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Moving forward

VOLUME 104, NUMBER 68

A year after a devastating explosion, the Big Spring Refinery celebrates its 80th anniversary

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

On the one-year anniversary of a massive explosion that rocked the Big Spring Refinery, officials took the opportunity to

look both back and forward.

Officials with the refinery and its parent company, Alon USA, celebrated the refinery's 80th year of operation with a reception and

luncheon at the facility. But the day also served as a reminder of the explosion and fire that crippled the refinery exactly one year before.

It was shortly after 8 a.m. on Feb. 18, 2008, that a "cloud of gas" — as eyewitnesses described it — exploded, resulting in a massive fire that injured five people but, remarkably, killed no

While all parties involved rejoiced in the fact that no lives were lost, the economic aftershocks of the fire were undeniable. It has taken millions of dollars and untold man-hours of labor



At left, Jeff Morris, president and CEO of Alon USA, speaks during ceremonies marking the Big Spring Refinery's 80th anniversary Wednesday. Also shown are, from left, Joseph Israel, Alon USA's chief operating officer, Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen, Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks and Howard County Judge Mark Barr.

to get the refinery back up to near-optimal operating levels.

Jeff Morris, a former refinery manager who is now president and CEO of Alon USA, was just wrapping up a skiing trip to Utah with his family year ago.

"The first pictures I saw were on CNN," Morris said. "You can just imagine how I felt when I saw them."

Morris quickly arranged for a charter flight to Big Spring. Overflying when he learned of the explosion a the refinery served to calm his worst. See **REFINERY**, Page 3A

"Once I saw the plant, I knew we'd be OK, that we had something to work with," he said. "After that, it was just a matter of rolling up our sleeves and

Mayor mum on State of City Address ... for now

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Time is running out for area residents hoping to reserve a seat for the annual State of the City Address, as officials with the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and Big Spring Conventions and Visitors Bureau prepare for the Tuesday event.

With the serving line set to open at 11:30 a.m. at the Dora Roberts Community Center — featuring a choice of chick-

en fried steak or jambalaya, courtesy of Great Western Dining — the annual event is something Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen said he pre-

pares for year round. "The State of the City Address isn't something you can just pull together at the last minute," said McEwen. "For me, I basically work on it throughout the year. I'm always looking at what's going on and asking myself if it's something I need to discuss during the State of the City."

What: State of the City Address and luncheon.

Where: Dora Roberts Civic Center, 100 Whipkey Drive.

When: 11:30 a.m. Tuesdav.

Tickets: \$12 each, available at the Chamber

office, 215 W. Third

And while McEwen is more than willing to listen to what area residents have on their mind, the mayor is — as always — tight-lipped when it comes to the finer points of the address prior to the lun-

cheon. "You already know I'm not going to discuss the details right now," said McEwen with a hearty laugh. "However, I will tell you we're going to talk about last year's fire at the Big Spring Refinery, and all of the effort that has gone into getting the facility back up and running. We'll also discuss the ongoing bond projects in the city of Big Spring, and what the community is doing from a cooperative standpoint."

However, area residents who want the low-down on the mayor's address will have to wait until Tuesday, accord-

ing to McEwen. "The State of the City Address is always a special time, not just for me, but for the city," said McEwen. "However, if you want the details you'll simply need to be

See **ADDRESS**, Page 3A

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Poll shows public fears about troubled economy are growing

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — As the economy continues to struggle, the public is growing increasingly concerned about losing jobs, not having enough money to pay the bills and seeing their retirement accounts shrink, according to an Associated

Press-GfK poll.

Nearly half of those surveyed said they worry about becoming unemployed — almost double the percentage at this time last year.

The poll released Wednesday also found public support dipped slightly in the past month for the \$787 billion package of tax cuts and govern-

ment spending President Barack Obama signed into law this week on the promise that it will save or create 3.5 million jobs and re-ignite the economy.

"I lost a job myself," said Edd Winkler, 40, a married attorney and fa-

See **ECONOMY**, Page 3A

Jewelers

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(EYEGLASSES TOO)

Page 1B Thursday, February 19, 2009

HERALD SPORTS HONOR ROLL

Bridgette Tuitt BSHS freshman guard

For the first time since 2000, the Big Spring Lady Steers advanced to the Class 4A playoffs. Unfortunately, they ran into No. 7 Palo Duro in the first round and suffered a 75-33 loss, but not until they flashed some of the potential that has many believing the Lady Steers won't just squeek into the postseason next year.

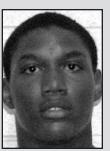
Tuitt was the Lady Steers' leading scorer Tuesday, posting 10 points. She scored seven in a second period that saw the Lady Steers play neck and neck with Palo Duro.

She also had 12 points against Lake View Friday to help the Lady Steers get into the playoffs, despite leaving the game early.

Xavian Parnell

BSHS junior forward

Parnell has been a spark off the bench for the Big Spring Steers this season on the hard-



Parnell

play that role Tuesday as he scored a season-high 12 points in a 61-59 victory over Plainview. The Steers

wood and

continued to

clinched the third seed

Blackshear

out of District 4-4A with the

Miesha Blackshear

Howard sophomore guard Something about playing

College brings out the best of Blackshear. The sophomore guard

Odessa

scored a game- and season-high 22 points in a 69-59 over-

time loss

Monday. Blackshear also led the Hawks with 11 rebounds and seven assists.

She hit a jumper in the lane with five seconds left in regulation, sending the game into overtime.

Kylie Gee

Coahoma junior post While the Coahoma Bulldogettes basketball season ended more than a week ago, Gee's performance throughout the year was more than note-

The junior post, who led Coahoma in scoring more times than not this season, wrapped up her stellar year on the hardwood by leading the Bulldogettes with 17 points in a 56-50 win over Grape Creek Feb. 10.

Rachel Fleckenstein

Stanton Lady Buffs basketball Fleckenstein has been instrumental in the Lady Buffs late season surge.

First, she scored 15 points Feb. 10 in a win over Forsan that clinched a share of the

District 7-A title for Stanton. Then Tuesday, she led the Lady Buffs with 22 points in a

bi-district playoff win over Van Horn.

Worth noting:

Howard College's Vladimir Gavranic scored just four points in Howard's 40-39 win over Odessa Monday, but his final bucket turned out to be the game winner as he put back in an offensive rebound with seven seconds left to play.

Forsan girls start playoff run against No. 11 Tahoka

Herald Staff Report

FORSAN — One of the misconceptions in the lower classification state basketball playoff brackets comes from who receives byes and who doesn't. It doesn't always indicate who the better team is.

The Forsan Lady Buffaloes received a by after being given the No. 1 seed out of District 7-A via a coin toss.

Their opponent in Friday's Class A, Region I area matchup, Tahoka, had to play in the first round and put together a dominant performance in a 57-17 victory over Springlake-Earth. The two squads meet at 8 p.m. Friday in Andrews.

Tahoka (26-4) — ranked 11th in the state — came up on the wrong end of a coin toss and ended up being District 6-A's second seed, while No. 12 Smyer won the rights to a first-round bye.

Now, the Lady Buffs (21-8) come across their most vaunted opponent since playing Roscoe — ranked 14th — in a pre-district tournament.

Forsan is coming off one of its weaker offensive performances of the season in a 38-33 loss to Stanton to wrap up regular season play. The loss left the Lady Buffs in a three-way tie atop the district with Stanton and McCamey.

Tahoka had just one loss in its district, coming at the hands of Smyer. The Lady Bulldogs did split the season series with

See **PLAYOFFS**, Page 2B

Local basketball playoff schedule

Friday

(Girls basketball)

Forsan vs. Tahoka, 8 p.m. in Andrews. Stanton vs. Smyer, 6 p.m. in

Denver City. Garden City vs. Paducah, 6:30

p.m. in Post.

Sands vs. Knox City, 6:30 p.m. in Slaton.

Tuesday

(Boys basketball)

Big Spring vs. Canyon Randall, to be announced.

Sands vs. Robert Lee, 7 p.m. in Snyder.

Stanton vs. Wink, 7 p.m. in Andrews.

FHS softball looks for another deep run

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

FORSAN Expectations are high for the 2009 version of Forsan Lady the Buffaloes softball team.

Of course, it helps that the better part of this team has been together for the past two seasons and have experienced deep postseason runs each year. Last year, the Lady

Buffs were ousted in the regional quarterfinals by the Marfa Lady Shorthorns in a drabest-of-three matic series that had two games go into extra innings.

In 2007, the Lady Buffs were regional semifinalists before losing to eventual Region I champion Seymour.

Forsan Head Coach Shanna Roberts hopes the experience finally pays off for this team in the district and in the postseason.

"We should be quite a bit better. We lost one player from last year's team and we have some freshmen coming in with good experience," said Roberts. "I expect a good run into the playoffs. Our region has changed. It'll be a battle plus Marfa is still

"Our chances of coming in first in the district is pretty good," she continued. "All of our returning starters gives us an advantage. A lot of other teams in our league lost some key players. I'm hoping experience is going to carry us." The Lady Buffs will

get a bit of a slow start due to five players — Shelby and Kelsey Jones, Amanda Longorio, Miranda Park and Sandi Golleher — still playbasketball. ing However, Roberts is hoping some freshmen will be able to step up and fill some roles.

One of the newcomers she's anxious to see is Ashlev Buzbee, who Roberts hopes can be a force in the pitcher's circle this season. She's also excited about Amber Hill, who she believes is ready to start immediately.

"Having five kids still playing basketball puts us back a little, but I don't think it will be much," Roberts. "I definitely want them to keep winning in the playoffs. Those girls have been out practicing, so I'm just hoping they can come in and be ready to go right away. Our district starts a lot sooner this season than it has in the past. Really, the only pre-district games

See SOFTBALL, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Forsan Lady Buffaloes hurler Alyx Pappajohn pitches in action from Feb. 22, 2008 at a softball tournament in Midland. The Lady Buffs open the 2009 softball season today at a tournament in Abilene with high expectations for another deep playoff run.

BSHS netters have strong showing in SA

Herald Sports Staff

February might still be classified as winter, but the high spring tennis season is already in full swing.

The Big Spring High School tennis team took part in the San Angelo Invitational Friday and for the fourth tournament in a row, the Steers mixed doubles teams found its way into the finals.

In both the A and B division, Big Spring was represented in the finals of the bracket. Keely Parnell and C.J. Burleson won the B division, while Brittany Farmer and Jeremy Langford came up just short in the A division, settling for second as they fell to Snyder's Dustin Haire and Victoria Belman. In boys singles, Matt Garza claimed

the top prize in the B division with Mikael Gonzalez finishing third in the A bracket.

Brionna Palmer, who usually plays girls doubles with partner Shayla

See TENNIS, Page 2B



AP photo/LM Otero

Dallas Mavericks guard Jason Kidd (2) drives against New Jersey Nets guard Devin Harris (34) during the third quarter of an NBA game in Dallas. The Mavs won, 113-92.

Mavs blast Nets

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — If he had it do all over again, Mark Cuban would still swap Devin Harris for Jason Kidd.

Kidd's performance against Harris Wednesday night showed why.

A month shy of his birthday, but refreshed from an All-Star break vacation on a beach in Mexico, Kidd had 23 points and 10 assists to lead the Dallas Mavericks to a 113-98

See MAVS, Page 2B

Obituaries

James Robert Teeler



On Feb. 12, 2009, our God in Heaven took James Robert Teeler home to be one of his angels.

James was born Sept. 7, 1954, in Austin to Donie Lee and Roy Levi Teeler. He had lived in El Paso as a small child before moving to Big Spring in the early 1960s.

James attended Airport Elementary School until the family moved into the Coahoma School District

where he went to school through his graduation in May 1973. After graduation, he attended Ryder Technical Schools in Dallas where he learned diesel mechanics. James then moved to Odessa where he worked for Shorty Hall Rig Company before enlisting into the Army in 1975. While serving his country, he received his Ranger tab along with several commendations before being honorably discharged in May 1979. James then moved back to Big Spring and worked for Eason Brothers Garage before going to the oilfield as a roustabout with Basin Construction. He worked there until the summer of 1980.

In the fall of 1980, James attended Howard College during the day and worked at Fiberglass Systems at night. During this time, James married his high school "Buddy," Rose Marie Thixton, on Nov. 1, 1980. James then went to work for Sayers Operating Company until spring, 1987, as a roustabout while still attending college at night. He received his associates degree in applied science in May 1984.

In July 1987, James began his bureau career as a correctional officer at the Federal Prison Camp in Big Spring. He was also a firearms instructor for approximately 13 years. He received several promotions and numerous awards before retiring in July 2007 as an engineering technician. James coached Crossroads Football, Little League Baseball and United Girls Softball teams. He was a very successful coach. The young people James coached learned more than just the game — they learned about friendship and teamwork.

James is survived by his spouse of 28 years, Rose Marie Teeler; a son, Cody Teeler and his wife Lindy of Buda; a daughter, Elisha Marie Teeler and her fiancée Jeremy Black of Fort Worth; his father, Marvin "Bobby" Patterson of Big Spring; a brother, Roy Levi Teeler; a half brother, Bobby Downey; a very special family friend, Alathia Gill of the Netherlands; and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and many, many friends.

James was preceded in death by his step-brother, Ricky Wayne Patterson; and his mother, Donie Lee Patterson in 1997.

James was a wonderful husband, father and great mentor. He was loved by so many. He loved his country, his family and friends very much. Being together was the "Team Teeler" motto. The Teeler home was always open to friends and new staff coming to FPC/FCI Big Spring. Barbeques were the norm. He will surely be missed.

There will be a memorial service at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009, at Life Church, located at the old Runnels Junior High, 102 E. 10th St.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, 1332 N. Halsted St. Suite 201, Chicago, IL 60642-2642.

WE LOVE YOU DADDY!

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

Paid obituary

Judy Puga



Judy Puga, 63, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Joe Torres officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

She was born April 6, 1945, in Pawnee City, Neb., and married John Lee Puga Dec. 24, 1962, in El Paso.

She came to the Lomax Community in 1963 from El Paso. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include her husband, John Puga of Big Spring; two sons, Johnny R. Puga Jr. of Houston and Rod Puga of Big Spring; two daughters, Melissa Puga and Pammy Puga, both of Big Spring; two sisters, Jean Krantz and Georgelyn Mahon, both of Aurora, Neb.; and 10 grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Rodrick Bense.

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

Tresia Mae Denton

Tresia Mae Denton, formerly of Big Spring, died Feb. 16, 2009, in the Odyssey Hospice Healthcare Facility in Fort Worth.

Graveside services will be held in Royse City Cemetery in Royse City at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, 2009, under the direction of Rentfrow Funeral Home.

Mrs. Denton was born Dec. 14, 1944, in Big Spring returning to Floydada. to Frank and Bertha Nowlan Stiener.

She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her husband, Lee Denton of Big Spring; mother, Bertha Matthies of Jacksboro; daughters Tammie Jackman of Abilene and Kelley Williams of Lucas; brother, Robert (Bob) Steiner of Runaway Bay; five grandchildren; and one greatgrandchild.

She was preceded in death by her father; a sister, Velma; and a daughter, Cindy.

Larry Myrick

Larry "Reggie" Myrick, 71, of Stanton, died Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009, in a Big Spring nursing home. His services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

Your Local Weather 72/38 Partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the mid 50s and Mostly sunny skies. High 72F. Winds SSW Plenty of sun. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in at 20 to 30 mph. lows in the upper 20s.

Frances Puckett Shepperd



FLOYDADA - Frances Puckett Shepperd, age 78, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009, at the Floydada Rehab and Care Center. A celebration of her life will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, Feb. 20, 2009, at the First United Methodist Church in Floydada with her sons-in-law, Rance Young and Mike Brock, officiating. The family will receive guests during visitation immedi-

ately follow the service in the fellowship hall. Services are held under the direction of Moore-Rose Funeral Home in Floydada.

Frances Bigony was born Sept. 6, 1930, in Big Spring to Dorsey and Bessie (McClanahan) Bigony. She married Sam Puckett Feb. 2, 1951. To this union the Puckett's were blessed with four children, Steven, Sarah, Nancy and Tracey.

She later married Cliff Shepperd of Lubbock in 1996, who passed away in 1998.

Frances attended McMurry University and graduated from the University of North Texas with a teaching degree. She served her community for many years as a high school English teacher at Floydada High School. Frances was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Floydada. She lived in Ruidoso, N.M., for several years before

Frances was a loving mother and grandmother, a favored teacher and a dear friend to many.

She is survived by her son, Steven Puckett and wife Toni of Lubbock; her daughters, Sarah Sanders and husband Brent of Floydada, Nancy Young and husband Rance of Silverton and Tracey Brock and husband Mike of Cedar Park; her brother, Weldon Bigony of Waco; her sisters, Reta Spradling of Big Spring, Myra Pierson of Lubbock and Mary Cherry of Carmel, Indiana; 12 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorial donations be made in Frances' name to the Floydada Rehab and Care Center, 925 W. Crockett St, Floydada 79235

Paid obituary

Support

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

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Contact the Herald at 263-7331







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Panthers' Peppers includes Cowboys on short list

Peppers still wants out of Carolina, but he'll only agree to be traded to four teams, further complicating the Panthers' efforts to get compensation for the four-time Pro Bowl defensive

On the eve of the deadline to place the franchise tag on Peppers, a person close to the player said Wednesday that the impending free agent wants to play for Dallas or three other unnamed teams, two of them in the NFC.

The person, speaking on condition

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Julius of anonymity because the list wasn't supposed to be made public, said Peppers wouldn't agree on a trade to any other team, which would limit the Panthers since Peppers would likely have to sign a new contract with that new team before a trade could be executed.

> Carolina would likely seek a firstround draft pick and other compensation for their all-time sacks leader, who announced last month that he wanted to leave after seven seasons. The Cowboys don't have a first-round pick this year. The Panthers would

also likely prefer Peppers not play for a fellow NFC team.

Panthers general manager Marty Hurney declined comment.

The news provides another twist in an important — and perhaps very costly — week for the Panthers, who are also trying to hammer out a new contract with Pro Bowl left tackle Jordan Gross. That deal could cost Carolina around \$9 million a year.

It was thought that if the Panthers could sign Gross before Thursday afternoon, they would slap the franchise tag on Peppers. That would

mean offering a one-year deal worth \$16.7 million, and no other team could sign Peppers without giving up two first-round picks.

Peppers, who had a career-high $14\frac{1}{2}$ sacks last season, turned down a contract offer from Carolina last year that would have made him one of the highest-paid defensive players in the NFL. Interested in playing in a 3-4 scheme instead of Carolina's 4-3 defense, Peppers wouldn't say last week if he would hold out of if the Panthers place the franchise tag on him and then don't trade him.

MAVS

Continued from Page 1B

victory over Harris and the New Jersey Nets on the eve of the first anniversary of the big trade.

Kidd surprised his former mates by nailing three 3-pointers and scoring 12 points in the first quarter. He was even better in the third period, scoring 11 points while piloting a 40-point outburst, Dallas' best of the season, to turn a close game into a rout.

Antoine Wright continued to show he was more than just a throw-in on the deal by scoring 20 points, including 13 in the third. With Josh Howard scoring 24, and Dirk Nowitzki adding 23, the Mavs had four starters hit 20 points. Erick Dampier added 10, putting them all in double figures — yet another testament to Kidd's leadership.

"Tonight, he gave it to us from start to finish and had a great floor game," coach Rick Carlisle said. "He was just tremendous at both ends."

The Mavs were struggling a few

weeks ago, but they're starting to surge. And Kidd is a major reason for it. Dallas is 7-2 since Carlisle let him start running the offense.

"We've put ourselves in position that if we make a run, we can get a high seed," Kidd said.

New Jersey lost its fourth straight, all by at least 15 points, and Harris looked nothing like the guy who scored 41 points in a 24-point victory over the Mavs earlier this season.

A few days removed from his first All-Star appearance — a nod that revved up questions about whether Dallas gave up too soon on the youngster — Harris went more than 20 minutes before scoring. He finished with 18 points, but made only five of 18 shots. He also got the worst of consecutive run-ins with Kidd in the pivotal third quarter, first getting landed on while on defense, then dribbling up the court and having Kidd snatch the ball away while trying to drive by him.

"Obviously they remembered what happened in New Jersey," Harris said. "They came out with more energy. The first two quarters, we were with them stride for stride, but the

third quarter is what's done us in all season. Scoring 15, giving up 40, that's a tough stretch to come back from."

Vince Carter started 6-of-8, but missed his last 10 shots, failing to score in the second half. He finished with 15 points on 7-of-21 shooting, mostly while being covered by Wright.

Brook Lopez had 16 points for the Nets. Jarvis Hayes scored 15 on 6-of-6 shooting, and Keyon Dooling scored

Trenton Hassell, who also was part

of the trade, started for New Jersey but didn't score in 20 minutes, taking Kidd didn't reflect much on the

ested in the 29 games left in Dallas' Harris boiled it down as an even swap, saying, "J-Kidd is a Hall of

anniversary, saying he's more inter-

Famer, I'm up and coming." "I had a great time in Dallas, we

won a lot of games, I made a lot of friends, but I'm in a different part of my life," Harris added. Wright was happy to talk about it,

saying he was looking forward to the game because he missed the previous meeting this season.

"It was something I thought about over the (All-Star) break," he said.

Wright also has been thinking about his new role on the team. After going from starts to DNPs early on, he's emerged from a pack of players used as the starting shooting guard.

His scoring is needed more than ever now that Jason Terry — the team's second-leading scorer at 19.9 points per game — is out with a broken hand.

Wright scored 23 points two games before, in the first game Terry missed. This outing shows that was no fluke.

"The one thing I've told Toine is, being here, you're going to get a lot of wide-open shots," Kidd said. "He's knocking down those corner 3s because he's put in the work."

Notes: The Mavericks have won the last nine straight against the Nets in Dallas. ... How surprising was Kidd's 12-point quarter? He's scored less than that in 39 of 52 previous games this season. ... Nowitzki had 16 points in the second quarter, tying the most by a Dallas player this season. Howard, Terry and J.J. Barea also have done it.

su do ku

Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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



By Steve Becker

Never Relax

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable NORTH **↑** K 4 **♥** A 7 6 2 ♣K 10 5 3 WEST **EAST** ♥K 10 4 3 ♦ O 10 6 SOUTH ↑AQ86532 ▼— The bidding: East North South West 2 **♠** 3 **♠** 6 **♠** 2 NT Pass Pass

Pass Opening lead - queen of hearts. There are many hands where, at the outset, the contract seems very easy to make. But one of the marks of a top-notch declarer is that he asks himself, even in apparently "cut-and-dried" cases, whether anything can

possibly go wrong.

Consider this deal where declarer won the opening heart lead with the ace, discarding a club. He then cashed the king of spades, discovering that he had to lose a trump trick.

South still had a chance to avoid a diamond loser if the opposing clubs were divided 3-3, in which case he

could eventually discard a diamond on dummy's fourth club. So after drawing two more rounds of trumps he cashed the A-K of clubs and ruffed a club. But when the suit failed to divide evenly, he could not avoid losing a diamond and a spade for down one.

However, declarer should have made the slam. The fault lay in his play to the very first trick, when he failed to make provision for a 4-0 trump split.

As a safety measure, he should have ruffed the opening heart lead in his hand, since there was no need to take the ace before testing the trump situation. When a spade to the king then reveals the bad trump break, South can embark on a plan to try to score all of the trumps in his hand. He begins by cashing the ace of

hearts, discarding a club, then ruffs a heart. Next the A-K of clubs are taken and dummy's last heart is ruffed. Finally, the A-K of diamonds are played and a club is led from

At this point, East has the J-10-9 of trumps and queen of diamonds while South has the A-Q-8 of spades and seven of diamonds. If East discards his diamond, South ruffs low and loses only a diamond. If East trumps the club instead, declarer sheds his losing diamond. Either way, the slam is made as one of East's two "sure" tricks simply van-

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz. ©2009 King Features Syndicate Inc

TENNIS

Continued from Page 1B

Drake, but was placed into singles action at the tournament due to Drake being sick, brought home silver for Big Spring, finishing second in the B

In the girls doubles A bracket, Kristina Chang

and Alyssa Byrd teamed for a a third-place finish, while Jonathan Womack and Jonathan Ray placed fifth in the boys doubles A division.

In junior varsity action at Lake View Feb. 10,

Reba Smith fell in the semifinals of the girls singles bracket. Anna Scott and Seth Yarbar placed second in the mixed doubles and, in boys singles, Todd Takeda fell in the semifinals, while Tyler McKinley won the consolation bracket.

The Steers will participate in the Sweetwater Varsity Tournament Friday.

PLAYOFFS

Continued from Page 1B

Smyer, though, which is what forced the coin toss to decide seeding.

Tahoka showed why it's ranked in the top 20 Tuesday. The Lady Bulldogs played nearly flawless defense in the opening period against Springlake-Earth, allowing just one field goal.

They followed the strong opening period by clamping down even tighter on defense, shutting out their opponent in the second period and giving up just two points in the third for a 41-9 lead heading into the final stanza.

Tahoka could find it more difficult to shut down Forsan with Amanda Longorio managing the post. Longorio averages more than 17 points and eight rebounds a game. She's complemented by several solid perimeter shooters, including Tori Gauer, Shelby McDonald and Faith Belew.

The victor of this game will play the winner between McCamey and No. 3 Sudan.

Stanton vs. No. 12 Smyer 6 p.m. Friday in Denver City

STANTON — There might not be a hotter girls basketball team in the Crossroads area than the Stanton Lady Buffaloes right now.

The Lady Buffs (16-14) got off to a slow start to their season, but has since won five of their last seven games, earning a share of a District 7-A title with Forsan and McCamey and winning their bidistrict playoff game in impressive fashion -63-24over Van Horn Tuesday.

The Lady Buffs now face their most highly ranked opponent this season, when they take on the Smyer Lady Bobcats at 6 p.m. Friday in Denver City.

Smyer (28-3) received a first-round bye after winning a coin flip with Tahoka after both squads finished 9-1 and tied atop District 5-A.

The Lady Cats are led by freshman post Haley

Fowler, who is averaging 27.4 points and 8.5 rebounds a game. Stanton has relied on the play of Rachel Fleckenstein down the stretch of the season.

Fleckenstein had 15 points in the regular season

finale against Forsan and then blasted Van Horn for 22 points in Tuesday's bi-district win. The victor will play either Sundown or Wink.

Garden City vs. Paducah 6:30 p.m. in Post

GARDEN CITY — Garden City's Lady Bearkats begin postseason play ranked No. 10 in the state and prepared to make a deep playoff run.

They're led by cousins Morgan and Macy Schwartz, who have each been dominant in District 10-IIA play. The Lady Bearkats have won 10 straight.

Garden City (27-3) faces Paducah's Lady Dragons in a Class A, Division II area playoff game at 6:30 p.m. Friday in Post. Paducah edged Crowell 45-42 in a bi-district contest Tuesday.

If the Lady Bearkats win, they'll play the victor between Borden County and Benjamin in the regional quarterfinals Tuesday.

Sands vs. Knox City 6:30 p.m. in Slaton

ACKERLY — Sands' Lady Mustangs earned a first-round bye on a technicality, but look to take advantage of their fortune in an area playoff game against Knox City at 6:30 p.m. Friday in Slaton. Knox City defeated Turkey Valley, 53-48, in the bidistrict round.

Sands (18-11) relies on Brittni Blagrave offensively, who leads the Lady Mustangs with 18.9 points and 7.6 rebounds a game. Ashli Stockton compliments Blagrave with 10.1 points and 3.3 assists per game.

The winner of this game moves on to face either Water Valey for No. 5 Guthrie.

SOFTBALL

Continued from Page 1B

we have are going to be in tournaments, which

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means these girls might miss five or six games each weekend they're not out here. We'll have to have some players step up and contribute until those players join us."

The Lady Buffs start their season today at a tournament in Abilene that will last over the weekend, then Forsan plays its first home game Monday, playing host to Colorado City at 4:30 p.m. District play for the Lady Buffs gets under way March 10 with a home game against Eden.

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

Call 263-7331, ext. 237, to submit a sports item or brief.

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- HARASSMENT was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore and the 400 block of Fourth.
- THEFT was reported in the 700 block of Lancaster and the 800 block of Third.
- ASHLEY LUNA, 23, Houston, was arrested on four local warrants.
- ANASTASIA LOZANO, 22, 507 W. Sixth, was arrested on seven local warrants.
- DAVID WITTREIN, 29, 538 Westover No. 201, was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- BRANDI MAYO, 25, 1801 State, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- ANGEL LAREZ, 27, 507 N. Main, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- DANNY DELEON, 29, 703 E. 13th, was arrested on two local warrants and a charge of possession of
- MOISES TORRES, 39, 1312 Virginia, was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- DAVID PETERSON, 33, 1502B Sycamore, was arrested on an out of county warrant.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity (note: there were 51 prisoners in the Howard County Jail):

- FRANK RAY SIMPSON, 36, was arrested by deputies on an Attorney General's motion for for enforcement for failure to appear.
- ISMAEL JUAREZ JR., 48, was arrested by depu- 1,000 full-and-part-time ties on a parole violation warrant.
- KYLE LEE BROWNFIELD, 18, was arrested by deputies on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana.
- AUSTIN TERRENCE SMITH, 25, was arrested by deputies on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity:

- PUBLIC SERVICE was reported in the 2900 block of W. Seventh.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2700 block of Hernandez Road. One person was transported to
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2300 block of Gregg. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Rickabaugh. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC..

a fish fry Saturday at 3203 W. Highway

80. Delivery will be from 11 a.m. until

1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Dine in

from noon to 3 p.m. Carry-outs will be

• Due to the recent migration of bats

at the Sacred Heart Church building,

mass is being moved to Immaculate

Heart of Mary on Hearn Street until

further notice. These include 3:30

p.m. confessions, the 5 p.m. mass and

the 11:30 a.m. mass. The celebration

for Msgr. Gully is still scheduled for

12:45 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Youth

available.

Center.

Take note

• American Legion Post 506 will hold school, all classes reunion Saturday,

ECONOMY

Continued from Page 1A

ther of two in Grand Rapids, Mich. "There were just too many attorneys for the amount of work we had coming in to the firm at that time." Winkler has opened his own practice, and says most of his work involves bankruptcies.

"I know a lot of other people who have lost jobs," he added.

Mariann Lewis, 55, of Stewartstown, Pa., says she was laid off this month from her job in a grocery store's deli department.

"It's pretty sad when a food store lays people off," said Lewis, who is married. "It's not like people are going to stop

Lewis said she didn't work there long enough

buying food."

to qualify for unemployment, and her family has begun using credit cards to pay for expenses, including a relative's funeral. "We went through all of our savings," she said.

Winkler and Lewis are among those who are worried increasingly about their personal economic circumstances, according to the poll.

Nearly half of those questioned, 47 percent, worry at least somewhat about losing a job, up from 28 percent in February 2008. Nearly threefourths, or 71 percent, say they know someone — a friend or a relative — who has lost a job in the past six months because of the economy.

Fear of being thrown out of work is so widespread that equal percentages of higher- and lower-income workers, 47 percent, worry about losing their jobs. Last year, only 20 percent of those earning \$50,000 or more annually worried about joblessness, as did 35 percent of those earning less than that.

Nearly two-thirds of people, 65 percent, are at least somewhat worried about paying their bills, up from 46 percent last year.

More than two-thirds, 69 percent, worry that the value of their stocks and retirement investments will drop.

More than half, 53 percent, aren't confident they'll have enough money to live comfortably in retirement.

crude oil a day, which is close to record production levels.

Looking back on the refinery's 80th anniversary, Morris said its future mission will be the same as always.

"We're going to keep doing what we've done for 80 years — we're going to process crude oil produced in West Texas and convert it into fuel for West Texans," he said. "Producing the diesel fuel used at oil rigs, diesel fuel used by farmers, gasoline that West Texans use for going to and from work and school ... that's what this refinery has done for 80 years and that's what it's going to continue to do."

ADDRESS

Continued from Page 1A

there."

The address is being sponsored by the Big Spring Conventions and Visitors Bureau and the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

Tickets for the luncheon at \$12 per person and can be purchased at the Big Spring Chamber office, located at 215 W. Third St. The deadline to purchase tickets is Friday.

For more information, contact the local Chamber at (432) 263-7641.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288 James Robert Teeler, 54. died Thursday. Memorial Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Life Church. Juan Martinez Gonzales,

died Thursday Memorial Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Thomas Catholic Church. Benita Marquez, 78, died Monday. Funeral Mass

was at 11 a.m. Thursday at Thomas Catholic Church with burial at Mt.

Dragon China Buffet 1300 Gregg 268-8888

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REFINERY

Continued from Page 1A

getting to work."

That work involved arranging for more than workers to help with the reconstruction and millions of dollars in costs. Morris declined to say how much the company has spent on reconstruction, but admitted the price tag was more than he anticipated a year

"We had to put together a workforce of 1,500 people almost immediately out in the middle of West Texas," he said. "It wasn't easy, but we were able to do that."

Regardless of cost, however, he expressed satisfaction at the pace of reconstruction.

"I was confident we'd get rebuilt in six or seven months and we did,' he said. "I was confident the community would support us and they

Aug. 1 at the Coahoma school building

Individual classes are encouraged to

plan their class get-togethers Friday

night or Saturday night. This year's

reunion theme will highlight sports

and former coaches Bernie Hagins

and Norman Roberts will be honored,

along with all former athletes and

coaches at Coahoma ISD. Funds will

beraised for the Coahoma Scholarship

Fund as well. The Coahoma Alumni

Association is trying to update its

e-mail and mailing address lists and

asks that you contact Patti Meets at

pmeeks@basin-net.net or (432) 267-

6688 with updates. More information

will be shared as the reunion planning

did."

That support, ranging from free food to money to help foot the rebuilding bill, was overwhelming, Morris noted.

"I guess that if I was surprised by anything, it was the level of support we received from the community." said. "There was a period of about four or five months when we never had to buy a meal for our employees. Individuals, clubs and organizations were constantly providing our people with free meals, cookies and snacks."

Organizations even wrote checks to help with the reconstruction effort. Morris said the company in turn donated those checks to local charities.

Although some work remains to be done on various units within the refinery, operations are at or near pre-explosion levels. Morris said the facility is currently processing 65,000 barrels of

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The Family of Lynn L. "Bill" Howard would like to thank everyone for their prayers, flowers, food and donations. A special thanks to Home Hospice and the loving professional staff during this difficult time. God Bless You,





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ENCOURAGING WORD



President's Day is great in theory but confusing in practice. I fail to see the connection between honoring George Washington and cutting the prices of furniture. I do not understand how reducing the cost of a shirt and tie reflects appreciation for Abraham Lincoln.

In a similar way, I wonder about efforts to honor the "King of Kings and Lord of Lords." In Matthew 16:18, Jesus spoke of building His church - how is He honored when church is named for someone else? In Galatians 3:27, people were baptized into Christ - how is Christ honored when people are baptized into a denomination?

What about you? Are you honoring the Lord Jesus Christ? "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord' and not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

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Cemetery Lots

2 CEMETERY plots in Trinity Memorial Park for sale. Call Linda Kiser at 903-399-2766 or 903-687-3164.

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Editorial

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

> **Ron Midkiff** Publisher

John A. Moseley Managing Editor

Bill McClellan News Editor

Our View

Get out and do your 'duty' in Run for Fallen

aturday will be the day local residents get out and take part the first Run for the Fallen held here in Big Spring. Not surprisingly, It's something the wife of a local soldier killed in Iraq is hoping to turn into a annual event and that's something almost all of us can make hap-

The Run for the Fallen will honor a trio of 101st Airborne Division soldiers who lost their lives approximately a year ago including Sgt. Conrad Alvarez, 22, the son of a Big Spring woman.

Alvarez and the two other soldiers being honored — Cpl. Albert Britton of Chicago and Spec. Michael Matlock of Glen Burnie, Md. — were killed in Baghdad after their vehicle was hit by a bomb on Feb. 19, 2008.

The run — which is being organized by Alvarez's wife, Maria — will honor all three men when it gets under way at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Old Settlers Pavilion at Comanche Trail Park.

There's no charge or sign-up fee, according to event coordinator Christine Everett, so anyone in the community can show their support for the sacrifice those three men made. There will actually be two runs — one-mile and two-mile — depending on which the participant wishes to make.

For more information, contact Everett at (432) 517-0281.

Everett said the idea for the run came from Maria Alvarez's personal experiences abroad.

"They held similar runs for these men and the men in their unit in other places, including Ft. Campbell," said Everett. "We felt like this would be an excellent opportunity to get something similar going here in Big Spring."

We couldn't agree more. In fact, we remember when the residents of Big Spring turned out to line the roadways when Sgt. Alvarez's body was brought home from Iraq and during the funeral procession.

Alvarez was the second member of his family to be killed in Iraq. His brother-in-law, Army Pfc. Kristian Menchaca, was kidnapped and killed by extremists in 2006.

And although Alvarez was born and raised in Roscoe, he spent several years in Big Spring before enlisting in the Army in 2005. He and his comrades deserve to be remembered.

How to contact us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opin-

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

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

also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We don't have to carry the entire world on our shoulders, Lord, we can give it all to You.

Little hope for power consumers

f you think oil prices are confusing, try electricity. At least the going rate for a barrel of crude is listed on the Web and in the media. That gives you some idea how much you may be getting ripped off at

the pump. Since Congress can read those numbers too, and since there is at least a pretense of competition for gasoline, there is some pressure for fuel prices to stay reasonable. Not so for elec-

coal, part from



Collins

natural gas, part from nukes, part from wind, and part from oil. Some is even generated from solar. The cost of producing from each of these varies wildly depending on the state of the economy, commodity prices, federal subsidies, and the availability of transmission lines to spread the juice around.

Then, larded atop all these production and transmission costs, come the hedge funds and other speculators on Wall Street. They buy up kilowatt futures and sell them to distribution companies at the highest price they can get. Usually that's pretty high. Conversely, your local power company has a whole office dedicated to shopping around for the lowest futures price. Generation companies run parallel offices for selling their stuff to the speculators. All this naturally drives up the price, along with the millions paid to utility executives.

High-salaried regulatory agencies take their cut off the top too. They set rates friendly to the power companies and make sure that there are regional transmission lines to move the product from town to town. They also require local distributors to observe a certain level of maintenance and safety.

To say that no one is in charge of all this mess is an understatement of epic proportion. Governance of electricity approximates governance of Somalia. It is a land of warlords, fleeting alliances, and power struggles. Lobbyists fill the role of arms dealers and environmental groups simulate U.N. peacekeepers, always outmanned and underfunded.

Into this Gaza-like landscape wander hapless you and I. Mostly all we know is what we read on our electric bill, carefully contrived by attorneys in impenetrable language. We also read occasional reports in the paper, consciously crafted by public relations firms to sound as though all those sleek corporate actors had once marched with Dr. Martin Luther King. We just get to pay their bill. If we're lucky there's a choice to pay half a penny more per kilowatt for "green" power, or half a penny less from a low-overhead competitor.

Missing is any box we can check indicating that we'd like to get rid of the whole corrupt

system. Nowhere are we asked whether we'd prefer to turn electricity over to government and be done with the profiteers. After all, we have no way to just drive down the block to buy from a competitor the way we can with gasoline.

But some lucky citizens are actually born into just such a lovely state of grace. If, for example, you live within the empire of the Tennessee Valley Authority, while you might want to build your home upstream of its coal fired power plants, at least your juice will be cheap. Likewise if you are one of the chosen few who live in Los Angeles, Sacramento, Cleveland, Jacksonville or another version of electrical Camelot where the city owns the power plant, your electricity is affordable and secure.

You would think that public officials everywhere might want to emulate this heavenly system for their constituents. Small states like Connecticut could build or condemn their own power plants. They could thereby not only reduce rates but increase conservation, prohibit nukes, promote wind, outlaw coal, and above all, squeeze out the countless middlemen. But that's a lot of work. Pols aren't likely to take it on until picketed in their homes, which, come to think of it, might not be such a bad idea.

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



Now is time for D.C. voting rights

ever before has the power of the ballot been more evident than in this past election. A record number of Americans cast their votes for change and new leadership in Washington.

rs syndkate

But, even as President Barack Obama took the oath of office on the steps of the Capitol in the District of Columbia, its 592,000 residents were still being denied full voting rights. Happily the tide may finally be turning. With a sympathetic president in the White House



Morial

and increased support in Congress, the people of Washington, D.C., now have the best chance in decades to gain a voting voice in Congress and to put an end to "Taxation Without Representa-As she has done for many

years, D.C.'s non-voting delegate, Eleanor Holmes Norton, is leading this fight. On January 6, she introduced H.R. 157, which calls for an increase in the permanent House membership from 435 to 437 by giving one seat to Amen the District of Columbia and

adding a fourth seat for Utah. On the same day, Senators Joseph Lieberman (I-Conn.) and Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah) introduced a similar bill in the Senate. The legislation also has the support of dozens of national and local organizations, including, D.C. Vote, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and the National Urban League.

A hearing on the House bill took place January 27. Unlike the previous president, President Obama supports the D.C. Voting Rights Bill and has promised to sign it as soon as it reaches his desk. He was a prime sponsor of a bill that was narrowly defeated in the Senate last year. As supporters have said before, it is time to afford the residents of the District of Columbia the same representational rights enjoyed by other tax-paying American citizens. It is time to pass a strong bipartisan bill that will provide Washingtonians with a voting member of the House of Representatives for the

very first time. This is not a fight about partisanship or race; it is a fight about democracy. Washington, D.C., residents pay taxes, serve

on juries and fight and die in

our wars - but they do not have

the U.S. House or Senate. As a

a voting representative in either

result, those residents are effectively relegated to second-class citizenship. They are unable to bring grievances to influential federal officials, reap the benefits available to other congressional constituents, or have a say in the important issues of war and peace that confront this nation. America can no longer tolerate being the only democratic country in the world that denies representation to citizens of its capital.

It is encouraging that one week after the inauguration, Congress took action on the D.C. Voting Rights Act.

However, we have come close before only to see the legislation killed by its opponents. The National Urban League joins Delegate Norton and others in calling for quick passage of this

With President Obama's signature, we will have won an historic victory for fairness and democracy.

Marc H. Morial is president and CEO of The National Urban League. He served two distinguished four-year terms as mayor of New Orleans from 1994 to 2002. During that time, he also served as president of the United States Conference of Mayors in 2001 and 2002.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Capricorn moon gives a push to finish ambitious jobs between now and Sunday night. There's no reason to wait for the funding, the manpower or the inspiration — it might not be coming. All that's needed now is the desire to finish. Take initiative. Those who dive will progress, and not without a certain amount of well-earned pride.

ARIES (March

21-April 19). Your instincts are usually spot-on, not absolutely always Sometimes first



tion. Today, let your "second impression" be your guide on an important decision.

HOLIDAY

MATHIS

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you pick all the imperfect petals off that flower, you'll be left with just the stem. It's the flaws that make living things beautiful. Embrace the so-called defects in your self and others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Here's a secret to let out right now: You have talent. You feel gloriously alive when you are being creative. Others will see you shine and theyill be inspired to follow the muses, too.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The Greek philosopher Epictetus said the reason you have two ears and only one mouth is so you can listen twice as much as you talk. There's information that you really need to hear out there today. Pay attention.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Let logic be your guide. Someone needs to see the obvious, and itis your job to point it out. Tell them in that sweet but direct way you have; thevill thank you later.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You wish you could help a loved one more, but it's just not in the stars for now. Let go

with love. Each person has unique, individual lessons and vou can't learn for anyone who is not you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're smiling with good reason, but not everybody needs to know exactly why. Share your high spirits with your supportive, trusted circle and at least one stranger. Good cheer will come back to you tenfold.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Ennui may creep in. It's nice to know you're capable of dawdling. Even nonactivities like pacing the floor have a purpose. You need time to process events. Tomorrow you can return to your usual whirlwind.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Someone who says everything is fine could actually use some support from you. Donit push to get all the details of the problem, just be there. When this person is ready to talk, youill be ready, too. CAPRICORN (Dec.

22-Jan. 19). Something you did last week is bugging you. There was good reasoning, and yet you wouldn't do the same thing now. Use your imagination to travel through time, forgive the past you and then return to the pres-

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Sometimes your best work is done in the background, but this time is different. Step forward and make your voice heard. Not only is it in your best interest, but itís critical for someone close to you.

PISCES 19-March 20). Someone who tends to cry wolf will actually be right this time. It is so easy to dismiss this call that you might not recognize the red flag waving. So be vigilant. You could be the one to save the

ASTROLOGICAL Virgo who has been suffering from depression, I think. Well, no doctor had to tell me, but my energy is low and I'm blue a lot of the time. I don't want to go to the doctor because I don't want to take any mindaltering medication. If I am mentally low, I want to be able to get better on my own. Can you help?'

I'm not a doctor and my advice should definitely not substitute for medical advice. That said, you being an earth sign are inclined to stick to the most natural routes possible when it comes to healing.

And the fastest way to alter your brain chemistry for the better is to exercise. I highly recommend a daily regimen of at least 20 minutes of walking, running, dancing, cycling, aerobics or anything that gets your heart rate up. Besides a lack of exercise, the other thing that tends to make Virgo natives feel depressed is trying to do too much. too well. Perfectionism is sometimes a strength. But if you expect yourself to be perfect all of the time you start to shut down in defeat. Wishing you the best of luck with getting back your happy groove!

CELEBRITY **PROFILES:** Actress and singer Haylie Duff is an intuitive Pisces who feels her way through the complicated maze of show business. Duff's natal moon, which rules emotions, and lucky planet Jupiter are in open-minded, imaginative Aquarius, which signifies an "anything goes" attitude toward creative endeavors. An Aquarian favorite pastime is making plans that ignore and defy probability.

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

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Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe attends an address by the Governor of the Reserve Bank in Harare. The government scrapped foreign currency controls to allow business to be done in U.S. dollars and bank notes of neighboring countries, admitting defeat Thursday Jan. 29, in a fight against dizzying inflation.

Zimbabwe to pay soldiers and teachers in U.S. dollars

By ANGUS SHAW

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Zimbabwe tried to combat the world's highest inflation by widening the use of foreign currency Wednesday the first act of a coalition government that gave the longtime opposition control of much economic policy.

Finance Minister Tendai Biti, a veteran opposition leader, told reporters that some 130,000 soldiers, teachers, civil servants and other government workers will now receive payment in U.S. dollars instead of local curren-

The \$100 monthly salary will be a raise for most government

employees, who nad seen their buying power drop to the equivalent of \$30 month because of inflation.

Biti also scrapped licenses required for shops doing business in foreign currency. The change will allow more

merchants to legally trade in dollars and South African rand.

Harare.

But even as the new coalition took its first steps, a judge ordered the opposition's nominee for deputy agriculture minister jailed for at least two more weeks pending trial on terrorism charges.

Prime Minister Tsvangirai, Morgan leader of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change, called Roy Bennett's arrest last week an attempt by factions in the President Robert Mugabe's party to derail the power-sharing deal, which forced several of his top aides to hand Cabinet posts to MDC politicians.

The detention of Bennett and several other opposition figures and independent human rights activists in recent weeks raises the pressure on Tsvangirai to

that joining a govern-

ment with Mugabe and his ZANU-PF party was not a mistake. The MDC called for

the release of Bennett and said the new government must assure "Zimbabweans that it respects citizens' human rights." Critics blame Mugabe

 in power for nearly 30 years — for political repression and an economic collapse that has seen worsening hunger, a widening cholera epidemic and spiraling

Ordinary Zimbabweans have long since stopped doing business in virtually worthless Zimbabwean dollars. Mugabe's party

Last year, official inflation based on the tumbling local Zimbabwe dollar was given at 231 million percent but the state statistics office said it was no longer able to calculate the inflation rate because of acute shortages of gasoline, food and most goods that spurred black-market dealings.

Biti said new statistics on inflation would be released next month.

moves Other announced by Biti included raising interest rates on private bank accounts to foster "a savings culture."

> Previously, Zimbabweans had been reluctant to keep their money banks because it lost value so quickly, n because limits on daily withdrawals had made timeit consuming access.

Private com-

panies would also be required to pay taxes in foreign

Obsolete local credit cards were to be revived in hard currency as the country gradually moved away from cash transactions "to the use of plastic money," Biti said.

Zimbabwe working again," Biti said.

currency in use in Zimbabwe comes from some 4 million Zimbabweans — about a third of the population — who are living and working abroad after fleeing years of political and economic turmoil.

The hunger crisis in the former regional breadbasket has left up to 7 million people dependent on foreign handouts and the cholera epidemic blamed on collapsed water, sanitation and health services has killed over 3,600 people since August.

Annie's Mailbox ∘:

Dear Annie: I am not writing this to sound anti-female. However, I am frustrated as far as meeting someone for a permanent relationship.

I am in my 40s, tall and somewhat goodlooking, with a full head of hair and a slender build. I am fairly welleducated with a decent job. I was shy in high school and college and didn't do much dating. After college, I came close to proposing a few times, but when I lost a couple of good jobs, I was basically told to hit the road by women who claimed they cared for me a lot.

I didn't start seriously dating again until recently. I have been Internet dating for a few years and have met a lot of nice women. But after the first or second date, most send me a short e-mail telling me I am a nice-looking guy, but don't live up to their expectations socially or economically. I wasn't cheap with

these women. I liked them and would take them to a movie and a nice restaurant. I'd thought things had gone well until that e-mail. Some women treat the

first date like a job inter-

view. Many women cry

on your shoulder and

tell you about their rot-

ten divorces and what brats their kids are. I have been told that I don't make enough money to meet their social standards.

Annie, I have given up and now see why we have more lesbians than ever before. — *Happy* American Bachelor

Dear Bachelor: You had our sympathy until that last sentence. Women don't change their sexual orientation in order to spite you. Nonetheless, you obviously need help.

When nice guys can't meet anyone, it is usually one of two things: either you are attracted to the wrong women or you are unwittingly projecting an image that is turning them away. Ask your closest friends and family members to be brutally honest and critique how you come across, not only physically, but in terms of personality, and then see where you can make improvements.

Dear Annie: I recently got married, and I wear my wedding ring faithfully. The problem is, my husband doesn't find it necessary to wear

This makes me so mad and hurt because I thought wedding rings are a physical expression of the bond between a married couple.

Am I wrong to tell him he needs to wear his ring at all times? It has gotten so bad that today he said I can have his ring back. He thinks I'm accusing him of cheating, but it's not that. I just want him to wear his ring as a symbol of marriage. our Ringless

Dear Ringless: Right now the symbol of your marriage is a firebreathing dragon. Some men find rings uncomfortable, especially if they interfere with their jobs.

If you trust him, the ring itself is not that important. By making such a big deal out of it, you are hurting your marriage. He knows how you feel. Please back off.

Annie's Mailbox is Kathy written by Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or Annie's write to: Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists,

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partially opened the economy to stable currencies like the U.S. dollar, rand and British pound. Schools and hospitals are allowed to charge in foreign currency.

Crumbling power and water utilities also have been charging in foreign exchange. Bus drivers demand fares in foreign currency and even the Herald, the state-controlled daily newspaper, began printing its price as \$1 over its masthead last month.

Biti's announcement represented a broadening of that strategy in an attempt to halt the skyrocketing inflation and wider economic disas-

"Now that the country has embraced the use of multiple currencies which are relatively stable, the government expects all businesses to act responsibly on pricing ... in order to create the necessary confidence in the economy," convince supporters

Biti told reporters.



A ten billion Zimbabwean dollar bill is held in

currency.

"We have to get

Much of the foreign

Legacy GT

It's turbo time: Extra look at mid-size Subaru sedan

Back in early January I had a chance to spend a week behind the wheel of the Legacy 2.5i, one of the most versatile sports sedans on the

market today. Loyal readers may remember I noted the all-wheel drive

Legacy — long heralded for its versatility

and all-

weather handling abilities — is now available in seven trim levels to suit just about every need.

Having driven the base 2.5i, this week Subaru presented me with the chance to drive the Legacy GT, powered by a turbocharged version of the 2.5-liter Boxer 4 engine.

The Legacy GT's turbo generates 243 horsepower and 241 lbs.-ft torque. Requiring premium unleaded gasoline and mated to a five-speed

manual or five-speed automatic transmission with paddle shift, the GT models are rated as Low Emission Vehicles and have an EPA fuel

economy rating of 18 mpg city, 25 mpg highway.

While the base fivepassenger Legacy 2.5i has a base price starting around \$21,000, the GT (which features additional

equipment as well as the turbo) has a base price starting just below \$30,000. If you want your GT equipped with automatic transmission and navigation system, the price comes in right at \$33,000.

While I have nothing but praise for the navigation system, the feature that impressed me most was the high-end harman-kardon audio system that cranks out 385-watts of premium audio power through an 8-chanel amplifier/



The 2009 Subaru Legacy GT is loaded with features.

equalizer with digital signal processing piping in pure listening pleasure through the systems nine speakers.

Best of all, it is standard equipment on the Legacy GT trim models.

Without question, the GT delivers more performance over the naturally aspirated 2.5i engine.

The question, however, is the extra performance worth the added

Indeed, I thoroughly enjoyed my week behind the wheel of the Legacy GT. But I was also pleased as punch with the base 2.5i.

For me, I really don't need the extra performance.

The harman-kardon audio system, however, is an absolute must. (The high-end audio system is also standard on the non-turbo Legacy 2.5i Special Edition trim line — base price starting at \$21,790).

As I mentioned in the January column, the Legacy is exceptional

when it comes to ride and handling. It is also loaded with safety features that attribute the vehicle receiving a top 5-star crash test safety rating from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and a "Top Safety Pick" award from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

In addition to Subaru's symmetrical all-wheel drive system, standard safety features include dual front airbags, front seat side impact airbags, side curtain airbags for both seating rows, anti-lock brakes with electronic brake force distribution and tire pressure monitoring system.

For those in the market for a spirited midsize sedan loaded with safety features, the 2009 Subaru Legacy GT is worthy of a test drive.

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for 20 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



MODEL: 2009 Subaru Legacy 5-seat luxury sedan All-wheel drive

Trim packages: 2.5i, 2.5i Special Edition, 2.5i Limited, 2.5GT Limited, 2.5GT spec B, 3.0R, 3.0R

Limited **PRICE RANGE:** \$21,000-\$33,000 **ENGINE:**

2.5-L 4 (170 hp/170 torque)

25-L supercharged 4 (242 hp/241 torque) 3.0-L 6 (245 hp/215 torque)

TRANSMISSION:

5-speed manual 6-speed manual 4-speed automatic w/ paddle shift

5-speed automatic w/ paddle shift

EPA: 20/18/17 mpg city, 27/25/24 mpg highway (2.5/2.5 supercharged/3.0)

Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments

FUEL: Regular unleaded; premium unleaded for 2.5 supercharged and 3.0. SUSPENSION:

MacPherson-type struts, lower L-arms, liquid filled L-arm rear bushings, stabilizer bar and negative geometry (front); multilink, one upper link, two lower links and one radius arm per side, coil springs, shocks and stabilizer bar, liquid-filled rear differential mounts (rear).

BRAKES: ABS LENGTH: 185 inches **WHEELBASE: 105.1.6**

WIDTH: 68.1 inches HEIGHT: 56.1 inches

WEIGHT: 3,275-3,553 TRACK: 58.9/58.5 (front/rear)

FUEL TANK: 16.9 gal-

may be sent to Neal at neal. white@wninews.com.

PROFILE 2009



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Rates & Sizes:

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Car scrapping separating steps

Every year up to 14 million motor vehicles cease to be roadworthy

in the European Union. Dust Depollution particles Draining of all fluids; removal of battery, tires, airbags, catalytic converter

- There are 220 automated vehicle recycling plants in the EU employing over 6,000 people
- 200 vehicles consumed per hour
- Vehicles are processed into high-density fist-sized pieces
- In the EU, more than 8 million tons of this top-grade* furnace feed for steelmaking is produced annually, a third of total world output

*Ferrous content of 98%

Nonferrous metals Further

processing at

separation plant

2 Shredding

3 Dust collection Airborne materials go to landfill or further processing

4 Magnetic separation Stationary magnets separate ferrous metals from stainless steel, nonferrous metals and nonmetallic materials

5 Eddy current separation Fast moving magnets segregate materials, throwing them in separate containers

• Nonmetals Further processing at media separation plant

© 2009 MCT Source: Bureau of International Recycling Graphic: Scott Bell,

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

• Ferrous metals Delivery

furnace feed to steelworks

of high quality scrap-

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SPRING HERAL

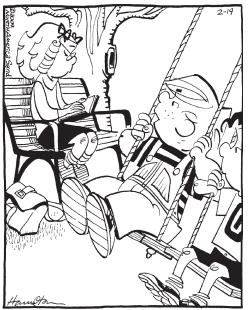
HE'S THE ONE WHO WILL BE DOING THE COOKING!

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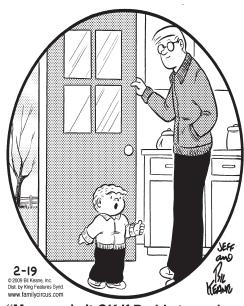
IF YOU AND LUTE PLAN TO MARRY, IT'S TIME I TAUGHT YOU HOW TO COOK!

DENNIS THE MENACE



"Margaret has *Book-SMARTS.*, but*s*he's LACKIN' IN PLAYGROUND-SMARTS."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



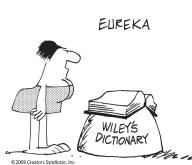
"Mommy, is it OK if Daddy tags along with me to the park?'





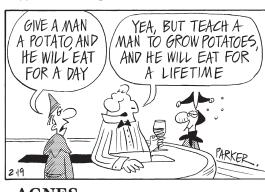


BC





WIZARD OF ID





AGNES







HI AND LOIS





THE OTHER COAST





SNUFFY SMITH







BEETLE BAILEY





This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 19, the 50th day of 2009. There are 315 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight History:

On Feb. 19, 1945, during World War II, some 30,000 U.S. Marines began landing on Iwo Jima, where they commenced a successful monthlong battle to seize control of the island from Japanese forces.

On this date:

In 1473, astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus was born in Torun, Poland.

In 1803, Congress voted to accept Ohio's borders and constitution.

In 1846, the Texas state government was formally installed in Austin, with J. Pinckney Henderson taking the oath of office as governor.

In 1881, Kansas prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages.

National the 1909, Committee for Mental Hygiene, a precursor to Mental Health America, was founded by Clifford W. Beers.

BUT FIRST LETME GET

In 1934, the U.S. Army Air Corps began delivering mail after President Franklin D. Roosevelt canceled private contracts that had come under suspicion. (The hastily arranged, ill-equipped military flights claimed the lives of a dozen pilots, sparking a public outcry before they were dropped several months later.)

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized the military to relocate and intern U.S. residents, including native-born Americans, of Japanese ancestry. Japanese warplanes raided the Australian city of Darwin; at least 243 people were killed. In 1959, an agreement was

signed by Britain, Turkey and Greece granting Cyprus its independence. In 1983, 13 people were found

shot to death at a gambling club in Seattle's Chinatown in what became known as the "Wah Mee Massacre." (Two Chinese immigrants were convicted of the killings and sentenced to life in prison.)

In 1997, Deng Xiaoping, the China's last major of Communist revolutionaries, died at age 92.

Today's Birthdays: Singer

Smokey Robinson is 69. Singer Bobby Rogers (Smokey Robinson & the Miracles) is 69. Actress Carlin Glynn is 69. Singer Lou Christie is 66. Actor Michael Nader is 64. Rock musician Tony Iommi (Black Sabbath, Heaven and Hell) is 61. Author Amy Tan is 57. Actor Jeff Daniels is 54. Rock singermusician Dave Wakeling is 53. Talk show host Lorianne Crook is 52. Actor Ray Winstone is 52. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell is 50. Britain's Prince Andrew is 49. Tennis Hall-of-Famer Hana Mandlikova is 47. Singer Seal is 46. Country musician Ralph McCauley (Wild Horses) is 45. Rock musician Jon Fishman (Phish) is 44. Actress Justine Bateman is 43.

Answer to previous puzzle

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www.stanxwords.com

33 Limburger

feature

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35 Prevent from

44 Round Table

feature

51 mater

52 Labor

10

49 Delhi wraps

50 Nobel, for one

title 45 Sort of skirt

rusting, perhaps

38 Rustling sounds

42 Zippy comeback

WHAT'S WHAT by Fred Piscop

Newsday Crossword

60

ACROSS 1 Some 16 Across

- performers **6** Finn's transport
- 10 Harbor workhorses
- 14 Wearers of the
- areen **15** Plane measure
- 16 La Scala
- performance
- 19 Like couch
- potatoes
- **20** Flight-board
- abbr. 21 Call for
- **22** Stein friend
- 24 Sonnet parts 26 Supermarket
- section 27 W-2 org.
- 28 Prevents
- 32 W-2s et al. **35** Conceal, in

a way

- 36 Mao colleague
- Garfield
- conveniences 39 Med. plans
- **40** "It wasn't me!"

- condition
- 47 Backstage
- successor
- **55** Like a new

- 57 Mies van der
- **61** Coup d'_
- **62** Far from
- aggressive 63 Friend in war
- **64** Erstwhile
- Heathrow
- arrivals
- memory

DOWN

- potatoes, perhaps
- additions
- 4 Hearth
- residue **5** Black eyes
- 38 Links
- 41 Purges **42** Concludes
- one's case **43** Vinaigrette,
- **45** Soccer star
- 46 In perfect
- access, maybe
- 51 Toiling away
- **56** Pawnshop offering

- Edited by Stanley Newman 6 Croupiers'
- "Country" 7 Like the Kalahari 34 Religious 8 Boggy area
 - **9** Wrestling duos

- 17 Business cliché 65 Clear from

- 1 Prepares
- 2 Steamed **3** Passport

- 37 Housemate of

- for example
- Hamm
- **54** Carson
- recruit

- Rohe aphorism equipment
- distance
 - - 10 Retort to a boaster
 - 11 River to the
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 - **13** Declares 18 Filming locations 47 Suit pieces
 - 23 Like MacDonald 48 Limburger 25 Ben Franklin
 - adage 26 Shoulder
 - muscles, briefly 28 What "game"
 - starts with

 - **30** Pay for
 - **31** Ado
 - 32 Like some memories
 - **53** Handball need 29 Resistance units 54 Future DA's exam

 - **58** UFO occupants **59** It left orbit in

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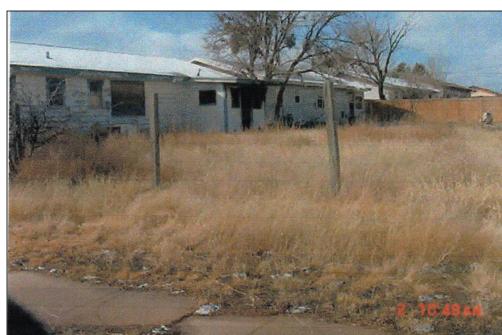
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Do Your PART

This is the January recipient of the **Doing Your Part Beautification Award** from KBSB and the City.

Pictured from left are **Pat Simmons, Joanne** Staulcup, recipient **Nicholas Purntes and** Walter Ward. Purntes worked to repair the home at 1800 Winston, clearing and cleaning the yard as well as the residence. At right is the back of the house before it was cleaned

Courtesy photos

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1993 Cadillac Allente **Convertible**



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7,950

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"Great Condition"

2006 Dodge Ram Cummins Diesel 61K Factory Warranty.



2000 VW Beetle

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15 Passenger 23K (Factory Warranty)

2005 Dodge Quad Diesel

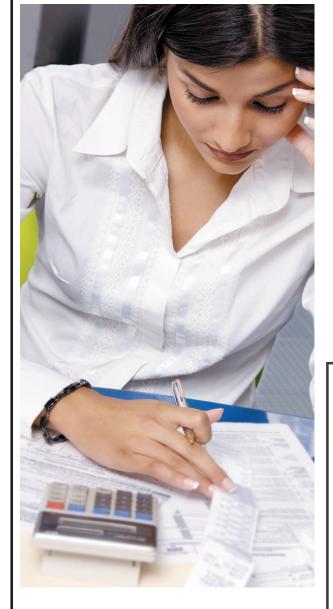
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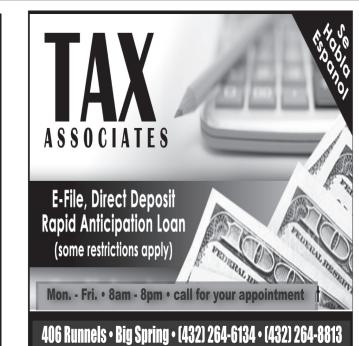
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you ready for a

2009 Best Loser **Fat to Fitness**

Spring Challenge!

We are seeking teams (of 4 people any age) ready to take part and lose weight in March, April and May competing to claim

"The Best Loser" Spring Title and A Grand Prize Worth \$500 - \$1,000*!

If you are ready to start losing weight, sign up for

The Best Loser Spring Challenge!

We are seeking teams (of 4 people any age) ready to take part in this fitness/lifestyle change, and compete for a Grand Prize Package! Team fee: \$40 (Only \$10 per person any age). Individuals or corporate sponsor

 Three official weigh-ins with the professional at YMCA where your progress will be monitored and recorded. Weight-In Dates: First March 9-13, Second, April 6-10 Third, May 11-15

 Team photos and updates will be published. Here you'll be able to follow along with the progress of each team, and see how your team measures up.

 We will only provide your team's total percentage of weight loss not individuals.

• At the end of the 3-month program, the winning team will be determined by the highest percentage of weight lost, and receive the "Grand Prize."

Contest prizes determined on number of teams.

 To join the Best Loser Spring Challenge, fill out the form below and return to us with a check or money order for \$40 no later than March 6, 2009.

Questions? Call 432-263-7331. Ask for Rick.

Team Photos must be taken at The Big Spring Herald **Prior to March 9th**

FINAL PHOTO MUST BE TAKEN BY MAY 15TH

(TEAM PHOTOS MUST BE TAKEN TO QUALIFY FOR PRIZES)

Mail form or drop off along with \$40 team fee to:

The Best Loser C/0 Big Spring Herald P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721





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*Grand Prize Predicated on number of teams

Of Big Spring