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THURSDAY

February 26, 2009



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Warrant roundup

Howard County to join statewide effort

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Howard County residents with unpaid fines, citations and warrants beware, as local law enforcement officials get ready to turn up the heat with a warrant roundup

March 7. According to Municipal Judge Tim Green, law enforcement agencies across t h e

Lone Star State will be out knocking on doors and slapping handcuffs on wanted offenders throughout the daylong event.

"There is going to be a statewide warrant roundup. The unique thing about this is the roundup is going to be happening in just about every

city in the state of Texas," said Green. "What we've initially done is send out letters. Wayne (Wright, BSPD officer) has been doing a lot of work with local

> companies and tried to give the public a heads up to what's going to happen." Green said the effort will start early

and possibly the Department of Public Safety," said Green. "What they will do is start at about 7 a.m. that Saturday, and they will start hitting houses that morning. We'll break for lunch, and Wayne (Wright) will be debriefing everyone to see where we are at. After we get everything settled, we'll hit them again."

And if putting criminals behind bars wasn't enough of an incentive for Texas cities participating

in the round up, Green said the fiscal implications could be considerable. "The immediate

response has already been overwhelming," Green. "We had our first real shot of people last week between Friday and Monday, and we took in a little bit better than \$10,000 from people coming

See WARRANTS, Page 3

City gets encouraging report on multi-million dollar bond projects

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a trio of

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fices ready to start

the (Howard County) Sheriff's Office

"It's a collaboration between

the Big Spring Police Department,

knocking on doors.

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Big Spring received an encouraging report Tuesday on the ongoing multimillion dollar bond projects underway in the city.

Butch Davis, engineer with Parkhill Smith & Cooper and project coordinator for the projects, delivered the information to Big Spring City Council.

As you'll recall, we have five different projects included in this bond issue," said Davis. "The first one was the cleaning and painting of the 1.5 million gallon Northside Elevated Reservoir, as well as the ground storage tank at Building 708 and the South Mountain Ground Storage Tank.

"We started that project in January of 2008 and the contractor finished in July of the same year. Construction cost was a little under a half-million dollars (\$444,000). The Northside Reservoir has been painted with the Big Spring logo and the Big Spring Steer logo on the

Davis said the effort to expand the Municipal Animal Shelter is nearing

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'Hard choices' budget sees \$1.75 trillion deficit

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is sending Congress a "hard choices" budget that would boost taxes on the wealthy and curtail Medicare payments to insurance companies and hospitals to make way for a \$634 billion down payment on universal health care.

Obama's first budget, which will top \$3 trillion, predicts the deficit for this year will soar to a whopping \$1.75 trillion, according to administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity before the public unveiling of the budget Thursday. The huge deficit reflects the massive spending being undertaken to battle a severe recession and the worst financial crisis in seven decades.

As part of the effort to end the financial crisis, the administration will propose boosting the deficit by an additional \$250 billion this year, enough to support as much as

Obama, in a morning briefing, spoke of "hard choices that lie ahead." He called his budget "an honest accounting of where we are and where we intend to go."

\$750 billion in increased spending under the government's financial rescue program. That would more than double the \$700 billion bailout effort passed by Congress last October.

Obama, in a morning briefing, spoke of "hard choices that lie ahead." He called his budget "an honest accounting of where we are and where we intend to go." One administration official called the re-

quest for additional bailout resources a

See **BUDGET**, Page 3

Few takers for ISD boards

Elections draw few candidates

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

The upcoming school trustee elections are not exactly setting any records, as far as number of candidates is con-

Filings for the May 9 elections continue at a snail's pace, officials said.

School districts in Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan, Stanton and Sands will hold trustee elections May 9. Glasscock County and Grady school districts hold their trustee elections at a later time, while Howard College will not have trustee elections this year.

Candidates have March 9 to file.

In Big Spring, seats currently held by Maria Padilla (District 2) and Tony Kennedy (District 4) are up for election this year. Both Padilla and Kennedy have filed their candidacies but no challengers have emerged as yet, Business Manager Debra Green said.

Both positions are for three

Candidates may file at the BSISD business office located across the street from the high school on 11th Place during normal business hours, Green noted.

Coahoma ISD will elect three trustees this year, officials noted. At-large positions currently held by Jody Reid, Alan Wright and Kirk Allen will be decided this year.

Administration Secretary Judy Dobbs said that Wright and Allen are the only candidates to have filed as of Wednesday afternoon, Filings will be accepted at the CISD administration office adjacent to the high school.

At-large positions held by Lewis Boeker and Misty Rhoten will be decided this year at Forsan ISD. As of Wednesday afternoon, Boeker and Rhoten were the only candidates to file for the election, said Judy Park, administration secretary for the district.

Candidates may file at the superintendent's office in the high school/junior high building, Park added.

Stanton ISD has three positions on the school board up for election this year — the

See ISD, Page 3

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Obituaries

Inez Owen



Inez (Finney) Owen, 79, of Big Spring went to be with her Lord Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009, in a Midland hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009, at the Salado Cemetery in Salado with the Rev. Tommy Davis, pastor of the Nazarene Church of Belton, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

She was born Jan. 6, 1930, in Flatt and married J.C. Owen in April 1979 in Big Spring. He preceded her in death.

She came to Big Spring in 1967 and enjoyed working in her flower garden, working crossword puzzles and watching western movies.

Survivors include two daughters, Linda Hoover and husband, James of Big Spring, and Sandra Ward of Heldton, Okla.; two sons, Jim Harvell and wife, Faye, and Jack Harvell and wife, Jo, all of Sand Springs; 15 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; one sister, Fay Brown of Georgetown; a daughter-in-law, Doris Bergerson of Midland; and her dialysis buddy, Bobbie McCain.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, Claude and Mabel Finney; two sons, Steve and David Harvell; one daughter, Brenda Geurin; four brothers, Herman Lee Finney, J.T. Finney, Joe Finney and David Finney, and one granddaughter, Jackie Nicole Harvell.

The family suggests memorials be made to St. Jude's Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105; or to the American Cancer Society, c/o Carolyn Brooks, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring 79721.

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

Paid obituary

Erna Jewell Wadsworth



Erna Jewell Wadsworth, 87, of Odessa, formerly of Big Spring, died Monday, Feb. 23, 2009, in an Odessa hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, 2009, at Mt. Olive Memorial Park in Big Spring with the Rev. Terry Pugh, pastor of First United Pentacostal Church in Odessa, officiating.

She was born March 12, 1921, in Bivens and married W. E. Wadsworth Aug. 29, 1938, in Wink. He preceded her in death Aug. 12, 1988.

Mrs. Wadsworth had been a resident of Big Spring before moving to Odessa in 1968. She was a member of the Odessa Senior Center and Dance Club and attended many area senior dances. She had also been a member of the Big Spring and Odessa bowling leagues.

She was a member of First United Pentecostal Church in Odessa.

Survivors include two sons, Jerry L. Wadsworth of Midland and Benny R. Wadsworth of Pocahontas, Ark.; one daughter, Karla Susan Clanton of Houston; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

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

Sheriff

a deadly weapon – fam-

was arrested Wednesday

by the HCSO on a motion

to revoke probation for

possession of marijuana

by the HCSO on a judg-

ing while intoxicated –

III, 26, was arrested

Wednesday by the HCSO

on a charge of posses-

sion of marijuana – two

BIG

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– two ounces or less.

ily violence.

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 54 inmates at the time of this report.

• JASON ORTEGA, 27, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of issuance of a bad check.

CASEY RAY BRACKETT, 17, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana two ounces or less in a drug free zone.

 JOSE ANTHONY NIETO, 28, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of resisting arrest, search or transportation, assault of a public servant and aggravated assault with

To subscribe, call 263-7331



Inez West, 93, of Big Spring died Monday, Feb. 23, 2009, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 27, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Elwin Collom, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church and the Rev. Wes Massey, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Coahoma, officiating.

Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park. She was born Sept. 1, 1915, in Como. She married

H. L. "Luke" West and he preceded her in death Sept. 23, 1972.

Inez came to Big Spring in 1938 from Hobbs, N.M. She and her husband owned and operated Coahoma Cleaners for a number of years. She then worked at the Big Spring State Hospital for 10 years.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Coahoma.

Survivors include two daughters, Donna McIntosh and Bessie Stoker, both of Big Spring; 17 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and 10 great-greatgrandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by two sons, Sonny West and John West; one grandson, J. D. West; and two sisters, Jessie Ruth Frances and Lucille Fletcher.

The family suggests memorials be made to First Baptist Church of Coahoma, P.O. Box 376, Coahoma 79511.

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

Kathy Jane Bailey

Kathy Jane Bailey, 54, of Odessa, formerly of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009, at her residence. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Essic Randle

Essic Randle, 75, of Big Spring died Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009, at his residence. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

- SCOTT BOYD, 19, of 1812 Old Colorado City Highway, was arrested Thursday on a charge of criminal mischief.
- RUBEN GONZALES, 25, of 1503 Robin, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxica-
- THEFT was reported in the 900 block of Willia. • CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1700
- block of Purdue. • BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported:
- in the 3800 block of Calvin.
- in the 1900 block of Comanche.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 3600 block of Hamilton.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported: in the 1000 block of Main Street.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and • CLINT BOLLIER, 18, Emergency Medical Services reported the activity following Wednesday:

- TRAUMA was reported in the 3600 block • TAMMIE HORN, 40, of Hamilton. Service was arrested Wednesday refused.
- **MEDICAL** was ment/sentence for driv-reported in the 1200 block of Birdwell Lane. One person was trans-ALFONSO BACA ported to SMMC.
 - **MEDICAL** reported in the 1900 block of N. First Street on the Airpark. Service refused.

Missed Your Paper:

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Circulation Manager... Ext. 244

Production Manager... Ext. 256

Publisher... Ext. 250

ISSN 0746-6811

- MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of Marcy. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1000 block of 11th Place. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1600 block of N.W. Seventh Street. Service refused.

Your Local Weather Sun 2/27 2/28 3/1

Mix of sun and clouds.

lows in the mid 30s.

Highs in the mid 60s and

Bulletin Board

the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact

Generally sunny despite

a few afternoon clouds.

High near 75F.

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- · Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- · AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- · Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

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

MONDAY

- Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon in the Cactus Room at Howard College.
- District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 begins at 5 p.m. with weight-in at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffet.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 26-53-32-11-20-50. Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 37-6-29-15-10. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$25,789.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:5-2-8-6. Sum It Up: 21.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-6-6. Sum It Up: 14.





danya@bigspringherald.com

WARRANTS

Continued from Page 1

in and taking care of their warrants. Just the scare of what's going to happen next weekend is already showing results.

"If you look at it on a statewide scale

— if you think of Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio and El Paso there are going to be a lot of houses hit that one day, and you're going to have a lot of law enforcement out there for that one day. We have big numbers coming in right now, but it will be interesting to see what happens after that Saturday."

Would-be jailbirds hoping to avoid

officers during the one-day roundup will have to be more resourceful throughout the year, according to Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen, who said the effort will become a regular

'We've instructed Judge Green to schedule a quarterly roundup for those people who are not paying their citations," said McEwen. "That way

they will get a visit from us each quarter. As we've talked about, it's really amazing. You get the word out and people start showing up, wondering if maybe they have a ticket they forgot about."

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

PROJECTS

Continued from Page 1

completion, with just minor details left to hammer out.

"In that project we added 2,350 square feet of space," said Davis. "That allows us to have 34 dog pens, a cat room and some much-needed administrative space. The project started in June 2008 and is expected to be completed in the early part of March. Construction cost was \$377,800, and it's almost completed. There are just a few items that need to be done to it to finish it out."

Construction of the Roy Anderson Sports Complex is currently ahead of schedule, according to Davis, with the first pitches ready to be thrown out on several of the fields in April.

"As you will recall, we were going to expand the existing sports complex, adding five additional fields, a football field, a soccer field and rehabilitating the existing sports complex," said Davis. "Construction started in June 2008, and I understand three of the fields will be ready for play by April 18 of this year. The final completion date of the project is July of this year. The construction cost is \$4.8 million."

Davis said the last two projects — efforts to replace utility lines prior to a lengthy street reconstruction process - are already halfway home,

with repaying and streetscaping ready to begin in just a few weeks.

"The next project is the utilities project, and what we did there was replace the water lines ahead of the street construction," said Davis. "That started in August 2008 and finished in December. It was a pretty quick construction time. The construction cost was \$1.21 million.

"The contractor used an innovative approach called pipe bursting to replace the lines. The bursting mechanism actually pulled pre-chlorinated pipe that was put into service really quick. That proved to be a very quick process and very acceptable to the city. We also used that same method in upgrading the FM 700

pipe crossing for the sewer lines.

"The street reconstruction and street-scape project is one of the last projects we'll commence, and we'll start it soon," he added. "Under that project, we'll reconstruct several streets, including Main Street, Scurry and other streets. We're also going to do some street-scape improvements, which is work that will be done behind the curb. Also part of the project, we're going to put in some medians on Main from Fourth Street to 10th Street.

"This project hasn't started, but we have done some investigation. foundation The start of the project will be next month and it will be finished in April 2010. The

construction cost is \$6.15 million. We have a pre-construction conference scheduled for March 5, and soon after that they will start working on those streets."

Davis said the street reconstruction is expected to be a nuisance to motorists and businesses in the targeted areas, but he's sure the end result will be worth it.

"This may be the last time I'll be welcome in the city of Big Spring because there will be several people that will be inconvenienced with the construction during the year," said Davis with a grin.

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

Continued from Page 1

District 2 seat currently held by Ramiro Reyes and two at-large positions held by James "Pinky" Jones and Reggie Franklin, respectively.

Both Reyes and Jones have filed for re-elec-Superintendent David Carr said. Filings

will be accepted during normal business hours at the administration office at 200 N. College St. in Stanton.

Sands CISD voters will elect three trustees this May, Superintendent Wayne Blount said. At-large positions currently held by Amy Parker, Steve Blagrave and Tommy Staggs will be decided.

The race has attracted two challengers — Wes Hughes and Nate Avey but none of the incumbents had filed as of Wednesday afternoon, officials said.

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

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

"placeholder" advance of a determination by the Treasury Department of what will actually be needed.

The spending blueprint Obama is sending Congress is a 140-page outline, with the complete details scheduled to come in mid to late April, when the new administration sends up the massive budget books that will flesh out the plan.

However, the submission of the bare budget outline was certain to set off fierce debate in Congress over Obama's spending and tax priorities. The document includes additional requests for the current vear and Obama's proposals for the 2010 budget year, which begins Oct. 1.

The budget balances efforts to fulfill Obama's campaign pledges to deliver tax cuts to the middle class, expand health care coverage and combat the economic crisis with an effort to keep an exploding deficit over the next few years from becoming a permanent drag on the economy. However, Republicans assailed the budget for the tax increases and some Democrats worried that Obama was not doing enough to get the deficit under control.

"I would give him good marks as a beginning, but we have to do a lot more to take on this long-term debt buildup," said Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D.

Republicans in on the tax increases to fund half of Obama's health care expansion.

"Everyone agrees that all Americans deserve

affordable access to health care, but is increasing taxes during an economic recession, especially on small businesses, the right way to accomplish that goal?" asked House Minority Leader John Boehner. R-Ohio.

The \$634 billion down payment on expanding health care coverage would come from a \$318 billion increase over 10 years in taxes on the wealthy, defined as couples making more than \$250,000 per year and individuals making more than \$200,000. The tax increase would occur deductions. As one example, taxpayers in the current top tax bracket of 35 percent would see their tax deduction for every \$1 given to charity drop from 35 cents to 28 cents.

The other half of the down payment on Obama's drive toward universal health care — \$318 billion — would come from curtailing payments to hospitals and insurance companies under Medicare and drug payments under Medicaid.

To meet his pledge of tax cuts for the middle class, the president wants to make permanent the \$400 annual tax cut due to start showing up in workers' paychecks in April as part of the \$787 billion stimulus package just passed by Congress. Obama's budget also extends the middle class tax cuts passed by the Bush administration in 2001 and 2003. Those cuts were due to expire at the end

of 2010. If Congress approves Obama's recommendations, the Bush tax cuts would expire only for couples making more than \$250,000 per vear.

The cost of the stimulus bill and the increased bailout support would push the deficit for this year to \$1.75 trillion, nearly four times last year's record \$455 billion and a percentage of the economy — just over 12 percent — not seen since World War II. The deficit is expected to remain around \$1 trillion for the next two years before starting to by reducing the benefit decline to \$533 billion in the wealthy get on tax 2013, according to budget projections.

Obama's plan proposes achieving \$634 billion in savings on projected health care spending and diverting those resources to expanding coverage for uninsured Americans. The \$634 billion represents a little more than half the money that would be needed to extend health insurance to all of the 48 million Americans now uninsured.

Americans now spend a total of \$2.4 trillion a year on health care.

Obama also will ask for an additional \$75 billion to cover the costs of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

through September, the end of the current budget year. That would be on top of the \$40 billion already appropriated by Congress.

The administration will also ask for \$130 billion for Iraq and Afghanistan in 2010 and will budget the costs of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan at \$50 billion annually over the next several years.

Obama's budget proposal would effectively raise income taxes and curb tax deductions on couples making more than \$250,000 a year, beginning in 2011. By not extending former President George W. Bush's tax cuts for such wealthier filers, Obama would allow the marginal rate on household incomes above \$250,000 to rise

> Happy "15th" **Birthday** Jeremy

Love Mom & Dad



from 35 percent to 39.6 percent.

The plan also contains a contentious proposal to raise hundreds of billions of dollars by auctioning off permits to exceed carbon emissions caps, which Obama wants to impose on users of fossil fuels to address global warming.

Some of the revenues from the pollution permits would be used to extend the "Making Work Pay" tax credit of \$400 for individuals and \$800 for couples beyond 2010, as provided in the just-passed economic stimulus bill.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288 Doris Alexander, 89 died Monday. Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

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WORD

KING'S KIDS

3:45-5:30 Tuesdays and Thursdays **Coahoma Church of Christ** (432) 394-4277 311 North Second Street

KINGS'S KIDS is an after school program that meets Tuesday and Thursday at the Coahoma Church of Christ, 311 North Second Street. There is no charge for the program but registration is necessary. The program includes transportation from school to the church building where there will be refreshments, a devotional, tutoring, games and crafts until 5:30 p.m. For more information or to enroll, please **WE ARE FAMILY**

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Sunday Worship......10:20 AM Sunday Worship......5:00 PM Wednesday Class.....7:00 PM

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-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

Be sure you aren't target of roundup

nce again, we're using this space to tell residents of Howard County that those with unpaid fines, citations and warrants should take care of their business because local officials are going to turn up the

That's right, a word to the wise ought to be sufficient. Law enforcement officials will conduct a warrant roundup on March 7, according to Municipal Judge Tim Green.

As a matter of fact, law enforcement agencies across Texas will be out knocking on doors and slapping handcuffs on wanted offenders throughout the daylong event.

Now, officials have sent out letters to local employers and Big Spring police office Wayne Wright military, they will be given a has been doing a lot of work with local companies and tried to give the public a heads up to what's going to happen.

The roundup will start early in the morning with personnel from a trio of local law enforcement agencies — the Big Spring Police Department, Howard County Sheriff's Office and the Department of Public Safety — ready to start knocking on doors.

Important? You bet it is.

"We had our first real shot of people last week between Friday and Monday, and we took in a little bit better than \$10,000 from people coming in and taking care of their warrants," Green said. "Just the scare of what's going to happen next weekend is already showing results."

Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen says the effort will become a regular affair.

"We've instructed Judge Green to schedule a quarterly roundup for those people that are not paying their citations," said McEwen. "That way they will get a visit from us each quarter. As we've talked about, it's really amazing. You get the word out and people start showing up, wondering if maybe they have a ticket they forgot about."

So, if you have an unpaid fine or citation, are there's a warrant somewhere with your name on it, it's time to take care of business and do the right

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.

- Sign your letter.
- · Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- · Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we walk Your walk, Lord, and talk Your

Service for citizenship

ay you had to make a choice between a young immigrant who is here temporarily (and still holds allegiance to a foreign country) and one who has been here most of his life and considers himself an

American. Which one would you trust to defend the United States in battle?

Logically, almost evervone would have to agree that the latter would make a much more trustworthy American service member, even if he came here illegally.



After all, most military-age illegal immigrants probably don't even know any other country. They were brought here by their parents when they were too young to determine their own nationalities or whether they wanted to live their lives as illegal immigrants.

Those decisions were made for them. Many of them have grown up to become patriotic Americans, willing but unable to serve in our armed forces.

Yet the U.S. Defense Department, fighting two wars and encountering a shortage of skilled service members, will launch a one-year pilot program to recruit immigrants who are here on temporary work or student visas.

Normally, if they want to become U.S. citizens, temporary immigrants have to go through an application process that takes many years, and there's not even a guarantee of success at the end of the process.

But now, if they join the U.S. shortcut to U.S. citizenship — in as little as six months!

Military officials familiar with the plan told The New York Times that only temporary immigrants will be given this opportunity. Illegal immigrants need not apply.

As a nation, we are so emotionally disturbed over illegal immigration that we are willing to trust our armed forces to new and uncommitted immigrants over those who have strived to become good Americans while being treated like second-class

Among the 12 million illegal immigrants estimated to be living in this country, there must be tens of thousands of young people who gladly would defend it, especially if joining the armed forces allowed them to shed their "illegal" status.

While noncitizen, green cardcarrying legal immigrants have served with distinction in the armed forces for many years and some 29,000 currently are serving — illegal immigrants are not allowed to fight for the country they live in and love.

"We cannot bend the rules for them," many Americans say. "Thev are illegal."

Yet we are willing to bend the rules — perhaps even weakening our national security — for immigrants who only have to have been here for two years to qualify.

Although they are beginning with only a pilot program that will recruit up to 1,000 temporary immigrants, the Pentagon plans to expand to as many as 14,000 volunteers per year just for the Army, the Times report-

That's far above the 8,000 legal immigrants who join the armed forces every year.

In fact, just in the Army, the Times reported, 1 in 6 recruits could end up being a foreigner trying to acquire U.S. citizenship.

Although the economic crisis has driven more young Americans to join the military in recent months, an impending surge in troops in Afghanistan undoubtedly will create further pressure on the Pentagon to come up with innovative recruiting methods.

According to the Times, Pentagon officials have been laving the groundwork for this program very carefully because they apparently expect resistance from veterans and other Americans who object to hav-

ing a military with such a large number of foreign members.

There will be many legitimate questions: What kind of background checks will be conducted on these temporary immigrant recruits? How can we expect true allegiance to the United States from people who still may be faithful to other countries and who may join the U.S. armed forces just to get the citizenship perk?

Yet Pentagon officials argue that this policy makes sense because it will enable them to recruit more skilled service members, especially speakers of foreign languages, as if those languages could not be found in our illegal immigrant communi-

They say they also expect to attract recruits with more education and professional expertise than the Americans who are enlisting nowadays, as if homegrown American service members, the best in the world, were suddenly not good enough.

But they go even further than that.

Military officials told the Times that they need service members who can speak at least one of 35 languages but that Spanish speakers are not eligible for this program, not even temporary workers who are here legally. Apparently, they already have enough service members who can speak Spanish and they think this allows them to discriminate against Latino immigrants.

Bottom line: This is nothing but an elitist recruitment plan designed to give incredible breaks to some immigrants while completely excluding Latinos, legal or illegal.

When Congress finally grants some sort of amnesty to illegal immigrants, the armed forces will not need temporary immigrants to defend this nation

There are many young illegal immigrants who consider themselves patriotic Americans, not visitors, and they are willing and ready to prove it.

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the rules he price of

who thought they would be fine

he president deserves the high marks he is getting from the public for his first month in office. Most presidents get to spend their first month putting up the draperies. This one had

to spend his picking up the pieces of a collapsing economy. When the Republicans decided to just say no, he pushed ahead and got going without them. That the country is more united in its support for the president than is the Congress is not a surprise: Those



ESTRICH

who are not professional politicians find it easier to put politics aside.

Nonetheless, we are not all similarly situated with respect to this economic crisis, and if the numbers right now obscure that, the divisions are still loom-

The critical divide is not, as in Washington, between Republicans and Democrats, but between those who are looking for or have received a government bailout and those who haven't. And that divide is defined, at least in part, by those who played by the rules and those who didn't, which is why there is real anger in America, as well as a desire for unity and action.

Everyone is affected by this economic freefall, even if you don't work for an automaker or a failing financial institution, even if you're still employed and didn't buy a house you couldn't afford, even if you're still paying your bills and putting food on the table. I know lots of people who

thought they'd retire in the notso-distant future, and now they can't. "Safe" investments turned

out not to be so safe after all, and money set aside for kids to go to college or for health care

Amen costs just isn't there. Seniors

aren't. Kids who thought they'd have money for college don't. People whose biggest investment is their house — and that's the case for most of us — have seen the value of that investment plummet. In other words, no one is untouched by this crisis.

But some people are obviously in worse shape than others, and among those, some are more responsible for their dire straits than others.

It's true that both parties share the blame for the deregulation of financial institutions that allowed people to buy homes they couldn't afford, and then allowed those mortgages to be packaged into what became toxic packages. But just because you are free to do something stupid and risky doesn't mean you aren't to blame for doing it.

No one forced anyone to buy a house they couldn't afford. No one forced banks and financial institutions to seek ever higher profits without regard to risk. Some people have lost their

jobs through no fault of their own, because of decisions made by others. But many others are unemployed because of their own greed and the greed of their companies — after years of being overpaid based on "profits" that really weren't. We may have to bail them out,

but we don't have to be happy about it. The notion that they should continue to make more money than the president does is ludicrous. The idea that they need to be told that it's not a good time to buy a new corporate jet is insulting. Mad? Damn right.

Bill Clinton used to make a point of talking about Americans who "played by the rules," which in the 1980s and 1990s was a sort of code for those who weren't claiming any special entitlement based on identity politics, who weren't asking the government to pay their bills or put them at the head of the line. The idea was that people who work hard and play by the rules

should come first, not last. Clinton's understanding of the extent to which the Democratic Party was perceived to have strayed from that notion is one of the main reasons he won the presidency and every other Democrat

during that period didn't. There are a good many Americans — thankfully, still the maiority — who get up every morning and work one or two jobs they may not love in order to pay the mortgage for the house that may not be their dream house but is the one they could afford, in order to pay off the credit card bills and live within their means. It's harder now than it was before, but most of us still do it. We're willing to help those who need help, but we're not willing to be taken for fools, or taken to the cleaners.

If the country is to remain united, it will be necessary for those who got us into this mess to bear their fair share of the pain it is causing, and by that I mean the highly paid decision makers who, freed from government regulation, made incredibly stupid decisions, as well as those who took advantage of the free lunch that wasn't free. I'm not saying people should be booted from their houses, but eventually, they should pay for

As for how hard it is for financial executives used to seven-figure incomes to live on a mere \$500,000 a year — the limit proposed by the president for employees of companies that take TARP funds — the more you hear such complaints, the angrier the rest of America is likely to be.

Staying together as we go through this crisis will be even more difficult than coming together, and it depends on the president being able to convince people who played by the rules that they aren't going to have to pay the price for those who didn't.

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House calls back in vogue

Statistics: Home visits on the increase in U.S.

Pediatrician Natalie Hodge spent seven years in a hectic doctor's office. Some days, she'd see 40 sick kids, 10 minutes at a time. Moms calling for advice about sore throats or ear aches had to wait. Hodge could only find time to return those calls as she drove home.

Finally, had she enough.

"I kind of threw up my hands and said, 'There's got to be a better way to do this," Hodge said. "I said, 'I'm going to get a laptop and a Treo and make house calls."

For much of America's history, doctors tended to the sick in their homes.

Times changed. Medical insurance replaced pay-as-you-go. Administrative costs and malpractice insurance fees forced doctors abandon individual practices and join together in groups. By the early 1970s, fewer than 1 percent of doctors made house calls.

Now, the house call is in vogue again. The doctor still carries the little black bag, but a laptop bag, too, and perhaps a portable X-ray machine.

The American Academy of Home Care Physicians doesn't track how many doctors make house calls, executive director Constance Row said. Neither does

ST. LOUIS (AP) — the American Medical Association. Experts say the number, while still a very small percentage of all doctors, has risen sharply since Medicare policy change a decade ago that increased reimbursement for home visits.

But that change mostly involved house calls the homebound. Private and public medical insurance typically doesn't pay for "concierge" services like Hodge's — that is, house calls borne out of convenience, not necessity. In fact, Hodge's clients typically pay a \$1,500 annual out-of-pocket fee plus a charge for every

Dr. Steven Landers, medical director for home health care at Cleveland Clinic, said the trend is more about patient care and less about money.

"The real benefit is the access," said Landers, who makes about 20 house calls per week to geriatric and chronically ill patients. "You get to see people in their own environment. You learn things you wouldn't normally know."

Row said too many frail and elderly people skip seeing the doctor simply because it is too difficult to make the trip to the office. For them, she said, home visits are essential.

"This is one of these



AP Photo/Jeff Roberson

Pediatrician Natalie Hodge makes a house call on 7-year-old Elizabeth Cupini in Clayton, Mo. Over the last decade, the house call has become in vogue again.

areas where the need has outstripped the capacity," Row said. "There are more people who need the service than there are physicians who provide it."

House calls today are made easier by advances in technology. Hodge said that for most visits, she needs little more than her iPhone, a laptop and a hightech cooling system for medicine. Landers checks a patient's chart and schedules the next appointment on the laptop he carries with him.

Mobile technology means doctors can perform blood tests and X-rays inside a patient's home. Digital photos can be e-mailed to specialists. New data storage systems keep all the information safe.

Hodge, 39, was a University of Kentucky medical student doing a stint in Hazard, Ky., when she got her first taste of house calls. "I would drive up into little hollers, taking care of guys who wouldn't come into the clinic, coal miners," she said.

She did her pediatrics residency at Washington University in St. Louis, then began working in a multi-specialty office here. By 2005, she grew weary of what she found to be impersonal, inadequate care.

So she launched her house call practice, Personal Pediatrics. She started a Web site and the business took off. It was so successful she plans to expand nationally. And as the expands. business Hodge hopes to partner with a charitable foundation that could offset the annual fee, making the service available to a broader audience.

The benefit is convenience.

No more phone tag with the doctor's office, no more dragging a sick kid out of bed. When parents have a question, they call or e-mail Hodge directly.

On a recent chilly morning, Hodge visited 7-year-old Elizabeth Cupini, who stayed home from school with a sore throat, sneezing, coughing.

Snug in a pink bed decorated with Teddy bears, Elizabeth opened wide as Hodge used a small flashlight to examine her throat.

"Well, you have a pulse so I think you're going to live," the doctor

said as the girl giggled. Nothing worse than a bad cold, the doctor told Elizabeth and her mom.

The bottom line, Hodge said, is that house calls make for better care.

"If they have asthma, you can say, 'get rid of this carpet or these drapes.' If they're overweight or diabetic, you can see what's in the fridge or the candy jar," she said.

It's that sort of connection that Landers said is simply lacking in the current health care sys-

"The real power is the basic things that made the house call useful 50 years ago," he said. "The patients and families find it to be a very caring gesture. Sometimes just showing that you care is the most important thing."

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SMU and Wiley College finally debate

DALLAS (AP) Seventy-four years after their meet was canceled, teams from Wiley College and Southern Methodist University finally got their chance to debate.

The two schools met on the SMU campus in Dallas Wednesday night and debated whether the terrorist detention facility at Guantanamo Bay should be shut down. SMU won, 3-0, but people who participated in the debate say

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that didn't matter.

"Just in having this debate we are all winners because we have overcome a history of racism and divisiveness," SMU debate coach Ben Voth said in Wednesday's online edition of The Dallas Morning News. "We consider this a meeting of an unfulfilled promise," he said.

The two schools were supposed to debate in 1935 but that was called off possibly amid nega-

Children's Dental Fair

Howard College Dental Hygiene Dept.

tive publicity surrounding Melvin B. Tolson, who led the all-black college's elite debate team. From 1929 to 1939, the Wiley College team debated 75 times and only lost once. The small historically black college in Marshall, Texas went on to beat the national champion University of Southern California in 1935.

Wiley College had to figure out what to do when students across the country wanted to

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join its team — wnich ceased to exist around World War II — after the success of Denzel Washington's 2007 film, "The Great Debaters." The school used a \$1 million gift from Washington to restart the team under new coach Shannon LaBove.

"It has been a whirlwind with all the media attention," LaBove said.

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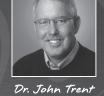
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HOWARD COLLEGE

Page 7 Thursday, February 26, 2009

HERALD SPORTS HONOR ROLL

Kenzie Hunt

BSHS junior pitcher

It was a slow start for Big



Hunt

Spring Lady Steers pitcher Kenzie Hunt Friday, but once she got going against Midland Christian, she never slowed down.

Hunt helped the Ladv Steers record

Williams

their first win, 6-3) of the 2009 season. striking out 10 batters. She also recorded one RBI.

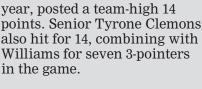
Ierrell Williams

BSHS junior guard The Steers wrapped up the

2009 season on the hardwood Tuesday with a 59-47 loss to Canyon

Randall. Williams, who led the Steers in

scoring and assists this



Brittni Blagrave

Sands senior guard

Blagrave, who average more than 18 points a game this season, led Sands to the deepest run in the girls basketball playoffs than any other team in the Crossroads region.

She scored 25 points in the Lady Mustangs' 53-51 win over Knox City in the bi-district round Friday, then had 16 in a near upset of No. 5 Guthrie

Guthrie eliminated Sands with a 56-51 win in overtime.

Heather Newton

Coahoma junior pitcher Chances are this is just the first of several appearances on

> this list for Newton.

Newton

Coahoma's all-state pitcher was dominant in a tournament in Abilene over the weekend, striking out 29 batters in three games.

She struck 14 against Abilene Wylie alone.

Amanda Longorio & Shelby Jones

Forsan junior forwards Longorio and Jones were honored by the District 7-A coaches with awards earlier this week.

Longorio was named the league's Offensive Most Valuable Player. She averaged more than 17 points and eight rebounds a game.

Jones was named Co-Defensive MVP along with Stanton's Adrian Carrasco.

Tori Gauer and Shelby McDonald also made the alldistrict team for Forsan. Stanton's Kesley Jones was

named the Newcomer of the Year, while Rachel Fleckenstain and Naomi DeLao were named to the alldistrict team.

Each week the Herald recognizes area athletes for achievements in their particular sport.

BSHS state-bound swimmers push each other

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

No matter the sport, the ultimate goal for most athletes or teams is to be the

Two Big Spring High School seniors get their opportunity to declare themselves champions over the weekend in Austin at the Class 4A Swim Meet.

Cameron Hughey and DeShae Green have taken different roads to the state competition, but ultimately, both have relied upon each other to get there.

"Honestly, wouldn't be swimmers we are today if it wasn't for



Hughey



Green

each other," said "We're Hughey. always competing, wanting to beat the other. During practice, we swim right next to each other. I always keep an eye on him. He definitely pushes me." Green will go for a

state title in the 200-meter freestyle,

while Hughey surprised everyone and qualified for the 100-meter freestyle

Hughey, who has been swimming competitively since grade school, almost had a tragic end to his season.

He was considered a shoo-in to qualify for the 50-meter freestyle race after doing so in 2008. However, at the district meet, Hughey anticipated the start and flinched at the starting line, disqualifying him from a race he won by more than a second.

"That hurt. That was my race. Not to sound cocky, but I honestly didn't need to swim hard at regionals. I knew I was faster than everyone else I was against," said Hughey. "I was fortunate to qualify in some other races and then I guess I got lucky."

Hughey went into the 100-freestyle at regionals as an underdog. It was Green who was actually the favorite to win the event after finishing with the top time in preliminaries. However, Hughey had other ideas.

"Cameron literally came from no-where to win that race," said Big Spring Swim Coach Kenneth Nelson. "I was

See SWIM, Page 12



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Big Spring Steers third baseman Jeremy Solis steps up to throw a batter out at first in baseball action from April 1, 2008. Solis is one of four all-district players returning to the Steers for the 2009 season with hopes of qualifying for the postseason for the first time since 2001.

Playoff-minded Steers open season today

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

After being a contender for state titles in the mid-90s, it's been a while since the Big Spring Steers baseball team has been relevant in the discussion for even a playoff berth.

Head Coach Burt Otto is confident that's getting ready to change.

Last season, Otto, who is entering his second year as skipper of the Steers, just wanted the team to be competitive after inheriting a team that had tasted very little success. Big Spring finished 2008 with a record of

In 2009, Otto is hoping the Steers can take the next step and qualify for the postseason for the first time since

"Our goal is the playoffs," he said. "We were more competitive last season and now we need to take the next step. Our pitchers have had a year of experience and if we can put it together then I think we can compete with anybody in our district.

"Frenship lost some good players. Cooper is a bit of an unknown since they're new to the district," Otto continued. "Plainview lost some guys. Last year, we had some things that just didn't go our way. I think we're going to get our shot this season."

With just two players from last year's squad not returning, Otto is hoping experience is enough to get Big Spring over the hump.

See **STEERS**, Page 12

Benson crisp in spring training debut for Texas

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — The only problem Kris Benson had in his Texas debut was waiting 20 minutes between innings as his new teammates circled the bases.

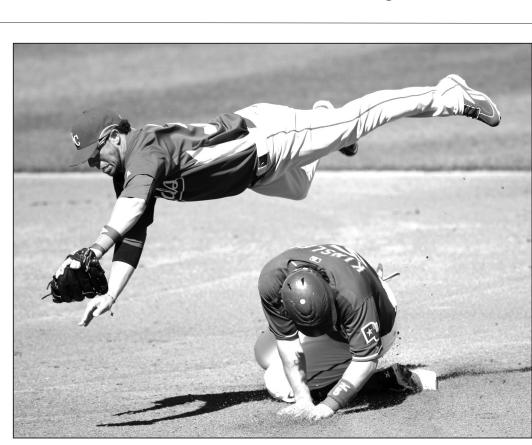
Benson allowed one run and two hits in two crisp innings, and the Rangers backed him with nine early runs Wednesday in a 12-7 exhibition victory over the Kansas City Royals.

Signed to a minor league contract Saturday, Benson, who is coming off rotator cuff surgery, hasn't pitched in the majors since 2006. He needed only seven pitches to end the first inning, but allowed a long home run to designated hitter Billy Butler in the second before inducing a double play to end his outing.

"I felt great. I haven't felt this good in three years," Benson said. "My velocity is getting up there where it used to be. I feel really comfortable." Hank Blalock hammered the first

pitch he saw for a two-run homer to highlight a six-run first inning against Kansas City starter Horacio Ramirez. Blalock, who will be a full-time designated hitter this year, followed back-toback homers from Josh Hamilton and Nelson Cruz in the second by tripling

high off the right-field wall. One pitcher Benson has to beat out for a starting rotation spot, left-hander



AP photo/Charlie Riedel

Kansas City Royals shortstop Mike Aviles, top, catches a throw as Texas Rangers second baseman Ian Kinsler slides in safely on a ball hit by Josh Hamilton during the first inning of a spring training baseball game Wednesday.

Matt Harrison, struggled. Harrison allowed a solo homer to Miguel Olivo and a three-run shot by Mike Jacobs in his inning of work.

Benson has been throwing for two months and acknowledged he's ahead of the other pitchers.

Ramirez had a much tougher debut for the Royals. Mark Teahen, making the switch from outfield to second base,

threw away a potential inning-ending double-play ball from Hamilton. Ramirez allowed hits to six of the next seven Texas batters and never made it out of the inning. "The first time on the mound is the

toughest. Everyone is adjusting to the game speed," Ramirez said. "Everyone is going to make mistakes. I left the ball over the middle of the plate."



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Legals

COUNTY OF DAWSON STATE OF TEXAS ORDER PROHIBITING

OUTDOOR BURNING
WHEREAS, Section 352.081 of
the Local Government Code provides that the commissioners court
of a county, by order, may prohibit
outdoor burning in the unincorporated area of the county if the com-

missioners court makes a finding

that circumstances present in the

unincorporated area create a public

safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning; and; WHEREAS, the Dawson County Commissioners Court does hereby

find that circumstances present in the unincorporated areas of Dawson County create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated

by certain outdoor burning; and, BE IT THEREFORE ORDERED that the following emergency regulations are hereby established for portions of the unincorporated areas of Dawson County, Texas that are not subject to public ownership or control for the duration of the above mentioned declaration:

above mentioned declaration:
(1) Actions Prohibited:
 Except as described
 hereinafter, a person violates
 this order if he ignites, or
 causes ignition of any
 combustible or vegetative
 material outside of an
 enclosure which serves to
 contain all flames and/or
 sparks, or orders such burning
 or ignition by others.

(2) Enforcement:

(a) Under notification of suspected outdoor burning, the fire department shall respond to the scene and take immediate measures to contain and to extinguish the

(b) If requested by a fire official, a duly-commissioned peace officer, when Available, shall be sent to the scene to investigate the nature of the

(c) In accordance with Section 352.081 of the Local Government Code, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this order commits a Class C Misdemeanor, punishable be a fine up to

\$500.00.

(3) If the responding peace officer finds that the person responsible for the fire is in violation of (1) above, a citation shall be issued for: Violation of Burn Ban Order.

(4) This order shall not apply to the outdoor burning of vegetative material caused by welding or by other causes relating to the act of welding, if such burning is not malicious or intentional.

(5) This order shall not apply to burning of vegetative material when such burning is performed in accordance with appropriate safety and protective measures, and is submitted and approved by the City of Lamesa Fire

Department.

Be it also ORDERED that the purpose of this order is the mitigation of the public safety hazard posed by wildfires during the current dry weather period by curtailing the practice of outdoor burning, which purpose is to be taken into account in any enforcement action based upon this order.

This order prohibiting outdoor burning shall remain in effect until April 30, 2009 at 12 o'clock noon, and shall expire at that time or upon the date the Dawson County Commissioner's Court, by order, determines that the circumstances present in the Dawson unincorporated areas of Dawson County no longer create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning, whichever occurs earlier.

ORDERED THIS 24th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2009 DAWSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COURT

Commissioner S C Sam Saleh County Judge Ricky Minjarez Commissioner, Pct 1 Gilbert Tejeda Commissioner, Pct 2 Nicky Goode Commissioner, Pct 3 Foy O'Brien Commissioner, Pct 4 Gloria Vera County Clerk

#6073 February 26 & 27, 2009

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(AP Photo/Matt Dunham)

Trains are seen from Clapham Junction station in London. A major report provided more fuel for passenger complaints, finding that train travel in Britain is expensive, frustrating and confusing. The government-commissioned study found that British rail journeys are among the highest-priced in Europe, while passengers find the country's Byzantine fare structures baffling.

British train travel among Europe's most expensive

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press LONDON (AP) Board a train in London, and in 2¬hours you can be in Paris, City of Light — or in Manchester,

city of gray skies and

grit. It frustrates many travelers that sometimes the trip to Paris is cheaper. Advance fares to the French capital on the high-speed Eurostar

train start at 59 pounds

(\$85), 7 pounds (\$9) cheaper than a standard off-peak return to the northwest city in England.

major report released Thursday provided more fuel for passenger complaints, finding that train travel in Britain is expensive, frustrating and confus-

The government-commissioned study found that British rail journeys are among the highest-priced Europe, while passengers find the country's Byzantine fare structures baffling.

The report by watchdog group Passenger Focus said the same train could contain passengers who had paid 150 pounds (\$215) for a ticket and others who paid just 10 pounds (\$15). It said the structure of long-distance train fares was "complicated and not logical."

The study found that flexible. last-minute tickets to London from other British cities were almost twice as expensive as comparable journeys in Germany — the next most expensive among nine countries studied — and more than three times costlier than in the cheapest, The Netherlands.

British commuter journeys were up to three times more expen-

sive than in the other countries studied.

Britain's state run-rail service was privatized in the mid-1990s and broken up into a swarm of businesses. In the vears that followed there were rising complaints about overcrowding, safety and deteriorating service.

Transport expert Christian Wolmar said British tickets cost more because "traditionally we've expected passengers to pay a higher proportion of the cost of running the railway than taxpayers.'

"On the Continent it is seen as something of a public service. In Britain, we expect it, as much as possible, to pay for itself."

After a series of deadly accidents, blamed by many on underinvestment, the government dismantled the private company that had been put in charge of rail infrastructure replaced it with a nonprofit firm. The firm, Network Rail, and train companies that use its tracks, have spent hundreds of millions of pounds on upgrading track and replacing aging trains.

But it hasn't been enough. The Department for Transport said bringing fares into line with other European countries, where rail travel is more heavily subsidized, would cost taxpayers an extra 500 million pounds (\$750 million) a year — not an enticing prospect during a recession.

"There is no free lunch here," said transport

minister Andrew Adonis. "We as a community pay for this one way or another."

The report found that bargains are available — but only if passengers can book in advance and commit to a specific

If a Londoner wants to travel to Manchester and back in rush hour and on a flexible ticket, it will cost 247 pounds (\$356) — more than many air fares. Book well in advance, and the fare can be as little as 16 pounds (\$23).

Passenger Focus chairman Colin Foxall said passengers were "broadly happy with the quality of rail services, but not happy with the value for money they are getting."

The report said only 46 percent of passengers surveyed thought they were getting value for money.

Norman Baker, transport spokesman for the opposition Liberal Democrats, said the report showed that "British passengers are the most ripped off in Europe." The government insisted fares had fallen relative to earnings since 1997, when the governing Labour Party took power.

On the positive side, the report said British train services were more frequent than those in many other European countries.

It called on officials to simplify fare structures and cap price increases, which are regulated by government. Fares rose an average of 6 percent in January from a year earlier.



By Steve Becker The Truth Rises to the Surface

South dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH ♠ A K 5

♥Q 10 4 WEST **♦** J 10 9 7 2 **♥** K 9 6 3 **♦**83 **♥**752 ♦ J 9 6 4

♣J865

The bidding: West South North East All Pass 1 NT 6 NT Pass Opening lead — jack of spades. There are times when a falsecard

by a defender may lead declarer down the pathway to disaster because he has no way of knowing whether the card played was a true card or not. In many of these cases, declarer can only hope he has his best guessing shoes on. But there are also times when

declarer can positively confirm whether the defender's play was an honest one. In such a case, declarer has only himself to blame if he miseads the situation. Consider this deal where South

was in six notrump. He won the

spade lead in dummy and, since a heart finesse had to be taken sooner or later, led the queen and let it ride losing to West's king.

Declarer won the spade return with the queen and had the rest of the tricks if he could score four club tricks. But when he next led a club to the king, East smoothly followed with the eight. East's purpose was to try to convince South that he might be short in clubs, and had declarer next led a low club to the ace, he would have gone down one.

But South had seen a few false cards in his time, so before committing himself in the club suit, he decided to first find out as much as he could about the adverse distribution. At trick five, he cashed dummy's high spade, on which Easdiscarded a heart, disclosing that West had started with five spades Next came the A-J of hearts, and when East discarded a diamond West was proven to have started with four hearts

Three rounds of diamonds. Wes following to each, completed the pic West had started with exactly one club. South's course was now clear, so at trick 11, he cashed the club queen, then took a finesse against East's jack to make the slam

East made a good try, but, unfortunately, South had come equipped with a lie detector.

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Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.



If it was hard to roll out

the Aries lunar vibes kick up the urgency. If you dare to set an impossible goal

short-term you just might be able to reach it.

19). It has been said that vou should never pretend to be interested in something you're not; however, it might be helpful to do just that today. It will give you a window of understanding into a diverse set of people.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April

in any row, column or box.

<u>Horoscope</u> lomorrow's

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Giving comes easily to you. You heart seems to be ever expanding these days. Loving one person very deeply opens your heart so that you can love others with the same breadth of spirit.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Be careful not to look at different relationships and say "I'm glad that's not me." You attract what you judge. Don't worry, though; you also attract what you respect. Turn your attention to those you admire.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll be offered favors. Graciously acknowledge each one of them. However, only use the favors from those in a higher position than yours. The other kind comes at too costly a price.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's up to you to make some fun. Socializing challenges, has its though, especially

because you will be with someone vou don't know much about and aren't sure what to ask. You'll find your "in" by listening carefully.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). New relationships are forming. Consider that the strength of a relationship starts in the Some early stages. intrigue and a little work will be involved and that makes things more exciting.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You think you know a person and then wow, can they ever surprise you! This is a gift, inspiring you to get to know the different facets of a person, perhaps by showing different sides of yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Do you ever get the sneaking suspicion you're being dreamed about? Lately that's true. You may not be able to control someone else's dreams, but you can certainly influence them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Don't be afraid to ask for money for your talents, even if you think you are still at the amateur stage. Set your price. People value what they pay for even if they pay very little for it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Environment affects you more than it does others. Your observations about a place are spot on. You may even wish you weren't so observant, as it's not so comfortable noticing every little thing. (Jan.

AQUARIUS 20-Feb. 18). Be wary of any situation that asks you to take it seriously. If there really appears to be no room for silliness, avoid it altogether. You've been young your reason to stop now.

entire life and there's no **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You will enjoy the different moods of a relationship. The same one who brings you solace

will also bring you

adventure. You are along for whichever kind of ride the other person wants to take you on.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Pisces, born March 9. I have a best friend who is a girl and in all our 15 years of knowing each other, I never had a glimmer of feeling anything more than friendship. But lately, I can't seem to stop wondering if there could be more. Is it the comfort level or something else drawing me toward her? Sadly, I've never seen the movie "When Harry Met Sally," but the inference is that two people of the opposite sex cannot just be friends. If so, I've proved that theory wrong for at least 15 years, so I'm wondering what now? I really do not want to jeopardize a great — a perfect — best friend relationship. I hope you understand my dilemma and can offer some insight. The girl is a Scorpio."

First of all, you have to go see "When Harry Met Sally." And I'm thinking you should see it with your Scorpio Secondly, Pisces and Scorpio are fantastically compatible — two soulful water signs and both of you have terrific timing. So whatever the reason you never got together before, it was perfect. you definitely should seize the current mode of attraction and see where that goes, too. If it's not right, you'll both know. I think the strength of your connection will carry through either way. Best of luck!

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.

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The **Big Spring** Herald 710 Scurry

263-7331

sudoku

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

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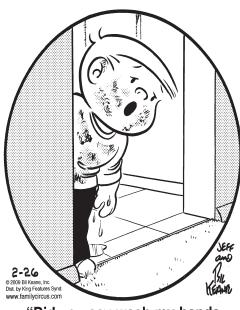
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3	:30 :PM	ABC News	ABC Jeopardy!	Noticiero Tontas Cielo	Lopez Two Men	CBS News	Noticiero 12 Cora-	NBC News	Friends Seinfeld	Brad Sanchez	Business News-Lehrer	Cash Cab Made	Harry Guardino		Law & Order	BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards Suite Life	Interrupt College	College
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10	:30 :PM	Nightline Insider	Nightline Jimmy Kim-	Noticiero La Hora de	King-Hill Law Order:	Late Show	Titulares Decisiones	Tonight Show	Sex &	Van Impe Dr.	Smiley	Made HowStuff-	- I migic	Cowboy MAN	Lakers	The Matrix Revolutions,	Montana So Raven	Basketball	NFL Live
11		Jimmy Kim-	mel Live	la Risa	CI	Late Late		Late Night	Sex &	Swallow	Smiley	Works	Movie:	MAN	_	Carrie-Anne Moss	Cory		SpoCen
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DENNIS THE MENACE



"I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD USE PAPER PLATES."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Did you say wash my hands AND my face?'

HAGAR



I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE

NO

BLONDIE







BC







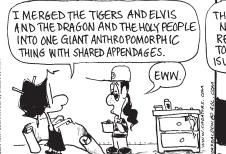
WIZARD OF ID





AGNES







This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 26, the 57th day of 2009. There are 308 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight History:

On Feb. 26, 1870, an experimental air-driven subway, the Beach Pneumatic Transit, opened in New York City for public demonstrations. (The tunnel was only a block long, and the line had only one car.) On this date:

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte escaped from exile on the Island of Elba in Italy.

In 1907, Congress created the Dillingham Commission to examine the impact of immigrants on America. (The panel later recommended curtailing immigration from southern and eastern Europe.)

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure establishing Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.

In 1929, President Calvin Coolidge signed a measure establishing Grand Teton

Newsday Crossword

National Park in Wyoming. In 1940, the U.S. Air Defense Command was created.

In 1945, a midnight curfew on night clubs, bars and other places of entertainment was set to go into effect across the nation.

In 1952, Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced that Britain had developed its own atomic bomb.

In 1979, a total solar eclipse cast a moving shadow 175 miles wide from Oregon to North Dakota before moving into Canada. In 1987, the Tower

Commission, which probed the Iran-Contra affair, issued its report, which rebuked President Ronald Reagan for failing to control his national security staff. In 1993, a bomb built by

Islamic extremists exploded in the parking garage of New York's World Trade Center, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000 others. Today's Birthdays: Singer

Fats Domino is 81. Countryrock musician Paul Cotton (Poco) is 66. Actor-director Bill Duke is 66. Singer Mitch Ryder is 64. Rock musician Jonathan Cain (Journey) is 59. Singer Michael Bolton is 56. Actor Greg Germann is 51. Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine is 51. Bandleader John McDaniel is 48. Rock musician Tim Commerford (Audioslave) is 41. Singer Erykah Badu is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kyle Norman (Jagged Edge) is 34. Rock musician Chris Culos (O.A.R.) is 30. Rhythm-andblues singer Corinne Bailey Rae is 30. Country singer Rodney Hayden is 29. Actress Taylor Dooley is 16.

Thought for Today: "Nothing is more frightful than laughter when it comes to jealousy." -Francoise Sagan, French author (1935-2004). ® 2009 The Associated Press.

Answer to previous puzzle CON MILL SAMBA

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JUST IN CASE by Shirley Soloway

Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

35 Real creep

37 Powerful one

41 Came down

46 Letter opener

alternative

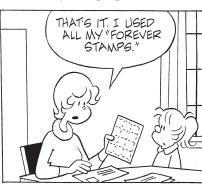
44 Slopes

48 Parasol

50 Train of

40 Swab of a sort

HI AND LOIS





THE OTHER COAST







SNUFFY SMITH





BEETLE BAILEY







ACROSS

- 1 Reagan secretary of state
- **5** Ancient pastime
- 10 Not at all
- friendly
- 14 East, in Ecuador
- **15** Amadeus actor 16 One of the woodwinds
- 17 Magpie, e.g.
- **19** Invitation request
- 20 "What have
- we here!"
- 21 Rigid
- 22 Mültilayered **23** Audition for
- a part
- 25 Thing of the past
- 27 Undemonstrative to the max
- **30** End of a
- Hemingway title **33** "Hey, you!"
- 36 FDR creation
- of 1933 38 Guanaco
- relative
- **39** Sushi choice 40 Central
- American bird **42** Midmorning
- 43 Bikini's claim
- to fame 45 Finalize, so
- to speak **46** Place to sit
- **47** Some slacks
- **49** Hit from the tee 51 Prepare for
- wintry weather **53** Become
- emotional 57 Person at a computer
- **59** World Series precursor

- **62** Peace goddess
- 63 Cow of India **64** New Jersey city **66** Azerbaijan
- neighbor
- 67 One with a
- great burden
- **68** Unoccupied
- 69 Loses energy
 - **70** Communicates with via
 - cell phone **71** Bar inventory

- 1 Charles
- homeland
- - **5** Fidel colleague
- **DOWN**
- MacArthur collaborator 2 Son of Jacob
- 3 Caruso's
 - 4 "Don't bother
 - me!"
- 8 Search thoroughly
- 9 Henry's wives,
- for example
 - 10 After-dinner

6 Offended

7 Island of

3 Down

- drink
- 11 Beseech
- **12** Really go for
- **13** Pirates of the Caribbean star
- **18** Promote
- 24 Vegan staple **26** Do nothing
- **28** Climactic day in **57** Commando
- Julius Caesar 29 Gave a ticket to 58 Certain
- 31 Fr. wives 32 Lost altitude
- 33 Optimal **34** Clockmaker Thomas
- **52** Full-page book illustration **54** Prepare

thought

- 55 Cry of defeat 56 Toy dogs, for
- short
- weapons
- antidotes **60** 260, to Flavius
- **61** Three-person card game
- 65 Pothook shape
- 10 |11 |12 |13

16 14 15 18 22 21 25 28 | 29 31 | 32 36 38 40 45 46 48 49 54 55 56 60 61 62 59 64 65 67 68

17 20 23 33 |34 |35 39 43 47 57 58 63 66 69 70 CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2009 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 2/26/09

Continued from Page 7

"I think we picked up a little confidence from last year," he said. "We've got a lot of young guys, but they've got varsity experience.

"I wouldn't say we have a glaring weak spot, but our weakest point right now is pitching," Otto continued. "We don't have that power pitcher, who you would call an ace. I do feel like we have a lot of good, quality arms, though. There is some depth at the position. I think if we can get into the postseason, then we can be a threat in a 3-game series because we have a couple different guys we're comfortable with having on the mound."

Matt Ritchey turned out to be Big Spring's No. 1 pitcher last season, but will split time on the mound with Jon Benavides, Cade Hollandsworth and left hander Colby Landis this year.

Ritchey and Benavides are two of four players – along with Martin Yanez and Jeremy Solis — who were honored with district awards last season.

Benavides was named Newcomer of the Year after batting .330 with four doubles and eight RBI. He played several positions, including pitcher, catcher and right field.

Ritchey was a firstteam selection in 2008, leading the Steers with a .480 average and 14 RBI.

Solis was second on the team with a .420 average and 11 RBI and mans third base for the Steers. Yanez plays center and is the team's lead off hitter because of his speed. He batted .360 a year ago, drove in six runs and led the Steers in steals.

Big Spring will be tested before it starts playing against a competitive District 4-4A, starting today at 10 a.m. against Andrews, who was a regional semifinalist in 2008, at a tournament in Fort Stockton.

SWIM

Continued from Page 7

thrilled to have both guys in this race. I'm not going to lie, though. Cameron shocked me. He wasn't supposed to win that one."

Hughey finished with a time of 49.19, edging Green, who finished second in 49.48.

"I just wanted to get out strong and push hard early. I wanted to stay in the lead as long as I could," Hughey explained. "I was able to hold on at the end."

"I was a little upset," admitted Green, "but I got over it. If I was going to lose, then I'm glad it was

to my teammate."

Green had to wait until the next day to learn if he made the state meet. He had finished second in the both the 100- and 200-freestyle events, meaning he didn't automatically qualify. In the end, his time of 1:38.34 in the 200 was one of the top 12 nonwinning times in the state, earning Green a trip to Austin.

"It's great to be going," said Green. "I'm not ranked very high, but I think I can compete with the guys there. My goal is to finish in the top five at least."

Nelson is confident in both swimmers' ability to make some noise at the state meet.

"These two have been the top swimmers since the start of the

season," he said. "They both deserve this. It was a tough decision to put them both in the 100, but I couldn't ask for a better result with both of them going to state in two different events. I'm very excited for them.

"Cameron shaved about a second and a half off his best time in the 100 at regionals. I wouldn't be surprised if he still has another second in him," said Nelson. "It wouldn't surprise me if he pulls another upset. Deshae is a beast. If I can just get a fire burning in him, he could win this one as well. I really don't exactly how fast these guys can swim. They've each set several school records this season. It's been a great year for both of them."

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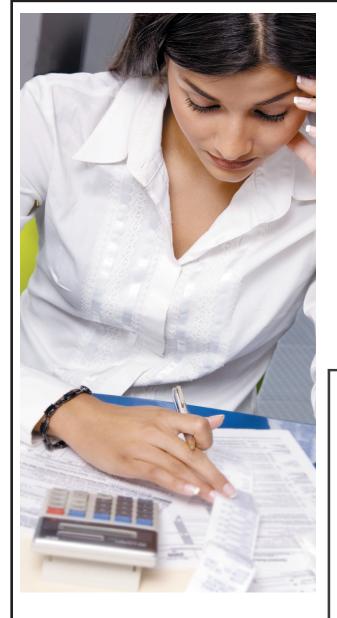
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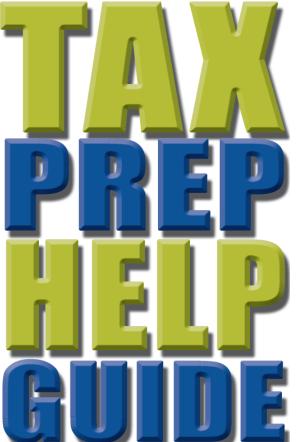
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