

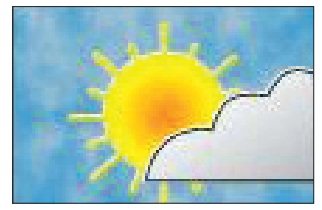
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# THE BIG SPRING HERALD

**WEDNESDAY**  
 FEBRUARY 4, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 55

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

More than 100 people attended the Four Chaplains Memorial Service held Tuesday morning at the First Baptist Church to honor area veterans who had died in the past year. During the service — which was led by VAMC Chief Chaplain L. Dean Thomas — the names of the departed veterans were read. This is an annual event sponsored by the West Texas VA Health Care System (VAMC). Clara Lewis, long-time VAMC volunteer, places American flags on a cross display while the names of the departed veterans are read.

## Jobless rate at 5.1 percent for Howard Co.

By THOMAS JENKINS  
 Staff Writer



Gross

Howard County appears to have bucked the upward trend in the national unemployment rate during December, emerging from tough economic times with a 5.1 percent rate compared to 5.2 percent in November, according to Texas Workforce officials.

Unfortunately, the 5.1 percent unemployment rate is still up considerably compared to the 4 percent rate posted 12 months earlier, according to Carla Gross, operations manager for the Workforce Solutions Permian Basin.

“The latest December figures received from the Texas Workforce Commission show that Texas’ seasonally adjusted nonagricultural employment fell by 25,700 jobs,” said Gross. “However, Texas employers have added 153,600 jobs over the past 12 months compared to nationwide job losses of 2.6 million. The December statewide unemployment rate increased to 6 percent, up slightly from 5.7 percent

See **JOBS**, Page 3A

## Bailout tops \$900B

Tax breaks for car purchases added to mix

By ANDREW TAYLOR  
 Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The cost of President Barack Obama’s economic recovery plan is now above \$900 billion after the Senate added money for medical research and tax breaks for car purchases.

It could go higher Wednesday if a tax break for homebuyers is made more generous, even as centrists in both parties promise to clear away spending items that won’t jump-start the economy right away.

In an interview on CNN,

**In a series of skirmishes Tuesday, the Senate turned back a proposal to add \$25 billion for public works projects and voted to remove a \$246 million tax break for movie producers.**

Obama signaled a willingness to drop items that “may not really stimulate the economy right now.” He also signaled he’ll try to remove “buy American” provisions in the legislation to avoid a possible trade war.

In a victory for auto manufacturers and dealers, Sen.

Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., won a 71-26 vote to allow most car buyers to claim an income tax deduction for sales taxes paid on new autos and interest payments on car loans. The break would cost \$11 billion over the coming decade

See **BAILOUT**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Police and emergency medical service personnel responded to the scene of a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of W. Fourth and Lancaster streets early this morning. No information on injuries was available at press time.

## Rev. Bernard Gully will be invested as monsignor

By STEVE REAGAN  
 Staff Writer



Rev. Gully

Big Spring’s parish priest is getting a promotion.

The Rev. Bernard Gully, who has led the Holy Trinity Catholic Parish for the past year, will be invested as a monsignor during ceremonies at 6 p.m. Friday in Sacred Heart Cathedral in San

Angelo. Gully, who was first ordained as a priest in 1962, said the monsignor designation — which required approval from Pope Benedict XVI — will be bestowed by San Angelo Diocese Bishop the

Rev. Michael Pfeifer. “I was very much surprised (by the news) and I’m delighted for this affirmation,” Gully said. “When I think of this honor, I think of the words of Jesus: ‘To whom much is given, much is expected.’ So I know much will be expected

See **HONOR** Page 3A

**INDEX**

Comics	8B
Classified	5-7B
Features	5A
Obituaries	2A
Opinion	4A
Sports	1-4B

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## Health Fair booth reservations available

Herald Staff Report

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its annual Health Fair from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 18 in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The theme this year is

“Know Your Numbers.”

The fee for registering booth space for the Health Fair is \$80 if reserved and paid prior to March 20.

Booths reserved after the 20th will be \$100. No booth registrations will be accepted after April 3.

Booth fee includes rental of one 10x10 booth space, a covered, skirted table, two chairs, a sign, a trash receptacle and Health Fair advertisement.

Those interested in reserving a booth should contact the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce at (432) 263-7641.

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### Coahoma splits District 7-2A games with Colorado City

By **BRANDON HALLFORD**

Special to the Herald

COAHOMA — Colorado City's Wolves and the Coahoma Bulldogs renewed their rivalry with a pair of games inside Bulldog Gymnasium Tuesday night, and by the time the dust had settled, each school had walked away with a win apiece.

In the first game, the Bulldogettes used a 6-0 run in the final 20 seconds of the first quarter to claim a 20-10 advantage after eight minutes of play

on their way to the 59-43 win.

"I was proud of the way the girls played tonight," Bulldogettes Coach Randall Petty said. "We are usually the team being pressed, but tonight we got to be the ones doing the pressing. We caused them to turn it over some."

Kylie Gee led the way for the Bulldogettes, battling her way to a game-high 20 points. Half of which came at the charity stripe as the 5-9 junior continually drew contact

underneath, resulting in a 10 for 15 performance from the line.

"Kylie played really well tonight," Petty said. "She battled all night long and it showed in how many free throws she was able to make."

Kalea Neff and Berkley Iden combined to score 16 points with eight each, while Alex Moore added seven.

Michelle Billingsley paced the Lady Wolves with 19 with Miranda Reyna scoring seven in the loss.

Colorado City 10 11 7 15—43

Coahoma 20 15 13 11—59

Coahoma: Kylie Gee 20, Berkley Iden 8, Alex Moore 7, Kenzie Stone 7, Ashley Martin 4, Joanna Gonzales 3, Hillari White 2.

Colorado City: Billingsley 19, Reyna 7, Jade Cannon 6, Diesha Smith 4, Lisa Salazar 3, Breanna Biggers 3, Lauren Munoz 1.

Free throws: CC 9-24, CHS 14-24. 3-point goals: CC 2 (Biggers, Salazar), CHS 5 (Gonzales, Ness, Moore, Stone.). Total fouls: CC 19, CHS 17. Fouled out: CC (Macedo), CHS (Iden).

See **COAHOMA**, Page 4B

### Lady Steers can't keep up with Cooper

By **JONATHAN HULL**

Sports Editor

ABILENE — Big Spring's Lady Steers are now down to their final breath.

After falling to Abilene Cooper, 41-24, Tuesday, the Lady Steers (6-19, 0-7) have just one last opportunity to clinch the final playoff spot out of District 4-4A.

That play-off spot is next Tuesday against San Angelo Lake View, which the Lady Steers fell to, 33-32, in a heartbreaker in January. However, that game was played at Lake View. This one will tip off at 6 p.m. in Steer Gym.

Cooper opened the game scoring the first 10 points. Big Spring didn't get on the board until the 3:26 mark in the first period.

Trailing 13-4 after one, the Lady Steers made a charge in the second period, ripping off a 7-2 rally to pull within 3 points, 15-12, with 4:37 to play in the first half.

Cooper finished the half strong, though, and went into the locker room with a 19-13 advantage.

The second half started much like the first with Cooper starting fast, and this time the Lady Cougars never let up.

Big Spring struggled to get any type of offense to work and even when the Lady Steers found open looks at the basket, nothing seemed to fall.

Cerbi Ritchey led the Lady Steers with a game-high nine points, converting 7 of 8 free throw attempts.

See **LADY STEERS**, Page 4B



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring Lady Steers forward Linzee Yarbar goes up in the lane over a Frenship defender in action from earlier this season. The Lady Steers couldn't keep up with Abilene Cooper in the second half of a 41-24 loss Tuesday night in Abilene.

### Steers blasted

### Cooper easily runs through Big Spring

By **JONATHAN HULL**

Sports Editor

ABILENE — There wasn't much for the Big Spring Steers basketball team to be proud of Tuesday night in Abilene.

The Steers were dominated from the opening tip by Abilene Cooper's Cougars, who put Big Spring down 22-7 in the first period on their way to an easy 51-24 victory.

Cooper got out to a quick 8-0 start and built a 10-point lead, 17-7, with 1:47 to play in the first period.

Big Spring's offensive set consisted of quick jump shots from the perimeter that didn't allow the Steers' posts to get in position to rebound.

Meanwhile, Abilene Cooper played with patience offensively, using superior ball movement to break down the Steers' man-to-man defense.

Cooper's leading scorer for the season, Rashad Barnes, scored 10 points in the first half after being held to that same mark in the first game these two squads played. Barnes finished with 12, but played sparingly in the second half. He was complimented by Darius

See **STEERS**, Page 4B

### Bufs, Lady Bufs get back on winning track

Herald Staff Report

IRAAN — Last week, it appeared both Forsan's boys and girls basketball teams were in complete control of the District 7-A standings. Then both were upset by rival Stanton.

The Bufs and Lady Bufs reestablished themselves Tuesday night with double-digit victories over Iraan. The Bufs won 47-26, while the Lady Bufs pulled out a 46-30 victory.

Bufs 47, Iraan 26

Forsan used a suffocating defense to thwart every offensive threat Iraan attempted to mount, holding the Braves to single digits in every period.

The Bufs put the game away in the third period, going up 38-21 as they headed into the final stanza.

"This was a big win for us," said Forsan Head Coach Terry McDonald. "It helps us reestablish ourselves. We played with three of our top players (Evan Burton, Jeremy Robbins and Nathan Atkerson) in foul trouble in the third period. Jeremy Freitag and Jace Sandridge did a great job of coming off the bench and giving quality minutes."

See **FORSAN**, Page 4B

### Four Steer footballers make it official



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

Big Spring Steers wide receiver Sidney Parker pulls in a touchdown pass Aug. 29, 2008 in action against the Snyder Tigers in Snyder. Parker, along with teammates Zamir Linton, LaRay Woodard and Cade Hollandsworth signed a letter of intent to play football for West Texas A&M Wednesday morning. A full story will be available in Thursday's edition of the Herald.

### Sports in brief

#### Free junior tennis league starts Feb. 9

Big Spring tennis pro Ted Olesen is starting a free Junior Tennis League Feb. 9 at the Figure Seven Tennis Center in Comanche Trail Park.

The league is for boys and girls 8-12 years old or in grades four through six.

It will be held every Monday, beginning Feb. 9, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Just bring a racket or one will be provided.

At 5:15 each Monday before the league starts, Olesen will accept challengers who believe they can throw a football further than he can. Anyone

able to do so will win a free 30 minute tennis lesson.

For more information, visit [www.bigspringtennis.com](http://www.bigspringtennis.com).

#### Coahoma softball alumni needed for annual game

The 7th Annual Coahoma Softball Alumni Game has been scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, and will be played at the Coahoma High School field.

Any former player interested in participating should call Amy Dunn at 263-2228 or 394-4323.

#### BSCC hosting 4-person scramble Feb. 21-22

The Big Spring Country Club is hosting a 4-person scramble tournament Feb. 21-22 with a 1 p.m. shotgun start both days.

Entry fee is \$75 per player plus cart, although private carts are welcome.

Entry includes barbecue on the course both days and practice rounds on Friday.

The field will be flighted by first-round score.

Call the Pro Shop at 267-5354 for more information.

## Obituaries

### Floyd 'Cotton' Pringle

Floyd "Cotton" Pringle, 85, of Big Spring died Monday, Feb. 2, 2009, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Pastor Jason Sanderson of Life Church officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Floyd was born to Roscoe and Jewel Pringle on March 17, 1923, in Dallas. He was the fourth of eight siblings and an identical twin.

Floyd married his lifetime partner and beloved Ethel Ann LaLonde Feb. 3, 1950, in Rockwall. They settled in Big Spring in 1964.

Floyd was known in the business world as "Cotton." He was a welder by trade and spent his lifetime servicing and selling welding supplies and equipment, for many years at General Welding Supply and at age 57, he opened his own business, Welding Equipment and Repair. He was a long time member of the Optimist Club, where he was famous for his motorcross and dune buggy trail rides that entertained many in the desert terrain of West Texas. He was a member and beloved brother of the fellowship at Spring Tabernacle Church.

Floyd leaves to cherish his wonderful memory his beloved wife of 59 years, Ethel Pringle of Big Spring; his four children, Wanda Shoemake and her husband David of Bedford, Barbara Hall and her husband Mike of Big Spring, Catherine Wendland and her husband Wendt of Big Spring, and Chuck Pringle and his wife Carmen of Ennis.

In addition to his wife and four children, he leaves to cherish his memory one brother, Jimmy Pringle and his wife Joyce of Alba; 10 grandchildren, Kevin Johnson and his wife Mechelle of Mexia, Deidrea Laux and her husband Thomas of Carrollton, Judy Pierce and her husband Billy of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Catherine Vizcaino and her husband Matt of McKinney, Christie Larson and her husband Trev of Big Spring, Zac Hall of Big Spring; Amanda Pringle of Ennis, MaLeah Arguello and her husband Andy of Big Spring, Natalie Pringle of Ennis, and Cheyenne Shoemake of Bedford; 17 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Leland Pringle and Lloyd Pringle; his sisters, Ruby Petty, Jeffie Millorn, Mary Ellen Boone and Lillian Ruth Alberts; and two great-grandchildren, Kimberly Johnson and Thomas Gordon Laux.

Pallbearers will be Kevin Johnson, Zac Hall, Matt Vizcaino, Andy Arguello, Trev Larson, Mike Hall and Wendt Wendland.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

*Paid obituary*

### Ben Moses

Ben Moses passed from this life Monday, Feb. 2, 2009. He was 81. Funeral services with the Rev. Kevin Kennedy and Dr. Randy Cotton officiating will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009, at The Hamil Family Funeral Home, 6449 Buffalo Gap Rd., Abilene. Burial will follow in Elmwood Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Ben was born May 19, 1927, in Morganton, N.C. to Ben Lee Moses Sr. and Annie (Clark) Moses. Ben married Christine Riggs in Austin Dec. 20, 1952. The couple lived in Maine, Oklahoma and England before moving to Abilene in 1959.

A 20-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Ben served as an aviation mechanic and was a member of the Atlas Missile program. After his retirement from the Air Force, he worked in Abilene for 29 years for Clayton Chemical Company. Ben was an active member of Trinity Baptist Church for 50 years, serving in various capacities from driving a church bus to serving as a deacon and member of the Missions committee.

Ben was preceded in death by his parents, one sister and one brother.

He is survived by his wife, Chris Moses of Abilene; one son, Steve Moses and his wife Paula of Big Spring; one daughter, Janet Moses of Atlanta; two grandsons, Benjamin Moses and wife Anne of Dallas, and Ryan Moses and wife Lilly of Springfield, Mo.; and one sister, Eva Mooney of Pulaski, Va.

Memorials may be made in honor of Ben Moses to the Trinity Baptist Church Mission Fund, 871 Woodlawn, Abilene 79603.

Online condolences may be sent to: [www.HamilFamilyFuneralHome.com](http://www.HamilFamilyFuneralHome.com)

*Paid obituary*

## Police blotter

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

- **JAMIE LEE ATKINSON**, 40, of 4202 Old Colorado City Highway, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of theft.
- **ANTHONY EUGENE TREVINO**, 42, of 1301 Mesquite, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **DIANE CASTILLO CANALES**, 35, of 800 W. FM 700, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.
- **JAMIE LEOS MONTES**, 31, of 305 E. Ninth St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1200 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Place.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 3700 block of Hamilton.
- **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT** was reported in the 3700 block of Hamilton.

## Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 46 inmates at the time of this report.
- **ROBERT DIAZ JR.**, 26, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for burglary of a building.
  - **JESUSITA MICHELE ZAPATA**, 32, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of displaying a fictitious or counterfeit inspection/insurance document.
  - **ROBERT RIVERA**, 37, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

## Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 700 block of Wyoming. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 200 block of Washington. Service refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported approximately 20 miles north of Big Spring on Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1300 block of Michael. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.

## Take Note

• Saturday, Feb. 14, Canterbury/Canterbury North will host a Senior Sweetheart Dance. The dance will be held at 1700 Lancaster from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and is open to all seniors. Admission is free and music will be provided by RC Entertainment. Burrito and dessert will be for sale starting at 3 p.m. and during the dance.

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglect children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. CASA currently has 10 active volunteers to serve the 55 plus children of Howard County in foster care. A class is forming in Howard County and 20 volunteers are needed. For more information on becoming a CASA volunteer, please contact Robyn LaForge at (432) 683-1114.




• West Texas Opportunities Inc., through a Job Access Reverse Commute project with the Texas Department of Transportation offers transportation to employment in Midland, on a limited schedule, Monday through Friday each week. This fixed route currently leaves Big Spring at 7 a.m. and makes a stop at the EZ Rider bus connection in downtown Midland. The route leaves Midland for the return to Big Spring at 4:15 p.m. For more information, call Victor Enriquez, JARC coordinator, at West Texas Opportunities, (800) 245-9028.

• 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.

## Correction

In the Monday story detailing Big Spring State Hospital's Valentine's Day fundraiser, the price for a singing telegram was listed as \$15. Billie Christie, director of volunteer services at BSSH, said the singing telegrams cost \$20.

## Your Local Weather

Thu 2/5	Fri 2/6	Sat 2/7
		
<b>71/42</b> Sunny with gusty winds. High 71F. Winds S at 20 to 30 mph.	<b>74/44</b> Windy with times of sun and clouds.	<b>75/49</b> Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the upper 40s.
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## Bulletin Board

### TODAY

• Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

### THURSDAY

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

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

• 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.

• Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

• Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

### FRIDAY

• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.

• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

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

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

### MONDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• The Christian Motorcyclists Association meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Dragon Restaurant, 1300 S. Gregg. Everyone is welcome. Call 263-3869 for more information.

### TUESDAY

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

• The Big Spring chapter of the American Cancer Society meets at Home Hospice, located at 111 E. Seventh St. at noon. Lunch is provided. For more information, contact Sherry Hodnett at (432) 264-7599.

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

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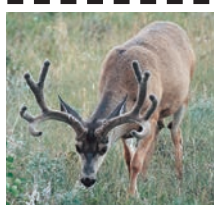
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# Area roundup: Grady takes command of district

## Herald Staff Report

GAIL — Grady's Wildcats clinched a boys basketball playoff berth Tuesday night and might have won a District 9-IIA championship in the process.

Grady dominated Borden County in the first eight minutes of the game, earning the separation needed for a 57-44 win and sole possession of first place in the league.

The win also avenges Grady's only loss in district play this season.

Grady was led by Dylan Cox's 27 points, while Jacob Rodriguez chipped in 12.

Borden County got 18 from Brendan Tarleton and 11 from Zach Telchik.

Grady has two games left on its schedule with a home game vs. Dawson set for 8 p.m. Friday.

**Grady 18 12 13 14-57**  
**Borden Co. 10 11 8 15-44**

Grady (20-5, 7-1): Shane Teague 7, Dylan Cox 27, Tyler Matthews 5, Jeffery Schuete 4, Casey Shands 2, Jacob Rodriguez 12.

Borden County (11-3, 6-2): Flynn Chapman 4, Brendan

Tarleton 18, Carlos Hernandez 3, Tony Soto 4, Karl Lamming 3, Zach Telchik 11.

Free throws: Grady 7-9, BC 6-13. 3-point goals: Grady 2 (Teague, Matthews), BC 4 (Hernandez, Lamming, Telchik 2). Total fouls: Grady 15, BC 9. Fouled out: None.

## Garden City 59, Westbrook 21

WESTBROOK — Garden City's Bearkats continue to roll through District 10-IIA play as they walloped Westbrook, 59-21, Tuesday.

The Bearkats held Westbrook to eight first half points and led 36-8 at the break.

Brett Chudej continues to lead the way for Garden City, scoring a game-high 23 points. Hayden Halfmann added 11.

Garden City plays host to Sterling City at 8 p.m. Friday with three games remaining in the district season.

**Garden City 24 12 8 15-59**  
**Westbrook 7 1 5 8-21**

Garden City (13-8, 7-0): Brett Chudej 23, Hayden Halfmann 11, Jessie Montes 9, Travis Gully 6, Erin Long 6, Cole Schwartz 3, Brian Hirt 3.

Westbrook (1-6): Farrell 11, Hahn 8, Rich 3, King 3.



Courtesy photo/James Schwartz

**Garden City's Macy Schwartz fights for a rebound among several Blackwell players in action from earlier this season. The Lady Bearkats continued to roll through District 10-IIA Tuesday night with a 59-24 victory over Westbrook.**

Free throws -- GC 2-5, W 2, Montes, Halfmann, Long). 4-15. 3-point goals -- GC 5 (Gully Total fouls -- GC 11, W 11. Fouled

out -- None.

## Borden Co. 51, Grady 45

GAIL — A poor third period cost Grady's Lady Wildcats an important win in District 9-IIA play Friday as Borden County edged the Lady 'Cats, 51-45.

The Lady Coyotes outscored Grady 13-8 in the third period after the game was tied at half-time.

Olivia Key led all scorers with 17 points for the Lady Coyotes, while Taylor Richey scored 16.

Grady was led by Kaitlyn Blocker's 14 with Maegan Blocker adding 13 and Eva Dyck chipping in 10.

Grady is now fighting for its playoff life Friday when the Lady 'Cats host Dawson at 6:30 p.m.

**Grady 16 10 8 11-45**  
**Borden Co. 16 10 13 12-51**

Grady (15-12, 3-5): Kaitlyn Blocker 14, Maegan Blocker 13, Eva Dyck 10, Kelly Cook 3, Katie Meeks 3, Lauren Robinson 2.

Borden County (23-7, 7-1): Olivia Key 17, Taylor Richey 16, Krystal Hobson 9, D'Nae Johnson 5, Stephanie Cooley 4.

Free throws: G 5-11, BC 12-23. 3-point goals: G 2 (K. Blocker 2),

BC 3 (Key 2, Richey). Total fouls: B 20, GC 13. Fouled out: Julia Schuelke.

## Garden City 59, Westbrook 24

WESTBROOK — Competition for a District 10-IIA has been minimal for the Garden City Lady Bearkats.

The No. 10 Lady 'Kats have now clinched a district title with a 59-24 victory over Westbrook Tuesday.

Garden City stormed out to a 21-5 advantage after the first period and led 35-8 at the break.

Morgan Schwartz led all scorers with 29 points, while Kate Halfmann added 10.

Garden City hosts Sterling City at 6:30 p.m. Friday.

**Garden City 21 14 14 20-59**  
**Westbrook 5 3 6 10-24**

Garden City (25-3, 8-0): Morgan Schwartz 29, Kate Halfmann 10, Paige Niehues 6, Melissa Hirt 4, Amber Halfmann 4, Britton Avery 4, Vikki Garza 2, Brooke Halfmann 2.

Westbrook (1-7): Shelly White 8, Laramie King 6, Kathy Bass-Uvius 4, Molina Thunderberg 3, Kimberland Johnson 3.

Free throws: GC 7-14, W 6-12. 3-point goals: GC 2 (M. Schwartz 2), W 4 (King 2, Thunderberg, White). Total fouls: GC 16, W 10. Fouled out: None.

# Texas set to deliver another great crop of QBs

DALLAS — Cypress Ridge High School coach Gary Thiebaud can see it now.

Russell Shepard, his former quarterback, leads LSU into the national championship game against the Texas Longhorns and top Austin-area recruit Garrett Gilbert.

It's unlikely to happen next season, but maybe in 2010. Or 2011.

"I'm going to that game," Thiebaud said. "I would love to see that game."

The football-crazy Lone Star State is set to dispatch another bumper crop of quarterbacks on national signing day Wednesday, just two months after a pair of Texas-bred QBs filled half the top four in Heisman Trophy voting.

The headliners are Shepard, a standout runner from the Houston area who had nearly 600 yards total offense in his team's playoff loss this past season, and Gilbert, the son of former NFL quarterback Gale Gilbert and a two-time state champion at

Lake Travis.

Garrett Gilbert will be on the Texas depth chart behind Heisman runner-up Colt McCoy the year after he broke the state high school record for yards passing held by former Ennis and Texas Tech standout Graham Harrell, the fourth-place Heisman finisher.

See **QBS**, Page 4B

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- 2006 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat 4X4 - Stone w/Leather, Fully Loaded, Local One Owner. We Sold It New. **Was \$19,995** **NOW \$17,995**
- 2006 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat - White/Leather, Local One Owner w/53,000 Miles. **Was \$24,995** **NOW \$21,995**
- 2006 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Maroon w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/29,000 Miles. **Was \$22,995** **NOW \$20,995**
- 2005 Ford F250 Crew Cab King Ranch FX4 4X4 Powerstroke Diesel - Dark Copper/Tan w/Leather, Local One Owner. **Was \$30,995** **NOW \$27,995**
- 2005 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Grey, All Power. **Was \$14,995** **NOW \$12,995**
- 2005 Ford F150 Supercab STX 4X4 - Bright Red, Local One Owner, w/36,000 Miles. **Was \$17,995** **NOW \$15,995**

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- 2004 F250 Crew Cab XLT Powerstroke Diesel - Blue/Silver, Local One Owner. **Was \$22,995** **NOW \$18,995**
- 2004 Ford F150 Supercab XLT - Tan w/Cloth, V-8, One Owner w/68,000 Miles. **Was \$17,995** **NOW \$15,995**
- 2004 Ford F150 Supercab XLT - Gray w/Cloth, V-8, All Power, Local One Owner w/65,000 Miles. **Was \$14,995** **NOW \$13,995**
- 2004 Ford F150 Supercab XLT - Maroon, All Power, One Owner. **Was \$12,995** **NOW \$10,995**
- 2004 Ford F150 Supercab XLT - White w/Cloth, V-8, Local One Owner, w/78,000 Miles. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$10,995**
- 2004 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Arizona Beige w/Cloth, All Power, One Owner w/54,000 Miles. **Was \$15,995** **NOW \$13,995**
- 2004 Ford Ranger S/C XLT - White w/Cloth, Local One Owner, w/62,000 Miles. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$11,995**
- 2003 Ford F250 Crew Cab XL - White, 5.4 V-8. **Was \$12,995** **NOW \$9,995**
- 2002 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT 4X4 7.3 Powerstroke Diesel - Local One Owner w/90,000 Miles. **Was \$15,995** **NOW \$13,995**
- 2001 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT 7.3 Powerstroke Diesel - White w/cloth, New Transmission, 132K Miles, Local One Owner. **Was \$15,995** **NOW \$12,995**

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- 1999 GMC Sierra 1500 Ext. Cab LS - Dark Red, V-6, Local One Owner w/80 Miles. **Was \$10,995** **NOW \$8,995**
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## Arizona sheriff to house illegals separately

PHOENIX (AP) — The self-proclaimed “toughest sheriff in America” has announced plans to keep illegal immigrants separate from the rest of the inmate population at tents in Phoenix that house prisoners.

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio said he plans to personally accompany about 200 inmates — along with members of the media — from an area jail to Tent City on Wednesday afternoon.

“This is a population of criminals more adept perhaps at escape,” Arpaio said in a news release. “But this is a fence they won’t want to scale because they risk receiving quite a shock, literally,” he said, referring to the electric fence that surrounds the area.

Arpaio said housing the illegal immigrants separately would save money, although he did not explain how other than to say it’s cheaper to house inmates in tents than at traditional jails.

He also said the move will be more

convenient for consulate officials visiting foreign inmates and for Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents charged with deporting the inmates after they have served sentences in county jails.

Aside from their residency status, he said the inmates will be treated just like everyone else housed in the tents.

A spokesman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement declined to comment.

Arpaio’s announcement has appalled some officials in the area.

Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox said she thinks Arpaio could potentially be violating the immigrants’ rights by keeping them separated, and that she’d like to talk to the Justice Department and have staff there issue an opinion.

“Anytime you treat people differently for no reason, you stand to violate rights,” she said. “We treat people equally in America. I think it’s wrong.”



## VETERAN OF THE MONTH

Courtesy photo  
**Orville Spradling was enlisted in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He served combat duty as a sergeant in the 3rd Army in the European Theater. He shared his stories at a reception held in his honor on the evening Jan. 29 at the Hangar 25 Air Museum.**

## BAILOUT

Continued from Page 1A

but could mean savings of \$1,500 on a \$25,000 car.

“Just as we need to get the housing market going, we need to get auto sales going,” said Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich.

Wednesday’s session could produce even more generous savings for homebuyers.

Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., is pressing for a tax credit of up to \$15,000 for everyone who buys a home this year, at a cost of \$18.5 billion. The

pending measure would award a \$7,500 tax credit only to first-time homebuyers.

At the same time, centrist senators, including Ben Nelson, D-Neb., and Susan Collins, R-Maine, are seeking to cut tens of billions of dollars from the legislation. They’re operating with the blessing of Democratic leaders, who hope a successful effort could attract some GOP votes for Obama’s plan.

Democratic leaders conceded they may soon be obliged to cut billions of dollars from the measure. “It goes without saying if it’s going to pass in the Senate, it has

to be bipartisan,” said Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, the second-ranking Democratic leader, adding that rank-and-file lawmakers in both parties want to reduce the cost of the bill.

In a series of skirmishes Tuesday, the Senate turned back a proposal to add \$25 billion for public works projects and voted to remove a \$246 million tax break for movie producers. Both moves were engineered by Republicans who are critical of the bill’s size and voice skepticism of its ability to create jobs.

But several hours later, GOP conservatives didn’t contest approval

of a \$6.5 billion increase in research funding for the politically popular National Institutes of Health. That amendment, by Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, drove the price tag of Obama’s plan just above \$900 billion.

Democratic leaders have pledged to have the bill ready for Obama’s signature by mid-month, and in a round of network television interviews Tuesday, the president underscored the urgency. He told CNN that even three months ago, most economists would not have predicted the economy was “in as bad of a situation as we are in right

now.”

He also spoke out against efforts to require the use of domestic steel in construction projects envisioned in the bill, telling Fox News, “We can’t send a protectionist message.”

Mikulski’s office put the cost of the automobile tax break she sponsored at \$11 billion over 10 years. It would apply to the first \$49,500 in the price of a new car purchased between last Nov. 12 and Dec. 31, 2009. Individuals with incomes of up to \$125,000 and couples earnings as much as \$250,000 could qualify, including those who do not itemize their

deductions.

Republicans are expected to seek a vote later in the week on a plan to inject the government into the mortgage industry in an attempt to drive down interest rates on mortgages to as low as 4 percent. Democrats treaded carefully on the proposal, saying they would consider it but also claiming the \$300 billion Republicans allocated would not come close to accommodating the demand.

## HONOR

Continued from Page 1A

of me now.”

A new title, however, won’t mean drastic changes in Gully’s duties or responsibilities. He will continue as head of the local parish, as well as assisting Bishop Pfeifer as needed, he said.

“I had some people ask me, ‘Is there going to be a pay raise with this thing?’” he joked. “I

said, ‘Not really, but if there is, I’ll accept it.’”

Gully, a native of Rowena who has spent his entire pastoral career within the San Angelo Diocese, came to Big Spring last February to oversee the consolidation of the four Howard County Catholic churches into one parish. Prior to that, he led Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Andrews for 11 years.

Gully and his assistant parish pastor, the Rev. Ariel Lagu-

nilla, recently led a celebration marking the first anniversary of the consolidation, which for the most part has gone smoothly, he said.

“I think it’s gone quite well,” Gully said. “One can consolidate buildings pretty easily, but consolidating people’s attitudes and acceptance of change takes time. Overall, I think it’s been marvelous. The people of this parish have been very accepting of the new situation.”

In the short term, no more

major changes are expected within the parish. Gully said, however, there is a notable long-term aim.

“Eventually, our goal is to build a new church to handle the entire parish,” he said. “That is somewhere down the line, but that’s eventually what we want to do.”

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

## JOBS

Continued from Page 1A

in November and 4.3 percent a year ago.

“The Texas unemployment rate consistently remains below the U.S. unemployment rate of 7.2 percent. Occupations adding the most jobs in December include leisure and hospitality, and other services which include automotive, electronic and commercial repair and maintenance.”

And while the slight decrease in employment in Howard County between November and December is certainly welcome news among a floundering national economy, Gross said

there’s still room for improvement.

“The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) continues to experience the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 3.1 percent,” said Gross, “while Amarillo and Lubbock (MSAs) comes in second at 3.8 percent and Odessa third at 3.9 percent.” Most other area counties managed to come in under the Howard County rate, with Midland, 3.1 percent; Ector, 3.9 percent; Martin, 3.5 percent; Dawson, 5.5 percent; Borden, 4.4 percent; Glasscock, 3.4 percent; Andrews, 3.3 percent; and Upton, 3.3 percent.

Gross said the number of employed residents in

the Permian Basin area has seen a jump since this time last year.

“The Permian Basin Workforce Development Area’s current unemployment rate is 3.8 percent,” said Gross. “Within the Permian Basin Workforce Development Area, there are 194,697 employed individuals, up from last year’s figure of 192,495.”

In Howard County the civilian labor force decreased from 14,732 in November to 14,604 in December, a healthy increase from the 14,056 posted in December 2007. The number of employed residents also decreased, with 13,968 posted in November and 13,860 tabulated in December, also a jump

over the 13,493 counted in December 2007.

The number of unemployed residents in Howard County fell, however, with 764 reported in November and 744 counted in December. However, this year’s numbers show a pronounced increase over last year’s 563 reported in December 2007.

For information on employment opportunities in the area, contact Linda Jacquez or Gross at (432) 263-8373, or visit the local TWC office at 501 S. Main, Suite 235, on the second floor of the Post Office.

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

at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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# Feds set to unseal evidence in Barry Bonds case

By PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press Writer  
SAN FRANCISCO — The government's case against Barry Bonds includes several positive drug test results that prosecutors say belong to the former San Francisco Giants slugger.

That evidence will be part of hundreds of pages of court filings by prosecutors and Bonds' attorneys that a federal judge plans to unseal Wednesday.

The documents are expected to reveal details of the government's allegations against Bonds, who is accused of lying to a grand jury about alleged use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Among the positive drug test results is a urine sample submitted by Bonds during baseball's anonymous testing program in 2003, according to a New York Times report.

Bonds' sample did not test positive under MLB's program but was retested by investigators after it was seized in a 2004 raid, anonymous sources told the newspaper.

The documents to be released Wednesday will also include a transcript of a re-

corded conversation between Bonds' personal trainer, Greg Anderson, and Bonds' former business partner, Steve Hoskins.

Bonds is expected to plead not guilty to perjury charges for the third time Thursday, the same day U.S. District Court Judge Susan Illston will consider what government evidence to exclude from the slugger's trial next month.

Bonds has pleaded not guilty twice before, the first time in November 2007 when prosecutors unsealed an indictment charging him with perjury and obstruction of justice. A judge has ordered prosecutors to revise the indictment twice to repair legal technicalities. Bonds pleaded not guilty after the first revision but has yet to appear in court to answer to the second revised indictment, which was unsealed on Dec. 4.

Prosecutors say Bonds lied to a federal grand jury when he denied knowingly taking performance enhancing drugs during his pursuit of the game's single-season home run mark and Hank Aaron's vaunted career re-

cord. Bonds testified in December 2003 that he took substances provided by Anderson, his personal trainer, that the government says were a designer steroid. But Bonds told the grand jury that he did not know he was taking performance-enhancing drugs at the time. He also has denied knowingly taking other steroids and human growth hormone.

Prosecutors argue they can prove through positive test results and other evidence that Bonds lied.

Bonds' attorneys are seeking to exclude several urine and blood test results from the trial, which is scheduled to start March 2.

When Bonds' attorneys filed court papers on Jan. 15 looking to exclude the material, they filed the details of their argument under seal.

They argued that making details of the test results public would harm Bonds' chances of getting a fair trial by tainting potential jurors.

The government's response, which includes much of the evidence it intends to show jurors, was filed under seal



AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez

The government's case against Barry Bonds includes several positive drug test results that prosecutors say belong to the former San Francisco Giants' slugger. That evidence will be part of hundreds of pages of court filings by prosecutors and Bonds' attorneys that a federal judge plans to unseal today.

last week.

The judge initially ordered those documents to remain under seal.

But she changed her mind earlier this week after The Associated Press, San Francisco Chronicle and San Jose Mercury News protested. Ill-

ston said Tuesday that the release of the documents will not hurt Bonds' chances for a fair trial.

Lead prosecutor Matt Parrella declined comment. Bonds' lead attorney Allen Ruby said he would not fight the judge's unsealing order.

# SC sheriff investigating Phelps' pot pipe pic

By MEG KINNARD

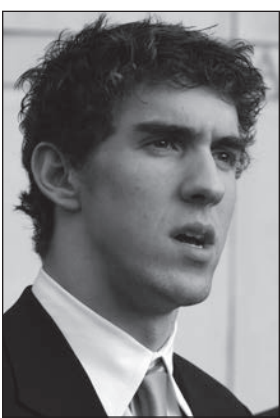
Associated Press Writer  
COLUMBIA, S.C. — Olympic superstar Michael Phelps could face criminal charges as part of the fallout from a photo that surfaced showing the swimmer smoking from a marijuana pipe at a University of South Carolina house party.

A spokesman for Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott, who is known for his tough stance on drugs, said Tuesday the department was investigating.

"Our narcotics division is reviewing the information that we have, and they're

investigating what charges, if any, will be filed," said Lt. Chris Cowan, a spokesman for agency.

The photo first shown in British tabloid News of the World on Sunday was snapped during a November party while Phelps was visiting the university, according to the paper.



Michael Phelps

Phelps, 23, and his team have not disputed the photo's accuracy. Phelps has issued a public apology, acknowledging "regrettable" behavior and "bad judgment" after

the photo appeared.

One of Phelps' agents, Drew Johnson, said Tuesday authorities had not contacted the swimmer. "So we really can't speculate," he said.

Last fall, Phelps was introduced to large applause at South Carolina's football game with Arkansas.

He met with players and visited with Gamecocks coach Steve Spurrier, who gave Phelps one of the ball coach's trademark visors.

Phelps also spoke at a university class on sports' role in society.

Where exactly the party occurred isn't clear.

The university said its police have no evidence it was on campus, and city police said they won't pursue

criminal charges unless more information comes forward.

The Richland County sheriff can pursue charges as long as the party was in the county, the spokesman said.

"The bottom line is, if he broke the law, and he did it in Richland County, he's going to be charged," Cowan said. "And there's no difference between Michael Phelps and several other people that we arrest for the same type of a charge everyday."

Under South Carolina law, possession of one ounce or less of marijuana is a misdemeanor that carries a fine up to \$200 and 30 days in jail for the first offense. Possession of paraphernalia is a \$500 fine.

## PROFILE 2009



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**Because he sent me flowers today  
I got flowers today!**

**It wasn't our anniversary or any other special day;  
Last night he threw me into a wall and then started choking me;**

**It seemed like a nightmare, but you wake up to find they aren't real;**

**I woke up this morning sore and bruised all over - but I know he must be sorry;**

**Because he sent me flowers today  
I got flowers today!**

**And it wasn't Valentines Day or any other special day;**

**Last night he beat me and threatened to kill me,  
Make-up and long sleeves didn't hide the cuts and bruises this time;**

**I couldn't go to work today because I didn't want anyone to know - but I know he's sorry;**

**Because he sent me flowers today.**

**I got flowers today .....**

**Today was a very special day -**

**It was my funeral;**

**Last night he finally killed me - I was beaten to death;**

**If only I would have gathered the courage and strength to leave him;**

**The Women's Shelter could have helped me, but I didn't ask for their help;**

**So I got flowers today ... for the last time.**

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

**Ron Midkiff**  
Publisher

**John A. Moseley**  
Managing Editor

**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

## OTHER VIEWS

# Nurses deserve a strong voice on conditions

Texas hospitals seem to be stuck at a nurse vacancy rate of about 11 percent. The inability to fill those positions forces nurses to handle more than the optimum number of patients and work longer hours. Many get frustrated and leave at a time when they are needed the most.

The state will require 138,000 new nurses by 2015, according to a Texas State University study. But the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board reported that the number of nursing students enrolled in Texas undergraduate and graduate programs in 2003-04 was only 2,529. State medical officials say that more than 11,000 qualified applicants were turned away in 2005, largely because of faculty shortages.

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies estimates that the state must quadruple the number of nursing graduates by 2020 to meet the expected 86 percent increase in demand by that date.

According to a study from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, the state has 609 nurses for every 100,000 residents. The national average is 782.

Finding qualified nursing faculty is even more difficult than generating degree candidates. University instructors and community college faculty earn one-third less than they could earn in a clinical setting.

In response, the Texas Legislature in 2007 created the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies to monitor employment trends and offer advice on training and recruiting. Legislators also offered low-interest mortgage loans for eligible nursing faculty and ensured the continued flow of tobacco-settlement funding for nursing education programs.

Two 2009 bills filed in the House and Senate are designed to give nurses more clout in establishing their working conditions.

The legislation would ban mandatory overtime, provide whistle-blower protection in reporting patient-care concerns, require hospitals to establish a nurse staffing policy, and have nursing commissions report directly to the hospital board.

The proposals were spawned by extensive negotiation between the Texas Nurses Association and the Texas Hospital Association. The reforms would be especially effective where nurse shortages are particularly acute.

The nurse-patient relationship is the heart of the human side of hospital health care.

The nurse is closest to the customer and deserves a strong voice in patient care and working conditions.

THE STAR-TELEGRAM  
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- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we trust in You, Lord, and create something new and exciting.

Amen

# Real change or GOP cosmetology?

They keep claiming that their party needs to change, yet Republicans keep making only cosmetic changes. Some predict that the GOP is on the verge of becoming only a regional party instead of staying a national one, yet all they give us is cheap talk about change.

We all know that actions speak louder than words, but you don't hear Republicans recanting any of the social issues — gay rights, abortion, stem cell research, immigration and others — that made them so unpopular among U.S. voters.

You don't even hear them suggesting new, more moderate ideas that could stop the GOP from further alienating itself as the party of conservative extremists.

In fact, some of them still are arguing that they need to go "back to their conservative roots."

Actually, because of their allegiance to their conservative roots, during the past four years, they've lost 54 House seats, 13 (perhaps 14) Senate seats and the presidency. The number of Americans who call themselves Republicans also has dropped dramatically.

Yet amazingly, some Republicans still say that what they

need to change is not necessarily their defeated ideology, but the way their message is delivered. They tell you they simply have to find new ways to get their message out, as if catching up to the Democrats in Internet campaigning would be enough to bring their brain-dead party off life support.

They are so deep in denial that they still are blaming the messengers instead of recognizing that they are selling an outdated code of social conduct and that they no longer can win elections while alienating women, immigrants, gays and other huge segments of the voting population.

So what did they do to overcome their problems? They selected a new messenger!

When the Republican National Committee elected former Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael Steele as its first black chairman last week, it was clearly an attempt to put a new face on an old message. Surely, it is wonderful that the party of Abraham Lincoln finally has an African-American leader. But does it signal a sincere shift in direction, or was it merely a cosmetic effort to make it appear as if they're catching up to a nation that just welcomed its first black president?

Will Republicans give Steele the power to take the party from the extreme right to a moderate center?

There are reasons to be skeptical. Let's not forget that the RNC already had a Latino chairman, Sen. Mel Martinez of Florida,

and that even as a Hispanic, Martinez was unable to persuade some of his fellow Republicans to tone down their mean-spirited diatribes against Latino immigrants. If Martinez couldn't stop GOP hard-liners from acting like enemies of his own community, how is Steele going to do it?

Shortly after he was elected, the new GOP chairman said his selection over other less moderate candidates signaled that we are witnessing "the dawn of a new party." He vowed to make the GOP more inclusive, and he even threatened those who might obstruct that process.

"Get ready to get knocked over," Steele said.

But just what does that mean? To regain some of the ground Republicans have lost in the Hispanic community, for example, will Steele tell Republican immigrant bashers to shut up?

Will he encourage moderate Republicans to run for office against the hard-liners?

Can he sway his party's conservatives to finally become as compassionate as George W. Bush promised they could be?

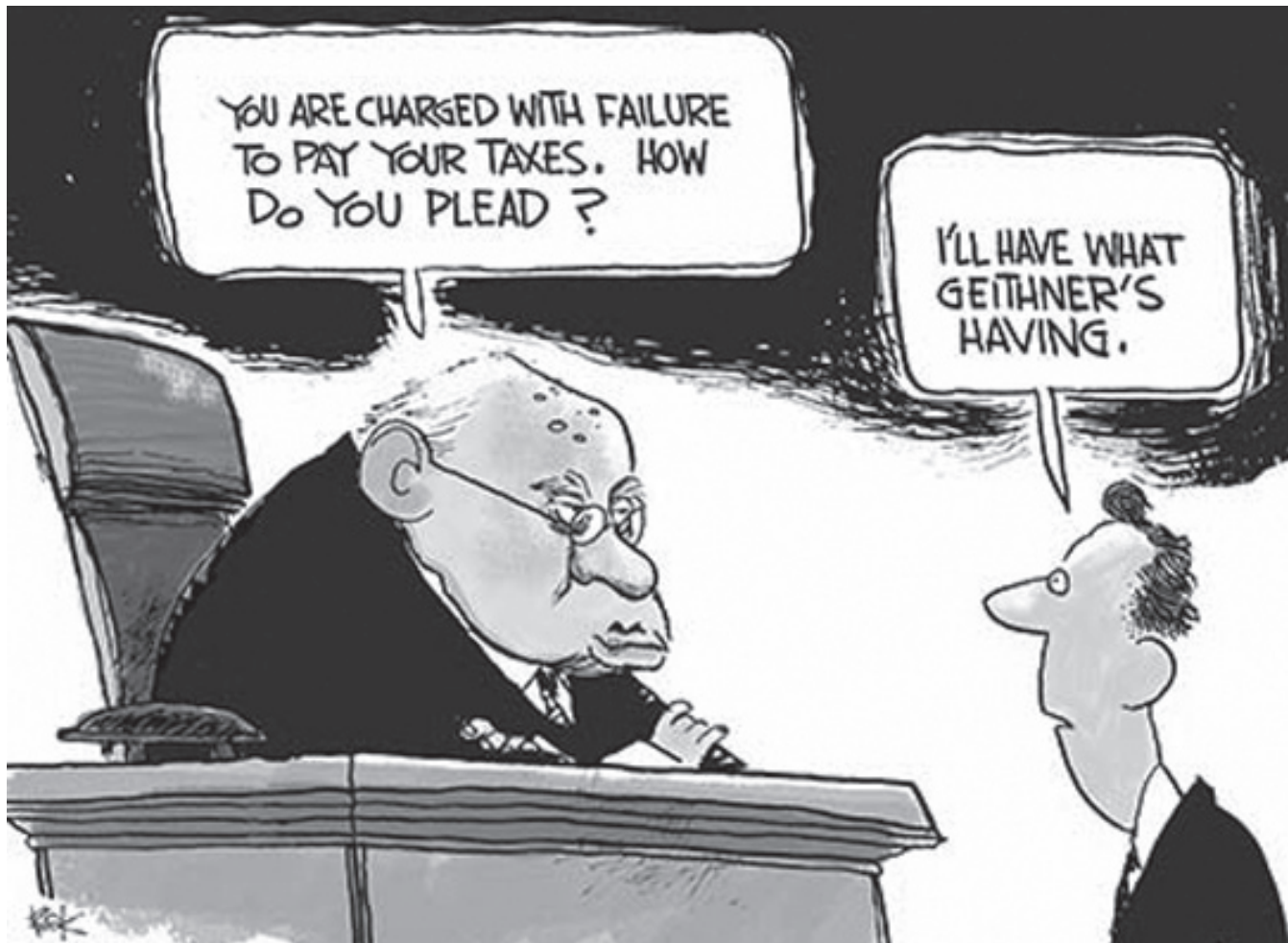
Good luck, sir!

Those are tall orders, especially considering recent GOP history and the fact that many Republicans are still in denial, thinking that all they need is a new messenger to sell their old, widely rejected and often mean-spirited ideas.

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MIGUEL PEREZ



# Another two bite the dust

It was not a good day for ethics in government. First, White House Performance Chief-nominee Nancy Killefer, who had two nannies and a personal assistant — as we working mothers would say, a lot of help for teenagers — withdrew her candidacy after it emerged that D.C. had gone so far as to put a lien on her fancy house for failure to pay payroll taxes.

Then, Tom Daschle, the much liked and admired former Senate majority leader, withdrew as the nominee for Secretary of Health and Human Services after it became clear that no one was buying his story that he thought having a car and driver for three years was just a nice gesture from a friend that didn't have any tax consequences for him.

All of this came literally hours after the president scolded Wall Street — but did not take back any of that bailout money — for having awarded themselves something in excess of \$20 billion in bonuses for having ruined the American, and maybe the global, economy.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner is one lucky guy: Sometimes the first jerk out of the box is the only one who makes it to first.

What planet are these people living on?

Or maybe the right question is: What's wrong with the rest of

us?

I understand that accountants make mistakes. But a lien on your house is not the first response to an accountant's mistake. It's a last-ditch effort to collect taxes from someone who has refused to pay.

As for Geithner, it wasn't just his accountants who made a mistake.

He signed papers acknowledging that he owed the taxes and still didn't pay them.

And Daschle? Did Daschle really think that friends give friends cars and drivers for three years expecting nothing in return, just a friendly gift that doesn't have to be considered income? Why don't I have friends like these? Why did I lose money in the relatively modest accounts I've set up for my retirement and my kids' education only to have the people who lost it for me reward themselves with big bonuses? I thought you got a bonus for making money, not losing it.

Silly me.

There is something fundamentally rotten at the tippy-top of our economy, and I'm not talking about the bad loans that TARP is supposed to cover. I'm talking about a mentality that crosses party and gender lines and extends at least from Washington to New York, if not to Los Angeles and Chicago and some other big cities, that seems to be based on the notion that the rich have a right to get richer no matter who suffers as a result; that people who can afford three in help at home don't have any obligation to pay into the system that protects those people if

they're injured on the job; that cars and drivers go with the turf, nothing special, nothing to trigger questions, let alone tax obligations.

Taxes? Who worries about taxes?

The answer is that most Americans do.

I remember as a kid, growing up, my father struggling to pay his taxes every year, ashamed when he couldn't, endlessly stressed when he fell behind, but never, not once, even tempted to cheat, understate his income or ignore his obligations. He died owing the IRS money, and I know the stress he felt. The shame contributed to his heart stopping, but I didn't blame the IRS for it.

I've never been good at coming up with dodges or shelters or any of that.

I put aside the money, pay in quarterly, relieved that I can do it. I pay the taxes for my babysitter (one in help, thanks) and for my consulting income, and I don't think I deserve a gold star for doing it.

And I don't expect to ever be appointed to anything. It's just right. It's what tens of millions of Americans who make less than Daschle and Killefer and Geithner and me do every day, and if it means they can't buy a home or a new car or afford three in help, so be it.

It's not about ethics in government, not really. Just about right and wrong.

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SUSAN ESTRICH

# 'Sixburgh' celebrates Super Bowl win with parade

PITTSBURGH (AP) — More than 300,000 black-and-gold bedecked Pittsburgh Steelers fans — about the population of the city itself — packed the streets of "Sixburgh" on Tuesday for a parade celebrating the storied franchise's unprecedented sixth Super Bowl title.

From infants to senior citizens, fans braved freezing temperatures and crowds so deep that for some even seeing the parade was impossible.

Not that it mattered. Many just wanted to be part of the festive atmosphere and have the chance to revel in the team's 27-23 victory over the Arizona Cardinals in Sunday's Super Bowl. Rousing chants

of "Here we go Steelers!" pulsed through the crowd as they waited for the team to make its way along the route.

"We're going to tell the school we had fever — Steeler fever," 12-year-old Rachel Russell said, excusing her absence from school before leading a Steelers chant.

Renaming the city Sixburgh for the day, Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl made his way through the parade alongside quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, both filming the crowd that painted a gray sky yellow with twirling Terrible Towels.

Fans filled parking garages, skyscraper windows, balconies and even climbed trees to get the best view of the team they love and possibly find shelter from the sporadic flurry and temperatures that hovered in the mid-20s.

"It's never too cold to watch the Steelers," said Annette Mowery, 47, who drove from the Pittsburgh suburb of Mars with her children, Lexie, 12 and Lucas, 10.

"We didn't have a good day, we had a great day. It's history," Lucas said, a Super Bowl XLIII hat perched atop a blue ski mask, a matching T-shirt squeezed over his jacket.

## STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

Robinson's 10-point performance. Also playing sparingly in the second half were Big Spring's starters. Steers Head Coach Marcus Morris was visibly frustrated with the squad and pulled them, playing some of the

players who haven't seen much time on the court during the district season.

Still Big Spring struggled to put the ball in the basket on the offensive end and didn't score more than seven points in a given period.

Perhaps the lone highlight of the night for Big Spring was the play of Xavian Parnell late in the game. Parnell scored all five of the Steers' points in the final stanza with his

first bucket coming with 3:13 to play in the game. It was Big Spring's first basket of the fourth period.

Big Spring gets a bye Friday and pick back up with District 4-4A play at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, playing host to San Angelo Lake View, which the Steers beat in San Angelo earlier this season.

<b>Big Spring</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5—24</b>
<b>Cooper</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7—51</b>

<b>Big Spring</b> (9-16, 2-3):	<b>Jerrell Williams 3 0-0</b>	<b>7,</b>
<b>Matt Ritchey 3 1-1</b>	<b>7,</b>	<b>Tyrone Clemons 1 0-0</b>
<b>3,</b>	<b>Pavel Plakhotny 0 0-2</b>	<b>0,</b>
<b>Xavian Parnell 2 1-3</b>	<b>5,</b>	<b>Josh Harris 1 0-0</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Totals 10 2-6</b>	<b>24.</b>

<b>Abilene Cooper:</b>	<b>Aaron Peterson 0 0-1</b>	<b>0,</b>
<b>Justin Marshal 0 0-2</b>	<b>0,</b>	<b>Marquez Justice 3 0-1</b>
<b>8,</b>	<b>Rodney Boswell 1 0-0</b>	<b>2,</b>
<b>Darius Robinson 3 4-5</b>	<b>10,</b>	<b>Tommy Bowman 3 2-3</b>
<b>8,</b>	<b>Rashad Barnes 5 0-1</b>	<b>12,</b>
<b>Freddy Spafford 0 1-2</b>	<b>1,</b>	<b>Reese Williams 4 0-0</b>
<b>8,</b>	<b>Jose Lores 1 0-0</b>	<b>2.</b>
<b>Totals 20 7-15</b>	<b>51.</b>	

3-point goals: BS 2 (Williams, Clemons), AC 4 (Justice 2, Barnes 2). Total fouls: BS 17, AC 11. Fouled out: None.

## LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

Cooper got eight from Courtney Cardona, who was held in check most

of the night after lighting up Big Spring for 18 the first time around. Cardona found open shots to come by as Big Spring's Linzee Yarbar stuck to her like glue on the defensive end.

Cooper has now won seven of its last nine games and improves to 4-2

in 4-4A play, earning it the third playoff spot out of the district.

Big Spring has now lost 13 in a row.

<b>Big Spring</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4—24</b>
<b>Cooper</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12—41</b>

Big Spring (6-19, 0-7): Cerbi Ritchey 1 7-8 9,

<b>Valerie Ross 3 0-0</b>	<b>6,</b>	<b>Taylor Seaton 2 0-0</b>
<b>4,</b>	<b>Bridgette Tuitt 0 1-3</b>	<b>1,</b>
<b>Linzee Yarbar 0 2-2</b>	<b>2.</b>	<b>Totals 6 10-13</b>
<b>24.</b>		

<b>Cooper:</b>	<b>Cardona 3 1-2</b>	<b>8,</b>
<b>Hartridge 3 1-3</b>	<b>7,</b>	<b>Renner 2 0-0</b>
<b>4,</b>	<b>Brown 2 0-1</b>	<b>4,</b>
<b>Davis 3 2-6</b>	<b>8,</b>	<b>Snow 0 3-4</b>
<b>3,</b>	<b>Cravin 1 5-6</b>	<b>7.</b>
<b>Totals 14 12-22</b>	<b>41.</b>	

3-point goals: BS 0, AC 1 (Cardona). Total fouls: BS 18, AC 15. Fouled out: None.

## FORSAN

Continued from Page 1B

Alex Huckabee led all scorers with 13 points, including 9 of 10 shooting from the free throw line. Robbins chipped in 10.

Forsan travels to McCamey at 8 p.m. Friday.

<b>Forsan</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9—47</b>
<b>Iraan</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5—26</b>

Forsan (20-3, 3-1): Jeremy Robbins 10, Jace Sandridge 4, Tristian Clay 9, Evan Burton 4, Alex Huckabee 13, Nathan Atkerson 7.

### Lady Buffs 46, Iraan 30

Forsan broke open an 11-11 game in the second period with a 12-4 run, giving the Lady Buffs an 8-point halftime advantage, 23-15.

Amanda Longorio picked up a game-high 14 points as the Lady Buffs gained some momentum heading into an all-important District 7-A matchup with McCamey at 6 p.m. Friday in McCamey.

The game holds significant playoff implications for the Lady Buffs as the winner will get a leg up on clinching an outright district title.

<b>Forsan</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10—46</b>
<b>Iraan</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7—30</b>

Forsan (3-1): Shelby McDonald 5, Tori Gauer 4, Miranda Park 8, Faith Belew 4, Shelby Jones 3, Charlene Stanley 3, Kelsey Jones 5, Amanda Longorio 14.

Iraan (0-4): Becky Ribero 2, Kenna Ledford 1, Jennifer Perry 11, Bailey Hernandez 4, Dawn Petrabla 2, Megan Mason 2, Laure Ybarra 8.

Free throws: FHS 8-14, Iraan 10-22. 3-point goals: FHS 4 (McDonald, Stanley, K. Jones, Longorio), Iraan 4 (Perry 3, Ybarra). Total fouls: FHS 20, Iraan 16. Fouled out: Perry.

## COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1B

### Colorado City 67, Coahoma 56

In the nightcap it was the Wolves (12-12, 4-2) holding off a late Coahoma (19-9, 1-5) charge for the 10-point victory, 67-56.

"We dug ourselves a hole and couldn't get out of it," Head Coach Kim Nichols said. "I thought that we played well most of the game, we just didn't have a good start."

Things looked to be going the Bulldogs' way early as Coahoma scored four quick points. Unfortunately, the Wolves got on track, outscoring the Bulldogs 19-6 in the remainder of the quarter on their way to a 38-24 halftime lead.

With the Wolves leading 55-41, the Bulldogs turned up the heat in the final quarter of play pulling to within 6, only to see C-City close out the victory with back-to-back baskets down the stretch.

Cody Sheppard led all scorers hitting the stat sheet for 18 points to go along with four blocks. Jovi Paniagua scored 12.

Clint White and Nick Hart paced the Wolves with 15 each while Tyler

Higgins scored 13.

<b>Colorado</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12—67</b>
<b>Coahoma</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15—56</b>

Colorado City (13-11, 4-2): Hart 15, Espinoza 13, Sowa 2, Jones 2, White 15, Reyna 7, Higgins 13

Coahoma (19-9, 1-5): Josh Paniagua 12, Mikey Mendoza 3, Lane Douglas 3, Hunter Williams 2, Ray Gutierrez 5, Isaac Garcia 5, Jovi Paniagua 8, Cody Sheppard 18.

Free throws: CC 15-24, CHS 6-13. 3-point goals: CC 6 (Espinoza 4, White 2), CHS 4 (Mendoza, Gutierrez, Garcia, Sheppard). Total fouls: CC 13, CHS 18. Fouled out: Griffin.

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## QBS

Continued from Page 2B

Harrell is now in pursuit of an NFL career along with Georgia's Matt Stafford, a former Dallas-area high school star who will skip his senior season with the Bulldogs and could be the top pick in April's draft.

In other words, as the older Texas-raised QB stars head toward the exits in college football, here come a few new ones.

"I think definitely this class has the potential to be a banner class," said Chad Morris, Gilbert's coach at Lake Travis. "Obviously time will tell in the next few years how good these kids really are, but I

think that they're not going to disappoint anybody."

While Gilbert and Shepard are at the head of the incoming class, the rest could be feature players who grow up to be the next Chase Daniel, Brian Johnson or Todd Reesing. Those guys didn't top the recruiting charts when they signed with Missouri, Utah and Kansas, respectively. But all become stars in college.

There's Tyrik Rollison of Sulphur Springs, who accounted for seven touchdowns in the highest-scoring 11-man championship game in state history and is committed to Auburn. Cody Green is slated to be part of Nebraska's rebuilding after passing for 36 touchdowns and rushing for 27 more at Dayton.

Casey Pachall of Brownwood will try to do for TCU what Johnson did for Utah — taking a non-BCS team to a BCS bowl.

Shavodrick Beaver of Wichita Falls Rider is hoping to get a chance to run Tulsa's high-scoring offense. The Golden

Hurricane are taking a chance on him after he missed most of his senior season with an injury.

The recruiting Web site Rivals.com has all those players are among the top 30 recruits in Texas, which produced nearly a fifth of the starting quarterbacks in major college football last season.

"I don't know that you'll see guys achieving as well as McCoy and Harrell did," said Bobby Burton, a recruiting analyst for Rivals.com. "Those were two of the top four quarterbacks in the country all year long. That's always going to be hit and miss. But the depth of quarterbacks in Texas is unsurpassed."

Burton said 7-on-7 football in the summer has helped develop quarterbacks. The quintessential pass-and-catch game wasn't allowed in Texas until about a decade ago. Now, Texas does 7-on-7 like it does all other aspects of high school football: better than most. Burton said the number of 7-on-7 games in Texas dwarfs even California, the pro-

totypical quarterback state for years.

"It's going to be the same next year and the year after until another state as big and committed to football as Texas steps up their offseason regimen," Burton said.

Thiebaud, the Cypress Ridge coach, said the Dallas area started the trend of spread offenses with prolific passing attacks. But the talent-rich southeastern corner of Texas is catching up.

Shepard, who has already graduated from Cypress Ridge and enrolled at LSU. He rushed for nearly 2,000 yards as a senior and steadily improved as a passer during three years as the starter. He picked the Tigers because they offered him a chance to play quarterback, no questions asked.

Gilbert has the label of pro-style quarterback, although Morris sees him as much more of a dual threat. In the championship game, he passed for five touchdowns and ran for two. He never wavered on playing for the Longhorns.

If things work out for both, there could be one more similarity to college football circa 2008. The SEC vs. Big 12 debate.

"You can't ask for much better football than what's being played in the Big 12 and SEC," Morris said. "I'm just excited to watch 'em. To watch 'em all."

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## News in brief

### Obama faces challenge of weathering fallout of nomination glitches

WASHINGTON (AP) — His infant presidency already shaped by mounting national troubles, President Barack Obama now faces an added challenge: weathering the fallout of a spate of nomination glitches.

"I screwed up," Obama said repeatedly after two top nominees withdrew their names from consideration, saying they wanted to avoid becoming distractions for the president as he seeks to move ahead with an ambitious agenda. "I'm frustrated with myself, with our team."

In a series of Oval Office interviews with TV network anchors Tuesday, he took the blame for the nomination missteps and vowed to live up to the new era of responsibility he mapped out during his inauguration speech just two weeks ago.

Earlier, over the course of a few hours, Obama's close friend Tom Daschle abandoned his bid to become health and human services secretary and the administration's point man on reforming health care, and another high-profile nominee — Nancy Killefer — stepped down from a newly created position charged with eliminating inefficient government programs.

Personal tax failures dogged both, and Daschle's woes only grew over the past five days; he also faced questions about potential conflicts of interest related to his work with health care interests. All that set the stage for potentially difficult Senate confirmation battles that could further damage and embarrass Obama.

### Obama wants to impose cap on execs whose firms receive rescue funds

WASHINGTON (AP) — Call it the maximum wage. President Barack Obama wants to impose a \$500,000 pay cap on executives whose firms receive government financial rescue funds, a dramatic intervention into corporate governance in the midst of financial crisis.

The new restrictions, described by an administration official familiar with the new rules, are to be announced Wednesday morning at the White House. The steps set the stage for the administration's unveiling next week of a new framework for spending the money that remains in the \$700 billion financial rescue fund.

"If the taxpayers are helping you, then you've got certain responsibilities to not be living high on the hog," President Barack Obama said Tuesday.

The official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the plan had not yet been made public, said the most restrictive limits would apply only to struggling large firms that receive "exceptional assistance" in the future. Healthy banks that receive government infusions of capital would have more leeway.

Firms that want to pay executives above the \$500,000 threshold would have to compensate them with stock that could not be sold or liquidated until they pay back the government funds, the official said.

### Kyrgyzstan's government submits bill to parliament to close US base

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP) — Kyrgyzstan's government has submitted a draft bill to parliament calling for the closing of a U.S. base that is key to the military campaign in Afghanistan.

The bill comes one day after Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev announced the closure of the Manas air base in the former Soviet Central Asian country.

The U.S. Embassy said Wednesday, however, that it had not been notified of any closure and that both sides were still in talks about maintaining an American base.

The bill would cancel the agreement that established the base after the September 2001 attacks.

### Human rights groups charge Israel, Hamas violated laws of war

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Human rights

groups are seeking to build a case that Israel and Hamas violated the laws of war during the fighting last month in this tiny coastal territory — a charge both combatants reject.

On Tuesday, the International Criminal Court said the Palestinian Authority had recognized the court's jurisdiction in a move aimed at allowing a war crimes investigation.

Given the clarity of Hamas' violations, such as firing rockets at Israeli cities, organizations are focusing more on Israeli actions, the facts of which they say are harder to establish.

"The Israeli authorities deny everything, so one has to prove what happened in a way that you don't need to do with the Palestinian rockets," said Donatella Rovera of Amnesty International.

Among the questions being raised are whether Israel used disproportionate force and failed to protect civilians.

### Mixed martial arts lobbyists seek escape from federal regulation's hold

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ultimate Fighting Championship has come to Washington to engage in the city's ultimate sport: lobbying.

The biggest name in mixed martial arts, UFC is a multimillion-dollar business that fills arenas, broadcasts events on pay-per-view and has deals with cable networks like Spike TV. The sport, which combines jiu-jitsu, judo, karate, boxing, kickboxing and wrestling, has put off some critics with its ferocity, including such tactics as kicks to the head.

The sport's owners are concerned that it could come under federal regulation by a proposed new commission to regulate boxing that two senior lawmakers are pushing. To help head that off, the Las Vegas-based UFC spent \$240,000 last year lobbying Congress.

Its biggest task, said lobbyist Makan Delrahim, is to convince Congress that the sport has cleaned up its act since the 1990s, when it drew the opposition of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. He once referred to it as "human cockfighting" and called for it to be banned.

"Back then, it was no holds barred, marketed as two men walk in, one man walks out," said Delrahim, a former deputy assistant attorney general in the Bush administration. Now, he said, it's a mainstream sport that is sanctioned and regulated by athletic commissions in 37 states.

### Japan's Panasonic to cut 15,000 jobs, shut 27 plants to cope with slump

TOKYO (AP) — Panasonic Corp. said Wednesday it will slash 15,000 jobs and shut down 27 plants worldwide to cope with plunging demand for its TVs, semiconductors and other electronics products.

The world's largest maker of plasma display TVs also announced a net loss for the October-December quarter and lowered its forecast for the fiscal year through March to a net loss of 380 billion yen.

Panasonic joins a slew of other major Japanese companies, including Sony Corp. and Toshiba Corp., in announcing job cuts and forecasting a full-year loss and the global slowdown batters the world's second-largest economy.

### States consider changes to seat belt laws in order to qualify for federal money

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Drivers better buckle up or pay the price: More cash-strapped states want to give law enforcement officers the authority to pull over motorists just for not wearing their

seat belts.

More than a dozen states that are considering making the switch to primary seat-belt enforcement laws need to do so before July to be eligible for millions in federal money.

One of those states is Ohio, which would get \$26.8 million if it changes its law. Currently, officers in the state must first have some other reason to stop drivers over before issuing seat-belt citations.

States without primary seat-belt enforcement that want the federal money must pass a bill and have it signed by the governor by June 30 — and begin issuing citations by Sept. 30 — to qualify for federal funds.

, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The federal money attached to seat-belt enforcement can only be spent for highway-related projects.

Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland proposed the change in his two-year budget plan released Monday. The state Legislature has previously balked at making the change.

### 10-year-old dies, apparently hanged at Ill. school

EVANSTON, Ill. (AP) — A 10-year-old Illinois boy has died after he was reportedly found hanging from a hook in his elementary school bathroom.

Officials at Oakton Elementary School in Evanston called 911 after finding fifth grader Aquan Lewis unresponsive at about 3 p.m. Tuesday.

School janitor Elliott Lieteau says the boy had been pulled off a hook and was lying on the floor when he entered the restroom. He says he performed CPR on the boy.

Anquan was pronounced dead early Wednesday at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. The Cook County medical examiner's office says Lewis was apparently found hanged.

Authorities have released few details about the incident.



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**NORTH**  
♠ 9 4 2  
♥ A Q 10 6 3  
♦ 7 5 2  
♣ 9 3

**WEST**  
♠ J 7 3  
♥ K 8  
♦ K 10 4  
♣ Q 10 8 5 2

**EAST**  
♠ 8 6 5  
♥ 9 7 5 2  
♦ Q 9  
♣ J 6 4

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K 10  
♥ J 4  
♦ A J 8 6 3  
♣ A K 7

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♦ Pass 1♥ Pass  
3NT

Opening lead — five of clubs.

**When a defender** should cover an honor with an honor is a question that cannot be resolved by a universal general rule. The trouble is that while it's usually best to cover an honor with an honor when declarer seems about to finesse, there are times when a defender shouldn't do so.

**Actually**, the governing principle is to cover when it is advantageous and not cover when it is disadvantageous. Admittedly, this doesn't help much, since the final decision rests on the defender's judgment, but it's

about as good a rule as can be formulated.

**Take this case** where West leads a club, taken by South with the king, and South returns the jack of hearts. Should West cover with the king?

**There can be no doubt** that the answer is yes. To confirm this, let's suppose West ducks the jack. Declarer finesesses and leads another heart. West is forced to play the king, and declarer collects five heart tricks and makes four notrump.

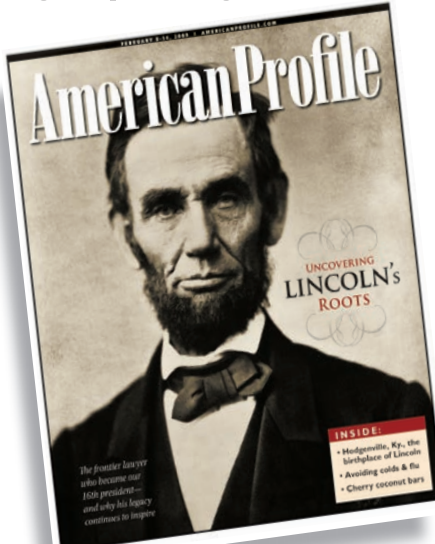
**Now suppose West** covers the jack with the king. Let's assume declarer wins with the ace and cashes the Q-10, hoping for a 3-3 division. When this does not materialize, South scores only three heart tricks and goes down one. This is due to West's covering the jack, which promotes East's nine into a stopper.

**West covers** because his king is valueless if he ducks, but serves a useful purpose if East has any four hearts. West can therefore gain something by covering, but he cannot lose.

**Observe that if West** covers the jack, South has a countermeasure available. He allows West's king to hold the trick, and thus makes four heart tricks and the contract. Declarer should not pin his hopes entirely on a 3-3 heart break, but should instead guard against a 4-2 division by conceding a trick to the king.

Tomorrow: How to figure the odds.  
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## In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



### Honest Abe

With the election of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States, there has been a renewed interest in Abraham Lincoln, our 16th President. It also happens to be the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's humble birth. Plus, avoiding colds and flu and cherry coconut bars.

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# 'UFOs' sighted in Odessa College exhibit

By **MATTHEW MCGOWAN**  
Odessa American

ODESSA — Something strange and sinister just landed in Odessa.

Or, if you prefer the more grounded version, eight students at Odessa College created an art exhibit in the college's Sedate Hall featuring UFO artifacts that are sure to send chills down to the very tips of your toes.

The exhibit, "Unearthly Freaky Objects," however, includes more than just recreations of extraterrestrial gizmos and caricatures.

Displayed alongside the zany artwork are accounts of local sightings and unnervingly close encounters between earthlings and their elusive counterparts from outer space.

Barry Phillips the elder, the OC art professor who assigned the project to his drawing class, admitted he couldn't vouch for the accuracy of the accounts even going so far as to concede they are completely bogus and fictional, the product of his students' imagina-

tions but they do add intrigue and excitement to the exhibit.

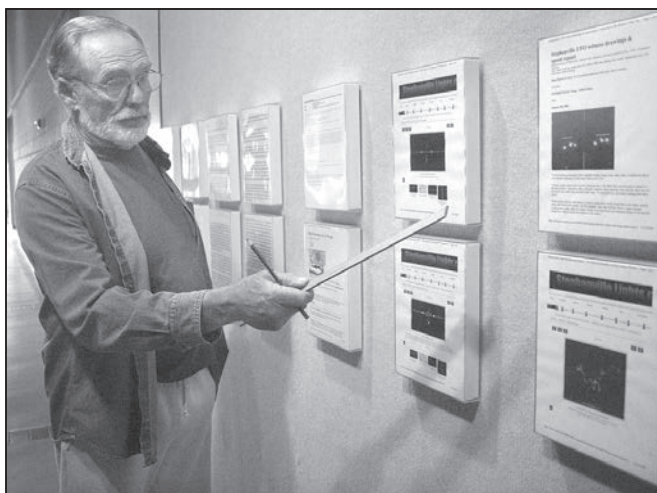
"It's different and unique," he said. "You've got to entertain, you know, stimulate the mind and the senses. I've been to a lot of art shows a lot, as long as I've been in the business and, gosh, a lot of it is so boring."

Economic downturns, Phillips said, often lead people to escape through tales and rumors of paranormal activity, which is why so much about aliens and ghosts has been in the media lately. And that's also why he chose this particular topic for the exhibit. Talk about out-there, too.

Consider the exhibit of the "Giant Alien Brain Flying Saucer," a replica of a thin metallic disk with a purplish-black, brain-looking blob resting in its center.

A nearby placard tells the tale of two West Texas fishermen, E.Z. Ketchum and Willie Tellatruth, who were fishing late one night on Lake Amistad.

Then, out of nowhere, they gasped and found themselves face to face



AP Photo/Odessa American/Mark Sterkel

**Odessa College Art Professor Barry Phillips points out some of the UFO — "Unearthly Freaky Objects" — art his students worked on that is now on exhibit in Sedate Hall at the college.**

with this thing.

"A voice, part whisper, whine, mumble and hiss was transmitted directly into the minds of the two anglers," the placard reads.

"Immediately, the

voice was processed into Ketchum's and Tellatruth's brain as saying, 'We wish you peace and good fortune.' The UFO, ever so slowly, disappeared into the night sky." But the two

yokels were lucky their encounter was with a benevolent alien.

Also included in the exhibit is the horrifying rise of giant-out-of-control-man-eating-blood-thirsty-monster plants that people once thought were quaint. Once common in households and enjoyed for their fly-eating tendencies, the plants bided their time until, one fateful day, they launched an attack.

The resulting carnage scribbled below a sketch of one of the grinning plants is inexplicable.

The horror. Freshman OC student Kenneth Chambers, 18, was one of the students who collaborated on the class exhibit, and he said the killer plant display is his favorite, but the whole project was a

blast.

"It gives us a chance to be creative and imaginative and to try to get some excitement out of it," he said. But, when it comes to the actual authenticity of reports of UFOs and extraterrestrials, "you never know. You can't prove it. You can't disprove it."

Regardless of its fictitiousness, Chambers said, some folks might be a little offended by the implications of such an exhibit.

"It imposes on certain peoples' beliefs," he said. "You could either be excited or offended." Phillips, too, said he suspected the exhibit might ruffle some feathers.

"Sooner or later," he said, "I'll probably get a complaint from somebody around here."

## How not to run a railroad

I received a letter the other day that surprised me but certainly made me stop to consider its proposition. It went like this:

"Now I know this is not true but it is interesting and does make sense. It seems that two companies divided into teams and decided to have a canoe race on the Missouri River. Both teams practiced long and hard to reach their peak performance before the race.



**DARRELL RYAN**

"On the big day, Team A won by a mile. Team B, very discouraged and depressed, decided to investigate the reason for the crushing defeat. A team made up of senior management was formed to investigate and recommend appropriate action.

"Their conclusion was that Team A had eight people rowing and one person steering, while Team B had eight people steering and one person rowing.

"Team B management determined that a deeper study should be made so they hired a consulting company and paid them a large amount of money for a second opinion. They advised that too many people were steering the boat, while not enough people were rowing.

"Not sure of how to utilize that information, but wanting to prevent another loss to Team A, the rowing team's management structure was totally reorganized to four steering supervisors, three area steering superintendents and

one assistant steering manager. They also implemented a new performance system that would give the one person rowing the boat greater incentive to work harder. It was called the 'Rowing Team Quality First Program,' with meetings, dinners and free pens for the rower.

"There was discussion of getting new paddles, a new canoe, additional equipment, extra vacation days for practices and bonuses.

"The next year Team A won by two miles.

"Humiliated, Team B laid off the rower for poor performance, halted development of a new canoe, sold the paddles, and canceled all capital investments for new equipment.

The money saved was distributed to the Senior Executives as bonuses and the next year's racing team was out-sourced to another company.

"This story is just a farce of the way we sometimes do things but here's something to think about: I've read that an American company has spent the last 30 years moving its factories out of the United States, claiming they can't make money paying American wages.

"And it's been said that a Japanese company has spent the last 30 years building more than a dozen plants inside the U.S. and making billions in profits while an American company is racking up billions in losses."

His final comment was: "In searching for answers, shall we consider the story above?" Interesting concept, isn't it?

*Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for Big Spring Independent School District.*

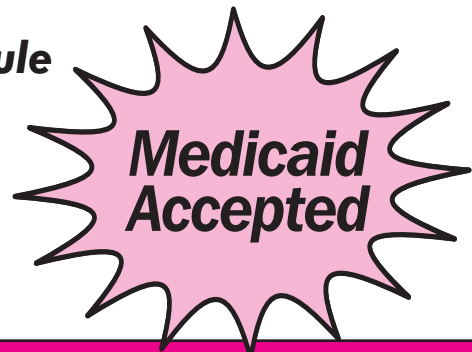
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Mars makes an important announcement as he enters Aquarius today: "Update your technology, ladies and gentleman."

If you've been ruminating over a certain technological fantasy, now is the time to take action. The price will be right and all the training you need to integrate your new system will be easy to come by.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). People will always come to you for wisdom. But right now you could use fewer phone calls from your friends —



HOLIDAY MATHIS

especially of the 3 a.m. variety. Though they want your advice, they probably won't take it. You need your you-time.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). De-clutter the closet where you keep your feelings. It's time to make some decisions about where to hang your heart. Figure that out and the rest gets rearranged or donated to your favorite charity.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Despite outward appearances, the inside of your head is thoroughly organized. You will amaze others by pulling out that brilliantly and completely thought-out idea while they are all sitting around scratching their heads.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Being hard on

yourself produces some extraordinary results and causes equally extraordinary problems. For now consider what peace you might be able to create by releasing your expectations.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). In order to realize where you're at with another person you must slow down and observe what tones are being exchanged. Is there harmony or discord? Relationships are built one note at a time.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You keep letting someone help you who is not qualified in the least to do so. Maybe you feel guilty about this person's position or maybe you simply can't say no. But enough is enough. Make sure this is the last time.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Get rid of distractions. You want maximum output for your efforts. Some people won't be able to interact with you whenever they want to, and you're both better off for that. You'd rather be productive than popular.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The time you take to nurture another person is extremely rewarding. You may wonder at first if this is a good match. You'll likely never know the impact you have, but you can trust you are getting through.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You love to learn. In one day you can pick up a new word, execute a recipe that uses a foreign spice and discover a way of interacting with that

prickly someone. You're developing many ways all at once.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You need to earn your money quickly because you'll be spending it just as quickly. But when it comes to your reputation and credibility, you are wise to earn it slowly and save it.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). In your efforts to save a poor lost soul you could become ensnared in the person's problems. You know your way, but you don't know theirs. Stay on your path so you can be a light to others.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). There's an equal glow in and out these days with emotions and finances alike. You're gushing with feeling and spending with passionate intensity. By the evening you'll be ready for a more contained approach.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "About a year ago I lent a substantial amount of money to a good friend. My friend, who was born 5/2/1971, now seems to be doing much better for himself than he was when he needed the loan, but he never even talks about paying me back. I'm starting to really resent him. My birthday is 8/18/1972. What should I do?"

Financial issues can be tough on friendship. And being a generous-hearted Leo, you probably wish you were so wealthy you could write the whole thing off without a second thought. On the other hand, it hurts your

feelings that your friend has apparently forgotten about your kind sacrifice. Taking someone for granted is, as far as Leo sees it, one of the top five relationship sins. Your friend is a Taurus with a Leo moon and thus is able to get under your skin like no one else can. And though your friend has taken your money, what this person has given you is a perfect lesson. Consider making a commitment to yourself not to lend money again. Instead offer to help the person make money and you both will win.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Jennifer Jason Leigh is a unique Aquarius through and through as her style has always been highly original, intelligent, unexpected and unusual.

The daughter of an actor and a screenwriter, she has been a working actress since the age of 16 and is now a writer/director as well. A typically freewheeling Aquarius, she says, "I just don't plan things. I live a month at a time."

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com) and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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**Legals**  
LEGAL NOTICE  
Pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 402.069 and City of Coahoma Resolution No. 43, notice is given that the City of Coahoma desires to assess costs for certain improvements to the sewer system to the owners of certain property in the City of Coahoma. The needed improvements shall include the laying of mains, laterals, and extension and all appliances and necessary adjuncts required for the sanitary disposal or excreta and offal from the properties in which improvements are made. The improvements will affect Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23, Block 4, Foster Addition to the City of Coahoma. The estimated total cost of improvements is \$38,250.00 and will be assessed at an estimated amount per front foot of \$14.52. A hearing on the proposed improvements and assessment will be held on February 10, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Council Chamber in City Hall of the City of Coahoma, Texas. #6040 January 30 and February 4 & 8, 2009

**Annie's Mailbox** ®

**Dear Annie:** I recently hosted a costumed ladies social, serving lunch to 20 women and organizing icebreaker games. While guests were arriving and I was introducing people, "Susie" started taking pictures of the fun costumes. She directed people to move here and there for photos.

After several attempts to get my attention, she hollered, "Debbie, look at me right this minute!" Susie acted put out when her ideas weren't used and wanted to control how the games were played.

She was not a very compliant guest, and I remain resentful.

Aren't guests supposed to let the hostess direct them? Or can they create their own activities? What could I have done

to relieve the stress Susie brought to what was supposed to be a fun afternoon? — *Hostess Blues*

**Dear Hostess:** Susie was a rude guest because she undermined your authority as the hostess. Guests should always defer to the hosts' plans for the occasion, and hosts should make their guests' participation as pleasant as possible. The best way to defuse someone like Susie is to assign her a job and make her feel like an important part of the process.

We would have gushed

about her photographic skills and put her in charge of taking pictures of every aspect of the event so she had less time and inclination to interfere in other areas.

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](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox

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**The Spider**

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper. One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck. Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."

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# Why not check this out at the library?

Just like the swallows returning to San Juan Capistrano, so do I to the readers of the Big Spring Herald.

Book orders have been placed and books are trickling in. Book salespersons have been calling to set up appointments and orders are being placed with Gumdrop Books, Possum Grape, Star Books and other jobbers. In April, I will attend the Texas Library Association's annual convention (in Houston this year) and will find, no doubt, even more delectable items that must be purchased.

With the books com-

ing in at only a trickle, here are some new titles to tickle your interest.

The first one is "Weird Texas: Your Travel Guide to Texas's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets" (917.640 TRE W) by Wesley Treat. There is nothing directly associated with Big Spring or Howard County, so I am going with category "Roadside Oddities" for \$100.

Did you know we have a replica of the Eiffel Tower? Yes, it is in Paris (Texas, that is). What about the Britten Leaning Water Tower? You can find this on Interstate 40 on the east end of Groom. Even more impressive at Groom is the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It was built to inspire the Good Samaritan that is present in each one of us and is 190 feet tall by 110 feet wide.

Encircling the base

of the cross are superb bronze statues depicting the Stations of the Cross. It is humbling to realize that Jesus was only about 5-foot-7 - I stood face to face with him. This is an amazing book and well worth checking out. You can probably find it at Barnes and Noble in Midland in their Texas section if you want to have one of your own.

Something that I didn't know is that Japanese mini-sub took part in the attack on American forces at Pearl Harbor. "First Shot: Untold Story of the Japanese Minisubs That Attacked Pearl Harbor" (940.542 CRA J), written by John Craddock, states that had the USS Ward warned of the impending attack, the damage would have been much less. For you war history buffs, you will find this an interesting

book.

Geographers Lawrence E. Estaville and Richard A. Earl have compiled a vast amount of data that will visually convey important information on Texas' climate, surface and groundwater, water uses and hazard and future supply projections. Filled with more than 150 color maps, "Texas Water Atlas" (REF 553.709 EST L) is an engrossing volume. It is a reference book, so check with Johnny and he can locate it for you.

Here is the latest disaster book from Mike Cox: "Texas Disasters: True Stories of Tragedy and Survival" (976.4 COX M) can be checked out and you can read about both man-made and natural disasters.

It begins with the Lost Spanish Fleet in 1554 to the crash of Delta 191 in 1985 at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. Included is some information on Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and in the appendix, other major Texas disasters are noted.

Now for some fiction - it might be new and it might not be. In our large print sec-

tion, check out J.A. Jance's "Cruel Intent." Combine an on-line dating site and a television journalist and you will find murder.

I think I wrote of Elizabeth Noble last year. She was a luncheon speaker (along with Jenna Bush) at TLA in San Antonio. In "Things I Want My Daughters to Know," before Barbara Forbes (mother of four) succumbs to terminal cancer, she leaves words of wisdom for her four daughters in the form of letters to each of them. In the year following Barbara's death, her daughters draw strength from her words and from each other as they move forward with their lives. Though Barbara's life-is-short aphorisms are nothing new, her sharp wit and distinctive voice is a nice complement to the four nuanced stories of coping with death.

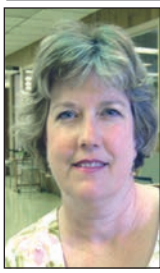
You've seen the movie, "Charlie Wilson's War", now read the book. Written by George Crile, "Charlie Wilson's War" (958.104 CRI G) is the story of an east Texas Congressman in the early 1980s who funnels money to the Afghani

mujahideen to help defeat the Soviet forces.

Finally, a nice historical romance to read in front of the fireplace - Phillipa Gregory's first full-blown first novel, "Wildacre" is a marvelously assured period piece, an English gothic with narrative verve. Beatrice Lacey loves nothing more than the family estate, Wideacre - not her bluff, hearty father, her weak brother, Harry, or her mother, who can't quite believe mounting evidence that damns her passionate daughter.

Foiled in her hunger to own the estate by the 18th century laws of entail, Beatrice plots her father's death, knowing she can twist brother Harry in any direction she chooses. Beatrice's increasing greed squeezes the land and its people dry, and the seeds of destruction she has sown come to their awful fruition. Gregory effortlessly breathes color and life into a tale of obsession built around a ruthless, fascinating woman.

*The Library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. The website is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us*



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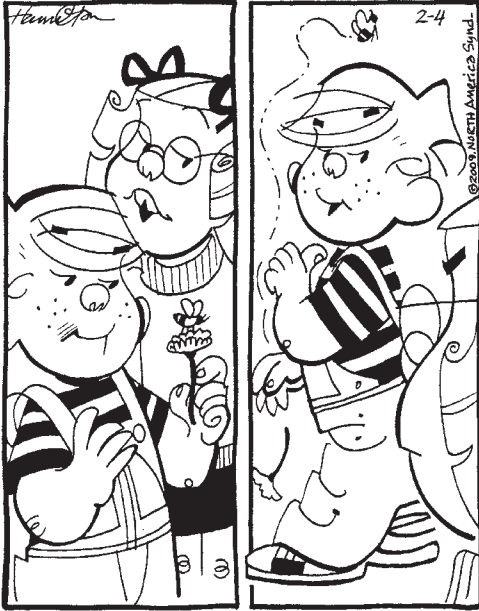
267-6335

Table with 29 columns (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLN, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN) and 13 rows (5:30 AM to 1:30 AM) listing various news and entertainment programs.

DENNIS THE MENACE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

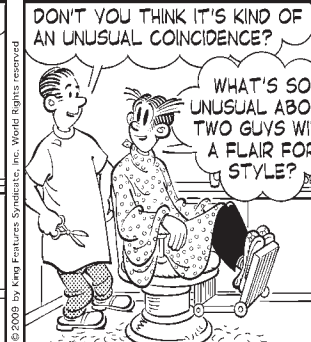
HAGAR



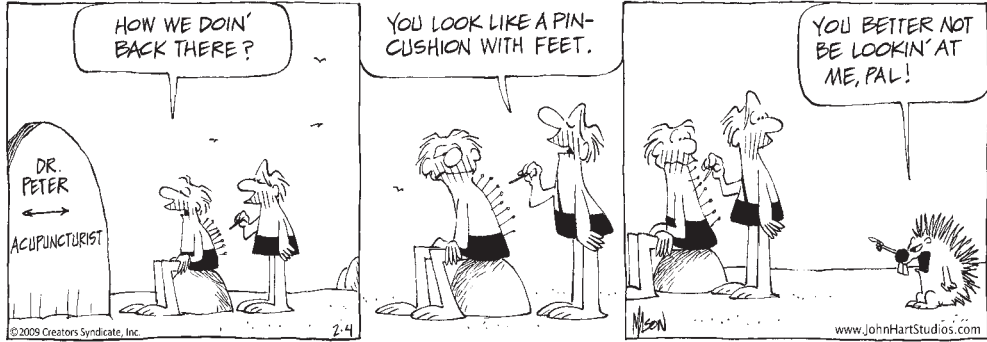
'YA WANT ME TO BE YOUR 'SURE! BUZZ OFF!' LITTLE HONEYBEE?'

"No, it's my PENCILmanship!"

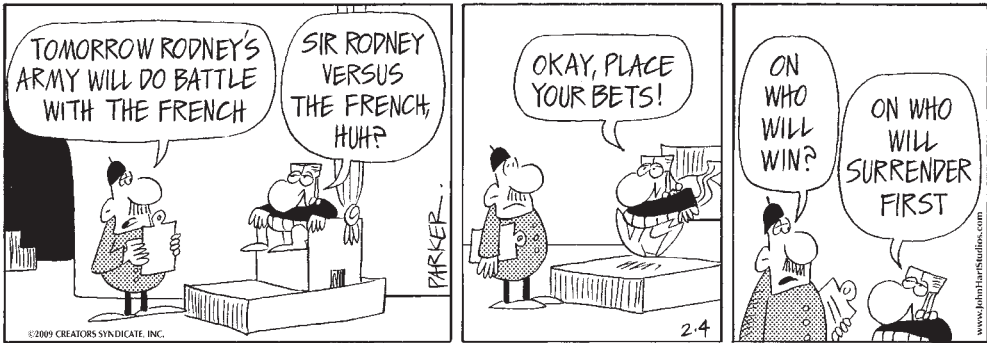
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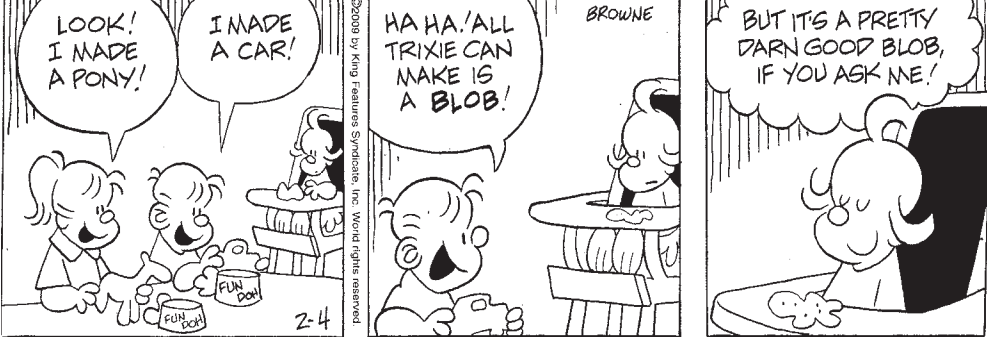
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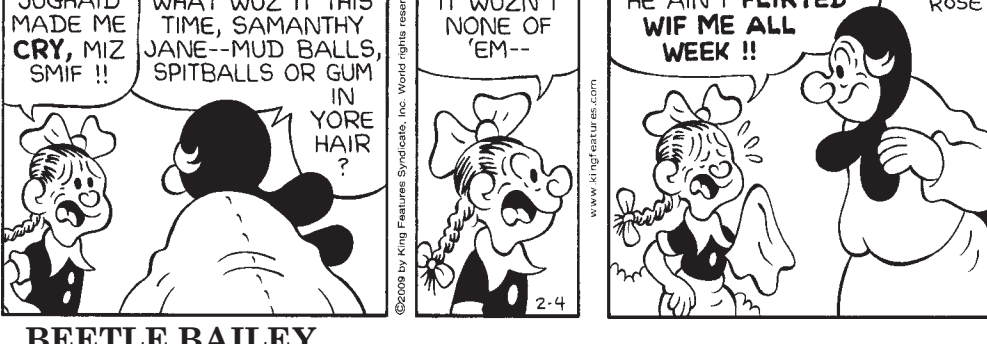
HI AND LOIS



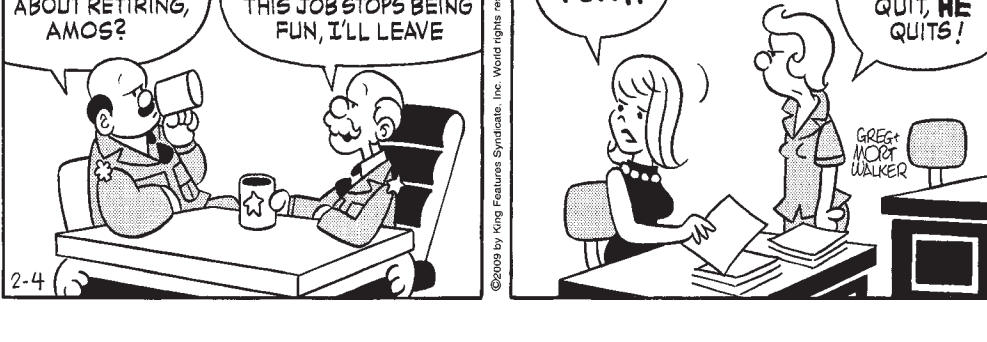
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 4, the 35th day of 2009. There are 330 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 4, 1789, electors chose George Washington to be the first president of the United States.

D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin began a wartime conference at Yalta. In 1948, the island nation of Ceylon - now Sri Lanka - became an independent dominion within the British Commonwealth.

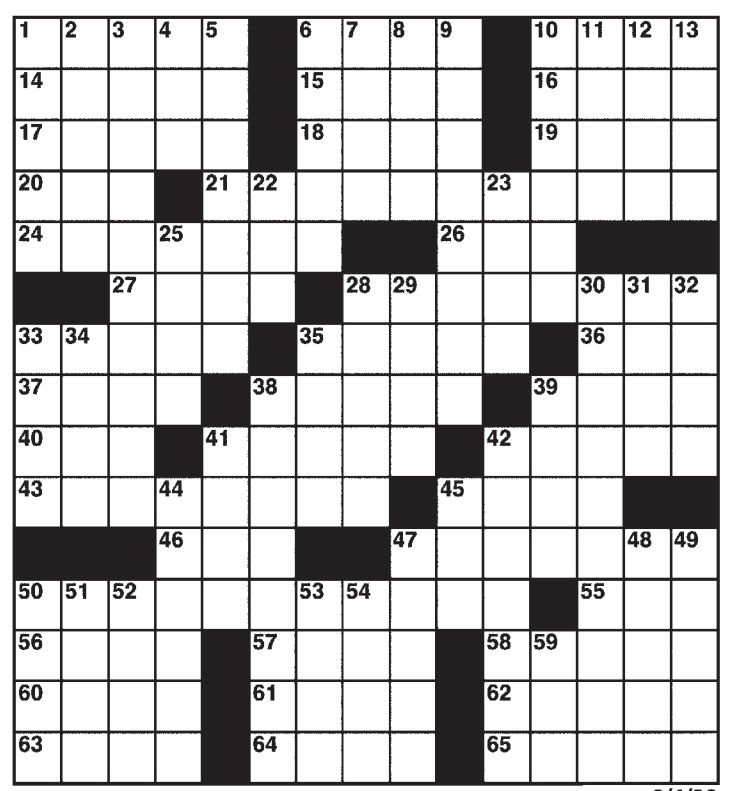
Taylor is 50. Rock singer Tim Booth is 49. Rock musician Henry Bogdan is 48. Country singer Clint Black is 47. Country musician Dave Buchanan (Yankee Grey) is 43. Actress Gabrielle Anwar is 39. Actor Rob Corddry is 38. Singer David Garza is 38. Actor Michael Gorjjan is 38. Rock musician Rick Burch (Jimmy Eat World) is 34. Singer Natalie Imbruglia is 34. Rapper Cam'ron is 33. Rock singer Gavin DeGraw is 32. Olympic gold medal gymnast-turned-singer Carly Patterson is 21.

Answer to previous puzzle
BAMAKO STANDARD
ADAGES TOMORROW
SHRANK UNIVERSE
MET TAFFETA EEL
ARIA REFRY NATL
TENTH LES FORTE
IDITAROD RINSED
ERIN FIRS
ADDSTO WEBSTERS
WROTE VAR TOPIC
KEGS FARMS PIPE
WAS DILLIES SEN
AMARILLO REDONE
REGISTER FEEDER
DRENCHED SPEEDY

Newsday Crossword

MAKING WAVES by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Kid-lit elephant 6 Sound of thunder 10 Whole bunch 14 Finish second 15 Diner freebie 16 California wine valley 17 Short messages 18 Verdi opera 19 Poet of ancient Rome 20 Seabee's org. 21 Pre-World Series excitement 24 Germ-free 26 Stocking's end 27 Tedious routines 28 Way of swaying 33 Check receiver 35 Short skirts 36 Chem room 37 Kept cold 38 Industry bigwig 39 Pencil puzzle 40 Epoch 41 Fizzle, with "out" 42 Golf pro's bane 43 Like steak knives 45 Warner 46 Mess up 47 Indicated a direction 50 Make identical 55 Suffix with schnozz





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Supplement To The Big Spring Herald  
February 4, 2009

# Your Chamber officers

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David Justice President-Elect  
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Lynda Elrod Past President  
Terri Johansen Business Development  
Justin Myers Community Development



Jan Foresyth Cultural Development  
Troy Thompkins Government Affairs  
Jan Hansen Membership Development

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Richard Wright 2007-2009  
Dave Foster 2008-2010  
Sherry Hodnett 2008-2010  
John Scott 2008-2010  
Scott MacKenzie 2008-2010



Casie Fillingim 2009-2011  
Howard Hornsby 2009-2011  
Sherri Key 2009-2011  
Rene Ruiz 2009-2011

## CHAMBER STAFF



Debbye ValVerde Executive Director



Nancy Newell Secretary



Vicki Stewart Information Specialist

## EX-OFFICIO



Cheri Sparks  
Debbie Wegman  
Mark Barr



Gloria McDonald  
Michael Stevens  
Randy Brown



Randy Johnson  
Terry Wegman  
Carla Gross

# Looking forward to a great year

First, I would like to thank all the past, present and future members of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce for the giving of their time and support. The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce has faced many challenges and won. It's great we have a common place to come together for the betterment of our community and all of its wonderful citizens.

It is a great honor to serve as your president this year and to follow in great footsteps of past leaders of the chamber. First, a special thanks to Lynda Elrod for her leadership in 2008. To the incoming 2009 Board and Executive Board for their time and commitment, Teri Johansen, Business Development vice president — co-chairs Lynda Elrod, Casie Fillingim, Carla Gross, Steve Herren, and John Scott; Justin Myers, Community Development vice president — co-chairs Sherry Hodnett, Scott MacKenize, Rene Ruiz, and



Richard Wright; Jan Foresyth, Cultural Development vice president — co-chairs Skip Burcham and Debbie Wegman; Troy Tompkins, Governmental Development — co-chairs David Justice, Judge Mark Barr, Dr. Cheri Sparks, Terry Wegman, ISD superintendents; Jan Hansen, Membership Development — co-chairs, David Foster,

Howard Hornsby, Sherri Key, Gloria McDonald. All of the above have a plan of work to better our commitment to not only our members but Big Spring and Howard County.

Your chamber works in many ways for you. We promote our local merchants and business members and provide support by promoting local sporting events, church activities and fundraisers.

We provide Business After and Before Hours, a time for host businesses to promote themselves and a chance for members to network with other members. Ribbon cuttings are another incentive for not only new chamber members, but for those members celebrating an anniversary, or a move to a new location. Our annual banquet is another way for members to promote themselves by decorating a table and being a part of an evening of fun and meeting other members and potential customers.

Other activities where members can promote themselves or show their

support are the Ag Expo, Health Fair, Leadership Big Spring, the State of the City Address Luncheon or being a member of the Ambassadors.

We promote the cultural development of our local talents such as the symphony, museums, art shows, cultural festivals and we always post all events on our Calendar of Events. The Calendar is open to the public to post upcoming community events so we ask that you let us know of your upcoming event by calling the Chamber office.

One upcoming event that we want to invite Howard County to take part in is Big Spring Area Day in Austin on March 25. The Chamber works close with Big Spring Economic

Development Corporation to make this, every other year event, a continued success.

Like any great organization, it is good to have a hard working and dedicated staff — Executive Director Debbye ValVerde, Executive Assistant Nancy Newell and Information Specialist Vicki Stewart.

There will be a lot of opportunities for you to get involved in Big Spring and Howard County, so let's get out and be a part of our community. It's our town, Invest in it!

Sincerely,  
**Steve Herren**  
Chamber board president

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# Serving local businesses since 1919

Having been in operation since 1919, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's mission statement is "to advance the civic, cultural and social betterment and interest of the people of Howard County."

Information about the city, various civic groups and businesses can be obtained at the office at 215 W. Third.

The Chamber currently boasts a membership of approximately 375 local businesses and groups, and with the help of its board of directors and many different committees, strives to improve the quality of life and business cli-

mate in the Big Spring area.

The staff consists of Debbye ValVerde, executive director, Nancy Newell, executive assistant and receptionist Vicki Stewart.

The Chamber of Commerce sponsors many different activities and events throughout the year, including the Business After Hours program, designed to bring local merchants together for socializing and networking at different locations.

Annually, the Chamber hosts a banquet designed to recognize its members for their hard work throughout the year, and presentation of



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan  
**Terri Blackshear, with scissors, is joined by family, friends and Chamber of Commerce representatives during ribbon-cutting ceremonies to celebrate the grand opening of T. Blackshear Interiors, 1801 Main St.**

the Man and Woman of the Year awards.

The Chamber also sponsors such events as the annual Pops 263-7641.

In The Park, Howard County Health Fair and the West Texas Ag Expo and Luncheon.

Leadership Big Spring, Junior Leadership and Senior Leadership are also sponsored and hosted through the Chamber of Commerce.

For information on Chamber activities or services, call



HERALD file photos  
At top left, Hayes Stripling, left, receives the Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year for 2007 award from 2006 honoree Jim Little. Above, Janice Bond, right, is escorted by her husband Lane as she receives the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year for 2007 award from 2006 honoree JoBeth Corwin during the chamber's annual banquet. Mrs. Bond passed away in 2008. At left, a ribbon cutting is held for United Way of Big Spring and Howard County, which moved into the building which also houses the Chamber of Commerce and Big Spring Economic Development Corporation.



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# What's your Chamber all about?

## What is a chamber of commerce?

Your chamber of commerce is a voluntary organization of citizens who are investing their time and money in a community development program — working together to improve the economic, civic, and cultural well-being of the area.

There are two primary functions of a chamber of commerce:

- 1) It acts as a spokesman for the business and professional community and translates into action the group thinking of its members; and
- 2) It renders specific services of a type that can be most effectively rendered by a community organization both to its members and the area.

## How does it function?

Your chamber functions through the working committees of the organization. Money, planning, inspiration and guidance are useless unless the members work vigorously on the committee of their choice.

The goal of the program is always to create more dollars for more people and to improve the economic welfare of the community.

Every member has a voice in determining the policies and projects and every member is needed to work on active committees to get the job done.

## Who is the chamber?



HERALD file photo  
**Meghan Bias, left, administrator of Hanger 25 Air Museum, visits with Howard College's Jan Forsyth during a Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Business After Hours event at the museum.**

Members — Businesses, organizations, professionals and individuals working together for the betterment of the community.

Board of directors — Elected by the membership, these individuals are charged with determining the policies which direct the affairs of the chamber.

Directors do not implement policy; they employ an administrator to carry out board decisions.

Officers — The executive committee ordinarily includes the president of the board, president elect, one or more vice presidents, treasurer and past president. The officers provide direction and leadership to the board.

Staff — The executive vice president is hired by the board to be responsible for the daily management of the chamber and for employing and managing the staff.

Committees — The organization's objectives are best achieved by small groups of the membership engaged in common effort.

## What are the benefits?

— Refers businesses to visitors and callers.

— Helps promote a business of the chamber.

— Maintains awareness of key issues at the local, state and federal level by coordinating with the Texas Chamber and U.S. Chamber.

— Provides businesses with education through seminars and increases awareness of the importance of buying locally.

— Hosts quarterly luncheons, Ag Expo and Health Fair to provide programs, business information and networking.

— Offers support and awareness of all areas of art.

— Works to increase growth of tourism in Howard County and support local attractions and events.

— Advertises businesses in the membership directory.

— Works with city, county, economic development and other entities for the betterment of the community.

— Publishes a monthly newsletter to keep the community aware of happenings.

— Offers promotion and links to business through a Web site.

## Membership investment

Membership investment for small businesses is \$250 per year with an additional \$30 processing fee the first year.

## For more information

The chamber office is located at 215 W. Third. Or you may contact Executive Director Debbye ValVerde at (432) 263-7641 or write P.O. Box 1319, Big Spring, TX 79721.

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HERALD file photo

Kathy Cathey, president of the Heritage Museum board, cuts the ribbon to celebrate the opening of the Gerald Marie Becham pavilion while Robert Haney, right, nephew of the donors of the pavilion, looks on. Also pictured are museum employees, family members of Lelland and Gerald Wallace and members of the Big Spring Ambassadors and Big Spring Chamber of Commerce.



HERALD file photos

During the chamber-sponsored Health Fair, Dimple the Clown makes balloon animals while Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray discusses fire safety. Of course, the fair includes blood pressure and other tests, screenings and the like, as well as informative information.

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