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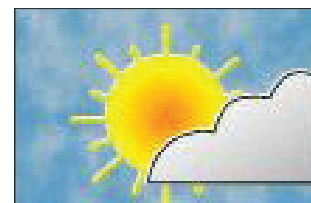
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H BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY

MARCH 29, 2009



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BSISD turns probe over to police

Misappropriation of funds centers on unnamed junior high school employee

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Big Spring police have begun an investigation into alleged misuse of funds at the local junior high school.

Local school district officials have spent the past few weeks investigating a

report of misappropriation and improper use of funds at Big Spring Junior High and recently turned over the results of that probe to the police department for further investigation, Assistant Superintendent Steven Saldivar confirmed.

"We learned about it a few weeks ago and began taking appropriate steps," Saldivar said Saturday. "We investigated the matter as much as we could, then made the determination to turn the results over to the police department this past week."

Unconfirmed reports state the investigation centers on an employee at the junior high school, but Saldivar declined to identify any suspects, nor would he say whether anyone has been fired or suspended as a result of the probe.

Saldivar also would not

comment on the amount of money allegedly stolen, saying only that it was sufficient to warrant a criminal investigation.

School officials audited the junior high school's financial

See **PROBE**, Page 3A

Street closure

Crews to close off Second from Nolan to Gregg Monday

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

A major portion of Second Street will be closed Monday as downtown street renovations continue.

Chad Nichols, project assistant for Price Construction, contractor for the renovations, said Second Street from Nolan to Gregg will be closed between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday as work crews begin removing the old street surface.

"We'll be milling the top of the pavement down a few inches in preparation for laying the hot mix surface," Nichols said. "The milling process goes really fast and we want to do the entire street at once, rather than one side of the street at a time ... We anticipate the street being back open to traffic

See **ROAD**, Page 3A

TAKING FIVE (SNAKES, THAT IS)



Professional snake handler Shawn Jonas demonstrates a unique way of relaxing during the 45th AMBUCS Big Spring Rattlesnake Roundup Saturday at the Howard County Fair barns. The roundup continues through Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

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Yee haw!

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Make no mistake about it, the teachers and students at Coahoma Elementary are serious when it comes to rodeo, and that's exactly what they'll do Thursday when the school holds its 31st annual Kindergarten Rodeo.

With many of the same events found at traditional West Texas rodeos — bull riding, barrel racing and bronc riding — the event has become something of an institution over the years, according to Coahoma Elementary Principal Patricia Bennett.

"I think the uniqueness of watching all these little kids run around with their stick horses is what makes it so special," Bennett said. "They treat it like it's the real thing. The imagination of those kids is just magical."

"My favorite part is the grand entry. All these little kids riding these stick horses, and there's so much color and action. You have to love that."



—Quail Dobbs

Kindergarten students will be dressed in their cowboy and cowgirl best as they ride, rope and wrestle their stick horses through a variety of traditional rodeo events.

Bennett said several local celebrities are slated to take part in the annual event, including one of Coahoma's most

Coahoma set for kindergarten rodeo Thursday

notable rodeo heroes.

"Miss Rodeo Texas, Avery Gonzales, will be here, as will Wacey Cathey and local musician Jody Nix," said Bennett. "But it's former rodeo clown Quail Dobbs the kids can't wait to see. He's such a big part of what we do with this rodeo."

Dobbs, a Pro Rodeo and Texas Rodeo Hall of Fame inductee who has been involved with the Coahoma Kindergarten Rodeo since its inception, said he had no idea when he and a few teachers planned the first rodeo it would go as far as it has.

"It's really grown since it started. One of the school teachers from up north moved here, and she wanted to have a rodeo. So I said, 'Why not?'," said

See **RODEO**, Page 3A

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HERALD file photo/Jonathan Hull

Big Spring's Valerie Ross takes a cut in action from April 15, 2008 at Lady Steer Park. Ross was 3-for-3 with a home run and four runs scored in the Lady Steers' 19-9 win over the San Angelo Lake View Maidens Friday.

Winning wild

Lady Steers outgun Maidens, 19-9, for first District 4-4A win of season

By **JONATHAN HULL**

Sports Editor

SAN ANGELO — Big Spring's Lady Steers softball team gave up a huge inning to its opponent again Friday night. Fortunately, the Lady Steers had plenty of juice at the plate to overcome the one tough frame.

Big Spring picked up its first District 4-4A win Friday with a 19-9 win over the San Angelo Lake View Maidens.

The Lady Steers scored at least two runs in every inning and totaled 17 hits for the contest. Every player who took an at bat reached base.

"We made a change to the lineup and that probably helped," said

Big Spring Head Coach John Sparks. "Scoring 19 runs is good, but I'll be honest, Lake View is a little down this year. If this will help our girls think they can hit then that's fine with me."

The Lady Steers scored 12 runs in their first four at bats and led 12-0 heading into the bottom of the fourth inning.

That's when an occurrence of deja vu hit the Lady Steers again.

In two previous losses the Plainview and Frenship, the Lady Steers held 4-0 leads before self destructing in the fourth inning and surrendering the advantage.

Lake View's first seven batters scored in the frame as the

See **LADY STEERS**, Page 3B

Changes in Dallas?

Wade still saying the same ol' thing

By **JAIME ARON**

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Wade Phillips appreciates "all the great things" Terrell Owens did for the Dallas Cowboys, and wants you to remember that departed cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones led the team in pass breakups last season.

Those things might not seem news-worthy — just Wade and some quick with a compliment and some positive spin.

But that's what Phillips had to offer this week at the NFL owners' meetings in Dana Point, Calif., when he met with reporters for his first extended interview since proclaiming at his season-ending news conference that he was going to change his approach.

Like the Phillips of 2007-08, he gave showing his record is better than his reputation and had few specifics about why things will be better for the Cowboys this year.

He even backtracked on the entire notion of shaking things up.

"Some of it's modification. It's an adjustment. That is change. Those things are change too," Phillips said Wednesday.

Back in late December, after the Cowboys finished their swoon from NFC favorites to missing the playoffs, Phillips announced that if Jerry Jones wasn't changing coaches, then the coach himself would change.

"To get to the standard we want, I don't see any other way," he said then. "You can't say, 'Well, OK, everything's going to be all right,' because it's not going to be all right if you do the same thing and I'm talking about myself. If it means being more demanding, more whatever, I have to get it done."

Yet after giving it more thought, Phillips seems to have, well, changed his mind, at least the part about going from his easygoing, affable style to becoming an impossible-to-please boss like predecessor Bill Parcells.

"I have a lot of pride in how I work with players and how they respond to how I coach."

So then, what'll be different? Apparently not much more than the usual tweaks.

"We change every year and analyze what we do and say, 'Hey, we need to do this different. I need to do this different or put emphasis on this,'" he said.

The closest Phillips got to being specific was saying something involving the offseason conditioning program (he didn't say what it was, though) and that the signing of Gerald Sensabaugh continues a change in the way the Cowboys will use their safeties, a process that started last year.

See **WADE**, Page 4B

Orange peeled

OU gets 28 from Crocker, advances to Elite Eight

By **TERESA M. WALKER**

AP Sports Writer

MEMPHIS — Tony Crocker has got both his shot and his confidence back.

That might be just the extra boost the Oklahoma Sooners need in the NCAA tournament.

Crocker scored a career-high 28 points and hit six of his first eight 3-pointers, balancing out Blake Griffin's usual stellar performance with 30 points and 14 rebounds as the Sooners routed Syracuse 84-71 Friday night in the South Regional semifinal. Crocker hadn't hit more than two 3s in a game since Feb. 7.

"He needed this," Oklahoma guard Cade Davis said of Crocker. "His confidence was down. He played great. This game is going to help tremendously and not only him but for us going into the next game. Me and Omar (Leary) kept telling him to keep looking for shots, and he did and just kept knocking them down."

That sets up Sunday's regional final with top-seeded North Carolina, a 98-77 winner over Gonzaga, in the Sooners' pursuit of their fifth Final Four and first since 2002. And the Sooners (30-5) now feel they are clicking as well as ever.

"Everybody's competing the whole time," Griffin said. "Everybody's playing hard, and everybody's doing the little things. ... We have guys that can score points."

See **NCAA**, Page 2B



AP photo/Matt Slocum

Oklahoma forward Taylor Griffin (32) shoots against Syracuse defenders Paul Harris (11) and Rick Jackson (00) in the second half of the Sooners' 84-71 win over Syracuse in the Sweet 16 round of the NCAA Men's National Tournament in Memphis Friday.

NIT provides better ending for Baylor's seniors

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

With an unexpected trip to New York and a chance to win a championship, Curtis Jerrells and the other Baylor seniors have crafted an ending most fitting for a group that endured and accomplished so much.

The quartet's college career began with only a half season because they chose scandal-scarred

Baylor when the program was reeling from the shooting death of a player by his teammate. They led a remarkable recovery that peaked with a berth in last year's NCAA tournament.

"I'll tell you this, I would want another year if we hadn't made the NIT and played like we did in the Big 12 tournament," Jerrells said.

There was no return trip to the NCAA this year for Jerrells, Kevin Rogers, Henry Dugat and Mamadou Diene after the Bears lost 10 of their last

12 games in the regular season. That stretch ended at home with a loss against Nebraska in a too-quiet, half-empty arena when Baylor students were on spring break.

"That wasn't what I had envisioned for senior night," sixth-year coach Scott Drew said.

Baylor (23-14) has since won six of seven postseason games, one more victory than it had in the

See **BAYLOR**, Page 4B

Sports in brief

Coahoma's Kylie Gee named first-team all-district in basketball

Kylie Gee, who led the Coahoma Bulldogettes in scoring and rebounding as a junior, was honored as a first-team member of the 7-2A All-District Girls Basketball Team.

She was the lone player from Coahoma to be placed on the first or second team.

Howard College softball splits doubleheader with EPCC

The Howard College Hawks softball team split the first doubleheader in a four-game series with

El Paso Community College Friday in El Paso.

Howard was drubbed in Game 1, falling 8-1. The Hawks responded with a thrilling 7-6 win in Game 2.

Howard (23-17) wrapped up the four-game series with EPCC with another doubleheader Saturday.

Lady Steers boosters meeting Monday at ATC

The Big Spring Lady Steers Booster Club is meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of Lady Steers athletes in junior high or high school are encouraged to attend.

BSCC hosting 3-person scramble April 4-5

The Big Spring Country Club is hosting a 3-person scramble tournament April 4-5 with a 1 p.m. shotgun start both days.

Entry fee is \$60 per player plus golf cart. Private carts are welcome.

Entry includes barbecue on the course April 4 and practice rounds the day before.

Field will be flighted by first round score with the number of flights determined by entries.

Call the Pro Shop at 267-5354 for more information or to enter a team.

Big Spring Day at the Capitol



More than 200 local residents made the trip to the State's Capitol Wednesday for Big Spring Day in Austin, a biennial event.

Starting top-left, counterclockwise: Those participating in the day-long event were easy to spot in the blue denim shirts, as they filled most of the gallery in both the Senate and the House; Rep. Joe Heflin calls for the House to designate March 25 as Big Spring Day in Austin; officials with Howard College serve Blue Bell ice cream and Coca-Cola to Capitol workers; several Big Spring residents make their way back to the Capitol building following a lunch at the Doubletree Hotel; State Sen. Kel Seliger discusses some of the challenges the legislature faces this session, and how they could impact Big Spring and the Crossroads area; and State Sen. and Coahoma native Troy Frazier commends those making the trip to the Capitol from the floor of the Senate Wednesday morning.

Photos by Thomas Jenkins



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Rain puts Gordon on pole for Goody's

MARTINSVILLE, Va. (AP) — Jeff Gordon will start from the pole position in Sunday's NASCAR Sprint Cup race at Martinsville Speedway after steady rain washed out qualifying Friday.

Being the points leader also earned Gordon the prime stall on the cramped pit road of NASCAR's tricky, 0.526-mile oval. He will be seeking his eighth victory at Martinsville, tops among active drivers, and his first in 47 races.

The qualifying rainout, he figures, only helps his chances.

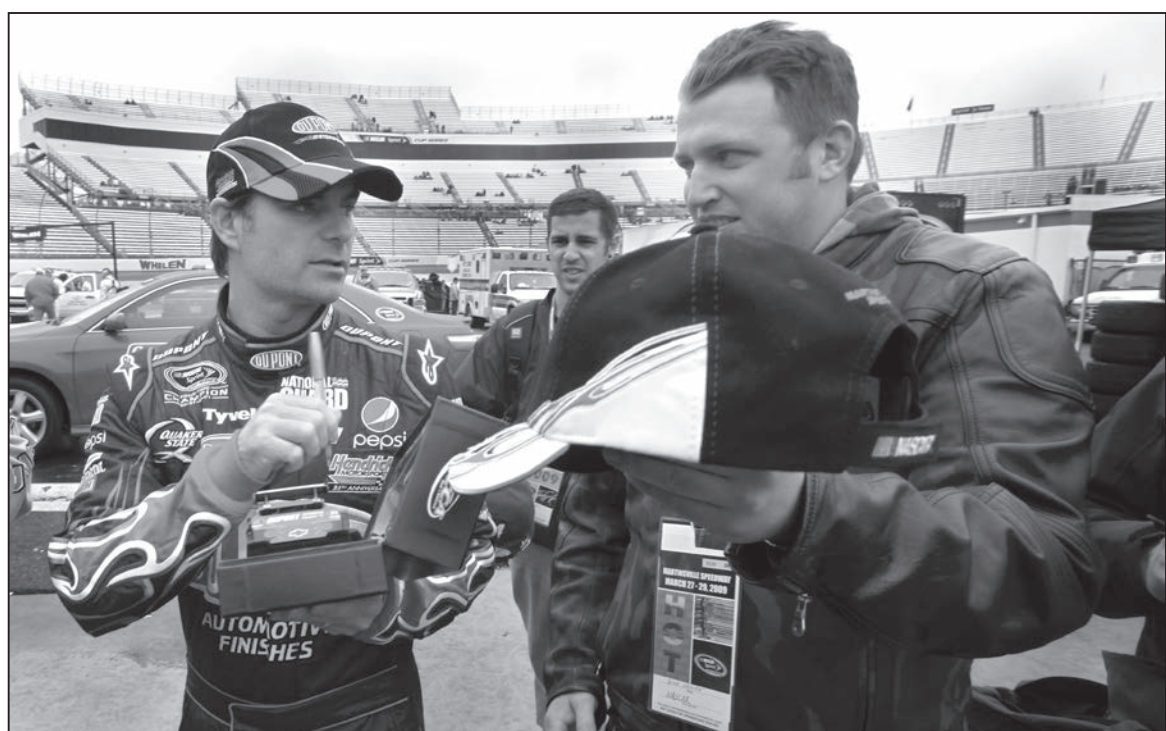
"I think because of the pit road situation here, this is probably the most important

place to start on the pole because you get that No. 1 pit stall," said Gordon, who has started at the top spot seven other times in his career at the track. "Either way, I feel like rain or shine we had a shot at getting it. Certainly great timing for us to be leading the points."

Martinsville's pit road surrounds much of the small track, and the stall Gordon will take is closest to the exit to pit road with nothing obstructing his car's path onto the track.

Other stalls are difficult to maneuver in and out of because they are all narrow.

See **NASCAR**, Page 3B



AP photo/Steve Helber

Driver Jeff Gordon signs autographs after practice was rained out for Sunday's Goody's 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup auto race at the Martinsville Speedway in Martinsville, Va., Saturday. Gordon will start from the pole for Sunday's race.

Gillispie regrets not winning more at Kentucky

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Billy Gillispie doesn't know about chemistry problems or whether he was the right fit at Kentucky. What he does know is that he simply didn't win enough games.

"I wish we would have won more," Gillispie said Saturday, less than 24 hours after the university fired him following two turbulent seasons.

During an amiable 30-minute meeting with reporters, Gillispie hardly sounded like the coach whose prickly act had quickly worn thin during his brief time at the home of college basketball's winningest program.

He cracked jokes, asking if someone wanted to buy his mansion. He smiled, a rarity during his final days with the program. And he said he had no ill

feelings toward athletic director Mitch Barnhart, who cited philosophical differences as the reason Gillispie was let go.

"I'm not a woe-is-me kind of person," Gillispie said. "I've always said this, show up every day, try to work hard, try to do your best with the right attitude and everything works out right. I've had a great time here at

Kentucky."

One that was cut short after Gillispie went just 40-27 in two seasons. Kentucky stumbled down the stretch this year to miss the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1991. Not exactly the makeover the program anticipated when he was hired to

See **GILLISPIE**, Page 3B

NCAA

Continued from Page 1B

Crocker set the tone by hitting the Sooners' first shot, a 3 from the top of the key over Syracuse's vaunted 2-3 zone. Oklahoma finished 9-of-21 from 3-point range, and the Sooners made Syracuse pay dearly for its mistakes by scoring 32 points off the Orange's 18 turnovers.

The loss kept Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim from notching the 800th win of his career. He wasn't happy with his Orange going 0-of-10 from 3-point range in the first half or the loose balls they lost on turnovers.

"We got some turnovers and we got it and turned it right back over to them under our basket three times. And it was I think two three-point plays and a layup. That was eight points. And that was, along with the shooting, really the difference in the first half. In the game," Boeheim said.

Oklahoma led throughout, and Griffin added pain to the Syracuse loss by mowing over 6-foot Jonny Flynn late in the first half as the gutsy point guard tried to take a charge to get the Big 12 player of the year into foul trouble. The call went against Flynn, then Griffin hit the free throw for another three-point play.

"Blake Griffin is as good as advertised, and Crocker came out there and had a tremendous shooting night," Flynn said. "They deserved to win."

Griffin showed off his physical style repeatedly as he shot 12-of-15, including 6-of-10 at the line. But he put on another display with more of his

thundering dunks, including one where he drove the baseline and clanked his noggin off the corner of the backboard on his way to the basket.

"That's the first time in a game," Griffin said of scraping against the backboard, a remark that drew a laugh from Crocker. "It took me by surprise. I got too close."

Syracuse had expected Griffin to do what he did.

The Orange struggled because their shots didn't fall, and they couldn't slow down Crocker. Flynn finished with 22 points in trying to rally his teammates. But Eric Devendorf and Andy Rautins were a combined 1-of-13 in the first half, though Rautins finished with 12 — all in the second half.

"We were missing shots, and they were making shots," Devendorf said. "It was just their night."

Flynn scored six straight points starting with a running one-hander, then a drive and finally a jumper to pull them within 18-17 with 7:15 to go in the first half.

That was as close as they would get as Oklahoma led 39-26 at halftime and put together a 20-2 spurt spanning the halves.

Crocker said that first shot meant a lot after his struggles.

"That zone gave us a lot of spots to have open shots, so we just tried to take advantage of that," he said.

Griffin was happy to see the production.

"It makes our job so much easier when he's playing like he did today. They can't sink down in the zone. They had to respect him all game long because he was hitting shots all game long. It takes our team to another level when he plays like he did," Griffin said.

Louisville 103, Arizona 64

INDIANAPOLIS — Louisville proved it was the best in the Big East. Now, the Cardinals are showing just how mighty they might be.

Earl Clark had 19 points and nine rebounds and the top-seeded team in the NCAA tournament delivered one of the most crushing blowouts in regional round history — a 103-64 romp over Arizona on Friday night.

Coach Rick Pitino and the Cardinals (31-5) topped 100 points for the first time this season, hit 14 3-pointers and nearly 57 percent from the field, moving into the Midwest final in impressive fashion.

Louisville will play Michigan State on Sunday for a trip to the Final Four.

The Big East regular season and tourney champs became the fourth team from the league to reach a regional final this season with a victory that just missed cracking the top five for most lopsided routs in regional round history.

UCLA set the record with a 49-point victory over Wyoming in 1967, and all the top five were recorded before 1972.

The 12th-seeded Wildcats (21-4) got 22 points from Chase Budinger.

It was by far the Cardinals' biggest rout in their long NCAA tournament, and easily was Arizona's most-lopsided loss.

Michigan State 67, Kansas 62

INDIANAPOLIS — Goran Suton had 20 points and nine rebounds and Michigan State was steady from the foul line, rallying to defeat defending NCAA champion Kansas in the

Midwest Regional semifinals.

Kalin Lucas added 18 points for the second-seeded Spartans (29-6). He shot just 5-for-15 from the field, but made all five of his free throws in the final minute. Overall, Michigan State went 16 of 17 from the line.

Michigan State overcame a 13-point deficit in the first half and advanced to play Louisville on Sunday for a trip to the Final Four.

Sherron Collins scored 20 points and Cole Aldrich had 17 points and 14 rebounds for Kansas (27-7).

With the game tied at 60, Lucas spun, pump-faked in the lane, drew contact from Collins, then dropped in a shot. He made the free throw with 48 seconds left.

South Regional North Carolina 98, Gonzaga 77

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Ty Lawson scored 17 of his 19 points in the first half, and top-seeded North Carolina routed Gonzaga in a South Regional semifinal.

Tyler Hansbrough added 24 points and 10 rebounds for North Carolina, which won its 99th NCAA tournament game, breaking a tie with Kentucky for the most by any school.

Wayne Ellington scored 19 points and Danny Green added 13 for the Tar Heels (31-4), who reached the regional finals for the third straight year.

Jeremy Pargo led Gonzaga (28-6) with 16 points.

Lawson didn't seem slowed in the least by his much-discussed toe injury. He breezed past a defender for a layup to make it 23-16, then added an acrobatic layup while being fouled on a fast break to put the Tar Heels ahead 35-25.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, March 27
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
• Weigh-in of snakes

Saturday, March 28
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
• Snake Shows,
Demonstrations, Races
• Arts & Crafts Show -
Dora Roberts Bldg.

Sunday, March 29
Noon to 4:00 p.m.
• Weight-in of snakes
Noon to 6:00 p.m.
• Snake Shows,
Demonstrations, Races
Arts & Crafts Show -
Dora Roberts Bldg.

Contest for: Heaviest Snake and Snake with Most Rattles
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Menus

Big Spring Senior Citizen's Center

Monday
chicken stir fry, rice pilaf, buttered zucchini, tossed salad, dressing, butterscotch pudding, garlic bread, milk

Tuesday
steak w/peppers, baked potato w/sour cream, peas & carrots, pineapple chunks, rolls, milk

Wednesday
pinto beans w/ham chunks, okra & tomatoes, coleslaw, cornbread, cherry cobbler, milk

Thursday
tamales w/chili, Spanish rice, squash medley, tossed salad, dressing, tortilla chips, salsa, fruit milk

Friday
broccoli & cheese soup, tuna salad on croissant roll, crackers, baked potato chips, cookies, fruit, milk

Coahoma ISD

Monday
Breakfast
Pop Tarts, sausage, apple juice, milk

Lunch
pizza, salad, mixed fruit, cookies, milk

Tuesday
donuts, sausage, applesauce, milk

Lunch
grilled cheese, corn, peaches, milk, burritos

Forsan ISD

Monday
Breakfast
cheese omelet, toast, juice, milk

Lunch
hot dog, oven fries, apple & orange smiles, sherbert cup, milk

Tuesday
Breakfast
cinnamon rolls, yogurt, juice, milk

Lunch
chicken enchiladas, refried beans, tossed salad, cinnamon apples, milk

Wednesday
Breakfast
breakfast pocket, juice, milk

Lunch
pizza, tossed salad, fruit choice, chocolate cake, milk

Thursday
Breakfast
donuts, juice, milk

Lunch
chicken quesadillas, pinto beans, Spanish rice, Rice Krispy treat, milk

Friday
Breakfast
cereal, cinnamon toast, juice, milk

Lunch
popcorn chicken, mashed potatoes w/gravy, green beans, hot rolls, pineapple tidbits, milk

Big Spring ISD

Monday
Breakfast
cinnamon rolls, fruit juice, milk

Lunch
steak fingers, pinto beans, sliced cucumbers, sliced apples, milk

Tuesday
Breakfast
sausage rolls, mixed fruit cup, milk

Lunch
chicken fajitas, refried beans, Spanish rice, tortillas, fruit cocktail, milk



AP Photo/Young Kwak

Shannon Brattebo poses to show how she would place a phosphate free dishwasher detergent tablet into a dishwasher in Spokane, Wash. Dishwasher detergents containing phosphates have been banned in Spokane County since July 2008. Brattebo, as secretary of Washington State Lake Protection Association, was a prime mover of the ban. "I'm not hearing a lot of positive feedback," she conceded. "I think people are driving to Idaho."

Bootleg soap

Spokane residents rebel over dirty dishes

NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS

Associated Press Writer

SPOKANE, Wash. — The quest for squeaky-clean dishes has turned some law-abiding people in Spokane into dishwasher-detergent smugglers.

They are bringing Cascade or Electrasol in from out of state because the eco-friendly varieties required under Washington state law don't work as well.

Spokane County became the launch pad last July for the nation's strictest ban on dishwasher detergent made with phosphates, a measure aimed at reducing water pollution. The ban will be ex-

panded statewide in July 2010, the same time similar laws take effect in several other states.

But it's not easy to get sparkling dishes when you go green.

Many people were shocked to find that products like Seventh Generation, Ecover and Trader Joe's left their dishes encrusted with food, smeared with grease and too gross to use without rewashing them by hand. The culprit was hard water, which is mineral-rich and resistant to soap.

As a result, there has been a quiet rush of Spokane-area shoppers heading east on Interstate 90 into Idaho in search of old-school

suds.

Real estate agent Patti Marcotte of Spokane stocks up on detergent at a Costco in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and doesn't care who knows it.

"Yes, I am a smuggler," she said. "I'm taking my chances because dirty dishes I cannot live with."

(In truth, the ban applies to the sale of phosphate detergent — not its use or possession — so Marcotte is not in any legal trouble.)

Marcotte said she tried every green brand in her dishwasher and found none would remove

See **SOAP**, Page 3C



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

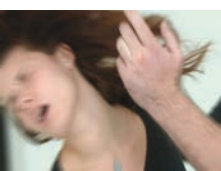
- Where can you go for help? • Who can you call? • Who will help you?
- How will you escape a violence situation?

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.



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Big Spring woman sentenced to nine years

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

A Big Spring woman received near the maximum possible prison sentence after being convicted of burglary in 118th District Court earlier this week.

Sabrina Gutierrez Perez was sentenced to nine years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and fined

\$1,000 for her part in the October 2008 burglary of the Northcrest Apartments office.

Perez was accused of assisting Enrique Alvarez when they broke into the Northcrest office in the early morning hours of Oct. 23.

Computer equipment and related items were taken in the incident.

Alvarez had previously

pleaded guilty to his part in the burglary, District Attorney Hardy L. Wilkerson said, and received a sentence of one year in a state jail facility.

Burglary of a building is usually punishable by a term of between six months and two years in state jail, but Perez's conviction was enhanced by two prior felony convictions — burglary and possession of a controlled substance.

Those prior convictions apparently carried a lot of weight with the jury while it was determining Perez's punishment.

"I think the jury was very concerned over her rather extensive prior criminal history," Wilkerson said. "And they reacted accordingly."

Under the enhancement guidelines, Perez could have received as little as two years

or as many as 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

She must serve at least a quarter of her sentence — more than two years — before becoming eligible for parole, Wilkerson said.

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

Guns on Campus: Bills would allow guns at college

JIM VERTUNO

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — John Woods sometimes sits in a classroom at the University of Texas and wonders what would happen if somebody walked in and started shooting.

It's the kind of scenario he's imagined since April 2007, when he was a student at Virginia Tech and his girlfriend and several other people he knew were gunned down in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

There were times when Woods thought to himself that maybe he should get a gun.

"Then I learned pretty fast that wouldn't solve anything," said Woods, who is now a graduate student at UT. "The idea that somebody could stop a school shooting with a gun is impossible. It's reactive, not preventative."

Today, Woods is among the

leaders in a fight against bills in the Texas Legislature that would allow licensed concealed gun carriers to bring their weapons to school.

The House version of the bill, sponsored by Rep. Joe Driver, a Garland Republican, is scheduled for a public hearing Monday in the Public Safety Committee.

Supporters say the bills would do two things: protect the rights of those licensed to carry concealed weapons, and help prevent another massacre on the scale of what happened at Virginia Tech and another shooting last year at Northern Illinois University.

Texas issued 73,090 licenses in fiscal year 2008. The state requires applicants pass a training course, pass a criminal background check and be at least 21 years old. Texas campuses are gun-free zones.

"These are individuals who are already licensed and al-

lowed to carry weapons. What marks the imaginary line of college campuses?" said Katie Kasprzak, a recent Texas State University graduate and spokeswoman for Students for Concealed Carry on Campus, a group that claims more than 37,000 members.

Kasprzak has a concealed weapons license. If another campus shooting started, "Would you rather sit and just take shot for shot or would you rather have a chance to fight back?" she said.

At Virginia Tech, 32 people were gunned down before the shooter killed himself. The gunman at Northern Illinois killed five and wounded 18.

Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio, sponsor of the Senate bill, said students, faculty and staff are "sitting ducks" if someone starts blasting.

"I have no desire to wake up one morning and read in the newspaper, or hear on the

radio, or watch on television a news report that 32 Texas college students were gunned down like sitting ducks by some deranged gunman," Wentworth said.

Efforts to lift campus gun bans have failed across the country.

According to the Brady Campaign Against Gun Violence, bills have been filed in 18 states since 2008 and all have failed, although a few are trying again. Texas is one of seven states currently considering legislation.

Kasprzak said supporters hope Texas will change the trend. The Lone Star State, which is often viewed around the country as being more accepting of guns, could be the bellcow that gets other states to follow its lead, she said.

Of the 150 House members, 70 have signed on in support of Drivers' bill. In the Senate, 12 of 31 senators signed in

support of Wentworth's bill.

"We hope Texas will serve as a leader and have a domino effect," Kasprzak said.

But at the University of Texas, which has its own history of shooting violence, the idea has met stiff opposition.

Charles Whitman's 1966 shooting rampage from the top of the university tower killed 16 people and wounded dozens more. It stood as the worst campus shooting until the Virginia Tech bloodbath.

The UT student government, the graduate student assembly and the faculty advisory council have all passed resolutions against the campus guns bills.

Opponents say that if guns are allowed on campus, students and faculty will live in fear of their classmates and colleagues, not knowing who might pull a gun over a drunken dorm argument or a poor grade.

Judge: Texas pledge may reference God

Voluntary recitation does not coerce other students, court determines

DALLAS (AP) — A federal judge has dismissed the claims of a parent who wanted to remove the words "under God" from the Texas pledge of allegiance recited each morning by public schoolchildren.

U.S. District Judge Ed Kinkeade ruled Thursday the state pledge may continue to reference God because the national pledge and four other states reference God or divine grace in their pledge, *The Dallas Morning News* reported Friday.

"A voluntary recitation of the Texas Pledge of Allegiance sim-

ply does not coerce students in the same way a school-sponsored prayer might," Kinkeade wrote in his opinion.

David Croft had argued that inserting the words were unconstitutional and amounted to a violation of separation of church and state. He and his wife, Shannon, sued on behalf of their three children who are enrolled at the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District.

Previously, the Crofts unsuccessfully sued after an elementary teacher told one of their

children to keep quiet because a minute for silence after the pledge was a "time for prayer."

A provision that took effect September 2003 changed the way schools start their days in Texas.

Children are now allowed to "reflect, pray, meditate or engage in any other silent activities" for one minute after the state and national pledges of allegiance have been recited. A federal appeals court ruled last week that the law is constitutional.

PROBE

Continued from Page 1A

records from the start of the school year as part of the investigation, he said.

"We don't know if there was an ongoing pattern or if this was a one-time occurrence," Saldivar said. "It would be difficult for me to say this was ongoing until the police complete their investigation."

Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer for the Big Spring Police Department, was unavailable for comment

Saturday.

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

ROAD

Continued from Page 1A

Tuesday."

Price Construction notified businesses along that stretch of Second in writing of the planned closure, Nichols said.

The street renovations, authorized by local voters in 2007, began in earnest a few weeks ago on First Street, but

Monday will mark the first major street closure in connection with the project. Nichols said he does not anticipate further street closures; instead, at least one lane of traffic should be open at all times.

For now, the work is centering on the downtown area as crews work to resurface portions of Scurry, First and Second streets, as well as renovate various curbs,

gutters and sidewalks in the area.

The work will soon extend south, however, Nichols said.

"We anticipate that by midweek, we'll start removing the street surface on Main from 11th to 15th," he said. One lane will remain open to traffic, he added.

Crews have experienced some problems with the subsurface of some of the downtown

streets, but that has not caused significant delays to date, Nichols said.

"We ran into some unforeseen problems with the subgrade material on First Street, but things are going well, overall," he said.

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

RODEO

Continued from Page 1A

Dobbs, explaining how the rodeo began more than 30 years ago. "We got together and helped put it on. It was an outdoor rodeo, to start off with. We had it over in front of where the old elementary building used to be. Of course, since then we've moved into the gymnasium, and it's been here ever since."

"It's the teachers who really do this each year. I just have to show up. They do a great job. My favorite part is the grand entry. All these little kids riding these stick horses, and there's so much color and ac-

tion. You have to love that."

Nix said the rodeo is something he looks forward to each year.

"They ask me to come back each year and sing a little bit, to be a part of it," said Nix. "It's always a lot of fun to be here with the kids and to watch them. This really is a great deal for the community. I'm just

happy they keep asking me back.

"I love all of it," said Nix with a laugh. "There's no one part of the kindergarten rodeo you can't enjoy. All of the excitement and watching the kids, and you have the atmosphere of a real live rodeo."

The rodeo is set to get under way Thursday at

9 a.m. There is no admission charge.

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

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'Man caves' a sanctuary for the testosterone set

By **CHUCK BARNEY**

Contra Costa Times
WALNUT CREEK, Calif. — Before setting foot in a so-called "man cave," it's always best to be aware of the cave-dweller's rules. Just ask "Chicago" Joe Hofman.

The San Ramon, Calif., resident maintains a stringent decorum in his special room — one brimming with movie posters and sports memorabilia, neon signage, a teeth-rattling 1,200-watt sound system, two arcade games and a hideous mounted fish.

It's essential, Hofman insists, that visitors be prepared to chill out and leave "life's B.S." at the door, and, at all times, respect the sanctity of the man cave.

"My wife knows the rules," he says. "There are certain things that we simply won't discuss in the man cave. It's like a shrine. It's like not talking in church."

For the uninitiated, a man cave — aka man room, manuary — is a space specifically reserved for the male member



Doug Duran/Contra Costa Times/MCT
Dave Baker, of Dublin, Calif., is behind the bar in his "man cave." The room features a card table, a bar and a variety of sports team pennants.

of the family. Whether it's a loft, a basement, a converted garage or shed, it serves as a safe haven where he can escape the manly pressures of the world to engage in manly hobbies, store his manly collectibles and guzzle a manly

beverage. The man-cave dweller can go there either to be alone with his thoughts, or to hang with his buds, usually doing so without fear of female reprisal. Think of it as a grown-up version of the treehouse or

fort. "For me, it's mostly about control," says Robert Lee, whose suburban man cave in Fremont, Calif., is stocked with, among other things, John Wayne lobby cards, "Star Trek" action figures and a "Batman" graphic novel library. "You want to feel like you have control over at least one piece of your life. You want a place to call your own."

The concept apparently is growing in appeal. According to a survey by ServiceMagic.com, 40 percent of the respondents said there is a man cave in their home. Another 13 percent said their cave is in the planning or construction stages.

There's even a weekly television show on the DIY network called "Man Caves." Hosted by licensed contractor Jason Cameron and former NFL star Tony Siragusa, the program dispatches work crews into residences to create the "ultimate guy hangouts."

"The majority of our clients

talk about how they feel that the house isn't really theirs," says Cameron. "They gave the OK and agreed to certain things (in the design and decor) just to cooperate and go along with their wives. Now they want their own space."

Cameron says that most of the projects on the show actually are initiated with calls from wives who "feel guilty" because they've taken over so much of the house.

"But some of them have a hard time removing themselves from the process," he says. "They want to pick the colors and to have input on the design. We have to tell them: No doilies. No scented candles."

On the other hand, officially sanctioned provisions are limited only by the imagination and budgetary concerns. At bare minimum, the typical list of manly must-haves contains a cushy recliner, a stereo, a cooler/refrigerator and, of course, man's best friend — the awe-inspiring flat-screen television.

SOAP

Continued from Page 2C

grease and pieces of food. Everybody she knows buys dishwasher detergent in Idaho, she said.

Supporters of the ban acknowledge it is not very popular.

"I'm not hearing a lot of positive feedback," conceded Shannon Bratlebo of the Washington Lake Protection Association, a prime mover of the ban. "I think people are driving to Idaho."

Steve Marcy, manager of the Costco in Coeur d'Alene, about 10 miles east of the Washington state line, estimated that sales of dishwasher detergent in his store have increased 10 percent. He knows where the customers are com-

ing from. "I'll joke with them and ask if they are from Spokane," Marcy said. "They say, 'Oh yeah.'"

Shoppers can still buy phosphate detergents in Washington state by venturing outside Spokane County, but Idaho is more convenient to many Spokane residents.

Phosphates — the main cleaning agent in many detergents and household cleaners — break down grease and remove stains. However, the chemicals are difficult to remove in wastewater treatment plants and often wind up in rivers and lakes, where they promote the growth of algae. And algae gobble up oxygen in the water that fish need to survive.

While traditional detergents are up to 9 per-

cent phosphate, those sold in Spokane County can contain no more than 0.5 percent.

The Washington Lake Protection Association has launched a campaign to encourage people to give the environmentally friendly brands a fair chance. The group suggests consumers experiment with different brands or install water softeners to help the green detergents work better.

"Clean lakes and clean dishes do not have to be mutually exclusive," said association president-elect Jacob McCann.

Phosphates have been

banned in laundry detergent nationally since 1993. Washington was the first state where the Legislature passed a similar ban against dishwasher detergents, in 2006. The ban is being phased in, starting with Spokane County.

"It's nice to be on the cutting edge," Spokane resident Ken Beck, an opponent of the ban, said sarcastically.

Among other states that have banned or are banning phosphates in dishwasher detergent

are Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Michigan, Vermont, Minnesota, Illinois, Massachusetts and New York. A bill on Capitol Hill would impose a nationwide ban.

The Soap and Detergent Association, which represents manufacturers, initially fought the bans. But as the movement gained strength across the country, the association asked legislatures to delay bans until July 2010 to allow for a uniform rollout of


products. The industry has been working to develop better low-phosphate detergents, said Dennis Griesing, vice president of the manufacturers group.

"This is an irrevocable, nationwide commitment on the industry's part," he said.

For his part, Beck has taken to washing his dishes on his machine's pots-and-pans cycle, which takes longer and uses five gallons more water.

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Jesse Loya

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- March 31** – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Supper Club "Cowboy's", 5:30 p.m.
- April 1** – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
"Meat Loaf"
Movie, 1:00 p.m. "A Beautiful Mind"
- April 2** – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Just Peachy Café "Coffee Club," 10 a.m.
\$3.50 Thursdays @ Yellow Rose Café
"Turkey Divan"
Bunko, 5 p.m.
- April 3** – Lunch Bunch & Birthdays, 11:30 a.m.
"Cowboy's"
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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

Two weeks left before deadline to be registered

Time's really running out for Crossroads area citizens who are not yet registered to vote but plan to cast ballots in the May 9 municipal and school board elections.

If you are not registered to vote and want to cast a ballot in a city council or school board election, the deadline to register is April 9.

That's right, the deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday, April 9, to get that small but very important task accomplished. Registration is held at the County Annex building, east of Howard County Courthouse.

The right to vote gives us the opportunity to choose who we want to serve as our voice in all levels of government.

And just because nobody will be voting on seats in the legislature or Congress, or selecting a president doesn't mean the May 9 election races aren't important.

In fact, they're extremely important, because the people we elect will be overseeing our cities and school boards.

Voter registration is simple and free. It takes only a couple of minutes.

To be eligible to vote, residents must be 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen. You do not need to have resided in Howard County for a specific length of time before registering here.

It should also be noted that anyone who has moved since they last obtained a voter registration card should also register.

So, please, please, please, take the time to register to vote.

From our point of view, voting is an important process in which all U.S. citizens should participate.

As we have noted before in this space, voting is perhaps the most patriotic thing most of us can ever do.

Remember, voting is the best means to have your voice heard.

To do so, you must be registered. So make sure you check to be sure you're registered.

If not, the Herald encourages you to register tomorrow. Then take the time to study the issues, the candidates and their platforms and vote.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.

- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we trust in You, Lord, to take us down the right path.

Amen

Let us learn: Part 2

Sharing our life lessons of hope, encouragement and inspiration to others. It's comforting to have someone empathize with us. It may not be possible to walk in each other's shoes, but it helps us and them when we try.

Everyone has feelings and hopes — they don't have to be the same as ours for us to relate to and support each other.

Celebrating our similarities and differences helps build respect for one another and helps us clarify our own beliefs, values and goals, too.

There have been times when I was depressed and a friend would share a similar experience they had.

Before this I felt alone and like the only person in the world who had to deal with whatever it was. Hearing how someone else has worked through a calamity is encouraging, even if their solution is different from what could work for you.

One friend said her "Aha!" was realizing she could retire early.

She wrote, "Recent layoffs caused me concern so I checked my retirement benefits to see what would happen if I should be asked to leave now. I found that I could retire now, not collect until 2010, and there was virtually no difference in the amount I would receive in retirement benefits. We were able to pay off our home this year so my loss of income for 15 months won't be an issue, and now I will have the time to travel to Denver more often to see my mom while she still has some quality time left. God has certainly lined everything up perfectly. Woooo-Hooooo!!!!"

After getting her feelings hurt by someone in her Writer's Group, this friend said a recent

article I wrote resulted in an "Aha!" moment for her. She wrote, "I was reminded of a time as a child when I was asked to leave a group because I was too hyper and not 'fitting in' with the rest of the girls. (It was a Brownie Scouts troop.) There have been times in my life when that event, along with others of the same nature, has led me to leave groups or people before being asked to leave. I read your article on letting go of grudges and realized I could let go of the hurt of that time long ago and that I had options on how to handle the present situation. The thoughts in your article led me to get past an old pattern of withdrawal when I had been angered or hurt."

A friend shared, "I suppose my greatest 'Aha' experience was when my daughter had to have surgery for scoliosis. I had just taught her how to do the back flip off the diving board at the lake. At the same time the school discovered the scoliosis through a routine screening at school, her teachers called me in for a parent teachers' conference and from there I discovered she was having seizures. All this happened within a three week period. To make a long story short, none of her doctors could give me a definite answer as to whether, when they put her to sleep to do the surgery on her back, she would wake up or go into a coma because of the seizures."

This mother shared how her prayers resulted in the realization that God was the divine Parent of both herself and her daughter — the Father-Mother God who was ever caring for, protecting, and loving all of His children.

She said, "The weight of the world was lifted off my shoulders."

The surgery went well.

Another mother wrote, "The moment when I knew my life would never be the same was when my son was born. Before

I became a mother, I never thought about parenthood so deeply, but suddenly I realized that parenthood changes everything. Suddenly you're living for the sake of another person, and you have to think about his/her needs at all times, often ignoring your own needs and desires. And the bond is eternal, because our spirits live eternally. Our children and our parents inevitably die, sooner or later, but the spirits live on forever, and therefore there is an eternal connection between a person and his/her parents. A person can have more than one husband or wife, but each of us has only one father and one mother. When I think about the influence my father and especially my mother had on me, it reminds me to be very careful how I speak to and act with my son."

One friend shared about the "Ahas!" that come when she is learning something new. She describes herself as a slow learner. When her husband tries to teach her something new on the computer, for example, it may take a few times before an "Aha!" clicks and she gets it.

I've certainly had to repeat many life lessons before I truly understood their importance and value!

"Ahas!" — Life's grand lessons — come in all shapes and sizes. Some may seem rather inconsequential while others result in dramatic changes in our life. But all "Ahas!" effect and influence our life in some way, making each one significant and important.

Once again, may you have many "Aha!" moments, my friends, and share these precious lessons with everyone you can!

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



YOUR VIEWS

To the Editor:

Is it time to write again? OK, what about the gas prices? Seems it takes someone from Big Spring to complain before they come down again to match the national average.

I think that's all Big Spring residents really want. How about it? Think you can handle it? Hope so.

I'm trying really hard to remain respectful. Sorry if I'm the only disgruntled one.

LILLIAN BOHANNAN
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

What is the big deal about cock-fights?

Here we go again, swallowing a whale and choking on a guppy. The legislature has made cock-fighting a criminal offense and now it is going to add owning cockfighting paraphernalia to that criminal offense.

Cockfighting, like anything else when driven underground, takes on rough and untenable ways. It could be legalized, organized and

regulated like any other sport. Cockfighting has been the sport of the common man, like Joe the Plumber, for centuries. It is like beer is to champagne for the blue-collar working man. Why not tax it, like drag racing, boxing, horse racing or dog racing?

In the sport of kings, what happens to the horses when they are unable to win? They are sold to slaughter and processed into dog food. Greyhounds, when no longer unable to produce wins, are euthanized and cremated or just dumped into a hole.

Our legislature has regulated and legalized the killing of human embryos, so, let them regulate the method for the killing of the losing rooster. As long as there is abortion on demand, then cockfighting is like a pimple on an elephant's rear, insignificant at best.

JEROLD P. SPIVEY
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Navigating construction can be difficult, not to mention risky for

both drivers and workers.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) manages more than 1,000 highway projects at any given time on 80,000 miles of Texas roads. President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will bring another \$2.25 billion to the state, substantially increasing construction. As work volumes increase, so do crashes.

TxDOT will join the Federal Highway Administration and other transportation partners the week of April 6-10 to observe the 10th annual National Work Zone Awareness Week. The event is designed to remember victims and raise safety awareness for workers and motorists.

Each year in Texas, there are more than 20,000 crashes and about 150 people killed in highway construction and maintenance work zones. Since 1938, there have been 268 TxDOT employees killed in work zones.

In 2007, the Abilene District had no work zone fatalities and

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Tommy Churchwell, third from left, of the Big Spring Area Community Foundation, presents a check for \$5,000 to Ann Farley, director of the new Howard County Health Center and members of the center's board Tuesday afternoon. The donation will help with the establishment of the center, which will provide medical care for economically disadvantaged county residents.

Consumer spending up for second straight month

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The government says consumers increased spending for a second straight month in February even though their incomes slipped due to continuing massive layoffs.

The Commerce Department reported Friday that consumer spending edged up 0.2 percent in February, in line with expecta-

tions. That follows a huge 1 percent jump in January that was even better than the 0.6 percent rise originally reported.

But the report says incomes fell by 0.2 percent in February, the fourth drop in the past five months, declines that reflected the sizable number of job layoffs that have been occurring because of the recession.

After-tax incomes also fell in

February, edging down by 0.1 percent. With incomes down while spending rose, the personal savings rate dipped slightly to 4.2 percent in February, compared to 4.4 percent in January. Still, the latest two-month performance marked the first time that the savings rate has been above 4 percent for two consecutive

See **SPENDING**, Page 5C

Energy Watch



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.



Is the recent rally for real or not? Is it an important part of the gestation period for the bear market's bottom or is it another fake out? These are the questions on everyone's mind and no one knows the answers for sure. However, we believe evidence is growing that the recent rally could have legs.

Both the November rally that lasted until mid-February and the most recent rally started with the stock market extremely depressed. We have never seen confidence in our country at lower levels. Many stocks were selling at prices that no one would have believed a year ago (think financials). We feel the best way to test the mettle of the stock market is to see how the market performs as it rallies and becomes short term extended. Good market rallies attract buyers as stocks do not sell off and allow sidelined cash to buy when they want to. However, as we have often stated, the stock market glories in befuddling the majority most of the time. The most recent rally still has few believers.

While there has been some improvement in economic data, bad news is no longer killing stocks. Strong rallies tend to get overbought but pullbacks are modest, much to the regret of those who missed it and want to get on board. A good rally is fueled and sustained by sidelined cash that begins to feel they are missing the boat. This has not happened yet.

Are the recent rally attempts for real? One thing we can say for sure is that market action has improved substantially and given everyone a chance to catch their breath. Yes, there will be pullbacks, but if the economy does hit its trough about mid-year and starts doing a bit better by year end (as Fed Chairman Bernanke has stated) this rally will have legs and indicate that the bear market's bottoming period is close to an end.

We also believe there are valid reasons to believe that the DJ 6,500 was the low based both on market action and the reality that economic data is starting to be less bad, not good yet, but at least somewhat encouraging. All of the stimulus already on the table and the economy's own resilience seem to be starting to work. Meanwhile, the news media and our supposed political leaders continue to hammer away at corporate America, which will keep most people very nervous, as is usually the case at market bottoms. The market has already experienced two periods of panic selling, late November and early March, from here we believe the downside risk is moderate.

Turning to commodities, the dollar got killed last week primarily due to the announcement by the Fed to pump as much cash into the economy as needed to end the current crisis. U.S. central bankers decided to buy as much as \$300 billion of long term Treasuries and more than double mortgage debt purchases to \$1.45 trillion.

On the news, crude oil traded above \$50/barrel for the first time since January. Copper traded at a four-month high and gold jumped the most since November. All on speculation the Fed's steps to spur growth will revive demand for commodities as a hedge against inflation.

Past Performance is no guarantee of future results. Portions of this article were produced on March 18 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 (432) 684-7335. Wachovia Securities, LLC., member SIPC is a registered broker dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

TxDOT photo/
Mary Beth Kilgore

Gary Cole, right, a maintenance technician in the Howard County maintenance section, is presented a Certificate of Service by Lauren Garduño. Cole, a five-year employee with the Texas Department of Transportation, was honored for his longevity during a recent supervisors meeting in Abilene. In addition to the framed certificate, he received a five-year service pin and a TxDOT coffee mug, his gift of choice. Garduño is the Abilene District engineer.



Consumers could be stuck when Web sites change terms

DEBORAH YAO

AP Business Writer

A recent e-mail from Eastman Kodak Co. didn't lead to a Kodak moment for Vanessa Daniele. It got her angry.

On May 16, the company's Kodak Gallery online photo service will delete her picture albums unless she spends at least \$4.99 by then and every year thereafter on prints and other products.

That's the new rule for people whose photos take up less than 2 gigabytes of space on Kodak's servers — enough for around 2,000 1-megabyte photos. People over that limit must spend at least \$19.99 a year. And customers who signed up under the old rules won't be given a pass.

"I don't ever think it's a good idea to change terms of service on customers after they've signed up, and demand a new storage

fee or threaten deletion of photos," said Daniele, 26, who lives in Chicago. "That action doesn't value the customer or attract new ones."

Kodak Gallery, once known as Ofoto, said it wants to focus on its best customers, not folks who merely want to take advantage of free picture storage. And its new rules are hardly unusual in the online photo business.

But the company's decision to change its policies illustrates the risks people face as they increasingly rely on privately run services to handle their digital memories and communications. These services often state in the fine print that they can change the rules at any time, and users have little recourse when they do.

Many online photo services offer free storage of images as a way to lure customers who might buy

prints or things like mugs with pictures imprinted on them. One such site, Hewlett-Packard Co.'s Snapfish, offers unlimited storage to users who make an annual purchase of any amount.

These sites typically store users' original, high-resolution files on their servers, and display only lower-resolution versions that are fine for Web viewing but might not be clear enough for good prints. So users who fail to keep copies of their original picture files might have no way to get them back from a Web site without paying extra for the service.

Kodak, for instance, charges \$9.95 to send users 50 of their photos back on a CD, or \$39.95 for up to 1,000 photos. Every additional 1,000 images costs \$14.95.

Daniele's situation is compli-

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News in brief

Fargo, N.D. area braces for historic flooding

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Bone-chilling temperatures were slowing the rise of the record-high Red River Saturday, while weary volunteers were left with little to do but watch, wait, and wonder if all their hard work had been enough to save the city from major flooding.

“Now it’s time to stand and defend,” said Tim Mahoney, a city commissioner in Fargo.

Millions of sandbags were in place, with 1,700 National Guard troops on patrol monitoring dikes with the help of volunteers alert for any cracks in the defenses. An intense effort that brought out students and out-of-towners to help fill sandbags and build up dikes wound down Friday evening.

Temperatures were in the single digits overnight, preventing snow from melting that would fuel the river’s rise. The Red rose less than a foot Friday, compared to 2 1/2 feet on Thursday, and forecasters late Friday predicted that the river would crest Sunday afternoon instead of Saturday.

The National Weather Service targeted the crest near 42 feet, but said it was still possible the river could rise to 43 feet — the same level at which the levees are built to protect the city and nearly 3 feet higher than the record set 112 years ago.

Obama assures nation he’s closely monitoring Midwest flooding

WASHINGTON (AP) — Seeking to avoid a Hurricane Katrina-like leadership failure, President Barack Obama assured the nation Saturday that he was keeping tabs on floods roiling the Midwest and putting the federal government’s weight behind efforts to avert disaster.

“Even as we face an economic crisis which demands our constant focus, forces of nature can also intervene in ways that create other crises to which we must respond — and respond urgently,” the president said in his weekly radio and Internet address.

“I will continue to monitor the situation carefully,” he pledged. “We will do what must be done to help.”

Obama also implored residents of North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota to be vigilant in reading flood-condition reports and to follow instructions from federal, state and local officials should evacuation be necessary. He repeatedly praised volunteers stockpiling sandbags and building levees, saying “their service isn’t just inspirational — it’s integral to our response.”

GOP: Affordable budget is path to prosperity, Obama has misguided plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans say the path to prosperity is not the excessive spending proposed by President Barack Obama but limited spending that holds down the growth of government, taxes and debt.

“We believe you create prosperity by having

an affordable government that pursues its responsibilities without excessive costs, taxes or debt,” Sen. Judd Gregg said Saturday in the GOP radio and Internet address.

Gregg, who was offered the job of Obama’s commerce secretary but withdrew his name, has become one of the toughest critics of Obama’s handling of the economy.

“In the next five years, President Obama’s budget will double the national debt; in the next 10 years, it will triple the national debt,” the New Hampshire Republican said.

Militants attack supply terminal in northwest Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — Dozens of suspected militants fired rockets early Saturday at a transport terminal in northwest Pakistan that is used to ship supplies to NATO troops based in Afghanistan, police said.

At least 12 shipping containers were damaged in the attack at the Farhad terminal in Peshawar, capital of troubled North West Frontier Province, local police official Zahur Khan told The Associated Press. He said police opened fire at the insurgents but they managed to flee.

The attack came less than a day after a suicide bomber blew up in a packed mosque in North West Frontier Province’s Khyber tribal region, killing 48 people and wounding scores more in the worst attack to hit Pakistan this year.

Afghan-based U.S. and NATO forces get up to 75 percent of their supplies via routes that pass through Khyber and a southwestern Chaman border crossing — areas where Taliban militants are believed to be operating.

Islamic militants were suspected in Friday’s deadly mosque attack, apparently to avenge recent military operations in the area.

Afghan president says new U.S. strategy better than expected

KABUL (AP) — Afghanistan’s president said Saturday that the new U.S. strategy for the worsening conflict in his country is “better than we were expecting” and provides the right solutions for the problems afflicting the region.

President Hamid Karzai praised U.S. plans to strengthen Afghanistan’s army and police and provide greater civilian aid to help rebuild the country. He also welcomed President Barack Obama’s focus on countering militant sanctuaries in neighboring Pakistan, which has been a point of tension between Afghan and Pakistani officials.

“This is better than we were expecting as a matter of fact. We back it,” Karzai told a news conference Saturday, a day after Obama announced the details of the new U.S. strategy. “It is exactly what the Afghan people were hoping for and we were seeking.”

Obama’s plan seeks to disrupt and defeat al-Qaida and its allies who have made a comeback following the fall of the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2001. U.S.-

led forces toppled the Taliban, but many of the militants fled south and east into Pakistan where they have been launching cross-border attacks against Afghan and international forces alongside al-Qaida.

The new U.S. strategy includes 4,000 additional troops to help train Afghanistan’s army and police. The plan also calls for hundreds of additional civilians to help with Afghan reconstruction and billions of dollars in additional civilian aid to Pakistan.

Obama team heads to negotiating table

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration has a single mission as it heads to the climate change negotiating table for the first time on Sunday: convincing other countries the United States cares about global warming.

After eight years on the sidelines, the U.S. delegation’s new leadership says it is ready to assume a central role in crafting a new agreement to slash greenhouse gases. But whether the world’s second largest source of heat-trapping pollution will be ready to sign onto a new deal by the end of the year could depend on Congress.

To showcase America’s commitment, the State Department dispatched U.S. climate envoy Todd Stern to Bonn, Germany, to attend the first of a series of largely technical meetings, beginning Sunday. The talks are hoped to lay the groundwork for a new international climate agreement to be signed at a conference in December in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Stern, in a telephone interview Thursday with The Associated Press during a London stopover, said his participation in the talks is to punctuate the U.S.’s newfound determination to address the climate problem.

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March 30th **Open Mon.-Sat. 9-6:30** April 4th

BUTTERBALL BONELESS TURKEY BREAST
69¢ 4-to 6-LB. AVG.
LB.

KRAFT MARSHMALLOW CREAM	2/\$1.00
13-OZ.	
BROWN & SERVE ROLLS	2/\$1.00
12-CT.	
BONELESS TURKEY HAM	\$4.77
10-LB. ROLL	
PLANTERS WALNUT CHIPS	99¢
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TYSON SPICY CHICKEN WINGS
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PILLSBURY TOASTER STRUDELS	2/\$1.00
KRAFT MAYONNAISE	\$1.49
48-OZ.	
FISHERS ORANGE GINGER ALMONDS	\$1.49
10-OZ. CAN	
ALL CHOCOLATE CHIPS	2/\$1.00
ALL BRANDS - 12-OZ.	

PET-RITZ PIE SHELLS
77¢ 2-CT. PKG.

YOPLAY & DANNON YOGURT	6/\$1.00
6-8-OZ.	
KRAFT MINIATURE MARSHMALLOWS	2/\$1.00
10.5-OZ.	
SHURFINE SWEET YAMS	3/\$1.00
21-OZ. CAN	
DAISY & BREAKSTONE SOUR CREAM	27¢
16-OZ.	

EXTRA LARGE NAVAL ORANGES
3/\$1.00

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

129 crashes. More than four out of five fatalities are motorists. Speeding and inattention are the most common causes cited. Rear-end collisions

account for one in three crashes. Safety is TxDOT’s first priority, no matter what job — behind the desk or on the highway. Slow down and follow posted speed limits. Traffic fines are double in work zones. Pay attention. Workers are often close to traffic. Be patient. Delays can be frus-

trating, but it only takes a few minutes to slow down in a work zone. Plan ahead. Leave early to reach your destination. Drive safe to be safe.

LAUREN D. GARDUNO
DISTRICT ENGINEER, TxDOT
ABILENE



- a. working on a busy schedule
- b. investing in their future
- c. saving family time
- d. all of the above**

A quick check of your iStatement on-line, and then it’s back to breakfast with your shareholders. **American State Bank** gives you tools for managing your investment in the future — both financial and personal.

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



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 Goliad, 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. Pecos #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 Pleasonton, 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 Eubanks, Big Spring
Valerie Michelle Martinez, 510 S. First St., Coahoma
Shawn G. McKay, 3107 Bonham Ave, Odessa
Betty Jane McWilliams, 2503 Fairchild, Big Spring
Mari Montemayor, 627 State Street, Big Spring
Lisa M. Portillo, 1200 Stanford, 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 Joliet, 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 Millbrook Road, Big Spring
Brian Paul Siverson, 589c Stoddard, Odessa
Mickey Starnes, 402 Holly Oak Dr., Tyler
Robert Summers, 1905 Wasson No. 5, Big Spring
Tonya D. Conner Taylor, 1111 Moseley Circle, Hobbs, N.M.
Lliandro Ventura, 1905 Wasson No. 23, Big Spring

Candida Lynn Whitehead, 1405 runnels, Big Spring
District Court Filings:
State of Texas vs. Mark Anthony Hickman, civil suit.
George John Solis vs. Denise Ann White, divorce.
Chelsea Lee Holmes vs. Christopher Scott Holmes, divorce.
Emma Sanchez Harvath vs. Charles Paul Harvath Sr., divorce.
Jinnie Jubilee Jiminez vs. Jose Manuel Jiminez, divorce
Adela P. Rudd vs. Mark M. Rudd, divorce.
Reyna Olivarez vs. Christopher Olivarez, divorce.
Leslie Martin vs. David Renteria, protective order.
Carol Lorraine Anderson vs. Michael Dale Anderson, divorce.
Fernando Rodriguez vs. Leslie Rodriguez, divorce.
Gina Gay Garcia vs. Clinton Cecil Garcia, divorce.
Lewis Boeker as next friend of Landon Boeker vs. John R. Welch and Dianna Welch, injury or damages with a motor vehicle.
In Re Andrea Alender, civil suit.
The State of Texas vs. Ginnifer Boswell, civil suit.
Lloyd Allen Mauldin Jr. vs. Angela Amy Mauldin, divorce.

Abigail Blanco vs. Isaias Jasso, protective order.
Kelly McElyea vs. Paul S. Nabors Corp., injury or damages not involving a motor vehicle.
Muriel Prager vs. Harry H. Prager, divorce.
Sunland Nursery Company vs. Gary Simer, individually and DBA Ponderosa Nursery, civil suit.
Rebecca Morales vs. Abel Gomez, protective order.
Melissa Ann Villegas vs. Joshua Ramsey Villegas, divorce.
Michael S. Davidson vs. the Edmar Company LLC and Judson Properties LTD, accounts, notes and contracts.
Hilary Huerta vs. Augustin Huerta, divorce.
Choate Company vs. Plains Marketing, civil suit.
Oncor Electric Delivery Company vs. Sandy Ann Martinez and Gabriel Matthew Rodriguez, injury or damages with a motor vehicle.
Kayla Powell vs. David Powell Jr., divorce.
Valinda P. Sustaita vs. Mauro Sustaita, divorce.
Marriage Licenses:
Eric A. Lopez, 26, and Stacey M. Rodriguez, 26, both of Big Spring.

Union employees picket their own union

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sometimes even unions have union problems. Dozens of employees of the Service Employees International Union picketed their own union Friday over its decision to lay off about 75 workers. The staffers marched outside SEIU headquarters in Washington as they yelled into bullhorns, passed out flyers and chanted, “Justice for all, not just some.” “This union is supposed to be at the forefront of the progressive movement, but it can’t seem to follow its own ideology,” said Malcolm Harris, president of the Union of Union Representatives, which represents 210 SEIU organizers and field staff around the country. The UUR has filed unfair labor practice charges and age and race discrimination claims against SEIU. Harris called SEIU leaders “hypocrites” for calling out corporations that shed workers, yet moving to lay off their own employees. SEIU spokeswoman Michelle Ringuette called the complaints meritless and said layoffs are needed be-

cause the union is shifting organizing work away from its national office to local unions. “We’re in the middle of realignment,” Riguette said. “This is how we implement the democratic decisions arrived at our convention.” But Harris said the SEIU’s treatment of employees could undermine the union’s effort to pass federal legislation that would make it easier to organize unions. He said the politically powerful union was borrowing unsavory management tactics, such as dismissing workers without proper notice and refusing to meet with employees before their collective bargaining agreement expires next week. **Regulators shut down bank in Georgia** NEW YORK (AP) — Regulators have shut down Omni National Bank in Georgia, marking the 21st failure this year of a federally insured bank. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. was appointed receiver of the

bank, based in Atlanta. It had \$980 million in assets as of Dec. 31. The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency says losses have depleted the bank of most of its capital and it would have been unable to recapitalize itself without government assistance. The FDIC will release further information about its plans for the bank, the OCC said. **Lawsuit against AIG seeks return of bonuses, perks** LOS ANGELES (AP) — A lawsuit has been filed in federal court on behalf of shareholders of troubled American International Group Inc., demanding its directors return millions of dollars in bonuses, dividends and other perks. The lawsuit, which seeks class-action status, was filed Thursday in U.S. District Court by Freedom Watch, a nonprofit organization that advocates for ethics in government. The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages as well as the removal of AIG’s

top brass. A phone message left Friday for an AIG spokesman was not immediately returned. The filing follows the recent revelation that AIG employees got \$165 million in bonuses after AIG received \$182.5 billion in government aid. **Founder of Dreyfus fund dies at 95** NEW YORK (AP) — Mutual fund pioneer Jack Dreyfus, a master money manager whose marketing savvy helped forge Wall Street’s image in Main Street’s mind, died Friday. Dreyfus, who matched his investment prowess with penchants for interests ranging from horse breeding to crusading to cure depression, died at New York Presbyterian Weill-Cornell Medical Center, a hospital spokeswoman said. Dreyfus was 95. The cause of his death wasn’t immediately known, but he had been ill for some time, said Arnold Friedman, treasurer of the Dreyfus Charitable Foundation.

TERMS

Continued from Page 4C
cated because the albums she organized and stored at Kodak Gallery are made up of pictures taken by friends and family and uploaded to the site by them. She doesn’t have copies stored elsewhere. Now those images would be deleted even if she makes purchases above the site’s new minimum but her friends and family don’t. That means she’ll have to upgrade to a \$24.99-a-year premium account to download high-resolution versions of the images, or spend \$19.95 plus shipping if she wants to have Kodak give her the 200 pictures on a CD, so she can upload them to another photo site. Kodak is essentially saying that

“even though you own this stuff, unless you pay us you’re going to lose your access to it. That hardly seems fair,” said Steve Jones, a communications professor specializing in new media at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Kodak said it has required an annual purchase for the past five years without setting a minimum amount. The new policy, adopted in March and announced in recent e-mail notices, sets a minimum. “For folks who have been using us just for free storage, they may decide they just want to make a small purchase,” said Mark Cook, director of product marketing at Kodak Gallery. “Or, they may decide to leave.” Cook said Kodak is still adding value for consumers: This month, it began offering free shipping for people buying at least \$5 worth of pictures in

most sizes, as an added incentive to purchase more prints. Other photo sites, including Google Inc.’s Picasa, Fotki Inc., Yahoo Inc.’s Flickr, News Corp.’s Photobucket and Adobe Systems Inc.’s Photoshop.com, still offer free services that let people share photos with others, although there are storage limits. You can buy additional storage or upgrade to a paid account for unlimited uploads. Even more generous options are available at Shutterfly Inc., which offers free, unlimited photo storage, and on social-networking sites such as Facebook, which doesn’t have a limit. But it’s not unusual for photo-sharing sites to start out free and then require payment, such as a now-defunct

service from Sony Corp., said Terry Sullivan, associate editor of digital imaging at Consumer Reports magazine. Sony closed ImageStation in 2008 to focus on its core business, nearly eight years after launching the photo-sharing site. Sony said it has destroyed all images left on its servers. Time Warner Inc.’s AOL ended its photo-storage site in January to cut costs. It transferred images to American Greetings Corp.’s PhotoWorks, which requires an annual purchase or else photos will be deleted. Given all the varying policies, it’s best to back up your pictures on your own computer. That should greatly reduce the chance you’ll lose something irreplaceable.

SPENDING

Continued from Page 1C
months in more than a decade. Economists believe that the deep recession, already the longest in a quarter-century, will continue prompting consumers to do more to trim spending and boost their savings. However, that development could make it more difficult for the country to pull out of the recession since consumer spending accounts for about 70 percent of economic activity. The back-to-back increases in consumer spending in January and February had followed six straight declines in spending that occurred from July through December. Consumer

spending in the fourth quarter fell at an annual rate of 4.3 percent, the biggest decline in 28 years, and was the major factor pushing overall economic activity down by 6.3 percent during that period. Many economists believe that the gross domestic product will drop by around that amount in the current January-March period and will continue falling in the spring although at a slower pace. Many analysts are not looking for the current recession, which began in December 2007, to end until the second half of this year. A price gauge tied to consumer spending rose by 0.3 percent in February and was up 0.2 percent excluding food and energy, indicating that the recession has contributed to a significant moderate in inflation pressures.

Government Foreclosure Sale
3 Bedroom 1.5 Bath
1538 Square Feet
1810 Benton, Big Spring, TX 79720
Starting Bid \$30,054.00
(Total Bid Amount due in Cashier’s Check at Sale)
Date: **Tuesday, April 7, 2009**
Time: **1:00 pm**
Place: **Howard County Courthouse in Big Spring, TX**
For more information ~ Contact The USDA Rural Development Office
432/336-7585 X4

The bailout tab

The dollar amounts are staggering, and the thicket of rescue programs bewildering. Add it up and the U.S. government so far has pledged more than \$12 trillion in funding facilities, guarantees, insurance and actual spending to rescue the world's largest economy from collapse. The good news (if it can be called that): Actual outlays have totaled "only" \$3.9 trillion, and much of the money may get paid back over time or ultimately won't be used.

SPENT IN BILLIONS PLEDGED IN BILLIONS

The Federal Reserve

Discount window and other loans Opens the spigot on short-term loans to banks to ease strain on credit markets	\$227	\$ Unlimited
Currency swap lines Allows foreign central banks to obtain dollars in exchange for other currencies	\$329	\$ Unlimited
Commercial paper funding Funds purchases of short-term debt to keep this crucial market from freezing up	\$241	\$1,800
Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac aid Supports mortgage giants by purchasing debt and mortgage-backed securities	\$285	\$1,300
Term auction facilities Provides short-term credit for banks collateralized by a variety of assets	\$487	\$1,100
Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility (TALF) Offers non-recourse loans to support market for consumer-related asset-backed securities	\$4.9	\$1,000

Money market investor funding facility Purchases money market instruments to keep mutual funds/others afloat	\$0	\$540
Asset guarantees Backed up the balance sheets of Citigroup and Bank of America	\$0	\$394
Purchase of long-term Treasury notes Drives down interest rates	\$0	\$300
AIG aid Loans and funding to help prevent the insurance giant's collapse	\$89	\$130
Bear Stearns rescue Propped up the troubled company prior to its purchase by JPMorgan	\$27 (pledged) \$26 (spent)	

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

Guarantee of banks' debt Backstops new debt capital issued by banks and financial companies	\$201	\$1,400
Public-private toxic-asset purchase program Guarantees debt for transactions to relieve banks of troubled assets	\$0	\$1,000
Consumer bank accounts Expanded insurance of deposits	\$0	\$500
Citigroup aid Guarantees assets	\$10	
Bank of America aid Guarantees assets	\$2.5	

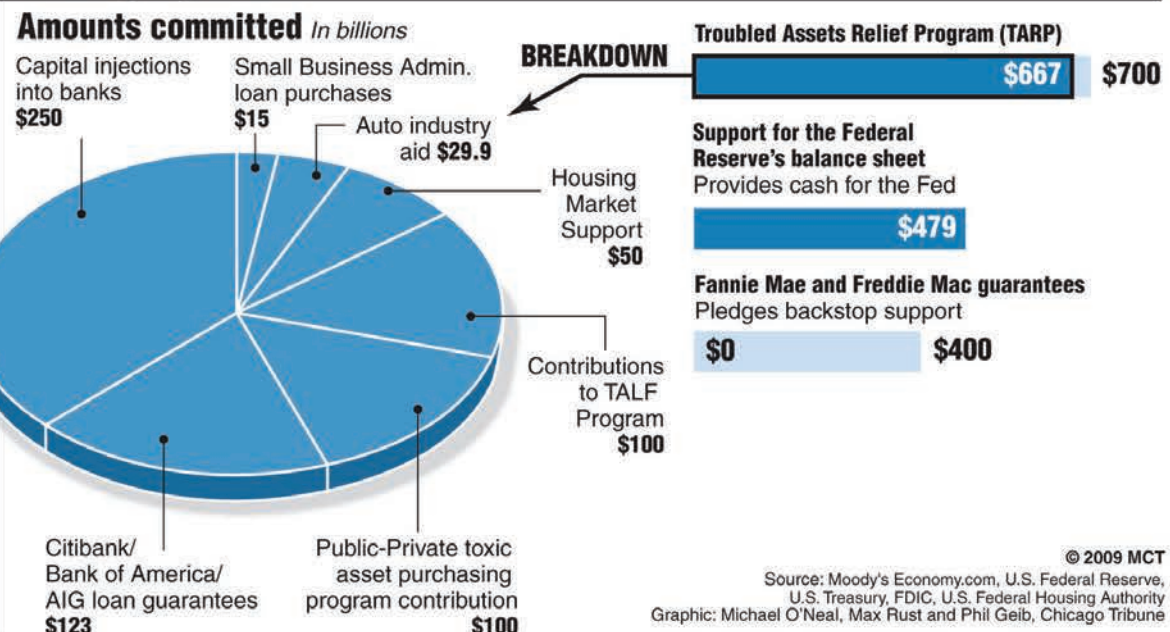
Federal Housing Administration

Refinancing of mortgages	\$0	\$100
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Congressional

Obama stimulus plan	\$787
Bush stimulus plan	\$170

Treasury Department



Government may seek more auto givebacks

DETROIT (AP) — The Obama administration is likely to demand deeper concessions from Chrysler LLC and General Motors Corp. in exchange for additional federal loans, a person briefed on the government's plan said Friday.

The concessions could go beyond the requirements imposed by the Bush administration when it agreed to loan the automakers money last year, said the person, who asked not to be identified because the government's plans have not been revealed.

President Barack Obama will announce the administration's plan for the auto industry on Monday. White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Obama's auto task force was "winding down the decisions that have to be made" and finalizing the plan.

that will take over retiree health care costs starting next year. And they must get debtholders to swap equity for two-thirds of the companies' debt.

"There may be more extensive conditions than were laid out initially in the term sheets," the person said.

Both companies face a Tuesday deadline to turn in finished restructuring plans to the government, but neither company is likely to have everything done. Neither GM nor Chrysler have deals with the union on the trust funding or concessions from their debtholders, although talks are continuing.

"Our union is continuing to work with the task force and the auto companies to find a solution to the may issues we face," UAW President Ron Gettelfinger said Friday through a

spokeswoman. The companies are likely to get short-term loans and an extension of time to reach agreements with debtholders and the union.

The loans are likely to come with tight deadlines.

Obama made clear Thursday that the companies would face having to make tough concessions for additional aid, but it was unclear if that meant concessions beyond the initial loan terms.

The president said if the companies were

"not willing to make the changes and the restructurings that are necessary, then I'm not willing to have taxpayer money chase after bad money."

Republicans were signaling their opposition to Obama's approach.

"Everyone wants America's automakers to not only survive, but thrive. That's why it's difficult to understand the logic of adding more burdens and requirements to the very companies that are struggling to stay afloat," said Antonia Ferrier, a

spokeswoman for House Republican Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio.

Obama said the current business model for the U.S. auto industry was unsustainable and various industry stakeholders — suppliers, unions, creditors, dealers — would need to make concessions.

A task force created by Obama has been meeting with industry officials and reviewing restructuring plans submitted by the companies to revitalize the industry through shared sacrifices.

The government can recall its loans to GM and Chrysler if they fail to sign deals for debt restructuring and other concessions from stakeholders, including the UAW, by Tuesday. But the administration has not indicated it plans to do so.

GM owes roughly \$28 billion to bondholders, while Chrysler owes about \$7 billion in first- and second-term debt, mainly to banks. GM owes roughly \$20 billion to its retiree health care trust, while Chrysler owes \$10.6 billion.

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Senate takes on out-of-network insurance issue

ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Ever wonder how that bill was calculated if you had to pay to see a doctor outside your insurance network?

Might be a scam, says a senator investigating the issue.

Sen. Jay Rockefeller, chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, wants answers at a hearing Tuesday from the chief executives of UnitedHealth Group Inc. and its subsidiary Ingenix Inc., a claims database used by insurers nationwide to calculate out-of-network rates.

The inquiry follows lawsuits and an investigation by New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo alleging that UnitedHealth and Ingenix manipulated rate data so insurers had to pay less and patients more for out-of-network services.

"They're lowballing deliberately. They deliberately cut the numbers so the consumer has to pay more of the cost," Rockefeller, D-W.Va., said in an interview with The Associated Press on Friday.

"It's scamming. It's fraud," he said. In January, UnitedHealth agreed to pay \$350 million to settle a suit by the American Medical Association and others over the issue. UnitedHealth did not admit wrongdoing. But, under pressure from Cuomo, the company agreed to pay \$50 million toward

creation of an independent claims database and eventually close down the Ingenix databases.

"Our view is that we've reached a resolution on this matter and we're moving forward," UnitedHealth spokesman Tyler Mason said in a voicemail message Friday. "We think it's positive that this information will continue to be made available in the health care marketplace so that people can make informed decisions."



AP file photo

Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Chairman Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va. plans to demand answers Tuesday from the chief executives of UnitedHealth-Group Inc.

Rockefeller and other lawmakers, along with doctors and consumer groups, view the matter as far from over. They say more accountability and transparency is needed in how insurance companies determine out-of-network rates, and that patients need to understand how it's done to avoid sticker shock

when they get their medical bills.

One such patient is Mary Jerome of Yonkers, N.Y. She went out of network to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center after being diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2006. When she began getting her bills she discovered that Memorial Sloan-Kettering was not being reimbursed by her insurer anywhere near as much as the center was charging and that she was responsible for paying the rest.

"Unknown to me, they were operating with deceptive methods of reimbursement," Jerome told Rockefeller's committee in written testimony.

"I had to battle cancer — and I am still battling it — and I had to battle my insurance company to try and get fair coverage."

More than 70 percent of workers who get health care through their employers are enrolled in plans that allow them to go out of network, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Typically, those plans will pay a set percentage, say 70 percent, for an out-of-network visit.

But unknown to many consumers, when patients go out of network, their plan doesn't actually pay 70 percent of the doctor's visit cost. It pays 70 percent of what it determines is the "usual, customary and reasonable" cost for the procedure or doctor's visit in question.

Insurance companies determine that cost themselves, and there's scant regulation or oversight of how they do it.

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Convicted killer resigned himself to death penalty

JACQUES BILLEAUD

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Even before a jury handed him a half dozen death sentences Friday, a former janitor who was convicted of killing six people in metro Phoenix's Serial Shooter attacks had already resigned himself to the worst of fates.

The day before he received the death sentences, Dale Hausner decided against calling witnesses in a bid for leniency, instructed his attorneys not to plead for a life sentence and apologized to the families of every victim in the attacks, saying he should be put to death because it would help them heal.

"It's justice as much as it can be," said Rebecca Estrada, whose 20-year-old son, David Estrada, was one of the people Hausner was convicted of murdering. "The death penalty is the limit, and that's what he deserves."

Though the death penalties essentially closed a central chapter in the Serial Shooter case, Hausner is expected to face a prison sentence of several hundred years when he is punished Monday for attacking 19 other people.

Prosecutors said Hausner preyed on pedestrians, bicyclists, dogs and horses during

a 14-month conspiracy that occasionally included his brother and his former roommate, Sam Dieteman.

After Dale Hausner is sentenced Monday on the six dozen other convictions against him, the case's focus will shift to Dieteman, who pleaded guilty to two of the killings and could face the death penalty. Dieteman's sentencing trial is set for May 26.

The Serial Shooter attacks and an unrelated serial killer case kept police and neighborhood watch groups on high alert in the summer of 2006. Families stayed inside as police searched for the killers. Authorities called meetings that drew hundreds of people.

Police said their big break came when one of Dieteman's drinking buddies, Ron Horton, called them to say Dieteman had bragged about shooting people. "They called it 'RV'ing,' Random Recreational Violence," Horton told The Associated Press in a 2006 interview. Horton died last year.

As the star prosecution witness at Hausner's trial, Dieteman said he and his roommate cruised around late at night looking for strangers to shoot and, in one case, found



AP photo/Pat Shannahan

Dale Hausner holds up six fingers while referencing the six counts of murder the jury convicted him of in the Serial Shooter case in Phoenix. A jury has sentenced Hausner to six death terms.

humor at the sight of one of their seriously injured victims holding his stomach and appearing angry.

Dieteman also said Hausner professed a hatred for prostitutes and homeless people as they looked for victims in areas frequented by streetwalkers. Still, Dieteman said, Hausner never explained why he wanted to shoot people.

Hausner's lawyers told jurors that Dieteman gave au-

thorities bad information in hopes of getting out of the death penalty.

Even though Hausner has denied any involvement in the attacks since his arrest in August 2006, he took an odd turn during the penalty phase of his trial when he apologized to the families of every victim in the attacks.

"I'm not up here to point the finger at anybody else and say, 'Have mercy on my poor

and withered soul,'" Hausner told the jury on Thursday. "I'm willing to accept my punishment like a man without blaming anybody."

Hausner had, in fact, suggested in the past that Dieteman may have carried out some of the attacks.

As the jury's decisions were announced, Hausner was expressionless, keeping his head down as he flipped through papers in front of him. Before being led out of the courtroom, Hausner thanked the judge who presided over his trial.

Hausner's mother was whisked out of the courtroom through a back door by one of his lawyers. One of the attorneys, Tim Agan, wouldn't comment on the six death sentences.

Hausner cast himself as a busy divorced father of a sick daughter, a ladies' man and a go-getter with side jobs in standup comedy, bartending and boxing photography. He also made an appearance in a TV commercial for a personal injury law firm.

He offered alibis that included being at his girlfriends' houses, shopping at the grocery store, driving in another part of the Phoenix area or taking care of his daughter.

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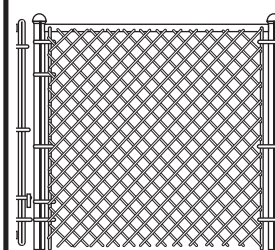
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Instructor: Debra Tate

Cost: \$45.00

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- Differences in Excel 2007

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May 18 & 21, 2009

Monday & Tuesday 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Instructor: Debra Tate

Cost: \$25.00

Prerequisite: Introduction to Excel Part I

Description: This class extends the skills covered in Introduction to Excel 2007 Part I to include more practice with basic skills. We will continue to explore the possibilities of Excel 2007 while creating practical documents. Some time for Question & Answer about your own Excel problems will also be included. While the Introduction class introduces basic formulas, complex formulas are not covered in either class.

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Instructor: Debra Tate

Cost: \$42.00

Description: Want your photographs to look like the ones in a magazine? Learn to make your photos look better using fun graphics software. Programs like Adobe Photoshop are used by photographers worldwide to turn average pictures into amazing pictures. You can do the same kind of editing using software already on your computer or available for free. It is easy and fun! Learn fundamental skills such as cropping, lightening or darkening, adjusting the colors, changing the background, removing unwanted objects (or people), resizing, etc. Bring your own digital photos to work on. (Photos will also be available.) The free Google program Paint.net will be downloaded and used. A USB drive is recommended but not required.

Introduction to Computers –

Beginner Basics

April 11 & 18, 2009

Saturday 9:00am – 12:00

Instructor: Debra Tate

Cost: \$40.00

Description: "I don't even know how to turn it on..." Computers are everywhere these days, but some of us have never learned how to use one – or just don't feel comfortable. This beginner class is designed to help you learn the fundamental skills you need to use a computer. Students will be able to practice and to progress at their own pace, to build confidence.

Come learn the basics in a hands-on class including:

- Basic vocabulary – the most common terms you need to know
- Using a mouse
- How to find and use the software already on your computer
- How to save files & find what you have saved
- Safely turning it on & off

Introduction to PowerPoint 2007

May 4 & 14, 2009

Monday & Thursday 6:00pm – 8:00 pm

Instructor: Debra Tate

Cost: \$45.00

Description: Rarely does a business meeting occur these days without a polished presentation using pictures, graphs, and bulleted points. Graphic aids help keep your listener interested and help clarify your points. They also make you look polished, prepared, and professional. Effective presentations are surprisingly easy, so easy, in fact, that many families use the same software to create a presentation to celebrate an occasion such as an anniversary or graduation.

PowerPoint is the software most commonly used to create these multimedia presentations. It is fast and easy to learn – and to use. Come learn by doing as we use PowerPoint 2007 to create different types of effective presentations. You can even bring your own photos and information to practice with, if you like. Must be familiar with basic computer skills and Windows before taking this course. Skills covered in this hands-on class include:

- Basic concepts and vocabulary
- How to make a presentation truly effective
- Designing for your audience
- Selecting & printing handouts
- Turning a presentation into a website

Introduction to the Internet, Email, and EBay

June 13 & 20, 2009

Saturday 9:00am – 12:00

Instructor: Debra Tate

Cost: \$40.00

Description: Wish you knew how to use the Internet? Want to share email with your child or grandchild at college? Want to send photos to your friends & family – or see the ones they send you? Want to find what you are looking for on the Internet? Wish you knew what you could find on the internet? Want to explore the eBay marketplace? Come learn the basics in a hands-on class including:

- How do you get to the Internet?
- Basic vocabulary – the most common terms you need to know
- Using a browser, like Internet Explorer
- What kind of stuff is out there?
- Basic Internet safety
- Basic email safety
- Reading and sending email
- Viewing & sending photos by email
- What's eBay & what is for sale there?
- Purchasing online safely

Sports Scrapbook Class

April 6 - 12, 2009

Time: 10:00am - 1:00pm

Instructor: Shelley Futrelle

Cost: \$15.00

Location: College at the Mall

Description: Work on fun pages that incorporate all of those sports pictures that you haven't used yet. Use all of those forgotten pictures that you have in a box to create unique pages that focus on sporting events.

Scrap Booking Techniques Class - Night class

April 14 - 23, 2009

Tuesday – Thursday 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Instructor: Shelley Futrelle

Cost: \$15.00

Location: College at the Mall

Description: Discover new, exciting techniques that can turn your pages into something fresh and new. Join us for this two week, four session class, and find creative ways to invigorate your albums.

Baby Layout Scrapbook Class

April 27 - May 1, 2009

10:00am – 1:00pm

Instructor: Shelley Futrelle

Cost: \$15.00

Location: College at the Mall

Description: Ever wonder what you could do with those old baby pictures that have never been scrap booked? Well, this is the class for you. Discover new and interesting ways to use those pictures in layouts. Whether you are a beginner or an advanced scrap booker, this class is for you.

Mom & Me Scrapbook Class

June 15 - 19, 2009 6:00 - 8:30pm

Instructor: Shelley Futrelle

Cost: \$15.00

Location: College at the Mall

Description: Want something to do with your kids during the summer? Want to get them doing something creative? Then this is the class for you. Bring your kids and join us to create fun scrapbook pages and small albums. This is a class where you can participate with your child in sharing pictures, memories, and fun. Offered in two different time periods. Part one of a summer series.

Mom & Me Scrapbook Class

June 15 - 19, 2009 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Instructor: Shelley Futrelle

Cost: \$15.00

Location: College at the Mall

Description: Due to popular demand, we are bringing back our mini-album class. We will be creating five new albums that you can create and take with you after every class. These are fun ways to express your creativity.

Scrapbook Stop 'n' Crop

May 23, 2009 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Instructor: Shelley Futrelle

Cost: \$15.00

Location: College at the Mall

Description: We are offering a morning and afternoon of creating layouts, and learning new concepts. Bring your materials, and relax for six hours of scrapbooking madness. Various layouts will be on display, and you can take the concepts and make them your own, or you can just enjoy the day and create unique scrapbook pages. Join us for this fun class. This is for beginners and the advanced.



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PROFILE 2009



Business & Industry



A publication of the
BIG SPRING
HERALD

Sunday, March 29, 2009

Back home again

Patrol Sgt. Casey Grigg is proud to be an officer of the law in Big Spring

By Thomas Jenkins

For Big Spring native Casey Grigg, there was little doubt when he graduated from the police academy in 1998 he would someday patrol the streets and neighborhoods of Howard County.

That goal came true for Grigg in 2007 when he took a position with the Howard County Sheriff's Office and began climbing the ranks of the local law enforcement agency.

"Like a lot of guys, I went to work right out of high school. I took some college classes during that time, and I went to the police academy in 1997. After I graduated from the police academy, I went to work for the HCSO as a jailer and a reserve deputy. That was something new, for sure," said Grigg with a laugh. "Back then, our reserve deputy program was a lot like a ride-along program. We really didn't get the chance to get out and do a whole lot. You rode with a deputy, and that was about it. But it gave you the chance to get your feet wet as far as



seeing what it was like to answer calls.

"I had the chance to ride with my cousin, Cliff McCartney, who was a sergeant here before I went to the academy. I rode with him once and I knew that was what I wanted to do. You don't have to just sit in an office day in and day out. It's something new and different every day, and that's what really attracted me. There isn't a whole lot of routine to it, and it's never boring."

And while life in a patrol car is unpredictable, Riggs' other role with the county was anything but exciting.

"Being a jailer was really different. It was pretty boring," he said with a grin. "You had to sit up there all the time. But dealing with the inmates all day long was pretty interesting. I worked in the jail and as a reserve deputy until about 2000, when I moved to Stanton and took a position as a patrolman for the Stanton Police Department.

"Stanton's a very busy little town. I got a lot of experience there because we didn't have an investigation division. If you were the one working when something came out, it was yours until you went to court. We worked everything, from little Class C stuff all the way up to major felonies. The chief over there is a really good guy. He was the kind of boss that showed up and asked how he could help, not just barking orders and things like that. It was a good environment."

After several years as a police officer in Stanton, Grigg was able to come home to Big Spring in 2007 when he accepted a position with the HCSO.

"I wanted to get back home," said Grigg. "It was good to be able to come back. I was ready for it. It's kind of different policing where you grew up because you know everyone. I've really enjoyed it.

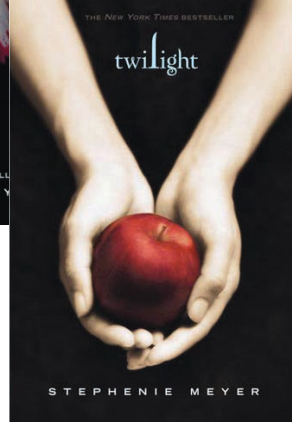
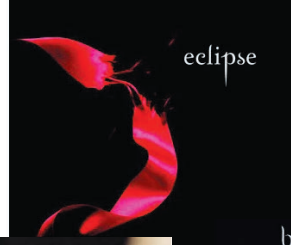
"As a patrol sergeant I'm responsible for three guys on my shift. I have to look over their paperwork and make sure they are filing the right charges and things like that. I also have to do everything that a

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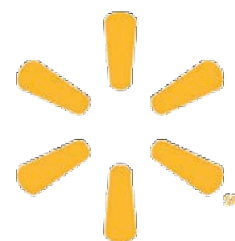
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patrol deputy does," he added. "It can be kind of a headache making sure everyone dots their I's and crosses their T's, and it can be a pretty good strain. It's not that bad as long as you stay on top of it, but if you get behind it seems really hard to get caught up."

Like most emergency responders, Grigg said there are certain types of calls that bother him, both professionally and personally, but it's a part of the job he accepts.

"Anytime there's a call dealing with little children I cringe a little," said Grigg. "It bothers you because they are usually innocent victims in whatever is going on, and that can be pretty tough to deal with. I really hate to see helpless people get caught up in things."

"I have a wife, Nicci Grigg, and an 8-year-old son, Jason. He was born shortly after I got into law enforcement. Before he was born, calls that were dealing with children didn't hit as close to home. It makes it harder to deal with those things. Other things have changed since he was born. I'm more cautious going into situations because I have a family to come home to, because you have to worry about more than just yourself. It can make things a little more stressful. But they are also the ones that help me get through the tough things. It's extremely important to me to have a good family life. That's what keeps me focused, my religion and family. That's what keeps me going every day."

"The only call I ever lost any sleep over was a call involving a two-year-old child that was unresponsive," he added firmly. "Having to revive him and wait for the ambulance to pick

him up really had an effect on me. He made it. He wasn't breathing when I got there. I believe he had a seizure and that was what caused him to stop breathing. Those types of situations are hard. But I was able to get him back, and the ambulance got there pretty quick and took him to the hospital. He was the only person I ever had to do CPR on and made it."

And while many people in his line of work might find faith a hard thing to sustain due to its sometimes violent and graphic nature, Grigg said that hasn't been a problem for him.

"It's quite the opposite to me. If it wasn't for my Christian faith I don't know if I could do this job," said Grigg. "To me, having God to lean on is what keeps me doing what I do each day."

Faith isn't the only thing that keeps Grigg going on a day-to-day basis, as the support of the community becomes more and more important to him and other law enforcement officers.

"It's outstanding. In Stanton, after I had the chance to get to know everyone, I had civilians that would come and help me if I had to deal with someone who was out of hand," he said. "To me it's good to have a relationship with the community because you never know when you're going to need their help. That's in anything. You also have that relationship with the other deputies. Everyone is like brothers. We all see so much and go through so much together we have that bond. It's a lot like being brothers, and it's a must when you look at the day-to-day operation of the Sher-

"It's extremely important to me to have a good family life. That's what keeps me focused, my religion and family. That's what keeps me going every day."

See **GRIGG**, Page 12



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Rx

Jimmy Anderson has been filling people's needs for 44 years

By Steve Reagan

If you live in Howard County and have had a medical problem in the past 44 years, chances are you've crossed paths with Jimmy Anderson.

Anderson's not a doctor, but he's been a familiar presence for patients, dispensing medications as Big Spring's longest-serving pharmacist.

He started at the old Leonard's Pharmacy across from the county courthouse in 1965 and has been filling prescriptions and dispensing advice on medications ever since. Now at the pharmacy's new location on Scurry Street, Anderson shows no sign of slowing down or stopping anytime soon.

The Howard County native's association

"I just feel like I've been so blessed to be able to help people with different things. It's just been a pleasure to be able to do that."

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with Leonard's began in 1958 when, as a student of Howard County Junior College, he worked part-time at the pharmacy.

"I did a little bit of everything at the time," Anderson said. "I placed orders, stocked the shelves, swept the floors, answered the phones ..."

Anderson, who graduated from Forsan High School, said he became interested in becoming a pharmacist through a family connection.

"I had a distant relative who was a pharmacist and worked for Eli Lilly," he said. "It was something my father talked to me about ... so when I worked at Leonard's (when going to junior college) I saw what it was like and decided that's what I wanted to do."

After two years at HCJC (now Howard College), Anderson enrolled at the University of Texas in Austin, eventually receiving his pharmacist's degree in 1964. He returned to Big Spring and began working at Leonard's, then Professional Pharmacy and has been a local fixture ever since.

Obviously, the job agrees with him.

"As a pharmacist, you deal with people's physical and mental needs," he said. "You answer a lot of questions about a lot of different things ... mostly about their medications and what kind of restrictions go with them — how often they take them, that sort of thing."

It is this contact with people that Anderson enjoys most about his work.

"I guess I've seen three or more generations of people come in here," he said. "I've seen people's children and those children's children. I've been fortunate enough to see that happen ... And we've had people move out of town who live 300 miles away still call us to talk to us about their medications. It makes me feel good that people still rely on your knowledge even after they move away."

In more than four decades, Anderson has seen a lot of change in his profession — for both the good and the bad.

"One of the most positive changes has been the advent



of the computer as a pharmacist's tool," Anderson said. "It helps us access information and keep it compiled. At a moment's notice, we can

call up a patient's profile.

"In the old-fashioned way, it would take several days of down time (to compile that information)," he added. "Now, we can immediately get that information."

Another change Anderson likes is in the area of pharmacy technicians, the pharmacist's major assistants. While technicians cannot sign off on prescriptions — that remains the pharmacist's bailiwick — they assist in filling out prescription orders and assisting patients with information about their medications.

But Anderson noted that not all the change in his profession has been for the good.

Insurance companies now have much more say in what kind of medication a patient will receive, often dictating that pharmacists dispense generic drugs instead of name-brand medications.

"Sometimes, that can delay a prescription for hours or even days," Anderson said, "and that's no help to the patient."

Another change for the worse is that pharmacists must be more on the watch against drug abusers.

"Every city in the United States has this problem — a

growing number of people who are abusing prescription drugs," Anderson said. "And part of my job is to try to help people not do that. Unfortunately, we're seeing more and more of it ... It's something we deal with every day."

Away from work, Anderson and his wife, Pat, have raised four children — David, who is a chiropractor, John Paul, who is in private business, Dana, a teacher in Lubbock and Nikki, a registered nurse in the Dallas-Fort Worth Area.

Anderson also is very active in the community. He's faithful to his alma mater, Forsan High School, helping to arrange the biennial school reunion and has served on the boards for Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center and Big Spring Independent School District.

In addition, he is a long-time member of the Big Spring Rotary Club and is a past president of the organization.

Anderson said he is happy to give back to the community.

"I just feel like I've been so blessed to be able to help people with different things," he said. "It's just been a pleasure to be able to do that."



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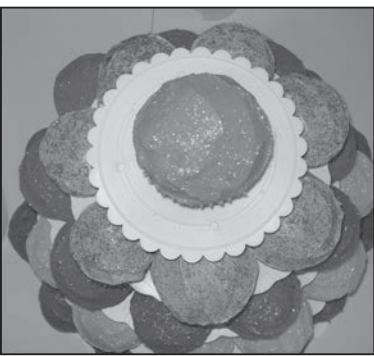
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Cupcake Diva



By Thomas Jenkins

A self-described "cupcake diva," Big Spring native Stephanie Henry is hoping to make a big splash in the Crossroads area with her gourmet mini-sized cakes.

Henry said the idea to specialize in cupcakes — with every flavor, color and size imaginable in her palate — should help her business, Cupcakes Etc., fill a West Texas niche just screaming for attention.

"I really wanted to do something that would let me be creative, so I threw the idea out to my Aunt Donna who lives in San Antonio," said Henry. "We designed a business card, and she made them and sent them to me. She told me, 'Just go for it.' So I went, and here I am.

"I have a handful of regular customers, and new customers every week. The truth is, there are just not a lot of options here in Big Spring for cupcakes. Well, at least gourmet cupcakes. I make so many different flavors and they are made from scratch

Stephanie Henry creates edible works of art

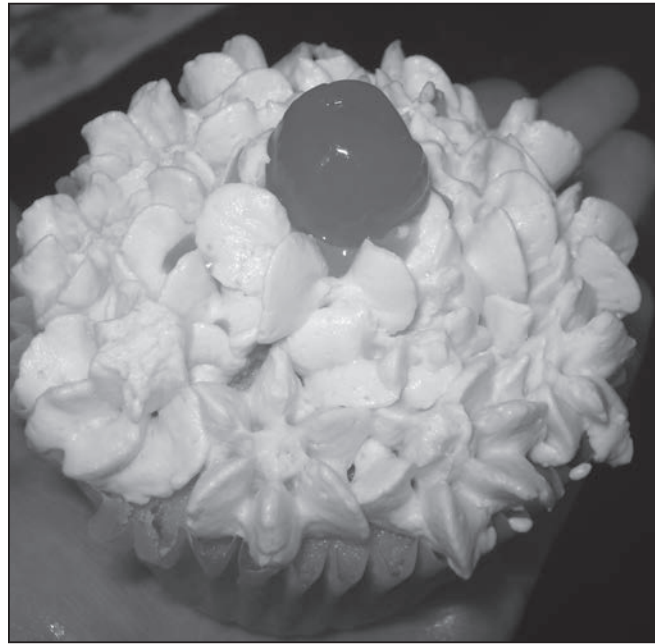
and just plain good. I have business cards up all over town, and my customers are telling their friends and their friends are calling me, which is great. I would some day like to be as popular here as Sprinkles Cupcakes are in California. That would be awesome."

Henry, who has no formal training in cooking, said no two days in the world of cupcakes — and the people who enjoy them — are the same.

"I just kind of learn as I go. I get the idea in my head and put it to the cupcakes, and they just work. Some do better than others, but it's a learning process," said Henry. "Even the most experienced baker has to learn a thing or two. I get a lot of my decorating ideas out of some great cupcake books that I have received and some come from online.

"The icing, though, is usually the star of the cupcake, so sometimes I don't have to do any fancy decorating to them at all. I try to keep a flavor theme going with the whole cupcake. For instance, my paradise cupcakes are pineapple, coconut and banana-flavored cake with coconut and pineapple icing. I make

the icing ocean blue and make pretty waves on the cupcake with it, and sprinkle coconut on top. Sometimes I will color half the icing brown and the other half ocean blue, and do a beach scene on the cupcake



with pineapple representing the sun on top. There are just so many options. But I always like to make them a little special by adding something to the top so you know what flavor experience you are about to have.

"I love to cook," continued Henry with a grin. "I never really did much baking before this, just your basic cakes and cookies and sometimes a pie. My husband and I made cupcakes from scratch for our son's first birthday and it was so much fun. We had five

different colors of cupcakes. I made cookies to enter in the fair last year, but missed the deadline. However, this year I am going to enter cookies, pies, and of course, my cupcakes."

Henry said what sets her cupcakes apart from local competitors is her willingness to get "funky."

"These definitely aren't your average cupcakes, that's for sure," said Henry. "I offer some off-the-wall flavors, like plum crazy, pink lemonade, funky monkey, elvis special — the list goes on and on. Or, if you aren't into the funky flavors, I can do plain ones, as well. Just

whatever my customers want. Each batch is made from scratch, so each batch will be a little different. They are moist and fluffy.

"I don't use vanilla extract, I use vanilla bean that I split and scrape the seeds out. It just makes a world of difference to use real ingredients instead of imitation or extracts. If they are fruit flavored, I use real fruit, macerated in sugar and pureed for

the flavor. But I always like to make them a little special by adding something to the top. If it's a strawberry cupcake, I put a sugared strawberry on top so you know what you are about to experience.

"I also make my cupcakes Texas-sized," she added. "That's like two regular cupcakes in one. I do regular size cupcakes too, but the Texas-sized are so fun. Cupcakes are just a versatile and different way to celebrate. They don't have to be sliced, and you don't have to use a fork or a plate, you just peel the paper back and dig in.

"There are two grocery stores that sell cupcakes, and to me they are just kind of plain," said added. "They aren't personal or fun. They are the perfect way to put a



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smile on someone's face, just bring them their favorite flavor in a cupcake. I just felt like Big Spring needed something that is outside the box and different. You can't find funky flavors at the grocery store."

While Henry may be a "cupcake diva," she said the business is a family affair.

"My husband's name is Russell Henry, and he was born and raised in Coahoma," said Henry. "He served in the Army 82nd Airborne for sev-

eral years. We didn't meet until after he was out and came back home. We have a 2 1/2 year-old son named Logan. He likes to help me make cupcakes sometimes. My son likes to pour ingredients into the bowl for me and he

definitely likes to supervise the icing process. He always knows when I get the big mixing bowl out that Mommy is making cupcakes.

"I've worked for Vision Makers for nearly a year, and my husband, son and co-workers are all supportive of the cupcake business. They get all of the extra ones that I make. My boss also lets me bring samples to the store and hand them out to customers. It's good advertising, and lets my cupcakes speak for themselves."

With each cupcake requiring sometimes repetitive attention through the decorating process, Henry said it can sometime become tedious, but for the most part, she finds a great deal of relaxation in making the tasty treats.

"Working with cupcakes, especially decorating them, is a lot easier than decorating a cake. I admit it, that's why I don't do cakes," she said with a laugh. "Plus, there are a few people around town who do cakes, and I don't want to intrude on someone else's 'turf.' Cupcakes are basically small canvases. So if it's one batch that is a certain theme, it takes a lot of patience to make them all match, which is the only downfall.

"It is really relaxing, though. Sometimes I can get so into decorating or getting the icing just perfect it might take me two hours to decorate or ice them. I am more creative when it comes to the flavors of the cake and the icing than I am coming up with designs for the tops. That's why I have my cupcake design books, to help me out."

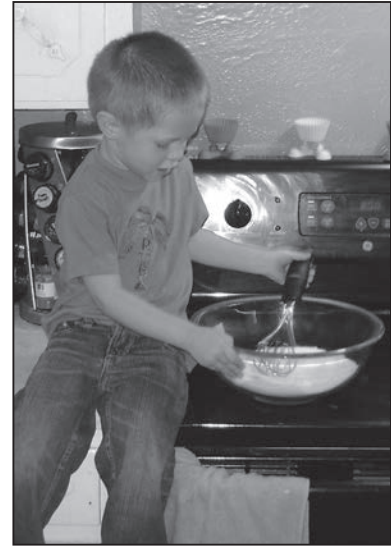
And while Henry is more than willing to let her creativity shine with each batch of cupcakes, she said one of the most rewarding parts of her business is giving other

people a chance to design the treats.

"Any flavor you can come up with, that I haven't already, is a welcome challenge. I make cupcakes to suit my customers," said Henry. "I have done a five-tiered cupcake tower, down to your basic vanilla cupcake with chocolate icing. I can do cupcakes to look like a television dinner, corn and spaghetti and meatballs. There is no limit to the creativity when there are cupcakes involved.

"I also do creative cupcake parties, where I bring the cupcakes iced with white icing, and your party-goers decorate them. I have tons of stuff to decorate with. For my son's Valentines party at Hillcrest, I am making lovebugs, which are adorable and have edible antennae. These cupcakes aren't just a way for me to be creative, but it gets the customers' wheels turning as well. It's fun to brainstorm with a customer on what they want. That way, they had a hand in making it special, too."

For more information on services provided by Cupcakes Etc., call (432) 816-7171, or visit Henry on the Web at <http://www.myspace.com/416961373>



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Once a coach, always a coach

Only this time, Supt. Steven Saldivar has a much larger team

By Steve Reagan

Steven Saldivar always wanted to be a coach, began his educational career as a teacher and a coach and is now about to become "coach" of his biggest team yet — a team with more than 3,800 players.

Saldivar, 40, is set to become superintendent of Big Spring Independent School

District in July and is taking a lot of the principles he learned coaching football and track and field into his most important job yet.

"I loved coaching and I still carry a lot of the things I learned while I was coaching — the value of teamwork, for example," Saldivar said. "It's almost like a brotherhood; once a coach, always a coach, I guess."

The Eldorado native became assistant superintendent at BSISD in June 2008 and was named superintendent-designate this past January. He will still perform assistant superintendent duties while receiving on-the-job training for the top spot from interim chief Michael Stevens.

The situation, Saldivar said, could not be better. "(Stevens) is a great men-

tor, a great resource and has given me a lot of insight," Saldivar said. "When you've been in education as long as he has, you know a thing or two about the business. We have a great working relationship. At the end of the day, we both want what's best for Big Spring ISD."

Saldivar grew up in Eldorado, the oldest of Candelario and Adelina Saldivar's five

children.

"We are a close family," he said of his parents and siblings. "I came from what most would consider a poor background — my parents didn't have the benefit of a formal education, but they grew to appreciate a good education in their children. So, yeah, they're proud of me."

After graduating from Eldorado High School in 1986, he

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enrolled at Sul Ross State University in Alpine to pursue his first love — playing football.

“I went to college to play football,” he said. “When I was out there, I started thinking, ‘What am I going to do with the rest of my life?’ I had a lot of teachers who were a big influence on me, so I decided to become a teacher and a coach.

He ultimately obtained his bachelor’s degree from Sul Ross, then a master’s degree in education from the University of Houston at Victoria before pursuing his career in the classroom and athletic field.

Making the switch to administration, he said, almost came about by accident.

“It’s funny,” he said. “I was teaching and coaching at Granado and was about to move to Crane to do the same thing there ... We had already sold our home and it was about two days before the moving vans arrived to haul our stuff to Crane when the (Granado ISD) superintendent came by the house and offered me the high school principal position.

“That’s how my life as an administrator began,” he added. “Is it destiny? Is it providence? Who knows? All I do know is that’s what happened.”

He stayed at Granado until 2005, when he accepted the assistant superintendent position at Lamesa ISD, and held that post until coming to Big Spring in 2008.

When the superintendent’s post became vacant shortly after he arrived, Saldivar decided to try for the position.

“By already being here, I felt I had an advantage in that I knew the people and the system,” he said. “Being on the inside definitely helped. I can’t say I was scared or intimidated at the thought of becoming superintendent. I was more excited by the opportunity than anything else.”

Having a few months as a break-in period before assuming the superintendent position has its advantages, he admitted.

“I commend the school board in saying that there was no rush ... that we’ll make the transition when the school year is over,” he said. “I think that part has been very good and beneficial for me and the school district.”

Once he assumes full-time responsibilities, a full slate of challenges await — problems ranging from aging

school buildings to substandard student performance on state standardized testing.

“We know there’s been a lot of negativity in the past — there’s no denying that — but now it’s time for us to start looking forward,” Saldivar said.

“One of the most pressing challenges is how we respond to the issue of our facilities,” he added. “We had a failed bond election (in 2008) ... but we still have facilities in need of upgrading.”

Improving student performance — Big Spring High School and Big Spring Junior High were both rated “academically unacceptable” by the Texas Education Agency in the latest school rankings — also is at the top of the list of challenges he faces.

“Everyone knows we were unacceptable at the high school and junior high,” Saldivar said. “Do I approve of standardized testing? No, but it is an indicator of how our students are performing in the classroom and so we’ll be looking very closely at that.”

But those two issues, important as they may be, are not the most pressing challenges facing the school district, Saldivar believes.

“The biggest challenge is regaining everyone’s trust in the school district,” he said. “You’ve got to have that trust if this district is going to be what we want it to be. But that isn’t going to happen overnight. It’s going to take time.”

Saldivar’s entire family has ties to BSISD. His wife, Becky, is testing coordinator for the district and their three children — son Zack (17) and daughters Addy (12) and Lexi (5) — are students within the system.

He hopes those ties to Big Spring last a long time.

“I’m here as long as I feel, one, that I’m doing a good job and, secondly, that I have people’s support,” he said. “Our plans are to be here ... and build that trust to see that this is the best school district it can be.”



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Steven Saldivar, assistant superintendent for Big Spring Independent School District, talks with secretary Terry Martin at the BSISD central office. Saldivar will become superintendent of the school district July 1.

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He's got G.A.S.

*Donny Green keeps
25 to 30 guitars
around all the time*

By Thomas Jenkins

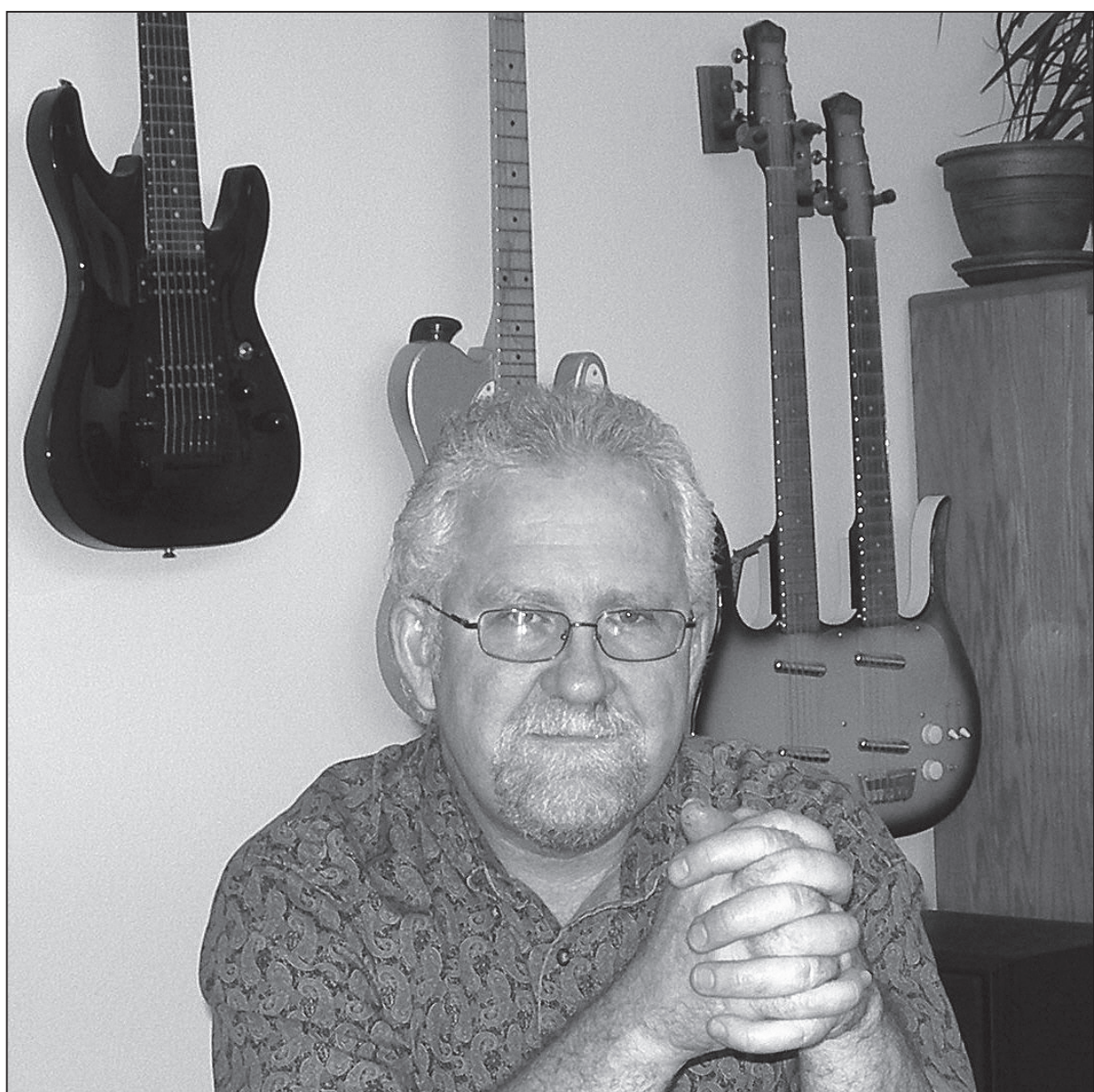
Anyone walking into local resident Donny Green's home will immediately notice a recurring theme — guitars.

And while guitars of just about every shape and style can be found in

corners, on walls and everywhere else imaginable, it's not so much the instruments — made of wood, steel and plastics — as the wonderful sounds they make that have permeated his life and art.

"I think the first time I ever thought I was going to be seriously connected with music is when my parents gave me the 'Meet the Beatles' album," said Green. "My cousin and I would lip sync to the record while strumming on tennis rackets. About that same time — I guess I was about 7 or 8 years old — my dad bought me my first electric guitar. I think it was an Airline. Later, he bought me a Vox Hurricane. I still have that guitar.

"That started a very long, never-ending string of guitars. I guess over the years I've owned several hundred guitars. They come and go, but I try to keep between 25 or 30 around at a time. Then something on eBay will catch my eye and I'll accidentally bid



on it and win it, and the wife will insist that I sell one to make room for it. It's an ongoing struggle. My wife, Debbie, says I have G.A.S. That's Guitar Acquisition Syndrome," he said with a laugh. "There's no cure."

And, just like anything else, Green said he has his favorites.

"My current fav is a Fender Custom Shop Jeff Beck model Stratocaster. I found it on eBay — there's that dreaded eBay again," he said with a laugh. "I usually gravitate to Strats. That's one of the guitars that I keep once I've acquired them. I guess I have six or seven of them now.

"Sometimes I refer to the Jeff Beck Strat as Billy, like from the movie 'Caddyshack,' when the judge has to make a tough putt at the end of the movie, and he pulls out his special putter and holds it close and says, 'Oh, Billy Billy Billy Billy,'" Green added with a chuckle.

Green said his love affair with guitars and music has been in his heart since he was a tyke, but it wasn't until he was attending college at Texas Tech University that he realized just how far he could take what had once been an idle hobby.

"I graduated from Tech in 1981 with a degree in chemistry. During my four years at Tech I had always played in Top-40 rock 'n' roll cover bands. My last year at Tech I hooked up with the primo drummer Tim Darnell. He's got like 14 albums out in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. He started us all writing our own tunes and playing about 50 percent original material.

"Playing rock music in West Texas has always been challenging, but add to that original music, and it gets doubly difficult. Still, we had an agent out of Austin, and when I graduated we went on the road for a year as Desi Red. It's hard to imagine, but back then there were enough rock 'n' roll bars in Texas to keep a never-ending line of cover and original music bands working pretty much around the clock. A typical week for us would be to drive into town on a Sunday, set up Sunday night, and play at the club for the next 6 nights. Night after night after night."

Green said eventually he had to get a "real job," but the love for his six-string friends simply carried him onto a different medium for expressing himself.

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"When I left the band and got a real job, I wanted to keep my fingers in shape, so I bought a little Tascam four-track recorder. I think I did most of my best writing

in the year or so that followed," said Green. "I was the plant chemist in a small gas plant in southeast New Mexico, living in a tiny town. To keep my sanity — at

least partially — I wrote and recorded tunes. I eventually found a bass player and a drummer and started gigging, but for a year or so, that was my only outlet.

"Two or three of the songs on 'Space Tout' were originally recorded on that little four-track. Later I got a reel-to-reel 8-track, then I got three Alesis digital ADAT 8-track recorders and synced them up, giving me 24 tracks. And now, finally, I've made the transition to a Roland VS2400-CD. I've even invested in some Pro-tools goodies and a newer, faster computer and will soon explore the computer recording thing. Still, there's something about physically moving a knob or a slider that you just can't 'feel' with pointing and clicking."

Green said "Space Tout," his most recent self-released album, has plenty of history — and interesting stories — behind its songs and sounds.

"The song 'Robbed' was written on the road with Desi Red. I think we had just pulled up to a club in Longview and found a note tacked to the front door that said, 'Closed by order of the Alcoholic Beverage Commission,' or something similar," recounts Green. "We called our

agent, and he told us there was nothing he could do but sneak us in a club in Paris, Texas, in a couple of days. Two or three days on the road with no income is rough. It seemed we had more than our share of rip-offs.

"On the track 'Tipps Inn,' it's based on a true story as well. We were playing a two-week gig in Hobbs, N.M., at a place called Tipps Inn. The first night we were there, an intoxicated biker dude and his pregnant wife started arguing right there on the dance floor. He ended up knocking her out cold right there on the dance floor in front of the stage. Hence the line, 'Try Tipps Inn and punch out your wife.'"

Through years of playing venues all over the

Lone Star State, Green said he's collected quite an interesting mental scrapbook of images and stories.

"I should say the most memorable show I played was back in about 1980 when we opened for Steppenwolf in Lubbock. That was certainly a highlight," said Green. "But the most memorable was playing two nights in Amarillo with Vince Vance and the Valiants. Those guys were maniacs.

"They had one singer they called 'The Hood' who wore a leather hood and leather pants. The whole deal. He would sit in the corner of the dressing room about 30 minutes before they went on and get into character. No one messed with him when

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he got into character. He was very quiet, very focused, very serious — and very strange.

"We were a three-piece band back then called City, and we played one hour Friday and one hour Saturday and made \$3,600," he added with a grin. "That was really good money back in 1980. The trip is also memorable weather wise. We drove up there from Lubbock Friday afternoon, went swimming at the motel before the gig, and the next morning there was snow on the ground. My first real experience with the wild, wacky weather of the Panhandle."

And while Green certainly revels in

the glory of his early years as a musician, there's at least one part he has no desire to relive.

"No more spandex, please," said Green with a hearty laugh. "Not that I could fit in any of it anymore, but man, was I glad to see that go. In the early 80s, we were a touring, top-40 rock band and we had the look, too. Leopard skin shirts, spandex, the whole trip. We did REO Speedwagon, AC/DC, Journey, all those tunes. Of course, the 'show' was a big deal, too. Lots and lots of sound and lights. Later, in the 90s, rock fashion kinda calmed down, and so did we. Recently, however, I've kinda semi-reverted to the old flashier days. I wear lots of green on stage."

In the end, Green said he hopes to leave behind a sound and style of music that his grandchildren and others will find inspirational, not to mention a few stage photos of him wearing bell bottoms and other 70s attire.

"I hope to leave a little something for my future generations to listen to and perhaps be inspired by. I mean my grandkids, and their grandkids," said Green.



"Kind of an archival function, I suppose. I, of course, would like anyone and everyone to listen to and like my music, but I'm really not all that interested in the fortune and fame cli-

che. I found years ago that success is not measured by dollars and cents, or by how many people recognize you at the supermarket. It's measured in the smiles on your loved ones faces."



GRIGG

Continued from Page 3

ff's Office. You have someone there you can talk to and can relate to what you're telling them. It's just as important as family."

In the end, Grigg said his job feels less and less like a "job" every day, but there are a few things about peace officers he wishes the public was more aware of.

"I enjoy my job so much. I say it's a job, but it's never been a job to me," said Grigg. "I feel like it's something I would do for free if I didn't have to pay the bills. It's really fun to do, and there are days when you ask yourself

why you ever went into law enforcement, but for the most part it's good. You get up in the morning and you never know what you're going to get into that day. You don't know what's going to transpire, and you sort of feed off of that.

"A lot of people don't see peace officers as people. We all have families and lives outside of the department, and I know me and the guys I work with are willing to put our lives on the line for anyone at anytime. I'm talking about people we absolutely do not know. But we're people too, and we make mistakes, too. But the spotlight is on us and we live under a microscope. A lot of people don't see that, and it's pretty tough to explain most days."

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Right place and time

Debbie Wegman says she has been blessed by her marriage, her job and her community

By Thomas Jenkins

It was love for her husband that brought Debbie Wegman to the Crossroads area, but it's been a deep-seated love for the city of Big Spring and all it has to offer that keeps the Dallas native buzzing around these days as director of the local Conventions and Visitors Bureau.

Wegman, along with her husband, Terry, who serves as executive director of the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation, came to Howard County more than 30 years ago when the pair's college romance blossomed into something more permanent.

"I've lived in Big Spring about 36 years now. I

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moved here in August of 1973," said Wegman. "I met my husband, while we were in college at Texas Tech in Lubbock. He graduated shortly after we met, so we went through a period of long-distance dating until I graduated.

"I grew up in Dallas, in the Oak Cliff area. I graduated from Justin F. Kimble High School. So I basically went from the Dallas area, to Lubbock, and then to Big Spring. It sounds like a big change, but it really wasn't. When I was growing up in Dallas, it was really a very different time from today, and we pretty much stayed in our little neighborhood. I didn't venture out much into the big city. So it wasn't much of a challenge for me to get used to living in a small town."

Wegman said arrival in Big Spring also heralded her arrival at a local financial institution, a job that afforded her a birds-eye view of a city going through some very big changes.

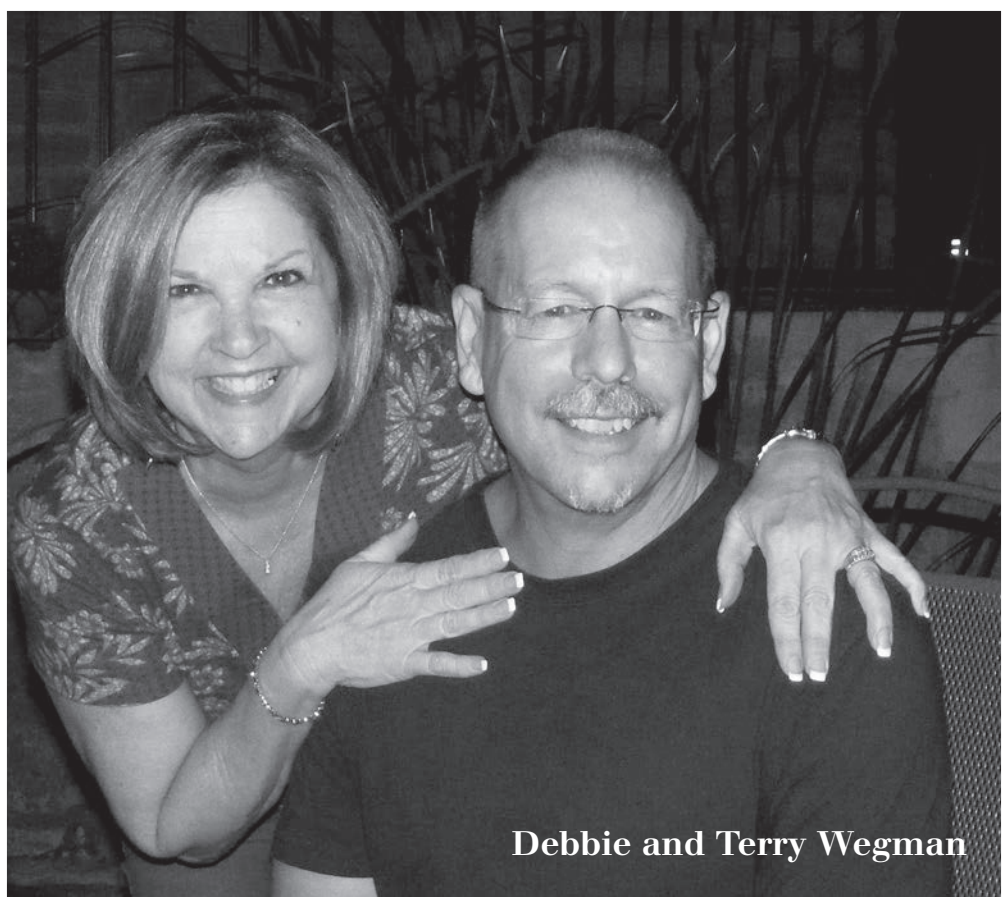
"Terry was already living here when we were married. I was right out of college, and as soon as I got here to

Big Spring I went to work at Citizens Federal Credit Union, which at that time was Webb AFB Federal Credit Union," said Wegman. "I worked there for a little more than five years. Then, of course, the credit union moved to its current location and I left shortly after that to go to work for the state.

"I went to work for the Texas Department of Human Services and started out as a case worker, which I was for a number of years. After that I was a supervisor in the Big Spring office, and the last 10 years of my career with the state I was the assistant to the area manager."

And while retirement from a state job might mean recreation and relaxation for some, Wegman said there was little time to sit around.

"After I retired from the state I took a few months off," said Wegman. "However, I still had two kids in college, and I wasn't really ready to quit working yet. I had supervisory experience, and around that time there was an opening at the city water office. So I worked as the supervisor



Debbie and Terry Wegman

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for the water office for about a year, and it was OK, but it didn't really seem to fit my personality. Then the CVB job came open and I applied for it, and I've been there about three years now.

"It's a lot of fun. I think it was probably the job that was really meant for me many years ago, but wouldn't have been the best job for me when I had small children. But the timing was just perfect. I am free to go to all of the meetings and activities in the city that I need to attend."

While some might consider Big Spring a dull place to hang their hat, Wegman said one only needs to take a look around to see Big Spring has plenty to offer area residents.

"I think our city is a fun place, and there's lots to do. People don't really seem to think that, but it's amazing how many people haven't been to the heritage Museum or the Potton House," said Wegman. "It really surprises me when I talk to people who have grown up in Big Spring but have never been to these places. It's a fun job for me. I have the Dora Roberts Community Center to take care of under the CVB umbrella, and that keeps me really, really busy. I book it as much as I can possibly book it."

"I'm really proud of the renovations we've made out at the community center. It has a fully commercial kitchen now and we've done renovations on the Lake Room, and we'll continue to make improvements to the facility. For the size of our city, we really have great activities. It seems like there's always something going on, whether it's the Powwow, the dog show, the triathlon or Pops in the Park."

Big Spring might be a busy place, but it only takes a cursory glance around the Wegman household to figure out just how busy things can get, with both Debbie and Terry already breaking a healthy sweat before most West Texans have had their first cup of coffee.

"Most mornings I'm up at 5 a.m., and I'm at the YMCA by 5:30 a.m.," said Wegman. "Terry teaches a spinning class there, so I go to the spinning class three days a week, and then on the other two days I do a weight workout. Right now I'm in a power puff class. After that I head back home and get ready to go to work."

"Most days I spend a lot of time booking DRCC, and I try to go to the hotels at least once a month and talk to the managers about what's going on. I also work on Channel 17, which is the city's cable channel, and update our events so people will know



what's going on in Big Spring. I keep the CVB Web site updated with events. I'm also busy in a lot of different civic organizations. You really wouldn't think the CVB in a little town like Big Spring would be all that busy, but I work with a lot of different event organizers, so it's pretty busy."

Though the couple's jobs certainly consume large parts of their time, the unique relationship between the CVB and the economic development corporation allows the pair to spend more time together than one might think.

"It's really been fun because we're at the same places and meetings most of the time. We work on a lot of the same issues because economic development and the CVB really go hand in hand," said Wegman. "If you can get economic development going here, you have more things that will draw visitors. And once you have more visitors coming to Big Spring, it helps the economic development."

It's been a lot of fun for us to be able to work in a lot of the same circles these last few years.

"I'm a member of Keep Big Spring Beautiful, the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club and I've been in the Hyperion Group. I'm also in an investment club. We're both active with St. Paul Lutheran Church. Our church life really helps keep us going. I really feel like I was in the right place at the right time to get this job, and that God put me there. And it's the same with Terry. It's kind of funny how things have gone the last couple of years, how they have worked out for both of us to be in these jobs. It's been fun, and we're very thankful for it."

Self-proclaimed "empty nesters," the Wegmans have plenty to be proud of thanks to their three children, and plenty to look forward to thanks to an expected delivery in May.

"We have three children, three boys," said Wegman with a wide grin. "There's Colby and his wife, Courtney, who live in Dallas. There's Drew and his wife, Britt, who live in Lubbock, and my youngest, Ryan, who also lives in Lubbock and is attending classes at Texas Tech. All three of my children — as well as me and Terry — went to Tech, so we're all red and black, through and through. All three of them studied business management."

"We're so excited right now. Colby and Courtney are having a boy in May, and this will be our first grandchild. I'm so ready, just two more months. I hope to be able to see my grandchild as much as possible. Of course, he'll be in Dallas, but it's a quick 4½ hour drive or an hour flight. We spend a lot of time with family. We go to most of the Tech football games and spend time with the kids up there."

While Debbie and Terry are both proud parents, the occasional stint in the local limelight associated with their positions — however new to the couple — is something the entire family enjoys.

"Our kids think it's fun. Whenever we're in the newspaper or on television, we have to call our kids and tell them to go online and read about it," she said with a laugh. "That's really taken some adjustment for me and Terry, because we're really not used to it. Before we took the jobs we have now, we were never in the news."

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Let the show begin



Stan Feaster enjoys being director of the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum

By Jonathan Hull

Chances are if you've lived in the Crossroads area for any significant amount of time you've probably attended an event at Howard College's Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Then it's also likely Stan Feaster has effected your experience, whether you realized it or not.

Feaster has been the coliseum director at Dorothy Garrett for 18 years now, taking the position in 1991.

More than 100 events are held at the facility yearly and

Feaster has a part in all of them.

"I like providing a service to the community. So many events take place in this facility," said Feaster. "It's exciting. We bring a lot of things in. We're obviously owned by the college so we host the Howard College men's and women's basketball teams all season. We also pick up some area high school basketball playoff games. We'll host things from high school graduations to banquets to dog shows. There's just a lot of things happening in here.

"I have my thumb on every event," he continued. "From the get-go with the contractual agreement to getting the logistics set, I'm involved somehow. I'm here for almost every event, and the ones I can't attend, I am sure someone from my support staff can step in and cover for me."

Depending on the event, Feaster might have as many as 20 individuals assisting him. However, he only has two full-time staff members available to him.

"Calvin Belvin is in charge of maintenance and he of-



ten goes above and beyond," noted Feaster. "There's also Betty Reed, who is the coliseum secretary as well as the athletic secretary."

Feaster has won a couple of different hats for Howard College's athletic program. At one time, he has served as both an assistant athletic director and sports information director.

Most recently, Feaster is acting as the cheerleading sponsor.

"I have been surprised by how rewarding working with the cheerleaders has been," he said. "It's been interesting and fun. I have always felt like the cheerleaders are the ones who set the tone for the evening as far as crowd involvement. We're probably more of an old yell team than anything. We have a great squad and I'm looking forward to bigger and better things with them."

Taking on so many different responsibilities is something Feaster has never shied away from. It's a lesson he learned early in his career at Howard.

"I always want to help others out. Someone showed me the ropes and helped me at one time," Feaster explained. "With all the different coaching and staff changes being made, there's always someone new coming in and needing to know how things work. I've been here for a good while. If I don't have the information or can't remember it, I have

ways to find it. I think anyone who has been on this campus for a good number of years is relied upon.

"I lean on others, too. The late Harold Davis helped me a ton," he continued. "Had it not been for him, I wouldn't have as much knowledge about the history of the athletic programs here. He was always there to give me whatever information I needed and I don't mind carrying that spirit on and helping others out."

The most frequent event gracing the court of the coliseum is undoubtedly Howard College basketball. The Hawks play in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference, which is considered one of the most competitive JUCO athletic leagues in the nation, delivering three national champions on the men's and women's sides combined over the past three years.

The high quality of basketball at Dorothy Garrett doesn't come just from the college ranks, though. Howard hosts several high school playoff games every season as well, and also served as the venue for the Class 4A regional tournament in 2003 and 2004.

"Basketball games are exciting for me," said Feaster. "I take care of all game logistics, from the opening of the front door to the ticket booth to the concession stands to the assigning of officials to



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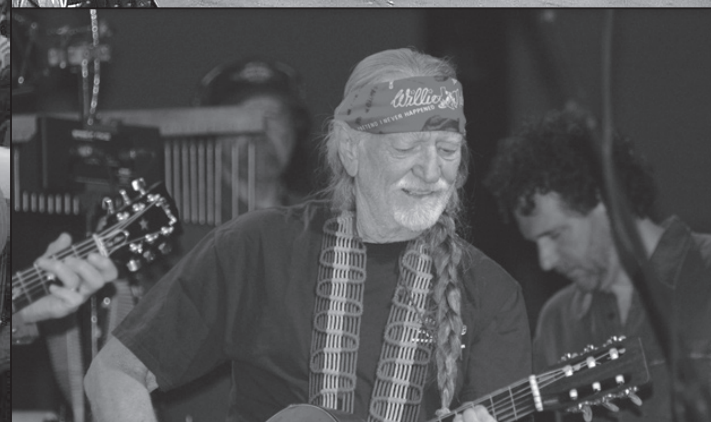
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More than a hundred events are held each year at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum and Stan Feaster is involved in all of them.



the halftime activities. It's a lot to handle, but I have a great support staff and that's worth mentioning. I have a lot of great people who step up and take on jobs."

Even though basketball is Feaster's favorite sport to watch, it's not the event he takes the most pride in hosting.

"There's not necessarily anything I enjoy that comes here more than everything else, but the particular events I consider the most special are the graduations we hold," said Feaster. "It fills the arena up and it's such a big night of accomplishment. I get choked up talking about it, having a daughter who has walked the stage. Graduation is one of the highlights for me every year."

Having a daughter receive her diploma at Dorothy Garrett holds a different type of personal feeling for Feaster given the amount of time he and his children have spent at the facility.

He has two daughters. Bree, 18, is a 2008 graduate of Big Spring High School and a current freshman at Howard. Belle, 15, is a sophomore at BSHS.

"The thing I have enjoyed the most about being here is watching my daughters basically grow up here," reflected Feaster. "That's been the ultimate. They were both born while I was here. It's been a very good experience."

"Having the ability to bring my daughters to the events here has magnified my relationship with them," he continued. "There's only so much time you can spend with your children. There is an irregular work schedule here, having to work a lot of nights and weekends. But there's a flexibility with working here, too. I've been able to attend their school functions and I was always able to bring them to a majority of the events."

After graduation ceremonies, there is one event that sticks out in Feaster's mind. Of course, few ever forget an encounter with the Redheaded Stranger.

"Willie Nelson came here in February of 2006. That was a lot of work, but was very enjoyable," noted Feaster. "It was one of the most

rewarding events we've held because we had people come from very far away just to see the show. Then, it was great to see Willie Nelson. He was such a great entertainer. Just one of the all-time greats."

While Feaster has rarely turned away anyone wanting to bring an event to the coliseum, but can recall one situation when he hoped someone would change their mind.

"Most of the events we have are commonly held at other venues. I was thankful at one time to have an event pull out," said Feaster. "The group that does the rattlesnake roundup was inquiring about hosting that event in our facility. I was really encouraging to look elsewhere. I was asking them how securely they kept their snakes under wraps. There are a lot of places they can hide here. I really wouldn't want to do that."

However, whether it's setting the stage for Willie Nelson, hosting the home team or prepping for wildlife, Feaster and his staff always have one goal in mind.

"Anything we do, we try to put our best foot forward because Howard College's name is going to be out there," said Feaster. "We want peo-

ple leaving every event we have here feeling good about what they experienced, whether

it's a ball game, circus or just a meeting. We want there to be a positive feeling about How-

ard College.

"Working with the chamber of commerce, the local media and citi-

zens has been an honor," he added. "In my opinion, I've got the best job in town."

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No place like home

For Shasta Sherman and Jill Johansen, coming back to Big Spring — or at least to the state hospital — was a natural thing to do

By Valerie Avery

A couple of hometown gals — Shasta (Fuqua) Sherman and Jill Johansen — never expected to or really desired to carve a career in the hometown that raised them, nurtured them and sent them packing so many years ago.

So off the Big Spring High School grads went — to gain the knowledge society had to offer and give them a place in the working world.

And both found that sometimes there's no place like home.

The two women — daughters of well-known Big Spring families (Sherman — the daughter of City Manager Gary Fuqua, and Jill Johansen of Johansen Nursery fame) saw firsthand what Big Spring had to offer. Their parents dealt with the general

public during good times and bad, so they both had a pretty good idea about the people, the job opportunities and the quality of life.

But each were drawn back, not

because of familial ties, but ties to a long-standing institution in Big Spring that neither knew much about when they were competing on the high school swim team or acting onstage — the Big Spring

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who live in Howard County have either worked at the psychiatric hospital or know someone who works at the facility.

Sherman had only visited one time — as a student seeking donations for the Big Spring High School French club. "I was scared," Sherman said. "We thought there were going to be all these sick people and we had these unrealistic thoughts about the place."

Johansen had a step up on Sherman — her senior year she interviewed and secured a job working half a day in medical records.

"I loved it," she recalled. When they graduated from Big Spring High School, Sherman went to Lubbock Christian University and Johansen to Howard College. They both ended up back home in Big Spring and at the state hospital, but they took divergent paths before settling in the Crossroads area.

Shasta Fuqua Sherman

Slender, quiet, unassuming, Sherman was your consum-

mate student. She graduated near the top of her class taking every advanced course thrown at her. She involved herself in band, theater, French Club, everything that was academic.

She didn't know where she wanted to attend school, but like many teenagers, she knew she wanted to be anywhere but here. She loved Big Spring, but she was ready to start a new life.

She chose Lubbock Christian University after meeting counselors from summer church camp who attended LCU. "It really felt like home and I enjoyed the small community of LCU."

Family studies was her first major of choice but after an internship at an assisted living center, she couldn't picture herself doing that in five or 10 years. She chose social work but needed another internship which required 400 hours.

"I never thought about getting the internship at the state hospital, but my advisor thought this would be a good resource for the college to draw from. And it was such a large hospital that LCU would

be able to draw upon it in the future for other specialties."

So Sherman became the first intern from LCU in the hospital's social work department.

One would think that Sherman chose the state hospital because of its proximity to her home, but her fiancée had recently graduated and settled in Midland.

She became a self-described sponge. When she interned at the assisted living center, she wrote a few stories for the newsletter and interacted with some of the patients, but was not involved to the degree in which she was in Big Spring.

"I just followed them around and asked questions, questions, questions," she said laughingly. "Kathy Salazar (the hospitals' director of social work) was great. She was so patient and just took me by the hand and helped me so much. My supervisors were great. I pestered Kathy all semester and she let me tag along all semester and all of the social workers all tried to teach me a lot and I learned a lot being around them. I enjoyed them and being around

the patients and I loved the family education part."

"She was a good fit from the beginning, both in terms of working in the psychiatric treatment environment and just fitting in with the staff," Salazar said. "It was a perfect situation; by the time she finished her internship we knew we wanted to hire her. She is an excellent social worker and patients' family members always give glowing reviews after working with Shasta."

When it was time to graduate, fiancée or no fiancée, the state hospital was where she wanted and needed to be.

"I really wasn't expecting to like the state hospital as much as I did. I thought I would do my social work here and then get into APS (Adult Protective Services) or a nursing home or work in Midland but I decided after 400 hours that I loved it here."

Her favorite part of the job is her interaction with the patients and partnering with the families before, during and after the hospitalization.

"Mental illness is not talked about in the public right now, so a lot of families who come here are not sure what is go-

ing on and not sure about the medication, and they have preconceived notions about the hospital setting and they are distraught and confused. It's neat to teach them about mental illness and the organizations that they didn't know existed. It's neat to start with the family and then at the end talk to the family and see where they are. Usually, we end up having a fairly close relationship and I recognize their voice and sometimes I have people who have been discharged for a year and they will still call. We worry about them sometimes when they go home, so I always love to hear from family members."

Sherman has no regrets returning to the town that she thought would raise her and set her free. She found out that the things that she knew the least about were the ones that have drawn her in even closer.

"At the end of the day, I'm really glad that I came here. I feel like God put me here for a reason. There's nothing else I can attribute it to."

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Jill Johansen

Johansen, who participated in tennis and competitive diving the first three years of high school, took a different approach than Sherman her senior year.

“The idea of going to school half a day and working the other half appealed to me,” she said with a smile.

The hard part was finding a job. When the state hospital advertised for a part-time medical records clerk, she applied and began working half a day filing medical records. And while some might think the job would be monotonous, boring or tedious, she felt as if she unearthed a treasure trove of information.

“It was just so interesting. I just learned so much from filing all those records.”

She continued working at the hospital after high school graduation, finishing her associate’s degree at Howard College. But she moved over to the Activities Therapy department as a therapist. After two years, she had to leave the safe confines of Big Spring.

“I left with really no intention of coming back,” Johansen said.

Johansen, like Sherman, also left for Lubbock with the intention of enrolling in courses aimed at some sort of “helping profession.”

She pursued and earned a job at the Lubbock State School — a school for persons living with mental retardation — while earning her undergraduate degree. “I thought it would be the same (as the Big Spring State Hospital), but it was so different.”

She considered a career in psychology, influenced in part by her time at the state hospital, but an encounter with Gail Zilai, the former director of ATD, convinced her that social work would be a good fit. Upon graduating from Texas Tech, she felt as if “she was unprepared to help anybody,” and entered graduate school at University of Texas-Arlington.

Three days after graduating in August 2005, she was back where she started — at Big Spring State Hospital.

“I really didn’t want to come back to Big Spring and tried hard not to. But I have a special place for this hospital and I think we do excellent work here. You just can’t exchange the experience that I got here the past three and half years. I work here with so many people in so many different

situations. We have so much diversity at the hospital and it’s been an excellent experience.”

The hospital’s leadership long ago recognized what Johansen didn’t see herself when she was a young 17-year-old filing patient histories in medical records.

“Jill loves the hospital environment and what it stands for, and Jill has always been a social worker at heart,” Salazar said. “She left Big Spring to attend school and during those years she gained experiences teaching in the public school system, working at Lubbock State School and in the DSHS Child Protective Services division in Arlington. These experiences have served her well here at BSSH. She is growing in clinical knowledge and supervisory duties and we are very glad to

have her working with us.”

For now, the young woman who gained a strong work ethic watching her parents tend to plants, vegetation, balancing books, dealing with customers and working even after they got home has found her calling and a place to put her own name on the map.

“I just really feel like I have had very supportive leadership which has nurtured me and encouraged me to grow as a social worker and as a professional and working on my clinical license. I’ve enjoyed every job I have had here and I think it’s a good place to be. The very first social work class I attended at Texas Tech said that you know early on whether this field is for you. And from the first day I knew that was the place I needed to be.”

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PROFILE 2009



Faith & Courage



*Inside:
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A publication of the
BIG SPRING
HERALD

Sunday, March 29, 2009



Called to the priesthood

The Rev. Kirk-Norris says the long journey was worth the wait



By Lyndel Moody

The Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris, rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, felt her call to ministry at a very early age but responding to that call took nearly 20 years and determination to endure even biblical-like plagues.

Kirk-Norris grew up in the Roman Catholic faith. She was educated at a parochial school in Knoxville, Tenn., during the early 1980s, and it was an assignment for her religious class that left a lasting impression on the 15-year-old student.

"The teacher at the time was right out of school and was on his way to becoming a Catholic priest," she recalled. "He wanted us to debate on issues facing the Catholic church. One issue was should women be ordained. I was the only girl in the class. The guys could care less — 15-year-old boys, that's not what they're interested in."

"I did my research and presented my case and there were no rebuttals. When I got ready to leave the class that day the teacher said 'Barbara you've really got a point there.'"

A few years later, her call was re-enforced by an unlikely source.

"My senior year, the last day of class, the Catholic priest teaching the senior class was also my personal priest," she said. "He called me over to the desk as everybody's leaving, and I'm thinking 'what did I not turn in, am I not going to graduate.' I walked over to the desk, and he said 'Barbara you have a calling for ministry, but it's not going to be in this denomination because your calling is the priesthood.'"

To follow her calling, Kirk-Norris knew she would have to change dominations.

"When I sought this. I was looking at liturgical churches," she said. "I knew that was what I needed and that was my comfort zone. So I did look at the Lutheran Church and the Episcopal Church. I chose a very small Episcopal church where I didn't know anybody, and they didn't know me."

"About nine months later I was received in the church. I had already told them that becoming a priest is what I needed to do, and they made me wait five years to start the process. There is not a canon for how long you need to be in the church before starting the process (to become a priest), but it's not a bad idea."

The road to priesthood took much longer than the original five years.

The Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris gives bread to one of her St. Mary's Episcopal Church parishioners during communion while church deacon John Marshall looks on. Kirk-Norris has served the parish since January coming from Bardstown, Ky. Originally from Knoxville, Tenn., Kirk-Norris and her husband, Bill, have acclimated well to West Texas.

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"In the Episcopal church your rector takes you to a bishop to start the process," she said. "I had a priest leave, I had a bishop leave. I had a priest die, and if the church has an interim priest, unless the interim has been there for five years, then they are not allowed to take you to the bishop."

During the wait, Kirk-Norris took advantage of the many scholarly religious programs offered through the Episcopal church while working in various areas of employment.

"God works in mysterious ways," she said. "One of requirements — or at least in the Dioceses in Tennessee where I was — was to work in the church. Right after my husband (Bill) and I were married, one of the ladies at the church saw how I planned our wedding. I like to throw a good party."

"The wedding was very spiritual, and she like the way I planned it," she continued. "They were looking for someone to do special events at the church and adult education. I have a masters in adult education and technology. When I met with the new priest ... he thought I was going in for a job interview, I thought I was going in to talk to him about going to see the bishop. He offered me a job. He told me 'you work here and see how you like the back side', and he said 'we'll talk in a year.'"

"In a year, I went up to him after our weekly staff meeting, and I said 'OK it's been a year and I still feel a call.' He looked at me, and he said 'I don't know if I should hug you or just go and get a drink. You are either going to laugh, or your going to cry, and you're probably going to do a lot of both. But if that is what you feel then I'll take you to the bishop.' From then on it went very fast."

In 2001, Kirk-Norris began school at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Va. She said the three-year program was both exhilarating and trying — as were the worldly events occurring outside the seminary's "front doors."

Three weeks after Kirk-Norris began school, terrorists attacked the United States, destroying the World

Trade Center and damaging the Pentagon, a building located less than three miles from the school. And the biblical-like plague events continued.

"We had the sniper attacks the next fall," she said. "We had the blizzard. We had a hurricane. The Potomac flood downtown Alexandria. Every year there was something."

And then came the locusts.

"When we graduated three years later, the cicadas were out," she said. "They come out every 17 years. The dean of the school held a picnic for us at her house. Her house was on the property. We're getting ready to eat dinner under trees. She's beginning her prayer and all of a sudden a cicada drops down on her. She finishes her prayer and said "We love your class, but I so glad that you're leaving. Maybe life will go back to normal."

After graduation and ordination, Kirk-Norris served a four-year stint as rector for a parish in Bardstown, Ky., before she accepted the call to St. Mary's. She has served as the parish rector since January.

Although far from home and family, Kirk-Norris and her husband seemed to have acclimated well to West Texas.

And her long journey to the priesthood has only made her stronger, she said.

"Whether I am good or a better priest in general I don't know, but I do feel because I have gone through quite a few hurdles, stops along the way, I'm better at what I want to do," she said.

"God has a good sense of humor. Sometimes you learn this lesson and it happens again. No matter what it is.

"Something can happen to me whether it is financial, health-related, spiritual — I may not even be through with it in my life and it feels like the next day somebody's knocking on my door with something similar. It gives me more compassion. It gives me sympathy, empathy, but it also make me stronger because I know if I can get through it, anybody can."



East Side Baptist Church

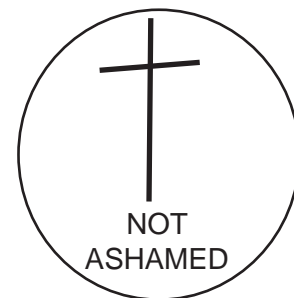


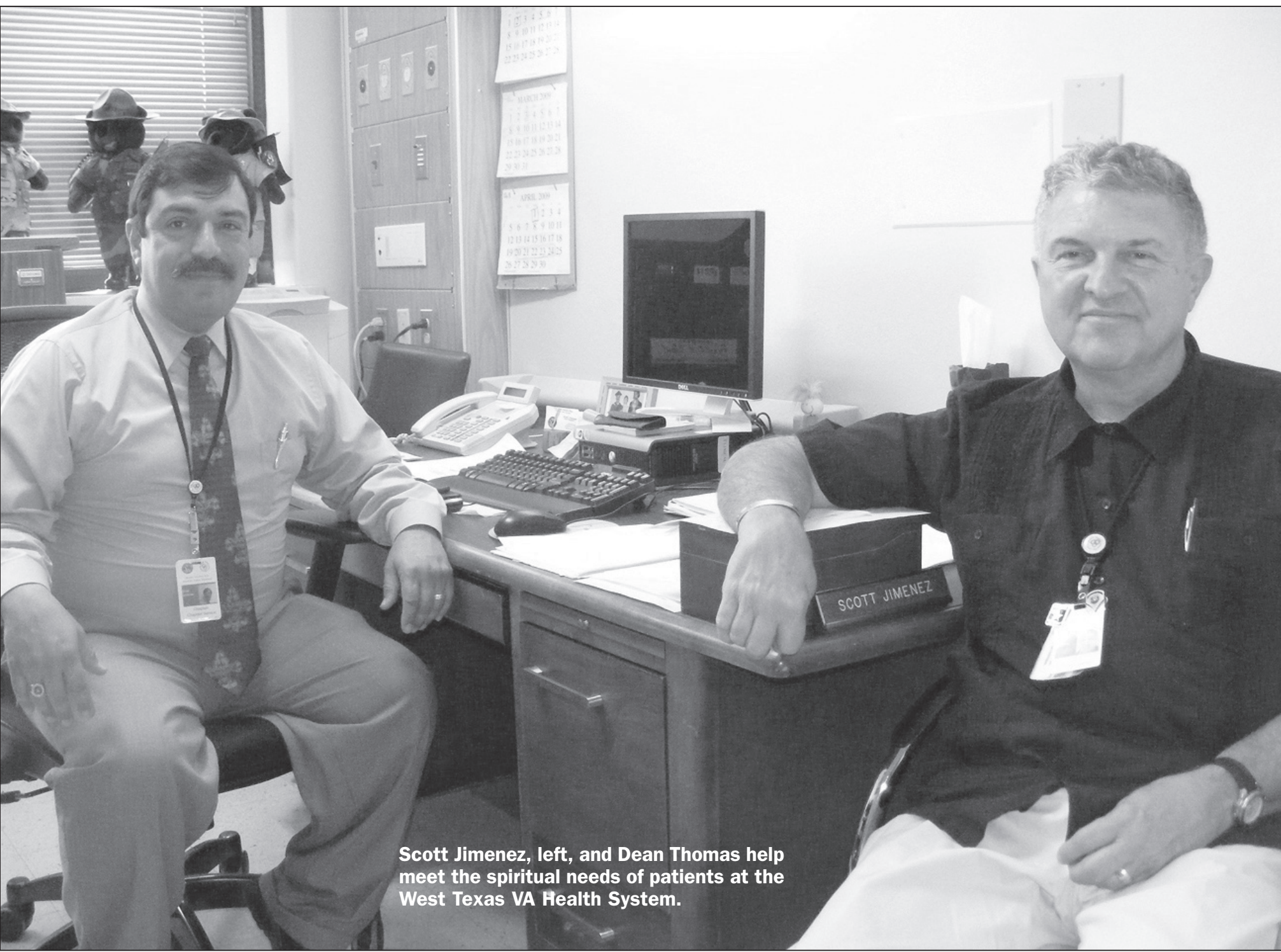
WEEKLY SERVICES:

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:45 a.m.

Evening Worship.....1:45 p.m.
Wednesday Worship.....7:00 p.m.
Bible Club And Teen Classes.....6:00 p.m.

Pastor Doug Shelley
East 6th & Settles Big Spring, TX
267-1915
E-mail d.shelley@juno.com





Scott Jimenez, left, and Dean Thomas help meet the spiritual needs of patients at the West Texas VA Health System.

Helping to heal vets' spirits

By Steve Reagan

Doctors at the local VA hospital tends to their patients' medical needs. Dean Thomas and

Scott Jimenez help with their souls.

Thomas and Jimenez are the staff chaplains at the Big Spring VA Medical Center and are entrusted with helping

meet the spiritual needs of the thousands of veterans who walk through the center's doors each year.

"We minister to people of all faiths, regardless

of denomination," Jimenez said. "And we're facilitators, too ... If we can't meet the patient's individual needs, we'll find someone who can."

"We're here for the emotional or spiritual needs of the veterans," Thomas said. "While the doctors meet their physical needs, we're here to meet their other needs as well."

Thomas has been on staff at the Big Spring VA for 17 years. After three years as a medical technician, he joined the chaplain corps.

"I had been a chaplain in the Kansas prison system years ago," he said. "So, when both of (the VA's) chaplains left in 1995, they asked me to serve and I said OK." He said he felt a "call-

ing" to become a chaplain.

"While the doctors meet their physical needs, we're here to meet their other needs as well."

—Chaplain Dean Thomas

"It was a calling," he said. "When I came here to Big Spring I

didn't have a church ... and I kind of wondered what would happen, so when this came open, I jumped at it."

Jimenez is a relative newcomer to Big Spring, having served here less than eight months. The U.S. Navy veteran served as chaplain at a private hospital in Wyoming for about six years before moving to West Texas.

"I had been a chaplain in the Navy and when I got out, I was looking for a way to utilize my skills," Jimenez said. "Being a hospital chaplain seemed to fit the bill."

While a VA chaplain provides many of the same services as a church's minister, they have other responsibilities as well. Thomas, for example, holds daily substance abuse classes at 9 a.m. and that's merely the start of a busy day.

"They definitely keep us busy," Thomas said. "I told Scott when he came here that he wouldn't be bored. There's always some-

First Church of the Nazarene
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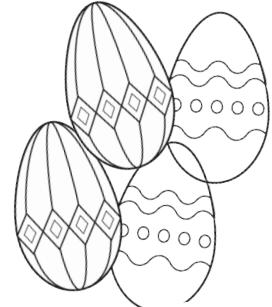
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- **Wednesday** •
 - Bible Studies (All Ages)..... 6:30 pm



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16739

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Schedule Of Services
SUNDAY

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- MORNING WORSHIP.....11:00 A.M.
- CHOIR PRACTICE.....4:30 P.M.
- BIBLE STUDY CLASS.....5:30 P.M.
- PRAYER GROUPS.....5:30 P.M.
- EVANGELISTIC SERVICE.....6:00 P.M.

MIDWEEK SERVICE

- WEDNESDAY EVENING.....7:00 P.M.
- YOUTH BIBLE STUDY.....7:00 P.M.

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- Servicio de Domingo - 10:00 am
- Servicio de Domingo en la tarde - 5:00 pm
- Miércoles - Estudio de la Biblia - 7:00 pm

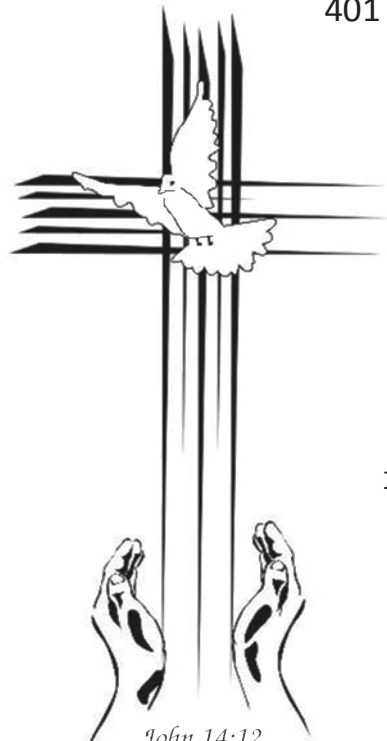


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Sunday Services

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- 11:00am Morning Worship

- 5:00pm Mission Classes
- 6:00pm Evening Worship

Wednesday Services

- 7:00pm Prayer & Bible Study - all ages

For more information call 267-2291

See **CHAPLAINS**, Page 6

The Lord leads Pat Simmons where she goes — from beautification projects to the Festival of Lights. It's no secret she's



Community minded

By Amanda Moreno

There are some people who enjoy helping others, whether it's by lending a hand to an individual or volunteering for community organizations. Big Spring has served not only as a home for Pat Simmons, but as an inspiration.

Community service and improvement of her "home" have become a way of life.

Simmons was born and raised in Big Spring, but she managed to travel for 20 years. She has lived in El Paso, Roswell, N.M., Oklahoma, Kansas and even Libya.

"I enjoyed my experiences while I was away, especially in Libya. It was all about having to learn their culture. It was an interesting experience," Simmons said.

She spent 18 years working at the state hospital pharmacy. She is the middle child out of seven children.

Throughout her years, she has contributed to the community in many ways. She is responsible for putting the Festival of Lights into motion and has been very instrumental in the Keep Big Spring Beautiful organization.

This past year was the

12th for the Festival of Lights, which attracted 20,000 visitors. Simmons never planned on starting the project until a friend brought up the idea on a parade float.

"My friend asked why the city didn't light up the park at Christmas, and as soon as she said that, I could see thousands of diamond lights spread throughout the park," Simmons said.

She started the research and gathered a group of nine people to help her start up the project. The first year attracted 5,111 visitors. All the lights were donated.

Festival of Lights still relies on donations, but has grown. Once centered around the spring area, it has since spread throughout Comanche Trail Park, and draws visitors from miles around each year.

Simmons said people tell her of others they meet who know about

Big Spring because of the beautiful poinsettias that make their appearance as part of the festival at Christmas-time.

Simmons has given the Festival of Lights its wings and has seen it blossom into a wonderful lighting event. She has had numerous people who have contributed greatly to the project. Howard Stewart has been a huge help in the project the past few years and has taken on a great deal of the workload, according to Simmons.

Simmons didn't come from a glamorous background, but she overcame the obstacles that stood in her way. She attributes part of her inspiration to do community service to living in her apartment.

"I have lived in the same apartment for 34 years. I think it's the reason that I can do so much community ser-



Above, Pat Simmons and Bobby McDonald begin setting up poinsettias on the dam along U.S. Highway 87. For a look at the finished project, see Page 6. At left, Pat relaxes in her apartment, where she's lived for 34 years.

Herald file photos

14TH AND MAIN CHURCH OF CHRIST



The churches of Christ have a unique history. Rather than being Catholic, Protestant, or Jewish, the churches of Christ are Restorationist. Their aim is to restore the church of Christ by doing exactly what Jesus and his apostles taught when the church was first established in Jerusalem.

This idea of restoring the New Testament church came about primarily in America the 19th century. A movement to abandon man-made religious creeds and to "speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent", was the catalyst for the development of many congregations of the churches of Christ.

The Church of Christ that now meets at 14th and Main in Big Spring was first assembled in 1912. Believers in this restoration plea first began meeting in the "Old School Presbyterian church building. By 1924 the group had out grown that facility. They purchased land at the corner of 4th and Gregg where a small meeting place was built. By 1928 the membership was approximately 160 members and still larger facilities were needed. After lots were obtained at the corner of 14th and Main, a building was begun in January 1929 and completed in March. Other buildings have been added through the years as needed.

Today the Christians meeting at 14th and Main remain true to the restoration plea. The Bible is the only source of direction for conversion, worship and living. Jesus is the head of the church. Elders, deacons, preachers and teachers are appointed by the guidelines of the Bible. Unity is achieved by letting God's Word be the final word in all matters.

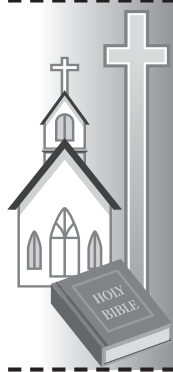
We welcome anyone who would embrace with us this unique approach to church restoration. We are simply Christians, baptized believers who follow Jesus and obey God's Word.

Rick Cunningham, Pulpit Minister
Scott Prather Youth/Education Minister

1401 MAIN 263-1303

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY.....9:00 AM
SUNDAY AM WORSHIP.....10:00 AM
SUNDAY PM WORSHIP.....5:00 PM
WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS.....7:00 PM
TUESDAY LADIES CLASS.....10:00 AM

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SUNDAY

BIBLE STUDY.....9:30 AM
MORNING WORSHIP.....11:00 AM
CHILDREN'S EXTENDED WORSHIP.....11:00 AM
EVENING WORSHIP.....6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY.....7:00 PM
YOUTH BIBLE STUDY.....7:00 PM

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CHAPLAINS

Continued from Page 4

thing to do and people to see."

Both men perform "spiritual assessments" on new patients as a way to figure out how best to meet their non-medical needs, make daily rounds, hold Sunday worship services and send out condolences to family members of recently deceased veterans.

Tending to dying veterans is the toughest part of the job, Thomas said.

"I'd rather know them at the end of their lives than not at all," he said. "But it is sad to see them pass."

And that just covers part of their duties.

"One of the VA's goals is to reach the veteran," Jimenez said. "We realize that not all of them can come here, so we go to them. We are going to outlying cities in our service area and holding clergy conferences as a way to help area ministers better meet the needs of returning veterans."

This newest outreach program is designed to help officials identify veteran's problems more quickly and effectively.

"We decided that the veteran's church family can be the first line in reaching them," Jimenez said. "We've found that newly discharged veterans are very likely to go to their pastor when they're having problems."

Jimenez said chaplains draw experts in from all fields to meet with clergy members at the conferences, which are scheduled in the near future at Abilene, San Angelo, Midland and Hobbs, N.M.

Thomas said the chaplain's role has evolved over the years.

"Many of the newer veterans have different needs than the older ones," he said. "They're more cynical and many of them have little exposure to spirituality. With the older vets, many were raised in the church, but the younger ones may have never been around organized religion."

Despite the challenges and the busy workload, both men said they have a dream job.

"I love my job," Thomas said, "because I can help people, help them in their recovery."

vice. I have the time because I don't have to worry about painting a house and mowing grass," Simmons said.

Other projects she holds dear are Keep Big Spring Beautiful and Don't Mess with Texas. She has been involved, for about six years, with Keep Big Spring Beautiful. She became involved with the Don't Mess

with Texas Trash Off project and other clean up projects through Proud Citizens. There are about 60 members, plus numerous businesses involved.

"I looked around one day and realized how much needed to be done. I got involved with the Don't Mess With Texas project first. I took six ladies with me to a

meeting in Midland and it took off from there," Simmons said.

Her hard work with Keep Texas Beautiful earned Simmons a Lifetime Award. She said she does her part because she is interested in Big Spring and sees its potential.

"This is my hometown, and I want to see it return to the beauty I experienced when I was growing up," Simmons said, adding that years ago, people seemed to take more pride in what they had, no matter how little it might be.

Another way Simmons helps contribute to the beautification of Big Spring is through the Doing Your Part project. This project came from the Yellow Rose Award, which Simmons founded in 1997. She only had that award program for two years. The concept of the two are the same, though. It is about finding owners whose yards and homes indicate they have done their part to keep Big Spring looking beautiful.

"I go around town

looking for homes that make a difference. Each month its a different home and a different part of the community," Simmons said.

She tries to select a home from each city council member's district.

Simmons said a yard can reveal the spiritual condition of the home.

Simmons is also part of the Howard County Bible Board. Its objective is to raise money and support the humanities classes taught in area high schools — Forsan, Big Spring and Coahoma.

Simmons is constantly keeping herself busy, jumping from project to project. Some of the smaller projects, but none-the-less important, are the Christmas Bird Count and organizing high school reunions for the Big Spring classes of 1943-1946.

Birdwatching was something her younger sister was involved in and Simmons just happened to fall into.

"One day while I was with my sister, while

she was bird watching, we saw the painted bunting and I was stunned," said Simmons, the middle child out of seven. "It was so beautiful and struck my interest, from then on I was interested in bird watching."

Simmons contributes all of her accomplishments to her relationship with the Lord. She said the Lord has helped her in every walk of life that she has taken.

"I am amazed at what I've done — not so much what I've done — but what the Lord has used me for. It's something I never would have thought," Simmons said.

Others have taken note of her efforts. In 1998, for instance, she received the Woman of the Year award from the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

Simmons doesn't like to hear people talk negatively about her community — she'd rather they stop talking, and get busy doing something about it.


"It's an honor to live in Big Spring, it's where my roots are. My memories, the good and the bad, are here. I may have moved on, but this is where my roots are and have been," Simmons said.

"There is still hope for this town. You don't give up just because it seems hopeless."

"Everyone has a choice. My goal in life is to be able to say in the end, that I pleased the Lord no matter what. Whatever it is I do, I hope that it honors and pleases the Lord."



Pat Simmons accepts the Community Builder Award from Staked Plains Lodge 598 Lodge



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16768

Birdwell Lane Church Of Christ

Sunday Bible School.....9:00 am
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Sunday Evening Service.....5:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Study.....7:00 pm

16670

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Children's Education Classes
Youth Education - Adult Bible Study

SUNDAY - Second Hour - 10:40 am
Children's Church - Worship and Praise
6:00 pm - Evening Service

TUESDAY - Keen Agers (1st) - 11:00 am

WEDNESDAY - Family Night - 7:00 pm
Missionettes, Royal Rangers
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PROFILE 2009



Health & Fitness



A publication of the
BIG SPRING
HERALD

Sunday, March 29, 2009

Members of the Howard College Hawks basketball team celebrate after winning the Region V Tournament.



'Pretty good' is not enough

Howard College's Hawks no longer settle for the conference cellar

By Jonathan Hull

It's been coined "The Great Turnaround."

This is in reference to the leaps and bounds the Howard

College women's basketball team has made over the past four seasons.

It took four years, but the Howard College women's basketball team climbed the

ladder out of the cellar and reached the top of its region.

Howard College defeated Odessa College, 78-53, in the finals of the Region V Tournament, earning a berth into

the NJCAA Women's Basketball National Tournament.

It had been more than 10 years since Howard last made an appearance at the national tournament after fans and

followers of the program had become almost spoiled with contending for an NJCAA championship in the previous decade.

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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.

Howard entered the tournament undefeated and ranked No. 1 in the nation. Unfortunately, the Hawks were upset in the first round, crushing their hopes of a national title.

However, they still played with pride. They won the consolation side of the bracket, meaning a seventh-place 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 didn't experience the same amount of success at the tournament that year and didn't even garner placement.

Coach Matt Corkery was responsible for leading the Hawks to the tournament in 1998 and took them to their top finish in program history, placing third.

Then the coaching carousel began. Up until January of 2005, no individual stayed in charge of the program for more than two years.

However, that was soon to change.

Some people simply love to be challenged.

Take Earl Diddle, for example.

When Diddle took over the Hawks' women's basketball program in January 2005, he inherited what appeared to be a solid team on paper. After all, the Hawks were about to enter conference play with a 9-2

record.

Things weren't quite what they seemed, however. Howard's coaches quit on the team during the Christmas break and several of the players followed suit. Diddle obtained the keys to a jalopy, not a Cadillac.

Once the coaches quit, several of the players followed suit.

"I was told the situation was bad when I took the job, but I didn't realize how bad it really was until I arrived," Diddle said. "When I got here, I had five players, plus a manager. We recruited a softball player, so that we'd have at least two subs. Every program I ever inherited had just come off a bad season. Howard was at the lowest of the low, though. I had never seen a program in such disarray."

Needless to say, the Hawks didn't win a game in the competitive Western Junior College Athletic Conference in Diddle's first year. He never shied away

from the trying times, though.

"I've never minded taking on challenging situations," he said. "The biggest reason why is that I'm not afraid to fail. I know what's at stake. I never go into a job with the fear of failing, though.

"This job really tested me, though," Diddle continued. "I don't think I ever worked as hard as I did for a two year period and not see obvious results. There was a lot of frustration. I really had to be patient and trust we were doing the right things for the program."

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.

For many, it's hard to believe a once-dominant program that was contending for JUCO national titles throughout the 1990s could sud-

denly become so dire. Diddle says the reasons were obvious, though.

"This program became a carousel for coaches," he said. "Coaches weren't giving a full commitment to it and it just became a revolving door with a new group coming in each season. Nothing can be built when its being treated that way.

"When I came here with (assistant coach) Eric (Rodewald), we made a commitment to this program and to recruit the right type of girls for it," Diddle continued. "It wasn't just about getting great athletes or great basketball players. There are plenty of those out there. We also wanted to get the right girls for our system. We wanted girls who would represent us in a positive way off the court and in the classroom."

Whatever Diddle did paid off. In the 2007-2008 season, the Hawks finally had a breakthrough, finishing 25-7, which was good enough for fourth in the WJCAC, and advancing as far

as the semifinals of the Region V Tournament held at Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton. It was Howard's first appearance at the tournament since 2001.

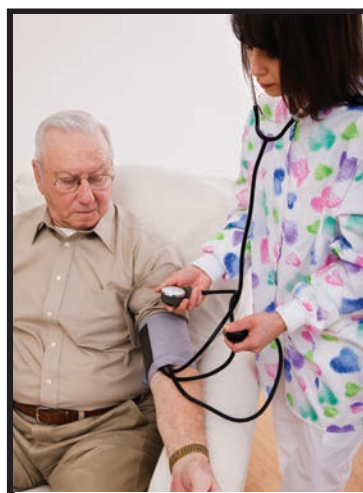
The Hawks were eliminated by South Plains College in the tourney, but the appearance at the regional was only a sign of what was to come. Howard once again finished fourth in the WJCAC this season, placing them in the Region V Tournament as the lowest seed from the conference.

In the opening round of the 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.

"It's really inspirational," said Diddle. "These girls have a lot of emotion. They're always hopping around. They're great. They deserve this. I thought we



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were always a pretty good team. We went through a part of the season where we were sick and injured, but they really came back. They played with no fear today. They believed they could win this. I'm very

proud for this school. I'm very proud of our kids.

"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 com-

munity," he continued. "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) was ranked sixth in the tournament field of 16. The double-elimination tournament wasn't exactly kind to the Hawks either, though.

The Hawks lost to the 11th-seeded Kaskaskia College (Ill.) Blue Angels in the first round, 61-55. Howard scored the first 12 points of the game and led by as many as 18 in the first half.

However, Kaskaskia answered, cutting the deficit to 6 by the break and eventually overtaking Howard for good in the second half.

The Hawks were then eliminated in the quarterfinals of the consolation bracket by Vincennes University (Ind.), 61-53.

Still, it was a year Diddle can build around.

"We had a great year and there was plenty to be proud of," reflected Diddle. "Of course, it's disappointing how it ended. We faced a lot of great basketball players here and this program gained a lot from this experience. I gained a lot from it, too. I now know what it takes to win games at the national tournament. It was my first time here and I definitely learned a lot."

Now comes the challenge of keeping Howard at this level. While he admits it will be difficult, Diddle is confident he can take the right steps to be certain this won't be the Hawks final trip to the national tournament.

"We might be starting over completely depending on how much we lose," said Diddle. "We've had some great sophomores and they were a big part of building this program. Recruiting is going to be a lot easier than it was five years ago when we were in the same situation because we're coming off of an appearance at the national tournament. We'll get back. Take a day to regroup and then we'll get on the recruiting trail and start trying to work our way back to Salina."

It's not a secret to any college coach — success lies in recruiting.

"That was our first focus," said Diddle. "We knew we had to hit the recruiting field hard. It wasn't easy either. We're recruiting this area against Midland, Odessa and South Plains. There is nothing Howard can offer those schools can't. In fact, they offer a lot more than Howard does.



That's just how it is. It has been incredibly hard to recruit locally because of that.

"A lot of locals say we don't try to recruit the area," he continued. "That's not true. We try to get local talent first. It's just that anyone good enough to play at this level of basketball usually chooses Midland or one of the other Big 3 over us. That's just how it works out. That doesn't mean we'll stop trying to recruit this area, either."

Diddle's vigilance to recruiting the area comes from his experience in a similar situation when he was the head coach at Eastern New Mexico University.

"When I was at Eastern, we always lost the best recruits to New Mexico," he recalled. "They were the bigger school and kids were drawn there. Then one year we had a breakthrough and actually won a recruiting battle with UNM. It kind of turned the tide from there. We won several more recruiting battles over the next few years I was there."

"You see the best recruiting is done by a program's current and former players," he continued. "That is our best tool. When I came to Howard, the girls in the program weren't happy with it. That put us at a disadvantage in recruiting. Things will start getting better now that we have had a taste of winning. The atmosphere here is much better and the players are happy."

Diddle has been turning dire situations to the right direction all

his life. However, turning around a women's basketball program was a new experience. He spent the first 31 years of his 36 years coaching in the men's game.

His first job as a women's head coach came in 2003 with Butler County Community College in Kansas. Howard is only his second stop in his career coaching women, but Diddle is hopeful it is also his last.

"Nothing is ever for sure, but I really hope this is my final stop," he said. "I turn 59 this year and it's always time to consider where my final spot will be. I don't have a timetable for it. I've always said I'll know exactly when it's time for me to walk away. As soon as recruiting becomes a job, then it's time for me to quit. If I can't just enjoy what I do, then I need to walk away."

"I've truly been blessed to have the life and career I've had," he continued.

"I've had great coaches from the junior high level to the college level. I got to play college basketball under (ex-NBA player and former Cleveland Cavaliers coach) Bill Mussleman. I've had success wherever I've gone. Yet, my most rewarding moment in coaching was when Howard won a game in the regional tournament last season. I felt so good for the girls who had stuck with this program the way they did. I love West Texas and this community. I think this would be a great place for me to finish my career."



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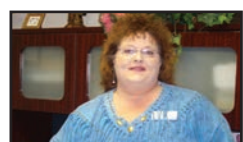
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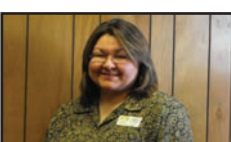
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Against the odds

A miracle baby, state champion Jordan Valle reaches for the tape

By Jonathan Hull

In November 2008, Big Spring High School senior Jordan Valle beat everyone to the finish line at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock, claiming an individual state championship in cross country.

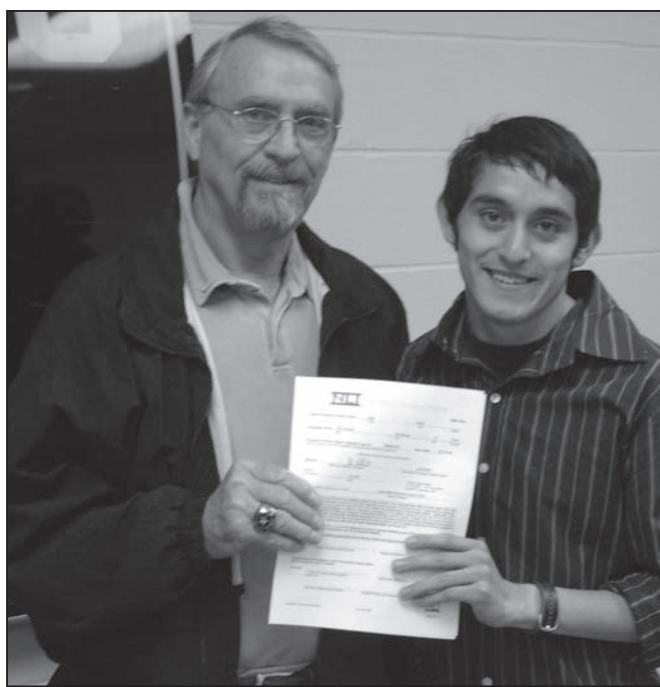
According to doctors and statistics, he was never supposed to make it that far.

In fact, the cards have been stacked against Valle since birth.

He was born with a condition called gastroschisis, which is an abdominal wall defect in which the intestines and sometimes other organs develop outside the fetal abdomen through an opening in the abdominal wall.

While advances in surgical techniques and intensive care management have increased the survival rate to 90 percent today, when Valle was born July 14, 1991, he didn't have as much of a chance.

"Jordan and his twin Joseph were born six weeks early," recalled Valle's mother Celeste. "I had been in the hospital for more than a week with premature labor. Joseph was born fine, but Jordan was born with this problem. We had no idea he would be born that way until



Herald file photo
Jordan Valle with Coach Randy Britton.

the day of his birth. He spent the first five days of his life in surgery."

His mother recalls being told Valle was the smallest child ever born at University Medical Center in Lubbock. He weighed just three pounds, six ounces.

However, this is when Valle started to buck the trend of how his life was supposed to be.

"Usually, more surgeries are required with this defect later in life," noted Celeste, "and stomach problems usually stick around. Jordan doesn't have any problems in his stomach. He would cry a lot as a baby, but I think it was because he was hungry."

"I was told to only feed

him so much when he was an infant," she added. "I always told the doctor I thought it was because he was hungry. We started to feed him more and he didn't have any problems and he didn't cry as much, either. He didn't have the problems the doctors said he would."

Still, Valle wasn't nearly as big as many of his classmates and he struggled in the classroom as well as with athletics while in grade school.

"He was smaller than everyone and was a little slower," said Celeste.



"He's always been a well-mannered kid, but he has dyslexia and had to be in resource classes to get extra help. He also had speech problems and struggled in school.

"I always liked running, but it was hard for me when I was really young," recalled Jordan. "It was always hard for me to keep up with my cousins and brother. When I was in second grade, they always told us to run for P.E. You could either walk or you could run the whole time. I always tried to run the whole time. It's what I liked doing. That's when I really started to develop."

Valle's early life led one to believe he'd be anything but a state champion.

However, sports and competition have a way of inspiring great things.

Even when he did make

the cross country team, winning a state title was still seen as incredibly unlikely for him.

As a sophomore, Valle was a member of the team that won a Class 4A state title in 2006, but wasn't exactly figured into the results. He finished 168th with a time of 18:20.90.

However, he emerged as a contender in 2007 as a junior, winning several races and pushing team leader Zach Dawson. Dawson was a third-place finisher in cross country in 2007 and 2008 and won a state

title in the mile in 2008 as a senior.

With Dawson in his sights, Valle finished second in District 4-4A, third in Region I and 12th at state. His time at state improved more than two minutes with a 16:01.35.

"Jordan is a poster child of how dedicated a runner has to be in this sport to be successful," said Big Spring Cross Country Coach Randy Britton before the 2008 state meet. "He worked so hard to improve over the past two seasons. I wish everyone I've

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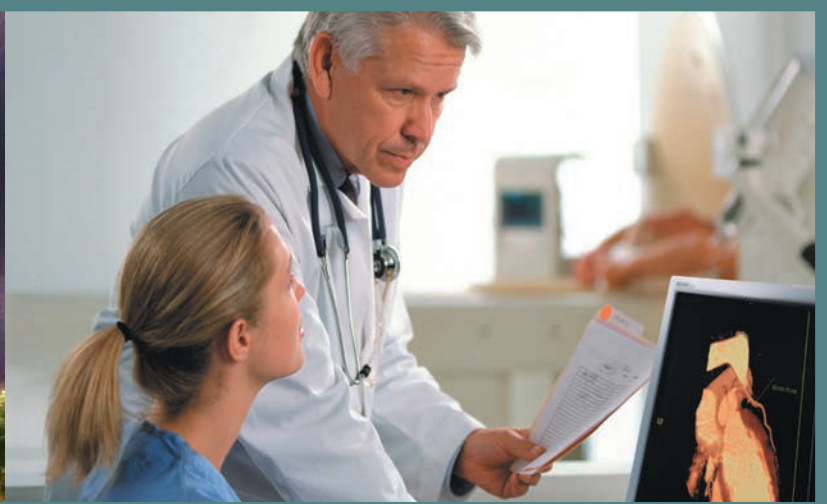
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Courtesy photo

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, left, and State Rep. Joe Heflin pose with Jordan Valle after the Big Spring High School student won a state cross country championship.



coached over the years had the attitude he has."

Entering the 2008 state meet as one of the favorites to contend for a state title, Valle didn't disappoint. He completed the 3-mile course in 15:15, claiming the top spot on the podium.

The miracle baby had become

a golden boy and he remembered the trials he had to overcome to be considered the top runner in the state even in a moment jubilation.

"Every time I think back on the moment when it happened, it feels really great," reflected Valle. "I was tired right before I came across the finish line. I was really exhausted cause I didn't know where the other guys

were and I was just trying really hard to finish it. Once I realized I had come across in first, I went just completely out of my mind. I just wanted to jump and celebrate right there. I didn't because I wanted to show some sportsmanship and not come off cocky."

He's not done, either. Valle has plans for the spring track season.

"I want to try and get a double in the two-mile and mile," said Valle. "It will be against a lot of the same competition I faced in cross country. I think I have a good chance of doing it."

It's not only in athletics where Valle has improved. He now makes straight As.

"I think cross country helped me as a student," said Valle.

"I was struggling to make my grades before, but if you want to run cross country then you

have to be passing to compete. Knowing I had to do that, motivated me to get better grades."

After graduation, Valle will attend Texas A&M, Corpus Christi where he will run cross country and track.

For his mother and the rest of his family, knowing he'll be moving on is bittersweet.

"I hated seeing how he would struggle when he was a kid. I wanted to help him so bad. He would get frustrated and I would get frustrated, too," said Celeste. "Now, it's amazing to see how far he's come. They gave him little to no chance to live. To see him go against those odds and become a good runner is just awesome. It's sad that he's going to be leaving after this year, but we all want him to go. There are bigger and better things out there for him to accomplish."

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What do you tell people who say they could never do your job: When I first told my mother I took a job at the state hospital, she told me I would never make it because I was very quiet, and very timid and had never experienced anything close to the field I had just chosen. But I have grown up at the hospital, and I have learned so many things about individuals with mental illness. I tell people there are some who cannot work with the mentally ill, and when you begin this job you know pretty quickly if you are meant to be here. It takes a special person to work here and treat these patients with the respect in which they deserve. Not everyone has that in them but those who do love it.

What is your most rewarding day on the job: When patients, who are so sick and cannot even function from day to day without some assistance, eventually improve with medications and some tender loving care. You watch them grow back to functioning individuals who walk up to you and say *Thank You for helping me.* And the whole time you took care of them you didn't even think that it would be possible for them to remember anything you did for them because they were so sick. That is definitely the BIGGEST REWARD from this job.

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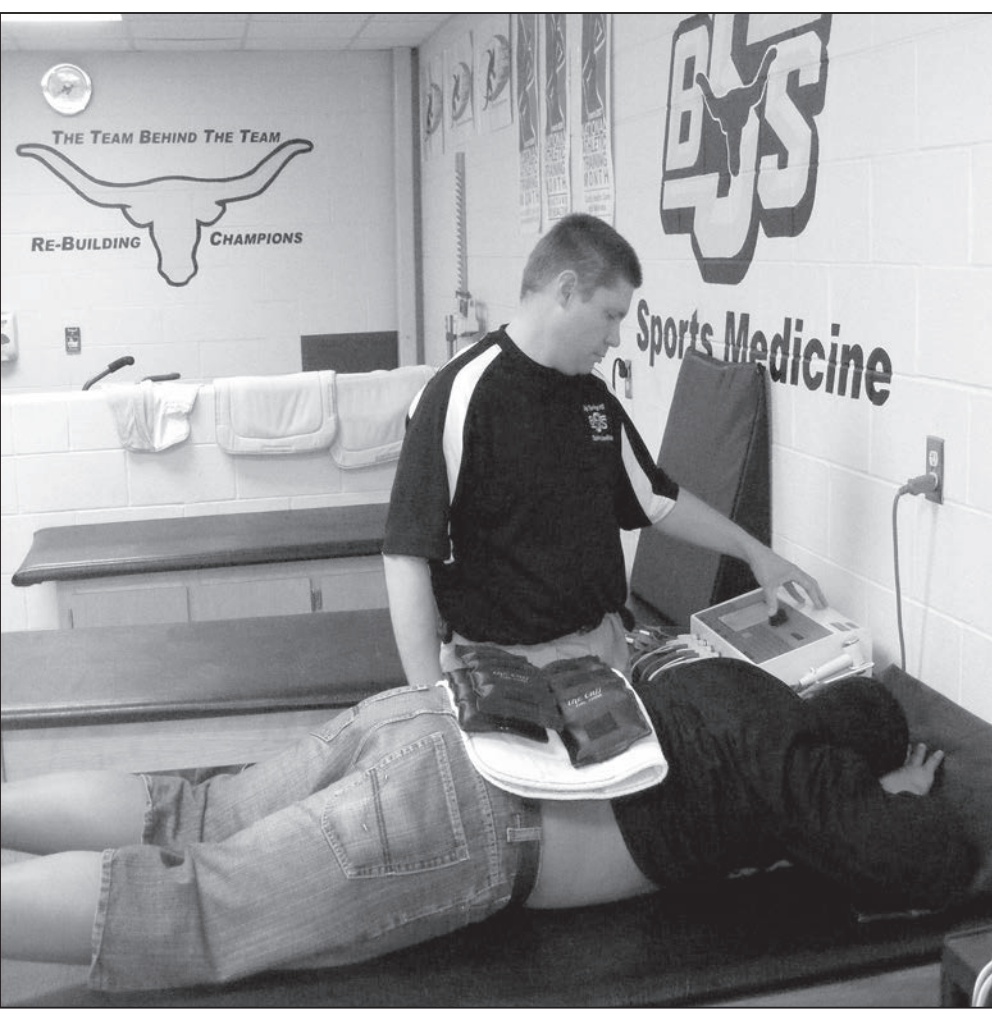


Learning & Leisure



A publication of the
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HERALD

Sunday, March 29, 2009



Keeping the team on its toes

As BSISD athletic trainer, Andy Rankin is a teacher as well as a rehabilitator

By Steve Reagan

He's not your friendly neighborhood doctor, but for Big Spring Independent School District athletes, he's the next best thing.

Andy Rankin, BSISD athletic trainer, has been mending sprains, contusions and other student-athlete mala-

dies for 14 years. At the risk of sounding overly dramatic, he's the first line of medical defense when a player goes down with an injury.

As athletic trainer, Rankin is responsible for the evaluation, treatment and rehabilitation of students who suffer sports-related injuries, as well as educating those athletes in the best ways to avoid those in-

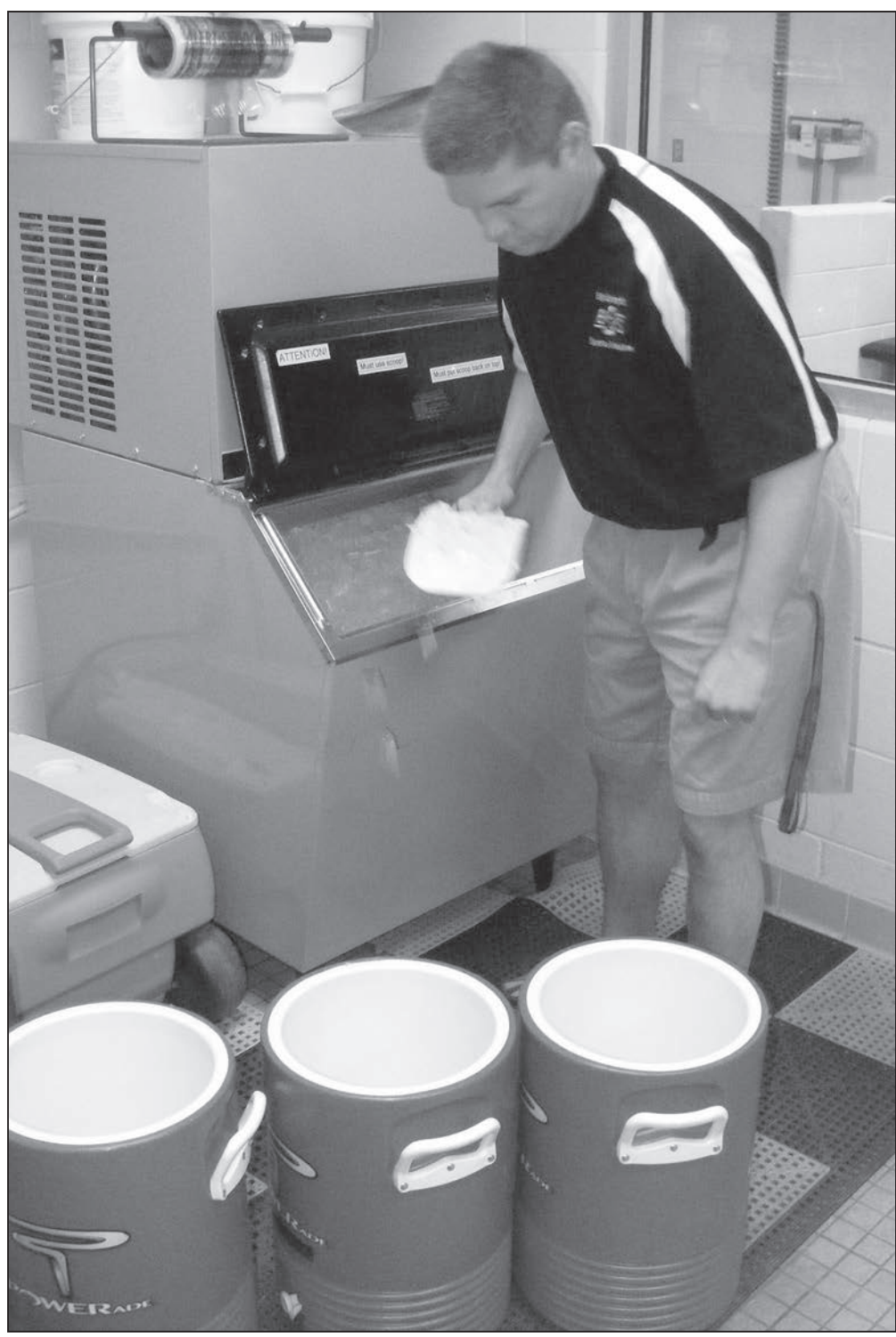
juries in the first place.

It is a job he readily admits he loves. Ironically, he entered the profession almost by accident.

Rankin grew up in Avon, Ind. and attended Ball State University.

"Mom and Dad both graduated from Ball State and I knew I was going there, too. I just didn't know what I was going to do, just like a lot of other 18-year-olds," he said. "I was the manager of the basketball team and the coach suggested that I become a trainer. He said he thought I'd be good at it."

So Rankin decided to give the program a try — or, to be more exact, he tried to get into the program. After failing to qualify for the program as a freshman, he made it the following year. In a bit of a surprise, he



found it to his liking.

"I've always liked being around athletics and sports," Rankin said. "It's a neat profession — you're able to help people in a fun setting. Plus, they're motivated. Athletes, as a population, want to get healthy ... and they want your help."

After graduating from Ball State, Rankin earned his master's degree at the University of Texas at Tyler. He then accepted his first — and, to date, last — athletic training job in 1995 when he joined the BSISD athletics staff.

As athletic trainer, Rankin is usually the first responder if a student-athlete goes down with an injury. It is his job to evaluate the extent of the injury, decide whether a trip to the hospital is necessary or if it can be tended to on site. If the injury requires prolonged rehabilitation, Rankin is there to oversee the student's progress.

He has to be adept at more than just the latest medical and therapeutic techniques. He also has to be a master of time management.

There are 16 varsity

sports played at Big Spring High School and Rankin is responsible for them all. There is no way, however, he can possibly attend every athletic contest, so he must pick and choose carefully.

In the fall, varsity football — the sport with the highest potential for injury — gets most of his attention and presence and he attends every game, at home or away.

After that, he must prioritize his time carefully. And, with no off-season to speak of, free time is precious.

Rankin's formula is pretty basic.

"I try to cover everything at home," he said. "If there's a conflict, I try to base where I'll be on which game has the greater potential for someone getting hurt ... And if I'm not able to attend a game, then I'm on call."

Needless to say, the hours are long on the job.

"It varies according to the season," he said. "Once (football) two-a-day practices start in August, we're here six to eight hours a day. When school starts, I'm here during the school day and then there's volleyball games and Saturday games and basketball

and all the other sports. There's definitely a lot of after-hours work. That makes it tough on the family."

Fortunately for Rankin, his wife Amanda, a Big Spring native, (the couple have two children — Kaleb, 11, and Jakob, 8) also works for the BSISD athletic staff as equipment manager and assists with the training program. That, plus their common passions for sports, helps ease any strain caused by Rankin's out-of-whack schedule.

"We're kind of used to it now," he said. "And Amanda, bless her heart, understands it. She loves sports, especially football ... that's one reason she's the equipment manager."

Rankin also is assisted by four student trainers. Although they cannot evaluate injuries, they all are qualified to perform CPR and first aid and assist him in a variety of other tasks.

Despite the seemingly never-ending schedule, Rankin finds the job gratifying.

"When you're able to help people, they're grateful," he said. "Parents appreciate that I'm there to help them out and looking after their kids."

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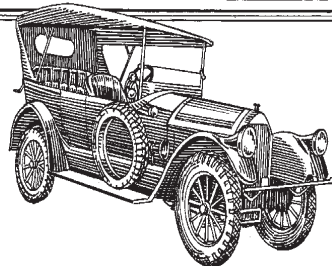
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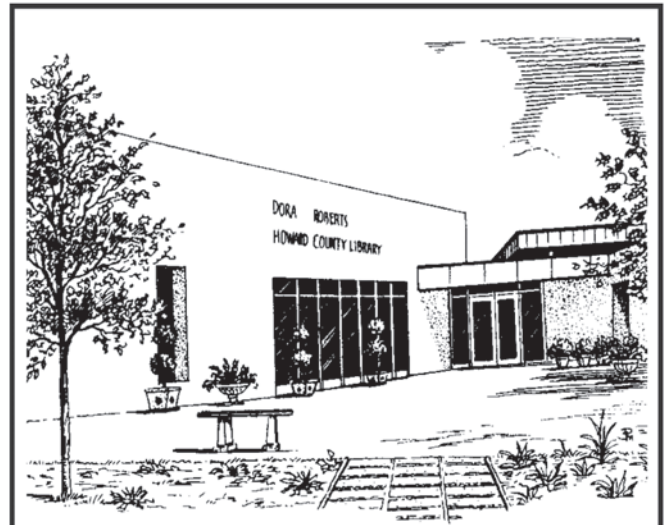
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Tending to those in need

Rotarians Raul Marquz and Richard Sanders practice 'Service above Self'

By Amanda Moreno

Two local Rotarians have taken the club's motto — Service above Self — to heart, donating time and money to help an orphanage in Mexico.

Richard Sanders, of the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club, and Raul Marquez, member of the Big Spring Rotary Club, have made it their mission to provide aid to the Casa Hogar orphanage in La Junta, Mexico.

The Rotary Club's stated purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world. The club's main motto is "Service above Self." Rotarians also have a secondary motto that they live their lives by — "They profit most who serve best."

Sanders and Marquez are translating those words into action.

Richard Sanders found out about Casa Hogar Orphanage during a trip to Mexico in November.

"I was on a trip with my son and

Above, a young girl enjoys the company of Richard Sanders, left, and Raul Marquez, Rotarians from Big Spring who — among others — are dedicated to helping the Casa Hogar Orphanage in Mexico. At right, children play in the courtyard.



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support.

The founders are in the process of trying to make the orphanage a legal entity and set up boards, which the owners will be a part of.

"Our goal for this orphanage is to get them to the point where they are self-sufficient. We are just trying to help them survive until the Guerrero Rotary Club can take care of the legal side for the building," said Marquez.

The Rotary Club has no power to help the orphanage obtain a building. The building the orphanage is currently housed in is a rental property and has had problems. The Guerrero Rotary Club is in the process of obtaining a place for the orphanage to own legally so that operators don't have to worry about losing the building. The local Rotary Club is not allowed to even contribute money to this cause.

Another thing that the Guerrero Rotary Club has been doing for the orphanage is providing clinics for the children. The club brings in doctors from different parts of the world and have them help out with the different needs.

Sanders and Marquez will continue to make trips to this orphanage and provide as much help as possible. Sanders and Marquez are planning for another trip to Mexico in May. They pay trip expenses out of their own pockets; donated money has gone to buying supplies for the orphanage. Flo-lite Screen Printing of Big Spring has even donated shirts for the children. During Christmas, the children received stockings.

The local grocery store in La Junta has been a big supporter, club members said, giving the orphanage a discount and a better exchange rate for their money.

Marquez describes the trips as an "experience."

"The kids don't know anything else, they appreciate all the little things that we take for granted," he said. "It really brings everything back to the world, it lets us know that the world isn't what we think. It really does make you more humble and appreciate the things you have," Marquez said.

Sanders said that the first money they took to donate to the orphanage was from individuals, but this time they will take an official donation from the Rotary Club.

"When I first saw the orphanage, I thought, 'What can I do to help?' Seeing something like this makes you want to figure out how to help out. Even if it's just something as simple as the basics," Sanders said.

"In our society, we get to the point where we think that having three kids is enough and these people are taking care of 80 or more kids. Something like that takes a lot of love."

we had been told about this orphanage and on our way back through, we saw the sign and decided to stop," Sanders said.

Casa Hogar is run by a married couple who take children off the streets and give them a place to live. Some of the kids have been dropped off there because their families can't afford to feed or care for them.

The number of children is constantly changing, but there are

roughly 80 at the orphanage at any given time. They range in age from infants to 16-year-olds.

The orphanage has nine rooms, 25 beds and two bathrooms. The boys and girls are separated in sleeping quarters and only the boys' area has heat. Since there are not enough beds, the ones they have are pushed together and as many children as possible sleep on them. The other children sleep on

pads.

The courtyard, which is where the children play, is dirt.

When Sanders first visited the orphanage, it had one washing machine to wash the clothes for all the children and staff — about 90 people. Since that first trip to the orphanage, Sanders and Marquez have been able to obtain two more washing machines. They have also obtained a freezer that the orphanage will be receiving.

The Big Spring Rotary clubs and the Guerrero Rotary Club in Mexico have teamed up to help support this orphanage. Currently, the facility is being funded by the individuals who run it, with donations coming from other individuals and churches. It receives no government

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Sanders said that as soon as the Guerrero club completes the legalities, he and Marquez are planning on buying the appliances that they will need. They also want to look into acquiring a bus, so the children can all be transported at one time.

Currently, said Sanders, the orphanage has a van that seats about 16 people.

Marquez got involved last year when his wife could no longer make the trips with Sanders. He said that it's a moving experience for anyone who wants to go and see how the other world lives.

"I enjoy what they are doing for the orphanage and I will continue to help out. These children show lots of love each time you go and it humbles you," Marquez said.

Sanders is always ready to talk to anyone who might be interested in helping the children and the orphanage. He has spoken to schools and churches.

"I don't have to be going on the trip for a trip to be organized. Just let me know and I will do whatever I can to give you the information and help you get a trip organized," Sanders said.



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| AA Region Area 2 One Act Play              | April 7     |
| Howard College Band Spring Concert         | April 10    |
| HC Softball vs Frank Phillips College      | April 10    |
| HC Softball vs Clarendon College           | April 11    |
| HC Baseball vs New Mexico Junior College   | April 11    |
| HC Baseball vs Midland College             | April 17    |
| Howard College Rodeo                       | April 16-18 |
| Howard College Awards Convocation          | April 20    |
| HC Annual Donor Luncheon                   | April 20    |
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