

Plantation Shutters & Kitchen Cabinets
ON SALE NOW
100% Financing *WAC
The Decorator's Center
 410 E. FM 700 432-267-8310

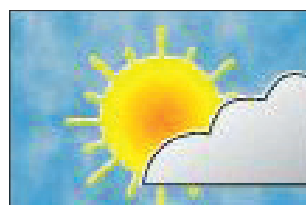
Slaton Insurance Agency
 267-2398
 205 W. 15th
Call For A Quote Today!

The Law Offices Of
R. Shane Seaton, PLLC
 Personal Injury and Vehicle Accidents,
 Divorce,
 Criminal Defense.
 1301 S. Gregg St. • (432) 264-1800

H BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY

MARCH 15, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 87

COPYRIGHT 2009

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

The Bard and the Balladeer

Mitchell and Edwards to join with symphony in night of western fun

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

New venue.
 Familiar guests.
 Same symphony.

The Big Spring Symphony will hold its final concert of the season March 21 when director Dr. Keith Graumann takes the baton at 8 p.m. in the Big Spring High School auditorium.

Titled "The Bard and the Balladeer," the concert will feature cowboy music and poetry from guests Don Edwards and Waddie Mitchell, as well as western-themed music from the symphony.

Before the symphony

Make a day of it March 21 in Big Spring by attending the Boys Club auction, sponsored by the Big Spring Rotary Club and the Boys Club board. All of the items in the Boys Club building, located at 212 E. Third St., will be auctioned, with proceeds going toward Kids' Zone, the playground heavily damaged by fire last year. The auction will begin at 10 a.m.

Waddie Mitchell, and we'll have an evening

See **BARD**, Page 3A



Graumann



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

A Big Spring firefighter heads into a building in the 700 block of Goliad that caught fire Friday afternoon. The fire was quickly contained, but no reports on injuries or damage were available at press time Saturday.

Day in Austin bus ride still doable, officials say

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

Area residents hoping to catch the chartered bus headed to the State Capitol for Big Spring Day in Austin can breathe a sigh of relief this week, as the deadline to get a seat for the biennial event has been extended until Thursday.

According to Terry Wegman, executive director of the Big Spring

Economic Development Corporation, there will be two buses chartered for the event, and with several seats still open, residents who missed out on the first sign-up deadline will get a second chance.

Set for the March 25 trip, Wegman said taking the bus is an excellent way for event-goers to save money while still showing their support for the Crossroads area.

"It's \$40 to take the bus, and that includes transportation to and from the capitol and a box lunch while we're there," said Wegman.

"We're asking everyone to register at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, regardless of how they are getting there or when they are leaving," Wegman

See **BUS**, Page 3A

INDEX

- Business 4-5C
- Classified 6-8C
- Life 1-3C
- Obituaries 2A
- Opinion 4A
- Sports 1-4B

Find us online at:
www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:

Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.



0 54414 79721 6

Obama announces FDA picks, will create food safety group

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama says the nation's decades-old food safety system is a "hazard to public health" and in need of an overhaul, starting with the selection of a new head of the federal Food and Drug Administration.

Obama used his weekly radio and video address to announce the nomination of former New York City Health Commissioner Margaret Hamburg as FDA commissioner, and his choice of Baltimore Health Commissioner Joshua Sharfstein as her deputy.

The president also said he was creating a Food Safety Working Group to coordinate food safety laws throughout

government and advise him on how to update them. Many of these laws, essential to safeguarding the public from disease, haven't been touched since they were written in the time of President Theodore Roosevelt, he said.

Obama said the food safety system is too spread out, making it difficult to share information and solve problems.

He also blamed recent underfunding and understaffing at FDA that has left the agency unable to conduct annual inspections of more than a fraction of the 150,000 food processing plants and warehouses in the country.

"That is a hazard to public health. It is unacceptable. And it will change under the leadership of Dr. Margaret Hamburg," Obama pledged.

Hamburg, 53, is a well-known bioter-



AP photo

Hamburg

rorism expert. She was an assistant health secretary under President Bill Clinton and helped lay the groundwork for the government's bioterrorism and flu pandemic preparations.

As New York City's top health official in the early 1990s, she created a pro-

See **FDA**, Page 3A



1600 Gregg Street
 432-714-4900

www.jrutledgerealty.com

Jeannie Rutledge
 Broker / Owner

Leah Hughes
 432-270-2416

Vanessa Jordan
 432-816-5490

Christie Larson
 432-213-4647

Zac Hall
 806-544-9211

Janet Higgins
 432-213-5454

OUR NEW LISTINGS!!!



701 W. 17th



706 W. 14th



1812 OIL MILL RD.



1508 11TH PLACE

We would like to welcome long time agent Janet Higgins to our team.

Please give Janet a call 432-213-5454

Howard's rise leads to NJCAA Tournament



By **JONATHAN HULL**

Sports Editor

Forget that wearing green this Saint Patrick's Day. Red and black are going to be the most popular colors with many locals, celebrating the ascension of the Howard College women's basketball team.

The Hawks begin their bid for a national title at the NJCAA National Tournament in Salina, Kan., Tuesday, facing 11th-seeded Kaskaskia College in the opening round at noon.

It's been more than 10 years since Howard

last made an appearance at the national tournament. The Hawks came the closest it ever did to winning a title in 1998, placing third.

Advancing to the national stage was commonplace for Howard in the 1990s. The Hawks made their first appearance in 1993 under the tutelage of Royce Chadwick, who is now the head coach at NCAA Division I Marshall. They won the consolation side of the bracket, meaning a seventh-place

See **HOWARD**, Page 2B



HERALD photos/Tony Claxton

Above: Howard College point guard Chassidy Cole (23) looks to pass inside while she's being guarded by a defender from Collin County Community College in semifinals of the Region V Tournament Monday at Lubbock Christian University's Rip Griffin Center. The Hawks won the Region V Tournament and at left is the trophy they received. Howard advances to the NJCAA National Tournament and faces Kaskaskia College at noon Tuesday in the first round.

Refocus

Hamilton wants national attention off him and back on the Texas Rangers

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

SURPRISE, Ariz. — During a hunting trip in Nebraska this winter, far from the spotlight of last season's Midsummer Classic, Josh Hamilton finally had a chance to contemplate all that had happened.

The awe-inspiring display in the Home Run Derby at Yankee Stadium, where the former No. 1 draft pick was an All-Star starter less than three years after he emerged from the black hole of cocaine and alcohol addiction. His American League-leading 130 RBIs while hitting .304 with 32 homers in 156 games in his first full season.

"I enjoyed sitting there with it quiet and did a lot of reflecting," Hamilton said. "It was a great year, an unbelievable year."

During that reflection, the Texas slugger also started feeling something else.

"Excitement," he said. "Kind of the urge to want to get started again and see if you can do better."

Hamilton is now ready for his next chapter, one in which he hopes to be part of the supporting cast on a winning team and not the center of media attention for his inspirational story.

Hamilton has repeatedly and openly told of the addictions that could have kept him from ever playing again. In countless interviews, sharing his testimony with church groups and a book released



AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin

Now that he feels settled with the Texas Rangers, Josh Hamilton wants to focus on winning and helping his team. Last year, Hamilton erupted to lead the American League with 130 RBI, while batting .304 and hitting 32 home runs.

during the offseason, he has spared none of the ugly details of when his life had spiraled out of control.

The triumphant part of Hamilton's story is also well-known, including his debut in the majors with Cincinnati in 2007, eight years after he was drafted, and those 28 home runs in the first round

of the Home Run Derby.

"The first couple of years were about getting back and getting settled in," Hamilton said. "Now that I'm settled in, it's about winning baseball games, doing what I can for the team."

See **HAMILTON**, Page 3B

Baylor topples Longhorns, 76-70, to reach Big 12 final

By **JEFF LATZKE**

AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Scott Drew watched his Baylor team fall apart with a midseason swoon that wiped away some newfound high expectations in his program.

After three upsets in as many days, his Bears are on the verge of making all those struggles a distant memory.

LaceDarius Dunn hit the go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:12 remaining and Baylor ended a 24-game losing streak against Texas, advancing to the Big 12 championship game for the first time with a 76-70 victory Friday night.

One more win and the Bears will be

NCAA tournament-bound, just as they thought they'd be at the beginning of the season — even if it seemed all but impossible as recently as the start of the week.

"I believe in God, and I know he can do miracles," Drew said. "So I definitely believe."

Kevin Rogers scored 20 points and Henry Dugart added 17 as the ninth-seeded Bears (20-13) kept their bid alive to become the first team to sweep four games in four days to win the Big 12 championship. The only team to advance to the Big 12 title game with a lower seed was 10th-seeded Missouri, which did it in the tournament's inaugural year in 1997.

No team seeded lower than third

has won the tournament.

"We came into it the underdog, and we took that as a chip on our shoulder," Dugart said. "We came in, we knew what we had to do and ... it's not over yet. We've still got one more step to do, and we're ready and willing to do it."

A.J. Abrams scored 20 points to lead Texas (22-11), which had reached the finals the past three years. Damion James added 11 points and Gary Johnson 10.

Baylor had not beaten its in-state rival since 1998, before Rick Barnes took over as the Longhorns' coach and reeled off two dozen wins against the opponent Texas has played more than anyone else in its history.

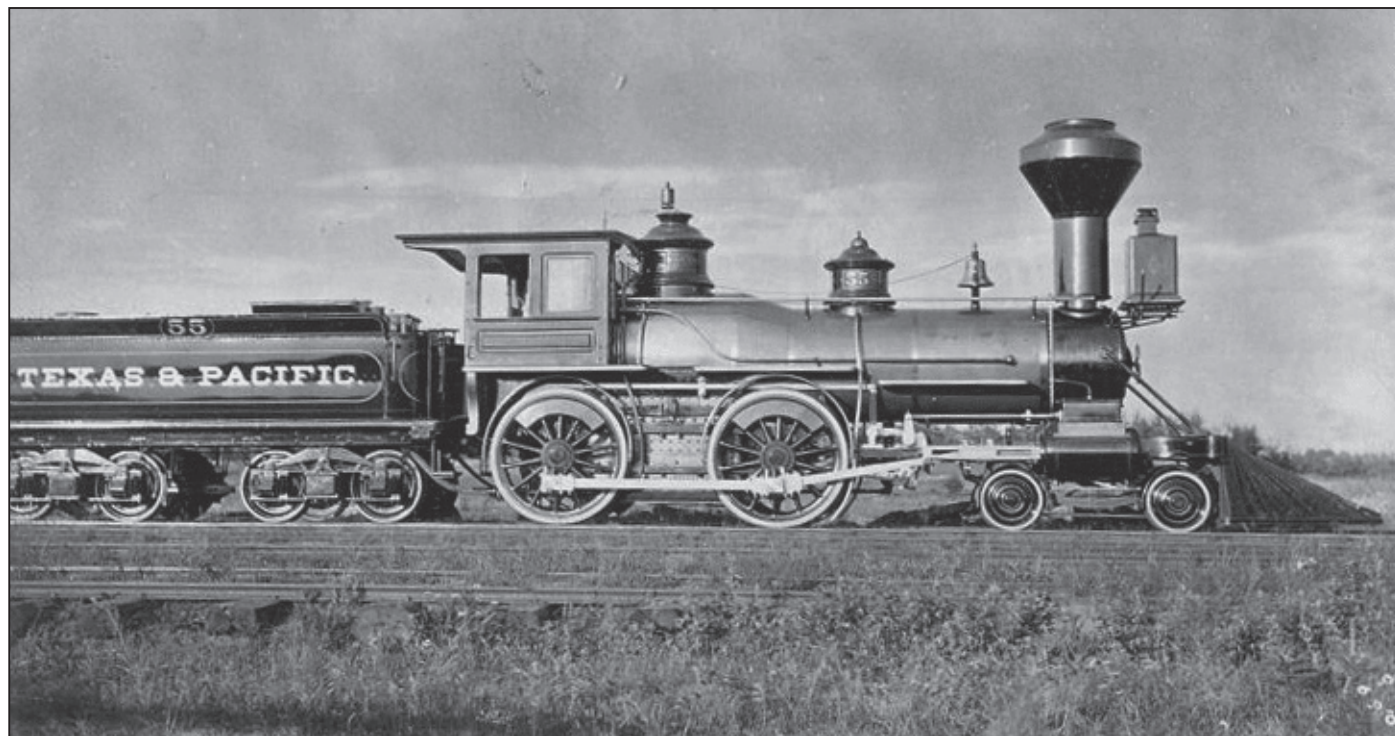
"I really don't like that streak," Drew said. "It's a situation where you had so many close games with Texas and chances, and you just knew it's just a matter of time before you're going to break through."

After backup guard Varez Ward scored four straight points to put Texas up 65-61 with 2:39 left, the Bears reeled off eight straight points to take a surprising lead.

Dunn had his first 3-point try swatted out of bounds by Damion James at the left wing, but he came right back moments later and connected from the opposite side to put Baylor up 67-65.

See **BAYLOR**, Page 2B

**The Texas & Pacific Railway
is coming to the
Heritage Museum
with a reception from
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Thursday**



ALL

ABOARD!



When train service was established on May 28, 1881, in Big Spring, the Texas & Pacific attached passenger cars to freight cars. These were relatively crude, wooden cars which were drafty, creaked, leaked and almost defied heating from cast iron stoves. Seats were fashioned out of hard, narrow, varnished shiplap. But to travelers who could "fly" across the country behind a 25-ton locomotive at speeds of 30 to 35 miles per hour, that was wonderful.

Gradually the quality of the coaches was upgraded. Steam heat replaced the old stoves, and after the turn of the century, the miracle of electric lights began to replace lanterns and lamps. Air brakes took over from the old hand brakes which had to be set on each car. Mohair upholstery softened the seats. Then came the Pullmans, sleepers of years ago. Designers improved on these with upper and lower berths and lounge spaces with toilets and lavatories. In time, there came state rooms and roomettes for privacy and more comfort. Dining cars were added and were symbols of cuisine at its finest. The climax of elegance came with the club cars which were furnished with lounge chairs, game tables, soda fountain, (which later functioned as a bar) and large windows enabling passengers to take in the vast scenery of Texas.

Trains were not without their personalities. The somber conductor punched the passenger's tickets. Porters were fixtures with their flat topped, stiff-billed caps and dark serge suits, or with their starched, gleaming white jackets in the diner. The news Butch hawked such wonderful wares as sparkling apples and oranges, bananas and grapes along with

newspapers, magazines, confections and a clandestine copy of Capt. Billy's Whizbang.

Carriers were always throwing in an excursion to pep up business. Sometimes ads were put in the paper, but frequently circulars were distributed to apprise the public of ridiculously low rail fares to El Paso and the mysteries of Juarez, or to the bright lights of Fort Worth and Dallas. Occasionally cars were chartered for wedding parties, or other special events. Towns, with intense rivalry in sports, chartered special trains.

The T&P promoted special, luxury trains to international conventions and to such annual events as the Kentucky Derby. Gradually the rolling stock was upgraded until steel cars had all replaced the wooden antiques. Trains began to take on identities with the most famous (through Big Spring) being the Sunshine Special.

In the 1920's, tiny wood burning engines with funnel smokestacks were superseded by larger engines which were converted from coal to oil burners. The 723,200 pound steam locomotives stretched 100 feet long and 15 1/2 feet high. They carried 14,000 gallons of water and 5,000 gallons of fuel. They maintained 250 pounds of steam pressure and delivered 4,160 hp to the five foot drivers. The 900's were equipped with boosters, auxiliary cylinders and gears which made starting surer and smoother, and they screamed through the

countryside at 75 miles per hour.

After World War II, streamline cars, with silvery aluminum replaced the steel cars.

Mechanical air conditioning replaced the first system of blowing air over ice. Porters served coffee gratis and furnished patrons with a free, clean pillow. Special, attractive prices were offered on the diner, as well as on tourist fares.

The railroad's future looked bright, and as such, designers planned sophisticated trains of the future. One three level affair with a sky dome observation deck toured the country so people could see what was in store for the future. There was a full capacity crowd waiting for its stop when it arrived in Big Spring. As this modern train entered the city, no one could have predicted that the tide was at its peak.

Airplanes transported people much faster as the trains once did over horse drawn carriages. Interstates and highways were being constructed for the newer luxury liner buses and auto-mobiles. Not even the smooth powered diesel engines could beat the newer forms of transportation.

The post office department abandoned its use of railroads to haul mail. This blow was fatal so far as the Texas &

Pacific was concerned for it simply compounded the history of loss in progressively declining passenger patronage. Two trains had been taken off; the two remaining ones were operating at a \$300,000 per year loss, officials declared. That was too much luxury for sentiment.

Opponents sought vainly to place the blame for declining use on curtailed service. Pullman sleepers had been taken off the train; lounge cars were long since gone; diner cars disappeared and service was left with a void. The T&P argued successfully that it's illogical to subsidize a little wanted service. Logic seemed to prevail.

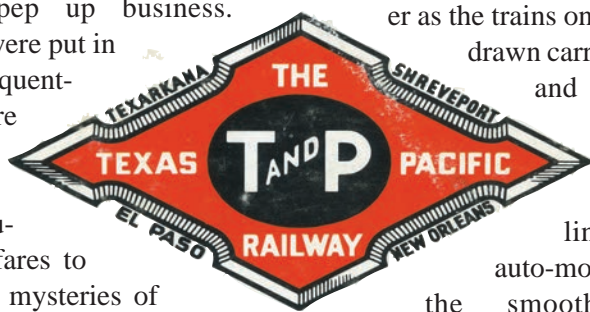
Soon gone were the days of watching the passenger train come in to the depot. The busy drummers, in their derby, lugging heavy cases were no longer disembarking the trains and new settlers dismounting to the offer of "fresh hay and new tie ropes" were all in the past.

On Wednesday morning March 22, 1967, Passenger Train 26 rolled gracefully away for its final destination in Fort Worth.

The depot was sadly torn down almost 89 years to the date that the first train arrived in Big Spring and after 60 years of service as a passenger depot.

A romantic chapter in railroading was closed.

Excerpts from Joe Pickle's article in the Big Spring Herald



NO ONE KNOWS THE COUNTRY LIKE WE DO



1209 Gregg St.
(432) 714-4555

Heart Of The City Realtors



1002 E. 14TH



1205 WOOD



553 HILLSIDE DRIVE

NEW LISTINGS

Obituaries

Lillian L. Rhyne

Lillian L. Rhyne, 95, of Arlington, formerly of Big Spring, died Friday, March 13, 2009, in Arlington. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Chaplain Dean Thomas, VA Medical Center, officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born Dec. 3, 1913, in Rockwall County to Eliza and John D. Patton. She married Rufus Tuckness Jan. 19, 1952. He preceded her in death Nov. 28, 1971. She later married Hugh Rhyne, March 3, 1973, and he preceded her in death April 12, 2004.

She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and was a licensed vocational nurse, having worked at Cowper Hospital and then at Malone Hogan Clinic from 1950 to 1974. She was a member of Baptist Temple Church, Lamesa Rebekah Lodge No. 90, Laura B. Hart Chapter 1019, Order of Eastern Star and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, Chapter 47.

She is survived by two sons, W.D. O'Donnell and his wife Jean of Alvarado and Gene Tuckness and his wife Cindy of Coppell; one daughter, Claudia Brown and her husband Tommy of Arlington; one sister, June Holland and her husband Lowell of Oklahoma; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and two husbands, she was preceded in death by one sister, Lola Marie Johnson.

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

Laura Lawson

Laura Lawson, 93, a former Big Spring resident died Friday, March 13, 2009, in Albuquerque, N.M. Funeral services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Support Groups

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.

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

TUESDAY

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

- The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St.

- Celebrate Recovery, a 12-Step program, meets from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1300 block of Lindbergh.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA IN A DRUG FREE ZONE.
- THEFT was reported in the 300 block of Owens (twice) and the 400 block of Fourth.

Take Note

- Mobile Meals needs volunteers. If you can donate one hour per week to our organization delivering meals between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m., you will be helping the senior citizens of Big Spring. Contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016

- Family Math Night open house will be held from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Coahoma Elementary School. There will be games for the entire family. Learn while you play with your children. Coahoma Lion's Club Pancake Dinner will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Everyone is invited.

- Michael Quinn Sullivan will be the guest speaker at a meeting of the West Texas Pachyderms, set for 7 p.m. March 18 in Howard College's Hall Auditorium. Admission is free. For more information, contact Melanie Gambrell at 267-7387.

- Howard County A&M Club is accepting applications from high school students who are graduating in May and have been accepted at Texas A&M for fall 2009. Students must be Howard County residents who plan to enroll for at least 12 hours. Deadline for applications is April 1. More information and the application may be found on the club Web site at <http://bondwebs.com>.




- The Family History Center (genealogy library) of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be open from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays. If you need assistance in searching out your ancestors, bring all the information you have about your family and we will be happy to assist you. For more information, contact R.A. McKay at (432) 553-8127.

- Big Spring resident Velma Campbell was on vacation in Arizona when she had a massive stroke. She has since been transported to a hospital in Lubbock. She has many friends and is an avid bowler. If anyone would like to help, a savings account has been set up at Wells Fargo. The savings account number is 9662778118.

- 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.

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

Your Local Weather

Sun 3/15	Mon 3/16	Tue 3/17
		
73/44	79/43	83/47
Partly cloudy skies. High 73F. Winds SW at 10 to 15 mph.	Sunshine. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 40s.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 40s.

©2009 American Profile Hometown Content Service

Bulletin Board

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

MONDAY

- The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffett.
- DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams St.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.
- Howard County Master Gardeners meet at 5:30 p.m. in the basement of the county courthouse. The public is invited.
- Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. All working artists and those interested in art are invited to attend.
- Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night: Winning numbers drawn: 12-7-27-31-36. Number matching five of five: 2. Prize: \$13,727. Winning tickets purchased in: Killeen, Harlingen

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-8-3-5. Sum It Up: 25

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-8-2. Sum It Up: 19

Here are the winning numbers selected Friday in the Mega Millions lottery: 10-12-26-46-50. Mega Ball: 23

NEED MONEY
Get A Quick, Easy & Confidential
\$ PAYDAY LOAN \$
Quick Cash
432-263-4400 OPEN SATURDAYS 612 S. Gregg

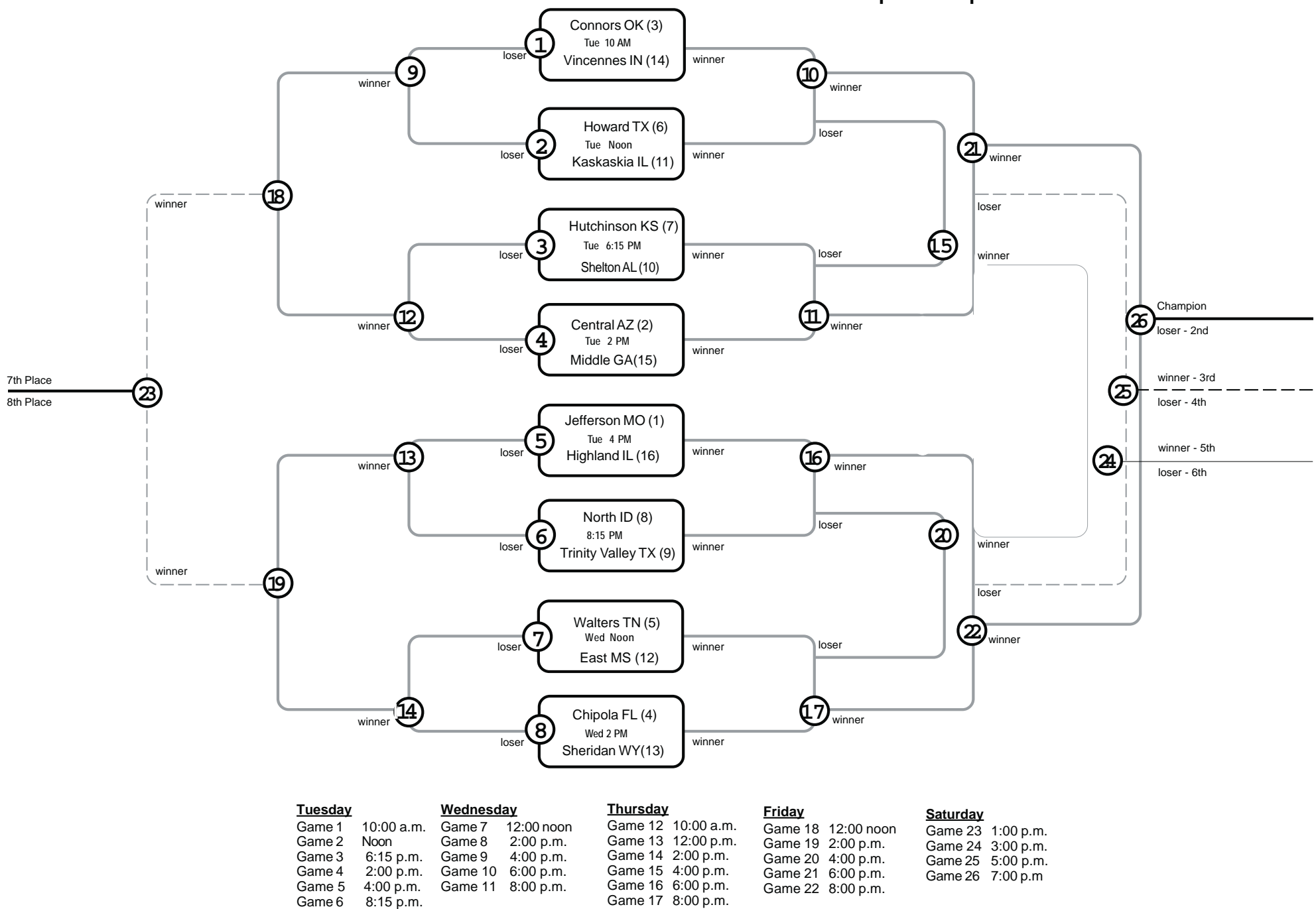
Just In Time For Spring!
available at
Howard County Feed & Supply
701. E. 2nd 267-6411

Help Wanted
Hair Stylists preferably with a following.
Also Seeking Salon Assistant
Please send resume to:
1805 Settles
Big Spring, TX 79720

The Big Spring Symphony Orchestra
CONDUCTED BY DR. KEITH GRAUMANN
The Bard and the Balladeer
March 21, 2009
Saturday, 8:00 p.m.
Featuring the Cowboy Songs, Poetry, and Comedy of Don Edwards & Waddie Mitchell, with guitarist Rich O'Brien
Don Edwards Waddie Mitchell Rich O'Brien
Big Spring High School Auditorium
707 E. 11th Place
Adult: \$15 Senior \$10 Student \$5
TICKET OUTLETS
Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Blum's Jewelers, Big Spring Herald, Faye's Flowers, First Bank of West Texas, Heritage Museum
Big Spring Symphony Office 432.264.7223
graumann@suddenlink.net www.bigspringssymphony.com

GOING GREEN?
CALL THE EXPERIENCED STAFF AT CAIN ELECTRICAL SUPPLY
432-263-8421
FOR YOUR ENERGY SAVING QUESTIONS!
Schneider Electric SYLVANIA LEVITON LUTRON

2009 NJCAA Women's National Basketball Championship



HOWARD

Continued from Page 1B

finish. Chadwick took the Hawks back in 1994. This time they finished sixth. A third consecutive trip was made in 1995 under coach Terry Gray, but Howard experienced its least amount of success at the tourney that year. Coach Matt Corkery was responsible for leading the Hawks to the tournament in 1998 and their top national finish. Eleven years later, the program is under the direction of Earl Diddle

and has been on the upswing since he took over four and a half seasons ago. When Diddle came to Howard, the coaches before him had just quit on the program in the middle of the season and several of the players followed suit. He had just four players left. He recruited a softball player to complete the starting five and had his manager come off the bench so he could have a sub. Needless to say, the Hawks didn't win a game in the competitive Western Junior College Athletic Conference in Diddle's first year. Even with a full squad, Diddle couldn't pick up a victory in the

league in his first full season with Howard in 2005-2006. The Hawks finally started to turn the corner the following year, winning a few conference games, but losing several by seven points or less. Finally in the 2007-2008 season, Howard had a breakthrough, finishing fourth in the WJCAC and qualifying for the Region V Tournament. The Hawks were eliminated by South Plains College in the tourney, but the appearance at the regional was only a sign of what was to come. In the opening round of the 2009 Region V Tournament, the Hawks put together one of the most impressive performances of the season in Diddle's opinion, routing Weatherford, 77-44. Howard got a bigger challenge from a scrappy Collin County Community College team in the semifinals. After playing to a draw in the first half at 30-30, the Hawks exploded in the second, eventually winning 76-52. The same scenario played out in the finals against Odessa College. The Hawks trailed 25-24 at the break, but methodically broke the will of the Lady Wranglers in the second half, claiming a 78-53 victory and a bid into the NJCAA National Tournament. "Getting this bid to the national tournament means a lot to this team and it gives us a chance to represent Howard College and this community," said Diddle. "I'm excited to take our image of Howard to Kansas. Howard had a great tradition in the '90s and now we're back on the national stage. Obviously, we're excited about that. The next step is to keep it there." Howard (26-7) has been ranked sixth in the tournament field of 16. The bracket is played in a false double-elimination format, meaning a team has to lose twice to be eliminate, but once a loss is suffered a national championship cannot be claimed. The Hawks draw the Kaskaskia College Blue Angels (25-6) at noon Tuesday in the first round. It is the first time in program history Kaskaskia, which is in Centralia, Ill., has qualified for the NJCAA Tournament. The Blue Angels defeated Rend Land, Ill., 74-69, to capture the Region 24 and District P title. They started the season with a 6-5 record, but won 19 of their final 20 games, including a 16-0 mark in conference play.

Kaskaskia is led by Whitney Williams, who averages 13.5 points and 8.2 rebounds a game. Sad'a Ray is good for 12.1 points and 8.7 rebounds, while Kelly Albers contributes 9.2 points and 7.4 boards per contest. Diddle says Kaskaskia and Howard actually mirror each other quite a bit. "Kaskaskia is an interesting team. They're a lot like us," said Diddle. "They're a half court team. They don't have a lot of size. Their primary source of scoring is off the dribble-drive and then crashing the boards on second shots. We've got to do a good job of limiting their paint points. "The challenge is we've got to do what we usually do," he continued. "Any time you get into a tournament in March, you've got to be able to defend, rebound and take care of the ball." The Hawks are led by Miesha Blackshear, who averages 13.8 points and 7.3 rebounds a game. Patricia Malouff throws in another 9.6 points per contest. Howard also leads the nation in defensive scoring average, allowing less than 45 points a game. In the Region V Tournament, it seemed a different name stepped forward and had a big performance every game. Against Weatherford, the Hawks got 36 points off the bench from Clarrisa Krum (18 points), Danielle Cota (10) and NaTalia Smith (8). In the semifinals against Collin County, Malouff caught fire, knocking down four 3-pointers in a 20-point performance. Blackshear scored 13 and led Howard with eight rebounds, eight assists and six steals. Against Odessa, Rachael Dryver and DeAndra Thomas took over. Dryver led all scorers with a career-high 22 points, while Thomas added 15. Malouff also had 15 with all of her points coming in the second half. The way Howard shot the ball in the regional was key, according to Diddle, and he's hopeful the effort can continue in Salina. A win and Howard will play the winner of third-seeded Connors College (Okla.) or 14th-seeded Vincennes (Ind.) at 6 p.m. Wednesday. A loss and the Hawks meet the loser of the same game at 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Buffalo Country Fina

4911 S. Hwy. 87 (Only 3 Miles Out of Big Spring) 267-5050

DELI HOURS
6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Monday thru Friday
Assortment Breakfast Burritos & Lunch Burritos
Made Fresh Daily
Catering Also Available

Made To Order Breakfast
Daily Lunch Specials
IN A HURRY?
Call In Orders Welcome

Burger Special \$5.89

NOW OPEN SATURDAYS 6 AM-2 PM

rebounded Texas 35-27 and had 21 points off of their 18 offensive rebounds. After breaking a 20-year NCAA tournament drought last year, the Bears headed into the Big 12 tourney destined for the NIT at best. They started out the season 12-1 and spent seven weeks in the Top 25, but then stumbled all the way out of the NCAA tournament discussion with a six-game losing streak in the middle of Big 12 play. "The big thing is we had such high expectations and goals set for ourselves," Drew said. "Once you realize you don't meet those, it is tough."

BAYLOR

Continued from Page 1B

Abrams missed a 3-pointer at the other end before Curtis Jerrells hit two foul shots to stretch the Bears' lead to four. A deep 3-pointer by Abrams got Texas back within 72-70, but Dunn then sealed it with four more free throws. The Bears will face either No. 14 Missouri or Oklahoma State in the championship game Saturday night. Dunn finished with 16 points and Jerrells added 13. The Bears out-

Births



Adrian Ray Paredez

Ana Gaitan Cansino and Jimi Paredez announce the birth of their child Adrian Ray Paredez at 11:38 p.m. at Odessa Regional Medical Center

weighing 6 pounds, 13.7 ounces. The child's grandparents are Sylvia Gaitan, Hector Cansino, Debbie Ramirez Corrizosa and Benito Paredez.

Kaelyn Elizabeth Headrick

Stefanie Headrick of Big Spring announces the birth of her daughter, Kaelyn Elizabeth Headrick, at 2:51 p.m. March 2, 2009, weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces and 19 inches long. She is the granddaughter of Robert Headrick of Round Rock and Janette Headrick of Big Spring.

Menus

Big Spring Senior Center

Monday
Aloha chicken, rice pilaf, stir fried vegetables, sliced tomatoes on lettuce, fruit cocktail, rolls, milk

Tuesday
beef brisket, pinto beans, carrots coins salad, banana pudding, rolls, milk

Wednesday
chicken and dumplings, green peas, tossed salad, dressing, pound cake w/peaches, rolls, milk

Thursday
meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, dressing, fruit cup, rolls, milk

Friday
crab cakes, boiled new potatoes, English peas and pearl onions, corn bread, mixed fruit cup, milk

Lunch
baked ham, potato salad, baked beans, bread, burritos

Thursday
Breakfast
pancakes, syrup, sausage, orange juice, milk

Lunch
green enchiladas, salad, apples, milk, hot pockets

Friday
Breakfast
donuts, sausage, applesauce cups, milk

Lunch
homemade burritos, pinto beans, cherry turnovers, milk, corn dogs

spears, corn coblette, pineapple tidbits, milk

Friday
Breakfast
cereal, yogurt, juice, milk

Lunch
golden fish strips, macaroni and cheese, tossed salad, fresh fruit, hot rolls, milk

Big Spring ISD

Monday
Breakfast
cereal, sausage patties, fruit juice, milk

Lunch
popcorn chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, rolls, sliced apples, milk

Tuesday
Breakfast
biscuits, chicken nuggets, applesauce cups, milk

Lunch
nachos w/beef, pinto beans, lettuce/tomato salad, peaches, salsa, milk

Wednesday
Breakfast
baked cheese sticks, fruit juice, milk

Lunch
chicken patties, baby carrots, banana pudding, apples, milk

Thursday
Breakfast
pancake sausage on a stick, peach cups, milk

Lunch
spaghetti, garden salad, corn, orange smiles, rolls, milk

Friday
Breakfast
banana loaf, fruit juice, cheddar cheese portia, milk

Lunch
hamburgers, buns, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, French fries, pineapple chunks, milk

Forsan ISD

Monday
Breakfast
breakfast pizza, juice, milk

Lunch
hamburgers, lettuce, tomatoes and pickles, tater tots, baby carrots w/ranch, chocolate pudding cups, milk

Tuesday
Breakfast
scrambled eggs, toast, juice, milk

Lunch
carne guisada, refried beans, seasoned corn, orange smiles, flour tortillas, milk

Wednesday
Breakfast
sausage on a stick, juice, milk

Lunch
chicken and noodles, green beans, fruit gelatin, Texas toast, frozen yogurt, milk

Thursday
Breakfast
biscuits, sausage, juice, milk

Lunch
barbecue on a bun, baked chips, pickle

Coahoma ISD

Monday
Breakfast
pancake and sausage on a stick, syrup, apple juice, milk

Lunch
pizza, corn, oranges, milk

Tuesday
Breakfast
Pop Tarts, ham, applesauce, milk

Lunch
hamburgers, salad trays, chips, pears, milk

Wednesday
Breakfast
biscuits, jelly, gravy, sausage, grape juice, milk

Rattlers Strike in Metroplex!

The Midland Rattlers won the 2009 Triple Crown Season Opener 14U Select Baseball Tournament played February 28-March 1 in Coppell, Texas.

Team Members Include 2nd Year Forsan Student, Max Papajohn, son of David and Dawn Papajohn.

16848

TRUCK MONTH

STAMPEDE OF SAVINGS

Huge Savings Huge Discounts

\$7,600 Customer Cash & Dealer Discounts*

2009 Ford F-150 Super Cab XLT Texas-Oklahoma Edition

MSRP \$31,645
Customer Cash - \$5,500
Dealer Discount - \$2,100

\$24,045

Stk# 2118

*Must Finance Thru Ford Credit

16467

JACK & JILL DAYCARE

Open 7 days a Week 5 am-Midnight
Birth to 12 years old

1708 S. Nolan 267-8411

004255

Dating Violence

What is it?
Dating violence is controlling, abusive and aggressive behavior in a romantic relationship. It can happen in straight or gay relationships. It can include verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse, or a combination of them.

Controlling behavior includes:

- Not letting you hang out with your friends
- Calling or paging you frequently to find out where you are, who you're with, and what you're doing
- Telling you what to wear
- Having to be with you all the time

Verbal and emotional abuse includes:

- Calling you names
- Jealousy • Belittling you (cutting you down)
- Threatening to hurt you, someone in your family, or themselves if you don't do what they want

Physical abuse include:

- Shoving • Punching • Slapping • Pinching • Hitting • Kicking • Hair pulling • Strangling

Sexual abuse includes:

- Unwanted touching and kissing • Forcing you to have sex
- Not letting you use birth control • Forcing you to do other sexual things

Anyone can be a victim of dating violence. Both boys and girls are victims, but boys and girls abuse their partners in different ways. Girls are more likely to yell, threaten to hurt themselves, pinch, slap, scratch, or kick. Boys injure girls more, are more likely to punch their partner, and more likely to force them to participate in unwanted sexual activity. Some teen victims experience violence occasionally. Others are abused more often, sometimes daily.

If you are a victim of dating violence, you might...

- Think it's your fault • Feel angry, sad, lonely, depressed or confused
- Feel helpless to stop the abuse • Feel threatened or humiliated
- Feel anxious • Not know what might happen next
- Feel like you can't talk to family and friends • Be afraid of getting hurt more seriously
- Feel protective of your boyfriend/girlfriend

You're not alone

- One in three teenagers has experienced violence in a dating relationship.
- 50 percent to 80 percent of teens have reported knowing others who were involved in violence relationships.
- 15 percent of teen girls and boys have reported being victims of severe dating violence (defined as being hit, thrown down, or attacked with a weapon).
- 8 percent of 8th and 9th grade students have reported being victims of sexual dating violence.
- Young women, ages 16 to 24 years, experience the highest rates of relationship violence.

Get help
Being a victim of dating violence is not your fault. Nothing you say, wear, or do gives anyone the right to hurt you.

- If you think you are in abusive relationship, get help immediately. Don't keep your concerns to yourself.
- Talk to someone you trust like a parent, teacher, school principal, counselor or nurse.
- If you choose to tell, you should know that some adults are mandated reporters. This means they are legally required to report neglect or abuse to someone else, like the police or child protective services. You can ask people if they are mandated reporters and then decide what you want to do. Some examples of mandated reporters are teachers, counselors, doctors, social workers, and in some cases, even coaches or activity leaders. If you want to help deciding who to talk to, call our Helpline at 1-800-FYI-CALL, or an anonymous crisis line in your area. You might also want to talk to a trusted family member, a friend's parent, an adult neighbor or friend, an older sibling or cousin, or other experienced person who you trust.
- If you want to get advice about who to talk to, call our helpline (1-800-FYI-CALL) or an anonymous crisis hotline in your area. You might also want to talk to a trusted family member, a friend's parent, an adult neighbor or friend, an older sibling or cousin, or other experienced person who you trust.

Help Yourself
Think about ways you can be safer. This means thinking about what to do, where to go for help, and who to call ahead of time

- Where can you go for help? • Who can you call? • Who will help you?
- How will you escape a violence situation?

Here are other precautions you can take

- Let friends or family know when you are afraid or need help.
- When you go out, say where you are going and when you'll be back
- In an emergency call 911 or your local police department
- Memorize important phone numbers like the people to contact or places to go in an emergency
- Keep spare change, calling cards, or a cell phone handy for immediate access to communication
- Go out in a group with other couples
- Have money available for transportation if you need to take a taxi, bus, or subway to escape

Help Someone Else
If you know someone who might be in an abusive relationship, you can help.

- Tell the person that you are worried • Be a good listener • Offer your friendship and support
- Ask how you can help • Encourage your friend to seek help
- Educate yourself about dating violence and healthy relationships
- Avoid any confrontations with the abuser. This could be dangerous for you and your friend.

Call
Victim Services Agency
263-3312
www.vsofbigspring.com

17921

Bob Brock Ford

500 W. 4th 267-7424



Don Edwards, left, and Waddie Mitchell will perform with the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra at 8 p.m. March 21 in the Big Spring High School Auditorium.

BARD

Continued from Page 1A

no one will forget. "Don Edwards is an old farmhand ... who sings cowboys songs," Graumann said. "He has a beautiful voice and he wrote a number of those songs himself."

"Waddie Mitchell is perhaps the best-known cowboy poet in the country," Graumann added. "He's won numerous awards ... and he's very funny. Both of these men performed here several years ago and were a big hit."

The symphony will begin the evening with "Hoe-Down" by Aaron Copland, followed by a medley of songs sung by Edwards.

Mitchell will entertain with his poetry, "Waddie's Words" and "Sounds a Cowboy Hears."

The evening will also include performances of "Ghost Riders in the Sky," "West of Yesterday" and "Santa Rosa Serenade."

General admission

prices are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students.

Graumann said symphony goers must remember the change in venue for this concert. The symphony had been looking for a new home since the Municipal Auditorium was closed because of accessibility problems. Moving to the high school was the best and most obvious move for now, he said.

"This next concert would have been a sellout at the (municipal) auditorium ... and there's no other comparable place in town that can seat the same number of people," Graumann said. "So the high school was the logical choice."

Since the switch to the high school, the biggest task symphony officials have faced is getting the word out to patrons.

"Logistically, we're hoping this won't be a problem for us," he said. "The problem has been making sure we reach all our patrons and let them know about the change."

To address the accessibility issues which plagued the municipal auditorium, handi-

capped patrons and those needing assistance should enter by the flag pole entrance east of the high school auditorium entrance on 11th Place.

Wheelchairs will be available and members of the Interact (Rotary) Club of the High School will assist those in need, Graumann said.

Graumann said he was unsure if the move to the high school would be permanent.

"We've had talks with a lot of other organizations, including the college and several churches in the area," he said. "We might very well perform somewhere else next season."

For more information, call the symphony association at 264-7223.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

John P. "Chuck" Nichols, Jr., 79, died Thursday. Funeral services were at 11 a.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Russell McKiski, 62, died Wednesday. Memorial Service were at 2 p.m. Saturday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church.

Lillian L. Rhyne, 95, died Friday. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

BUS

Continued from Page 1A

said. "For those planning to take advantage of the bus we have chartered, we'll be leaving from the east parking lot at Howard College's Dorothy Garrett Coliseum at 4:30 a.m. The deadline to pay for a bus ticket or order a box lunch is Thursday. If you're not taking the bus but want to have a box lunch waiting for you, it's \$9.

"Food and drinks on the bus will be the responsibility of those traveling, and on the way back we'll be stopping off at Coopers Barbecue, which will be Dutch treat. We expect to arrive back at Howard College at approximately 11 p.m."

Wegman said the time at the State Capitol will be well spent, featuring a number of events to help highlight Big Spring and Howard County.

"They will read the

resolution on the floor of the House and Senate proclaiming March 25 Big Spring Day in Austin," said Wegman. "Also, students from the Howard County School Choir — made up of students from several different schools in the area — will perform in the rotunda. We'll have a box lunch on the east grounds of the Capitol, as well as have a Coke and Blue Bell Ice Cream reception, followed by a group photo on the Capitol steps."

Big Spring Day in Austin is an excellent way to catch the attention of lawmakers in the Lone Star State and let them know Howard County residents are very interested in how state policy effects the Crossroads community, according to Wegman.

"This is a great chance to see first-hand how the legislature works," said Wegman. "They make the laws that effect our lives, day after day."

For more information on Big Spring Area

Day in Austin, call Big Spring EDC at 264-6032 or the Big Spring Chamber at 263-7641.

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

FDA

Continued from Page 1A

gram that cut high rates of drug-resistant tuberculosis.

She is the daughter of two doctors. Her mother was the first black woman to earn a medical degree from Yale University, and she credits her Jewish father for instilling in her a passion for public health.

Sharfstein, 39, is a pediatrician who has challenged the FDA on the safety of over-the-counter cold medicines for children. He also served as a health policy aide to Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., who plays a leading role in overseeing the pharmaceutical industry.

Both are doctors and outsiders to the troubled agency who will face the daunting challenge of trying to turn it around.

Hamburg's appointment requires Senate confirmation; Sharfstein's does not.

Obama said while he doesn't believe government has the answer to every problem, there are certain things that only government can do such as "ensuring that the foods we eat and the medicines we take are safe and don't cause us harm."

"Protecting the safety of our food and drugs is one of the most fundamental responsibilities government has," he said.

Obama cited a string of breakdowns in assuring food safety in recent years from contaminated spinach in 2006 to salmonella in peppers and possibly tomatoes last year. This year, a massive salmonella outbreak in peanut products has sickened more than 600 people, is suspected of causing nine deaths and led to one of the largest product recalls in U.S. history.

These cases are a "painful reminder of how tragic the consequences can be when food producers act irresponsibly and government is unable to do its job," Obama said, noting that contaminated food outbreaks have more than tripled to nearly 350 a year from 100 incidents annually in the early 1990s.

The FDA's work will be part of the larger effort undertaken by the Food Safety Working Group.

Obama also announced a complete ban on the

slaughter of cows too sick or weak to stand on their own, to keep them out of the food supply. So-called "downer" cows are at increased risk for mad cow disease, E. coli and other infections, partly because they typically wallow in feces.

Downer cattle are already mostly banned from slaughter, but the new rule would end an exception or loophole that allowed some "downer" cattle into the food supply if they passed an additional veterinary inspection.

Obama's action finalizes a rule announced last year following the nation's largest beef recall, which involved a slaughterhouse in Chino, Calif., where downer cows entered the food supply.

Obama said he takes food safety seriously not just as a president, but as the parent of daughters 10 and 7 years old.

When he learned of the peanut product re-

call, Obama said he immediately thought of his younger daughter, Sasha, who eats peanut butter sandwiches several times a week.

"No parent should have to worry that their child is going to get sick from their lunch," he said.

Associated Press writers Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

2000 Harley Classic
Excellent Condition
35K Miles
\$7,800

Call
432-352-3640

Charles Myers Attorney At Law

Kerr, Ward, McLaughlin, Miller & Myers, L.L.P.

432-684-9990 • Midland, TX
charles@kerr-ward.com

Not Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Dragon China Buffet
1300 Gregg 268-8888

\$1.00 Off Per Adult

.50 Off Per Child
Up to 10 People
(NOT FOR CARRYOUT)

EXP. 05/03/09

CINEMARK
For advance tickets & showtimes visit cinemark.com
or call 1-800-FANDANGO + Exp Code 2131#

CINEMA 4 1801 East FM 700

FIRST MATINEE SHOWTIME (7 DAYS A WEEK) \$3.50
ADULT MATINEE BEFORE 4PM \$4.00
ALL DAY TUESDAY (HOLIDAYS EXCLUDED) \$4.00

Coraline (PG) Sun.: 1:20 4:50 7:10	Tyler Perry's Madae Goes To Jail (PG-13) Sun.: 1:10 4:40 7:00
Race To Witch Mountain (PG) Sun.: 1:30 5:00 7:20	Watchmen (R) Sun.: 1:00 4:30 8:00

◆ NO PASSES-NO CLASSIC SUPERSAVERS

TEXASTONE QUARRIES SUPPORTS RELAY FOR LIFE!

TEXASTONE QUARRIES

TexaStone Rockers were top fund-raisers in 2008 for the Howard-Glasscock County Relay for Life. So come see us on Saturday, March 21, 2009 from 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m., for our Stone and Scrap Sale, all proceeds go to the AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY.
Call for Details 432-354-2569.

BIG SPRING HERALD

www.BigSpringHerald.com
Big Sky, Big Heart, Big Spring

432-263-7331 (Main Switchboard)
432-264-7205 (Fax)

Missed Your Paper: 432-263-7331
(Mon.-Fri. 8a.m.-6p.m. Sun. 8a.m.-10a.m.)

Ron Midkiff	Publisher... Ext. 250
John A. Moseley	Managing Editor... Ext. 230
Rick Nunez	Advertising Manager... Ext. 229
Robert Smith	Circulation Manager... Ext. 244
Tony Hernandez	Production Manager... Ext. 256

The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

Published afternoons Mon. thru Fri. and Sunday mornings, except Christmas Day. All materials copyrighted.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties; \$13.25 elsewhere.

WESTEX Auto Parts, Inc. Since 1947

One of Texas' best source of Quality used auto parts

- 14 acres of dismantled vehicles with over 20,000 sq. ft. warehouse storage
- Motors • Transmissions • Body Parts • Electrical Parts

(432) 263-5000

1 1/2 mile North of Hwy 350

Jones: Cowboys won't rush to draft wide receiver

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones says drafting a wide receiver isn't a priority this year, even after the departure of Terrell Owens.

"One of the reasons that I made the decision on Terrell Owens was because I thought so much of our young receivers. Not only Roy Williams ... but our other young receivers — Miles Austin, Sam

Hurd, those are guys that will now have a chance," Jones said Thursday night. "It would really have to be a real opportunity for us to go there.

"The good news with our team right now is we can go about any direction we want to in the draft and pick the best player."

Owens was released last week and later signed with the Buffalo Bills.

Jones, a former Arkansas Razorbacks player, was in Little Rock to be honored by Easter Seals as its 2009 Arkansan of the Year. He was accompanied by three Cowboys: quarterback Tony Romo, tight end Jason Witten and running back Felix Jones.

See **COWBOYS**, Page 4B

HAMILTON

Continued from Page 1B

While continuing to do what he has to do for himself to avoid any mistakes that could lead him astray. God and his family remain his main focus, and baseball is something he does.

"Our whole focus with Josh is his faith, his family and being the father and the husband he wants to be, the man he wants to be," said Johnny Narron, a Rangers coach and longtime friend who is his almost-constant companion. "His baseball talent will take care of itself. As long as he's on the field playing, he's going to perform. His tools will play."

The 27-year-old Hamilton knows that even after nearly 3½ years of sobriety and his on-field accom-

plishments, he is still a recovering addict.

"There's still those days," Hamilton said. "It only takes one, it only takes thinking that I can one time to end up right back where I was."

Just like the past two seasons, Hamilton carries little if any money and Narron holds on to his \$89 per diem players get on the road. Narron, hired by the Rangers from Cincinnati after they acquired Hamilton, will be in an adjoining hotel room on road trips, and the two will continue to have meals and Bible study together.

"Josh is a unique talent with unique needs," Narron said.

"Everything's the same," Hamilton said. "I just don't need to try to take any unnecessary chances."

Hamilton tried cocaine and alcohol for the first time on the same night in 2002, when he was on the disabled list in the minor leagues. What followed were multiple failed drug tests, suspensions from baseball, eight trips to drug rehabilitation or treatment centers, and estrangement from his family.

It was an unimaginably dark journey for the clean-cut 18-year-old kid from North Carolina that Tampa Bay took as the top pick out of high school in 1999.

He was strung out with nowhere else to turn when he showed up at his grandmother's door in the middle of the night — and has now been sober since October 2005.

When Hamilton first joined Texas last spring, traded from Cincinnati after he hit .292 with 19 homers in 298 at-bats during his rookie season, he shared his story in a news conference after the first full-squad workout. Several teammates and Rangers officials listened.

They then got an close-up look at his incredible breakthrough season, from the daily batting practice shows to finally fulfilling the lofty expectations that came with being a top prospect.

"He's a once-in-a-generation baseball player," teammate Hank Blalock said this week.

"You see his power, his arm, everything. Those are the type of things that make fans kind of jump out of their seats and say 'Wow!'," David Murphy said. "What people don't realize is how his own teammates, we are as blown away by the things he does as everybody else."

Hamilton last season reached 50 RBIs faster (45 games) than any player in AL history, breaking a record that had been shared by Joe DiMaggio. He was the first American Leaguer ever to be player of the month in April and May of the same season.

Then there was that July night in the Bronx, memorable even though he didn't actually win the

Home Run Derby.

When the season ended, Hamilton was exhausted physically and mentally. From playing 55 games more than he ever had in a professional season to constantly responding to people who wanted to hear his life story everywhere he went.

It wasn't until December, on that hunting trip with his brother, that Hamilton finally got to really slow down.

"It was good just to get away from everything," he said. "We just talked about everything God has done in our lives and how amazing his grace and mercy is."

Hamilton will never hide from his past and will always talk about it, especially when he can help people facing the same demons he is holding at bay. But he doesn't plan to repeatedly retell his entire story to the media this season.

Want the back-from-the-beginning story? Read the book.

"That will answer all your questions," Hamilton said. "If somebody has a question about how things are going, or what kind of feedback I've gotten from people in general, I'm going to be definitely willing to answer those questions."

Reaction to "Beyond Belief" has been positive since its release in October. Hamilton said he is encouraged when people share with him how the book has helped their family members or friends.

Narron said the story shows people there can be hope no matter how bad things get.

"People need to remember that Josh has conquered some things but still the battle with Josh is the test of his faith every day," Narron said. "They see a man that's overcome some things, but they also see a man that's fighting that battle every day, and that gives them something that they can point toward."

This spring, Hamilton gave teammates copies of his book.

"He's always going to be accountable and talk about his story," general manager Jon Daniels said. "Rather than focus on that all the time, he wants the focus to be on the team. Not on Josh's past, but how Josh can help the club win."

Hamilton has been in Arizona since January, having gone to the desert a month early to work out at the Athletes Performance Institute. Since Rangers camp began last month, he has been in bed by about 7:30 each night and headed to the complex before 6 a.m.

Narron, who has known Hamilton since he was a kid, said the center fielder is in the best shape he has ever seen him and is motivated to help Texas win.

After losing nearly 20 pounds during his first full season in the majors, Hamilton is back up to about 240 this spring and is surprised at how good he feels.

"I see a quiet confidence about him. I don't think he's concerned about what he can do now. He knows what he's capable of doing," manager Ron Washington said. "He definitely found that dark hole, but he's one of the few that crawled out of it. He's blessed and he doesn't take it for granted."

With the calendar flipped to a new year and a new season only a few weeks away, Hamilton is ready for the next chapter. With a new reference point for the future.

"I don't ever want to turn the page," Hamilton said. "I always want to keep it around, or maybe fold the top of the page down so I can always go back to it."

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 in any row, column or box.

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

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

by Samsung



Only **\$19.99**
*after \$50 mail-in rebates and 2-yr. service agreement on each line

Make your Hue II more you with fun faceplates!

- 2.0 MP camera with video
- Music player
- GPS-capable

Optional faceplates shown are available for purchase.



BlackBerry® Pearl™
Now Only \$19.99
after \$100 mail-in rebate & qualifying 2-yr. Smart Choice Pack agreement.

Call more people. Use zero minutes.

Alltel is now a part of Verizon Wireless, creating America's Largest Mobile to Mobile Calling Family — more than 80 million strong. Plus, get unlimited calling to any number on **any network with My Circle.**

Certain Alltel customers not joining Verizon Wireless. See alltel.com for updates & eligibility.



now a part of **Verizon Wireless**
alltel.com 1-800-alltel-1

- Promotional offers available at the following locations:**
- Alltel Retail Stores**
 - These Retail Stores Now Open Sunday.
 - Alpine**
 - 903 E. Holland Ave. | (432) 837-7029
 - Andrews**
 - 401 N. Main | (432) 524-4460
 - Big Spring**
 - 2101 Gregg St. | (432) 264-0003
 - El Paso**
 - 1360 N. Lee Trevino | (915) 591-4524
 - 1830 N. Zaragosa Rd. | (915) 856-9147
 - 8600 Montana Ave. | (915) 771-7111
 - 7661 N. Mesa | (915) 504-1118
 - Cielo Vista Mall | (915) 779-9300
 - Fort Bliss AFB** | (915) 562-4096
 - Transmountain & Patriot Fwy. | (915) 472-0890
 - Ft. Stockton**
 - 222 W. Dickinson | (432) 336-8777
 - Midland**
 - 2106 Rankin Hwy. | (432) 683-9800
 - 5323 W. Loop 250 N. | (432) 520-3535
 - Midland Park Mall | (432) 522-2032
 - Monahans**
 - 413 S. Main | (432) 943-8399
 - Odessa**
 - 2808 N. West County Rd. | (432) 333-5116
 - 3131 E. University Blvd. | (432) 363-9500
 - Music City Mall | (432) 550-2086
 - Music City Mall | (432) 550-6399
 - Pecos**
 - 1213 S. Eddy | (432) 447-9425
 - Shop at a participating retailer:**
 - Equipment & promotional offers at these locations may vary.
 - Alpine**
 - First Choice Comm. | (432) 837-1443
 - Andrews**
 - Airways | (432) 894-8699
 - Big Spring**
 - Representative Sales | (432) 263-1500
 - El Paso**
 - Chong Wireless | (915) 852-7002
 - Clear Conn. | (915) 843-2140
 - G & J Navarro Ent. | (915) 751-8480
 - Wireless Connections | (915) 533-7676
 - Wireless Connections | (915) 779-3620
 - Ft. Stockton**
 - Trio Wireless | (432) 336-8755
 - Kermit**
 - Airways | (432) 586-2866
 - Midland**
 - J&G Wireless Comm. | (432) 620-9830
 - Trio Wireless | (432) 699-2393
 - Wireless 4U | (432) 697-2000
 - Odessa**
 - Electronic Center | (432) 337-4884
 - Electronic Center | (432) 550-4884
 - The Connection | (432) 617-3333
 - Trio Wireless | (432) 362-8489
 - Presidio**
 - RadioShack | (432) 229-3620

Federal, state & local taxes & charges apply. In addition, Alltel may charge monthly connectivity, regulatory, administrative & 911 surcharges up to \$2.19 & federal & state Universal Service Fund fees (both may vary by customer usage). These additional fees may not be taxes or government-required charges & are subject to change. Additional information regarding your taxes, fees & surcharges is available from your Alltel customer service representative & on your monthly bill. Phone Details: Phones & applicable rebates available for a limited time, while supplies last, with activation of a qualifying rate plan. Rebate will be in the form of a VISA gift card. Limit 1 rebate per qualifying purchase. Phone may be returned within 15 days of purchase. If mail-in rebate certificate has been submitted, Alltel will refund the purchase price less the rebate amount. Customer pays applicable taxes. See rebate certificate for details. Blue & silver faceplate included with purchase of The Alltel Hue II. Optional faceplates available at an additional charge. **Smart Choice Pack Requirement:** All new or existing customers activating or upgrading to a smart device are required to purchase & maintain a Smart Choice Pack for the duration of their contract in order to qualify for the in-contract phone price. **Mobile to Mobile:** Certain Alltel customers not joining Verizon Wireless. See alltel.com for updates & eligibility. Mobile to Mobile minutes apply to calls between eligible Alltel Wireless & Verizon Wireless customers that begin & end in your plan's calling area. Call forwarding, 411 & voice mail calls excluded. **My Circle:** Available to new & existing customers on current select rate plans. Minimum rate plan of \$49.99 for 5 Circle Plan numbers; \$59.99 for 10 numbers; \$89.99 for 20 numbers. For Smart Choice Pack customers, minimum rate plan of \$69.99 for 5 Circle Plan numbers; \$89.99 for 10 numbers; \$139.99 for 20 numbers. My Circle numbers must be shared among all lines on the primary account. Customer may not designate own wireless or voice mail number. Directory Assistance or 900 numbers as any of the available numbers. Calls must begin & end in your plan's calling area. Designated numbers must be within the 50 U.S. states. Feature may be discontinued at the discretion of Alltel. Allow 24 hours for changes to Your Circle numbers to become effective. Restrictions apply to Business & Prepaid customers. See representative for details. **Additional Information:** This offer may be limited due to time, supplies, coverage, or participating locations. \$25 non-refundable activation fee & possible \$200 early termination fee apply per line. Offers are subject to the Alltel Terms & Conditions for Communications Services available at any Alltel store or alltel.com. All product & service marks referenced are the names, trade names, trademarks & logos of their respective owners. BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, SureType® & related trademarks, names & logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited & are registered &/or used in the U.S. & countries around the world. Screen images are simulated. ©2009 Alltel Communications, LLC. All rights reserved.



By Steve Becker
A Matter of Perspective

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ A 8 6
♥ 7 6 4
♦ A 6 4 2
♣ 7 5 3

WEST
♦ 10 7 5 3 2
♥ J 10 9 5 3
♦ 10 7
♣ 8

EAST
♦ Q J 9
♥ 8 2
♦ 9 8 3
♣ K 9 6 4 2

SOUTH
♦ K 4
♥ A K Q
♦ K Q J 5
♣ A Q J 10

The bidding:
East 3 NT
South Pass
West 6 NT
North Pass
Opening lead — jack of hearts.

The rubber-bridge player tends to look upon the duplicate-bridge player with some measure of disdain. Rubber bridge, he says, is the real test of skill, the true battleground for imagination and ingenuity. The parlous situations, the gambling element that challenges the intestinal fortitude of the participants, the reorientation to changing partners and opponents — these are the elements that appeal to the rubber-bridge devotee.

The duplicate player is an entirely different breed. He is a boxer, not a slugger. He competes on

every deal against other contestants who play exactly the same cards. He strives for the best score on each deal, no matter how small the margin of difference. There is artistry in this form of the game. Each deal is a poem, everything rhymes, the meter is perfect.

Today's deal provides a case in point. The bidding is the same at both forms of the game. North adds his eight points to South's presumed 25 or 26 and promptly bids a slam. In rubber bridge the play is over very quickly. South wins the first heart, leads a diamond to the ace and takes a club finesse. He then crosses to the spade ace and takes another club finesse. He cashes his remaining winners, loses a club to East's king at trick 13 and moves on to the next deal.

This is sacrilege to the duplicate player. Anyone can make six on these cards. The idea is to make seven. So he goes into deep thought and emerges with a gleam in his eye. First he cashes the K-Q of diamonds, then leads the jack to the ace. A club finesse is followed by the five of diamonds to the six, and another club finesse is taken. South follows with a spade to the ace and then takes a final club finesse to make seven.

Is the overtrick really worth all the extra energy South has expended? That decision, dear reader, is left to you.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.
©2009 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Who's Who

Big Spring High School student Hannah Weber, daughter of Franklin and Molly Weber, was recently awarded the Venturing Silver Award from the Boy Scouts of America.

Prior to earning her Silver award, Weber also earned the Gold Award, the Sports Bronze Award, Arts and Hobbies Bronze Award and the Religious Life Bronze Award. According to Scouting officials, she has served in a variety of leadership positions, including Crew President, Youth Group President, and 4-H 2nd Vice President. Weber has also completed the Venturing Leadership



Hannah Weber

Skills Course, and has organized a variety of community service projects, including Christmas food delivery and Salvation Army bell ringing.

Engagements Blum's Jewelry

sponsored by

In The Big Spring Mall. • 267-6335

Gutierrez and Smith

Magun May Gutierrez and Michael Brian Smith, both of Lubbock, announce their upcoming marriage at 3 p.m. March 21, 2009, at Midway Baptist Church.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Mitchell Gutierrez of Coahoma and Margie Gutierrez of Big Spring. Her grandparents are Fred and Elodia Gutierrez and Tom Gutierrez and the late Mary Gutierrez, all of Big Spring.

The future groom is the son of Phillip and Rebecca Smith of Big Spring. He is the grandson of Don and Grace Karns of Big Spring and Kenneth and Sue Dees of Pennsylvania.

Magun is a graduate of Coahoma High School, attended Howard College and is a physical therapist at 69th Street Chiropractic in Lubbock.

Michael is a graduate of Big Spring High School and earned his associates degree at Howard College. He is employed with Permian Production Chemical.



Michael Brian Smith and Magun May Gutierrez

Doing your part

Did you know that you have the opportunity to receive an award simply by taking care of your residential or business property?

Keep Big Spring Beautiful and the City of Big Spring Code Enforcement are partnering to recognize property that is clean and beautiful with the "Doing Your Part - Beautification Award."

You can be nominated or selected for the award, which is given monthly, and receive gifts from local businesses, as well as be recognized by the Big Spring City Council. This is where I need your help. I try to select

a residential house, yard or business whose owners are clearly doing their part to make a difference in our community, whether it is a house a face lift, landscaping or other project. I try to select one from each council member's district. So if you know of a beautiful house, yard or business, please contact me.

The first award given this year for "Doing your Part Beautification Award" was to a resident who rents his house. So whether you own or rent, you can qualify.

Recently, we recognized a house located at 1800 Winston which the owner purchased several months ago. It was in dire need of repair and the yard front and back had high weeds and dead grass. He cleaned up the yard, painted the house and it looks like a new one, neat and clean. He plans to do

some landscaping. Selected monthly Doing Your Part winners receive gifts. The city gives a \$50 certificate off your water bill. Harris Lumber and Hardware and Higginbotham Bartlett Co. give gift certificates, along with Johansen Nursery, Papa Georgio's Pizza, Big Spring Herald and The Master's Touch. Wal-Mart also has a gift bag that will be given when the recipient is recognized during a city council meeting.

So, with spring just around the corner, why not participate in this event and see what change you can make in your own property? Again, if there is a house, yard or business you would like to nominate, I would appreciate your help.

Pictures are taken to be published in the Big Spring Herald. If you have a selection, contact me at 263-4607.



PAT SIMMONS



Courtesy photo

Channing Martin has been named the Big Spring Rotary Club Student of the Month for January 2009. Pictured from left: BSHS Principal Mike Ritchey, Greater Big Spring Rotary Club President Dr. Keith Graumann, Rotary Student of the Month Channing Martin, and Channing's parents, Johnny and Karen Martin. A senior at Coahoma High School, Channing plans to enroll at Howard College and transfer to Angelo State University, majoring in accounting or elementary education. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has been involved with Student Council, Drama Club, FFA, Family Career and Community Leaders of America, and athletics and has also assisted with Relay for Life, food drives and other civic projects.

SPRING HAS SPRUNG! at Fort Worth LAP-BAND

Lose the Weight. Improve Your Health.

FREE LAP-BAND SEMINARS Coming to the Midland area!

Register to Join
**Dr. Adam Smith or
Dr. Craig Ferrara**
to Learn About:

- › How the LAP-BAND works
- › Resolving your Health Issues
- › Differences between Gastric Bypass and the LAP-BAND
- › Choosing the right Surgeon
- › Insurance Coverage Info
- › Cost & Financing Options

"I'm a LAP-BAND
Doctor, Patient,
and Believer."



Dr. Adam Smith

As a Surgeon,.. Is an experienced North Texas Surgeon with over over 2,000 LAP-BAND performed!

As a Patient,.. has lost over 90lbs and continues to maintain his weight loss goals!

Register FREE at: www.fortworthlapband.com
or by calling: (866) 717-7202

Fri, Mar. 20th @ 6:00 pm
Sat, Mar. 21st @ 10:30 am

Midland Center
109 North Main St.
Midland, TX, 79701



FORT WORTH LAP-BAND®

Directions & Registration at: www.fortworthlapband.com

HOSPICE HOUSE

Loving People Until God
Sees Fit to Call Them Home

903 N. Sam Houston, Odessa, Texas
(432) 580-0067



Serving 19 West Texas Counties
No Patient or Family Member Ever
Receives a Bill

Home Hospice
It's about living...

THE 51ST ANNUAL EBONY FASHION FAIR PRESENTS

The Runway Report 2008-2009

What's Hip. What's Hot. What's Now!

March 31, 2009, 7:00 PM
Odessa, TX
MCM Grande' Hotel Fun Dome

Tickets on Sale Now Through
March 30, 2009

Please contact any sorority member for ticket information
or call: 432-560-5300 • AKARholotaOmega@aol.com

Hosted by: RHO KOTA OMEGA ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

SPONSORED BY EBONY FASHION FAIR AmericanAirlines

Levi's Pink VIZ

Grand Hotel FunDome

RW

CBS

PT PB

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Military children need guarantees given by new bill

War often can be hardest on the warfighters' children. The family of an active-duty soldier, sailor, airman or Marine can move from one base to another in the states or overseas as often as every two years.

Educational continuity is a foreign concept for a student who attends six to nine different schools in 18 years. Yet almost 2 million military children in this country pay the price of interrupted studies and delayed graduations because of a parent's noble decision to serve in our all-volunteer armed forces.

Make that parents' decision. The Army in particular is seeing more and more cases where both parents are soldiers.

State Rep. Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth, doesn't think it's fair that the children of the nation's military should be unduly burdened by a situation out of their control. That's why he's introduced House Bill 503, designed to remove hurdles that slow the enrollment process for transferring students and can keep them from graduating on time.

"These kids are being held up by Texas law that truly shouldn't affect them," Geren said Tuesday from Austin.

Geren's interest in the Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children comes naturally. His brother, Secretary of the Army Pete Geren, has been working with Patty Shinseki, founder of Military Child Education Coalition and wife of retired Army Gen. Eric Shinseki, now the secretary of Veterans Affairs, to encourage lawmakers across the country to adopt the legislation. The bill will ensure that the children of military families have the same opportunities for classroom success as other children and will not be penalized or delayed in graduating because of intractable bureaucratic practices.

Should state lawmakers pass the bill and they should, Texas would agree, among other things, that children who move midyear can continue in the same grade even if their new school has different age requirements.

Unofficial education records would suffice for a child's enrollment until the official records arrive from the previous school district. Students who are enrolled in honors or advanced classes in one state could continue those classes in their new school district.

"Compact kids also would be granted additional excused absences if a parent is about to be deployed or is returning from deployment," Charlie Geren said.

Eleven states' legislatures Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina and Oklahoma have signed on to the compact. The bill awaits the Virginia governor's signature, and it's been introduced in 19 other states, including Texas.

The children of military personnel are expected to overcome stress in their lives that children of civilians don't often encounter. Any parent who has relocated for work knows the trauma that ensues after uprooting children from their friends.

Imagine that experience over and over. Layered on top of that uncertainty is the possibility that Mom or Dad or both might be deployed to a war zone. That, too, is happening over and over.

The goal of the compact isn't to dumb down the expectations for classroom achievement for military children. On the contrary, it acknowledges the exceptional sacrifices that these young men and women make as part of their service to America.

THE STAR-TELEGRAM
FORT WORTH

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we break a bad chain, Lord, and develop a strong link with You.

Amen

Question: Is it spring yet?

For many, spring brings change, new beginnings and growth. For some, the anticipation of spring means a spring break vacation and a bout of spring fever.

One dictionary defines "spring fever" as a feeling of restlessness, excitement or laziness brought on by the coming of spring. Symptoms often include a shovel, new plants and green thumbs or a compulsive desire to fish or anything else that gets them outdoors.

In years long past, with spring came the beginning of my marriage and a couple of years later, the beginning of our family. But this year, my feelings about springtime are somewhat ambivalent.

My strong cravings for a spring break are more about a desire to escape and avoid than about fun and adventure. This is probably because some foreseeable changes in the future are not ones I'm looking forward to or want.

For awhile now, I've been trying to break free from the dreary forecast for our country that feels like a constant dark cloud hovering overhead.

And I've become determined to exchange my fearful anticipation of a difficult future for a brighter outlook. Interestingly enough, I've gained some fresh and encouraging inspiration by

considering some of the synonyms for "anticipate." As with most words, "anticipate" has a few variations to its meaning. The group of words that caught my attention include: "nullify, prevent, preclude, forestall, intercept, beat to the draw and get the jump on."

The idea that it may be possible to "get the jump on" worries or fears is truly reassuring and emboldening. To "get a jump on" means we do something before it happens in order to get an advantage. For me, this means I don't have to sit around and wait or dread. I'm not at the mercy of an uncertain future. And I'm not helpless. There is something to be done that can prevent and nullify what I've been expecting and thinking of as inevitable. At the very least, I can be more prepared and ready to handle whatever comes my way.

In the days of the Old West, the cowboy who beat his opponent to the draw won the fight. I want to be like this cowboy! So how can I prevent or rise above what feels like an unavoidable sea of troubles?

Worry and fear for the future always prophesies disaster. But is disaster bound to happen -- inescapable, ordained or destined? Not according to the promises God gives us.

The Bible is filled with God's promises to His children, along with countless examples of people being saved from whatever obstacle or pending doom they faced. Daniel found safety in the lion's den, young David was victorious over the giant Goliath, Joseph saved the lives

of his brothers regardless of their jealousy and betrayal and Jesus saved his disciples from a storm at sea as well as healing multitudes of the sick. And consider these promises: "The Lord will take away from thee all sickness." (Deut. 7:15) "The Lord will not forsake his people." (Isa. 12:22) "The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace." (Psalms 29:11) "The Lord shall be thy confidence; and shall keep thy foot from being taken." (Prov. 3:26) "The Lord is patient toward you. He does not want anyone to be destroyed." (II Pet. 3:9)

God's promises are giving me the divine impetus I need to resist uneasy speculations and calm my fears about the future. I'm learning to not accept any verdict that would have me believe God doesn't love and care for His children. My faith is more confident of God's ever-present help today and every day.

After all, tomorrow starts from today. Our prayers today surely have a transforming effect on tomorrow. Uplifted and reassured by God's power, my dread this spring is being replaced with hope. I think it's time to plant some flowers!

Annette Bridges is a freelance writer who lives in North Texas. Her columns appear weekly on United Press International's ReligionAndSpirituality.com and numerous newspapers. Send her an e-mail at annettebridges@gmail.com.



YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I am so pleased to see the renovation of the Settles Hotel going forth. I am 80 years old and my mother, Vergie Riggins, worked in the coffee shop there.

I hope the plans include another coffee shop in this historic building. Having lived here most of my life, owning and operating Weatherby Iron & Metal with my late husband, Clayton. I have seen many changes to this town.

I remember sitting on the courthouse lawn with most of the town and watching a wrecking ball tear down the Crawford Hotel. I am glad that didn't happen to the Settles. We need to preserve the town we love.

AUBREY MAE McCLURE
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

The family of Sgt. Conrad Alvarez would like to thank each and every one of you that participated in the memorial Run for the Fallen, honoring Conrad, Cpl. Bitton and Spec. Matlock on Feb. 21.

Despite the wind and cold, we had well over 50 participants come out to honor our fallen.

The run was also to show sup-

port for not only other fallen soldiers, but past and present soldiers serving the military and their families.

We were honored to have soldiers from Fort Campbell, Ky., who had recently returned from Iraq, and Cpl. Bitton's wife from Chicago participate. It was also humbling to have soldiers from San Antonio, Arizona and Tennessee, who had served with the fallen, drive such distances to honor their brothers.

We'd also like to thank the Big Spring Herald and CBS Channel 7 for their coverage of the run.

Special thanks to the Rev. Michael Willard for the beautiful prayer, the Iron Pigs motorcycle club for providing lunch and to the Patriot Riders for the ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial honoring our fallen.

We will never forget, and it's comforting to know others have not forgotten as well.

God bless you all and thanks again for all who took the time from their busy schedules to participate.

MARIA ALVAREZ, BELINDA GARCIA
AND FAMILY
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Arlin, you have been gone over five years. We still miss you. "If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane, I'd walk right up to heaven and bring you home again."

Happy birthday, son. We love you and miss you.

MR. & MRS. THOMAS R. HARTFORD
BILOXI, MISS.

TO THE EDITOR:

RNC and DNC chairmen come and go. They're just figure-heads anyway and basically have no great importance.

I couldn't tell you the name of any of the previous RNC chairmen.

But if you listen to Rush Limbaugh, you won't go wrong.

LILLIE HENDRICKS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I remember when daylight saving time was extended to March about 20 years ago. Several Howard County children were killed going to school in semi-dark-

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 3B

There were reports of a rift last season between Romo, Witten and Owens. Reporters were not permitted to talk to Romo or Witten on Thursday night.

Jerry Jones did speak briefly to reporters about next season. "We've got a great core base put together. We've made some changes in the offseason. We think that's going to really be very helpful — both sides of the ball and on special teams," he said. "We've got a chance to get as many as nine players in the draft, and we'll need about 80 percent of those to be players."

Jackson, Ellis lead Warriors over Mavs

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Stephen Jackson has a simple wish for his teammates: Just stay healthy.

Jackson scored 31 points, Monta Ellis had season highs of 29 points and 11 rebounds, and the Golden State Warriors put a dent into Dallas' playoff run, beating the Mavericks 119-110 Friday night.

"We're seeing where we are going to be next year," Jackson said after scoring 30 points for the ninth time. "Everybody needs to finish on a good note and get a good feeling going into next year. But please, I want everybody to finish healthy."

Kelenna Azubuike and Anthony Randolph each added 14 points for the Warriors, who won their second straight despite playing without two of their stars. Golden State has yet to play a game with its projected starting lineup.

"With everybody back I think we showed what we can do," Ellis said. "I felt like the old Monta. My shot has always been there. It's not something I was worried about. What's important is I feel good out there."

Ellis missed five months of court time after badly injuring his ankle last summer in an accident on a motorized scooter. He's taken time off since making his debut in January to rest the surgically repaired ankle.

"He's coming back into his zone," Jackson said. "Everybody knew it was just a matter of time. He's starting to get comfortable, his ankle is starting to get healthy and that's what we need."

Jason Kidd recorded his second triple-double of the season with 21 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for the Mavericks, who had a three-game winning streak snapped. Kidd has 102 career triple-doubles, third on the list behind Oscar Robertson (181) and Magic Johnson (138).

Dirk Nowitzki had 27 points and Jason Terry added 20.

"The Warriors outworked us, they outthusted us, they got all the loose balls, all the rebounds," Terry said. "When you are scrapping for your

playoff lives, you cannot come out and put up a performance like that. We are disappointed, but we have one more game on this trip, and we need to find a way to get a win."

The Warriors lost center Andris Biedrins to a sprained left ankle after eight minutes, but Ronny Turiaf had another big game in his place. The 6-foot-10 center grabbed a career-best 12 rebounds in 25 minutes and blocked five shots.

"What a performance he had," Warriors coach Don Nelson said. "When we needed him the most he delivered."

Warriors guard Corey Maggette was also missing, out with a sinus infection.

"Amazing things happen," Nelson said. "Two of our best players are out and we played a great game to beat a pretty darn good team."

Brandon Wright scored 12 points in 15 minutes in his return to the Warriors lineup after a 27-game lay-off with a partial left shoulder separation.

Turiaf's block of Antoine Wright's reverse layup attempted to Jackson's 3-pointer that put Golden State up 74-62 midway through the third quarter.

The momentum gave the Warriors an 89-78 lead entering the final quarter. They eventually led by as many as 15.

The Mavericks are still in the eighth spot for the playoffs, but missed an opportunity to move into a seventh-place tie with the idle Denver Nuggets. They fell 1½ games back of Portland, New Orleans and Utah.

Randolph helped spark a 15-4 run in the final 4:20 of the first half, scoring eight points, twice on slam dunks. Ellis added five points in the rally that gave the Warriors an eight-point edge before settling for a 60-54 half-time lead.

Notes: X-rays taken on Biedrins' ankle were negative. ... Dallas' Devean George missed the game with a right knee injury suffered in Wednesday's win over Portland.

We Will Be Closing For SPRING BREAK

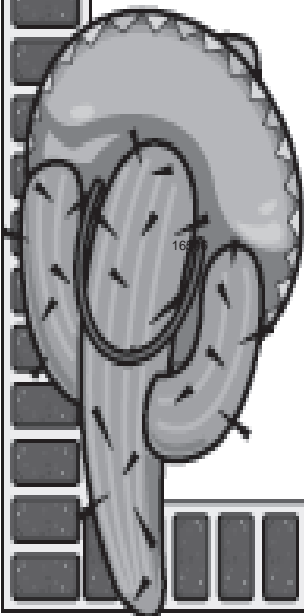
Monday, March 9th to Monday, March 16th

Reopening Tuesday, March 17th

Please Come Join Us For The Best Mexican Food

Casa Blanca Restaurant

1005 Lamesa Hwy. 263-1162



Everything Must Go

Big Spring Only Certified Pre-Owned Dealer SAVE THOUSANDS

★★★ FORD TRUCKS ★★★

- 2008 Ford F350 Crew Cab King Ranch Powerstroke 4X4 Diesel - White/Gold, Only 2,200 Miles. Like New!!! We Sold It New. **SOLD**
Was \$52,995 **NOW \$46,995**
- 2008 Ford F350 Crew Cab FX4 Powerstroke Diesel - Silver w/Leather, Fully Loaded, Local One Owner, w/54,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$34,995 **NOW \$31,995**
- 2007 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT Black w/Cloth, Ford Certified, Program Unit w/28,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$24,995 **NOW \$20,995**
- 2007 Ford Ranger Supercrew XLT - V-6, Automatic, Local One Owner w/38,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$14,995 **NOW \$13,995**
- 2006 Ford F250 Crew Cab King Ranch Powerstroke Diesel - Black w/Leather, Local One Owner, We Sold It New. **SOLD**
Was \$28,995 **NOW \$23,995**
- 2006 Ford F250 Crew Cab FX4 Powerstroke Diesel - White w/Leather, One Owner, Clean Truck. **SOLD**
Was \$19,995 **NOW \$17,995**
- 2006 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat 4X4 - Stone w/Leather, Fully Loaded, Local One Owner. We Sold It New. **SOLD**
Was \$19,995 **NOW \$17,995**
- 2006 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat - White/Leather, Local One Owner w/53,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$24,995 **NOW \$21,995**
- 2006 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Maroon w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/29,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$22,995 **NOW \$20,995**
- 2005 Ford F250 Crew Cab King Ranch FX4 4X4 Powerstroke Diesel - Dark Copper/Tan w/Leather, Local One Owner. **SOLD**
Was \$27,995 **NOW \$27,995**
- 2005 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Grey, All Power. **SOLD**
Was \$14,995 **NOW \$12,995**
- 2005 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT 4X4 - Bright Red, Local One Owner, w/36,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$17,995 **NOW \$15,995**
- 2005 Ford Ranger XLT Supercrew - Silver, Automatic, 6 Cylinder, Local One Owner w/39,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$14,995 **NOW \$11,995**
- 2004 F250 Crew Cab XLT Powerstroke Diesel - Blue/Silver, Local One Owner. **SOLD**
Was \$22,995 **NOW \$18,995**
- 2004 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Tan w/Cloth, V-8, One Owner w/68,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$17,995 **NOW \$15,995**
- 2004 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Gray w/Cloth, V-8, All Power, Local One Owner w/65,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$14,995 **NOW \$13,995**
- 2004 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Maroon, All Power, One Owner. **SOLD**
Was \$12,995 **NOW \$10,995**
- 2004 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - White w/Cloth, V-8, Local One Owner, w/78,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$13,995 **NOW \$10,995**
- 2004 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Arizona Beige w/Cloth, All Power, One Owner w/54,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$15,995 **NOW \$13,995**
- 2004 Ford Ranger S/C XLT - White w/Cloth, Local One Owner, w/62,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$13,995 **NOW \$11,995**
- 2003 Ford F250 Crew Cab XL - White, 5.4 V-8. **SOLD**
Was \$12,995 **NOW \$9,995**

★★★ FORD TRUCKS ★★★

- 2002 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT 4X4 7.3 Powerstroke Diesel - Local One Owner w/90,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$15,995 **NOW \$13,995**
- 2001 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT 7.3 Powerstroke Diesel - White w/cloth, New Transmission, 132K Miles, Local One Owner. **SOLD**
Was \$15,995 **NOW \$12,995**
- ★★★ CHEVROLET & GMC TRUCKS ★★★
- 2007 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 L.S. Crew Cab - V8, Red w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/78,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$16,995 **NOW \$15,995**
- 2007 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 L.S. Crew Cab - Blue w/Cloth, V-8, All Power, One Owner w/28,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$24,995 **NOW \$22,995**
- 2007 Chevrolet Colorado L.S. Crew Cab - White, V-6, All Power, Local One Owner w/37,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$17,995 **NOW \$15,995**
- 2006 GMC Canyon Crew Cab 4X4 SLE - Red, V-6, All Power, One Owner w/27,415 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$18,995 **NOW \$16,995**
- 2005 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 H.D./L.S. 4X4 - White, Local One Owner w/36,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$24,995 **NOW \$19,995**
- 2004 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 L.S. Reg. Cab - Pewter, V-6, Automatic, A/C, 58K Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$15,995 **NOW \$11,995**
- 1999 GMC Sierra 1500 Ext. Cab LS - Dark Red, V-6, Local One Owner w/80 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$10,995 **NOW \$8,995**
- 1992 Chevrolet S10 Reg. Cab - Teal, Nice Truck, 90K Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$6,995 **NOW \$5,995**

★★★ DODGE TRUCKS ★★★

- 2005 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab SLT - V-8, White, All Power, Local One Owner w/49K Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$16,995 **NOW \$14,995**

★★★ CARS ★★★

- 2008 Ford Mustang V6 - Torch Red, w/Tan Cloth, Ford Program Unit, Like New, Only 8,400 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$18,995 **NOW \$15,995**
- 2008 Ford Focus SE - Blue, w/Gray Cloth, Ford Program Unit, Like New, Only 17,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$17,995 **NOW \$14,995**
- 2008 Ford Focus SE - White, w/Gray Cloth, Ford Program Unit, Like New, Only 12,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$17,995 **NOW \$15,995**
- 2008 Ford Focus SE - Silver, w/Gray Cloth, Ford Program Unit, Like New, Only 19,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$17,995 **NOW \$15,995**
- 2008 Ford Taurus SEL - Tan w/Tan Leather, Ford Program Unit, Like New, Only 21,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$19,995 **NOW \$17,995**
- 2007 Lexus ES 350 - Blue w/Tan Leather, One Owner, Very Nice Car, Loaded, Only 27,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$32,995 **NOW \$28,995**
- 2007 Ford Fusion SEL - Silver, w/Gray Leather, Ford Program Unit, Like New, Only 24,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$16,995 **NOW \$14,795**
- 2006 Saturn ION3 - Silver w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Great Gas Saver, Make Great First Car, Low Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$12,995 **NOW \$11,995**
- 2006 Lincoln Towncar Signature - Stone Gray w/Gray Leather, One Owner, Loaded, Nice Car, Only 35,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$23,995 **NOW \$20,995**

★★★ CARS ★★★

- 2005 Nissan Altima 2.5S - White, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Like New, Low Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$14,995 **NOW \$12,995**
- 2004 Chev. Malibu LS - Silver, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Like New, Very Nice, Must See, Only 55,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$9,995 **NOW \$8,995**
- 2000 Mercury Grand Marquis LS - Gold, w/Tan Leather, Well kept, Nice One Owner, Low Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$7,995 **NOW \$6,995**

★★★ SUV'S ★★★

- 2008 Ford Escape XLT - Vista Blue, w/Gray Cloth, Ford Program Unit, Only 18,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$19,995 **NOW \$16,995**
- 2006 Ford Freestyle SEL - White, w/Tan Leather, Loaded, New Car Trade In, Nice Crossover. **SOLD**
Was \$14,995 **NOW \$13,995**
- 2006 Nissan Pathfinder LE - Black, w/Tan Leather, All Power, One Owner, Like New, Only 27,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$25,995 **NOW \$24,995**
- 2006 Nissan Xterra SE - White w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Only 19,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$19,995 **NOW \$17,995**
- 2006 Kia Sorrenta EX - Gray w/Gray Leather, One Owner, Like New, Good Looking SUV. **SOLD**
Was \$11,995 **NOW \$10,995**
- 2005 Jeep Wrangler Sport - White w/Gray Cloth, Automatic, One Owner, Only 33,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$16,995 **NOW \$15,995**
- 2005 Chevrolet Tahoe 4X2 LS - White, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Like New, Loaded, Only 53,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$19,995 **NOW \$15,995**
- 2005 Ford Escape XLT - Silver, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Great On Gas, Like New, Only 63,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$12,995 **NOW \$10,995**
- 2005 GMC Yukon 4X2 SLT - White w/GTan Leather, Loaded, All Power, One Owner. **SOLD**
Was \$19,995 **NOW \$16,995**
- 2005 Ford Explorer Sport Trac XLT - Red, w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Like New, Low Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$18,995 **NOW \$16,995**
- 2004 Nissan Xterra XE - Red, w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Nice First Car, One Owner, Only 67,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$13,995 **NOW \$11,995**
- 2004 Honda CRV LX 4X4 - White w/Tan Leather, Loaded, All Power, One Owner. **SOLD**
Was \$13,995 **NOW \$10,995**
- 2004 Chevrolet Tahoe LT 4X2 - Gray, w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Only 60,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$20,995 **NOW \$17,995**
- 2004 Nissan Xterra SE - Silver, w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Nice SUV, Only 52,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$16,995 **NOW \$13,995**
- 2004 Buick Ranier V8 CXL - Silver, w/Gray Leather, Loaded, DVD Player, Moonroof, 51,000 Miles. **SOLD**
Was \$15,995 **NOW \$14,995**
- 2003 Lincoln Navigator 4X2 - Silver, w/Gray Leather, Loaded, One Owner, Like New, 78,000 MILES. **SOLD**
Was \$22,995 **NOW \$19,995**
- 2003 Nissan Xterra SE - Blue, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Like New. **SOLD**
Was \$14,995 **NOW \$11,995**

BOB BROCK

Ford Lincoln Mercury Nissan

500 W. 4th Big Spring, Texas 1-800-288-2082 / 432-267-7424

www.hobbrockford.com

Slightly Morbid Energy Watch

Death leaves online lives in limbo

By PETER SVENSSON
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK — When Jerald Spangenberg collapsed and died in the middle of a quest in an online game, his daughter embarked on a quest of her own: to let her father's gaming friends know that he hadn't just decided to desert them.

It wasn't easy, because she didn't have her father's "World of Warcraft" password and the game's publisher couldn't help her. Eventually, Melissa Allen Spangenberg reached her father's friends by asking around online for the "guild" he belonged to.

One of them, Chuck Pagoria in Morgantown, Ky., heard about Spangenberg's death three weeks later. Pagoria had put his absence down to an argument among the gamers that night.

"I figured he probably just needed some time to cool off," Pagoria said. "I was kind of extremely shocked and blown away when I heard the reason that he hadn't been back. Nobody had any way of finding this out."

With online social networks becoming ever more important in our lives, they're also becoming an important element in our deaths. Spangenberg, who died suddenly from an abdominal aneurysm at 57, was unprepared, but others are leaving detailed instructions. There's even a tiny industry that has sprung up to help people wrap up their online contacts after their deaths.

When Robert Bryant's father died last year, he left his son a little black USB flash drive in a drawer in his home office in Lawton, Okla. It was underneath a cup his son had once given him for his birthday. The drive con-



AP Photo/Kathy Willens

Melissa Spangenberg holds a photo of her parents Jerald Spangenberg and Ann Allen next to a computer screen showing an image from World of Warcraft. When her father collapsed and died in the middle of a quest in the online game, Spangenberg embarked on a quest of her own: to let her father's gaming friends know that he hadn't just decided to desert them.

tained a list of contacts for his son to notify, including the administrator of an online group he had been in.

"It was kind of creepy because I was telling all these people that my dad was dead," Bryant said. "It did help me out quite a bit, though, because it allowed me to clear up a lot of that stuff and I had time to help my mom with whatever she needed."

David Eagleman, a neuroscientist at the Baylor College of Medi-

cine in Houston, has had plenty of time to think about the issue.

"I work in the world's largest medical center, and what you see here every day is people showing up in ambulances who didn't expect that just five minutes earlier," he said. "If you suddenly die or go into a coma, there can be a lot of things that are only in your head in terms of where things are stored, where your passwords

See **MORBID**, Page 5C

Bhupen Agrawal is branch manager and a senior vice president of investments of A.G. Edward's Midland office. He is also a member of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association.



Bill Franks, AAMS, is a senior assistant to the branch manager. He is also a member of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association.



There is nothing we can say about the stock market last week except that the DJIA is now down 20 percent since inauguration day, a 90-year record decline after an inauguration. Yes, some are calling this the Obama bear market. While that's not quite fair, we do believe that confidence is extremely low due to fear that the Administration's stimulus measures will not revive the economy anytime soon.

All we can say positive about last week's market action is that the blood-letting slowed. Volume for the most part was heavy but the sellers seemed fatigued and the buyers continued to lack any enthusiasm. Testimony by both the Fed Chairman and Secretary of the Treasury contained little news and sparked no interest. Geithner stayed totally with the party line which has become normal, and for his part, President Obama apparently realized that his very gloomy comments about the economy have been spooking consumers and investors. However, his attempt to ease fears fell short in our opinion.

At a press conference, President Obama stated that now "may be" a good time to invest in stocks for investors with a long term perspective. Using the word "may" is not what investors really want to hear from their president. We would like to remind him that over half of all Americans own stock. It is unusual for a president to comment on the stock market, but he had an opportunity to be more positive about the long term prospects of our economy and investments, but missed.

This downturn has done a very good job of creating extreme fear and depression. The attitude of many, even long time investors, has turned very sour. Confidence is, of course, very low and for valid reasons. Although the mood is more negative than we have witnessed, it is still the same as seen at all prior bear market bottom areas, only much worse.

What will change the very bearish mood? In our opinion, one way is several weeks of a good stock market sponsored by those starting to anticipate a better economy. The other would be strong evidence that our financial system's problems are on the mend and the credit market starts to return to normal.

Oil prices were up last week but not by much as the deteriorating world economy threatened to cut further into fuel consumption, outweighing OPEC's strong supply side compliance. Economic woes are also making it likely the IMF will downgrade its global growth forecasts into negative territory. Here in the Permian Basin, we are pleased oil has managed to stay at least around the \$40 area regardless of the news. While things could be much better, they could also be much worse.

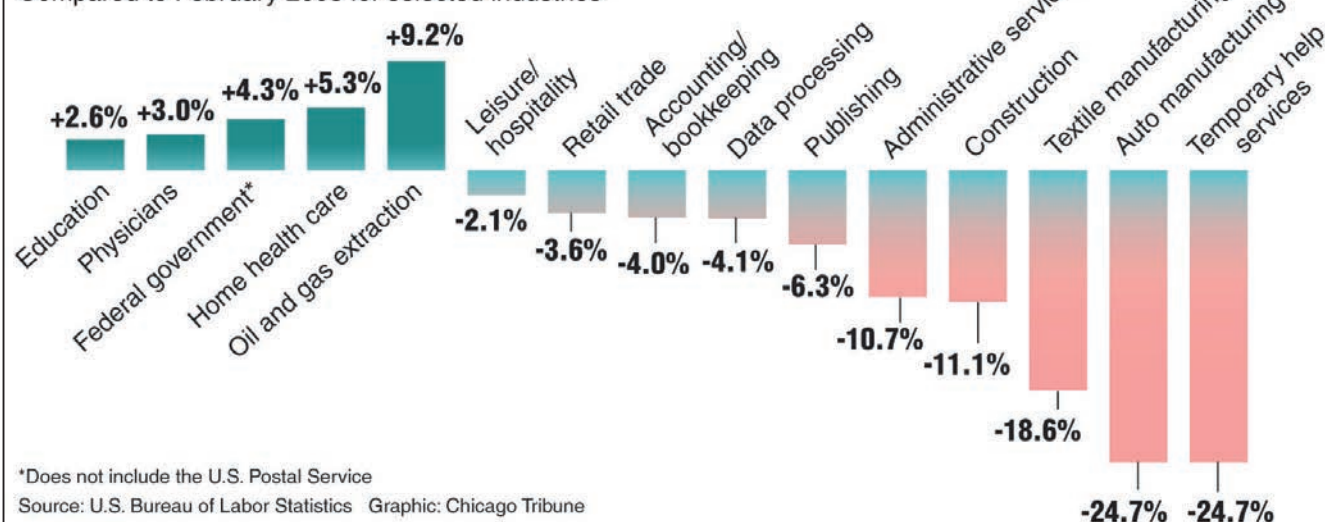
Past Performance is no guarantee of future results. Portions of this article were produced on March 6, 2009 by Al Goldman, Wachovia Securities chief market strategist. Wachovia Securities did not assist in the preparation of this article, and its accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed. The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of Wachovia Securities or its affiliates. The material has been prepared or is distributed solely for informational purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy any security or instrumental to participate in any trading strategy. Additional information is available upon request at (432) 684-7335. Wachovia Securities, LLC., member SIPC is a registered broker dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

Winners and losers

While a few U.S. industries added jobs in the past year, most shed them.

February employment change

Compared to February 2008 for selected industries



*Does not include the U.S. Postal Service
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Graphic: Chicago Tribune
© 2009 MCT

Six Flags may be flying Chapter 11 soon

On Tuesday, the company reported that its losses widened in the fourth quarter to \$206.6 million, or \$2.12 per share, as the company's income tax expense spiked.

By KRISTEN A. LEE

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Shares of Six Flags Inc. touched a new all-time low Friday after the theme park operator said it could not meet a looming financing obligation and may have to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

As the shares dropped, Moody's Investors Service cut the company's corporate family rating and probability-of-default rating by two notches to "Ca" — the second lowest — saying an out-of-court restructuring or a bankruptcy filing "is likely in the near term."

The New York-based company, in which Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates' personal investment fund holds a stake of more than 10 percent, said Wednesday in its annual report that a Chapter 11 filing is possible if it doesn't reach a deal to restructure its debt.

Six Flags over Georgia, located in Austell in suburban Atlanta, lowered prices and opened early this season.

Six Flags shares, which have traded under \$1 since September, dropped 5 cents, or 26 percent, to 14 cents in afternoon trading. The stock has traded between 16 cents and \$2.50 during the past 52 weeks.

In its fourth-quarter earnings report on Tuesday, Six Flags said it does not expect to have enough cash to pay off its preferred income redeemable shares, or PIERS, when they mature on Aug. 15 and a total of more than \$300 million will be due.

Six Flags said a Chapter 11 filing could occur well before August, if the company decides an out-of-court agreement is not possible or to its advantage.

PIERS holders include Gates' fund, Cascade Investment, which owned 500,000 of the shares as part of its much larger stake, according to a disclosure filing in February.

A Cascade representative did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The PIERS obligation has been an ongoing concern for Six Flags investors. The company has opted to skip the payments since last May to save cash, in part because unpaid dividends don't accrue interest.

On Friday, Moody's noted that failure to fund the PIERS redemption would qualify as a default under Six Flags' credit agreement, accelerating those payments and triggering a default on bonds issued by the company.

See **FILING**, Page 5C

▶ Odd News

Auto repair pickup ends in stickup

YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — Authorities say an Ann Arbor man who was picking up his car from a repair shop pulled out a handgun while paying and robbed the business of about \$500 in cash.

The Ann Arbor News reports the 24-year-old fled in his car Friday from the shop in Washtenaw County's Ypsilanti Township, about 30 miles west of Detroit. Sheriff's deputies caught him shortly afterward.

The man, who had dropped off the car Wednesday for repairs, was taken to the Washtenaw County Jail.

Card arrives in Ohio 47 years late

HUDSON, Ohio (AP) — A woman's postcard bearing greetings from Montana has finally arrived in northeastern Ohio — 47 years later.

Insurance agent Dave Conn opened his post office box in the community of Hudson last week and found the mailing sent from Helena, Montana, in 1962.

It was sent to Marion White, the previous renter of the box, who had died in 1988. The writer signed the postcard "Fran" and mentioned having "had a marvelous time in Montana."

After asking around, Conn says he determined the card must have come from White's well-traveled friend Frances Murphey, a longtime reporter at the *Akron Beacon Journal*. She died in 1998 at age 75.

U.S. Postal Service spokesman Victor Dubina says the postcard may have been stuck in equipment or lost behind a mail chute.

Woman finds hungry cat in couch

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — The mysterious mewing in Vickie Mendenhall's home started about the time she bought a used couch for \$27.

After days of searching for the source of the noise, she found a very hungry calico cat living in her sofa.

Her boyfriend, Chris Lund, was watching TV on Tuesday night and felt something move inside the couch. He pulled it away from the wall, lifted it up and there was the cat, which apparently crawled through a small hole on the underside.

Mendenhall contacted Value Village, where she bought the couch, but the store had no information on who donated it. So she took the cat to SpokAnimal CARE, the animal shelter where she works, so it could recover, and contacted media outlets in hopes of finding the owner.

Sure enough, Bob Killion of Spokane showed up to claim the cat after an acquaintance alerted him to a TV story about it. Killion had donated a couch on Feb. 19, and his 9-year-old cat, Callie, disappeared at about the same time.

Vt. hunter busted for bolting antlers on dead doe

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) — A man who bolted antlers to the head of a dead doe and posed for a photograph with the deer was fined \$400 and jailed for game violations.

Marcel Fournier, 19, shot the deer the evening of Nov. 22 and used lag bolts and epoxy to attach a 10-point rack, officials said. He then checked in the kill as lawful game at Bernie's Market.

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

ness. I suggest that drivers be very careful and might be wise to dress children in light-colored clothes so they will be seen by drivers.

BILL BIRRELL
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

The third annual celebration of World Water Day on March 22 reminds us of the precious gift of water, how we should appreciate and use it wisely, protect it, conserve it and remember that it is meant for all people.

Here in West Texas, where dryness is more common and especially because we usually do not have an abundance of rainfall, water is indeed a very precious gift. Water is a right and profits should not be the only reason to protect it.

Pope Benedict XVI recently reminded us that there is a "right to water," based on the dignity of the human person and is not simply an "economic good."

There is a close link to water and sustainable development. Pope Benedict also points out that "The use of water — is related to the growing and urgent needs of people who live in destitution, taking into account the fact that limited access to potable water has repercussions on the well being of an enormous number of people and is often the cause of illness, suffering, conflicts, poverty and even death."

Considering water as a right that is based on the dignity of the human person reminds us that water should not be considered and treated only as an economic good. It must be used in a rational manner and in a spirit of solidarity, taking into account the needs of all people.

May World Water Day be the occasion for all of us to examine how we are to use and not use this precious commodity that is meant to help sustain all life on planet Earth.

THE REV. MICHAEL PFEIFER
BISHOP OF SAN ANGELO



AMERICA DESERVES SOME CREDIT

0% FOR 60

APR FINANCING MONTHS FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS!

ON MOST '08 AND '09 CHEVY MODELS

1.9% for 72 Mths.

STK# 8245EC



\$28,495 MSRP - \$23,995 Sale Price

2008 Malibu LTZ

Silverstone Metallic, Leather Interior & Sunroof

SAVE
\$4,500

0%

Up To
60 Mths.

2009 Chevy Silverado 1500 Crew Cabs & Extended Cabs



0%

Up To
60 Mths.

2009 Cobalt 2 DR LS

Rear Spoiler, Automatic



3 To
Choose
From

\$199 a month
*72 Months @ 1.9%
with approved
credit!*

\$17,125 MSRP - \$800 Savings - \$16,325

0%

Up To
60 Mths.

2009 Tahoes & Suburbans

All Models



★ ★ CARS ★ ★

★ ★ SUVs ★ ★

<p>2004 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk# J189 - Gold Was \$9,995.....NOW \$8,995</p> <p>2005 Chevrolet Impala V6 Stk# J162 - Gray Was \$10,495.....NOW \$9,495</p> <p>2003 Buick Park Avenue V6 Stk# J272 - Silver Was \$12,995.....NOW \$11,995</p> <p>2007 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk# J151 - Silver Was \$12,995.....NOW \$11,995</p> <p>2007 Saturn Ion 2 Sedan 4D Stk# J098 - Red Was \$13,995.....NOW \$12,495</p> <p>2006 Pontiac G6 V6 Stk# J088 - Gold Was \$14,995.....NOW \$12,495</p> <p>2008 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk# K016 - White Was \$13,995.....NOW \$12,995</p> <p>2008 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk# K017 - White Was \$13,995.....NOW \$12,995</p> <p>2006 Hyundai Sonata V6 Stk# J184A - Light Blue Was \$14,495.....NOW \$13,495</p> <p>2007 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk# H236 - Stone Gray Was \$14,995.....NOW \$13,495</p> <p>2007 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk# J145 - Silver Was \$14,995.....NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2007 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk# J242 - Gray Was \$14,995.....NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2007 Chrysler Sebring 4 Cyl. Stk# J152 - Red Was \$15,995.....NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2008 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 4DR Stk# J234 Was \$15,495.....NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2008 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk# J241 - White Was \$15,995.....NOW \$14,995</p> <p>2005 Buick Park Avenue V6 Stk# J249 - Sandstone Was \$17,995.....NOW \$14,995</p> <p>2005 Cadillac Deville V8 Stk# H143A - Silver Was \$16,495.....NOW \$15,495</p> <p>2008 Saturn Aura V6 Stk# K013 - White Was \$16,495.....NOW \$15,495</p> <p>2008 Chevrolet Cobalt Stk# K012 - Red Was \$16,995.....NOW \$15,995</p> <p>2008 Chevrolet HHR Stk# K011 - 4-Cyl., White. Was \$16,995.....NOW \$15,995</p> <p>2008 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk# K014 - White Was \$16,995.....NOW \$15,995</p> <p>2008 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk# K015 - White Was \$16,995.....NOW \$15,995</p> <p>2006 Buick Lucerne CXL Sedan 4D Stk# H020 - Sand Stone Was \$23,995.....NOW \$19,995</p> <p>2007 Cadillac DTS V8 Stk# H181 - Glacier White Was \$31,995.....NOW \$25,995</p>	<p>2004 Chevrolet Trailblazer Stk# J167 - White Was \$12,995.....NOW \$8,995</p> <p>2002 Toyota Sequoia SR5 Stk# J066 - Green Was \$17,995.....NOW \$11,995</p> <p>2008 Chevrolet Uplander V6 Stk# J244 - White Was \$17,995.....NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2004 Cadillac SRX-V6/V8 - Diamond White Was \$16,995.....NOW \$15,995</p> <p>2006 Chevrolet Suburban V8 Stk# J274 - White Was \$20,995.....NOW \$19,995</p>
---	--

★ ★ TRUCKS ★ ★

<p>2004 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 V8 Stk# J121 - Silver Birch Was \$13,995.....NOW \$12,995</p> <p>2005 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 V8 Stk# J056 - Silver Was \$18,995.....NOW \$14,995</p> <p>2005 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 V8 Stk# K004A - Black Was \$15,995.....NOW \$14,995</p> <p>2005 Ford F150 Supercrew V8 Stk# J228 - Gray Was \$17,995.....NOW \$16,995</p> <p>2006 GMC Sierra 1500 Crew Cab Stk# J073 - Pewter Was \$21,995.....NOW \$16,995</p> <p>2005 GMC Light Duty Sierra 1500 V8 Stk# K009 - Sand Beige Metallic Was \$18,995.....NOW \$17,995</p> <p>2005 Chevrolet Truck Silverado 1500 V8 Stk# J254 - White Was \$21,995.....NOW \$18,995</p> <p>2006 GMC Sierra 1500 HD Crew Cab Stk# J007 - Pewter Was \$23,495.....NOW \$20,995</p> <p>2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 HD V8 Stk# J268 - Blue Granite Was \$21,995.....NOW \$20,995</p>	
---	--

Plus TT&L

POLLARD

Chevrolet - Buick - Cadillac

See Dealer
For Details

1501 E. 4th



TEXAS AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION

267-7421

16852

Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

Irene Lopez Alaniz, 774 E. Highway 80 Apt. 230, Abilene
Bryan Layton Allison, 1108 College Circle, Ranger
Fernando Arriaga Jr., 606 N.W. Eighth St., Big Spring
Christine Avalos Bara, 1405 N. Sixth Street, Lamesa
Toby Barnett, 1713 Dwayne Barnett, Lubbock
Christopher Barrera, 1704 Go-liad, Big Spring
Teresa Baumann, 1509 E. Sixth, Big Spring
Vern Black, 329 W Tennessee, Floydada
Jeremy Bolton, 506 N. Avenue L, Lamesa
Dave Bracken, 2720 42nd Street, Lubbock
Michelle Marie Carrasco, 1704 Yale Avenue, Big Spring
Roy Carter, 5320 Wasson Rd., Big Spring
Amy Castillo, 1806 Morrison, Big Spring
Krishna Nicole Castillo, 905 Walnut, Colorado City
Doyce Ray Coyle, 3301 Auburn, Big Spring
Wesley Wayne Crow, 2400 Robb Lane, Big Spring

Susan Cuellar, 2301 N. Pe-cos #238, Midland
Wanda Cunningham, 1505 Avion, Big Spring
Corey D. Dancer, 2605 Alame-sa Drive, Big Spring
Brandee A. Eberhardt, 197 Briarwood Lane, Big Spring
James Randal Gardner, PO Box 1490, Lyons, Colo.
Rachel Garza, 1600 Wren, Big Spring
Melissa Gonzalez, 2317 CR 220, Garden City
Karen Winters Greenhill, 1103 W. Fifth, Big Spring
Gabriel Guerrero, 411 N.E. 10th Street, Big Spring
Sharon Marquis Hanson, 1201 E. Co. Rd. 34, Big Spring
Kristin Hawkins, 405 N. Moss Lake Road, Big Spring
Rickie L. Henderson, 205 Providence Road, Big Spring
Cherie Brandy Hernandez, 2006 Ave. L, Snyder
Brandy Johnson, 24327 Plea-son-ton, San Antonio
Rene M. Johnson, 9205 W. County Road 174, Midland
Paige Kenas, 1003-2 Lake County Rd. 175, Colorado City
Kimberly King, 1711 Young, Big Spring
Robert Michael Kleck, P.O.

Box 35, Rotan
Lynda Kynam, 2503 Central, Big Spring
Eloy Escobar Leal, 1806 E. 11th Street, Big Spring
Joshua David Mackenstein, 414 Hickory/3417 N. Midland Drive, Midland
Christopher Max Martinez, 2870 S. Highway, Snyder
Sandy Martinez, 1610 Eu-banks, Big Spring
Valerie Michelle Martinez, 510 S. First St., Coahoma
Shawn G. McKay, 3107 Bon-ham Ave, Odessa
Betty Jane McWilliams, 2503 Fairchild, Big Spring
Mari Montemayor, 627 State Street, Big Spring
Lisa M. Portillo, 1200 Stan-ford, Big Spring
Richard Wayne Rains, 4501 Parkway, Big Spring
Patricia Ramos, 538 Westover Road Apt. 226, Big Spring
Michael Dewayne Renteria, 2516 Dow, Big Spring
Lisa Marie Rhodes, 8215 Jo-liet, Lubbock
Lorissa Jade Rodriguez, 406 N. Scurry, Big Spring
Blanca L. Saenz, 1202 N. Sam Houston Ave., Odessa
Monica Serbine, 304 E. 20th

Street, Big Spring
Stephanie Serrato, 1203 E. Mobile, Big Spring
Curtis W. Shelton, 3714 Mill-brook Road, Big Spring
Brian Paul Siverson, 589c Stoddard, Odessa
Mickey Starnes, 402 Holly Oak Dr., Tyler
Robert Summers, 1905 Was-son No. 5, Big Spring
Tonya D. Conner Taylor, 1111 Moseley Circle, Hobbs, N.M.
Liandro Ventura, 1905 Was-son No. 23, Big Spring
Candida Lynn Whitehead, 1405 runnels, Big Spring

District Court Filings:

George John Solis vs. Denise Ann White, divorce
Chelsea Lee Holmes vs. Christopher Scott Holmes, di-vo-
orce
Emma Sanchez Harvath vs. Charles Paul Harvath Jr., di-vo-
orce
Jinnie Jubilee Jiminez vs. Jose Manuel Jiminez Jr., di-vo-
orce
Adela P. Rudd vs. Mark M. Rudd, divorce

Marriage Licenses:

John Wade Myatt, 33, and Ni-

cole Gaines Strader, 33, both of Big Spring
Dustin Jared Martin, 21, and Chrissie Jae Walters, 20, both of Big Spring
Juan Manuel Gonzaelez, 31, and Olga Noemi Juarez, 24, both of Big Spring
Cesar Romero, 35, and Mag-aly Lugo, 35, both of Big Spring
Brian Andrew Cofferen, 29, and Jessica Mariene Sandoval, 21, both of Big Spring
Dominick E. Boiles, 23, Big Spring, and April N. Salazar, 22, Coahoma
Douglas T. Walker, 45, and Barbara M. Brumley, 52, both of Big Spring
Inocencio Enriquez Jr., 32, and Amy L. Silva, 27, both of Big Spring
James Joseph Martin, 56, and Cheryl Preston Crowley, 56, both of Big Spring
Juan Reynaldo DeLeon Jr., 34, and Misty Dawn Marshall, 35, both of Big Spring
Dereck Koby Wilson, 24, and Amber Nicole Blackburn, 28, both of Big Spring
William Otto Warner, 32, and Cynthia Ann Handova, 46, both of Big Spring

Biden announces stimulus funds for Amtrak

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Joe Biden, once a regular rail commuter, said Friday that \$1.3 billion for Amtrak in the economic stimulus package will go toward long-overdue infrastructure upgrades and expanded passenger rail capacity.

Speaking at Union Station, Biden said \$105 million will

be spent to replace a 102-year-old Connecticut bridge on Amtrak's heavily traveled Northeast Corridor. Another \$82 million will be used to replace old rail cars and put them back into service.

The national passenger railroad, long criticized for its reliance on government subsidies, has strong support

from the Obama administra-tion. As senator, Biden com-muted for decades between his home in Wilmington, Del., and Washington. And in January, Barack Obama rode the train from Philadelphia to the nation's capital for his inauguration.

Biden noted that every pas-senger rail system in the

world relies on subsidies and that for far too long Amtrak has been starved for cash.

"I'm tired of apologizing for help for Amtrak," he said. "It is an absolute national trea-sure and necessity."

Biden said money from the federal stimulus package will roughly double the size of Amtrak's capital investment

program over two years. The infusion of cash will help whittle down a maintenance backlog estimated at about \$5 billion.

"It's a darn good slice of (the backlog)," Amtrak chief executive Joseph Boardman said of the stimulus. "It's something we can make real progress with."

MORBID

Continued from Page 4C

are." He set up a site called Deathswitch, where people can set up e-mails that will be sent out automatically if they don't check in at intervals they specify, like once a week. For \$20 per year, members can create up to 30 e-mails with attach-ments like video files.

It's not really a profit-making venture, and Eagleman isn't sure about how many mem-

bers it has — "probably close to a thousand." Nor does he know what's in the e-mails that have been created. Until they're sent out, they're encrypted so that only their creators can read them.

If Deathswitch sounds morbid, there's an alter-native site: Slightly Mor-bid. It also sends e-mail when a member dies, but doesn't rely on them logging in periodically while they're alive. In-stead, members have to give trusted friends or family the information needed to log in to the

site and start the noti-fication process if some-thing should happen.

The site was created by Mike and Pamela Pot-ter in Colorado Springs, Colo.

They also run a busi-ness that makes soft-ware for online games. Pamela said they real-ized the need for a ser-vice like this when one of their online friends, who had volunteered a lot of time helping their customers on a Web message board, sudden-ly disappeared.

He wasn't dead: Three months later, he came

back from his summer vacation, which he'd spent without Internet access. By then, the Pot-ters had already had Slightly morbid.com up and running for two weeks.

A third site with a similar concept plans to launch in April. Legacy Locker will charge \$30 per year. It will require a copy of a death certi-ficate before releasing in-formation.

Peter Vogel, in Tampa, Fla., was never able to reach all of his stepson Nathan's online friends after the boy died last

year at age 13 during an epileptic seizure.

A few years earlier, someone had hacked into one of the boy's ac-counts, so Vogel, a com-puter administrator, taught Nathan to choose passwords that couldn't be easily guessed. He also taught the boy not to write passwords down, so Nathan left no trail to follow.

Vogel himself has a trusted friend who knows all his important login information. As he points out, having ac-

cess to a person's e-mail account is the most im-portant thing, because many Web site pass-words can be retrieved through e-mail.

Vogel joked that he hoped the only reason his friend would be called on to use his ac-cess within "the next hundred years or so" would be if Vogel forgets his own passwords.

But, he said, "as Na-than has proven, any-thing can happen any time, even if you're only 13."

FILING

Continued from Page 4C

Last month, Fitch Rat-ings placed Six Flags on Rating Watch Neg-ative as an issuer, citing concerns the company would not be able to make the PIERS pay-ment.

A Six Flags represen-tative did not return a call for comment on Fri-day. The company has scheduled a conference call with its investors before the market opens on Monday to discuss its fourth-quarter results.

Dan Snyder, owner of the National Football League's Washington Redskins, became the company's chairman and installed Mark Shapiro as chief executive in December 2005, fol-lowing a proxy fight. According to a regula-tory filing, Snyder owned nearly 6 percent of the company's stock as of last April.

Over the past 3 years, Six Flags has worked to boost revenue and re-duce its debt, which bal-looned as its previous management acquired a number of smaller, re-gional theme parks.

Under Shapiro, Six Flags has sold many of those parks and worked

on revamping those that remained to lure fami-lies and discourage at-tendance by cash-poor teens.

On Tuesday, the com-pany reported that its losses widened in the fourth quarter to \$206.6 million, or \$2.12 per share, as the company's income tax expense spiked.

The company's re-venue gained, however, as quarterly attendance at its parks jumped 9 percent.

Chief Executive Mark Shapiro said in a state-ment released with the earnings results that

Six Flags' three-year turnaround plan is pay-ing off.

"The remaining chal-lenge is the inherited balance sheet and we are in comprehensive dialogue with our lend-ers to remedy that is-sue," he said.

Six Flags owns 20 parks in the U.S., Mex-ico and Canada. In the past year, the company has sought to improve its profitability by ex-panding outside North America.

Last March, the com-pany announced it is partnering with devel-oper Tatweer Dubai, a

member of the company Dubai Holding, to build theme parks across the Arab world, starting with a 5-million-square-foot theme park in Dubai.

In December 2008, the company said it would team with Oryx Hold-ings to open a park in Qatar by the middle of 2012.

THE MEDIA COMPANY
Full Service Media Management and Advertising Agency

20% OFF
Full Color Vinyl Printing

Banners | Billboards | Signs

We Also DO Logos | Websites | Advertising Design
Graphic Design | Business Cards | Media Buying
Event Planning | Public Relations

432-599-8018
www.themediaco.net

FORFEITED LAND SALE

The Texas Veterans Land Board will conduct a sealed-bid sale of **47 forfeited tracts** of state land at **9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2009.**

★ **No bids will be accepted after 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 27, 2009.**

★ Only eligible military veterans may participate.

All forfeited tracts are listed on our VLB Web site at www.texasveterans.com. For complete information email us at vlbinfo@glo.state.tx.us or call **1-800-252-VETS.**



Tracts may be withdrawn by the Board at any time for any reason.

Texas Veterans Land Board • Jerry Patterson, Chairman
P.O. Box 12873 • Austin, Texas 78711-2873



► News in Brief

Indiana couple who ran home baby-sitting service accused of videotaping sex with children

VEEDERSBURG, Ind. (AP) — A couple who ran a baby-sitting service out of their home videotaped themselves performing sex acts with children, some as young as 2 months old, police said Friday.

Stephen E. Quick, 31, and Samantha Light, 25, both of Veedersburg in western Indiana, were being held on \$100,000 bond in Fountain County Jail. Both faced preliminary charges of child molestation and child exploitation. Jail staff did not know whether either one had an attorney.

Police who searched the couple's home found a videotape depicting sex acts involving Quick and Light and at least four different children between the ages of 2 months and 6 years old, said Fountain County Sheriff's Deputy Bob Kemp.

"In 15 years of doing this job, it's the worst thing I've ever seen or imagined," he told WRTV. "Just horrible, just horrible. It's a new low."

Police searched the couple's home after the parents of a 3-year-old girl reported that she told them Quick and Light had touched her inappropriately and photographed her at their home on Feb. 28.

Deputies seized several computers, cameras, a video camera, pornographic materials, drugs and drug paraphernalia. Several sex toys that appeared in the video were seized during a second search,

police said.

Interfax: A Russian Air Force chief says strategic bombers may be based in Cuba, Venezuela

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian Air Force chief said Saturday that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has offered an island as a temporary base for strategic Russian bombers, the Interfax news agency reported.

The chief of staff of Russia's long range aviation, Maj. Gen. Anatoly Zhikharev, also said Cuba could be used to base the aircraft, Interfax reported.

Zhikharev said Chavez had offered "a whole island with an airdrome, which we can use as a temporary base for strategic bombers," the agency reported. "If there is a corresponding political decision, then the use of the island ... by the Russian Air Force is possible."

Interfax reported he said earlier that Cuba has air bases with four or five runways long enough for the huge bombers and could be used to host the long-range planes.

Two Russian bombers landed in Venezuela last year in what experts said was the first Western Hemisphere touchdown of Russian military craft since the end of the Cold War.

Cuba has never permanently hosted Russian or Soviet strategic aircraft. But Soviet short-range bombers often made stopovers there during the Cold War.

Election, 2009 issues produce record number of political action committees

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of groups contributing money to presidential and congressional candidates has soared to an all-time high with their strongest growth in a generation, reflecting the fervor over last year's presidential race and a desire for access and clout when lawmakers tackle upcoming issues.

According to the Federal Election Commission, on Jan. 1 there were 4,611 political action committees, which are formed by companies, unions or other groups to raise and spend money to help presidential and congressional candidates. That was up 9 percent over the 4,234 that existed a year earlier.

Many of the new political action committees created last year reflect the types of issues President Barack Obama and Congress, now largely controlled by Democrats, hope to tackle this year.

GOP criticizes Obama budget plan for deficits, high taxes that will hurt the 'next generation'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans are trying to build on some bipartisan misgivings over President Barack Obama's ambitious spending blueprint, claiming that the deficits and taxes he envisions are "destroying opportunities for the next generation."

"The president and his allies in Congress want to spend too much, tax too much, and borrow too much," Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa says in the Republicans' weekly radio address. "Somebody has to pay — if not the middle class now, then later. Eventually the middle class gets hit."

Grassley said Obama's budget proposal to raise taxes, starting in 2011, on individuals earning more than \$200,000 and on households earning more than \$250,000 will hurt small businesses.

"These small businesses happen to create 74 percent of all new private sector jobs in the United States," Grassley said. "Tell these business owners their taxes will go up. Odds are, they'll cut spending. They'll cancel orders for new equipment, cut health insurance for their employees, stop hiring, and lay people off."

He also said Obama's proposal for mandatory limits on carbon dioxide emissions to combat climate change will lead to higher energy costs and amount to an "average hidden tax increase of around \$3,000 per household a year." The Obama administration maintains that revenue from auctioning off carbon emission allowances would offset much of the higher energy costs for many Americans.

Teachers protest in California as 26,500 educators receive preliminary layoff notices

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — In a spring rite that has become as predictable as cherry blossoms in the nation's capital, public school employees throughout California warned of wrenching classroom cuts as local officials faced a deadline for issuing layoff notices to educators.

The state Department of Education estimates that preliminary pink slips will have been handed to 26,500 teachers by the Sunday cutoff — two-and-a-half times as many as were issued last year. Another 15,000 bus drivers, janitors, secretaries and administrators also were expected to receive the written warnings, said Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell.

Because of the state's less-than-rosy economic outlook, California's 1,000 K-12 school districts have been instructed to absorb more than \$8 billion in funding cuts over the next year. To draw attention to the situation, teachers and parents wore pink clothes and waved pink protest signs for a day California's largest teachers' union dubbed "Pink Friday."

But in another annual ritual, many, if not most, of the early layoff notices could end up being withdrawn by June, especially if the state can devote some of its federal stimulus money to education, officials said.

Troubled economies, energy and environment on agenda when Obama and Brazilian president meet

WASHINGTON (AP) — Troubled world economies, energy and the environment will be among the topics for discussion when President Barack Obama sits down with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Trade, relations with Latin America and the case of a New Jersey man trying to bring his 8-year-old son back from Brazil also may come up when Obama and Silva meet Saturday at the White House.

The leaders also will compare notes on two international forums on their schedules next month, a gathering of the Group of 20 nations and the Summit of the Americas, said White House press secretary Robert Gibbs.

Brazil has become a major U.S. trading partner, and its cautious economic policies have helped it weather the global economic crisis better than almost all other major economies. South America's largest country, Brazil also has huge new sources of offshore oil and abundant ethanol, which could give it a key role in helping the U.S. wean itself off Venezuelan crude and shift to cleaner sources of energy.

MEN IN BLACK

1st Annual Steak, Bean and Pie-Off
March 28 at Trinity Baptist Church
Parking Lot

\$50 entry fee for steaks
(we provide the steaks)

\$10 entry fee for beans and/or pie

Plates will be sold after judging

1st place gets a **BIG**
trophy and bragging rights!

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO RELAY FOR LIFE!

Contact Stephanie at **816-7171**
to register or for more info

Register by March 21

BARGAIN MART

Discount Foods

Sale Starts March 16th 403 Runnels, Big Spring, TX Sale Ends March 21st
Open Mon.-Sat. 9-6:30

**WRIGHT'S
TS BACON
\$3.99**
3.5-LB. PKG.

RIPIT ENERGY DRINK 4/\$1.00
18-OZ.

CIABATTA BREAD 3-LOAFs FOR 99¢

FROZEN OKRA CUT 69¢ LB.

WILSON SMOKED SLICED HAM \$2.49
28-OZ.

KEEBLER COOKIES

99¢ 12-OZ. TO
18-OZ. PKG.

BLUEBERRY BUNDT CAKE \$1.99
44-OZ.

OCEAN SPRAY LIGHT \$1.29
CRANBERRY JUICE 64-OZ.

TOTINOS CHEESE PIZZA 2/\$1.00
9.8-OZ.

C. C. FARMS CHICKEN TENDERS \$1.49 LB.

GATORADE BLUE ICE

3/\$1.00
20-OZ.

a. fixing a bike

b. bonding

c. preparing for the road ahead

d. all of the above

Who knows what the road ahead will bring, but with **American State Bank** you can keep your dreams rolling.

You're banking on the future ... we're banking for you.

ASB
AmericanStateBank

Member FDIC

267-5555 ★ 1411 Gregg Street ★ www.asbonline.com

Critics assail Perry's rejection of stimulus money

By APRIL CASTRO

Associated Press Writer
AUSTIN — The day after Texas Gov. Rick Perry rejected more than \$500 million in federal money to rescue the state's foundering unemployment insurance fund, lawmakers fired back, calling the move counterproductive and politically motivated.

The Legislature can still try to accept the money through a provision in the federal law, but risks gubernatorial veto unless they can muster a veto-proof two-thirds majority on a resolution announcing their intentions and legislation for

"What is taking the money going to do to your taxes? Nothing, Put this \$555 million up and it will pay for the whole program for a decade"

—Rep. Jim Dunnam, D-Waco

the required expansion of unemployment benefits.

Perry, who plans to seek reelection in 2010, argued that accepting the federal stimulus dollars would require the state to keep funding expanded jobless benefits — effec-

tively raising unemployment taxes on businesses — even after the money runs out.

But critics counter that the fund will likely be in deficit by autumn, which will trigger an unemployment tax increase on businesses next year to make up for the deficit.

"The tax implications for 2010 are much, much worse if you do not take the stimulus money," said Don Baylor, a senior policy analyst for the Center for Public Policy Priorities, which advocates for low-income Texans. "The fund is basically going to

be out of money by the OU game." In other words, by October.

Economist Ray Perryman testified to a panel of lawmakers earlier this week that "it is unrealistic to assume the system can continue in its current form."

The federal money would be enough to pay for the increase in benefits, including changes in state law, for a decade, Perryman told the House committee charged with making recommendations to spend the federal stimulus money.

House Democratic Leader Jim Dunnam, D-Waco, who

chairs the committee, said the move is so counterproductive it "has to be 100 percent political."

"What is taking the money going to do to your taxes? Nothing," Dunnam said. "Put this \$555 million up and it will pay for the whole program for a decade. Maybe in a decade there may be some impact ... there is no rational basis for it."

Perry said he would prevent the unemployment compensation fund from falling into insolvency by reinstating the tax paid by businesses during the economic downturn.

Gambling rivals try to win over lawmakers

By KELLEY SHANNON

Associated Press Writer
AUSTIN — Casino gambling at resorts and Indian reservations. Video slot machines at racetracks. It's all on the table at the Texas Legislature.

Lobbyists for the different gambling factions are working to win support. Opponents want to stop the proposals from gaining momentum. For both sides, the next couple of weeks could be crucial.

Lawmakers aren't desperately looking for new sources

of revenue, like taxes on gambling, especially since billions of dollars in federal stimulus money are coming to the state.

Several new gambling proposals emerged just before the bill-filing deadline arrived Friday. Casino proposals that would require voter approval of a state constitutional amendment would first need a two-thirds majority in the legislative chambers.

On Wednesday, Speaker Pro Tempore Craig Eiland of Galveston, an ally of Straus,

filed legislation with Rep. Carol Alvarado of Houston that would let voters decide in November whether to allow casino gambling on islands like Galveston, in large cities and on Indian reservations. It also would allow expanded gambling at existing race tracks. If voters approve, the governor would call the Legislature back by June 2010 to work out the details.

"I think that Texans spend way too much money in Louisiana and Nevada and other states that allow gambling. ...

Texans like to gamble," Alvarado said. "I think it ought to stay here in Texas. I believe taking it to the voters first is the more appropriate thing to do. And then if it passes we'll come back and determine what type of gaming we'll have."

That would prevent Republican Gov. Rick Perry — who has said he doesn't want to expand the "footprint" of gambling in the state but at one time supported video slot machines at racetracks — from having to decide on

legislation or call a special session until after his March 2010 gubernatorial primary against U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison.

Perry needs the support of social conservatives who oppose gambling.

Perry said in an AP interview earlier this year he's skeptical that a gambling measure will pass this session. He predicted no bill will reach his desk. (A proposed constitutional amendment would bypass Perry and go straight to the voters.)



SPRINGTIME HOME SERVICES GUIDE

The Secret to keeping your whites Bright!

Water, Water, Inc.
your Culligan® dealer

1509 E. FM 700
Big Spring, TX 79720 432-263-8781

Four Seasons Siding
Residential • Commercial

- Vinyl Siding
- Steel Siding

100% Financing Available

264-8610

Now Accepting Visa, Mastercard & Discover

B & M Fence Co.
Voted Best In Big Spring

Get Our Price & Compare FREE Estimates

Robert Marquez-Owner
263-1613
1-800-525-1389
101 N.W. 2nd Big Spring

Res. & Commercial Chain Link • Metal Cedar Dog Kennels

Four Seasons Insulation
Save Money by Insulating!

- Wall and Attic Insulation

100% Financing Available

264-8610

Wright Sprinkler System

Design - Installation - Repair

Serving Big Spring, Snyder, Colorado City & Sweetwater

432-263-8781 • 1509 E. FM 700 • Big Spring

Four Seasons Windows
Your Home Deserves The Best!

- Thermo Vinyl Windows

100% Financing Available

264-8610

Marquez Fence & Concrete

The Oldest and Most Professional Fence Company in Big Spring and surrounding area.

All Work Guaranteed ~ Free Estimates

Benny Marquez - Owner
267-5714

Contact These Professionals For All Your Home Services Or Improvement Needs!

BUSINESSES & SERVICES

\$55.60 Per Month
Call 263-7331 to place your ad today!!



AC & HEATING

Johnson Air Conditioning Heating & Sheet Metal
• Servicing All Air Conditioning
• All Sheet Metal Work Including Duct Work
• Registers & Grills
We Carry All Air Conditioning Parts And Filters
1408 E. 4th • 263-2980

AC & HEATING

Crossroads Refrigeration
Air Conditioning, Heating & Ice Machines
We service all makes and models!
Cell: (432) 270-0501
24 Hour Service
TACLA26711C

AC & HEATING

BTS Heating And Air
Servicing All Brands
Licensed And Insured
432-213-3861
"Our Low Overhead Saves You Money?"

AIR CONDITIONING

WARREN REFRIGERATION
AIR-HEAT-ICE
Repair Specialist
Resident & Commercial
Loran Warren
NATE Certified Service Technician
Licensed and Insured
TACLA26337C
CALL (432) 263-5144

AUTO PARTS

A Modern Auto Dismantler
WESTEX
Since 1947
• 14 Acres of dismantled vehicles
• 20,000 sq ft. of Warehouse storage
• Specialize in late model quality auto parts
• Foreign and domestic parts for cars, trucks, mini-vans, 4x4 and sports utility vehicles
Hrs. 8 a.m.-5:30 Wk/day 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Sat.
1511 Hwy 350 • (432) 263-5000

BED LINERS

C & D Truck Accessories
2706 N. HWY 87
432-263-3600
Rhino Linings
THE SPRAYED-ON LINER

CONCRETE

All types of Concrete work and Repair Jobs
Concrete, Stucco, Block, Brick, Stone.
Free Estimates
CALL **DAVID LOPEZ**
213-4752
or 213-1181

CONCRETE

J. T. Builders
Remodeling • Drywall
Ceramic Tile • Electrical
Plumbing • Roofing
Brick & Concrete Work
Driveways • Sidewalks
Swimming Pool Decks
JOHNNY TALAMANTEZ
(432) 213-0882 Cell
(432) 935-6310 Res.

CONCRETE

MARQUEZ FENCE CO.
All types of fences, tile fence & repairs.
Concrete work, carports, stucco work
All work guaranteed.
Free Estimates
Benny Marquez-Owner
267-5714

CONCRETE

STUCCO DRIVEWAYS
SIDEWALKS
BLOCK FENCES
Chico and Sons Concrete
(432) 466-0573
(432) 816-6561
Fred Rubio
621 Sgt. Paredez
Big Spring, TX 79720

FENCES

B & M Fence Co.
VOTED BEST IN BIG SPRING
• Residential • Commercial
• Chain Link • Metal
• Cedar • Dog Kennels
Now Accepting
VISA MasterCard DISCOVER NOVUS
You Choose Your Payment Plan!!
Free Estimates
Get Our Price & Compare
Robert Marquez - Owner
263-1613
1-800-525-1389
101 NW 2nd St. Big Spring, TX

DEER CORN

Lyssy Eskel
50pd. Bag-\$7.95
Helena Chemical
3104 N. Hwy. 87
Big Spring
(432) 263-9963

ELECTRICAL

CROSSROADS ELECTRIC
Richard Moren
Master Electrician License #173630
Texas Electrical Contractor License #25496
Phone: (432) 264-6261

FENCE

J.T. West Texas Fence & Welding
Garden City, Texas
Wood Fence • Metal Fence
Pipe Fence • Pipe Corrals
Barbed Wire Fence • Net Wire Fence
Free Estimates
Home (432) 354-2513
Cell:(432) 466-1715
Big Spring (423) 263-4858
Sterling City (325) 378-3077

FENCES

Quality Fence Co.
Jimmy Marquez-Owner
Finest In Fencing
Wood & Chainlink
Free Estimates
432-267-3349

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Gibbs Remodeling
New home Construction •
Room Additions
Dry Wall Hanging & Finishing
Ceramic Tile • Installation & Repair
All Remodel Needs Of Any Room In Your Home.
Call 263-8285

GUARD & PATROL

FALL CREEK SECURITY
ST. LIC. B13300
• Armed & Unarmed Security Officers
• Vehicle Patrol
• Commercial
• Industrial
• Residential - Homeowners Association
• Body Guards
• Liability Insurance
• State Licensed By Texas DPS
CALL **ED HEARNE**
1-800-768-7117

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Over 25 years Experience Big Spring Texas Remodeling & Home Repairs
FREE ESTIMATES
Remodeling-Room Additions
Custom Cabinets-Custom Decks
Doors-Windows-Tile-Metal Roofing
Minor Electrical and Plumbing
Custom Flooring (Wood/Tile)
Kitchen and Bath Specialist
432-517-2004

Lawn Service

Top Notch Lawn Service
Lawns • Trees • Shrubs
Flower Beds • Sprinkler Repair
Alleys Cleaned & Mowed
Pressure Washing
Commercial & Residential
Brad (432) 213-0031
Experienced - Quality Work
Satisfaction Guaranteed

LAWN SERVICE

H & L LAWN SERVICE
Mowing • Edging
Weed Eating
Light Hauling
CALL
432-268-3065

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

L & R Construction
Complete Home Remodeling,
Repairs, Additions, Floor and Wall
Tile, Glass Block, Interior & Exterior Painting, Laminate
Counter Tops, Custom Built
Cabinets, Custom Wood Works and Drywall.
FREE ESTIMATES
Call Ron at 432-213-5540

HOME IMPROVEMENT

RS HOME REPAIR
Custom Wood Decks,
Remodel, Carpenter,
Painting, Plumbing,
Minor Electrical
FREE ESTIMATES
Garage door repair,
Appliances installed
816-3030

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Michael's Home & Bus. Repair
Carpentry, Painting, Drywall,
Appliances & Fixtures, Minor
Plumbing & Electrical.
Personal Asst./Shopper
20+ Yrs. Exp.
HOW MAY I BE OF SERVICE
432-213-2316

HOME IMPROVEMENT

EXECUTIVE PAINTING
Comm. / Res.
Interior / Exterior
Drywall - Texture Repair
20 yrs. experience
432-816-3903
LEAVE MESSAGE

HOUSEKEEPING

TIDY LADY CLEANING!!!
Experienced in home/
office cleaning.
I do my own work and have
references. Honest,
dependable, and hardworking.
Please call
(903) 449-0963

HOME IMPROVEMENT

ENTRY DOORS/ GARAGE DOORS/OPENERS
Remodeling • Contractor
Repaired/Remodeled
Refinishing
Kitchen & Bath Specialist
BOB'S CUSTOM WOODWORK
409 E. 3RD 267-5811

INTERNET SERVICES

Westex Telecom
High Speed DSL
OR
Dial-Up Internet Access
Local Customer Service
268-8800

LAWN CARE

Mowing • Alleys • Tilling
Hauling • Tree Trimming
Cleanout Storage Buildings
Odd Jobs
Scoggin Lawn Service
816-6150 - Cell
267-5460
FREE ESTIMATES

LAWN SERVICE

CYC Lawn Service
Yards Mowed \$25.00
Big Spring Area
• Hedge Trimming • Tree Trimming
• Flower Beds Cleaned • Alleys Cleaned
• All Types Of Hauling
• All Types Of Odd Jobs
FULLY INSURED
CALL **DAVE** 432-935-2406
Free Estimates - Senior Discounts
All Work Guaranteed

SALON

"Stylin' Station"
Full Service Hair Salon
NAILS & MASSAGE Available
\$5.00 Off First Set Nails (with coupon)
\$5.00 Off First Massage (with coupon)
1001 E. 11th Place 267-6554
Walk-Ins Welcome
Gifts Available!!

RACING

TCRC
Texas Crossroads Racing Circuit
Motorcycle, ATV,
Side X Side Racing
texascrc.net

PRODUCTS

WATKINS
Quality Products since 1868.
Home Care, Personal Care,
Home Remedies, Watkins,
Vanilla, Natural Gourmet Spices.
www.watkinsonline.com/aholmes
Call: **Annette (432) 267-3901**
(Ind. Sales Associate) ID# 357980

PEST CONTROL

SOUTHWESTERN
Southwestern
A-1 Pest Control
432.263.0441
Max J. Moore
2008 Birdwell Lane
www.swa1pc.com

PHONE WIRING

Small Business & Residential
Phone Wiring
Computer & Extension Lines
Stans Phone Lines
Wiring at Affordable Prices
432-213-3910
A.W. Stansel
29 Years Experience
5110 Wasson Rd.
Big Spring, TX 79720

REALTY

J. RUTLEDGE REALTY
Jeannie Rutledge
Broker / Owner
1600 S. Gregg
432-714-4900
Leah Hughes
432.270.2416

STORAGE

BK SELF STORAGE
MINI STORAGE • BOAT • RV
ALL SIZES AVAILABLE
OUR STORAGE FREE'S UP YOUR SPACE
432-267-1810
432-816-9416

STORAGE

1/2 Off first month
Remodeling Special 1/2 Off
First Month With No Deposit.
Office remodeled by Choice
Contracting. Come by and see us
for all your storage needs!
Look for the red and white checkered flags!!
We support our fitness and weight loss team. Go AAA Amazons...
Amy, Donna, Jean & Leona...get fit and lose that weight!!!
Mon.-Fri. 8-5
Sat. 9-2 Sun. closed

RENTALS

VENTURA COMPANY
432-267-2655
11th Place Shopping
Center For Sale
\$50,000 Cash To Seller

ROOFING

JOHNNY FLORES ROOFING
Shingles, Hot Tar & Gravel.
All type of repairs!
Work Guaranteed.
Specializing in Hot Tar Roofs
and Doctor of Repairs!
Free Estimates!!
Big Spring & Surrounding Areas.
267-1110

SIDING

Christie Larson
432.213.4647
Vanessa Jordan
432.816.5490
Zac Hall
806.544.9211

WEB DESIGNS

Four Seasons Insulation & Siding
Specializing In
Wall Insulation
Thermal Replacement
Windows & Siding
Call 264-8610

TREE TRIMMING

LUPE'S TREE TRIMMING
More than 20 years
of experience. Stump
grinder available.
For Tree Trimming
and removal.
Call
Lupe Villalpando
432-268-6406

WINDOW TINT

C & D Truck Accessories
2706 N. HWY 87
432-263-3600
Solar Gaurd Window Tint
5 year limited warranty

Go Hawks!



The Howard College women's basketball team is headed to the NJCAA National Tournament in Salina Kan., against Kaskaskia College at noon Tuesday.

Go Hawks!
Quality Glass & Mirror Co.
263-1891

Go Hawks!
Harris Lumber & Hardware
1515 E. FM 700
267-8206

Good Luck

BIG SPRING **HERALD**

GO Hawks!

WE ♥ OUR HAWKS!
Choate Well Service
8500 E. Moss Lake Rd. • 393-5231

"Best Wishes Ladies"
CREnergy Stanton Division
432-756-3381 1-800-442-8688

Good Luck Team!
Casa Blanca Restaurant
1005 Lamesa Hwy.
263-1162

Go Get 'Em
A-1 Lock & Key
263-3409

Sic Em' Hawks!
Harley Davidson Shop
908 W. 3rd • 263-2322

We're Behind Our Hawks!
Big Spring Economic Development
264-6032

Brenda's BBQ & More
263-2899
904 E. 3rd St.
Good Luck!

BIG SPRING EDUCATION EMPLOYEES FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
Helping you in "Money" ways
1110 Benton
263-8393

All The Way Hawks!
H & R Block • 263-1931

"Go Get em Ladies"
Just Peachy Cafe
263-7000
505 Scurry Big Spring, TX

Advance Plumbing
GO HAWKS!
263-4973

Best Of Luck!
Myers & Smith Funeral Home & Chapel
Bill & Charlsa Myers
301 E. 24th
267-8288

BEAR CLAW Knife & Shear
Richard & Suzy Steinberg
100 Airbase Rd. Big Spring, TX 79720
432.267.4935
Sharpening Service

Go All The Way
from
Pollard Chevrolet
1501 E. 4th 267-7421

Good Luck Ladies!!
KC Steaks & Seafood
N Service Road I-20-West
263-1651

GO-HAWKS!
A-Bob's Bail Bonds
263-3333

Good Luck Ladies!
from the **Moss Creek Ranch**
1601 S. Moss Lake Rd. 935-4809

Good Luck At Nationals!
Dr. D. H. McGonagill Optometrist
Many Years Of Eyecare Experience
109 E. 3rd 267-7601

GO HAWKS GO!
Price Construction
2701 E. Hwy. 350 267-1691

Best Of Luck
from the **Russ McEwen Agency**

Good Luck Hawks!
87 Auto
267-8787

Congratulations Lady Hawks!
J. RUTLEDGE REALTY
Jeannie Rutledge Owner/Broker
1600 S. Gregg St. Big Spring, TX 79720
432.714.4900 Fax# 432.714.4903
Leah Hughes 432-270-2416
Christie Larson 432-213-4647
Vanessa Jordan 432-816-5490
Zac Hall 806-544-9211
Welcome Our Newest Long Time Agent
Janet Higgins 432-213-5454
Welcome To Our Team
Our Professional Experience,
Your Personal Confidence.

Items for Sale

BEAUTIFUL CANOPY Bed with Mattress set. Still in boxes with warranty. \$295. 432-664-8980.

BRAND NEW queen pillow top mattress set, in plastic \$165. 432-664-8980.

MEMORY FOAM mattress. Never opened. FLAME RESISTANT. Will take \$485. 432-664-8980.

Wrought Iron style Queen Bed. Brand New will take \$250. 432-664-8980.

NEW MICRO Fiber Sofa and Loveseat. Never opened. Only \$565. 432-664-8980.

Twin size Pillow Top Mattress set, in plastic \$120. NEW 432-664-8980.

Miscellaneous

ANTIQUE SEARS & Roebuck Upright Piano. Circa 1900. Ornate carved wood. Good condition. Call 432-263-2835. No answer leave message.

BLACK-Brand new counter height dining table, swivel stools, List, \$1380, sell \$550. 806-549-3110.....

Dining table & 4 chairs. Never used, IN BOXES. Dark oak finish. \$270. 806-549-3110.....

On the Farm

2008 HAY
Hybrid Sorghum Sudangrass
Tridan (Sweet)
1- 2500 Round Bales 5x6
806-239-1942

Pets

AKC AKITAS, Big beautiful 7 weeks old. Current on shots. \$300.00. Parents on premises. Going fast. Call 432-634-0667 or 620-8855.

BOXER PUPPIES for Sale, \$100.00 each. Call after 5:00pm (432)213-4909.

Real Estate for Rent

\$380/MO! BUY a 3 bed, 2 bath! 5% dn, 30 yrs, 8% apr! For listings 800-544-6258 x F086.

1505 TUCSON. Remodeled Four bedroom, two bath, CH/A. \$750.00 Month, \$500.00 deposit. No HUD, No pets non-smokers preferred. References required. Call (432)270-3849.

Real Estate for Rent

BEAUTIFUL GARDEN COURTYARD

- Swimming Pool
- Private Patios
- Carports
- Appliances
- Most Utilities Paid
- Senior Citizens Discount
- 1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished

PARKHILL TERRACE APARTMENTS
800 W. Marcy Drive
263-5555 267-5444

LOVELY NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLEX

Swimming Pool
Carports,
Most Utilities Paid,
Senior Citizen Discounts
1 & 2 Bedrooms & 1 or 2 Baths
Unfurnished

KENTWOOD APARTMENTS
1904 East 25th Street
267-5444
263-5555

1206 EAST 11th Place. 3 Bedroom 2 bath, 2 car garage, CH/A, living/ dining room. \$950.00 Month plus deposit. No HUD. No Bills Paid. (432)267-2296.

1900 ALABAMA 4 bdr, 2 bath, Newly remodeled. Fenced yard. \$800/ month, \$750/ deposit. Call after 5pm 432-816-1255 or 263-8005.

2 BED/1BTH, 1000 SF. completely renovated with crown moldings, baseboards, new carpet, new appliances. \$700 rent month, \$700 deposit, credit and criminal check. Please call between 9:00am-8:00pm, 432-816-4453 or email huellc@gmail.com for an application.

HOUSE FOR Rent: Ready by April 1st, 3 Bdrm, 2 bath., 1802 East 11th. CH/A. Call (432)517-4844.

Real Estate for Rent

SUNSET RIDGE APARTMENT
2911 West Hwy 80
Big Spring
432-263-2292
\$100. off 1st month rent!
1 Bdrm \$350 month
2 Bdrm \$395 month
!!!!!! Now Available !!!!!!!

Under New Ownership
New Name
TANGLEWOOD GROVE APTS
Efficiency,
One- Two- Three Bedroom
(Unfurnished)

*All New Appliances & Fixtures
*Security System in Place
*FREE HS Wireless Internet
*Picnic/BBQ Area
*Laundry & Vending Facility
3304 W. Hwy. 80
(432)714-4840
(559)309-1968

Real Estate for Sale

HOME AUCTION
170+ Texas Homes

Featured Locally...
2314 North Anderson Rd, Big Spring, 2/2, 1968sf, 1± Acres. For local info call Ellen Phillips, Coldwell Banker Ellen Phillips Realtors, 432-267-3061. This home is selling online via our Bid Now system.

Get All The Details And Bid Now At
TXHouseAuction.com

CALL FOR A FREE BROCHURE
866-825-2008

Open House Mar 14 & 15.
Call listing agent for details.

Up to 2.5% to buyer agents, \$2500 down in a cashiers check for each property. 5% premium on each sale. All sales subject to seller's approval. Pat Harvill Broker #0380534, AUCTION0009100.

HOME REALTORS 110 W. Marcy 263-1284 263-4663

OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY MARCH 15, 2009
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

1701 Purdue
1206 Wood

BARCELONA APARTMENTS
\$299 MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP.
ALL BILLS PAID
538 Westover 263-1252
Housing Assistance Accepted

Real Estate for Sale

OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY
2PM - 4PM

4108 CHAPARRAL RD.

J. RUTLEDGE REALTY

1600 Gregg St.
Big Spring, TX 79720
(432) 714-4900
(432) 714-4903

4 BEDROOM 3 bath Foreclosure Only \$44,900! For Listings 800-544-6258 x S382.

BY OWNER- 3547 Sq. Ft. Brick- 4 bdrm, 2-1/2 baths, 3 living rooms, 2 car garage, 1-1/2 acres. 8403 Gail Hwy. Below appraisal \$179,500.00. 432-270-4646.

FORECLOSURE! 3 bdrm, 2 bath! Only \$22,900! Must see! For listings 800-544-6258 ext. F906.

HERE'S FLORIDA! Florida Manufactured Home Magazine. A guide to finding and buying a manufactured home in the Sunshine State. Call to request your FREE copy today! Toll Free: 1-888-739-3530 Or Visit our website www.fimmanufacturedhomes.com

HIGHLAND SOUTH 3 bedroom, 2-1/12 bath, 2 living area and study. Recent updates, includes new master bath, carpet and crown molding. Manicured yard. Home Realtors, Linda Barnes, 432-270-0062.

OWNER FINANCED! Easy Terms, no closing costs! 1307 Mt. Vernon & 1413 Sycamore. Call Lana at TruStar RE (432)264-8166.

LAND FOR Sale, 10 acres located South of Big Spring in Tubbs Addition. Total fenced, pipe gate entrances. Interested parties call 432-466-1056.

OWNER FINANCE. 2/1. Low monthly. Low down. 1301 Park. (325)277-4923.

Legals

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE
In compliance with Article 683.012 Transportation Code, I will proceed to sell at public action to the highest bidder on the 31st day of March 2009, all of the following listed Abandoned Motor Vehicles. Location of sale 116 E. Currie, Garden City. Sale to begin at 10:00AM.

- 1987 Chev. Spectrum ID#J81RG5172H8407581 Tag#V22
- 1991 HONDA CMC ID#1HGD3642MLO54024 Tag#V30
- 1992 OLDS. ID#1G3HY53L6NH362717 Tag#V32
- 1986 OLDS. ROYALE ID#1G3HY6931G1813735 Tag#V35
- 1997 FORD SABLE WAG ID#1MELM55U7VG646613 Tag#V48
- 1994 FORD ESCORT ID#3FARP13J6RR101821 Tag#V50
- 1997 PONTIAC FIRE BIRD ID#2G2FS22S8S2234584 Tag#V52
- 1989 FORD RANGER ID#1FTCR14AXKP846671 Tag#V106
- 1995 OLDS REGENCY ID#1G3CX52K2S4315155 Tag#V107
- 1989 CHEV CORSICA ID#1G1LT54W2K273990 Tag#V108
- 1978 FORD ID#X15JKB66634 Tag#V111
- 1996 CHEV LUMINA ID#2G1WL52M8T9224246 Tag#V113
- 1981 FORD P/U ID#1FTDF15E9BPA50013 Tag#V08
- 1982 CHEVY SUB ID#1G8EC16L8CF148025 Tag#V10
- 1993 MERCURY XR7

- ID#1MEPM624XPH633119 Tag#V15
- 1997 PLYMOUTH NEON ID#1P3ES22COVD215834 Tag#V18
- 1988 CAD. COUPED ID#1G6CD1151J4290537 Tag#V20
- 1986 SUBARU WAG. ID#JF2AN53BXGE415826 Tag#V24
- 1994 MAZDA PROTEGE ID#JM1BG2249RO788225 Tag#V34
- 2002 MAZDA 626 ID#1YVGF22C525306742 Tag#V37
- 1995 BUIUCK CENTRY ID#1G4AG5M9S6433501 Tag#V39
- 1995 FORD EXPLORER ID#1FMDU34X1SZB44553 Tag#V42
- 2000 FORD CONTOUR ID#3FAFP66LOYM106263 Tag#V44
- 1991 BOX VAN ID#1FDKE37M3MHA53749 Tag#V46
- 1997 MERCURY SABLE ID#1MELM55U7VG646613 Tag#V48

The successful bidder upon the money to this Department is entitled to take possession of the vehicle and apply for title free and clear of all liens and claims of ownership. The storage site is open from 8:30am to 4:00pm Monday-Saturday for inspection of the Vehicle before the sale. All vehicles are sold as is, without warranty as guarantee of performance. The successful bidder may pay by money order or cash. All vehicles and Bill of sale will be retained by this office until all checks have been cleared the banking facility. Sheriff Keith Burnett Glasscock County Office Number 432-354-2361 #6077 March 15, 2009

Real Estate for Sale

OWNER FINANCE!!! No closing costs! TruStar RE has helped thousands of families begin living their dream. Call for listings in your area! Call Milton (806)790-0827.

OWNER FINANCE, 5 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2,500 sq. ft., \$3,950. Down, \$735. per month plus taxes and insurance. Call United Agent (432)816-9591.

OWNER FINANCE- 2715 Central Drive, Kentwood addition, near school. 3/2, fireplace, shop, fenced. \$98,000.00 with Small Down. Payments \$851.00 monthly. Call (512)940-5200, (432)631-8100.

RENOVATED 3 Bedroom, 3 bath home in Kentwood. Sequestered master, spacious den, bonus room and workshop, Home Realtors, Call Linda Barnes, 432-270-0062.

SMALL 2 bdr., 1 bath, fenced yard with deck, CH/A, 432-263-6887 or 213-8220. Larger 2 bdr., 1 bath with den available soon!

OWNER FINANCE, Low Down, Low Monthly, Easy Terms. 508 State Street- 2/1, 808 Settles- 3/2. Call Trent@ TruStar RE 512-426-1850.

Real Estate for Sale

VICTORIA HOME, 2101 Runnels. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. 2 Lots, 12 foot ceilings, large back yard. \$89,000.00. Call (432)816-2525.

WE BUY HOUSES and LAND. Any Condition. Tax Liens No Problem. Call (512)940-5200, 432-631-8100.

Vehicles

2000 HONDA Civic SI Cheap! \$300 Firm! Runs! For listings 800-544-1092 x N237.

Answer to previous puzzle

WELK	ABBY	ARMOR
EPEE	OREO	LEONE
TIGER	LILLY	ANNES
SCOPE	CLOD	OKIE
SACKS ORIENT		
ROSTRA	GARY	
EINE	THROWN	PAW
SLAP	TEMPO	ROMA
TSK	LAYSTO	HDTV
ELOI DRESSY		
STPAUL	POSIT	
COLT	SUEZ	NOTUP
HEAVE	CRAB	GRASS
MINIS	LOWE	ICES
ONTAP	ATAD	COST

For All Your Plumbing Needs Call

Quality Plumbing

264-7006

Have A Quality Day!!!

THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

America's Nationwide Classified Market With Over 10 Million Readers

<p>MISCELLANEOUS</p> <p>DIRECTV FREE 4-Room System! 265+ Channels! Starts \$29.99! FREE HBO, Showtime, Starz! 130 HD Channels! FREE DVR/HD! No Start Up Costs! LOCAL INSTALLERS! 800-973-9044</p> <p>HELP WANTED</p> <p>\$\$\$HELP WANTED\$\$\$ EARN EXTRA INCOME ASSEMBLING CD CASES FROM HOME. CALL OUR LIVE OPERATORS NOW! easywork-greatpay.com 1-800-267-3944 Ext. 650 (Void in SD, ND, WI, & MD)</p> <p>The American Community Classified Network ("AC-CAN") accepts no liability or responsibility for failure to insert an advertisement. The AC-CAN accepts no liability for any error in an advertisement, regardless of course, except for the cost of the space actually occupied by the error. The AC-CAN reserves the right to reject at its discretion, any advertisement deemed objectionable by The AC-CAN in subject matter, phraseology or composition, or to classify any advertisements.</p>	<p>REAL ESTATE</p> <p>***** FREE Foreclosure Listings! ***** More Than 400,000 properties Nationwide!! LOW Down Payment CALL TODAY! 800-817-6272</p> <p>MISCELLANEOUS</p> <p>DISH Network **SPECIALS!** TurboHD The ONLY 100% HD Package from DISH! Get it TODAY starting at \$9.99/mo for 6 mos. ORDER TODAY! FREE Equipment! CALL NOW! 1-888-383-3845 Promo Code: 31694</p>
---	---

Or Call:
Tonya Browning
1-800-821-8139
ext 254

For advertising rates and information on National Classified Advertising visit:
www.cnhi-can.com

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- Custodian
- Swallowtail relative
- Completely
- Cheyenne allies
- Chained
- Records over
- They may make rash decisions
- Jaw
- Familia member
- 2008 NCAA soccer champs
- Nuance
- "Playwright of the Midwest"
- Org. for Rosalynn Carter and Janet Reno
- Suits
- Sports scoop
- Way to go
- Aix-_-Bains, France
- Citation part, perhaps
- Airtight
- Brightness measures
- Notice
- Underpinning
- Brunch fare
- Unesco Building muralist
- Part of some pools
- Bit of high tech
- Rub and rub
- Absorbed
- Chip, at times
- Routed

DOWN

- Near-hip
- Proof of basking
- Wrap-ups of a sort
- It means "merchandise"
- Tar term
- Went around
- Fine
- Selling points
- Rock group
- "Mona Lisa" name
- Arizona county
- Pope Julius II portraitist
- Hotel Rwanda star
- First Lady, often
- Fleet
- Witch hazel, for one
- Juliet time
- Secure
- For any reason
- Navigation tool
- Focus of a Louisville museum
- Restrain, in a way
- Painting technique
- Schubert's Trout
- 32 Down successor
- Dash
- European coastal plant
- Two or three
- Furrow fillers
- Handled
- Star first seen in 1967
- Gloss
- Abrahamic religion
- Sonic the Hedgehog introducer
- Cold
- Block

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15							16						
17							18						
19							20			21			
22				23					24				
25			26		27				28				
29				30		31		32				33	
			34		35			36			37		
38	39	40		41		42			43		44	45	46
47			48			49		50		51			
52					53					54		55	
56					57						58		
59					60				61				
62									63				
64											65		

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2009 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 3/14/09

More TV ads project images of racial harmony

By **TODD LEWAN**

AP National Writer

Ever see an inner-city schoolyard filled with white, Asian and black teens shooting hoops? Or middle-aged white and Latino men swigging beer and watching the Super Bowl on their black neighbor's couch? Or Asians and Latinos dancing the night away in a hip-hop club?

All it takes is a television.

Yes, that mesmerizing mass purveyor of aspiration, desire and self-awareness regularly airs commercials these days that show Americans of different races and ethnicities interacting in integrated schools, country clubs, workplaces and homes, bonded by their love of the products they consume.

Think about one of Pepsi's newest spots, "Refresh Anthem," which debuted during the Super Bowl. The ad, which features Bob Dylan and hip-hop producer will.i.am, is a collage of images from the '60s and today that celebrate generations past and present.

Whites and blacks are shown returning from war, surfing, skateboarding, dancing and waving American flags at political rallies, while a boyish Dylan and a present-day will.i.am take turns singing the Dylan classic, "Forever Young," each in his signature style.

Or, take the latest hit spot from ETRADE, which stars the ETRADE Baby, a 9-month-old white boy, and his newest buddy — a black infant who, from his own highchair, agrees with the wisdom of online investing even in a down economy.

Ads like these are part of a subtle, yet increasingly visible strategy that marketers refer to as "visual diversity" — commercials that enable advertisers to connect with wider audiences while conveying a message that corporate America is not just "in touch," racially speaking, but inclusive.

It wasn't always like this. For much of the past century, "minorities were either invisible in mainstream media, or handed negative roles that generally had them in a subservient position," says Jerome Williams, a professor of advertising and African-American studies at the University of Texas at Austin.

"Today, you're starting to see a juxtaposition of blacks and whites together, doing the things people do ... Now, advertisers are not in a position of pushing social justice. But to the extent that they can put whites and blacks together in situations, I think that's a good thing."

These "multiculti" ads may be evidence of the vitality of assimilation, America's distinctive, master trend. To advertisers, though, they're simply smart business — a recognition of a new cultural mainstream that prizes diversity, a recognition that we are fast approaching a day when the predominant hue in America will no longer be white.

"Going forward, all advertising is going to be multicultural by definition, because in most states, majority ethnic populations will no longer exist," says Danny Allen, managing director at SENSIS, an ad agency in Los Angeles that specializes in reaching multicultural audiences through digital and online media.

Just as the Obama campaign sensed the nation's desire to reconcile its racial problems, he adds, "advertisers are also tapping into that same yearning, particularly among younger Americans, to put racial divisions behind us and move forward in a more unified way."

And yet, some critics wonder if depicting America as a racial nirvana today may have an unintended downside — that of airbrushing out of the public consciousness the economic and social chasms that still separate whites, blacks and Latinos.

Even on Madison Avenue, which is generating the inclusive messages, recent studies find few nonwhites in decision-making and creative positions within the advertising industry itself.

Are multiculti ads, then, an accurate barometer of our racial progress, a showcase of our hopes in that direction — or a reminder of how far we still have to go?



AP Photo/FreeCreditReport.com, Susan Goldman

In this image released by FreeCreditReport.com, former "Tonight Show" sidekick, Ed McMahon is shown on the set of a rap video for FreeCreditReport.com, a financial Web site owned by credit bureau Experian.

In the days when Aunt Jemima appeared on boxes of pancake mix as a servile "Mammy" character — a plump, smiling African-American woman in a checkered apron and a kerchief — advertisers aimed largely for the so-called "general market," code for white consumers, rather than smaller, satellite "ethnic" markets.

Whites still hold most of the economic clout in the United States — 85.5 percent of the nation's annual buying power of \$10 trillion, according to a 2007 study by the Selig Center for Economic Growth at the University of Georgia.

In recent years, though, marketers have been revising old assumptions and campaigns in anticipation of profound shifts in the nation's demographics, and in reaction to changes already under way in what the Selig Center describes as "The Multicultural Economy."

They note that:

- African-American buying power has risen from \$318 billion in 1990 to \$845 billion in 2007 — a 166 percent gain. Whites' buying power rose 124 percent during that period.
- The combined buying power of African-Americans, Asians and Native Americans was \$1.4 trillion in 2007, a gain of 201 percent since 1990. Meanwhile, the economic clout of Latinos rose by 307 percent, to \$862 billion, over that span.
- The number of black-owned companies rose 45 percent from 1997 to 2002 — 4 times faster than the national average — and their receipts grew slightly faster than all others. Native American-owned businesses increased by 67 percent, Asian firms 24 percent, Latino companies 31 percent.

• The black population grew 27 percent from 1990 to 2007, compared to 15 percent for whites and 21 percent overall. And the percentage of multiracial citizens, though just 1.6 percent of America's 302 million people, is swelling at 10 times the rate of white population growth.

If current trends continue, demographers say, nonwhites will be in the majority in America by 2042 — a prospect not lost on advertisers, says Melanie Shreffler, editor of Marketing to the Emerging Majorities, an industry newsletter.

Marketers "aren't turning out multicultural ads for the good of society," says Shreffler. "They recognize there is money involved. If you skip out on a group that is going to be half the population by 2042 — good heavens, who are you marketing to?"

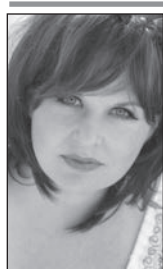
Which, perhaps, explains a couple of other current ads: A black-and-white commercial produced by Spike Lee for Gatorade Mission G features close-ups of white, black and multiracial athletes, staring straight into the camera to tell viewers about heart, hustle and soul; a spot promoting Cash4Gold.com has two famously bankrupt celebrity pitchmen of different races, Ed McMahon and rap artist MC Hammer, explaining how easy it is to liquidate gold cufflinks, golf clubs and the like.

Karl Carter, chief executive of the Atlanta marketing agency GTM Inc. (Guerrilla Tactics Media), calls this the "Benetton Approach" since it echoes a 1980s campaign by United Colors of Benetton that pictured interracial close-ups, such as a white woman and a black woman hugging an Asian baby.

See **TV ADS**, Page 10C

Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Pisces sun and Scorpio moon create emotional simpatico in the heavens. It's like the cosmos are having a support group meeting,



HOLIDAY MATHIS

to confess and be absolved. Anyone who needs to get something off of their chest can pull up a chair and start talking. This mental preparation readies us for the vernal equinox on Friday.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Romance and love are not necessarily intertwined. You'll feel so alive when you court your inner sense of romance by appreciating the beauty, art, poetry and sensual wonders around you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You can't make anyone else change, but you can change something about yourself. Think small

and temporary — the extreme measures won't stick anyway. Reward yourself for all efforts.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've been vigilant in an endeavor, though today it feels difficult to keep up the fight. Be kind to yourself. Find the no-stress route. Instead of taking on the world, go with the flow.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are trying to make sense of a part of the world that is new to you. There is much to learn here, but don't ask questions aloud. Quiet observation is the fastest way to knowing all.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). In case you need a reminder of your own intelligence, you will get it this afternoon. It will build your confidence to recognize that the way you think is unique. You'll be praised for your gift.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You know what you want and you go for it. When you are not offered a role in someone's life you may take

it upon yourself to steal the part. Bold action will be effective.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There comes a time to stop thinking. You'll notice your thoughts aren't helping you out, and in fact, they are keeping you from being decisive and confident. Turn off the mental chatter and life gets instantly better.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It feels like you are not going anywhere; rather, like the tide you keep moving back and forth. While your motion is constant, it never truly repeats itself. Notice the unique qualities of each moment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll wonder whether a new endeavor is worth the effort. If it involves giving your time, talent and energy to others, it's worthwhile. It may seem your impact is inconsequential, but the passing of time will disprove this.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You are a

leader, but you don't want others to copy you exactly. You might feel as though someone is honing in on your territory or ripping off your personal style. Imitation is flattery — it really is.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Going beyond the call is your aim now. You do what you have to do to excel. Try to remember that others might not feel the same drive as you. Allow everyone to give to their own comfort level.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Transitions can be difficult if they are being forced to happen at a different rate than what would naturally occur. You're in the middle of a change and would be wise to give it all the time it needs to unfold.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: In 1600, Thomas Nashe wrote, "Spring, the sweet spring, is the year's pleasant king — and the sentiment is ever fresh. Who doesn't love this fragrant time

of year? The forces of nature seem to conspire to help us propagate our intentions for the year. People are drawn together in magnetic attraction or natural curiosity. And the energy of Aries, the first sign of the zodiac, rules supreme. Aries is a young king, vital, vibrant and filled with ideas — many good ones mixed in with the ones that are foolish, brash and immature. Action goes before thought in many cases, and things often work well this way.

There's no time for fear to creep in and stop us from doing what is interesting, compelling and exciting. The more impudent of our impulses will be counteracted by Mars transiting wise Pisces. In this station Mars acts as damage control, saving us from going overboard due to spring fever.

The vernal equinox is Friday the 20th, so the early week is best spent in preparation. It's a lucky time to get rid of

old baggage. Do your spring cleaning mentally and emotionally, as well as physically.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Eva Longoria went from being "Young and Restless" to being a "Desperate Housewife" — though neither description completely sums up the depth of this soulful Pisces. Her moon and Venus in hot-blooded Aries is an enticing contrast to the abundant emotional water sign influence in her natal chart. She can be soft and sweet, but when it comes to standing up for what is right, she's a warrior.

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.

TV ADS

Continued from Page 9C

Such ads often depict, Carter says, "a bunch of different races playing along, side by side, Kumbaya."

The ads may play well now, but Carter wonders how long they will be effective. "A particularly as America "beiges" and race becomes less essential to how individuals self-identify. Over the long run, advertisers would do better, he says, to focus on a cultural approach with versatile images and campaigns easily adapted to highly individualized tastes. Put another way: How do hip-hoppers feel? What are the common desires of surfers, or skateboarders, or kayakers?"

"With young people who've grown up biracially or surrounded by different cultures and races, it's more about what connects them."

Pepsi appears to have digested the message. Though its "Refresh Everything" ads include people of multiple races, "We're targeting anyone who embodies optimism and the spirit of youth," says Nicole Bradley, a Pepsi spokeswoman. "It's more about a mind-set than a demographic."

In these times, multiculturalism is cool, and likely to get cooler, says Sonya Grier, a marketing professor at American University who is studying how consumers of different races respond to multicultural ads and "ethnically neutral" models in ads.

The Obama presidency, in her view, will have enormous impact on the industries that set out to mold our desires at a subconscious level.

"Advertising has to reflect reality, to some degree," she says. "So, now that the president is African-American, I think companies that were once afraid to put members of multiple ethnic groups in their ads might see a chance here to go ahead and take a risk, or even see it as necessary."

Four men in suits and ties are eating in a Holiday Inn Express breakfast bar when they see a pretty white woman enter.

"We're going to send her a plate of bacon," says the black member of the group.

His white colleague suggests a cheese omelet. No, an English

hands a Valentine's Day ad to his students that depicts a black man presenting flowers to a white woman in a romantic setting. Most of his students don't see anything wrong with it.

However, he adds, "When I ask them to take it home to show their parents and grandparents, the reaction I get is still, 'We're not

bias in the industry, with African-American professionals lagging in pay, hiring, promotions and assignments.

Some findings:
• Black college graduates earn 80 cents for every dollar made by their equally qualified, white counterparts, and salaries of \$100,000 are disproportionately less likely for African-

made. Says Grier, the marketing professor at American University: "I often have former classmates and MBA students who are in brand-marketing or advertising-related functions call me and say, 'My company showed an ad, I thought it was stereotypical, but I was the only one in the room and did not know

settings?"

Charles Gallagher, chair and professor of the sociology department at La Salle University, worries about just this.

"If you were to come down from another planet and watch TV, you'd think that all of these human beings share a lot of intimacy, regardless of the way they look," Gallagher says. "But the reality is, people of different races don't share social space like that."

An ad showing Latinos and Asians eating potato chips at a softball game or whites and blacks sporting pricey watches while dining out can, he says, "hide the fact that poverty disproportionately affects certain groups."

Indeed, African-Americans' median income is just 61 percent that of whites, and blacks are nearly twice as likely to be unemployed, government figures show. Whites 65 or older receive 25 times as much income from retirement investments as elderly blacks, and poverty rates for black children are 2-times higher than for whites.

About 80 percent of whites live in neighborhoods in which 95 percent of their neighbors are also white, and census data shows 90 percent of the neighborhoods that were predominantly or exclusively black in 1990 remained that way a decade later.

"My students always say to me, 'Isn't it better to have these ads? It's kind of a fake-it-'til-you-make-it kind of thing,'" Gallagher says. "The problem with that, I tell them, is that distortions and false impressions never do anyone any good."

Shreffler, the ad industry newsletter editor, says marketers aren't sociologists and in the end green, "is not black or white or brown, is often the most important color."

"Advertising is aspirational," she adds. "It's who we want to be, a lifestyle we want — not always who we are."



Still image from video provided by E-Trade

muffin would be more proper, advises an older, white friend. How about a hot cinnamon roll, asks a fourth man, who looks multiethnic.

"Cinnamon roll?" the black man asks, incredulously. "That's something you send your sister. I'm going to send her some bacon." He hands a plate of bacon to a waitress, who delivers it to the young woman—"Compliments of those guys."

"Ohhh," the woman exclaims, uncomfortably, and with an awkward smile and a sheepish shrug, holds up what she really wants for breakfast: "Yogurt?"

This 2008 spot is clever not only for its humor, but because it gingerly tests one of several racial boundaries most advertisers are still loath to cross: The presentation of interracial courting or romance.

"It's still one of the three taboos in the industry," says Williams, the University of Texas advertising professor.

Each semester, he

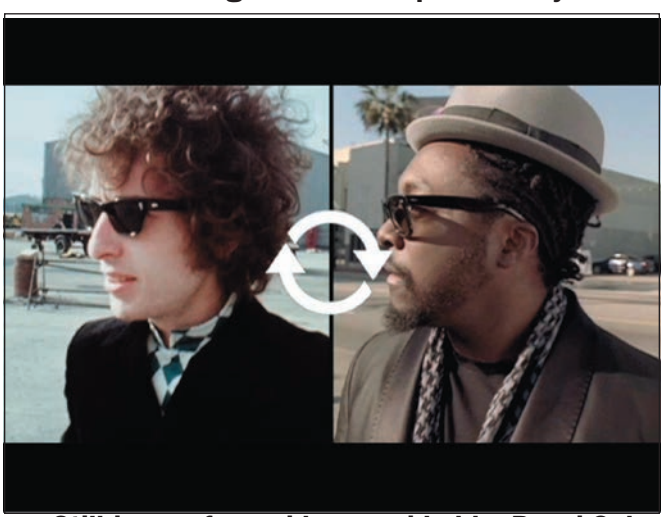
quite ready for that yet."

Other no-nos? There aren't many ads depicting multiracial families or biracial couples interacting normally at home, whether having supper or watching a movie. And in ads that depict professional settings, people of color rarely appear in charge — as CEOs, say, giving presentations to their board of directors.

"Every now and then you see something that bucks the trend," says Williams. "But when you do content analyses of ads, you are astounded by how much stereotypes are still part of the advertising we all digest."

One reason that racial distortions persist may be the relatively low numbers of blacks in the \$31 billion advertising industry, and a dearth of blacks in positions of power.

A report released in January by the Madison Avenue Project, a coalition of legal, civil rights and ad industry leaders, found dramatic levels of



Still image from video provided by Pepsi-Cola North America Beverage

American managers and professionals.

• Sixteen percent of large advertising firms employ no black managers or professionals; in the overall labor market, 7 percent of companies are without blacks in those positions.

• Blacks are only 62 percent as likely as whites to work in the powerful "creative" and "client contact" functions.

Numbers are not the only reason black voices go unheard as ads are

how to bring it up."

Despite their flaws, it would be hard to argue that the multicultural messages of today aren't vastly more dignified and realistic in their portrayal of minorities than those that appeared a few decades ago.

And yet, might today's ads also be implanting false assumptions that our race problems have been fixed, that all Americans are living comfortable, upper-middle-class lifestyles in racially harmonious



Get Your Money
NOW!

The Best Return For
Your Money!!!

TAX
PREP
HELP
GUIDE

Tax Services
H&R BLOCK®
1512 S. Gregg
Big Spring, Texas 79720
Tel: (432) 263-1931
Fax: (432) 263-1402
www.hrblock.com

TAX ASSOCIATES
E-File, Direct Deposit
Rapid Anticipation Loan
(some restrictions apply)
Mon. - Fri. • 8am - 8pm • call for your appointment
406 Runnels • Big Spring • (432) 264-6134 • (432) 264-8813