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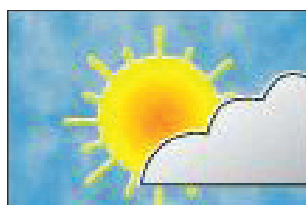
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THE BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 19, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 68

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Moving forward

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

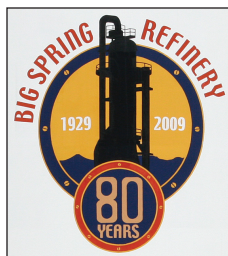
By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

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 one.

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.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

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 when he learned of the explosion a

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 the refinery served to calm his worst

fears.

"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

See **REFINERY**, Page 3A

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 prepares 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. Tuesday.

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 al-

ways — tight-lipped when it comes to the finer points of the address prior to the luncheon.

"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, according 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

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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

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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 that Lady Steers won't just squeak 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 hardwood and continued to play that role Tuesday as he scored a season-high 12 points in a 61-59 victory over Plainview.

The Steers clinched the third seed out of District 4-4A with the win.

Miesha Blackshear

Howard sophomore guard

Something about playing Odessa College brings out the best of Blackshear.

The sophomore guard scored a game- and season-high 22 points in a 69-59 overtime 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 noteworthy.

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 bye 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 the Forsan Lady 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 Shorthorns in a dramatic best-of-three 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 there."

"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, Mirandi Parkor and Sandi Golleher — still playing basketball. 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 Ashley 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 too much," said 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 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.

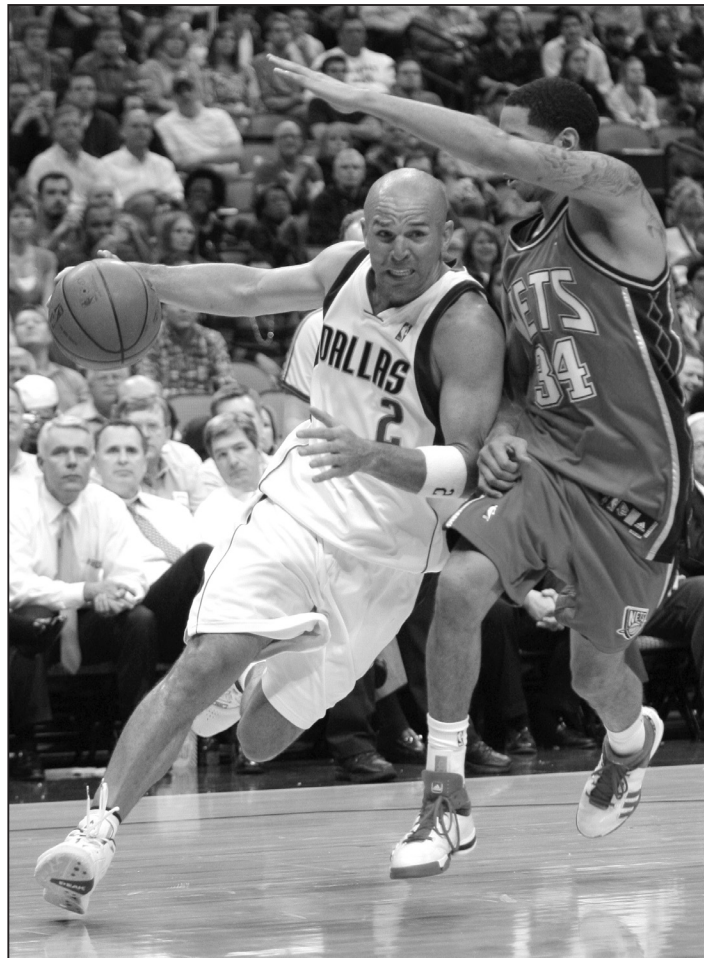
The Big Spring High School tennis team took part in the San Angelo Invitational Friday and for the fourth tournament in a row, the Steers mixed doubles teams found its way into the finals.

In both the A and B division, Big Spring was represented in the finals of the bracket. Keely Parnell and C.J. Burlison won the B division, while Brittany Farmer and Jeremy Langford came up just short in the A division, 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.

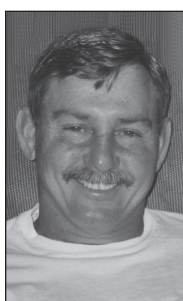
Kidd's performance against Harris on Wednesday night showed why.

A month shy of his 36th 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 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 great-grandchild.

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.

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.

Your Local Weather

Fri 2/20	Sat 2/21	Sun 2/22
72/38 Mostly sunny skies. High 72F. Winds SSW at 20 to 30 mph.	55/27 Partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the upper 20s.	64/38 Plenty of sun. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the upper 30s.

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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 immediately 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 returning to Floydada.

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

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Police blotter

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 WITTEIN**, 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 marijuana.
- **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 deputies 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 SMMC.
- **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..

Take note

• American Legion Post 506 will hold 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 available.

• 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 Center.

• Coahoma alumni will hold an all

school, all classes reunion Saturday, 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 be raised 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 progresses.

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

buying food."

Lewis said she didn't work there long enough 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 increasingly worried 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 three-fourths, 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.

REFINERY

Continued from Page 1A

getting to work."

That work involved arranging for more than 1,000 full-and-part-time 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 ago.

"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

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," he 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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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.

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James Robert Teeler, 54, died Thursday. Memorial Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Life Church.
Juan Martinez Gonzales, 75 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 St. Thomas Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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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,
Geraldine Parrish
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AN ENCOURAGING WORD

By Eddy Pitchford

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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"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.

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OUR VIEW

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

Saturday 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 an annual event and that's something almost all of us can make happen.

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.

Little hope for power consumers

If 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 electricity. Part of it is produced from coal, part from 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 natu-

rally 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.

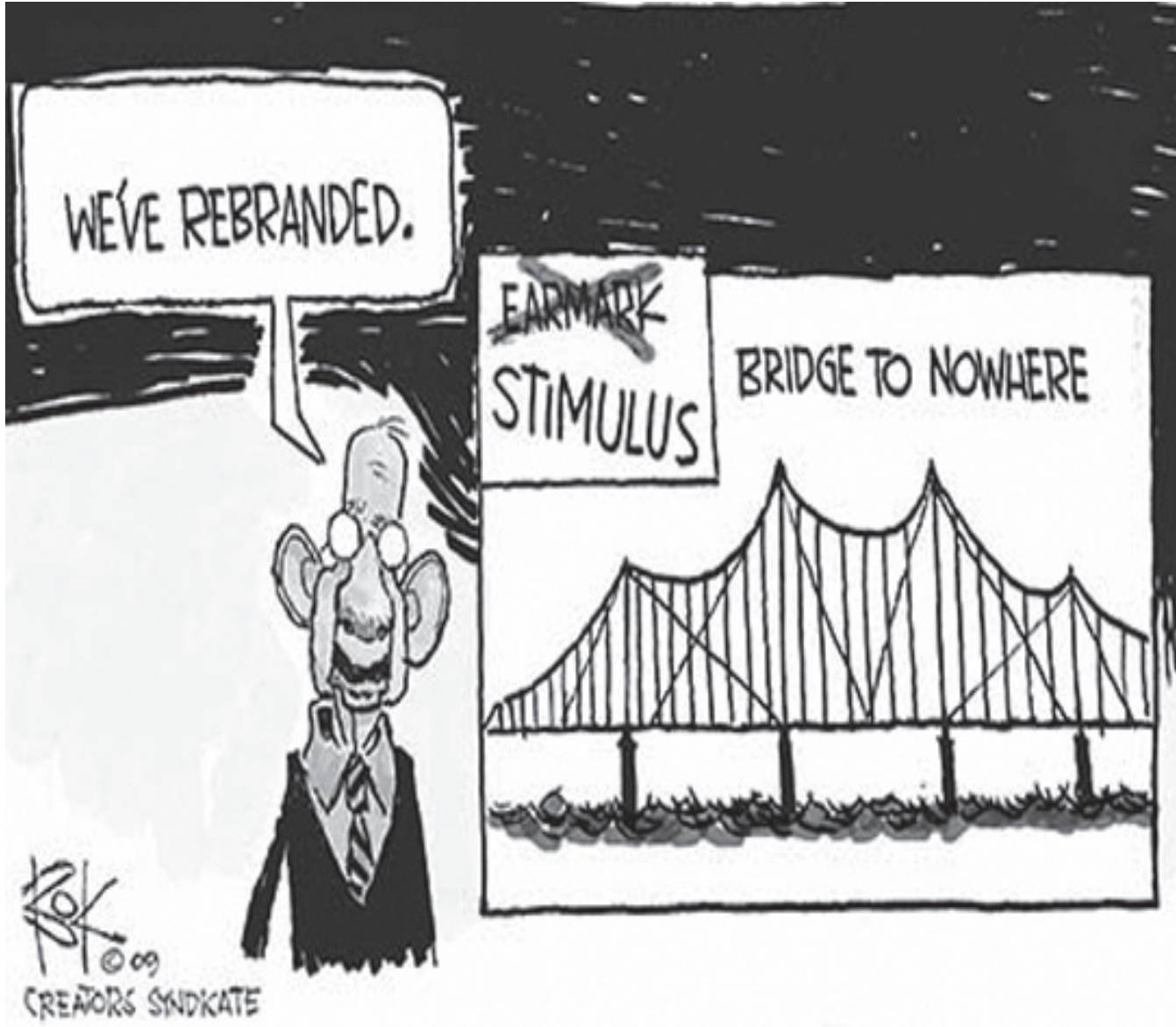
But some lucky citizens are actually born into just such a lovely state of grace. If, for example, you live within the empire of the Tennessee Valley Authority, while you might want to build your home upstream of its coal fired power plants, at least your juice will be cheap. Likewise if you are one 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, Conn.



WILLIAM A. COLLINS



HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
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- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
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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

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

Now is time for D.C. voting rights

Never 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.

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 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 Representation."

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 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 a voting representative in either the U.S. House or Senate. As a

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 bill.

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, but not absolutely always. Sometimes first impressions are based on a shortage of information. Today, let your "second impression" be your guide on an important decision.

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 they'll 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 it's your job to point it out. Tell them in that sweet but direct way you have; they'll 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 you 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 non-activities 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. Don't push to get all the details of the problem, just be there. When this person is ready to talk, you'll 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 present.

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 it's critical for someone close to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Someone who tends to cry wolf will actually be right this time. It's 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 day.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a 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 mind-altering 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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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 good-looking, with a full head of hair and a slender build. I am fairly well-educated 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 interview. 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 his.

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 our marriage. — *Ringless*

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

The \$100 monthly salary will be a raise for most government employees, who had seen their buying power drop to the equivalent of \$30 a 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.

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 Morgan Tsvangirai, 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 convince supporters 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 prices.

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.

Other moves 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 in banks because it lost value so quickly, and because limits on daily withdrawals had made it time-consuming to access. Private companies



A ten billion Zimbabwean dollar bill is held in Harare.

would also be required to pay taxes in foreign currency. 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.

"We have to get Zimbabwe working again," Biti said. Much of the foreign 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. Biti told reporters.

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 disaster.

"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," Biti told reporters.

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 five-passenger 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-channel 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 cost.

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 mid-size 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)

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 in.
WIDTH: 68.1 inches
HEIGHT: 56.1 inches
WEIGHT: 3,275-3,553 lbs.
TRACK: 58.9/58.5 (front/rear)
FUEL TANK: 16.9 gallons

Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments

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

PROFILE 2009



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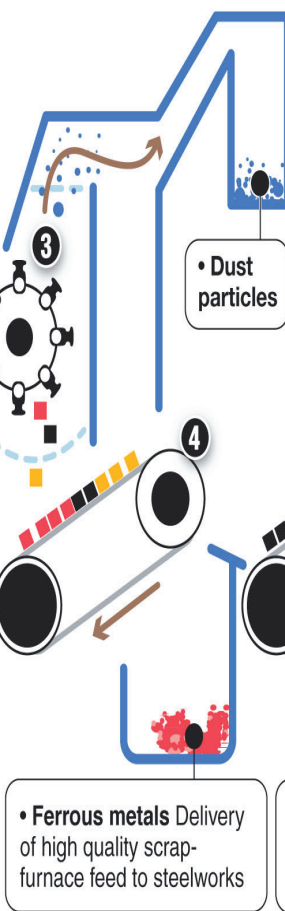
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Car scrapping

Every year up to 14 million motor vehicles cease to be roadworthy in the European Union.

Shredding and separating steps

- 1 Depollution**
Draining of all fluids; removal of battery, tires, airbags, catalytic converter
- 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



- 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%

• Ferrous metals Delivery of high quality scrap-furnace feed to steelworks

• Nonmetals Further processing at media separation plant

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Source: Bureau of International Recycling
Graphic: Scott Bell, Jutta Scheibe

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

The Big Spring Herald's Online Photo Contest

Submit Your Favorite Photo
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BIG SPRING HERALD



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 up.

Courtesy photos

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2006 Dodge Ram Cummins Diesel
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Are you ready for a **NEW!** Challenge?

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:
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C/O Big Spring Herald
P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721



Sign us up for the Best Loser Challenge!

Team Name (Be Creative) _____

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Team Member 2: _____ **phone:** _____

Team Member 3: _____ **phone:** _____

Team Member 4: _____ **phone:** _____

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