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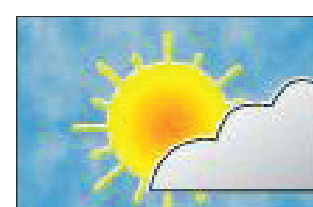
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HIGH SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY

APRIL 24, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 123

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Crop land value expected to soar

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer
 Taxable values in Howard County are expected to flip flop this year with huge increases in farm and crop lands and falling values in mineral values, according to local tax officials.
 Brett McKibben, chief appraiser for the Howard Coun-

ty Appraisal District, said the years have aligned in a way that could have some local farmers seeing double when they receive their taxable values.
 "The valuation of croplands is based on a five-year average," explained McKibben. "This year, we lost 2002, which was a really, really bad year. In losing 2002, we also

gained 2007, which was a very productive year for the producers. Because of that, the average has shifted enough that some farmland owners could actually see their valuations double in comparison to last year's numbers.
 "These increases will not effect pasture land, however. Most pasture land is leased out, so the taxable value is

"... the average has shifted enough that some farmland owners could actually see their valuations double in comparison to last year's numbers."

—Britt McKibben, chief appraiser

based on the amount of the lease. So I don't expect to see a big change in those numbers, certainly nothing like See **VALUES**, Page 3A

Open house set Saturday at new lockup

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer
 What sort of jail does \$11.5 million buy?
 That's exactly the question county officials are hoping Howard County taxpayers will answer for themselves Saturday, as the government body — joined by officials from Southwest Architects Inc. — prepares to open the doors of the newly constructed facility the public Saturday.
 Following a special open house for local officials and dignitaries Monday, Howard County commissioners are hoping local taxpayers will take the time to see exactly what their hard earned money bought in the way of a new jail.
 "We want to give them a chance to walk through and see what their dollars have paid for, and what a tremendous improvement this is for our county," said County

Judge Mark Barr. "This will be the last chance for many area residents to see the entire jail before we start bringing in inmates. After that, most of the facility will be closed to the public."
 Barr, who took over as county judge amidst a squabbling commissioners court deadlocked over the size and location of the jail, said the completion of the project comes as a great relief to him and other local officials.
 "I'm relieved, and I'm glad," said Barr. "It's quite an investment for the county. I really appreciate the commissioners. We all came together on this, and we all had to give and take some. But we did it, and we got it done, and this will be a very efficient place."
 Set for 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the jail — located at 3611 W. Highway 80 — Barr said it's unclear exactly when the first inmates will be moved to the new facility, as staff training

What: Public open house at the Howard County Jail.

Where: 3611 W. Highway 80.

When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.



County Judge Mark Barr, right, and Sheriff Stan Parker, center, accept a certificate of occupancy from Adan Munoz, executive director for the Texas Jail Commission, during a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new jail Monday morning. The public is invited to tour the facility from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.

continues.
 "The staff at the sheriff's office and the jailers are having to go through a lot of training because it's a totally new facility," said Barr. "It's very different from the old jail and it flows a lot different. Some

of the staff is going to have to get used to it, and that's why we have them going through the training."
 Few officials are as proud of the new jail as project architect Jeff Heffelfinger, who said his firm, Southwest Ar-

chitects, are thrilled with the end results.
 "I think it's awesome, I really do. I'm very proud of it," said Heffelfinger. "We had a great commissioner's court See **JAIL**, Page 3A

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Substitute teachers needed at Forsan

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer
 FORSAN — Substitute teachers wanted — experience preferred but not necessary.
 Forsan Independent School District, like other schools in the area, is always looking for substitute teachers and trustees recently sweet-



ened the pot, raising the daily pay rate for substitutes.
 The reason Forsan and other schools are constantly scrambling to find substitutes is simple, Superintendent Randy Johnson said.
 "It's hard to find qualified people who are available during the day," Johnson said. "Plus the fact we're located outside of (Big Spring) makes it less convenient for people."
 To make a trip out to Forsan a bit more attractive, trustees recently

raised the pay rate for substitutes to \$75 a day for those with college degrees and \$65 a day for those without a degree.
 As for qualifications, there are few, Johnson said.
 "We of course want responsible adults working with our students," he said. "Beyond that, we try to match their assignments with their abilities the best we can."
 See **FORSAN**, Page 3A

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BSHS swim coach getting back in the pool

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor
Big Spring High School Swim Coach Kenneth Nelson watched two athletes under his tutelage advance to the state meet this past season.

After seeing their success, Nelson figures it's time for him to get back in the pool as well.

Nelson will swim in a Masters Swim Meet at the Midland Community Center Saturday and Sunday. He'll take part in four events — the 50 freestyle, 100 freestyle, 50 breaststroke



Nelson

and 50 butterfly stroke. "Swimming has always been important to me and I was always really good at it when I was a kid," said Nelson. "I want to get back in the pool before I get too old. I've been training for this event for a couple months and I'm ready to compete again."

Nelson, 32, hasn't competed in a competitive event in 12 years. The Masters are for swimmers above the age of 18 and graduated from high school.

Competitors are seeded by times they send in. Nelson sent in times of 21.5 in the 50 free and 46.8 in the 100 free, but both were from when he was in high school. He has never competed in the 50 breaststroke or 50 fly.

"I know I'm not going to be as fast as I was in high school, at least not yet,"

See NELSON, Page 2B

Cowboys already have 1st-round pick in Williams

JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — While the Dallas Cowboys sit around waiting for the 51st pick of the draft, they might as well cue up some footage of Roy Williams making big plays for the Detroit Lions and the Texas Longhorns.

For better or worse, Williams is the equivalent of Dallas' first-round draft pick. And third-round pick. Sixth-rounder as well.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones gave up those picks, plus a \$45 million contract, to snag Williams from Detroit at the trade deadline last season. He justified the expense by figuring Williams would juice up the Dallas offense down the stretch and he'd provide Tony Romo a big target for years to come.

The first half of the plan fizzled. Williams had minimal impact and the Cowboys were so bad down the stretch they ended up missing the playoffs.

Now Jones is keeping his fingers crossed that the long-term prospects of Romo-to-Williams being a hit in the new \$1.1 billion stadium the team is moving into this fall. Jones already has made the bold move of cutting Terrell Owens, and the equally bold move of declaring part of the reason was to give Williams a bigger role in the offense.

"I had to look at Roy Williams and the future that we have with Roy," Jones told a local radio station. "I'm excited about Roy, so I'd rather have him than the (three) picks we gave up for him in this draft. ... You're (always) looking to get younger players on the field. That was important to us."

In some ways, Jones had little choice. Owens was widely considered the root of the team's inner turmoil, so he had to go. With Williams already here and with so much already invested in him, it only made sense for Jones to hype him.

Still, it's made Williams as scrutinized as any draft pick. It doesn't help that Michael Irvin, Troy Aikman and Deaion Sanders are among the doubters.

"If Roy Williams doesn't turn out to be the player that they thought he would be when they made the trade, I think this would be one of the biggest busts in the history of the league," Aikman recently said.

"I don't think you can give up what the Cowboys gave up for somebody and not make that a

See WILLIAMS, Page 2B

Mavs maul Spurs

Dallas shuts down Parker, wins, 88-67

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — During a timeout early in the third quarter, Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and the rest of the San Antonio Spurs starters headed to the bench.

They never returned. Humiliated since the opening tip, coach Gregg Popovich decided Game 3 of a first-round series against the Dallas Mavericks was a lost cause.

Instead of hurting the Spurs with hard fouls — like Mavs center Greg Popovich threatened to do — Dallas slapped around San Antonio with tight defense, the return of Dirk Nowitzki's shooting touch and the energy of their home crowd, producing an 88-67 victory Thursday night and a 2-1 lead in their first-round series.

"It was great," Nowitzki said. "We all fought for each other."

Dampier drew the scrutiny of the league office for saying he



AP photo/Tony Gutierrez

Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki responds to cheers from fans following Game 3 of a first round Western Conference NBA playoff series against the San Antonio Spurs in Dallas Thursday. The Mavericks won 88-67.

See MAVS, Page 2B

Texans looking for help on defensive side of ball

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans have taken a defensive player in the first round in four of the last five drafts, yet still have glaring holes on the unit.

Making it five of six with the 15th pick Saturday could certainly help the problem.

Mario Williams, the top overall pick in 2006 who made his Pro Bowl debut last season, and cornerback Dunta Robinson, chosen 10th in 2004, have developed into stars for Houston's defense. The other two recent first-rounders, defensive tackles Travis Johnson and Amobi Okoye, are both starters.

The Texans also have middle line-

backer DeMeco Ryans, the 2006 Defensive Rookie of the Year who was chosen with the first pick in the second round that year.

Despite the Texans' longtime emphasis on defense in the draft, the group has yet to perform up to expectations. Houston had the third-most potent offense in the league last year, but the defense ranked 22nd and

allowed more than 336 yards a game.

That performance, which followed two consecutive seasons of finishing 24th in yards allowed, led to the firings of defensive coordinator Richard Smith, secondary coach Jon Hoke and defensive line coach Jethro Franklin.

See TEXANS, Page 2B

Rios' 2-run homer lifts Toronto over Rangers, 5-3

TORONTO (AP) — With every Toronto win, Lyle Overbay sees his teammates' expectations grow.

Alex Rios hit a two-run homer, Vernon Wells and Overbay also connected and the Blue Jays beat the Texas Rangers 5-2 on Thursday night.

"You can tell around the clubhouse, everybody is real confident," Overbay said. "It's fun, it's a different atmosphere. Hopefully we can enjoy this for a while."

Toronto won its AL-high 12th game and has won all five series so far. The Blue Jays have not lost consecutive games this season.

"They're really swinging the bats well," Texas infielder Michael

Young said. "They've got the best starting pitcher in the league (in Roy Halladay). They're a good club."

The last two teams to open the season with five straight series victories were the 2003 San Francisco Giants and the 2001 Seattle Mariners. Both went on to win their division.

"It's nice to be in good company," Blue Jays manager Cito Gaston said.

Josh Hamilton and Chris Davis hit solo shots for Texas, with six of the game's seven runs coming on homers.

See RANGERS, Page 2B



AP photo/Frank Gunn/The Canadian Press

Toronto Blue Jays outfielder Adam Lind, right, slides safe into third base as Texas Rangers third baseman Michael Young attempts to make a play during the eighth inning of their baseball game in Toronto Thursday.

Obituaries

Harlen Thornton

Harlen G. Thornton, 71, of Big Spring, died Thursday, April 23, 2009, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Florencia Franco

Florencia Franco died Thursday, April 24, 2009, at her residence following a long illness. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take Note

• Kids for Life, an American Cancer Society Relay for Life fund-raising team, will be at the Sonic Drive Ins on Gregg Street and FM 700 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. car hopping for donations. The team will also hold a garage sale Saturday, May 2, beginning at 8 a.m. at 2514 Cindy in Kentwood. For more information, Amanda Gillespie at 213-5455, Michelle Fryar at 935-4006 or Lori Kirby at 935-6431.

• A Forsan Rabies Clinic sponsored by Western Hills Animal Clinic will be held from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday at the Forsan Fire Station. Costs are \$8 rabies; \$14 K-9 distemper/parvo; \$20 feline CVR-C and Flev.

• A benefit account has been established at Woodforest National Bank (Account 1652331339) for John Allison and Jacoby Rivera, who lost their belongings in a residential fire on Runnels. Donations can also be made by calling (431) 213-4091.

• American Legion Post 506 will hold its fifth annual Fajita Cook Off Saturday at 3208 W. Highway 80. Entry is \$10 for beef or chicken (three pounds each). Cooking begins at 9 a.m., judging at 11 a.m. and serving at noon. Winners will be announced at 2 p.m. Plates will be available for \$8 each. Various other activities will be going on, including a plant/cake walk. Call 263-2084 for more information.

• The Salvation Army has funding for Texas military personnel who have served or are currently serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Apply at the Salvation Army, 511 W. Fifth St. These funds were granted by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.

• We are currently seeking Class of 1999 classmates from Big Spring High School. Our 10-year reunion will be Sept. 18-19. Please send your mailing information to bshs1999@gmail.com to receive information on the reunion or contact Jennifer Davidson at (432) 213-0257.

• A fund-raiser featuring a steak dinner, drinks, a dance and a silent auction will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. May 23 in the Garden City Community Center. Tickets are \$100 per couple or \$50 each and may be purchased by calling Kristin Schwartz at 354-2698 or 270-0544 or Shana Kirkland at 354-2331 or 213-4198. Funds raised will allow the Texas Hooter Honeys to walk in the Susan G. Komen 3-Day, 60-Mile Breast Cancer Walk.

• The Big Spring High School Class of 1989 is looking for members to attend a 20-year reunion in September. Contact Christy Alexander Brown at (972) 567-8037 or Irma Moreno Garcia at (432) 816-5321 with your updated information.

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

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

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

• Coahoma alumni will hold an all school, all classes reunion Saturday, Aug. 1 at the Coahoma school building. Individual classes are encouraged to plan their class get-togethers Friday night or Saturday night. This year's reunion theme will highlight sports and former coaches Bernie Hagins and Norman Roberts will be honored, along with all former athletes and coaches at Coahoma ISD. Funds will be raised for the Coahoma Scholarship Fund as well. Contact Patti Meets at pmeeks@basin-net.net or (432) 267-6688 with updates.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Thursday and 7 a.m. today:

- JOHN WILLIAM SALAZAR, 33, of 1808 Hearn, was arrested Thursday on a HCSO warrant for assault causing bodily injury.
- JOSE MENDEZ CUELLAR JR., 46, of 3509 E. Interstate Highway 20, was arrested Friday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- BOBBY GARCIA, 55, of 811 N. Goliad, was arrested Friday on local warrants for theft, failure to appear (two counts) and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- CODY ALAN WINGO, 20, of 1700 Purdue, was arrested Friday on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- THEFT was reported:
 - in the 1000 block of Johnson.
 - in the 900 block of Willia.
 - in the 100 block of Marcy.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:
 - in the 100 block of 10th Street.
 - in the 2200 block of Wasson Road.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 2500 block of Gregg Street.
- ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY was reported:
 - in the 500 block of San Jacinto.
 - in the 300 block of Owens.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 600 block of Steakley.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 44 inmates at the time of this report.
- STEPHANIE WILLIAMS, 20, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana – more than two ounces less than four ounces.
 - STEVEN RAY CROFT, 30, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence.
 - AARON MEKEL BARNES, 26, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle, possession of marijuana – two ounces or less (two counts), possession of a controlled substance and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of E. 11th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Scott Drive. Service refused.

Support Groups

CHANGING DATES

• The local National Alliance on Mental Illness group meets every two weeks in the basement of the Howard County Library. For dates and times, contact Ramona Blassingane at 263-9748.

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

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Randy Cotton
Pastor

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on your dial Wednesday Service.....7:00p.m.

Your Local Weather

Sat 4/25	Sun 4/26	Mon 4/27
89/63 Partly to mostly cloudy. Warm. High 89F. Winds S at 20 to 30 mph.	85/61 Partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 60s.	80/56 Slight chance of a thunderstorm.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

MONDAY

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad, in the dining hall on the east side of the building. Weigh-in starts at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6 p.m. There is a different program each week. For more information, call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
- The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library. For more information, call 264-6116.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 15-28-22-14. Bonus Ball: 35
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 36-14-17-16-15.
Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:
8-7-7-5. Sum It Up: 27

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

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State Legislative Roundup

AUSTIN (AP) — An effort to pull identifying information about some public school employees from public records got initial approval from the Texas House on Thursday.

The bill by Rep. Diane Patrick, R-Arlington, would keep confidential information such as home addresses and cell phone numbers on public school teachers and employees.

Teachers, principals and other school employees say keeping the records private will protect them from identity theft.

But journalists and open records advocates object to what they say is a deal breaker — removing the days and months of birth dates from open records.

Journalists use birth dates to identify people with the common names, particularly when comparing lists of public employees with criminal records.

“The full birth date can not only catch someone, but it can also exonerate someone. And we’re afraid without the full birth date, we won’t have the same system of checks and balances,” said Keith Elkins, executive director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas.

The Association of Texas Professional Educators applauded the passage of Patrick’s bill Thursday.

Under the latest version of the bill, a school district would also have to release information if it finds during a background check that an employee

was convicted of a sex offense or violent crime.

“(Educators) wanted to have only the most sensitive of information protected. And there’s no attempt to hide any information that’s pertinent, that parents or newspapers or anyone would want to know about criminal convictions,” Patrick said.

Patrick’s bill for school employees must win final approval in the House before it can go to the Senate. At least four other bills seeking to pull all state employee birth dates from public records are still awaiting votes in committees.

TEXAS MOVIES

Surrounded by cheering film industry workers, Gov. Rick Perry signed legislation Thursday aimed at helping Texas lure more movies and television shows to the state. The new law takes effect immediately because it passed by large margins in the House and Senate.

Texas already had a film and television incentives law. But Democratic Rep. Dawanna Dukes of Austin, the House leader of the measure, said the new law gives the governor’s Texas Film Commission more leeway in deciding on the size of grants it can award to production companies.

That’s going to make Texas more competitive nationally after a few years of losing out on movie and television business to other states like Louisiana and New Mexico, industry

officials say.

Perry went to filmmaker Robert Rodriguez’s Troublemaker Studios in Austin to sign the bill. Rodriguez, who filmed his “Spy Kids” movies and other productions in Texas, said now he’ll get to remain in the state for upcoming projects like “Machete,” “Sin City 2” and “The Jetsons.”

NURSE SHORTAGE

The House on Thursday gave the final OK to a measure that would increase incentives some nursing schools get for hiring more teachers and graduating more nurses.

The state estimates that Texas is currently short 22,000 nurses. If the gap isn’t closed, the number could reach 70,000 by 2020 as more nurses retire and the population grows.

The proposal by Brenham Republican Rep. Lois Kolkhorst would target some state grants toward hiring nursing faculty at other schools. She is also behind incentives in the budget that would reward nursing schools that have a more than 70-percent graduation rate.

Supporters of Kolkhorst’s bill say nursing schools can’t get more graduates until they have more teachers.

Texas nursing schools had to turn away 8,000 qualified applicants in 2008 because they didn’t have enough faculty, said Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin.

Howard, a former nurse supporting the bill, said highly-trained nurses

needed in schools can make around \$20,000 more working in the field than in academia.

If Kolkhorst’s proposals move forward, about half of state grants for nursing schools would go to those that need the funding up front to hire more faculty in order to increase graduation rates.

GLASS HOUSE

Less than a week after displaying unusual harmony on the state budget, the Texas House seemed like the chamber of old Thursday with some unexpected fireworks.

The flareup came on a seemingly simple measure to stiffen the penalties in cases of assault by strangulation or suffocation.

The bill by Rep. Pete Gallego of Alpine would make the offense a third-degree felony in domestic violence cases.

But a failed amendment by Rep. Harold Dutton, D-Houston, to require physical evidence on the victim be presented, brought a couple of shouting matches.

The amendment failed on a close vote, which was upheld by a rare roll call vote verification.

Gallego argued that requiring proof or a witness would deter abuse victims from pressing charges.

Shortly after the bill was tentatively approved, Gallego apologized for raising his voice and several hugs could be seen across the chamber.

Receiver says Stanford companies were tangled mess

HOUSTON (AP) — Companies owned by Texas billionaire R. Allen Stanford were a confusing mess and sold certificates of deposit in which top executives might not have invested, according to a filing by a court appointed receiver.

Court-appointed receiver Ralph Janvey described a series of businesses with bloated

payrolls, high overhead and dozens of different accounting systems, according to his filing.

Stanford Financial Group brokerages and financial companies were not capable of operating independently without the revenue received from the sale of the CDs issued by the Stanford International Bank in Antigua, the Houston Chronicle reported.

“This has to be some of the most convoluted accounting and record-keeping I’ve seen,” Janvey said in an interview Thursday with the newspaper at Stanford Financial Group’s headquarters in Houston.

Stanford companies were shut down and placed in receivership in February when the Securities and Exchange Commission

filed a civil fraud suit in a Dallas federal court. The SEC alleges Chairman R. Allen Stanford and Chief Financial Officer James Davis ran a Ponzi scheme in which earlier CD investors were paid using the proceeds from new investors.

Allen Stanford has denied the allegations and said if there was any fraud, he was not a part

of it. Davis has been cooperating with civil and criminal investigators. Through his attorney, Davis has said he was acting under Stanford’s orders.

So far, the receiver has not found any filings that indicate Stanford and Davis had personal funds in the CDs.

The companies were costly to operate because of high salaries, expen-

sive property leases and overhead. Since February, the Stanford companies have incurred about \$15.8 million in operating expenses despite more than 1,000 U.S. workers being laid off.

VALUES

Continued from Page 1A

the farmers and ag producers are going to see.”

With valuations for real property — things like land and buildings — set to be mailed out May 1, McKibben said the appraisal office’s work is far from over.

“Real property is mailed out May first, but the mineral and industrial valuations won’t be ready until

sometime later in May,” said McKibben.

And while area agricultural producers could see a stiff increase in their taxable values, McKibben said property owners in the oil and mineral business will see a decrease in their numbers.

“The values in the minerals is closely tied to the cost of oil,” said McKibben. “It’s based on a 12-month average, which in this case is Jan. 1, 2008, until December 2008. Also, the

comptroller can issue a market condition factor, which will also affect those values.”

In the meantime, McKibben said property sales and values at the residential level are still looking up in the Crossroads area.

“We’re still seeing some new construction at that level,” said McKibben. “Some areas in the district are still selling at incredible levels. We’re looking at sending out approximately 20,000 notices for

real property this year, so the market is still moving along.”

McKibben said area residents who fail to receive a tax valuation and believe they should need to contact his office once the May 1 mailings have had enough time to reach taxpayers.

“If you don’t receive your tax valuation, just give us a call and we’ll be happy to take a look at it for you,” said McKibben.

For more information, contact the How-

ard County Appraisal District at 263-8301.

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

JAIL

Continued from Page 1A

to work with, a great judge, a great sheriff’s staff. It was awesome we were able to transition between two sheriff’s and how everyone came together. These projects are not the easiest to

deal with, but everyone worked hard to get it done. There are probably some little things we’ll have to address in the next 30 days or so, but they’ll be occupying it, and that’s what’s important.”

The facility was constructed by Glen Rose-based Dinosaur Valley Construction. The building features 39,925 square feet and is de-

signed to house 96 inmates with the ability to add 16 beds without a building expansion, and a pre-designed future addition that would expand the facility to 144 beds.

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

FORSAN

Continued from Page 1A

In addition, prospective substitutes must pass a criminal background check, “but there’s no educational requirement,” Johnson said.

The process for becoming a substitute teacher is fairly simple, Johnson noted. “The person would come out and complete an application first of all and then we’d do a background check and check references” he said. “If they pass all of that, their names are put on a list ... and the campus principals would contact them as they’re needed.”

Spring is usually when substitutes are needed the most. Johnson said

that this time of the year is the busiest for extra-curricular activities, which means coaches and sponsors are often pulled out of classes to escort students to out-of-town events, prompting the need for a substitute teacher.

“Sometimes, we can’t find them, which means

we end up shifting our personnel around,” he said. “We’ve always been able to cover things ... but naturally, we want to have our staff where they’re best-trained to be.”

And it’s not just substitute teachers who are needed. Johnson said replacement teacher aides

and bus drivers are almost always needed by the district.

For more information, contact the FISD administration office at 263-6571.

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

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EXP. 05/03/09

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Hank Smoot died Tuesday. Memorial Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Florencia Franco died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- The Howard College Dance Department, as well as students from Big Spring High School, the Dance Gallery and Legacy Dance of Midland, who are currently presenting the third annual Howard College Dance Show through Sunday at the Hall Center for the Arts.

- All those who were involved in Tuesday's candidate forum, sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, particularly 16 of the 21 candidates seeking positions on city councils and school boards that attended the event.

- Frank Acosta, a sophomore psychology major, who received the Presidential Award during the Howard College Awards Convocation. Acosta's award was the highest given among the more than 200 presented to students Tuesday night.

- John Fisher, an associate professor of criminal justice, who was named Outstanding Educator of the Year during the Howard College Awards Convocation.

- Members of the Howard County Commissioners Court, past and present, who saw a dream realized Monday with the ribbon cutting for the new Howard County Jail, as well as the voters who approved the \$11.5 million bond issue which made construction of the facility possible.

- All those who took part in the Third Annual Dee's Trade Show at the Howard County Fair Barns last weekend.

- All those involved in the 27th annual Howard County Health Fair held Saturday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The event was held by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by the Herald, Big Spring Air-Evac Lifeteam, Alon USA, Caring Hearts Home Health, Cornell Companies, Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center H-E-B, KBST, KBYG, Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home, Parkplace Retirement Living, Parkview Nursing and Rehab, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, Warren Chiropractic Center, West Texas Centers for MHMR and West Texas VA Health Care Systems.

- Rosie and Roger Heyer, co-managers of the Best Western Palace Inn, which was named the May winner of Keep Big Spring Beautiful's Doing Your Part Award.

- Marie Mejia-Justice, who has been named the Hangar 25 Air Museum's Veteran of the Month

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we never wait until tomorrow to show Your love, Lord.

Amen

They're really free at last

My 16-year-old is sadly addicted to dramatic love stories. She is the Chick Flick Queen of the Brewer household and quite often I get pulled into two gut-wrenching hours of her theatrical showground. It all starts with her saying "Daddy, you have to watch a movie with me tonight," and before I know it I have set through 120 minutes of love lost, romantic tears and passionate pursuit.

It always ends up with us talking about what's real and how selfishness makes a five-minute story into a two-hour drama, but it's her night and I don't want to ruin it. In just a few years from now she won't be in my arms any more and I want to redeem the time I still have with her as my little girl.

But know this, through the entire duration I quietly pray the Lord Jesus would send just one healthy hand grenade into the movie. I privately envision John Rambo swinging onto the set of The Way We Were or even John Bulishi yelling "food fight!" right in the middle of Terms of Endearment. Instead of female banter, I hear Lucky Ned Pepper say, "Well Rooster, will you give us the road?" and John Wayne replies, "I aim to kill you in one minute, Ned, or hang you at Judge Parker's convenience, which will it be?"

NICE SURPRISES

However, sometimes I am really surprised. In fact every so often a DVD goes into my collection instead of back to the rental place. I hate to admit it but I have learned there are some chick-flicks that are in fact great movies. Legends of the Fall,

Father of the Bride, Always and P.S. I Love You are some of my favorites.

It just makes my day when I think I am going to hate a movie and end up loving it.

I really enjoy surprises in life, especially when it relates to better things. Unexpected blessings always get my attention.

As a Christian, I get to be ridiculously optimistic all the time. I mean, when you follow and are in filled with the Spirit of a guy that slapped death in the face, it's hard not to have confidence. The magnitude of attitude can't be underestimated, but I am often stunned and caught off guard with things way better than what I thought they would be.

What happened last week takes the cake.

TREASURE IN THE TRASH

For more than 10 years, my ministry team has been committed to reaching the families who work in the dumps of Matamoros, Mexico. Most of them are victims of outrageous interest rates and loan scams, they are forced to mine mountains of filth for any form of value.

The dump was controlled by the Mexican Mafia or cartel and the only choice these families had was to pay the money they didn't have, prostitute the women to border brothels or work everyday as a group in the worst environment imaginable. Slavery did not end when Lincoln was president.

Over the years we have actually bought whole families, redeeming them and setting them free. In more than 80 trips, we have seen the farthest extremes of both victory and defeat. Twelve years ago I looked down and saw what I thought was a doll and was shocked to see it was a newborn baby boy only hours old. He barely survived but lives today as a happy kid in

the orphanage we support down there. The brother of the pastor we support, who works there every day, was shot in the head and murdered in that dump. There has been a lot of blood, sweat and tears invested there because we love those people so much and have a desperate hatred for their slavery. More than 1,500 people, less than 10 miles from Texas, with no hope to ever leave such a terrible place.

Imagine my shock when I drove into the dump last Friday and no one was there.

The Mexican military is at war with the drug cartels right now and through several gun battles, actually killed the main overlords of the trash dump. The rest of them have either fled to Texas or are in hiding somewhere in Mexico.

In an unprecedented act of jubilee, everyone who owed money was actually set free and sent home to where they lived before coming to the border.

We found about 60 people living in the village because their homes are there but not slaving as they had before. They told us what had happened and we just stood there and wept. It's one of the greatest miracles I have ever seen.

I never thought I would see it happen in my life time but I saw it last Friday with my own two eyes.

People being set free from tyrannical hopelessness and despair. Free to live life more abundantly and to dream again. It reminds of a story I heard about this man named Jesus and what He did for everyone who believes in Him.

John 8:36
So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

The Rev. Troy Brewer welcomes your comments. Contact him through his Website @ www.FreshFromTheBrewer.com

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• KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

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• JOHN CORNYN

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• RANDY NEUGEBAUER

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• JOE HEFLIN

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• KEL SELIGER

State Senator
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Harmonica-blowin' 'round here

For me to feign understanding of harmonica-playing is akin to head-nodding about galaxies when the best I can offer on the topic is a croaky rendition of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

I recall preschool awe of adults who could produce considerable music from the little instruments we called "French harps" or "mouth organs."

It seems to me that a windbag who knows a little music would have a leg up in harmonica-playing contests. I can exhale with the best of 'em, but contorting my mouth and cupping my hands in a manner to produce melodies worthy of hearing by other ears are beyond me.

Memories flooded when I heard "The Harmonichords," a quartet well-known for harmonica concerts over a vast area. (I had previously thought that all harmonica players were soloists.)

Talented and passionate, the musicians from Dallas and Garland race across harmonicas like monkeys on a midnight raid of a banana plantation. Their work is orchestra-like for many reasons. In their arsenal are instruments of all sizes, including some one-inchers with just four notes. Others span two feet with four octaves and 48 chords.

Listening to their music and banter, I heard periodic heavy breathing. Maybe this is because three of them are 85 years of age, and the senior member is 87. They're all veterans of World War II, and have made

320 appearances in 14 years. The Harmonichords faithfully practice weekly on Wednesday afternoons.

They learned their skills in their youth and their combined experience totals almost 300 years.

"We consider gigs one at a time in these days," said Jim Patterson, 87. "We aren't as young as we used to be," he joked. "Some people say they don't know where their next meal is coming from; sometimes we don't know where our next breath is coming from."

He and his "little" brother, Bill, still move about vigorously, lugging in the equipment, then setting up speakers and microphones. Don Sanders plays the lead chromatic harmonica from a wheelchair and Tom Bamford is also limited physically.

Their repertoire consists largely of music from the '30s, '40s and '50s. Interspersed are humorous stories and novelty harmonica sounds that could be mistaken for train whistles, Model-T engines and barking dogs on fox chases. They also feature several hymn favorites.

Then, they offer a medley of musical tribute to participants of all five branches of the U.S. military. Jim Patterson asked that hands be raised when "we play your branch's tune."

Of the 80 or so present at the church senior adult luncheon where I heard "The Harmonichords," only a couple didn't have hands in the air. The rest were military veterans, parents, siblings or widows of vets. At medley's end, tears flowed freely.

Following the program, I asked the musicians if they'd try to add a member when one of them has to drop out. I mentioned maybe searching for a harmonica-play-

ing youngster, maybe 55-60 years of age. "You could call him 'Sonny,'" I added. "Then you could change your name to 'Sonny and the Harmonichords.'"

"There aren't many 'Sonnies' out there," Jim observed. "At least none that I know of who play harmonicas."

I'm afraid he nailed it. Fewer and fewer "give a HOOT."

Uh, that deserves an explanation. HOOT is an acronym for "Harmonica Organization of Texas." It meets monthly — usually with 40 or 50 members present — at Richland College in Dallas.

On the drive home, I heard a baseball broadcaster mention the "on deck" batter.

I thought of the late Kate Smith, whose rendition of "God Bless America" thrilled our souls, and of the late Paul Harvey, whose daily radio commentaries stirred hearts across the land.

I considered the Rev. Dr. Billy Graham's messages of hope and encouragement preached over a span of six-plus decades.

As I scanned the radio dial, news reports were dismal, providing few reasons to smile.

I pondered what comes next, wondering if "on deck" batters await. No one has succeeded Kate Smith or Paul Harvey. And there's no one in sight with stature to match Dr. Graham's.

I'm adding "The Harmonichords" to my list of distinguished personalities who persevere with no "on deck" successors in sight.

Dr. Don Newbury is a speaker and writer in the Metroplex. He welcomes inquiries and comments. E-mail: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com.



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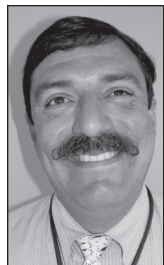
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Respond to adversity by having a living faith

An oyster is a hard-shelled creature that barely opens up to filter his dinner. We have learned how to make him say "Aaah" so we can hide some irritant in him. Quickly, he clams up, then starts to cover the irritant with a secretion, and lo, we have a pearl!



CHAPLAIN
SCOTT
JIMENEZ

Many of the people I talk with are going through some sort of irritant or crisis in their lives: sickness, personal relationships, the consequences of bad decisions, wrong living, being at

the wrong place at the wrong time. Crisis, or adversity, is a natural part of life. Life without adversity doesn't exist. How do the majority of people handle adversity? Faith. The lens of our faith allows us to view our lives and our adversity as a whole. But, what is faith? We can't talk about it unless we define it. Faith is that which gives our lives meaning and purpose. I'm going to narrow that to talk about a faith in God. Granted, there are other expressions of faith, but the essential points remain. Faith gives us hope. In what? That there is something more out there, infinitely more than ourselves. That this crisis will pass.

That our lives have purpose. That our lives are meaningful. That our lives are not futile and our failures are not final. This, in sum, is faith. A hope that is important to life and to living. If faith is important to life, does crisis give us the right to question our faith? I believe it does. I think in the midst of crisis it is natural for a person to ask, "Why, God?" Usually, this question means, "Why God? Why me? Why now?" But, is asking this a bad thing? No, not at all. Only when we ask those hard questions do we find an answer. Only when we ask those hard questions can we know what we believe and why we believe it. Only when

we know what we believe and why we believe it do we have a faith. Why is it important to know our faith? Faith is something that combines the intellectual and the experiential, the head and the heart. We need both to have a vital faith. In the midst of crisis, the intellectual arguments for a faith may go out the window. The experiential, what we know because we have experienced it, confirms our faith, what we already believe. Faith is believing in something beyond our experience, beyond our education, beyond our intelligence. In short, it is moving beyond ourselves. Do we know in our hearts and our head that our faith is valid, that our faith is

real, that our faith is true? What happens when we have a faith that is valid, real and true? It becomes a living faith. What does this mean? A living faith is one that changes us into better people. This is a yardstick by which we measure not just if we have a faith but if that faith is real. When we have a living faith, then we can respond to adversity in our lives. We can be bent by the crisis, rather than let the crisis break us. We can become better and not bitter. We can go on to the future and not live in the past. We can respond to others and be less selfish. We can respond to the irritant and turn it into a pearl!

Church News

First Presbyterian, Coahoma

The friendly folks at First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma invite anyone to come and worship with us. We meet at 11 a.m. Sunday to share the scriptures, sing, pray and worship, led by Commissioned Lay Pastor Tom Koger.

Last Sunday, we appreciated Dan Miracle's preaching.

The lectionary for the third Sunday of Easter is Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; I John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48.

National Day of Prayer

The Crossroads area is invited to participate in the National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 7, by attending a public gathering at First United Methodist Church's Garrett Hall from 12:15-12:45 p.m. Bring your own bag lunch. Tea, water and coffee will be provided. Those who cannot attend or do not want to attend are encouraged to participate at their home, church, business or however they wish.

First Presbyterian, Big Spring

Bible study met at 5:17 p.m., and the youth group and choir practice at 6 p.m. Wednesday. The Session met at 6 p.m. Monday in the library and the Encourager's group met at the same time in the fellowship hall.

The 2009 Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women of Tres Rios Presbytery will be held in Big Spring from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. The meeting title is "Presbyterian Women in Missions: 200 Years and Going Strong," and will feature Marj Carpenter, past moderator of the General Assembly PC(USA), and Patti Nance, Synod of the Sun Mission interpreter.

Monika Robinson will be in charge of refreshments for "Take Ten" Sunday.

Presbyterian Women will meet Tuesday in the church library for the Bible study of the book "Jubilee: Luke's Gospel" by D. Lindsay Morgan.

The lectionary for the third Sunday of Easter is Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; I John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48. The "Noisy Offering," used to help alleviate hunger in the community and the world, will be received Sunday. Presentations by the choir are "He Shall Reign" by Craig Courtney and "The Heavens Are Telling" by Ludwig Von Beethoven. "Look Who's Here" is the title for the Rev. Bert Bronaugh's sermon, based on Luke 24:36-48.

First United Methodist

This Sunday our senior pastor, the Rev. Sharon Wiese, will preach at both the 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. services of worship.

Her message is titled "Do You Know Your DNA?" based on First Peter 2:4-5 and 9-10.

Following the early service the Philathea Senior Adult Class and the Questers Class will be serving break-



Courtesy photo/Lyndel Moody

Big Spring High School honor band member Mylia Black plays her clarinet during the band's opening piece "Pablo" by Richard Meyer at St. Mary's Eastertide concert held Tuesday at the church. Hundreds attended the 30-minute event held by the Parish as part of the Easter celebration. A second concert is scheduled at noon Thursday and will feature an area handbell choir, instrumental trios and vocal quartets. St. Mary's is located at 10th and Goliad streets in Big Spring. Admission is free and a light lunch will be provided.

fast burritos as a fund-raiser for our Relay For Life teams. Please come early and enjoy the fellowship and good food for such a good cause: to find a cure for cancer.

And along that line we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those in our congregation and this community for the outpouring of love and support that has been given to our youth director's young family. Brent's wife Amy has completed her surgery and is getting ready to start her chemo. Please continue to keep her and all of her family in your hearts and prayers.

There will be a special meeting at noon in Garrett Hall following the late service. This is the time set aside for our Safe Sanctuaries training and is especially for all those who are involved in children and children's activities in our church and includes ushers, teachers, staff and kids club workers. A light lunch will be served to all those in attendance.

Mark your calendars, First Method-

ist will host the community National Day of Prayer at noon May 7 in Garrett Hall.

Check our new Web site at www.funfcs.com. It's all about the activities and schedules at First Methodist, where families grow in Christ.

Birdwell Lane Baptist

Greetings to you and your family. If you are seeking a church to worship in, we invite you to visit us at 1512 Birdwell Lane. Sunday services are at 10:55 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Today, beginning at 2 p.m., the men of the church will have a father-son camp out at the Lake Thomas pavilion. This will go through 5 p.m. Saturday.

Children's church is during the Sunday morning worship for ages 3-12. We are a very friendly church with good quartet singing, plain Bible preaching and Sunday school classes from pre-K to adult. A nursery is provided for babies and toddlers.

Midweek service is 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday.

For a ride, call 264-9924 or 267-7157.

There is a ladies meeting Saturday at 11 a.m. to plan our May 9 mother-daughter banquet.

For further information, call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

College Baptist

CBC members have exceeded their goal of \$2,500 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering by giving a total of \$2,805. Their contributions will help fund North American missions.

Among the preparations for Vacation Bible School will be the VBS cake auction scheduled for Sunday, following the evening worship service. This will be a time of fun and fellowship. All money donated will be used to help fund VBS.

Senior adults are looking forward to a trip to the Ball Ranch Saturday. They will enjoy dinner and a show.

Baptist Temple

This Sunday our sermon will be titled "God is Bigger Than My Life" from Exodus 1-2. Only God's protection and intervention could have saved Moses when he was an infant. God offers his protection and intervention in our lives, too.

Our weight-loss support group SPEED (Shedding Pounds Eagerly Every Day) has changed meeting times. It now meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays in the Baptist Temple fellowship hall. There is no cost and it is open to anyone interested.

We have Sunday school classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Sunday. Our worship services are at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. We also have activities for all ages at 7 p.m. Wednesdays.

For more information, call 267-8287 or check us out on the Web at btcbigspring.org

St. Paul Lutheran

It's bake sale time from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 2, in the church library. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the High School Bible Class Fund. Stop by and choose your baked goods early.

St. Paul Lutheran invites everyone to join for worship service at 9 a.m. each Sunday with Sunday school for all at 10:15 a.m. We are located at 810 Scurry and the office can be reached at 267-7163 Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We are led in worship by Pastor Wayne Frost.

Small group Bible study classes welcome you to attend. Contact the church office for times and places.

St. Mary's Episcopal

Everyone is invited to attend worship services at St. Mary's this Sunday. Holy communion will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m.

The ECW will meet in the library Sunday following the 10:30 a.m. service.

See **CHURCH**, Page 7A

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Some things are better left unsaid

Dear Margo: I am a man in my mid-50s, happily married, with two college-age daughters. Some months ago I was traveling in an area where a woman who was once a big part of my life lives. She sent me a "Dear John" letter many years ago saying she was getting married, invited me to the wedding, and said he was a lot like me.



MARGO HOWARD

I was devastated, but got on with my life. After my trip I sent her an innocuous birthday card. About a month later I wrote a letter saying I had been in her area, thought of calling, but held back. I explained that I was hurt by what happened, still had feelings for her, and told her a little of my life. I have been overcome with thoughts and feelings about her. Well, a week later I got a stinging certified letter. "Do not contact me! I made my choice years ago, and I have not looked back. I am VERY happy and married to a man I love. Don't call, contact, etc. I am VERY HAPPY with my life!!!"

I was devastated all over again. Was I wrong to contact her? Obviously, I will not do that again, but I am really into healing wounds and leaving things in a good place. Her hysterical reaction made me wonder if she is OK. — *Mr. G. in Texas*

Dear Mr.: Actually, things were in a good place. Her "Dear John" letter was meant to be kind; she invited you to the wedding and paid you the compliment of saying her groom was a lot like you. If you are in your mid-50s with two kids in college, you were excised from this woman's life roughly 25 years ago. This makes me wonder if you are OK.

To be still "hurt by what happened" all those years ago is not what I would call healthy thinking. I suspect her over-the-top letter was meant to put you in your

place. I will tell you this: If I unloaded a suitor years earlier and got a letter from him saying he still had strong feelings for me, I would probably be displeased, too.

The birthday card, without the declarations, would have been acceptable — maybe. You might want to look into why you are obsessing about this woman, seeing as how you are happily married. — *Margo, skeptically*

When Anger Can Be Your Friend

Dear Margo: I was involved with a man who betrayed me on many levels. He was a compulsive liar who stole money from me more than once. I had nothing but good intentions toward him and became involved with him while trying to help him through a difficult time.

His betrayal devastated me. Although I've cut him out of my life, I'm finding it extremely difficult to move on. I still feel a lot of pain and resentment, perhaps because he never apologized or showed remorse. What can I do to forgive and let the hurt go? — *Can't Move On*

Dear Can't: First of all, why would you expect an apology, let alone remorse, from a skunk who behaved as he did? To put this trauma behind you, just review what a rat he was and how sleazily he behaved. (Sorry for the animal metaphors.)

I have found that anger can be a useful tool for moving on. Remind yourself that this man repaid your kindness and affection with perfidy — and then get mad. I also suspect you're mad at yourself for being a poor judge of character.

Just accept the fact that you hooked up with a lout and vow to be more intuitive next time. In other words, forgive yourself for the bad judgment, make your peace with having had rotten luck, and go forward. — *Margo, acceptingly*

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The Taurus new moon near Earth Day is a celebration of the home planet. New moons symbolize a fresh start and many of us will make resolutions to live greener out of appreciation for our natural environment. It's also a time to take on personal projects and forge relationships. Decide whom you want to know and make a friendly gesture.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Beware of dealing with people who are too restrained. Poke around and see if you can get a reaction and more information. You need a better sense of the character of those you are involved with.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You want important things, and a few frivolous things, too. The frivolous things take precedence — that's what makes you so fun. As you indulge in the lighter side of life, big issues are being resolved.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You may provide a safe place for someone to come for companionship, support and care. It's nice for the other person, but does it really feed your soul? You need passion now. Seek it and/or create it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In order to do your work, you need peace and quiet. Protect yourself from intrusion. Unwanted pests, phone calls and other interruptions will not be a problem if you take measures to prevent them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have special insights into the human spirit. You also see what motivates people. You will finally understand a behavior in yourself or in someone else that you once found perplexing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There may be technological glitches or problems with electronics. The good news is, it's all easily solved. These issues make you extra appreciative and respectful of the equipment you use on a daily

Tomorrow's Horoscope

basis.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Face-to-face meetings are important to the success of a project, deal or relationship. There is much that can be accomplished remotely, but it's not the same. You won't regret making the extra effort to meet in person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You crave the sweet life, which may manifest itself in your setting up dates, making appointments or literally savoring dessert. You deserve the rush of energy that comes from such activities, but do take it easy!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People around you have money to spend and you're just the one to tell them where to spend it. You have ideas that will create a win-win situation for everyone. And your ability to sell those ideas is particularly strong now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Social events that include all ages will be lucky for you. You never know who knows whom. Strike up a conversation, even if you don't feel particularly inspired to do it. You'll make just the connection you need.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Theoretical information excites your intellect. But how can you actually apply this to your life? After all, you want change and improvement. Seek hands-on training. Find a teacher who has done this before.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You will be busy building the morale of your family. Though your group may not seem to need the boost, it's still crucial. It's the extra things you do — the effort you make that you don't have to make — that forges bonds.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: **ARIES:** You're not sure where a loved one is coming from, but you can find out with a little gentle investigation. **TAURUS:** You will commit yourself to taking better care of someone, possibly yourself. **GEMINI:** You'll be attracted to the person who has fresh ideas, and repelled by anyone that has the possibility of being a bore.

CANCER: You'll make a fascinating connection with someone who shares one of your rather ethereal interests. **LEO:** You love with velocity. Be careful not to overpower anyone with your energy. **VIRGO:** Loosen up on your expectations of a loved one and you will be pleasantly surprised by what occurs. **LIBRA:** Decorate with the one you love. Your taste gets even better (if that's possible) because of shared decisions. **SCORPIO:** Loving someone makes everything seem easier. Your decisions will reflect what's best for all. **SAGITTARIUS:** Your deft handling of a delicate matter earns you tremendous respect. **CAPRICORN:** You may be put in an awkward position, but you will turn it into an opportunity for romance. **AQUARIUS:** You are inclined to say what's on your mind and loved ones receive the information to positive effect. **PISCES:** Go along for the ride with adventurous friends and you'll have an exciting encounter of your own.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Taurus and Libra are both ruled by Venus and have a great deal in common. These two strive to make the world beautiful by arranging it in a personally pleasing way. Both relax when they are in a lovely environment. And though they have discerning taste, they are still open-minded when it comes to delighting the senses. Ideal dates this weekend include nature, gardens and fresh foods.

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5:PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Raymond	In Touch-Dr	BBC Business	Cash Cab	Movie: Passenger 57, Tom Sizemore	CSI: NY	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Montana	Horn	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Tontas Clelo	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Friends	News-Lehrer	Made	Made	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order		Montana	NBA		
7:PM :30	Entertain	Fortune	Two Men	News	Entertain	12 Cora-zones	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Hagee	Update	Survivorman	Movie: Ocean's Twelve, Matt Damon	CSI: Crime Scn	Movie: Four Brothers	Movie: The Ladykillers, Marlon Wayans	Montana	NBA Basketball: First Round Game 3 -- Teams TBA.	NBA
8:PM :30	Americans Feeding	Wife Swap	Cuidado-Angel	Prison Break	Flashpoint	Doña Bar-bara	Howie Do	Fam. Guy	Morris	Survivorman	Survivorman	Movie: Resi-dent Evil, Eric Mabius	Movie: Le-thal Weapon 4, Joe Pesci	Sunday Best	Phineas	Boxing	NBA Basketball: First Round Game 3 -- Teams TBA.	NBA
9:PM :30	20/20	20/20	Mañana es	(:01) Doll-house	Flashpoint	Doña Bar-bara	Howie Do	Fam. Guy	Morris	Survivorman	Survivorman	Movie: Le-thal Weapon 4, Joe Pesci	Sunday Best	Phineas	Boxing	NBA Basketball: First Round Game 3 -- Teams TBA.	NBA	
10:PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	My Boys	Church	Charlie Rose	Survivorman	Movie: Con-stantine, Shia LaBeouf	MAN	Hatchett	Phineas	Friday Night Fights.	NBA Basketball: First Round Game 3 -- Teams TBA.	NBA
11:PM :30	Insider	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Desmadru-gados	Late Show	Late Show	Decisiones de Famosos	Late Night-Jim	Sex &	Sanchez	Smiley	Survivorman	Movie: Good Will Hunting, Ben Affleck	MAN	Movie: The Ladykill-ers, Marlon Wayans	Life De	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter	
12:AM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Madre	Faith	Insider	Pagado	News	Update	Update	Update	Update	Halloween 4: Michael Myers	Movie: GoodFellas, Joe Pesci	Replace	NASCAR	Fastbreak	SportsCenter	
1:AM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Madre	Faith	Insider	Pagado	News	Update	Update	Update	Update	Halloween 4: Michael Myers	Movie: GoodFellas, Joe Pesci	Replace	NASCAR	Fastbreak	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE

"I BROUGHT YOU SOME CEREAL. THE TOAST DIDN'T DO SO WELL."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

"I don't think I'll take mine home. There's no more room on our 'frigerator."

HAGAR

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? AND REMEMBER... IF YOU LIE, YOUR HORNS WILL FALL OFF!! I THINK I'LL GO SEE THE FLOWER SHOW AT THE WOMEN'S CLUB! OH, WELL... WHO NEEDS HORNS DOWN AT THE TAVERN?!

BC

BLONDIE

I DARE YOU TO SKIP WORK AND GO BOWLING OR SOMETHING TODAY, MR. B. THAT ISN'T A BAD IDEA, ELMO, NOT BAD AT ALL. YEAH, BUT YOU'RE PROBABLY TOO CHICKEN TO DO IT, AREN'T YOU, MR. B.? WHO'S CALLING WHOM A CHICKEN?!

WIZARD OF ID

WHAT... YOU NEVER HAD TO TAKE ON A ROOMMATE?

AGNES

UH-OH! ONE OF THE WINE CASKS HAS SPRUNG A LEAK! HE MAKES THAT DUTCH KID AND THE DIKE LOOK LIKE AN AMATEUR.

HI AND LOIS

WHY DO YOU NEED \$40 TO GO TO A MOVIE? I HAVE A DATE. ... WE'RE GOING TO SEE A CHICK FLICK AND AN ACTION FILM.

THE OTHER COAST

MODERN COMMUNICATIONS STINK. THE PHONE COMPANY ARE JERKS, SO I'M GETTING RID OF MY LAND LINE TELEPHONE. THE INTERNET PHONE COMPANIES ADS ANNOY ME, AND I REFUSE TO BE RIPPED OFF BY HIGH CELL PHONE CHARGES. SO BASICALLY, THE ONLY OPTION YOU HAVE LEFT FOR COMMUNICATING WITH ANYONE IS A VULCAN MIND MELD. IT HAS TO BE BETTER THAN BEING HELD CAPTIVE BY THE KLINGONS AT THE PHONE COMPANY.

SNUFFY SMITH

GEE WHIZ, MISTOFER !! WHAT ACCOUNTS FER YORE HIGH PRICES? IT'S TH' ALTITUDE !! EV'RYTHIN'S HIGHER UP HERE !!

BEETLE BAILEY

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ANY MORE ABOUT GETTING MARRIED? YEAH, I'M AFRAID I'D MAKE A SECOND-RATE HUSBAND. OH, WONDERFUL! I HAD YOU RATED MUCH WORSE THAN THAT!

This Date In History

Today is Friday, April 24, the 114th day of 2009. There are 251 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

- On April 24, 1898, Spain declared war on the United States after rejecting America's ultimatum to withdraw from Cuba. (The United States responded in kind the next day.)
- On this date: In 1792, the national anthem of France, "La Marseillaise," was composed by Capt. Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle.
- In 1800, Congress approved a bill establishing the Library of Congress.
- In 1877, federal troops were ordered out of New Orleans, ending the North's post-Civil War rule in the South.
- In 1915, the Ottoman Empire rounded up Armenian political and cultural leaders in Constantinople at the start of what many scholars regard as the first genocide of the 20th century in which an estimated 1.5 million Armenians died.
- In 1916, some 1,600 Irish nationalists launched the Easter Rising by seizing several key sites in Dublin. (The rising was put down by British forces almost a week later.)
- In 1953, British statesman Winston Churchill was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.
- In 1962, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology achieved the first satellite relay of a television signal, between Camp Parks, Calif., and Westford, Mass.
- In 1970, the People's Republic of China launched its first satellite, which kept transmitting a song, "The East is Red."
- In 1980, the United States launched an unsuccessful attempt to free the American hostages in Iran, a mission that resulted in the deaths of eight U.S. servicemen.
- In 1990, the space shuttle Discovery blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Fla., carrying the \$1.5 billion Hubble Space Telescope.

Today's Birthdays: Film and dramacritic Stanley Kauffmann is 93. Movie director-producer Richard Donner is 79. Actress Shirley MacLaine is 75. Author Sue Grafton is 69. Actor-singer Michael Parks is 69. Actress-singer-director Barbra Streisand is 67. Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley is 67. Country singer Richard Sterban (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 66. Rock musician Doug Clifford (Creedence Clearwater Revival) is 64. Rock singer-musician Rob Hyman is 59. Actor-playwright Eric Bogosian is 56. Actor Michael O'Keefe is 54. Rock musician David J (Bauhaus) is 52. Actor Glenn Morshower is 50. Rock musician Billy Gould is 46. Actor-comedian Cedric the Entertainer is 45. Actor Djimon Hounsou is 45. Rock musician Patty Schemel is 42.

Newsday Crossword

SAY CHEESE by Shirley Soloway Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

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Answer to previous puzzle

CACHE	MBAS	PHIL
ADHOC	AONE	HIDE
LIEDOWN	THEJOB	
LEES	HAT	HEN
MUS	HIGHC	ROMPS
EXECUTE	AIRMAIL	
AGE	CNN	ESPY
SITON	THEFENCE	
AIDS	EEE	ORO
PRECEDE	GRANDPA	
ESSAY	SCAMS	ORS
NET	LIE	TWIT
STANDUP	PANDCHEER	
HOLE	BORE	BALSA
HEIR	STAR	SILTY

CHURCH

Continued from Page 5A

St. Mary's second Eastertide Concert will be at noon Thursday. This concert will feature a mixed ensemble of musicians. A light lunch will be provided at St. Mary's after the concert. There is no admission charge. This concert will benefit Isaiah 58 and the Northside Community Center.

For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-8201 or visit our Web site at www.stmarysbt.org. St. Mary's is located at 1001 S. Goliad.

First Baptist

Our pastor, the Rev. Mark Lindsey, has begun a series of sermons which center on "X-treme Living." Popular in this new age of sports is the "X Games" which give athletes opportunities to show skill in extreme action sports.

The messages will reveal to us how we can impact our world by going to the extreme. In the evening services, we are learning about the purpose of the church in today's world.

Come join us as we learn how to impact this world, for Christ's sake.

First Church of the Nazarene

New and exciting things are happening at First Church of the Nazarene. Our new pastor, the Rev. Calvary

Callender, wife Ceresa and daughter Morgan joined our family in February. We invite you to come and hear anointed, vision-oriented messages each Sunday morning.

Get your motorcycle washed and ready because Biker Sunday is coming back May 3 to First Church of the Nazarene. Bike Blessings by the Christian Motorcycle Association and a brisket lunch will follow the morning service. Come enjoy all the fun.

As always if you have any questions please call at 267-7015 or e-mail us at church@nazfamily.org.

Classes and activities for all ages keep Wednesdays and Sundays fun and uplifting. There is a place for everyone, from newborn to mature adult, to experience God's love; so come check us out.

Adult opportunities include Sunday morning fellowship time with coffee and donuts begin at 9:30 a.m. Worship is at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. Wednesday evening classes begin at 6:30 p.m. with your choice of studies including "Highway to Holiness" study or a look through the book of John.

Opportunities for children include Sunday morning activities for age 4 through the 6th grade in Discipleship Junction at 10 a.m.

Wednesday Evening is Caravan, a midweek scouting ministry for children Pre-K through 4th grade and Busy Bees News Gang for 5th and 6th grade which includes producing a monthly church newsletter. Infants through 3 years old are lovingly cared

Pledging allegiance to a new flag

It was his last duty — his last official act as President. A somber Anson Jones watched on Feb.

19, 1846, as the flag he cherished descended from the capitol of Texas for the last time. "The final act in this great drama is now performed," declared Jones. "The Republic of Texas is no more."

As the last President of the Republic of Texas spoke, his friend and rival, Sam Houston, the first president of the Republic stepped forward to take the unfolded flag into his arms as it was lowered to the ground.

Like our founding fathers, most of us define life by the events that we celebrate and the hurts we endure. We take pictures of weddings, births, graduations and anniversaries.



BONNIE WHEAT

We remember first days of school, first games, first concerts and first jobs. We rejoice over successes, promotions and accomplishments, but we grieve over failures, disappointments and losses. In the course of life, we are forced to recognize that time brings change and some things must come in an end.

The Bible speaks of the change that comes when we invite Christ to come into our lives: "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come (2 Corinthians 5:17 NASB).

The same ceremony that marked the death of the Republic of Texas included the raising of a new flag and the celebration of the birth of the State of Texas.

When we accept Christ as Lord and Savior, we have to take down our old flag of self will and pledge allegiance to a new flag of Christ-likeness.

for in our nursery/toddler classroom Sundays and Wednesdays.

Youth, 7th through 12th grade, enjoy Bible study, fun and fellowship in Youth Explosion Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. with Pastor Cal.

Hispanic services are Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m.; Casa de Restauracion is led by Pastor Felix Torres.

See **CHURCH**, Page 8A

Is this for real, or is it a dream?

While shopping in a local business recently, I ran into some friends.

We chatted for a few minutes, and then the conversation turned more serious.

One of the ladies said to me, "I'm very concerned about our country and our future, and many nights I can't sleep for worrying about what we are going to do." She went on to say that almost all their savings had been depleted due to simple living expenses.

"Sometimes," she said, "I just wish we were dead and out of all this worry and stress. I wake up in the mornings wondering, is this for real, or is it a dream?"

My heart was touched as she talked. Yet needless to say, many others are asking the same question all across this country. "What's next?" they wonder.

As we talked, I quietly asked the Lord for words that would help ease her pain. At that moment she asked, "How do you stay so calm and collected in times like this? Don't you every worry?" Without a thought, I placed my hands on her shoulders and said, "Look at me, I want you to hear me from your heart. Jesus warned us over and over in His Word that these times would come, so He told us to cast all our cares upon Him, because He cares for us" (1 Peter 5:7). "Oh," she said, "I've heard that, but it won't work for me." I gave her several scriptures to read, and then I encouraged her to ask God to help her cast her fears upon Him. With tears in her eyes she thanked

me and assured me she would read the scriptures I had given her.

Every day we read and hear of lonely, hurting people who are in desperate straits due to the loss of jobs and the present economy, many of whom have taken drastic measures to end the hurt and pressure they find themselves in. The majority of them don't seem to have a connection with God, or if they do, have lost themselves somewhere along the journey. But despite the economy, God will calm the storms around them if they will but turn to Him. He is our anchor, our security, our protector and our source. Apart from Him, there is no safety or peace.

From the book of Matthew to the final chapter of Revelation, the message of Jesus Christ is trumpeted by the words He spoke while on earth. Jesus himself warned us of the things we could expect in these latter days. He encouraged us to prepare ourselves, to be ready and alert.

The reason we see so much strain and pressure in people's lives today is because they have forgotten who their true source is, and many have lost their hope. Our faith must be based on the solid rock of Christ Jesus; otherwise we are all on sinking sand. Our peace comes only from having a oneness with God. Our walk of faith is, by design, a journey toward greater understanding and unity with Him. When we learn, practice and live by God's principles and laws for living, the storms can rage, the economy can go off the charts, but our anchor will hold. We can rest in His rest, trust in His trust, have peace in His peace and remain calm and still throughout the troubled times.

Our spiritual lives are very similar to our physical bodies. Our bodies

change and grow as we mature. Likewise, our spiritual man must do the same. However, just as we must feed and nourish our physical bodies in order for them to grow and remain healthy, we must also feed and nourish our spiritual beings. To do less is to leave it untrained and undernourished.

It is clear why many have no hope. They are blinded by the cares of life, the troubled economy and are encompassed with fear and worry. But in Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus warned us not to worry about what we will eat, drink or wear. He asked, "Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?" The theme here is single-hearted devotion to God which deals with the related attitude of freedom from anxiety over daily needs. He reminds us that worry is unnecessary, unfruitful and unbecoming to a Christian.

Throughout both the Old and New Testaments, God gives us numerous detailed stories of how He delivered and protected His people during troubled times. Never once did He fail or forsake those who put their trust in

His unfailing promises.

In Exodus, chapters 5-12, we read of the many miracles God performed for His people. Chapter 10 reminds us that God makes a distinction between those who serve Him and those who serve other gods. He sent thick and dense darkness over the land of Egypt for three days, but those who served Him had no darkness in their dwellings. They had light and continued to work and farm their lands with no interruptions.

Story after story reminds us of God's faithfulness to keep and care for His people when they rely on His promises. And He will do the same for us today, regardless of the economy. He is no respecter of persons. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

By following the advice in Proverbs 3:5 to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding," we can wake up every morning with peace in our hearts and this question on our lips, "Lord, is this wonderful life for real, or is it a dream?"

God bless



JERRIE STOCKS


Plant Sale

Howard County Master Gardeners



DATE: APRIL 25, 2009
TIME: 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.
*Heart of the City Park
(3rd & Scurry)*

Ceremony of Hope



On May 15 and 16, many of your friends and neighbors will run or walk on a track for 24 hours at Blankenship Field in an effort to put cancer on the run. At 10 p.m. on Friday, May 15, there will be a chance for you to participate in a candle lighting ceremony to honor special people in your life who have battled cancer or are undergoing treatment now.

Luminaries may be purchased for a donation either by filling out and returning the form below or at the event preceding the ceremony.

Please Print

I would like to purchase _____ luminaries for a donation of _____ in honor/memory of _____

Please write the following message on my luminary: _____

 Purchased by: _____
 Address: _____

Make checks payable to: ACS / Relay for Life

Return to: Carolyn Brooks
P.O. Box 13
Coahoma, TX 79511

OR

Lucy Griffith
2509 E. 24th
Big Spring, TX 79720

For more information: Call 394-4537

Club news

Howard County Master Gardeners

The Plant Sale will be held Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Heart of the City Park (corner of Third Street and Scurry). There will be a vast assortment of plants from which to choose. There will definitely be something for everyone.

Johansen's Nursery will provide most of the plants but many Master Gardeners will contribute various plants they have grown on their own.

HCMG members have created a Landscape Book for Howard County that will provide in-depth information about assorted plants, trees and everything in between that perform well in our climate. The books will be available at the Plant Sale for \$3 each — a nominal investment for a wealth of knowledge.

A huge thank you goes out to one member, Shirley Ryle, who was instrumental in organizing the effort and seeing it through to the end. There were several contributors to the project, but Shirley made it happen!

HCMG members are making plans to erect a greenhouse in the next few

months. Members of the committee have seen to it that the property has been surveyed and is being prepared for installation of utilities. The greenhouse is scheduled to be operational by fall so the Master Gardeners will be able to start growing plants for their annual Plant Sale held in April.

Members participated in the April 4 Trash Off Day by working at the Heart of the City Park and the Highway 80 project.

The club will soon sponsor an Adopt-a-Spot area around the Highway 80 entrance to Big Spring.

In September, HCMG will host a recertification class about plant propagation. Details will be announced at a later date.

HCMG will recognize gardeners within Howard County who have demonstrated gardening skill and design in their landscapes. Yard of the Month honorees will have a sign placed in their yard and a photo and article will appear in the *Big Spring Herald*. The first Yard of the Month for 2009 will be selected for the month of May.

Members were urged to bring a friend to the May 19 meeting.

West Texas Pachyderm Club

The West Texas Pachyderm (Republican) Club will be holding its monthly meeting at noon Thursday, April 30 at the Big Spring Country Club off Driver Road. Lunch is for a nominal fee.

For more information, contact Melanie Gambrell at 267-7387.

Tops TX 21

Tops Tx 21 (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) met Monday evening with nine TOPS and two KOPS present. Leader Laura Sickles called the group to order by leading the TOPS cheer. The group recited the TOPS pledge. The KOPS pledge was led by Ethel Casady. Olnee Menges led the group in the welcome song.

Business for the meeting began with the welcome of new member Todd Railsback. Next, members were reminded of the garage sale fund-raiser coming May 2 at 1802 Morrison St. in Big Spring. We hope all TOPS members will contribute to this and help at the sale.

Members were told that TOPS State

Recognition Days will be held in Corpus Christi in April 2010.

A new contest will begin next week. Frank Sickles will be in charge.

Roll call was next on the agenda with Hughetta Roberts calling the names. The club showed a loss of seven pounds with Lynne Criswell being recognized as the best loser with a 2.50-pound loss. The correction of last month's best loser was Hughetta Roberts listed as having a loss of 4.75 pounds.

The program was then presented by Olnee Menges titled "Think About What You're Thinking About." We can control our appetites and habits by replacing bad thoughts, ideas and desires with positive thoughts about things other than foods such as cakes, cookies or other off-limits foods.

All visitors are welcome at TOPS meetings. Our new weigh-in time is at 5:30 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 6 p.m. We meet each Monday in the fellowship hall of the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad.

If you have a weight management problem please come and meet with us. TOPS does help. We need you and you need us.

News in brief

Pakistani Taliban begin pulling back to Swat stronghold

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — A senior official says Taliban militants have begun pulling out of a recently seized district of northwestern Pakistan and are returning to their stronghold in the Swat Valley.

Syed Mohammed Javed, the top administrator for Swat and the surrounding region, says Taliban fighters abandoned their headquarters in the Buner region on Friday.

Javed says an Islamic cleric who mediated a peace agreement between the government and the militants helped persuade the Taliban to withdraw. The U.S. has sharply criticized the peace deal.

The Taliban had used it to justify a push into the adjoining Buner district, bringing them to within about 60 miles of the capital.

Public gets first full look at the FAA's record of airplanes striking birds

WASHINGTON (AP) — The public is getting its first uncensored look at the government's records of where and when airplanes have struck birds over the last 19 years, thanks largely to pressure resulting from the dramatic ditching of a US Airways jet in the Hudson River after bird strikes knocked out both its engines.

Finally, travelers will be able to learn which airports have the worst problems with birds.

Since 1990, the Federal Aviation Administration has been collecting reports voluntarily submitted by commercial and private pilots, the military, airline mechanics, and airport workers who clear dead birds and other animals from runways. The agency has released aggregate data over the years so it's known that there are records of more than 100,000 strikes and that reported strikes more than quadrupled from 1,759 in 1990 to 7,666 in 2007.

But the FAA has always feared the public can't handle the full truth about bird strikes, so it has withheld the names of specific airports and airlines involved.

Aware that some airports do a better job reporting strikes than others and that some face tougher bird problems, the agency said the public might use the data to "cast unfounded aspersions" on those who reported strikes and the airports.

Treasury Secretary Geithner to outline efforts to fix US banks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner is expected to outline the Obama administration's efforts to clean up the U.S. banking system during meetings Friday with finance ministers from the Group of Seven nations, a department official said.

Getting banks to lend again, along with government stimulus spending, is critical to turning around the U.S. and global economies, the official said Thursday, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak on the record.

His comments came the same day that Dominique Strauss-Kahn, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, urged the U.S. and Europe to do more to remove distressed assets from banks' balance sheets. World leaders pledged to take such steps during a summit in London April 2.

Postponing such steps, Strauss-Kahn said, would "postpone the recovery."

Finance officials from around the world are gathering in Washington for three days of discussions beginning Friday. The G-7 meetings will be followed by talks over dinner that night among the Group of 20 nations, which adds major emerging powers such as China, Russia, India and Brazil to the mix.

Hollywood vs. RealNetworks in showdown over legality of software that 'rips' DVDs

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Hollywood calls it "rent, rip and return" and contends it's one of the biggest technological threats to the movie industry's annual \$20 billion DVD market — software that allows you to copy a film without paying for it.

On Friday, the showdown over the issue will take place in federal court in San Francisco, where an army of lawyers representing Hollywood will argue that RealNetworks Inc.'s DVD "ripper" is an illegal digital piracy tool.

The company, in turn, will say the \$29.99 software that allows DVDs to be easily copied to computer hard drives is legitimate.

The same federal judge who shut down music-swapping site Napster in 2000 because of copyright violations will preside over the three-day trial, which is expected to cut to the heart of the same technological upheaval roiling Hollywood.

Calm winds limit spread of wildfire near S.C. coast overnight

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP) — Firefighters say calm winds overnight allowed them to hold steady against a wildfire that has burned 31 square miles near one of South Carolina's busiest tourist areas.

State Forestry Commission spokeswoman Holly Welch said early Friday that there was no indication that additional homes had burned in the overnight hours.

The blaze that started Wednesday west of Myrtle Beach has destroyed about 70 homes and damaged about 100 others.

Welch said 30 firefighters manned containment lines overnight. Officials estimated late Thursday that the blaze was about 40 percent contained and was expected to move north.

CHURCH

Continued from Page 7A

Alive in Christ Lutheran LCMS

Our credo is "Celebrating and sharing God's love and grace in our lives."

Pastor Bob Boyce from Sweetwater will be preaching from the pulpit. Our scripture reader will be Kent Ivey and our acolyte will be Alyssa Byrd. Angela Newton is our organist. Our elders for this

week are Darren Byrd and Bobby Roever. Communion will be distributed today.

The gospel lesson for this Sunday is the closing words (all but the last four verses) of Luke's Gospel.

East Fourth Street Baptist

The month of April is almost passed and we're gearing up for Vacation Bible School June 29-July 1. Workers need to contact Cathy Reitzer to sign up as to where you wish to work or teach.

The youth will be at Wal-Mart Saturday selling their famous brisket burritos. Please go by and

purchase your lunch and help them earn money for summer camp.

We invite you to East Fourth Street Baptist Church as a place to worship and fellowship with Christ-loving people. We are located at 401 E. Fourth St. Our Sunday services begin at 9:45 a.m. with Sunday school for all ages; worship service at 11 a.m. and the evening service at 6 p.m., both held in the Family Worship Center. Wednesday, our Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study, Youth Bible Study and Children's Bible Study are at 7 p.m. A men's Saturday morning Bible Study is at 7 a.m. Come join with us this Sunday in worship. For more information, call the church office at 267-2291.

Salem Baptist

Salem Baptist Church invites you to join us this Sunday for Sunday school at 10 a.m., morning worship at 11 a.m. and evening worship at 6 p.m. A nursery is available for all Sunday services. The Wednesday evening prayer meeting is held at Parkplace at 6 p.m.

Salem is pastored by Bro. Monroe Teeters and is located at the corner of Salem Road and Old Colorado City Highway. For information, call 394-4655.

Chapel of Faith

You are invited to attend Sunday worship beginning at 10:30 a.m. each week at Chapel of Faith, located at the corner of East 14th and Goliad. Each week, the Rev. Joel Miller and the Rev. Scott Willis bring an informative and inspirational message based on scripture. If you are looking for a church home where you can relax and enjoy hearing God's word, this may be the place for you. If you come early, you can enjoy a time of fellowship before worship begins. There is always coffee available and usually cookies, cake or doughnuts.

We now have a pianist/organist, but have found out our piano is not capable of being tuned, so we are on the hunt for another piano. It is great to have someone play for us each week. He is a very talented musician and is a blessing for our church.

ATTENTION DIABETICS!!

NEVER STICK YOUR FINGER AGAIN!!!

Come check out the newest technology for testing your blood sugar and...

NEVER STICK YOUR FINGER AGAIN!!!

All Diabetics who attend are eligible to receive the new Prodigy Blood Glucose Monitoring System to be paid for by your Part B Medicare. Also, Diabetics with Medicare qualify to be fitted for Diabetic shoes and 3 sets of Custom Molded Inserts — Even if you received shoes ANY time in 2008. In the past year, Medicare has approved many new styles of shoes... like dress shoes, casual topsiders and tennis shoes that are great for walking. These shoes come in all leather and are designed to be light-weight and provide extra support and cushioning to keep your feet comfortable. Everyone fitted for shoes will be given a Pair of Socks made Especially for Diabetics... **FREE!!!**

Medical Solutions of Arkansas is sponsoring a special "DIABETIC DAY" at the **HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS** on **TUESDAY, APRIL 28TH**. Stop by anytime from **9 a.m. — 3 p.m.** We'll do our best to have you in and out in less than 30 minutes. If you know someone who has **Diabetes** and **Medicare**, please be a good neighbor and let them know about it. They won't want to miss this special event. **ONSITE PEDORTHIST!!!**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!!!

THE HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS IS LOCATED AT 1109 NORTH AYLESFORD IN BIG SPRINGS, TX.