6-4), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Pecos

DIVISION II
Region I
Stratford (9-1), bye
Nazareth (8-2) vs. Wheeler (8-2), 7 p.m. Thursday, Bushland
Springlake-Earth (6-4) vs. Ralls (4-6), 2 p.m. Saturday, Littlefield
Sundown (8-2) vs. McCamey (3-7), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Crane
Sunray, bye
Vega (5-5) vs. Clarendon (8-2), 4:30 Friday, Amarillo's Dick Bivins Stadium
Farwell (5-5) vs. New Deal (10-0), 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sundown
Seagraves (4-6) vs. Iraan (10-0), 6 p.m. Saturday, Andrews

SANDS

Continued from Page 1B

could have played a factor in the game.

"I think that we went into that game with the attitude they were the same old Dawson team that we beat every year and that just isn't the case this season," Henderson said. "They have a few good athletes over there and are well coached and I don't think the boys really understood that."

Another factor Henderson cited for the loss was the fact the running game never really got on track against the Dragons.

The Mustangs leading rusher, Johnny Rogers, managed just 59 yards on 19 carries while Daniel Armendariz carried the ball six times for 56 yards, as the duo accounted for

the entire Mustangs rushing attack.

"In that game we had a couple of people hurt and that definitely effected us," Henderson said. "We have them back now and we expect to be able to do a little bit more on the ground this time around."

Since the early season win the Dragons have not slowed down a bit, simply plowing through District 5 in impressive fashion, closing 3-of-4 district contests by the 45-point mercy rule.

The Klondike Cougars were the only squad able to last an entire game against the Dragons, losing 70-42 in Week 1 of the league season.

"They are playing really well right now," Henderson said. "They proved they were the class of their district and that they deserve to be where they are. At the same time, we think we deserve to be

BEARKATS

Continued from Page 1B

Meanwhile, Garden City has scored impressively in its last two games, posting

76 and 90 points, respectively. The Bearkats' only two losses of the season came to second-ranked Abbott and sixth-ranked Fort Davis, which Garden City finished second in District 8.

here, too, and we plan on doing whatever it takes to get past the first round."

The Mustangs have been on a roll of their own lately with the only speed bump in the District 6 schedule coming at the hands of the second-ranked Borden County Coyotes.

"We were able to stay consistent in district play," Henderson said. "The game against Borden County, we knew going in it was going to be hard to get the win."

"The boys are really excited about making the playoffs. It's something that hasn't happened here in a few years," he continued. "They haven't let it affect them as far as we can see on the field and we have been trying to keep them focused on the game instead. We just told them we knew we could make the playoffs, now it is up to them on just how far we go."

Both teams do boast victories over the Rankin Red Devils. Garden City defeated Rankin 76-50 last week in order to clinch a post-season berth. Ira topped the Red Devils, 59-52, in pre-district play.

STANTON

Continued from Page 1B

each other. Both of us are very physical. It's a game that's definitely going to be played in the trenches."

Van Horn's featured back is J.J. Baca, but the Eagles also

utilize three players with the same last name — Luis, Rene and Dice Naverrete. Jacob Corralez is also featured in the backfield regularly, relieving Baca, who is a defensive stand-out as well.

Stanton's run game is built more around a singular individual — tailback Robbie Noland. Noland has rushed for more than

1,200 yards this season and 12 touchdowns.

"At this point in the season, I believe you just stick with what got you here," said McCown. "Our run game has been good and there's no reason to get away from it now."

While Noland is the featured back, sophomore quarterback Tyler Fulton and senior fullback

Nathan Nix will also see their fair share of carries.

Countering Van Horn's power run game is a Stanton defense anchored by linebacker Mark Garcia. Garcia was injured in the first game of the season, but returned to full-time linebacker duties Oct. 3 in a loss to Iraan. His return coincided with Stanton winning four of its final

six games after opening the season 0-3.

Stanton and Van Horn share one common opponent this season — Iraan. The Braves are a district foe for Van Horn. The Eagles lost 20-12.

Stanton tested the second-ranked Braves a week before the start of the district season, falling 34-13.

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

touchdown catches. Braden Kimsey has posted a respectable 495 yards on 44 receptions.

The biggest illustration of how much Canyon prefers to pass the ball is the fact that no Eagles' player has carried the ball 100 times this season. The leading rusher is Blake Boyer, who has 528 yards and eight touchdowns on 99 carries.

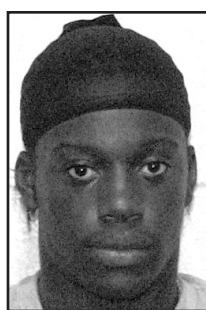
On the other end of the spectrum offensively is Big Spring. At times this season, the passing game for the Steers has been nonexistent. However, Big Spring has two players — Matt Ritchey and Monte Anderson — with well over 100 carries.

Ritchey carried the load for Big Spring in last week's shutout of Hereford, racking up 203 yards and two touchdowns on the ground. He also passed for two more scores and 86 yards.

Two weeks ago in a 42-32 win over Lake View, it was Anderson who shined. After missing the previous three games with a concussion, Anderson took his first carry of



Ritchey



Anderson

the night 52 yards around right end for a touchdown. He finished the night with 185 yards on 16 carries.

One reason the Steers' passing game has been erratic has been the injuries hampering junior Tyler Tannehill.

Tannehill has the best arm on the team, but has been slowed by two knee injuries in a six-month period.

He had his left knee rolled up on last week in the second quarter against Hereford and didn't return to the field.

However, Phillip Ritchey says Tannehill will be available Saturday.

"Tyler is going to be good to go," said Ritchey. "We're going to have to eliminate the sprint out plays to protect him some, but that's just how it is with him right now. We need him on the field because of the threat he presents with his arm."

The winner of this game faces the winner of El Paso Riverside and El Paso Burges. Should Big Spring and Riverside win, the Steers will make a long trip west on Interstate 20 to El Paso. The Steers would meet Burges in Pecos.

Big Spring Steers vs. Canyon Eagles

When: 5 p.m. Saturday
Where: Tiger Stadium in Wolforth
Radio: KBYG 1400AM, KBEST 95.7FM, KBST 1490AM, KBST.com

Daughter of Georgetown police chief gets deal in drug case

GEORGETOWN (AP) — The 18-year-old daughter of Georgetown Police Chief David Morgan was sentenced to five years of probation and a \$2,500 fine on a cocaine charge, officials said. Samantha Ann Morgan pleaded guilty in September to possession of cocaine. She must do 120 hours of community service and will be under house arrest for the next 90 days with a curfew of 11 p.m., according to a plea bargain accepted Wednesday by state District Judge Ken Anderson. District Attorney John Bradley said the plea deal offered was standard for someone with a first felony offense. According to an affidavit, the cocaine was discovered during a strip search at the Williamson County Jail after she was arrested June 18 following a traffic stop.

Former comptroller Strayhorn files paperwork for Austin mayoral run

AUSTIN (AP) — Former gubernatorial candidate Carole Keeton Strayhorn has filed paperwork appointing a campaign treasurer in a bid to run again for mayor of Austin. The filing Wednesday with the city clerk's office allows Strayhorn, elected Austin's first woman mayor, to begin raising and spending money on a mayoral campaign, but it does not officially place her name on the ballot. Campaign treasurer Louise Epstein said Strayhorn has been urged to run for mayor in May 2009 by friends and supporters.

'Wait Until Dark' to debut Friday at HC's Hall Center for the Arts

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

The Howard College Theater Department is through kidding around. After starting their season with light, comedic fare, college thespians have turned to a grittier, more dramatic offering with "Wait Until Dark," a thriller which will be performed this weekend at the Hall Center for the Arts. Showtimes are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$3 for students and \$5 for adults. No one will be admitted after the first curtain rises, HC Theater Director Kirk Davidson said. "Wait Until Dark" is a psychological thriller set in the late 1960s (it was first staged in 1968 and later turned into a movie starring Audrey Hep-

burn). "A blind woman (the Hepburn part) comes across a child's doll filled with cocaine," Davidson said. "The drug dealers desperately want their cocaine back, so they plan an elaborate con to get the doll back." Davidson stressed that this play is not kid stuff — because of its themes, exploration of violence and occasional use of adult language, parental discretion is advised. He unapologetically admits that staging this play represents a turn toward the dramatic for his troupe. "A lot of the fare up until I got here was pretty bland," he said. "Something like this ... forces the actors to be more complex in their characterizations." Even the staging reflects

the moody tone of this presentation, with sparse, close-quarters sets and dark lighting reinforcing the sense of unease. "Being in this kind of environment, with it being so claustrophobic, will scare people," Davidson said. "It will be kind of like watching an Alfred Hitchcock movie." Despite the darker tones explored in this play, Davidson stressed that the audience will still be entertained. "I like to surprise the audience, but not shock the audience," he said. "I think it's very important to be sensitive to the audience while, at the same time, giving my actors a challenge." Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

ROBBERY

Continued from Page 1A

to a disturbance," said Everett. "Apparently, there had been a fight or altercation between Viera and another individual in the parking lot. "At the scene, officers contacted a man identified as Paul Viera Jr. Based on his description and clothing, along with evidence found by officers, Viera was taken into custody and charged with aggravated robbery. Viera was booked into the city jail and later arraigned by Municipal Judge Tim Green, who set his bond at \$50,000." Everett said no injuries were reported. "It gave the clerk a pretty good scare, but no one was injured in the altercation," said Everett. Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

BOWLS

Continued from Page 1A

ple realize that there are people out there without food," Hansen said. Scenic Mountain Medical Center, Howard College, Big Spring High School, Morgan Creek Ranch and Walter Brumley will provide specialty soups for the evening. Judith Tereletsky, BSHS art instructor, said 35 of her students worked on the project and were joined by more than 30 private citizens. The result, she said, was quite creative — bowls are emblazoned with United Way agency logos or whatever color struck the artist's fancy, while others were crafted into unique shapes such as footballs, poinsettias and castles. "We'll have five special

bowls, which feature different agencies of the United Way, which will be auctioned off during the event," Tereletsky said. "Also, we've asked the three high school principals — Mike Ritchey, George Bancroft and Tanya Cartwright — to create a bowl." Hansen said she remains optimistic that the UW campaign will reach its goal of \$250,000. "Right now, we're a little more than half-way to our goal," she said. "We've collected a little more than \$160,000 (as of Wednesday), but we still have a lot of pledges out there. Most of our Loaned Executive pledges haven't been received and that's where a bulk of our money comes from." Monies raised from the annual campaign are used to fund the following 15 area

non-profit agencies: • The American Red Cross, West Texas Chapter. This agency provides disaster relief services, assistance to military personnel and their families and offers first aid instruction. • Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) of West Texas. CASA volunteers serve as advocates for abused and neglected children who are in the care of Child Protective Services when the court is considering the permanent placement for the child. Location, 210 Third; St. Phone, 263-4162. • Buffalo Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America. This is an educational and character-building program for boys and young adults. Location, 610 Scurry; Phone, 263-3407. • Big Spring Humane Society. The Humane Society provides shelter and care

for abandoned, abused and neglected cats and dogs and also arranges pet visitations for elderly and disabled. Location, W. I-20 North Service Road; Phone, 267-7832. • Boy's Club of Big Spring. The program offers guidance, instruction, recreation and leadership to boys 6-17 years of age. Location, 212 E. Third St.; 263-1822. • Northside Community Center. Northside provides clothing, household articles, rent and utility payments, emergency shelter and counseling for those in need. Location, 108 N.E. Eighth St.; Phone, 263-2673. • Dora Robert Rehabilitation Center. This is a rehabilitation program to help improve the health and welfare of disabled children and adults. No one is turned away due to their

ability to pay. Location, 306. W. Third; Phone, 267-3806. • Isaiah 58. The program provides food, clothing and other essential of daily life to those in need. It also provides assistance with prescription drugs, rent and utilities. Location, 107 Runnels St.; Phone, 263-4758. • Girl Scouts of the Permian Basin. Girl Scouts provide programs aimed for girls age five through 17. • The Salvation Army. The Salvation Army provides a number of services for the poor including meals and lodging for the homeless. Location 811 W. Fifth St.; Phone, 267-8239. • Victim Services. The volunteers for victim services for immediate after-crises support for victims of rape and sexual assault. 24-hour support hotline, 263-3312. • Y.M.C.A. of Big Spring.

The YMCA offers a number of physical activities for children and adults along with after school and summer activities. Location, 801 Owens; Phone, 267-8234. • Westside Community Center. This program provides an education-based, after-school and summer programs for public school children. Location, 1311 W. Fourth St.; Phone, 267-6680. • Westside Day Care Center. This program provides day care and education for children ages 0-12 but the parents must be employed or participate in training that will lead to employment. Location: Big Spring Industrial Park; Phone, 263-7841. Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

CENTER

Continued from Page 1A

unique and diverse as the community it serves." Sarkis said the center is not a free clinic, and will provide better health care than what is generally associated with free clinics. "A new community health center means fewer unmet medical needs in Howard County and more health care choices for consumers, whether they are covered by insurance or not," said Sarkis. "In-

dividuals without health insurance are provided services on a sliding discount fee schedule, based on their income and family size. The quality of health care services is the same for everyone once they walk in the door." Sarkis said a health center would also help address the growing need for primary care providers in the Crossroads area. "Lower health care costs are also an added benefit of having a community health center in Howard County," said Sarkis. "Medical expenses for

health center patients are 41 percent lower compared to patients who are seen in other health care settings. By keeping health care costs to a minimum, health centers are generating costs savings for the entire health care system." According to Sarkis, health centers currently serve one in seven uninsured persons in America, including one in five uninsured low-income persons; one in eight beneficiaries of Medicaid; nearly one in three of all people living in poverty; and one in nine rural Americans.

Sarkis also pointed out approximately 56 million Americans — many who have health insurance — lack access to basic health care because they live in communities where there is an acute shortage of primary care providers, a problem the consultant said effects Big Spring. "Health centers serve as the health care home for 17 million people in more than 6,000 sites, and are recognized as an invaluable part of the nation's health delivery system," said Sarkis. "The National Association of Community

Health Centers estimates these types of centers have saved the health care system \$9.9 billion to \$17.6 billion each year. Also, the White House Office of Management and Budget has ranked health care centers as one of the 10 most effective government programs, a designation earned by only six percent of all federal programs." In closing, Sarkis encouraged the audience — which was made up of a hodgepodge of local elected officials and health care providers — to work with the county to make the

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

DIRECTOR

Continued from Page 1A

decades, but a tragic event made her homesick for small-town West Texas. "I'm an OSU (Oklahoma State University) graduate in sociology and psychology. I also went to OU (Oklahoma University) and studied there," said Farley. "I lived in Oklahoma for about 25 years and moved back here about 13 years ago. "I had a couple of friends who were killed in the Murrah Building bombing, and it made me pause

and re-evaluate my life. I was done with city living at that point. I was living in Tulsa, and since I was born and raised (in Big Spring), I was able to transfer to a position here and have enjoyed every minute of it since then. I have a deep respect for the people here, and how warm they are." When she heard about the search for a project director for the County Health Center, Farley said it sounded like an excellent chance for her to use her experience to help people who badly need it. "I have a great love and compassion for the under-

insured," said Farley. "I'm a retired probation officer and I've worked in public health for the past two years and as a social worker for the past eight years. I'm well acquainted with dealing with the frail, elderly, mentally challenged and disabled. So I felt my strengths would lend themselves very well to this position. "It's a very important job, and my research shows Texas leads the nation in the number of medically uninsured. Approximately 25 percent of the population doesn't have medical insurance. They aren't seeking health care

because they are putting other things ahead of that, such as food and shelter, or finding work. I feel like this position is critical to this area, and that's why I decided to apply for it." While Farley has no doubt the project will be a harrowing affair, she's more than happy to take on the "danger and opportunity." "I'm very excited for the opportunity," said Farley. "I've been told the Chinese symbol for 'crisis' is made up of two other symbols, meaning danger and opportunity. This is just a wonderful opportunity for me. It even goes well

beyond me. It's all about the folks here in Howard County. I'm just thrilled." Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

AN ENCOURAGING WORD

By Eddy Pitchford

My mind wandered at the Veteran's Day ceremony. I thought of a cemetery in South Texas with a "missing man" jet flyover. I recalled tears shed on several occasions at the national cemetery in Grand Prairie. I thought back to a visit with a couple shortly after their son was killed in battle. I reflected on pride and fear I felt when my brothers left for the war in the Middle East. I remembered various conversations with veterans traumatized by war experiences. War may be a necessary evil. However, it may not be as necessary as some believe and may be more evil than others care to admit. One thing is certain - we enjoy freedom because people sacrificed in our behalf. Some claim the greatest sign of freedom is the ability to take freedom for granted. I believe the greatest sign of freedom is the realization that "all is well...God is nigh."

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Garage Sales

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GARAGE & BAKE SALE, Mt. Bethel Baptist Church, 630 Sgt. Paredes St. Saturday, November 15th, 8am-1:00pm. Children, women, men clothing, toys, household items, odds & ends.

GARAGE SALE, 404 State. Saturday, 7:30am till? Christmas, household, furniture, tools, misc. Please No Early Birds!!!

GARAGE SALE, Saturday, 7AM to 2PM. 2613 Rebecca Dr. Boys' bicycle, bed linens, ladies clothes, some small boys clothes, some toys and much more!

GARAGE SALE, Thursday 8am-? Friday 8am-? & Saturday 8am-? 2709 Carol Dr. Stereo, lots of Christmas items, brand name clothes and shoes.

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SALE! BENT Tree Apts. office on Saturday, 10:00am-12:00 Noon. Cash Only! 60" TV, recliner, loveseat, 19" TV, computer, furniture, CDs, DVDs, many more items. (432)267-1621.

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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
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John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

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News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Tied with Thailand

Americans like to think that we have the world's best health care. Sometimes that's true.

But in one of the most fundamental measures of health — infant mortality, the percentage of babies who die before their first birthday — we come up short. By a lot.

Roughly seven of every 1,000 babies born in the United States die before their first birthday. That puts America on a par with the rates in Serbia and Lithuania. In a ranking of countries' infant mortality rates, with number one being the best, the United States is tied with Thailand in 29th place.

We rank slightly lower than Poland, Hungary, Croatia and South Korea. Our rate is more than twice as bad as the rates in Japan, Sweden, Cyprus and Italy, and three times worse than Iceland's.

There is some good news: Recently released national numbers show that the infant mortality rate improved slightly here during 2006, the latest year for which complete statistics are available. That marked the first statistically significant change since rates stalled in 2000.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and most health experts regard infant mortality as among the most important indicators of a nation's health. That's because it is associated with and affected by a wide variety of factors: maternal health, access to health care, socioeconomic conditions and public health practices. The United States falls short in many of these measures.

Because many factors influence the infant mortality rate, it can take a long time to see improvement. But widening disparities in access to health care and rapid increases in the number of people without health insurance make it even more difficult.

For example, about a third of U.S. infant deaths occur in premature babies.

Babies who arrive too early and, thus, are very small receive heroic care at specialized hospitals at great cost. It's not unusual for the care of such infants to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Yet many die before their first birthdays.

That care might not be needed if more money were spent to provide prenatal and preventive care to scores of mothers and infants. That makes premature births and infant mortality a problem for all of society, not just the mothers of these unfortunate infants.

In 1960, our country had the world's 12th-lowest infant mortality rate. Since then, other nations have surpassed us at lowering their rates. And infant mortality isn't the only international measure of health by which the United States does poorly.

Americans have a "healthy life expectancy" of 69 years. That's a measure of the number of years a citizen can expect to live in full health. That's about the same as residents of Slovenia and Portugal, two fewer years than the British, three fewer years than the French and six fewer years than the Japanese.

Americans have fewer doctors, CT scanners and MRI machines per capita than residents of many other Western nations. We see doctors less often and are less satisfied with the care we receive.

Yet we spend about twice as much on that care as the British, French or Japanese. At least \$1,000 of our health care spending per person, on average, pays for paperwork — administrative expenses. Unlike Americans, every citizen in Britain, France, Japan and every other developed country has government-paid health care.

Health care reform clearly will be a major political issue over the next four years, although it's too soon to say exactly what kinds of changes could occur. But it's not too soon to ask if Americans want a fairer, more efficient health care system — or if they think that being tied with Thailand in infant mortality is good enough for the United States.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

The punching bag strikes back

Latinos flipped the vote in four battleground states and gave Barack Obama free passage to the White House.

But did Obama earn the Hispanic vote, or did he win it by default?

More importantly, will President-elect Obama repay his debt to Latinos, or will he continue to take their support for granted and go on ignoring them?

During his race against Sen. John McCain, Obama paid little attention to some key Hispanic issues, especially those concerning immigration and Latin America. And yet he won 67 percent of the Hispanic vote nationally and an even greater percentage of it in several key states.

Why? Not because Latinos like to be ignored! Not because they adore Obama so soon after having favored Sen. Hillary Clinton! And certainly not because they dislike a pro-immigrant and pro-Latin America politician such as McCain!

Latinos went out to vote in record numbers because they are sick and tired of being the punching bag of the Republican Party. Just as McCain couldn't overcome his ties to President Bush, he couldn't overcome the GOP's negative image in the Hispanic community.

McCain simply couldn't convince Latino voters that on the issue of immigration he would be different from Bush, who had good intentions but was tied down by the anti-immigrant base of his own party.

While President Bush got 40 percent of the Hispanic vote in 2004, McCain got only 31 percent in 2008, according to the Pew Hispanic Center. The Hispanic vote for Obama in 2008 was 9 points higher than it was for Sen. John Kerry, who won 58 percent of the Latino vote in 2004.

Latinos flipped the swing states of Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Florida for Obama, and the president-elect also received great

Latino support in other important states he won.

According to a Pew Hispanic Center analysis of election results, Obama won 57 percent of the Latino vote in Florida, a complete reversal from 2004, when 56 percent of Latinos voted for Bush. He became the first Democratic candidate to win the Hispanic vote in Florida.

Obama also won 78 percent of the Hispanic vote in Nevada; 61 percent in Colorado; 69 percent in New Mexico; 72 percent in Illinois; 74 percent in California; and 78 percent in New Jersey — to name a few.

Let's face it, Obama was smart. He saw that Republican hostilities were driving Latinos to the Democratic Party, and he didn't really have to do anything to earn the Hispanic vote. The Republicans gave it to him on a silver platter.

All the Democrats had to do was ask Latinos whether they would want to vote for those who would take away their right to speak Spanish, those who would deport their friends and relatives, and those who would deprive illegal immigrant students of college educations.

But the question remains: Because Obama got away with promising very little to Latinos, can they expect him to deliver anything?

In fact, there are many questions: How many Latinos will he have in his Cabinet? How about his inner circle of White House advisers? We know Latinos were practically invisible in his campaign inner circle.

Will that trend continue? Will he visit some Latin American countries? Will he make alliances with our strong friends or our leftist enemies?

And what about immigration reform? During his campaign, Obama said that in his first year in the Oval Office, he would introduce more or less the same immigration reform legislation that has been rejected twice by Congress. Can he persuade Congress to legalize 12 million undocumented immigrants? Can he convince them that such an amnesty program would not encourage

more illegal immigration? Doesn't he have to do what McCain suggested, which is to secure the borders first? Is this a realistic plan or one that the Democrats are using as a facade to pretend that they are trying to solve the problem and keep Latinos on a string?

Perhaps now that the Democrats will have a much greater majority in both the House and the Senate there will be no excuse for failing to fix our broken immigration system. And what about the Democratic lawmakers who are opposed to a legalization plan? Can Obama and the Democratic leadership on Capitol Hill rein in their own party's dissidents on this issue? And if they don't pass an immigration reform package, can they count on the Hispanic vote two and four years from now?

On the radio and on television, conservative pundits already are acknowledging that if Republicans are going to make a comeback in future national elections, they need to regain the ground they have lost in the Hispanic community. Yet you still don't hear them conceding that the first thing GOP leaders need to do is tone down their anti-immigrant and English-only rhetoric.

Because Obama's Latino support is not built on solid ground, Republicans probably could still recover the Hispanic voters they lost in this election and even win over some others. But they would have to become much more tolerant and inclusive.

They would have to accept this country's precious diversity, and they would have to persuade the xenophobic GOP extremists to stop bullying immigrants and throwing punches at Latinos.

In other words, they would have to embrace their Hispanic punching bag, just as the bag is learning how to fight back.

To find out more about Miguel Perez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

ADDRESSES

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Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
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19th Cong. District
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722

Yeah, Sarah Palin did matter

For years I've been dining out on the story of the 1988 vice presidential debate, where Lloyd Bentsen literally cleaned Dan Quayle's clock — "You're no Jack Kennedy" — resulting in a huge increase in his own approval ratings and virtually no bump at all for the Dukakis-Bentsen ticket.

Quayle and Spiro T. Agnew have long been Exhibits A and B butressing the conventional wisdom that people vote for president, not vice president; that having the better candidate for the No. 2 slot is all but irrelevant to winning the election; and that anytime you see one of those "who would you rather have a heartbeat away from the presidency" ads, it's an almost certain sign that the campaign running it is a heartbeat away from defeat.

Most of the time, the interest in the vice presidential nominee peaks in the hours leading up to the announcement. The minute we know who it is, we — the media, the country and especially the voters — lose interest.

So it was for Joe Biden. The run-up to Obama's vice presidential announcement had the media in a frenzy. Far-fetched rumors were flying. Then the announcement was made, and that was that. Sure, Biden. Right. Did anyone vote for Barack Obama because of Biden? Maybe not. Then again, did anyone vote against him because of the Delaware senator? Why would they? A perfect vice presidential selection.

Sarah Palin was another story. Her selection, and this election, may change forever the convention-

al wisdom about vice presidential nominees. Whether a good choice can help you remains to be established; my Bentsen story may still be controlling on that issue. But it should now be clear that a bad choice — and Palin was most certainly a bad choice — can do great harm to a presidential campaign.

The fact that McCain's top people are talking out of school about Palin's weaknesses is a sign of just how bad a choice she was. She hurt them. She should not escape unscathed. They are clearly angry.

Gov. Palin has denied that she demanded the fancy clothes. It doesn't matter. If she had proved herself to be up to the job, no one would care so much about her clothes. She has also denied that she was confused about whether Africa was a country or a continent, and about which countries were part of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The fact that anyone could believe a candidate for vice president was capable of being that stupid is enough. But if Palin herself proved one thing, in her interview with Katie Couric, in her phone conversation with the Nicolas Sarkozy impersonator, even in her denunciation of her Republican critics as "jerks" and her effort to rehabilitate herself with Greta Van Susteren, it is that she had no business being on a national ticket.

I don't know whether she was just too arrogant to realize she needed help before facing Couric, as her critics allege. I don't know if the fact of the call with the Canadian comedian was a staff error. But it's her voice sounding like an idiot talking to the pseudo-French president.

She was the one who couldn't name a Supreme Court case other than Roe, much less point to a

single newspaper that she reads. The Palin who whines to Greta that she just doesn't know how the "top echelon" of campaigns work is best off not finding out.

If she is the future of the Republican Party, then Democrats can rejoice because it means the Republicans have no future.

Ultimately, the denunciation of the Alaska governor by McCain's staffers calls into question McCain's judgment in choosing her, which is why he had to stop it. A 72-year-old candidate, especially a maverick who has spent his life fighting for principle, might have been expected to exercise greater care in selecting his No. 2. Behind in the polls at the time, McCain made a political decision instead of a principled one, a candidate's choice instead of a president's.

To be fair, he probably didn't know Palin well enough to grasp how hopelessly unqualified she was. She might have been a star in the rough, smarter than anyone could have known, able to rise to the occasion. But she wasn't. She isn't.

It may be that the economy was too big a hurdle for McCain to overcome, even with a more qualified running mate. But the fact that his choice of Palin almost certainly contributed to his defeat is, in the long run, an important lesson of this election. Vice presidents should matter. And the only way they will is if would-be presidents understand the limits of my old Bentsen story. Sarah Palin should ensure that.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.



MIGUEL PEREZ



SUSAN ESTRICH

Jobless claims surge while trade deficit narrows

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Applications for unemployment benefits soared to the highest level since just after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks while the trade deficit shrank more than expected as demand for imports plunged, further evidence of the struggling U.S. economy.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that jobless claims shot up by 32,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 516,000, the highest total in seven years. The tally was much higher than analysts expected and a further indication of how much the labor market is deteriorating amid the shrinking economy. The government reported last week that the unemployment rate surged to a 14-year high of 6.5 percent in October.

Meanwhile, the Commerce Department said the trade deficit declined by a bigger-than-expected amount in September, falling by 4.4 percent to \$56.5 billion as imports experienced a record plunge.

The import decline was led by a huge fall in imported oil as the average price for crude dropped by a record \$12.41 per barrel and the volume of shipments fell to the lowest level in five years. But demand for other types of imports also fell, with imported cars and car parts dropping to the lowest level in more than five years, an indication that foreign automakers are feeling the pinch hitting U.S. consumers.

President-elect Barack Obama has said that dealing with the worst financial crisis to hit this country in seven decades will be his No. 1 priority when he takes office, and his Democratic allies in Congress were laying the groundwork for changes with hearings scheduled Thursday.

The House Oversight Committee will examine the role hedge funds may have played in recent market turbulence. Among those scheduled to testify was billionaire investor George Soros, chairman of Soros Fund Management.

Meanwhile, the Senate Banking Committee will hear from executives of a number of financial institutions including Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo on the issue of how the government's \$700 billion rescue effort is operating, and particularly whether the government should be requiring more commitments on the use of the money to address rising mortgage foreclosure problems.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson announced Wednesday that the administration had scrapped the original centerpiece of the rescue program — a proposal to buy troubled assets to get them off the books of banks as a way of promoting increased lending.

Instead, Paulson said the administration will proceed with an alternative plan to spend \$250 billion to buy stock in the banks as a way of bolstering their financial situation and accomplishing the same goal — getting the institutions to return to more normal lending.

However, critics contend the administration should be imposing more restrictions on the stock purchases

as a way of insuring the banks will use the government resources to increase lending rather than just hoarding the cash, or using it to acquire other banks or boost dividends for stockholders.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said he was still disappointed in the administration's unwillingness to issue strict guidelines to ensure that participating firms use the funds to increase lending.

Another report detailing the difficulties facing the

economy is expected later Thursday with the government announcing the budget deficit for October.

The deficit is expected to show a big increase in October, the first month of the new budget year, rising to \$101.5 billion, compared to \$57 billion in October 2007. The soaring costs of the bank rescue and the weak economy are expected to put the country on track to run up a record deficit for the current budget year of between \$700 billion and \$1 trillion,

a staggering sum for a single year.

Despite its new flexibility, the administration said Wednesday it remains opposed to using the rescue fund to bail out the ailing auto industry or to provide guarantees for home loans, an idea that supporters contend offers the greatest hope for helping legions of Americans who are facing foreclosure.

Congressional Democrats felt otherwise on autos, and strongly.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid were pressing for quick passage of a major package for car-makers during a postelection session that begins Nov. 18, and one key House Democrat was putting together legislation that would send \$25 billion in emergency loans to the beleaguered industry in exchange for a government ownership stake in the Big Three car companies.

Paulson told reporters

Wednesday that the administration was exploring the possibility of setting up a program in conjunction with the Federal Reserve that would provide support for the \$1 trillion market in securities that fund such vital consumer products as credit cards, auto loans and students loans. About 40 percent of consumer credit is supplied through the sale of these securities that are backed by payments consumers make on their credit cards.

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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Venus has moved into Capricorn and she's ready to declare

her affections. Capricorn is a station of security and tradition. It's also connected with the house of career and public standing. Notice how the things you are attracted to will serve several purposes in your life. What's good for your love life is good for your career and vice versa.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Things slow down, but that doesn't mean they are boring. The most wonderful occurrences are the ones that unfold in slow motion, so that you have a chance to savor every millisecond.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There is a moment when you realize that when you are and who you want to be is the same person. It's an amazing feeling that comes and goes in a flash. Then you're back to making your plans.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You are sharp and spirited, a true independent. Your dignified presence will be attractive to many, intimidating to some and captivating to one particular person who encourages you to express yourself freely.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You used to think that being pushy at the right times made you seem stronger. Now you wonder whether there ever is a right time to be pushy. You're getting everything you want using your sweet social graces.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The one who keeps asking you how you are feeling is tiresome indeed! Besides, you don't even know how you are feeling until you start talking about things. And perhaps that's the reason this person is being so persistent.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may offer your advice free of charge, but the other person still pays for it with his or her attention. You have something powerful to impart, but do it in only a sentence or two if you can. Brief is best.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Life may seem to contradict you, to negate your rules and ignore your preferences. It's trying to tell you something. It's trying to encourage you to lose some of those rules so you may more fully enjoy what is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You perceive things



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Tomorrow's Horoscope

that aren't physically there, but are spiritually very much alive. It could be an idea for a project, or maybe it's a spirit from beyond that glints in your periphery. Don't be afraid to focus on it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Placing too many expectations on a person or situation sucks all the joy out of your interaction. Recognize when things feel strained and then back off. There's nothing to be gained by demanding.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Public discourse is touchy. Everyone is sensitive about what is said in front of an audience, even if the group is as small as three people. Take someone aside to tell him or her what's on your mind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Things have gotten a bit out of hand administration-wise. You'd rather not deal with the rising paperwork pile on your desk, but it's time. One by one you'll organize and file your life back into a comprehensive system.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Though you think you would like to know the root cause of someone's behavior, asking "why" only opens more questions. Focus instead on what you can do that feels positive and productive.

VENUS IN CAPRICORN: A friend of mine is an actor on a soap opera who told me how the creator and head writer of the program develops the elaborate stories that become the script. The writer reportedly has created a model of the imaginary town and plays with dolls in various locations on the set until ideas come to

him about where to take the plot. I like to think of the zodiac like this. I see the planets as characters and the constellations as locations packed with potential for drama. Mars runs into an old friend, Mercury, at the pub on the corner. Or at the gala ball, Uranus conspires with Venus to ruin a perfectly good seduction. The main player in the current episode is Venus, the Erica Kane of the zodiac, moving into the stable sign of Capricorn. What's interesting about her current choice is that it appears to be so traditional -- Erica is behaving so conventionally, following the rules with such ease that we can't help but be skeptical. What is she up to? Venus in Capricorn recognizes the relationships that will bring power by association. During this transit you may find yourself drawn to the people and endeavors that will increase your social standing and help your career.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: From "Law & Order" to "Sex and the City," Chris Noth enralls audiences with his brooding Scorpio presence and handsome magnetism. Noth is the owner of a swanky Manhattan bar cleverly called The Cutting Room, though his own days of acting in scenes that end up on the cutting room floor are long gone. Incidentally, Scorpio is the sign of cutting and surgery.

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to her, please go to www.creators.com.

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joy around. They should not have invited these friends without clearing it with you first, but it serves no purpose to travel with a chip on your shoulder. Try to make the best of it and consider that you might have a wonderful time in spite of the change in the arrangements. We wouldn't plan any future vacations with your sister, however, unless you both agree on the ground rules.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Embarrassed Wife," whose 73-year-old husband checks out every female who moves, including a teenage girl. So what? This is what men do, although some are slyer at it than others. And they look at teenage girls, too, because most of them are beautiful. That's why we look. It is not a crime to look. I'm in my 40s and look at women of all ages. -- Sly Enough

Dear Sly: It's OK to look. It's not OK to ogle, drool, make slurping noises or otherwise embarrass your wife.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611.

Dear Family: Clearly your sister and brother-in-law find these joint vacations a bit insular and wanted to spread the

Dear Annie: My sister and I are very close. We had our weddings a month apart and are guardians for each other's children in the event of death. In the past, we've often celebrated our anniversaries together.

A year ago, my husband and I were coming up on a significant anniversary and wanted to do something special. I suggested we take a trip overseas with my sister and her husband to mark the milestone. They agreed, but there was no further discussion. Six months ago, I brought it up again, asking whether they were still interested because I wanted to begin planning. They said to go ahead.

After much back and forth, I pressed my sister to pick a specific date and was blindsided when she announced that her husband had invited another couple to come along. I had met this couple only once, several years ago.

I was speechless. I informed my sister that this was not what we had in mind and it would be weird to be the fifth wheel. My sister agreed and said it was her husband's responsibility to dis-invite them. A few weeks later, I discovered the other couple had made reservations at the same hotel at the same time.

Suddenly, this is a different trip from what I had planned. If we were to back out now, we would lose a lot of money. I am so resentful, I don't know how to handle it. I feel my sister has ruined my vacation and put her friends first. What do I do? -- Between Family and Friends

Dear Annie: Clearly your sister and brother-in-law find these joint vacations a bit insular and wanted to spread the

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Legals

Prequalification Advertisement Request for Proposals

The Colorado River Municipal Water District (CRMWD) is requesting qualifications from membrane treatment equipment manufacturers for the delivery and support of membrane pilot units. Data from the pilot units will be utilized by the District and its consultant to design the Big Spring Water Reclamation Plant to be located west of the City of Big Spring Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Information regarding the packet containing pre-qualification requirements and membrane pilot testing protocol may be obtained without charge at the District's office located at 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, TX 79721.

Proposals must be delivered to 400 East 24th Street/ P.O. Box 869, Big Spring, TX 79721, no later than 3:00 PM, on December 4, 2008. For questions or additional information please contact Chris Wingert, P.E. (CRMWD) via e-mail at cwingert@crmwd.org or (432)267-6341 ext 303; or contact Ignacio Cadena, P.E. (Freeze and Nichols, Inc.) at (817)735-7283 or via e-mail at ica@freeze.com

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Annie's Mailbox



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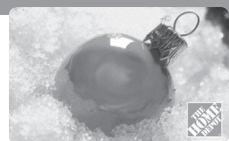
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News at a glance

Doctors say marrow transplant may have cured patient's AIDS; method questionable

BERLIN (AP) — An American man who suffered from AIDS appears to have been cured of the disease 20 months after receiving a targeted bone marrow transplant normally used to fight leukemia, his doctors said.

While researchers — and the doctors themselves — caution that the case might be no more than a fluke, others say it may inspire a greater interest in gene therapy to fight the disease that claims 2 million lives each year. The virus has infected 33 million people worldwide.

Dr. Gero Huetter said Wednesday his 42-year-old patient, an American living in Berlin who was not identified, had been infected with the AIDS virus for more than a decade. But 20 months after undergoing a transplant of genetically selected bone marrow, he no longer shows signs of carrying the virus.

"We waited every day for a bad reading," Huetter said. It has not come. Researchers at Berlin's Charite hospital and medical school say tests on his bone marrow, blood and other organ tissues have all been clean.

Congress examines whether more changes are needed in \$700 billion bailout program

WASHINGTON (AP) — While the Bush administration shifts course on its \$700 billion rescue plan, Congress is examining whether even bigger changes should be made in the program in light of the deteriorating economy and soaring mortgage foreclosures.

The debate may not be resolved until President-elect Barack Obama takes office on Jan. 20 and pursues policies for administering the rescue program that are likely to be more closely aligned with his Democratic allies in Congress.

In anticipation of the change of administrations, Democrats were holding hearings in both the House and Senate on Thursday examining various aspects of the most serious financial crisis to hit the country in 70 years.

The House Oversight Committee was examining the role that hedge funds may have played in recent market turbulence. Among those scheduled to testify was billionaire investor George Soros, chairman of Soros Fund Management.

Meanwhile, the Senate Banking Committee will hear from executives of a number of financial institutions including Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo on the issue of how the government's \$700 billion rescue effort is operating and particularly whether the government should be requiring more commitments on the use of the money to address rising mortgage foreclosure problems.

Bush to set a tone for economic summit as expectations and public frustrations grow

WASHINGTON (AP) — Setting a tone for an economic summit on his turf, President George W. Bush plans to tell world leaders that reforming financial markets alone won't help if they abandon the free market and restrict trade.

The president plans to sell that message Thursday from the heart of Wall Street. At the venerable Federal Hall, home of the first Congress and within shouting distance of New York Stock Exchange, Bush was to frame expectations for the high-level gathering he's hosting in Washington this weekend.

Bush is also going to New York to address a United Nations conference on religious tolerance and to meet with King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia.

But the broader focus is on the deteriorating economy, which has millions of people grappling to keep their jobs, their homes and their hopes. The most severe economic downturn in decades threatens to end Bush's tenure on the most sour of notes before President-elect Barack Obama takes over.

To rally a more coordinated world response, Bush is convening representatives of some of the world's biggest industrial democracies, emerging nations and international bodies in Washington. He will host the lead-

ers at a White House dinner Friday and review causes and solutions for the financial mess Saturday.

20 Afghan civilians, American soldier killed in suicide attack on US convoy

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A suicide bomber targeting a passing U.S. military convoy blew up his car near a crowded market in eastern Afghanistan Thursday, killing at least 21 people, including an American soldier, officials said.

The explosion also wounded 74 people near the livestock market where people were trading sheep, cows, goats and other animals in the Bati Kot district outside Jalalabad, Afghan police and health officials said.

Charred and twisted remain of cars that were destroyed in the blast smoldered for hours after the attack on Afghanistan's main road to the nearby Pakistani. A U.S. military vehicle was among the wreckage.

Lt. Cmdr. Walter Matthews, a U.S. military spokesman, said at least 20 civilians and a U.S. soldier were killed. The soldier's death brings the number of U.S. troops killed in Afghanistan to at least 148, the highest number of troop deaths per year since the U.S.-led invasion in 2001.

Palin, already hinting at 2012 run, to tell GOP governors her views on the party's future

MIAMI (AP) — Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin is sending signals that she is open to running for president in 2012, but another potential candidate is sending a different message: Republicans can't get ahead of themselves.

Palin, this year's Republican vice presidential nominee, is going to talk to Republican governors Thursday in a panel discussion called "Looking Towards the Future: The GOP in Transition." She's already making it clear that she wants to be a big part of that transition.

She was asked Wednesday, after arriving at the Republican Governors Association conference, about speculation that she is the party's future.

"I don't think it's me personally, I think it's what I represent," Palin told reporters. "Everyday hardworking American families — a woman on the ticket perhaps represents that. It would be good for the ticket. It would be good for the party. I would be happy to get to do whatever is asked of me to help progress this nation."

Later, Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour told his peers that now isn't the time to think about the next presidential election.

Missile defense chief: U.S. interests would be hurt if Obama drops missile defense in Europe

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Air Force general who runs the Pentagon's missile defense projects said that American interests would be "severely hurt" if President-elect Obama decided to halt plans developed by the Bush administration to install missile interceptors in Eastern Europe.

Lt. Gen. Henry A. Obering III, director of the Missile Defense Agency, told a group of reporters Wednesday that he is awaiting word from Obama's transition team on their interest in receiving briefings.

During the campaign, Obama was not explicit about his intentions with regard to missile defense. The program has tended to draw less support from Democrats over the years, particularly during the Reagan presidency when it was seen as a "Star Wars" effort to erect an impenetrable shield against nuclear missile attack from the Soviet Union. More recently the project has been scaled back, although it has again created an East-West divide by stirring Russian opposition to the proposed European link.

Obama has said it would be prudent to "explore the possibility of deploying missile defense systems in Europe," in light of what he called active efforts by Iran to develop ballistic missiles as well as nuclear weapons.

But Obama expressed some skepticism about the technical capability of U.S. missile defenses. He said that if elected his administration would work with NATO al-

lies to develop anti-missile technologies.

Study says dirty air in Southern California kills more people than car crashes

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — Lowering air pollution in Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley would save more lives annually than ending all motor vehicle fatalities in the two regions, according to a new study.

The study, which examined the costs of air pollution in two areas with the worst levels in the country, also said meeting federal ozone and fine particulate standards could save \$28 billion annually in health care costs, school absences, missed work and lost income potential from premature deaths.

The price tag amounts to \$1,600 annually per person in the San Joaquin Valley and \$1,250 in the South Coast Air Basin.

Researchers at California State University-Fullerton sought to assess the potential economic benefits that could be achieved by reducing air pollution to levels within federal standards.

"For decades there has been a tug of war over what to do about air pollution," said Jane Hall, lead author of the study at Cal State Fullerton. "We are paying now for not having done enough."

Almost ready to pass the baton: Dick Cheney set to meet with successor, Joe Biden

WASHINGTON (AP) — The high-profile White House meeting this week between outgoing and incoming presidents is being followed Thursday night by a much lower-key get-together hosted by Vice President Dick Cheney for his successor, Democrat Joe Biden.

Cheney, preparing to hand off his job as the nation's second-in-command and following President George W. Bush's orders for a smooth transition to the Obama administration, invited Biden to the vice president's residence on the sprawling Naval Observatory grounds in northwest Washington.



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Featured Items: Fine Antique Furniture and Collectibles, Rolex, 1976 Mercedes, Sterling, Coins, Art, Estate Oriental Rug

- Furniture:** Fine Antique Furniture - Early 20th Century Pineapple Beds, Bureau, Dining Tables, Exceptional Windsor Chairs, Chest of Drawers, Beds, Oak Buffet, Mirrors, Contemporary Furniture: Pool Table, Sofas, Small Tables, Dining Furniture, Big Screen TV, Patio Furniture, Gun cabinet, Lamp, Screen, Drexel Server, Credenza and more
- Decorative and Collectible Items** - Tiffany Sterling Candlesticks, Vintage Rolex, Buttons, Marbles, Sterling Flatware, Oriental Rugs, Goldscheider, Vintage Toys, Comic Books, Post cards, Van Briggles, Hull, Roseville, Bauer, Russell Wright, Coca Cola, Railroad, Cosden Refinery, Collectible Glass, Emilia Castillo Pitcher, Lladro, Barbie collection, Asian Art & Ceramics, Original Art, Larry Dyke Print, Oriental Panels and more
- Print Shop:** Martin Yale Guillotine cutter, Martin Yale Air folder, Boostek 3 phase induction motor, Roland Camm-1 Vinyl cutter
- Jewelry:** Vintage Rolex, 14K Gold Pocket Watch, Loose Rubies, Mexican silver, Costume
- Rolling Stock:** 1976 Mercedes 450 SEL, 8' Utility Trailer,
- Coins:** Carson City Dollars, Vintage Mexican coins, Morgan Dollars
- Other Items of Interest:** Knives, Mink Coat, Treadmill, Handicap Scooter, Fire Pit, Outdoor Heater and more

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Man arrives at bar with pet alligator; cops called

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Heard the one about the guy who walked into a bar with an alligator?

At Johnny's Saloon in Orange County, it was more than a joke early Saturday when a man arrived with his 3-foot pet gator on a leash.

By the time police and animal control officers arrived at Johnny's, the gator was in the man's vehicle in the parking lot. Officers followed him home, where another alligator was found, animal control spokesman Ryan Drabek said.

Both alligators were impounded and were being held Wednesday pending an investigation by the Department of Fish and Game, Drabek said.

Alligators are not native to California and it is illegal to keep them as pets.

OVERSTOCKED 87 Auto Sales HUGE SELECTIONS

	1991 Harley-Davidson Ultra-Classic Electra Glide - 38K "Very Nice" \$9,950		2005 Chev. Silverado Ext. L.S. 17,000 Actual Miles. "Like New" \$14,950
	2002 Chev. Z71 Tahoe LT 78K "LIKE NEW" \$11,950		2004 Chev. Avalanche 48K "New Car Trade-In" \$15,950
	2006 F150 Super Crew King Ranch 4X4 45K, "New Car Trade-In" \$21,950		2006 Dodge Ram 3500 Cummins 4X4 SLT 81K, Factory Warranty "Strong, Strong" \$20,950
	2006 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited 4X4 12,000 Actual Miles - Full Factory Warranty (Like New) \$18,950		2007 Nissan Titan Crew Cab V8, 19,000 Actual Miles, Full Factory Warranty \$17,950

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'09 Escape

Ford's small SUV delivers improved mpg, features

The more I drive the Ford Escape, the more I like it. Having the opportunity for an extended test drive gives me the opportunity to discover

many of the subtle features that I normally wouldn't pick up on in a short test drive period.

The Easy Fuel capless refueling feature is a classic example.

I actually had a chance to test out this new feature. It doesn't sound like a big deal, but it is. There is no fuel cap to take off and put back on during refueling. In addition to convenience, the system also reduces the amount of vapors that normally escape during refueling.

The extended test drive also gave more opportuni-

ty to witness first hand the Escape's increased fuel economy for the 2009 model year.

For starters, the new exterior design is more aerodynamic — which plays a significant role in fuel economy. It is also the most cost-effective way to improve mpg as

diminished drag lessens the demand on engine output.

The same can be said for the new low-rolling-resistance tire.

Adding to the improved fuel economy equation are the powertrain options, which include the new 2.5-liter I-4 engine, six-speed automatic transmission and the enhanced 3.0-liter V-6

that delivers 20 percent more horsepower and a 1 mpg improvement in fuel economy.

Keep in mind, this is a fun to drive sport utility vehicle that achieves an EPA fuel economy rating of 22 mpg city, 28 mpg highway for front-wheel drive models and 19 mpg city, 25 mpg highway for four-wheel drive.

That's the regular unleaded gas engine models — not the hybrid.

For even greater mpg, the Escape Hybrid delivers fuel economy numbers in the mid-30 range.

The '09 model also features a number of enhanced dynamics features that improve dynamic capability, steering response and ride comfort.

The vehicles' suspension has been revised and retuned, with the addition of a new rear stabilizer bar and revised shock absorber tuning, helping to deliver a balance of

enhanced ride comfort and handling capability. The steering system also has been retuned for better control and tighter cornering capabilities.

Being easy to drive, I noticed that driver fatigue is greatly diminished on long drives.

Again, it's the little things that make a big difference — especially for drivers who frequently spend a lot of time on the road.

While I didn't have the need to test out the Escape's safety features (thankfully), I would be remiss if I didn't point them out.

Standard safety equipment includes anti-lock brakes with roll stability control, AdvanceTrac, new dual-stage front airbags, front seat side airbags, side curtain airbags for both rows of seating and tire pressure monitoring system, to name a few.

This is a great vehicle and I highly recommend



The 2009 Ford Escape

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



MODEL:
2009 Ford Escape
5-seat sport utility
Front-, four-wheel drive
Trim packages:
XLS, XLT, XLT Sport,
Limited, Hybrid, Hybrid Limited
PRICE RANGE:
\$26,000-\$33,000
ENGINE:
2.5-L I-4 (171 hp/171 torque)
3.0-L V-6 (240 hp/223 torque)
TRANSMISSION:
5-speed manual
6-speed automatic
EPA: 20/19 mpg city, 28/25 mpg highway (FWD/4WD)

FUEL: Regular unleaded
SUSPENSION:
Independent MacPherson struts, coil springs and stabilizer bar (front); independent double lateral, semi-trailing arm design and rear stabilizer bar (rear)
TRACTION CONTROL:
AdvanceTrac with roll stability control
BRAKES: ABS
LENGTH: 174.7 inches
WHEELBASE: 103.1 inches
WIDTH: 81.3 inches
HEIGHT: 70 inches
WEIGHT: 3,299-3,578 lbs. (front/rear)
FUEL TANK: 16.5 gallons
TIRES: 16-, or 17-inch
CARGO: 29.2/66.3 cubic feet (behind second/first seating row)
TOWING: Up to 3,500 lbs. with towing package.

the Escape for those in the market for a small SUV.

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for more than 15 years and is affiliated with

the Texas Auto Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@uaxa-hachiedailylight.com.

In This Season Of Hope

23rd Annual
BIG SPRING

HERALD

Community Christmas Parade

5:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6

Parade theme:

"Star Of Bethlehem"

Entry deadline - Noon, Friday, Nov. 14th

The parade will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. and head north on Gregg Street toward downtown, arriving in time for the downtown Christmas celebration.

\$100 Herald's Best Of Show Award: for best interpretation of theme

\$75 Mayor's Award: for best use of lighting

\$50 Grand Marshall's Award: for best costuming

First-place plaques will be awarded in the following categories:

1. Individual or family
2. Civic group, school or church
3. Commercial
4. Industrial

In addition, certificates of commendation will be awarded to the second- and third-place entries in each of those categories.

Also, a special award will be presented to the best sheriff's posse, riding club or other mounted entry.

PARADE RULES

1. The parade's official Santa Claus will be provided by the Herald
NO OTHER SANTA WILL BE PERMITTED IN THE PARADE
2. Floats should not exceed 55 feet in length, 8 feet in width and 14 feet in height.
3. Antique vehicles will be the only undecorated vehicles permitted without special permission from Parade Committee.
4. Vehicles of a strictly commercial nature will not be permitted.
5. Parade entries not in line by the start of the parade will be placed at the end of the parade and will not be eligible for awards.
6. For safety, do not throw candy from your float. Small children run up under the tires. Please have someone walking beside your float if you want to throw candy.

2008 Christmas Parade Entry Form

Name of organization: _____

Name of contact person: _____

Mailing address: _____

Telephone number: _____

You will receive by return mail, your float number and a map showing where to go to line up.

- Individual/Family Civic/church/school
 Commercial Industrial Mounted

Mail, fax or hand deliver to:
Parade Committee
Big Spring Herald
PO Box 1431
710 Scurry
Big Spring, TX 79721
Fax (432) 264-7205
E-mail:
advertising@bigspringherald.com

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