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HIGH BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY

APRIL 26, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 124

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Early voting starts Monday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Early voting in municipal and school board elections gets under way Monday.

According to Sandra Bloom, elections administrator for Howard County, the first ballots in this year's contest can be cast beginning at 8 a.m. Monday, with early voting set to

continue through May 5.

Early voting will be held from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, on the third floor of the Howard County Courthouse, said Bloom. "We'll hold extended-hour voting Thursday, April 30, and Tuesday, May 5, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m."

Bloom said branch voting will be See **VOTE**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Customers look through a variety of flowers and other plants on sale during the Howard County Master Gardeners' annual plant sale Saturday at the Heart of the City Park.

Traffic re-routes will be routine along Gregg St.

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Officials with the Texas Department of Transportation and Price Construction met with law enforcement and emergency services coordinators this past week to discuss the resurfacing of Gregg Street, which is set to begin Monday morning.

Matthew Evans, P.E., spokesperson

for TxDOT, said the project will span Highway 87 — otherwise known as Gregg Street within the city limits — from the FM 700 intersection to the Fourth Street intersection.

"We like to hold these pre-construction meetings so we can let local emergency personnel and law enforce-

ment See **GREGG**, Page 3A

Renovations to pick up pace at Howard College

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

In the coming months, hard hats will threaten to outnumber books and computers at Howard College.

Renovation projects brought about by a voter-approved \$23

million bond will kick into overdrive once spring semester classes let out in May, college officials announced.

An update on the status of the various projects will be discussed when the college trustees hold their monthly

meeting at 12:30 p.m. Monday in the student union building's Tumbleweed Room.

College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said the work tempo for the campus-wide renovations is about to increase significantly.

The first order of summer business will be asbestos abatement at the Horace Garrett and administration buildings. Trustees will consider bids for that project Monday, with work expected to begin as soon as possible after class-

es let out for the summer.

"We'll do abatement on the Horace Garrett Building first, right after graduation," Sparks said. "And we expect to begin abatement of the ad-

See **COLLEGE**, Page 7A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Kelley Howell prepares her entry during the fifth annual Fajita Cook-Off at the Big Spring American Legion Post Saturday morning.

Pre-trial bond project may meet its demise at hands of new jail

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The county's pre-trial bonding operation could see some changes in the near future, as Howard County commissioners meet Monday to discuss it and several other issues.

Commissioners are expected to meet with County Pre-Trial Bonding Director Mike Welling and discuss the future of the program, which was originally implemented to help keep inmate counts at the county jail below state requirements.



Barr

"We're considering moving Mike Welling's position to the sheriff's office," said County Judge Mark Barr. "With the new jail completed and the new administration in place, the need for a full-time pre-trial bonding director isn't necessarily there. So the thought at this point would be to move Mike to the sheriff's office as a deputy."

Howard County developed and implemented the program in June 2006, shortly after the county came under fire by the Texas Jail Commission for overcrowding and failure to meet state requirements. The

See **COUNTY**, Page 7A

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Steers fall to Lake View in nine innings

By **BILL NORRIS**

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

SAN ANGELO — Call it the one that got away for the Big Spring Steers baseball team

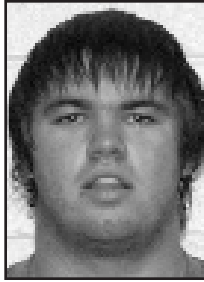
In a pitchers' duel, the Steers came up achingly short to San Angelo Lake View, 4-3, in nine innings.

Big Spring's Cade Hollandsworth and Lake View's John David Baker were stellar on the mound as both went the distance in a game that ended on a sacrifice fly by Lake View's Blake McCracken in the bot-

tom of the ninth.

"He did a great job," Big Spring Head Coach Bert Otto said of Hollandsworth, "Just an outstanding great effort."

Hollandsworth went 8.2 innings giving up three hits and four runs, while striking out six. Baker went nine innings giving up seven hits, three



Hollandsworth

runs and striking out eight.

The Steers took an early lead when Kaegan Hunt reached on an error to start the game. Baker fielded Hunt's slow roller cleanly, but his throw to first was wide and Hunt ended up at second.

Martin Yanez' sacrifice fly moved Hunt to third and Jeremy Solis drove him home with a sacrifice fly to center.

The Chiefs took the lead in the second, when they pushed two across without getting a hit. Rodney Akers led off the inning with a walk and

Jace Stovall was hit by a pitch.

McCracken laid down a perfect sacrifice bunt to advance the runners to second and third. The first run came across when Hollandsworth uncorked a wild pitch and Akers slid home ahead of the tag.

Ransom Davidson's sacrifice fly plated Albert Delgado, who was running for Stovall, and the Chiefs led, 2-1.

Big Spring came back with two in

See **STEERS**, Page 4B

Coahoma surmounts Wall, 1-0

Newton outduels Wall's Carrico, giving CHS top seed out of district

By **JONATHAN HULL**

Sports Editor

MIDLAND — For the third time this season, a softball game between the Coahoma Bulldogettes and Wall Lady Hawks was decided by the score 1-0.

This time it was the Bulldogettes coming out on top.

Coahoma wrapped up the No. 1 seed out of District 7-2A Friday with the victory in Midland. The two teams finished atop the district with 9-1 records and split the regular season series with each winning 1-0 at home.

It was another classic pitchers' duel between Coahoma's Heather Newton and Wall's Shannon Carrico.

Both pitchers gave up just two hits, but the two allowed by Carrico cost her the game.

With one out in the top of the first, Newton drove a pitch to the wall in left center for a triple. Two batters later, senior Shelbi Paige came through with a two-out RBI single back up the middle into center. Newton scored easily on the play and it was all the help she needed to pick up her 19th victory of the season.

"It means a lot to get any win, but that's a really good team we faced tonight," said

See **COAHOMA**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Coahoma's Heather Newton pitches in District 7-2A softball action March 24 at Coahoma. Newton pitched a two-hitter Friday in a 1-0 win over Wall, clinching the No. 1 seed out of the district for the post-season. She struck out 15 batters.

Hawks hit 12 homers

HC crushes Clarendon with several long balls

Herald Staff Report

CLARENDON — It was raining baseballs Friday afternoon in Clarendon.

But that's what happens when two of the best hitting teams in the nation come together.

The No. 1-ranked Howard College Hawks belted 12 home runs in two wins over Clarendon Community College, 20-7 and 15-4, as they improved to 48-0 on the season.

The ball was consistently flying out of the park as Clarendon had five homers of its own.

Leading the way for Howard at the plate was Caleb Nine, who hit two home runs in both games. Will Calhoun placed three out of the park in Game 2.

Nine doubled his season total as he came into the doubleheader with four home runs on the year.

Calhoun, who carries the top batting average in the nation with a .548, now has nine jacks on the year and finished the day with seven total RBI.

Also going deep for Howard in Game 1 was Andrew Collazo and Nick Popescu. Collazo, who was the hero in Howard's closest game of the season last weekend against Midland, had a double and five RBI to go along with his longball.

The Hawks led 9-3 going into the top of the seventh inning, then erupted for 11 runs in that frame. It's the largest amount of runs Howard has scored in

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B

Lady Steers fall, 4-3, place fourth in District 4-4A

Herald Staff Report

LUBBOCK — Big Spring's Lady Steers softball team knew they were in the playoffs, but still had a chance to improve its standing in District 4-4A Friday.

Instead, after losing to Plainview, 4-3, in a seeding game, the Lady Steers will commandeer the No. 4 spot out of 4-4A and will meet District 3-4A champion Canyon Randall in the first round.

The Lady Steers led 3-2 late in the game, but allowed Plainview to tie it, then take the lead in the sixth.

See **LADY STEERS**, Page 2B

Ira nips Buffs for top seed

Herald Staff Report

SNYDER — Something about the Ira Bulldogs gives the Forsan Buffaloes fits on the baseball diamond.

See **BUFFS**, Page 4B

Local gymnast competing for regional title

By **JONATHAN HULL**

Sports Editor

For the first time in several years, Big Spring will be represented at a regional gymnastics meet.

Twelve-year-old Emilie Smith finished 30th out of 100 girls competing at the Level 8 State Meet April 4, earning a spot in the Level 8 Region Meet in Norman, Okla., which began at 8 a.m. Saturday and continues through Sunday.

At the regional, the state of Texas will compete against gymnasts from Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Arizona. Smith is one of only two girls from the West Texas area to be advancing to regionals with the other being her best friend, Halie Thompson of San Angelo.

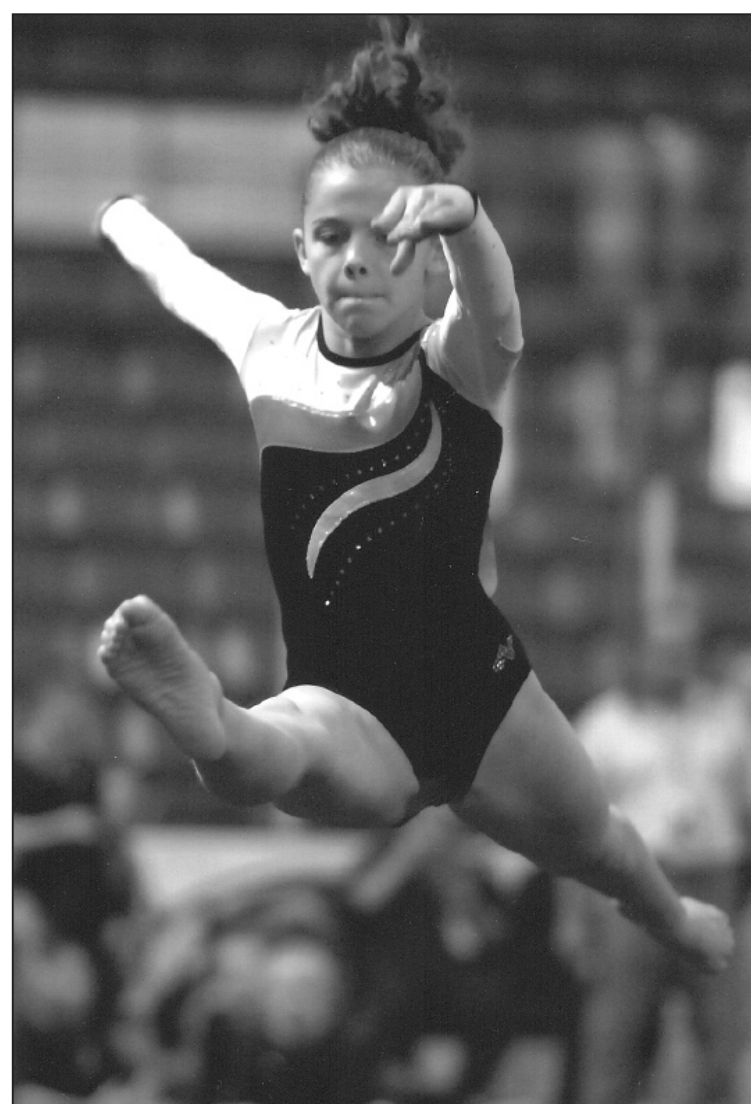
"Emilie is the first gymnast I've had in my five years in Big Spring to

advance this far," said Coach Desiree Best. "She has no fear. She's a hard worker and has the best attitude of the group of kids she came up with. There is no attitude problem with her whatsoever. She's never told me no when I've asked her to do something. She's got immense talent and a drive like I've never seen before."

Smith started participating in gymnastics when she was eight, which is a late start when compared to some of the other girls she'll be competing against.

"Really what she's done is pretty remarkable. There are different levels of competition," noted Best. "When Emilie started out, she was a level four. She's moved up four levels in four years. Most girls at her

See **SMITH**, Page 2B



Courtesy photo

Twelve-year-old gymnast Emilie Smith of Big Spring performs during a competition earlier this year. Smith placed 30th in her division at the state meet April 4 and earned a bid into the regional competition, which began Saturday morning in Norman, Okla.

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo

with authentic Mexican flavors



FAMILY FEATURES

Cinco de Mayo is a fun and festive holiday that's celebrated with music, dancing, family and delicious food. To bring great Mexican flavors to your fiesta, take a lesson from Maria Conception Jacinta Dominguez Ortega — also known as Mama Ortega.

In the 1800s, Mama Ortega created a loving home for her 13 children, and it centered around a tiny kitchen. From her small charcoal-burning stove, Mama created memorable meals her family loved. Everything for each meal was homegrown, hand-picked and homemade.

You may not be able to grow your own ingredients, but you can take advantage of the way Mama did things — through authentic ingredients such as the line of Ortega Mexican Foods products. Fire-roasted chiles, authentic taco seasonings, crisp taco shells made with whole kernel corn and America's number one taco sauce are just a few of the ways that Ortega brings authentic Mexican flavor and fun to your family's dinner table.

For more delicious Mexican recipes to enjoy on Cinco de Mayo — or any day — visit www.ortega.com.

Smothered Beef and Bean Burritos

Prep Time: 10 minutes
Start to Finish: 40 minutes
Makes: 10 burritos

- 1 can (10.75 ounces) condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can (10 ounces) condensed cheddar cheese soup
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 onion, diced
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 Ortega Soft Taco Kit — includes 10 soft tortillas, 1 package (1.25 ounces) taco seasoning mix and 1 package (3 ounces) taco sauce
- 1 cup Ortega Refried Beans
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
- 1/4 cup diced tomato

Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly coat 13 x 9-inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Combine soups and sour cream in small bowl; set aside.

Heat oil in skillet over medium-high heat. Add beef and onion. Cook and stir 5 minutes or until beef is no longer pink. Drain and discard fat. Add water and seasoning mix from kit. Cook and stir 3 minutes. Stir in refried beans.

Wrap tortillas from kit with clean, lightly moistened cloth or paper towels. Microwave on HIGH (100% power) 1 minute, until hot and pliable.

Divide beef mixture evenly among tortillas. Fold ends of tortilla to middle, then roll tightly around mixture. Place in baking dish, seam side down. Repeat with remaining tortillas.

Spread soup mixture evenly over tortillas. Bake 22 to 25 minutes or until heated through. Garnish with taco sauce from kit, cilantro and tomatoes.

Chili Con Queso Dip

Prep Time: 3 minutes
Start to Finish: 15 minutes
Makes about 3 cups

- 1 package (16 ounces) pasteurized processed cheese spread, cut into chunks
- 1 cup Ortega Thick and Chunky Mild Salsa
- 1 can (4 ounces) Ortega Fire-Roasted Diced Green Chiles
- 1 package (10 count) Ortega Tostada Shells or 1 package (12-count) Ortega Taco Shells, broken into pieces
- Additional Ortega Fire-Roasted Diced Green Chiles (optional)
- Chopped tomatoes (optional)

Combine cheese, salsa and chilies in small saucepan. Cook and stir over low heat until fully melted and blended.

Serve warm with tostada or taco shells. Garnish with additional chilies and tomatoes, if desired.



Slow-Cooked Shredded Beef Tacos

Prep Time: 12 minutes
Start to Finish: 6 hours
Makes: 6 to 8 servings

- 1 1/2 pounds beef chuck roast
- 1 medium onion, sliced
- 1 cup water
- 1 Ortega Grande Taco Dinner Kit — includes 8 hard taco shells, 8 soft flour tortillas, 1 packet (1.25 ounces) taco seasoning mix, 1 packet (3 ounces) taco sauce and 1 packet Land O Lakes Cheese Sauce

1 can (4 ounces) Ortega Diced Green Chiles

Optional toppings: shredded lettuce, chopped tomato, shredded mild cheddar cheese, sour cream

Place beef and onion in 4-quart slow cooker. Combine water and seasoning mix from kit in small bowl. Pour over beef and onion. Cover and cook on LOW 6 to 8 hours or until fork tender.

Transfer beef to cutting board; shred beef with two forks. Place in large bowl. Stir in taco sauce from kit and chilies.

Fill warmed taco shells and tortillas from kit with beef mixture. Top with cheese sauce from kit. Garnish with desired toppings.

Easy Empanadas

Prep Time: 10 minutes
Start to Finish: 25 minutes
Makes: 12 empanadas

- 1 cup prepared refrigerated barbecue shredded pork
- 2 tablespoons Ortega Taco Sauce, any variety
- 1 tablespoon Ortega Fire-Roasted Diced Green Chilies
- 1 can (12-count) refrigerated biscuits
- 1 egg, well beaten
- 1 cup Ortega Black Bean and Corn Salsa

Preheat oven to 375°F. Mix pork, taco sauce and chilies in small bowl.

Separate biscuits into 12 pieces. Flatten each biscuit into 6-inch round, using rolling pin. Divide filling evenly among biscuits, spreading over half of each round to within 1/4 inch of edge. Fold dough over filling; press edges with fork to seal well. Place on ungreased cookie sheet. Brush tops with beaten egg.

Bake 12 to 15 minutes or until edges are golden brown. Immediately remove from cookie sheet. Serve warm with salsa for dipping.



Chocolate Chile Brownies With Spiced Frosting

Prep Time: 10 minutes
Start to Finish: 1 hour
Makes: 9 servings

Brownies

- 1 package (18 to 19 ounces) brownie mix, plus ingredients to prepare mix
- 1 can (4 ounces) Ortega Diced Green Chiles, undrained

Frosting

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon Ortega Chili Seasoning Mix
- 1 1/2 to 2 tablespoons milk

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line 8-inch square baking pan with aluminum foil, extending foil over sides of pan; lightly coat with nonstick cooking spray.

Prepare brownies according to package directions. Stir in chilies; mix until well blended. Pour into prepared baking pan. Bake 25 to 30 minutes, or use time recommended on package. Cool on wire rack. Using foil "handles," remove from pan.

Blend powdered sugar and seasoning mix in small bowl. Stir in milk, adding more if necessary, until desired consistency. Spread on brownies. Slice and serve.



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Obituaries

Florencia Franco

Florencia "Pola" Franco, 80, of Big Spring died Thursday, April 23, 2009, at her residence. Vigil Services will be at 7 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Msgr. Bernard L. Gully officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Oct. 27, 1928, in Big Spring to Juanita and Marcelino Gonzales. She attended school in Borden and Howard counties, and lived most of her life in Big Spring except for 20 years in Santa Ana, Calif. She was a member of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church and was a member of the Legion of Mary. She was a homemaker, did babysitting, and also enjoyed Bingo until her 60s.

She is survived by her husband, Alex Franco of Big Spring; two sons, Joe Gonzales and Alex Franco Jr. and his wife Linda, all of Big Spring; two daughters, Emma Blanco and her husband Gilbert and Irma Delgado and her husband Fernando, all of Big Spring; two sisters, Lucia Manzanarez of Big Spring, and Margaret Romero of Santa Ana, California; 12 grandchildren, Corrina Gutierrez, Lori Delgado, Lit'l Alex III, Johnny Lara Jr., Fernando Delgado Jr., Armando Delgado, Carlos Blanco, Valerie Rivera, Joe Luis Rivera, Brittany Escanuena, Alexandria Escanuena and Michael Escanuena; eight great grandchildren, Gabriella Delgado, Matthew Gutierrez, Jahalynn Lara, Angelica, Tony, Isiah, Joe Jr., and Maria; and several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Alex Franco Jr., Fernando Delgado Jr., Joe Gonzales, Alex Franco, III, Felipe Delgado and Johnny Lara Jr.

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

Paid obituary

Harlan Geary Thornton

Harlan Geary Thornton passed peacefully at his home Thursday, April 23, 2009.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Lynn Robertson, chaplain of Compass Hospice, officiating. Assisting will be Dr. Cheryl Sparks. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Monday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the funeral home.

Harlan was a lifelong resident of Big Spring, born Jan. 12, 1938, to Geary and Dovie Mae Thornton. Harlan was a 1956 graduate of Big Spring High School and graduated from Howard College in 1958. He earned a bachelor of liberal arts degree from the University of Texas and then went on to achieve a doctorate in education from Texas Tech University. Dr. Thornton devoted many years sharing his knowledge and energies challenging students to higher levels of opportunity in Farmington, N.M., Houlton, Maine and Big Spring.

Harlan was a Christian and an active member of the Gurdjieff Religious Society. He led and participated in weekly online meetings with others around the country.

Dr. Thornton was a professor at Howard College from 1963 until his retirement July 30, 2001. During this time he served as professor of General Studies, Music, Developmental English and Foreign Language. Dr. Thornton mentored and encouraged many individuals in both his professional and private life and he will be greatly missed.

Dr. Thornton is preceded in death by his parents, Geary and Dovie Mae Thornton, two sisters, Wilma Dean Thornton and Dixie Pauline Burcham.

He is survived by one sister and brother-in-law, Sandra and Gary Powers of Cecilia, Ky.; three nephews, Michael Burcham of Big Spring, Rick Powers of Cecilia, Ky., and Dale Powers of Elizabethtown, Ky.; and one niece, Cheryl Burcham of Austin.

The family wishes to express their sincere thanks to the Compass Home Hospice staff, Dr. Cezary Kuprianowicz and staff, and to two very special cousins, Nell Thornton and Theda Perez, for the many meals and tender loving care.

The family suggests memorials be made to Howard College, 1001 Birdwell LN, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

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newsdesk@bigspringherald.com



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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Friday:

- ASSAULT BY THREATS was reported in the 1800 block of Lancaster.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1700 block of Purdue.
- ASSAULT ON A PUBLIC SERVANT was reported in the 300 block of Main.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1500 block of Austin.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 700 block of 11th Place.
- THEFT UNDER \$50 was reported in the 400 block of Birdwell and the 900 block of Willia.

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.

• 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.

• 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. The Coahoma Alumni Association is trying to update its e-mail and mailing address lists and asks that you contact Patti Meets at pmeeks@basin-net.net or (432) 267-6688 with updates. More information will be shared as the reunion planning progresses.

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

BIG SPRING ART ASSOCIATION

Area Art Show -- Howard College
Marie Hall Performing Arts Center

Public Viewing Drop off - Fri May 1, 10 am - 4 pm
Sat. May 2, 3-5 pm Judging - Sat May 2, 11 am - 1 pm
M-F May 4-8 8-5 daily Patron Viewing 1-3 pm
Sat May 9 11 am - 5 pm Call 263-4033 for details

Artist's reception 3-5 pm Sat May 9

All area artists welcome. No limit for entries.

Entry fee \$8 each, \$6 for BSAA members

Prizes: \$200 - 100 - 75 - 50 and max. 6 honorable mentions at \$30

Pick up artwork Sat May 9 5 pm.

Your Local Weather

Sun 4/26	Mon 4/27	Tue 4/28
 84/61 A few isolated thunderstorms developing during the afternoon.	 86/57 Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.	 76/61 Scattered thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 60s.
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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

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

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery: 18-33-6-1-32

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-0-9-0. Sum It Up: 9

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-4-7. Sum It Up: 12

Support Groups

TUESDAY

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

• Celebrate Recovery, a 12-Step program, meets from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Salvation Army, 308 Ay-lford.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Lions and Stafford agree on 6-year deal

DETROIT (AP) — The Detroit Lions hope Matthew Stafford ends their decades-long search for a star quarterback.

Stafford and the Lions agreed on a six-year contract, agent Tom Condon told The Associated Press on Friday night. Condon and Ben Dogra, who also represents Stafford, negotiated the deal with \$41.7 million in guarantees and a maximum value of \$78 million.

The Lions will formally take Stafford with the No. 1 pick in the draft Saturday.

They have five of the first 82 picks to help the NFL's first 0-16 team bounce back to respectability.

Detroit hasn't had a quarterback play in the Pro Bowl since Greg Landry in 1971. Long-term stability at the position has been elusive since Bobby Layne starred for them in the 1950s.

Just before first-year coach Jim Schwartz was hired last winter, he joked that it was about time

See **STAFFORD**, Page 3B

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

a game this season. The Hawks had scored 18 earlier this year in a win over New Mexico Military Institute.

Zach Neal (10-0) picked up the win for the Hawks, pitching six innings and allowing three earned runs on eight hits and no walks with eight strikeouts.

David De La Chappelle closed the final inning, giving up four runs on four hits.

In Game 2, the Hawks hit eight total homers with five coming off the bats of Nine and Calhoun. Popescu, Monk Kreder and Joe Leftridge also went deep.

Kreder now leads the team in home runs with 14 on the year, which is one more than Miles Hamblin.

Dylan Cacciola (8-0) picked up the win, throwing a complete game. Cacciola allowed four earned runs on five hits and a walk, while striking out seven.

The Hawks have the best batting average in the nation, hitting .436 and have now hit 76 homers as a team in 48 games. The team's ERA is 2.90.

The Hawks are flirting with history, attempting to become the first team to finish a season undefeated since 1956 at any level of college baseball. They're also making a bid for the longest win

streak, regardless of division. The current record is 55.

Howard wrapped up its four-game series with Clarendon with a second doubleheader Saturday. Clarendon had been receiving votes to be placed in the Top 25 poll heading into the weekend.

Full results of Saturday's action will be available in Monday's edition of the Herald.

Game 1
Howard 20, Clarendon 7

HC	000 405 (11)-20 22 0
CC	002 001 4-7 12 1

Zach Neal, David De La Chappelle (7) and Monk Kreder. Richard Olson, Josh Cordova (6), Ricardo Martinez (6), Ray Garza (7), Luke Wilkins (7) and Dominic Bouvier. W - Neal (10-0). L - Olson. 2B: HC - Andrew Collazo, Bryan Johns 2, Kreder, Miles Hamblin; CC - Jase Morgan, Scott Tabrett, Josh Golotta. 3B: HC - Runey Davis, Will Calhoun. HR: HC - Caleb Nine 2, Collazo, Nick Popescu; CC - Tabrett, Damon Loewen, Gabriel Thibodeau. RBI: HC - Joe Leftridge, Johns 3, Hamblin, Kreder 2, Popescu 3, Nine 2, Calhoun 2, Collazo 5; CC - Nick Marquez, Loewen, Morgan, Tabrett 2, Thibodeau, Golotta. SB: HC - Collazo 2, Nine, Davis, Leftridge. LOB: HC 6, CC 6.

Game 2
Howard 15, Clarendon 4

HC	010 365-15 15 0
CC	201 010-4 5 0

Dylan Cacciola and Miles Hamblin. Angel Celedon, Josh Cordova (5), Irving Comacho (6) and Dominic Bouvier. W - Cacciola (8-0). L - Celedon. 2B: HC - Caleb Nine, Monk Kreder, Miles Hamblin; CC - Edwin Arroyo. 3B: CC - Justin Medeiros. HR: HC - Will Calhoun 3, Caleb Nine 2, Nick Popescu, Monk Kreder, Joe Leftridge; CC - Scott Tabrett 2. RBI: HC - Calhoun 5, Nine 3, Popescu 2, Kreder 3, Hamblin, Leftridge; CC - Gabriel Thibodeau 2, Tabrett 2. SB: CC - Arroyo. LOB: HC 2, CC 2.

Obscure QBs have chance of being 2nd day selections

CONWAY, Ark. (AP) — All Nathan Brown needed was a chance, and he found one with a Division II program not far from his hometown.

Now, five years after showing up to play quarterback at Central Arkansas, Brown is closing in on an even bigger opportunity.

"You can look up and down NFL rosters and see small-school guys succeeding every week, so that's something that I've got on my side," Brown said. "They're going to find you and give you an opportunity if they think you deserve one."

It seems like every spring, talented quarterbacks emerge from obscurity right before the NFL draft. Not many fans are familiar with Brown, but he's one of several prolific passers from small programs who are hoping to hear their names called this weekend.

In addition to Brown, there's Rhett Bomar of Sam Houston State, Mike Reilly of Central Washington and even Jason Boltus of Division III Hartwick. If recent history is any indication, at least one of these players could make an impact on Sunday afternoons.

"We're all pursuing the same thing," Brown said. "We all have the same dream, and we all have the same problem at the same time. We come from a small school, so we're all climbing that uphill battle."

See **OBSCURER**, Page 3B

SMITH

Continued from Page 1B

level start training at three or four years old."

Smith qualified with an all-around score of 36.4 at state. She scored an 8.85 in the vault after executing a tucked Yurechenko. She had an 9.075 in her bars routine. Her score on beam was 9.3 and she closed the floor competition as the last competitor, posting a 9.125.

What's most remark-

able about Smith's scores is that she performed them with two bad ankles.

"Emilie was injured at state. I didn't expect her to advance because of those bad ankles," said Best. "I never know with her, though.

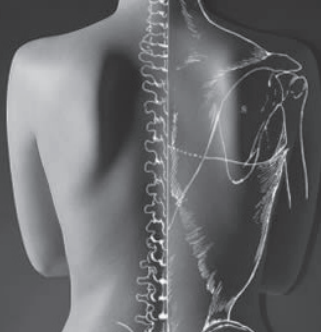
"With that type of performance, I think she could be capable of finishing in the top 10 in her age group," Best added. "She has a lot of determination and seems to step up when the competition is tough."



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- 2005 Ford F250 Crew Cab King Ranch FX4 4X4 Powerstroke Diesel - Dark Copper/Tan w/Leather, Local One Owner. **Was \$30,995** **NOW \$27,995**
- 2005 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Grey, All Power. **Was \$14,995** **NOW \$12,995**
- 2005 Ford F150 Supercab STX - V8, Automatic, Local One Owner, w/36,000 Miles. **Was \$17,995** **NOW \$15,995**
- 2005 Ford Ranger XLT Supercrew - V6, Automatic, 6 Cylinder, Local One Owner w/39,000 Miles. **Was \$14,995** **NOW \$11,995**
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- 2004 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Arizona Beige w/Cloth, All Power. **Was \$15,995** **NOW \$13,995**
- 2004 Ford Ranger S/C XLT - White w/Cloth, Local One Owner, w/62,000 Miles. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$11,995**
- 2003 Ford F250 Crew Cab XL - White, 5.4 V-8. **Was \$12,995** **NOW \$9,995**
- 2003 Ford F150 S/C XLT 4X2 V8 - Gray w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Camper Shell, Very Nice, 59,000 Miles. **Was \$10,995** **NOW \$9,995**
- 2002 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Silver w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, All Power. **Was \$10,995** **NOW \$9,995**
- 2002 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT 4X4 7.3 Powerstroke Diesel - Local One Owner w/90,000 Miles. **Was \$15,995** **NOW \$13,995**
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- 2007 Chevrolet Colorado L.S. Crew Cab - White, V-6, All Power, Local One Owner w/37,000 Miles. **Was \$17,995** **NOW \$15,995**
- 2006 GMC Canyon Crew Cab 4X4 SLE - Red, V-6, All Power, One Owner w/27,415 Miles. **Was \$18,995** **NOW \$16,995**
- 2005 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 H.D./L.S. 4X4 - White, Local One Owner w/36,000 Miles. **Was \$24,995** **NOW \$19,995**
- 2004 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 L.S. Reg. Cab - Pewter, V-6, Automatic, A/C, 58K Miles. **Was \$15,995** **NOW \$11,995**
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- 2008 Nissan Frontier SE Crew Cab - Gray w/Gray Cloth, Bed Liner, One Owner, Like New, All Power, Only 27,000 Miles. **Was \$19,995** **NOW \$18,995**

★★★ CARS ★★★

- 2008 Ford Focus SE - Blue, w/Gray Cloth, Ford Program Unit, Like New, Only 17,000 Miles. **Was \$17,995** **NOW \$14,995**
- 2008 Ford Focus SE - White, w/Gray Cloth, Ford Program Unit, Like New, Only 12,000 Miles. **Was \$17,995** **NOW \$15,995**
- 2008 Ford Focus SE - Silver, w/Gray Cloth, Ford Program Unit, Like New, Only 19,000 Miles. **Was \$17,995** **NOW \$15,995**
- 2007 Lexus ES 350 - Blue w/Tan Leather, One Owner, Very Nice Car, Loaded, Only 27,000 Miles. **Was \$32,995** **NOW \$28,995**
- 2007 Ford Fusion SEL - Silver, w/Gray Leather, Ford Program Unit, Like New, Only 24,000 Miles. **Was \$16,995** **NOW \$14,795**
- 2007 Nissan Sentra S - White w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, All Power, Only 29,000 Miles. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$12,995**
- 2007 Volkswagen EOS Turbo Convertible - Blue w/Tan Leather, One Owner, Loaded, Must See, Only 13,000 Miles. **Was \$25,995** **NOW \$24,995**
- 2006 Saturn ION3 - Silver w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Great Gas Saver, Make Great First Car, Low Miles. **Was \$12,995** **NOW \$11,995**
- 2006 Lincoln Towncar - Stone Gray w/Gray Leather, One Owner, Loaded, Nice Car, 47,000 Miles. **Was \$23,995** **NOW \$20,995**

★★★ CARS ★★★

- 2006 Ford Taurus SEL - Gray w/Gray Leather, Moonroof, All Power, Loaded, Low Miles. **Was \$11,995** **NOW \$10,995**
 - 2005 Lincoln Towncar Signature - White w/Tan Leather, One Owner, Like New, Super Nice, 46,000 Miles. **Was \$17,995** **NOW \$16,995**
 - 2004 Chev. Malibu LS - Silver, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Like New, Very Nice, Must See, Only 55,000 Miles. **Was \$9,995** **NOW \$8,995**
 - 2003 Ford Focus ZTS - Green w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Nice Car, Well Kept. **Was \$6,995** **NOW \$5,995**
 - 2002 Buick Century Custom - Silver w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Nice Car, One Owner. **Was \$6,995** **NOW \$5,995**
 - 2000 Mercury Grand Marquis LS - Gold, w/Tan Leather, Well kept, Nice One Owner, Low Miles. **Was \$7,995** **NOW \$6,995**
- ### ★★★ SUV'S ★★★
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 - 2006 Nissan Xterra SE - White w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Only 19,000 Miles. **Was \$19,995** **NOW \$17,995**
 - 2005 Chevrolet Tahoe 4X2 LS - White, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Like New, Loaded, Only 53,000 Miles. **Was \$19,995** **NOW \$15,995**
 - 2005 Ford Escape XLT - Silver, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Great On Gas, Like New, Only 63,000 Miles. **Was \$12,995** **NOW \$10,995**
 - 2005 GMC Yukon 4X2 SLT - Tan w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Loaded, All Power, One Owner. **Was \$19,995** **NOW \$16,995**
 - 2005 Ford Explorer Sport Trac XLT - Red, w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Like New, Low Miles. **Was \$18,995** **NOW \$16,995**
 - 2004 Nissan Xterra XE - Red, w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Nice First Car, One Owner, Only 67,000 Miles. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$11,995**
 - 2004 Honda CRV LX 4X4 - Gray w/Tan Leather, Loaded, All Power, One Owner. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$10,995**
 - 2004 Chevrolet Tahoe LT 4X2 - Gray, w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Only 60,000 Miles. **Was \$20,995** **NOW \$17,995**
 - 2004 Nissan Xterra SE - Silver, w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Nice SUV, Only 52,000 Miles. **Was \$16,995** **NOW \$13,995**
 - 2004 Buick Ranier V8 CXL - Silver w/Gray Leather, Loaded, DVD Player, Moonroof, 51,000 Miles. **Was \$15,995** **NOW \$14,995**
 - 2003 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - Gray w/Gray Leather, Loaded, One Owner, Like New, 78,000 Miles. **Was \$22,995** **NOW \$19,995**
 - 2003 Nissan Xterra SE - Blue, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Like New. **Was \$14,995** **NOW \$11,995**

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► Weddings

McBee-Brooks

Chandra Lea McBee and Michael Lynn Brooks were united in marriage April 18, 2009, at Delaney Vineyards in Grapevine. The ceremony was conducted by Jeff Monk.

Chandra is the daughter of Barry McBee and Kelly McBee of Big Spring and the granddaughter of LaJoyce McBee of Lubbock. Michael is the son of Marty and Melissa Brooks of Coahoma and Lee and Sherry Cook of Midland. He is the grandson of Stella Brooks of Big Spring and Charlie and Betty Smith of Stanton.

Kortney Kupatt, cousin of the bride, of Lubbock, served as maid of honor. Bridesmaids included Julie Adams and Hayley Knox of Dallas, Kymbre Kupatt of Sagerton, Tonia Harman of Midland, Ashley Smith of Lubbock and Jamie Park and Leslie Berry of Big Spring. Cash Berry, lifelong friend of the groom, of Big Spring, served as best man. Groomsmen included Weylin Wolf and Tom Griffin of Vincent, Wade Kirkwood of Crane, Riley Hipp of Arlington, Collin McMillan of Coahoma and Sean Smith of Stanton.

The flowergirl and ringbearer were Reagen Leary, cousin of the groom, and Cody Handcock, nephew of the groom. Ushers were Josh Spencer of Arizona, Josh Howell of Big Spring and Austin Drake of College Station. The house party included cousins of the bride, Abby Drake and Ethan Cole. The wedding coordinator was Karen Johnson of Burleson. The wedding planner was Bernadette Brewer with Bernadette Weddings and Events in Dallas.

Chandra's gown was a breathtaking white silk gown by Sposa of St. Pucchi for Bridal Portfolio. The strapless gown of silk satin overlaid with organza was delicately embellished throughout the



Chandra Lea McBee Brooks

fluted skirt and sweep train of golden embroidered pattern of flowers with beaded accents. The waist featured a bias band tied with a silk flower at the hip. She was crowned in a veil of sheer tulle embroidered at the edges in golden threads of the floral motif with scattered crystals. The bride carried an elegant hand-tied bouquet of cream Yves Piaget garden roses and ivory Anastasia roses wrapped in ivory bridal satin ribbon wrapped in a French braid with pearl beading.

Chandra is a 2000 graduate of Big Spring High School, received her collegiate degree in psychology at Texas Tech University and obtained her master's in psychology from Hardin Simmons University. Chandra is employed by Howard College.

Michael is a 1998 graduate of Coahoma High School and obtained his collegiate degree from Texas Tech University in agriculture. Michael is employed with his father as a farmer.

After a honeymoon adventure to St. Lucia at the Sandals Resort, the couple will make their home in Coahoma.



Mr. and Mrs. Chad Childress

Miller-Childress

Amy Dawn Miller and Chad Richard Childress were united in marriage Nov. 28, 2009, at sunset at a private boutique hotel on the beach in Kantenah Bay, Mexico. Along with close family and friends, a beachfront reception followed with music by a Mexican classical guitarist. On the eve of the wedding, a rehearsal dinner was provided at the restaurant Vida in the hotel.

The bride is the daughter of Deborah Black and Tippy Miller of Big Spring. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rick Childress of Scottsdale, Ariz.

Cori Wilbanks, cousin of the bride, served as maid of honor. Jason Childress, brother of the groom, served as best man.

Given in marriage by her parents, and escorted by her father, the bride wore an elegant gown designed by Cymbeline of Paris. The gown of French vintage lace and silk satin featured a plunging neckline with lace cap sleeves over each shoulder. The trumpet silhouette train was later made into a classic French bustle. Amy wore a white orchid in her hair and carried a bouquet of white orchids and white tropical flowers.

The bride attended Big Spring High School and is a graduate of The University of Texas Health Science Center, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing. She is employed at St. David's Medical Center in the neonatal intensive care unit in Austin.

The groom attended St. Mary's High School in Phoenix, Ariz., and is a graduate of Baylor University with a bachelor's degree in management information systems. He is employed with the BHW Group in Austin.

Following a honeymoon in the Mayan Riviera, the couple made their home in Austin.



Courtesy photo

Five generations got together recently. From left to right are Evlyn Coker of Big Spring, Londa Henry of Kingsland, Shawna Ashlock of Fort Worth, Lauren Barksdale of Eules and Evlyn Grace Barksdale of Eules.



VICTIM SERVICES OF BIG SPRING

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WHEN: APRIL 27TH, 2009 AT 4:00 P.M.

WHERE: FIRST FLOOR OF THE HOWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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MAYOR RUSS McEWEN

GUEST SPEAKERS:
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April 29 – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
"Pork Loin"
Movie, 1:00 p.m. "A Good Year"

April 30 – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
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Texas Legislature

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas House lawmakers on Friday voted to boost the compensation the state pays to people who were wrongly sent to prison for crimes they didn't commit, give them health insurance and access to a college education.

The bill raises the lump sum payout from \$50,000 to \$80,000 for every year spent in prison. It also provides a monthly annuity based on the same amount to give them a life-

time of income.

The measure also gives exonerees health insurance similar to what state lawmakers get and pays for up to 120 semester hours at a college or university.

DNA testing has exonerated 38 people, the most in the nation, according to the Innocence Project.

MERCURY WARNINGS

Texans would get more warnings about mercury exposure in fish under a mea-

sure approved by the Senate. The legislation lowers the amount of mercury contamination needed to trigger warnings from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

The legislation, SB1214, would require the department to issue advisories about mercury risks when the contamination in fish in various Texas rivers, lakes and coastal areas reaches 0.3 milligrams per kilogram. Currently, the

standard is 0.7 mg/kg.

RESEARCH SCHOOLS

Seven Texas universities may soon be competing for money to help them become major research centers.

The House unanimously approved a bill to develop three potential funding pools for "emerging research universities."

Dallas Republican Rep. Dan Branch, the author of the measure, said 10,000 students a year go out of state because

there aren't enough major research universities in the state. Texas currently has three Tier One schools — the University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University and Rice University.

It'll be unclear how much money the Legislature will put into the program until the budget is hammered out.

Texas Tech University and the University of Houston are among the schools that could compete for funds.

GREGG

Continued from Page 1A

ment officials know what's going to happen to the streets," said Evans. "That way they can route their vehicles around the construction and get to their calls in the shortest amount of time possible."

Evans said traffic is expected to be shifted around the construction as much as possible, with some truck traffic having to re-route around the project.

"The trucks this will have the biggest effect on are the wide-load bearing trucks," said Evans. "There will be width restrictions implemented, and that information will go to Austin. When these companies contact Austin to apply for

a permit, they will be notified they can't travel through Big Spring and will have to basically go around."

The project, which is estimated at \$5.2 million, is moving along smoothly thus far, according to Evans, with the work being carried out by local contractor Price Construction, the same company currently working on the city's downtown street reconstruction.

And while the work will certainly put the pinch on local motorists, Evans said the project will help address problems other than just road conditions.

"There will be some work done on the sidewalks along this stretch of roadway, including the addition of ADA (Americans with Dis-

abilities) curb ramps that are currently required by law," said Evans. "When the project is completed, this portion of Gregg Street will be completely ADA compliant, which is required by law."

Roy Dill, area engineer for TxDOT, said Price Construction is already moving its equipment into place.

"They are getting the signage and barricades into place with the intentions of beginning Monday," said Dill. "We've allotted 10 months for the completion of this project, but we anticipate it being completed earlier than that."

How much earlier? "Our estimated completion date is currently Aug. 10," said Brian Klinksiek, P.E., the project engineer with

Price Construction. "We'll begin the project by milling down 2 inches on the two northbound lanes starting at FM 700 and working our way down to 13th Street. That will be followed by a seal coat, with it taking about two days to complete.

"We'll be re-striping the lanes and eliminating the old striping from the southbound lanes in the same area, most likely Wednesday or Thursday. Barrels will be placed in the turning lane, so it will be very obvious how motorists will be expected to travel through the construction site."

Once that work is completed, according to Klinksiek, construction crews will get down to the heart of the street project.

"We'll mill out 11 inches in the turning lane, then place 9 inches of hot mix over it. The three major intersections in this phase will also be replaced with concrete, which is a much better material for that type of traffic," said Klinksiek. "The intersections will be done in thirds, that way we can keep them as open to motorists as possible. This phase is expected to be completed by the middle of May."

Klinksiek said he and his crews are aware the work will put a strain on motorists, but if the reaction from motorists concerning the downtown street project is any indication, things should go smoothly.

"We know this is going to inconvenience motorists, and we're do-

ing everything we can to minimize that," he said. "And we're very appreciative of the cooperation we're currently receiving on the downtown project. People's attitudes have been very accepting of the work, and I feel like they understand the final product — which is better driving conditions — is worth the effort."

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Florenca "Pola" Franco, 80, died Thursday. Vigil Services will be at 7 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

VOTE

Continued from Page 1A

held May 4 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Coahoma Community Center, and again the following day (May 5) at the same location from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

"We'll be ready to begin voting Monday morning," said Bloom. "early voting is an excellent way to avoid the potentially long lines on election day, so we're hoping area voters will take advantage of the opportunity."

There are several municipal races that will be decided by the May 9 election.

The District 2 seat on the Big Spring City Council will feature incumbent Councilman Manuel Ramirez Jr., taking on challengers Terena Rustman and Raul Marquez. Ramirez won't be the only

incumbent defending a seat on the council, as District 4 Councilwoman Gloria McDonald will face Joyce Crooker and John Huck Huckabee.

The District 6 seat, currently held by Greg Biddison, who has decided no to run for re-election, is also be up for grabs. The contest has drawn as candidates local residents Terry Hansen, Steven Campbell and Bahola DeLeon.

The city of Coahoma has three seats — all three are at-large — up for election in May.

Seats held by council incumbents David Elmore and Ricky Stone and Mayor Bill Read, are contested. According to city officials, Jay Holt, Ray Lee, Ronnie Dodson and Jay D. Holt are running for the two council seats, while Warren Wallace and Linda Luce are seeking the mayor's post. None

of the three incumbents ran for re-election.

There are several seats on area school boards up for grabs, as well.

Two seats came up for election this year in the Big Spring Independent School District. District 4 incumbent Tony Kennedy failed to draw an opponent in the May 9 contest. However, District 2 trustee Maria Padilla, who is running for re-election, will have to face off against local resident Edwin Ware, in the only contested race in the Big Spring school district.

In Coahoma, there are three at-large seats up for election this year, with four political hopefuls vying for the opportunity. Brian Moore, the lone

challenger in the contest, will be going head-to-head with incumbents Jody Reid, Alan Wright and Kirk Allen for a seat on the board.

Sands Consolidated Independent School District will also be holding a race during the May election, also with three at-large trustee seats up for grabs. Incumbents Amy Parker and Tommy

Staggs will compete with challengers Wes Hughes, Nate Avey, Matt Snell, Rick Timmins and Bill Barnes.

For more information on the election, contact Bloom's office at 264-2273.

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

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OBSOLETE

Continued from Page 2B

Still, these quarterbacks haven't been overlooked. Brown estimates he's had significant contact with about half the teams in the NFL.

It's no longer a surprise when an unknown quarterback succeeds in the pros. Phil Simms came out of Morehead State and led the New York Giants to a Super Bowl title.

More recently, Joe Flacco (Delaware) was drafted in the first round by Baltimore last year.

Tony Romo (Eastern Illinois) was undrafted in 2003, but he caught on with the Dallas Cowboys and the rest is history.

"I think what we see now is that people are throwing the ball so much more than ever before," said Gil Brandt, an NFL scouting consultant and former personnel director for the Cowboys. "It doesn't make any difference where you're at. If you've got a good arm and good accuracy, you're going to be found today."

Brown arrived at Central Arkansas amid little fanfare after a solid high school career in Arkansas.

He started as a redshirt freshman in

2005, and the following year, the Bears moved up from Division II. They're now in Division I's Football Championship Subdivision.

Last season, Brown's team finished atop the Southland Conference.

He threw for over 10,000 yards and exactly 100 touchdowns at Central Arkansas — impressive numbers at any level.

After choosing Athletes First to represent him, Brown got a chance to work with Southern California's Mark Sanchez, who along with Georgia's Matthew Stafford is considered one of the top quarterbacks in the draft.

Brown was content with his showing at the NFL's scouting combine in Indianapolis.

He also played in the Senior Bowl, where he was able to test himself against top competition.

"It was my chance to prove that I belonged and prove that I could play with the big boys," he said.

Boltus had a similar opportunity when he played in the Texas vs. The Nation All-Star Game. As a senior at Hartwick in Oneonta, N.Y., Boltus threw for 3,934 yards and 46 touchdowns in 10 games.

He finished last season by throwing for seven TDs in a 70-68 loss to Brockport on Nov. 22 before an

announced crowd of 812.

Then, while the nation's top programs were focusing on bowls, Boltus began preparing for his future.

"I had a little more time than the Division I guys," Boltus said.

Reilly's season ended with a loss in the Division II playoffs Nov. 15.

He's hoping to follow in the footsteps of Jon Kitna, an NFL quarterback who went to Central Washington as well.

Bomar, of course, also switched schools. He was once Oklahoma's starting quarterback but was dismissed from the Sooners for getting paid for work he didn't do at a car dealership.

Bomar went to Sam Houston State, which plays in the same conference as Central Arkansas, and tried to salvage his pro prospects.

"I put up about a month ago, who I thought would be the top 100 picks," Brandt said. "I put Bomar in the top 100. I think I had him in the 70s, which is a second- or third-round pick."

Brandt rates Bomar as the best of these four prospects, followed by Brown, Reilly and Boltus. He says Harvard's Chris Pizzotti might belong in that class as well.

While playing in college, these quarterbacks receive little attention from

the average fan — but afterward, they're evaluated in much the same way as more celebrated prospects.

"I got the same exposure, did the same drills as Mark Sanchez or Matthew Stafford," Reilly said. "From the point of when the season ended, I haven't had to do anything special."

The wait is almost over now, but with this weekend's draft approaching, Brown still isn't sure what to expect.

He knows teams have looked at him, but doesn't have a sense of where he stands.

"That's the hard part of this whole process for me," he said. "You don't get instant feedback."

He'll be home in Arkansas with his family this weekend, waiting to hear his fate.

He says he might not watch much of the draft — it's too stressful — but for the most part, Brown sounds more grateful than worried.

"Wherever I go, whether it's the third round or a free agent opportunity," Brown said, "I'll be excited and be ready to attack full force and make some team happy."

AP Sports Writer Tim Booth contributed to this report.

STAFFORD

Continued from Page 2B

to replace Layne. In a coincidence, Stafford and Layne both played at Highland Park High School in Dallas.

The Lions' lack of star power at QB is a major reason why the franchise has only one playoff victory since winning the 1957 NFL title.

The Lions desperately need talent under center to help turn around a franchise that is languishing in what has become the worst eight-year stretch in the league since World War II.

They are turning to Stafford, who was a starter in each of his three sea-

sons at Georgia.

Detroit might be able to help Stafford's chances to succeed by letting him watch Daunte Culpepper play initially next season.

But there will be pressure to get him on the field because of its investment.

In guarantees and maximum value, his contract is more lucrative than the one signed by the first QB taken last year.

Matt Ryan, the No. 3 pick in 2008, got \$72 million with \$34.75 million guaranteed as part of six-year contract with the Atlanta Falcons.

Detroit general manager Martin Mayhew said earlier in the week the chances were "very good" an agreement would be reached with the No. 1 pick before Saturday.

On the eve of the draft, the deal was

done.

Stafford always seemed to be Plan A, but Wake Forest linebacker Aaron Curry and Baylor offensive tackle Jason Smith apparently were backup options.

Stafford will not be able to fix all the problems associated with a franchise that has been bad enough to go 31-97 since 2001 in what has been the worst eight-year stretch by an NFL team since the Chicago Cardinals won 23 percent of their contests from 1936-43.

But the Lions can't afford to draft another bust as they did with quarterback Joey Harrington, who they took No. 3 overall in 2002.

Harrington was traded after four lackluster seasons to Miami for a fifth-round pick.

The Dolphins later cut him, Atlanta

added him and got rid of him and he is now a third-stringer in New Orleans.

"Obviously, the draft is the biggest crap shoot there is," Stafford recently acknowledged.

Recent No. 1 picks have proven that.

Eight of the past 11 players taken first overall in the NFL have been QBs, and half of them either haven't or didn't pan out for the teams that took them.

For every Peyton Manning and Carson Palmer, guys like Tim Couch and David Carr have shown there are no guarantees.

AP Football Writer Dave Goldberg in New York contributed to this report.

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1B

Coahoma Head Coach Tracy Tadlock. "It wouldn't surprise me at all if we faced them again in the regional finals."

After the first inning, Coahoma didn't put another runner on base as Carrico sat down 15 straight batters.

Meanwhile, Newton was having to stave off four Bulldogettes errors.

However, every time Wall moved a runner into scoring position, the junior hurler stepped up and shut down the Lady Hawks, who stranded six baserunners on either second or third.

The Bulldogettes get a first round bye in the playoffs with their opponent likely to be either Cisco or Clyde.

Wall will be the No. 2 seed out of 7-2A and faces either Dublin or Coleman in the bi-district round.

"We're going to try a good warmup game for next Friday and make sure

we stay sharp in practice during the layoff," said Tadlock. "That's all we can do. I said before the game, if this team doesn't know it by now, then they're not going to learn it. This team knows what it needs to do."

Coahoma has advanced to the Class 2A state tournament in four consecutive seasons and Tadlock believes this team could make it a fifth.

However, the road to get there might be the toughest the Bulldogettes have faced.

"We can make it to state, but there are a lot of teams in this region that

can this year," said Tadlock. "Our region is a lot tougher than it has been. Instead of one or two teams that have a shot at state, there's probably more like six or seven, including the one we just beat tonight. Clyde, Cisco, Bowie, Early and Kermit all have a shot. There's plenty of good teams out there."

Wall 000 000 0-0 2 0
Coahoma 100 000 x-1 2 4
Shannon Carrico and Allyson Seider. Heather Newton and Berkley Iden. W - Newton (19-2). L - Carrico. 2B: Wall - Ashlei Gesch. 3B: Coa - Newton. RBI: Coa - Shelbi Paige.

LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

"We hit the ball well, but we seemed to always send it right at a Plainview player," said Big Spring Head Coach John Sparks. "Sometimes it just works out that way."

The Lady Steers will play Canyon Randall at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Monterey High School in Lubbock.

Sparks says the formula for getting past Monterey is simple.

"We've got to focus at the plate and put the ball in play," said Sparks. "We've got to know we can do that to be successful. Kenzie (Hunt) has been giving us great pitching, but we've got to make plays defensively to back her up."

"Randall has a good left-hander who hits her spots," he continued. "She's not a high-speed pitcher, but she's got great control. They put the ball in play consistently and don't strike out much. The team has to know they have to step it up if we want to advance."

To submit a sports item, call 263-7331, ext. 237

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Stephanie Wright and Guy Poorman

Wright-Poorman

Richard and Clarinda Wright of Big Spring and Robert and Roberta Poorman of Dallas announce the engagement of their children, Stephanie Wright and Guy Poorman.

Stephanie is a 1999 graduate from Big Spring High School and a 2003 graduate of Texas A&M University with a bachelor of science in psychology. She is employed by Mercer Corporation in Dallas.

Guy is a 1999 graduate of Marcus High School in Flower Mound and a 2003 graduate of Texas A&M University with a bachelor of science in sports management. He is employed by AT&T in Dallas.

The couple will be married July 11 in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.



Abel Moraida Garcia Jr. and Shelley Dinay Fox

Fox-Garcia

Mr. and Mrs. Dwain Fox are proud to announce the marriage of their oldest daughter, Shelley Dinay Fox to Abel Moraida Garcia Jr., son of Diane Fernandez and Mr. and Mrs. Abel Garcia Sr.

Shelley is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Boothe, Ms. Tena Fox, and Mr. Clifford Fox. Abel is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Sosa Sr., Mr. Felix Garcia and the late Esther Garcia, and Mr. and Mrs. Tony Rodriguez Jr.

The bride-to-be graduated from Big Spring High School in 2004. She is currently enrolled at the University of Texas

at Arlington and plans to pursue a career in accounting.

The groom-to-be graduated from Big Spring High School in 2002. He is currently enrolled at Tarrant County College and plans to pursue a career in music producing and engineering.

Their wedding is planned for July 11, 2009, at ClayDesta Towers in Midland.



Lyndsey Allen and Brandon Falkner

Allen-Falkner

Rex and Sandi Allen announce the engagement of their daughter, Lyndsey Allen, to Brandon Falkner, the son of Riley and Jan Falkner, all of Big Spring.

Lyndsey is the granddaughter of Dorothy Crewell, Berry Carey and the late V.W. Carey, all of Big Spring.

Brandon is the grandson of Edelle Falkner and the late Avery Falkner and Charlie Morehead and the late Jimmy Morehead, all of Big Spring.

Lyndsey graduated from Forsan High School in 2004 and from Howard College in 2006 with an associate of science degree. She is employed at American State Bank.

Brandon graduated from Big Spring High School in 2001 and from Texas Tech University in 2006 with a bachelor of business degree. He is employed at Citizens Federal Credit Union.

The couple plan to Wed May 16, 2009.

Illinois official who got 'midnight raise' fired

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Illinois has fired a transportation official who saw his salary nearly double in five years, including an 8 percent bump in the final days of ousted Gov. Rod Blagojevich's administration.

Transportation department spokeswoman Paris Ervin says personnel manager Scott Doubet was fired Friday. Doubet was among 12 department employees who received what Gov. Pat Quinn has called "midnight raises" weeks before Blagojevich was removed from office over corruption allegations.

Doubet's salary was \$55,000 in 2004 but

reached \$106,000 this year.

Quinn has launched an investigation into the raises. His spokesman Bob Reed would not comment on the firing.

Doubet declined to comment Friday and said he does not have an attorney. He has not been accused of wrongdoing.

Births

Ethan Kaine

Kesler

Ethan Kaine Kesler, a boy, was born at 1:09 p.m. March 26, 2009, weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20-1/4 inches long.

He is the son of Ashley and Kevin

Kesler of Big Spring. Maternal grandparents are Pamela and Laban Guidry. Paternal grandparents are Jeanenne Kesler and the late George Kesler.

He was welcomed home by sibling Austin Kesler.



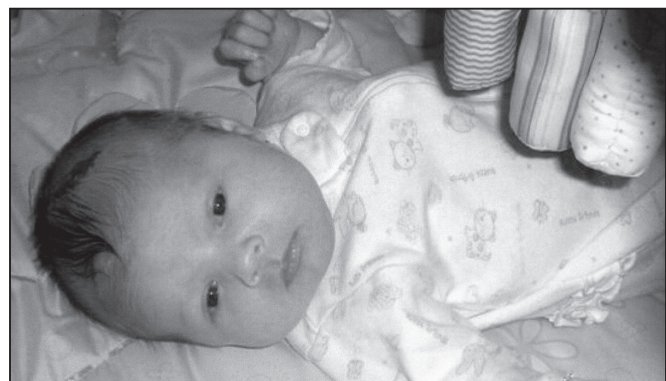
Astraya Rhea Bryant

Astraya Rhea Bryant, a girl, was born at 9:46 a.m. April 16, 2009, weighing 5 pounds, 6 ounces and was 18-1/4 inches long.

She is the daughter of Marshall Bryant and Amanda Bryan of Big Spring.

Grandparents are Susan Williams and Deborah Fowler.

She was welcomed home by siglings Cherie Henry and Amberlin Bryant.



Karsyn Charlize Howard

Karsyn Charlize Howard, a girl, was born at 8:35 p.m. January 18, 2009, weighing eight pounds, four ounces and was 21 inches long.

She is the daughter of Shay and Jamie Howard of Fort Bragg, N.C. Maternal grandparents are Linda Kinnard of Fayette, N.C., and Fred Miller and Judy of Palm Beach, Fla.

Paternal grandparents are Dena Howard of Big Spring and Jack Howard of New Mexico.

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.

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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

Bill McClellan
News Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

Take advantage of opportunity to go vote early

It's that time again. Early voting for the May 9 municipal and school district elections begins Monday and continues through May 5, and as usual, we want to encourage readers to cast their ballots soon.

Polls will be open at the Howard County Courthouse for Big Spring voters from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for Thursday, April 30, and Tuesday, May 5, when ballots can be cast from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Coahoma voters can vote early at the Coahoma Community Center.

There are plenty of reasons for voting early, not the least of which is the unpredictability of our West Texas weather.

Another reason to cast your ballot in the next few days is human nature. The fact is, the longer we put things off, the less likely we are to ever get them accomplished. Too many other things come up and suddenly we find ourselves out of time.

There are a plethora of key races in on the ballot this time around — three spots on the Big Spring City Council, three more on the Coahoma City Council, one contested seat on the Big Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees, three seats on the Coahoma school board and three seats on the Sands CISD board.

Needless to say, these are decisions which will impact our lives for some time to come. So, we hope you will take time to study the candidates and issues. Then make your choice at the polls.

And remember, if you don't bother to go vote — either during the early voting period or on election day — you really have no right to complain about the decisions made by your representatives.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

We commend Bill Dean and Dinosaur Valley Construction Co. for the outstanding job they have done in building the new Howard County Jail.

Dean and his crew have worked in all sorts of adverse conditions — high winds, heat, cold, blowing dust — and have completed a structure of which the citizens of Howard County can be proud.

We applaud their efforts, skill, hard work and perseverance. The end result is an attractive and much needed addition to our community.

JOHN & JO ANN STAULCUP
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I just received word from the federal government that my aged mother, my wife and I will receive \$250 in May as part of the stimulus package, which includes seniors receiving Social Security.

All I can say is Gov. Perry, Rush Limbaugh and you may give yours' back, but I say, "Amen Brother!"

GORDON McNEW
BIG SPRING

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

A reminder of the 'little' things

I received an e-mail from an old friend of mine, Ann McMellon, the other day that I need to share, I think.

Ann and I went to high school together in Paris, Texas, and she was my best friend Gary's girlfriend.

I think I've related the story about them having taken different paths for years, seeing each other at our class' 35-year reunion a few years ago and becoming an "item" once again.

Gary called me the other day and announced that they're formally engaged finally.

Anyway, Ann said she'd seen the message she was sending me many times and there's no telling where it originated, but it does make one stop and remember what it says ... that I'm where I'm supposed to be and that someone's watching over me.

It's entitled:

*The "LITTLE" Things
As you might know, the head of a company survived 9/11 because his son started kindergarten.
Another fellow was alive because it was his turn to bring donuts.
One woman was late because*

her alarm clock didn't go off in time.

One was late because of being stuck on the New Jersey Turnpike because of an auto accident.

*One of them missed his bus.
One spilled food on her clothes and had to take time to change.*

*One's car wouldn't start
One went back to answer the telephone.*

One had a child that dawdled and didn't get ready as soon as he should have.

*One couldn't get a taxi.
The one that struck me was the man who put on a new pair of shoes that morning, took the various means to get to work but before he got there, he developed a blister on his foot. He stopped at a drugstore to buy a Band-Aid, and that is why he is alive today.*

Now when I am stuck in traffic, miss an elevator, turn back to answer a ringing telephone...all the little things that annoy me, I think to myself, this is exactly where my guardian angel wants me to be at this very moment.

Next time your morning seems to be going wrong, the children are slow getting dressed; you can't seem to find the car keys; or you hit every traffic light, don't get mad or frustrated.

It may be just that someone is watching over you.

All this reminds me of something that took place Christmas Eve.

I was in Denton spending the holiday with my family. It was late in the evening and everyone had gone to bed, save for my brother Mark and I.

We were just sitting there enjoying one another's company, not discussing anything of great importance when Mark said, "You know, John, the Lord knew exactly what he was doing when he put you in Big Spring, Texas."

"I know, I've been telling you that for a long time," I said.

"Yeah, I know," he said. "You'd been telling me that the best people in the world are in Big Spring and I was glad you liked it there. But I really didn't understand what you were talking about until you were hurt in that accident. They really are wonderful."

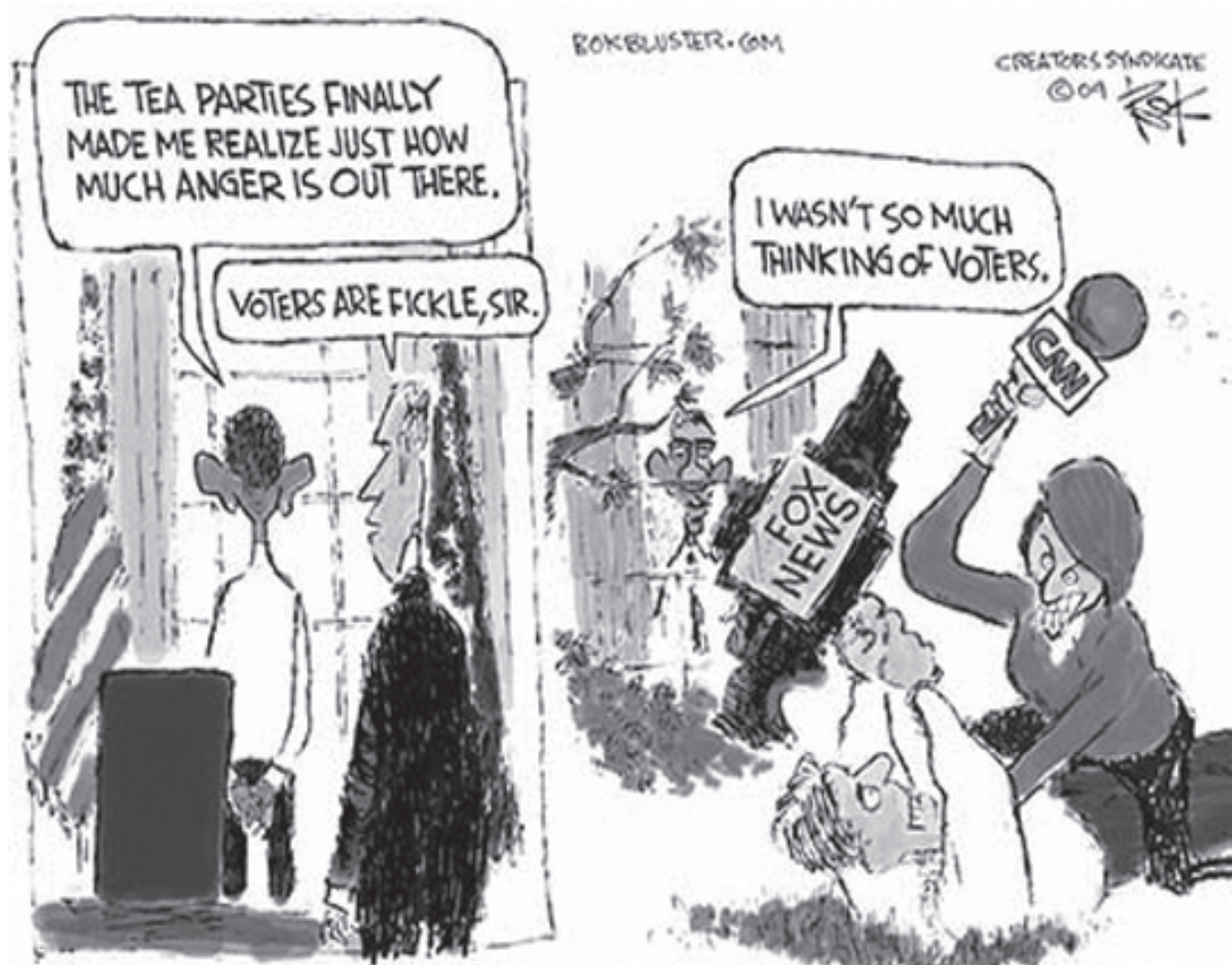
Yes, I've known for some time that I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be.

And there's absolutely no doubt in my mind, particularly following the events of the last 12 months or so, that the Good Lord is watching over me.

Yes, I know that I've definitely been blessed.

I hope each and every one of you is as blessed.

Managing Editor John A. Moseley can be contacted at 263-7331, ext. 230, or by e-mail at editor@bigspringherald.com



Have you joined the fan club yet?

A middle-aged, unassuming and unglamorous woman walks out on the stage and sings before judges, a large audience and millions on television. It's a talent contest — Britain's Got Talent — to be specific. And the reaction is surprise and shock when she displays an extraordinary voice.

Since her appearance on the show, her performance has been viewed by more than 100 million on YouTube — making her a global, Internet sensation. In fact, her video is expected to soon become the most viewed YouTube clip of all time. I admit that when I watched her on YouTube, I was captivated, astounded and brought to tears.

But why did I — along with many others — have this reaction?

Did I really believe that only those with beautiful faces and bodies could have beautiful voices? Why shouldn't it be just as natural for a woman in her late forties to pursue her dream than it is for someone in their twenties?

I think my emotions were aroused as I witnessed the transformation of the audience's response to this woman. Her name is Susan Boyle, by the way. And she sang "I Dreamed a Dream" from Les Miserables.

When she first walked out on the stage, the camera showed a

skeptical and scornful audience. Even the judges were rolling their eyes and raising their eyebrows as they questioned why she was bothering to audition. And they were amused when she expressed her hopes to become a professional singer like British musical theater star, Elaine Paige.

She didn't react to the teasing with hurt feelings or embarrassment but countered with wit and humor.

It seemed likely that Susan was very familiar with low expectations of her, making it all the more powerful to witness the saying — "You can't judge a book by its cover" — proven true and lived out before a worldwide audience.

The moment Susan began to sing, the audience's demeanor immediately changed from doubt and sarcasm to applause and wonder. Everyone was ecstatic to have their first impression proven wrong. A lesson on passing judgment and making assumptions was learned like a cold splash of water to our arrogant faces.

I'm three years older than Susan, and the fact that she would be pursuing her dream at this point in her life resonates with me and gives me encouragement that it is never too late to begin.

I think some of my tears were also at the thought of the world being deprived of her inspiring voice until now. And I can't help but wonder how much more undiscovered talent remains silent or stifled and perhaps may never be shared with the rest of us. I'm also thinking about dream upon dream I've never acted upon.

Being inspired by Susan's angelic voice is not something I would have wanted to miss. I'm beginning to understand more about the interconnectedness of humanity. What we do or don't do with our lives matters. We make a difference to those our lives touch.

Do you have a dream you've tucked away on a high shelf with the hope you'll get it down someday and do something about it?

Susan Boyle has shown the world that there are no time limitations or requirements for acting upon our dreams. And she is showing each of us how to reach them.

Does it take courage? Perhaps so, but even more as Susan is showing us, achieving dreams requires being yourself — genuine, authentic, honest, real. Her authenticity has given the world hope at a time when we're all trying to figure out how to make changes and improvements to dire situations. Maybe the answers are within each of us.

There is no better time than the present to be true to yourself — to pursue dreams and set about reaching goals.

We all have unique, God-given talents and skills that need to be used and are meant to be shared. We may not all be singers, but we all have a purpose to be fulfilled.

Let's get busy doing just that. The world needs each of us!

Annette Bridges is a freelance writer who lives in North Texas. Her columns are published weekly by numerous newspapers. E-mail her at annettebridges@gmail.com.

Earnhardt understands probation for Phoenix spin

TALLADEGA, Ala. (AP) — Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Casey Mears want to put their post-race skirmish behind them.

That's an easy fix.

The daunting part for the former Hendrick Motorsports teammates is getting their middling seasons turned around so they can get within striking distance of the Chase for the championship. Neither driver has enjoyed much success this year — Earnhardt is 19th in his second season with Hendrick and Mears is stuck in 22nd in his first season with Richard Childress Racing.

No wonder two drivers mired in frustrating seasons let their emotions boil over on the cool-down lap last

week at Phoenix International Raceway. Mears started the dustup when he made contact with Earnhardt and caused him to crash with 11 laps left in Saturday's race, ruining what was likely a needed top-10 finish for Junior. Instead, he fell to 31st.

After the race, Earnhardt intentionally spun Mears on the cool-down lap. Mears retaliated by passing several cars on pit road to find Earnhardt, then bumping into his car.

The drivers originally thought they might escape the incident without any punishment. Instead, NASCAR decided to put both drivers on probation for the next six races, starting this weekend at Talladega Superspeedway. Neither driver was

fined or lost points.

Earnhardt said he understood the punishment and was ready to make nice with Mears.

"Me and Mears are cool. We've been buddies," Earnhardt said on Friday. "It's good to be on probation every once and a while, I guess."

He admitted he lost his cool once a shot at a strong finish went crashing into the wall. Earnhardt only spun Mears because his No. 88 Chevrolet was already wrecked.

Mears was upset Earnhardt went after him on the cool-down lap because what happened during the race was simply an accident. Once Earnhardt made his move, Mears had to retaliate. He said they both proved their

point and were ready to move on.

"We've got to work on getting points. I think he does, too," Mears said.

They may as well get going at Talladega. Mears, who has yet to finish in the top 10 this season, will swap crews following the race with RCR teammate Kevin Harvick. Mears will have crew chief Todd Berrier calling the shots.

Earnhardt won four straight races from 2001 to 2003 at Talladega, finished second twice two straight times, then won the April race here in 2007. But he's slumped badly the last three times, with one top 10 sandwiched between a 40th- and 28th-place finish.

This season, Earnhardt has two top 10s.

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

the fourth to retake the lead, 3-2.

With one out, Matt Ritchey walked and Jon Benavides reached on Baker's second throwing error of the game. Ritchey moved up to third on the mistake.

Benavides then stole second, putting runners at second and third. Rance Terry came through with a line shot to left that scored Ritchey and Benavides

to give the lead back to the Steers.

The fifth inning was one the Steers would like to forget.

It started well when Yanez looped one down the right field line that fell in for a double. Yanez attempted to advance to third on a grounder by Solis and was originally called safe, putting runners at the corners with no outs and Hollandsworth coming to bat.

Then Lake View Coach Bryan Pauler disputed the call and after a conference between the umpires Yanez was ruled out.

When order was restored, Baker made a snap throw to first to pick off Solis bringing an argument from Otto, but to no avail.

Instead of two on and no outs, it was nobody on and two outs. Hollandsworth grounded out to Baker to end the inning.

The Chiefs' Ransom Davidson tied things up in the bottom of the fifth when he singled to center, stole second, advanced to third on a wild pitch and scored on another wild pitch to make it 3-3 and it stayed that way until the ninth.

In the bottom of the final inning, Martin singled to center to get things started and Baker walked.

Then controversy struck again on a grounder by

Akers.

Benavides gloved it near second base from the shortstop position and appeared to step on the bag for the force, then fired to first to get Akers, seemingly completing a double play.

It was ruled Benavides did not tag second, so the Chiefs had runners at second and third with one out. Hollandsworth intentionally walked Stovall to load the bases and McCracken came through with the game winning sac fly.

The Steers will have to await the outcome of Saturday's game between Frenship and Cooper to know their playoff status.

A Frenship win puts them in, while a Cooper victory means a three-way tie between the Steers, Lake View and Cooper. A coin toss would determine who advances to the playoffs.

If Frenship wins, a seeding game between Lake View and the Steers would be played sometime next week to decide the third and fourth seeds out of the district.

Big Spring 100 200 000-3 7 0
Lake View 020 010 001-4 3 2

Cade Hollandsworth and Rance Terry. John David Baker and Jace Stovall. W - Baker. L - Hollandsworth. 2B: BS - Martin Yanez. RBI: BS - Jeremy Solis, Terry 2; LV - Davidson, McCracken.

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

BUFFS

Continued from Page 1B

The Bulldogs claimed the top seed out of District 2-A after defeating Forsan, 6-3, Friday in Snyder. The Buffs had reached the game to determine the No. 1 seed after defeating Miles earlier in the day, 6-3.

With the loss, the Buffs will take the No. 2 seed out of the league, while Miles is placed third. Forsan will face either McCamey or Marfa in the first round of the playoffs.

It's the second time Ira has defeated Forsan this season and pitcher Kylor Fine has been a big part of the Bulldogs' success against Forsan.

"It seems like that pitcher is throwing three to four miles an hour harder each time we faced him," said Forsan Head Coach Jason Phillips. "Ira is a very good hitting team and put the ball in play,

but they've got a very good pitcher. He gives us a hard time."

There is somewhat of a silver lining in the loss, though, as Forsan won't have to suffer through a long layoff before their next game.

Last season, the Buffs were upset in the area round of the playoffs by O'Donnell after having two weeks due to a bye earned by winning a district title.

"There is some relief knowing there isn't going to be that long layoff between games," said Phillips. "Obviously, we wanted to win this tournament. We hyped it as being for the district championship. The kids were kind of down after the loss, but I told them that the silver lining is that we get to keep playing and don't have to face a three-week layoff before the playoffs start for us. There's pluses and minuses with it."

Regardless of Friday's outcome, Phillips is confident in Forsan's ability to make a long postseason run.

"We definitely feel we are ready for a deep playoff run," said Phillips. "We should be healthy by then and get back a couple of key players. I think we have a chance to go really deep."

Forsan 400 020 0-6 6 2
Miles 110 001 0-3 7 3

W - Dylan Lowery. L - Schniers. 2B: For - Jake Rhoton. RBI: Evan Burton, Jake Rhoton 3, Zane Herrin.

Ira 121 010 1-6 10 1
Forsan 000 010 2-3 7 1

W - Fine. L - Evan Burton. 2B: For - 3B: For - Burton. RBI: Burton 2.



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THE GOLDEN AGE OF RADIO ON THE BIG 1400 - KBYG



By Steve Becker

Self-Discipline

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 8
♥ A 7 6 2
♦ 7 4
♣ A K Q 9 5 4

WEST
♠ 7 2
♥ 8 3
♦ A K Q 10 6 3
♣ 10 8 2

EAST
♠ 9 6 5 3
♥ K Q 10 9 5
♦ 9 2
♣ J 6

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 10 4
♥ J 4
♦ J 8 5
♣ 7 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♦
3 ♣ Pass 4 ♠
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

There are very few plays in bridge that can be properly classified as automatic. Even though a particular play may seem routine 99 times out of a 100, that hundredth time might arise when you least expect it.

Take this case where West started with the K-A of diamonds and, after noting his partner's high-low, continued with the queen. Declarer ruffed with dummy's eight, hoping East would be unable to overruff with the nine. But when East produced the

nine and returned the king of hearts, South could no longer make the contract. He tried leading the A-K-Q of clubs, but East trumped the third round, marooning declarer with a heart loser for down one.

It's not easy to see what South could have done to save the contract, but that is precisely the point. All his plays appear to be automatic, yet one was not, and it was that one that caused his undoing.

Declarer's misstep came at trick three, when he ruffed the diamond queen with dummy's eight. All he had to do instead was to refuse to trump, and the contract would have been in the bag.

By conceding the queen of diamonds to West, uncontested, South would have retained the singleton trump in dummy that he vitally needed as an entry to his hand to draw the outstanding trumps.

There is then no play West can make at trick four that can stop South from taking the rest of the tricks. Declarer wins any return, draws trumps and then cashes dummy's top clubs to score 10 tricks.

Although it may go against the grain to allow West's queen to win the third trick without putting up a fight, doing so assures the contract. The "automatic" play of ruffing the queen is clearly not automatic at all.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.

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HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Howard County Judge Mark Barr, center-right, and Texas Jail Commission Executive Director Adan Munoz, center-left, cut the ribbon on the new Howard County Jail during a ceremony held Monday morning.

Energy Watch



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

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



Its official again. On April 10, an IEA report confirmed that 2009 crude oil demand may slump to the lowest level in five years while U.S. supplies are at their highest levels since 1993. This is negative news for anyone or any community which prospers when crude oil is riding high.

In our opinion and to their credit, OPEC has done a good job keeping oil even in the \$50 area in spite of the glut, but some feel they will have to cut substantially more, perhaps more than they are capable of, if they want higher prices from here. One problem is that as OPEC nations make and try to live up to their biggest oil production cuts on record, Brazil, Russia and the United States are pumping more. This is obviously complicating OPEC's supply side strategy and threatens to keep crude around \$50 or below if demand continues to slow.

On the demand side, OPEC has cut its forecast for an eighth successive month as the economic slowdown in the world's biggest oil consumers worsens. Their latest estimate for 2009 global demand was lowered by 430,000 barrels a day, bringing the total forecasted demand down by 1.37 million for the year or a -1.6 percent. The report went on to explain, "The world economic recession continues to erode oil demand growth, particularly in the U.S., Japan and China. Demand in industrialized countries will fall this year and developing economies are likely to see only minor growth." The report was confirmed by our own Energy Department and for you producers out there it's hard if not impossible to sustain any price rallies when demand is down.

On the brighter side, the stock market continues on an upward path. Despite being short-term extended, market direction continues to be controlled by a bullish supply/demand ratio for stocks. We expect the market to get even more extended in the next couple of weeks. The market tends to overdo it in both directions (remember Nov. 20 and March 6). Certainly, we will get some correction and probably sooner rather than later.

However, with the fundamental economic news becoming less negative and the mood improving, investors seem to be assuming more risk in the stock market, we believe a correction will not be severe. Of course, the higher we go the more we will likely have to give back.

Past the near term, we believe the big picture is unchanged as the market recovers from the severe bear, bottoms out, and then starts to anticipate what 2010 will look like economically and how much corporate earnings will be able to recover. At this time, we believe economic growth next year is headed for a slower rate than normally seen after a recession. So, as always, there are lots of questions about how much the economy will grow next year, but for now, the message of an up market is that's a future problem.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Portions of this article were produced on April 17 by Al Goldman, Wachovia Securities chief market strategist. Wachovia Securities did not assist in the preparation of this article, and its accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed. The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of Wachovia Securities or its affiliates. The material has been prepared or is distributed solely for informational purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy any security or instrumental to participate in any trading strategy. Additional information is available upon request (432) 684-7335. Wachovia Securities, LLC., member SIPC is a registered broker dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

SMMC seeks award nominees

Special to the Herald

Scenic Mountain Medical Center is again seeking to honor one of its nurses with the Patient Choice Award, which recognizes the quality care, comfort and compassion demonstrated in his or her daily work.

Continuing the tradition of the last few years, the hospital is asking for input from the community. One nurse chosen from the nominations will receive the Patient Choice Award at SMMC during Nurses' Week, May 6-12.

Scenic Mountain asks former patients and family members to be involved in spotlighting an exceptional nurse because patients are the ones directly impacted by outstanding care.



Sheri Nichols, 2008 Patient Choice Award recipient

"Sometimes it's just too hard to spot one nurse when there are so many nurses in our hospital doing such an incredible job caring for our patients," said Judy Roever, chief nursing officer for SMMC. "That's why we are asking patients to help us make the choice. They see the little things that matter so much on a very personal level."

"If you or a family member have come to Scenic Mountain for in-

patient, outpatient or emergency care in the last year and you have a nurse you'd like to thank for going the extra mile, don't miss this chance," said Kim Howell, marketing director.

Nominations for the 2009 Patient Choice Award will be accepted until May 1. To nominate a nurse, send the nurse's name and a few paragraphs explaining your nomination, along with your own name (and the name of the patient) address and phone number. E-mail, mail or fax your nomination by May 1. E-mail nominations to: Kim_Howell@chs.net; mail to: Kim Howell, Marketing Director, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 1601 West Eleventh Place, Big Spring 79720; or fax to-268-4732.

Local crisis outreach supervisor honored for her work with elderly

Special to the Herald

Adult Protective Services is saying thank you to agencies and citizens who have provided extraordinary care and service to APS clients during the past year. Designated as "APS Honors," the awards are a special project of two volunteer boards and the Region 2 and 9 APS staff.

Mary Phelps, local Mobile Crisis Outreach Team supervisor at West Texas Centers for MHMR, is among the 15 recipients throughout the region. The award was presented during the MHMR employee appreciation meeting Friday at the First United Methodist Church.

Phelps is the daytime crisis worker for Howard, Martin and Glasscock counties, and supervises a team of four regional crisis workers in a 23-county area. She is well-known in the community and has established strong relationships with a wide range of service providers. Phelps said she likes to follow a favorite quote by Woodrow Wilson, "I not only use all the brains that I have, but all that I can borrow." APS presented the award in appreciation



Courtesy photo

Mary Phelps, center, Mobile Crisis Outreach Team supervisor at West Texas Centers for MHMR, was an APS Honors Award recipient, honored during an employee appreciation meeting Friday. Also pictured are, left, Zach Tarvar, and Melissa Galloway, APS specialists.

of her knowledge, experience and collaboration.

The Region 9 Adult Protective Services Advisory Board (Midland/Odessa) and the APS Partners Inc. Board (Abilene) are non-profit organizations whose mission is to support the Adult Protective Services caseworkers and clients in the region.

These volunteer boards conduct fund-raising and develop special projects to assist the elderly and persons with disabilities who are served through the Adult Protective Services program.

"Partnership is the key to excellent services for our clients,"

See **HONORS**, Page 5C

UnitedHealth CEO saw 36 percent compensation cut

TOM MURPHY

AP Business Writer

The chief executive for managed care company UnitedHealth Group Inc. took a 36 percent compensation cut last year and received no option awards for the second year in a row, according to an Associated Press calculation of figures disclosed recently

in a Securities and Exchange Commission filing.

Stephen Hemsley, who also serves as president, saw his bonus fall nearly 50 percent to \$1.8 million. His salary remained unchanged at \$1.3 million, according to a proxy statement the Minnetonka, Minn.-based company filed Thursday.

Hemsley, 56, received total

compensation valued at \$3.2 million, down from \$5 million in 2007. The company said he declined a bonus increase last year due to the company's 2008 challenges and "the challenging economic circumstances" it faces this year, the proxy said.

The CEO's bonus fell almost as much as UnitedHealth's stock price last year, which

tumbled 54 percent from \$58.20 to \$26.60. In contrast, the Standard and Poor's 500 index fell 38 percent.

Many managed care companies saw their stock prices slide more than 50 percent last year, as the industry was hit by a number of problems. Higher-than-expected medical costs burned up profits and rising unemployment

eroded enrollment.

Insurers also were stung by losses tied to investments, as the global market plunged amid the financial crisis.

UnitedHealth's profit fell 36 percent to \$2.98 billion, or \$2.40 per share, last year. Revenue rose 8 percent to \$81.2 billion.

See **CEO**, Page 5C

Kiwanians celebrate 80 years in Big Spring

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer
Eighty years of service to youth in particular and the community in general were celebrated by the local Kiwanis Club.

The Big Spring Kiwanis, first organized in 1929, held its 80th anniversary celebration Thursday night at the Cactus Room on the campus of Howard College.

Kiwanis (the word is derived from an American Indian phrase meaning "we share our talents") is an international service organization boasting more than 600,000 members in almost 16,000 clubs across the globe.

According to the organization's Web site, its members' mission is an ambitious one:

"Kiwanians are volunteers changing the world through service to children and communities," the site states. "Kiwanis members help shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, mentor the disadvantaged, and care for the sick. They develop youth as leaders, build playgrounds, raise funds for pediatric research, and much more."

The first meeting of the Big Spring Kiwanis Club was held Thursday, April 16, 1929, at the local Methodist Church with Dr. J.R. Dillard chosen to lead its 52 members as president.

Local club membership has fluctuated through the years and currently stands at 24. "We're small but mighty," current Club President Ann Duncan said.

Although the numbers are not overwhelming, membership has been faithful, to say the least. Ernest Welch, the longest-standing member of the club, joined Kiwanis in 1955 and several other club regulars have been members for more than 20 years.

In addition, 13 local club members have served as regional Lt. Governors and 19 have been named to the club's Legion of Honor, one of the club's highest awards.

"To each and every one of you, congratulations," Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen told Thursday's gathering. "Each of you are a treasure to this community."

But club members used the event not just to look back at the club's history but to gaze forward as well.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Nancy Miller, left, Texas-Oklahoma Governor of Kiwanis International, addresses club members during an 80th anniversary event held Thursday at Howard College. At right is Ann Duncan, current local club president. The Big Spring Kiwanis Club held its first meeting April 16, 1929.

"I want to congratulate you on being here ... and being active in the community for so long," said Nancy Miller, Texas-Oklahoma District Governor for the ser-

vice organization. "We want you to continue on and grow from here. While you've built a great legacy here, I urge you to build on it in the future."

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

KBSB — 'Above & Beyond' business members

I would like to introduce you to some of our business members active in "Doing their Part" by keeping their property clean and beautiful and going above and beyond in the appearance of their property.



PAT SIMMONS

Our newest member of KBSB is Best Western Palace Inn, and their landscape is absolutely beautiful — and more beautification is in the works. The co-managers are Roger and Rosie Hayer,

a very exciting and energetic young couple. They are wanting to get involved in the community and I said, "You might be sorry you said that," as I have lot of things they can help with and be involved in. They are a very interesting couple.

I have selected the Best Western Palace Inn for the "Doing your Part Beautification Award" and going above and beyond our requirements for any new business landscape. Drive out and take a look at this new facility. It is not just in front, but completely landscaped around the building. They are making a huge difference in the north side of the city.

What we say to the Hayers is, "Welcome to Big Spring."

Other members strive to keep their property clean and beautiful and take responsibility to go above and beyond the requirements of a KBSB member. When Dr. David Long first moved in and had the front landscaped, it was beautiful, and the city recognized him with the "Doing your Part Award" for business recognition. The front was lovely, and I thought, yes, he will be one of those that takes care of the front and forgets the back. Most businesses enter from the front or back and never see the condition of the other side of their facility.

So, I thought he would be one of those. See, I live next door, west of his office. There were weeds and such that I looked at backing up my thinking, then the weeds were gone, trees were planted and lot of landscaping took place. I watched it with excitement and told our KBSB members about it and a few had also seen it, so I approached them to become a KBSB member and they did.

Another KBSB business member that goes above and beyond is 87 Auto. They are always on the move, mowing, watering and doing housekeeping all the time. I'm amazed at their moving of vehicles all the time, giving

them a new appearance. I ask them, "Are you rearranging your furniture?"

Also, Lee Harris ask me if I could get the city to clear a vacant lot that needed attention, and he would maintain it. That is a very valuable member of KBSB, and we need more like that. Again, Lee, thanks to you and my friend Skip Burcham of Burcham Signs, for the lovely Keep Big Spring Beautiful vinyl sign that was made and donated by them to KBSB. It was placed on the sign board that belonged to Lee at the entrance to the park. Great support.

See KBSB, Page 7A

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Dr. John Freeman (with scissors), chairman of the Howard College Board of Trustees, is joined by officials from HC, SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf and the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce during ribbon-cutting ceremonies to mark the opening of SWCID's Workforce Training Center Friday morning.

4-H Spotlight

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Howard County 4-H clubs would like to congratulate many of our

4-H members who have competed in various events. The Junior and Intermediate Livestock Judging Teams competed this weekend in Lubbock. The Junior team placed second and the Intermediate team placed third.

Members of the teams are Hannah Biemeret, Holder Biemeret, Braxton Coor, Mason Coor, Reagan Hamlin, Alex Hill, Sloan Miller, Morgan Luce, Kobyn Ramey and Blaze Yeater. Dillon Bagnall and Landon

Boeker, two members of the new Archery Project, participated in the 4-H extravaganza in Brownwood. Both participants expressed that the event was a learning experience and are eager to continue perfecting their skills.

Keith Bagnall is their coach. Any youth interested in becoming a member of any of our 4-H clubs and would like to participate in any projects should call the County Extension Office at 264-2236 for information.

Public Records

District Court Filings:
Amber Martin vs. Justin C. Melton, injuries and damages involving a motor vehicle.

Brandi Nicole Wrye vs. Jonathan Blake Mendoza, divorce.
David W. Sausaman vs. Bonnie M. Knecht, injuries and damages involving a motor vehicle.

Ricristi C. Isbell vs. Danny Ortiz Isbell, divorce.
Margaret McDaniel vs. Debra Householder, other civil.

Dana Higgins vs. Hardy L. Wilkerson, injuries and damages involving a motor vehicle.
Augustin Leija Ypina vs. Gloria Vasquez Ypina, divorce.

Marriage Licenses:
Eugene Marquez Jr., 29, and Maria Teresa Rodriguez, 28, both of Big Spring.
David Parker Martin, 28, and Felisha Desaray Cevallos, 29, both of Big Spring.
Joe Anthony Aguilar, 21, and Crystal Lynn Torres, 17, both of Big Spring.

Warranty Deeds:
Grantor: Sandy Castillo
Grantee: Dillard E. Teal
Property: Half-interest in Lot 2, Block 9, Stanford Park
Date: April 7, 2009

Grantor: Robert M. Evans
Grantee: Y Bar Family Limited Partnership
Property: Section 3, Block 33, T-2-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: April 14, 2009

Grantor: Edward N. Billingsley
Grantee: Jose M. Gonzales and Cecilia Gonzales
Property: A 2-acre tract out of Section 20, Block 33, T-3-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: April 14, 2009

Grantor: Donnie Reid
Grantee: Mona F. Moore
Property: A 0.9-acre tract out of Section 6, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: April 14, 2009

Grantor: Robert L. Hicks and Doris Hicks
Grantee: Charles F. Clark and Marilyn Clark
Property: Lot 1, Block 4, Western Hills Addition

Date: April 14, 2009
Grantor: Mary Helen Becerra
Grantee: Mario Garcia
Property: Lot 3, Block 1, Earles Addition
Date: April 15, 2009

Grantor: Joe Owens and Kelley Owens
Grantee: Darryl D. Cain
Property: A tract out of Section 6, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: April 15, 2009

Grantor: Brandon C. Smith
Grantee: Pierce Group LLC
Property: Lot 3, Block 2, Suburban Heights
Date: April 15, 2009

Grantor: Patrick Robert Hyer and Vera Hyer
Grantee: Jimmy Bailey and Diana Bailey
Property: Lot 3, Block 16, Original Town of Big Spring
Date: April 16, 2009

Grantor: Citimortgage Inc.
Grantee: The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Property: Lot 2, Block 22, Monticello Addition
Date: April 16, 2009

Grantor: Debby Sue Greer
Grantee: Denise A. Bailey
Property: A 1-acre tract out of Section 14, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: April 17, 2009

Grantor: Loy Serrano and Linda Serrano
Grantee: Prudential Relocation Inc.
Property: Lot 7, Block 4, Western Hills
Date: April 20, 2009

Grantor: James Calvin Seago and Joy Lynn Seago
Grantee: Gary Donelson
Property: Lot 8, Block 7, College Park
Date: April 20, 2009

Grantor: Nancy Hughes
Grantee: Timary Rosenbaum
Property: Lot 7, Block 1, Jordan Park Estates No. 1
Date: April 20, 2009

Grantor: Donnie Reid
Grantee: David Baird and Sandra Baird

Property: A 4.8 acre tract out of Section 6, Block 31, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: April 20, 2009

Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien:
Grantor: Cynthia R. Trevino and Richard Trevino
Grantee: Nathan Menges
Property: Lot 2, Block 33, Cole & Strayhorn Addition
Date: April 7, 2009

Grantor: Robert L. Hicks and Doris Hicks
Grantee: Charles F. Clark and Marilyn Clark
Property: Not provided
Date: April 7, 2009

Grantor: James Dewitt and Carolyn Dewitt
Grantee: Calvary Callender
Property: The E/26 feet of Lot 12, and the EW/49 feet of Lot 13, Block 1, Highland South
Date: April 7, 2009

Grantor: Dillard Teal and Tony Castillo
Grantee: Oscar M. Robles and Crystal Robles
Property: Lot 12, Block 20, Monticello Addition
Date: April 13, 2009

Grantor: Ronnie Osborn
Grantee: Cody Osborn and Taylor Osborn
Property: Lot 17, Block 1, Hillcrest Terrace
Date: April 15, 2009

Grantor: Lesa Vera Gamble and Charles Bruton Jr.
Grantee: Perry Dean Hall
Property: A tract out of Section 44, Block 31 in 108 Block/Tract 3
Date: April 17, 2009

Grantor: Thomas Fauver, June Ellen Brumfield, Robert Joe Fauver and Linda Deguire
Grantee: B&B Investments
Property: A 4.5-acre tract out of Section 25, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: April 17, 2009

Grantor: James Steve Nail
Grantee: Thomas Gregory Parrish
Property: Lots 3 and 4, Block 1, Williams Addition
Date: April 17, 2009

HONORS

Continued from Page 4C

said Tommy Reed, regional director, Adult Protective Services, Regions 2 and 9. "We value our community partnerships and APS Honors is an opportunity for us to recognize and thank individuals

and agencies for outstanding efforts."

Adult Protective Services is a program of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. The APS mission is to protect the elderly and persons with disabilities from abuse, neglect and exploitation by working with clients, families and communities.

CEO

Continued from Page 4C

The insurer said last July that it would cut 4,000 jobs, or about 5 percent of its work force, to become leaner and more focused on regional coverage.

In 2008, UnitedHealth also announced a settlement for some key litigation hanging over the company. In December, a federal judge gave preliminary approval to a settlement in which UnitedHealth agreed to pay \$895 million to resolve a lawsuit filed by shareholders over the backdating of stock options.

The case still awaits final approval, but the insurer took a charge for that last year.

Hemsley took over as CEO in November 2006 after former Chairman and CEO William McGuire was forced out in due to the backdating issue.

The proxy said Hemsley received no stock or option awards last year due to the value of awards previously granted. The CEO had more than 11 million unexercised options at the end of last year.

Durable goods, new home sales better than expected

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON — Demand for big-ticket manufactured goods and new home sales both were better than expected in March, raising some hopes that the long slides in manufacturing and housing are slowly coming to an end.

The Commerce Department said Friday that orders for durable goods dropped 0.8 percent last month, about half the 1.5 percent decline that economists expected. A rise in orders for commercial and military aircraft helped cushion weakness elsewhere.

The small drop followed a 2.1 percent increase in orders in February. That was the first gain after six straight monthly declines.

New home sales fell 0.6 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 356,000 from an upwardly revised February rate of 358,000, the department said. Economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters expected a sales pace of 340,000 units.

February's results were 6 percent higher than originally reported, but home sales last month were down nearly 31 percent from March 2008.

The housing results fanned optimism that developers have slashed prices and construction enough that sales have finally hit bottom. Prices, however, are likely to remain weak for months as builders continue to clear out their stock of unsold homes.

While February's durable goods results were revised down from an earlier estimate of a 3.5 percent gain, that rise in orders followed by only a small drop in March show some faint signs of life in manufacturing.

Still, economists cautioned the best that can be expected is for industrial production to stabilize. They do not expect a rebound from the current low levels anytime soon given all the problems facing the economy.

"The bottom line here is that it is still impossible to tell whether the sharp slowing in the rate of decline of core orders in February-March is simply a correction after the horrors of the previous few, post-Lehman months, or the start of a genuine stabilization," Ian Shepherdson, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, wrote to clients.

U.S. manufacturers have been hurt by a steep drop in demand at home and from major overseas markets, which face their own recessions.

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Announcements



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News in Brief

Fear, anger, laughter as Mexico's capital copes with possibility of global flu epidemic

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The schools and museums are closed. Sold-out games between Mexico's most popular soccer teams are being played in empty stadiums. Health workers are ordering sickly passengers off subways and buses. And while bars and nightclubs filled up as usual, even some teenagers were dancing with surgical masks on.

Across this overcrowded capital of 20 million people, Mexicans are reacting with fatalism and confusion, anger and mounting fear at the idea that their city may be ground zero for a global epidemic of a new kind of flu — a strange mix of human, pig and bird viruses that has epidemiologists deeply concerned.

Tests show 20 people in Mexico have died of the new swine flu strain, and that 48 other deaths were probably due to the same strain. The caseload of those sickened has grown to 1,004 nationwide, Mexico's Health Secretary Jose Angel Cordova said.

The same virus also sickened at least eight people in Texas and California, though there have been no deaths north of the border, puzzling experts at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Scientists have warned for years about the potential for a pandemic from viruses that mix genetic material from humans and animals. This outbreak is particularly worrisome because deaths have happened in at least four different regions of Mexico, and because the victims have not been vulnerable infants and elderly.

Finance officials pledge aggressive efforts to battle global downturn but stumble over details

WASHINGTON (AP) — Finance officials are pledging to keep the momentum going in their efforts to combat a severe global downturn but have hit a stumbling block in differences over how to boost the resources of the International Monetary Fund.

The debate underscored what could be a growing divide within the 185-nation IMF, with emerging economic powers such as China, Russia, Brazil and India insisting that old-line powers such as the United States, France and Britain listen to their ideas on different funding approaches for the IMF.

At issue is how to supply a portion of the \$1.1 trillion increase in resources for the IMF and other lending institutions that was set as a goal by President Barack Obama and other leaders at the Group of 20 nations summit in London on April 2.

The rich nations had hoped to get China and the other nations to commit to billions of dollars of support for that effort at these meetings. However, those countries are insisting that the IMF consider issuing bonds as a way to raise the support. The countries would buy the IMF bonds rather than extending the support in loans. The IMF has never issued bonds before, although the idea was explored in the 1980s.

While the difference would not seem that great — both the bonds and the loans would require the IMF to pay interest — the debate is also tied up in arguments emerging economies are making about the need to boost their voting power at the IMF, something that would come at the expense of the current power structure that favors the United States and Europe.

Union chief says tentative pact reached between Chrysler and Canada union workers

TORONTO (AP) — Chrysler and the Canadian government had told Canadian Auto Workers they wanted concessions that would make the automaker's labor costs competitive with that of non-unionized Toyota in Canada.

On Friday night they got what they asked for as Chrysler and union negotiators reached a tentative labor agreement, CAW President Ken Lewenza said.

The deal would save Chrysler about \$240 million Canadian (\$198 million) a year, Lewenza said. Labor and management said the cuts amounted to the

\$19 an hour in savings the company was seeking.

"This agreement meets the benchmark that was set by the federal government to guide our bargaining," Lewenza said. He said the deal left base wages and pensions untouched though.

Chrysler has until April 30 to reach deals with its unions in Canada and the U.S. and it must cement a technology sharing alliance with Fiat SpA. It also needs to provide a restructuring plan to governments in both countries that will enable it to qualify for government loans to keep it afloat.

Secretary of State Clinton visits Baghdad and says Iraq on right track despite recent violence

BAGHDAD (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said on Saturday that this week's deadly suicide bombings in Iraq are a sign that extremists are afraid the Iraqi government is succeeding.

Making her first trip to Iraq as America's top diplomat, Clinton said the country has made great strides despite the recent violence that killed at least 159 people on Thursday and Friday.

"I think that these suicide bombings ... are unfortunately, in a tragic way, a signal that the rejectionists fear that Iraq is going in the right direction," Clinton told reporters traveling aboard her plane ahead of her unannounced visit to Baghdad.

"I think in Iraq there will always be political conflicts, there will always be, as in any society, sides drawn between different factions, but I really believe Iraq as a whole is on the right track," she said, citing "overwhelming evidence" of "really impressive" progress.

"Are there going to be bad days? Yes, there are," Clinton said. "But I don't know of any difficult international situation anywhere in the world or history where there haven't been bad days."

Clinton arrived a day after back-to-back suicide bombings killed 71 people outside the most important Shiite shrine in Baghdad. Those attacks came after Iraq on Thursday was rocked by its most deadly violence in more than a year.

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1A

administration building toward the end of June."

Administrative staff will be shuffled over to Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, where temporary

offices have already been set up in the East Room. Personnel who were displaced by earlier work will begin moving back into the their newly renovated offices on the A and E wings of the administration building, Sparks said.

One of the driving

forces behind construction plans, Sparks said, has been to minimize classroom disruption — a goal that will not be completely met, she admitted.

"Some classes are going to have to be displaced," she said. "We're working on plans to deal

with those situations."

Other major projects scheduled for the summer include work on an addition for the science building and upgrades to college utility systems — heating, air conditioning, ventilation and sewer.

Also Monday, trustees

will consider:

- A remodeling project at the San Angelo campus' West Texas Training Center.
- Naming the workforce training center at SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf.
- An update on the SWCID Program

Enhancement Initiative.

- Personnel matters.
- Approval of a bid for purchase of property held in trust by Coahoma Independent School District.

Contact Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

program was lauded as a success, keeping the number of inmates down considerably.

Also Monday, commissioners are expected to hold a budget work session, according to Barr.

"It's really a little early yet to know what sort of situation we're going to have for the coming budget," said Barr. "However, I think it's important for us to look at it and prepare ourselves as much as possible. It's looking like we're going to be in a very similar situation (to years past). However, we can start getting some ballpark figures together until we know more."

One of the biggest concerns for the court will be utility costs at the newly constructed jail facility, according to Barr.

"We're really going to have to watch the utility costs at the jail until we have a better idea what to expect," said Barr.

One matter that has commissioners concerned is appraised taxable values in the county. According to Brett McKibben, chief appraiser for the Howard

County Appraisal District, the current value between mineral and farmland values could flip flop from what they have been the last few years.

"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."

"The values in the minerals is closely tied to the cost of oil, so they could fall compared to last year. 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 effect those values."

Barr said it's too early to know how these projections will effect county coffers.

"We really won't know until we get the certified appraisals," said Barr. "We won't know how much the mineral values will go down unto everything solidifies, so everything is just speculation at this point."

Also Monday, County Auditor Jackie Olson will inform the court of invoices, purchase requests

and a review of the county's purchasing policies. Olson is also expected to discuss jail budget amendments and a request to go out on bids for building mechanical work.

County Treasurer Teresa Thomas will present personnel considerations, while Road and Bridge Administrator Eddy Jameson will report on pipeline crossings and road maintenance. Local resident Beverly Jeffcoat has been allotted time to discuss plans to organize a countywide clean-up day.

Sheriff Stan Parker will request the purchase of new protective vests.

The meeting will get under way at 10 a.m. in the commissioners courtroom, located on the second floor of the county courthouse.

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

KBSB

Continued from Page 5A

Wal-Mart was our first business to sign on as a member of KBSB. They are one of our biggest supporters in that whatever we need and request, we get for the furtherance of KBSB programs. They provide bags with cleaning items for the ones we recognize for the Doing Your Part Beautification Award. Every Friday morning management and employees are out cleaning up their front yard and surrounding areas.

If every business would do this, our problems would be solved in

this area. We need people being responsible for their own trash and this wouldn't be necessary. Thanks to Tim, Tito and Manny. Great job.

A different type of recognition is media, and the *Big Spring Herald* was our second business member to be recruited. We can depend on them for support as it is the media that keeps the channel open for what is happening in KBSB. Thanks to Ron, John, Bill and staff for all you do for KBSB.

KBST is another one of our great media supporters, with Mike Henry keeping the public informed of the activities of KBSB. Mike is a great friend, and after he signed up there was some sprucing up taking place.

Again, thanks Mike and all the KBST staff.

We have about 46 business members and wished we had all businesses in Big Spring as members. Our desire is that these businesses send a representative to our monthly meeting so you will know the activities of KBSB. We are affiliates of Keep Texas Beautiful, and will be signing on with Keep America Beautiful. Thanks for being a part of KBSB.

Should you, the public, have a friend, neighbor or business you would like to nominate for the Doing Your Part Beautification Award, please contact me. I would love more input from the community.

Hangar 25 Air Museum Presents The 2009 Kid's Klub Poetry Contest

Poetry Contest Theme
Pride in our Country's Heritage

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Legals

Public Notice
Glasscock County Commissioner's Court in regular session, May 11, 2009 at 10:00 AM will accept bids for depository contracts of county funds for two years beginning June 1, 2009. The bid should include all county funds and trust funds as provided by law. The Court may reject any or all bids submitted. For bid specifications or more information contact, Alan Dierschke, County Treasurer @ (432)354-2415 Monday through Friday 8:30 AM-4:00 PM. #6121 April 26 & May 3, 2009

Legals

LEGAL NOTICE:
This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on May 7, 2009. You have until November 3, 2009, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#1027 Weekly Grand** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 3.91. This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on May 23, 2009. You have until November 19, 2009, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#1135 Hearts On Fire** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 3.93. This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on June 1, 2009. You have until November 28, 2009, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#839 Monthly Bonus** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.80. These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on June 10, 2009. You have until December 7, 2009, to redeem any tickets for these games: **#1040 \$1 Million Double Action** (\$20) overall odds are 1 in 2.88, **#1094 \$130,000,000 Platinum Payout** (\$50) overall odds are 1 in 2.77. This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on July 1, 2009. You have until December 28, 2009, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#1118 Texas \$50 Million Club** (\$20) overall odds are 1 in 2.88. The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including \$599. Prizes of \$600 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form; however, annuity prizes or prizes over \$999,999 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at **1-800-37LOTTO** or visit the Lottery Web site at www.txlottery.org for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, transactions, players, and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A Scratch-Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. **PLAY RESPONSIBLY.** The Texas Lottery Supports Texas Education. #6126 April 26, 2009

Legals

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Stock holders
 - 8 Home of the \$3 bill
 - 15 It got 3 million+ visitors in 2007
 - 17 Office event
 - 18 Flip
 - 19 *Wreck of the Mary Deare* author
 - 20 *Drums Along the Mohawk* hero
 - 21 Bonus
 - 22 Long range
 - 23 Café offering
 - 24 Shout of satisfaction
 - 25 Source of red or white
 - 26 Confine
 - 27 Raise your number for
 - 28 Relief
 - 29 Sandpiper cousin
 - 31 Draw close
 - 32 Emulated Hiawatha
 - 33 Premiums
 - 34 Noted acting family
 - 35 February figure
 - 36 High-speed initials
 - 39 Got even with
 - 40 Silks called her "the French Isolde"
 - 41 Dog first called Big Boy
 - 42 Behind, nonstandardly
- DOWN**
- 1 Overdone
 - 2 Literally, "they dwell"
 - 3 Transfigures
 - 4 Back down
 - 5 Powerful person
 - 6 Collie charge
 - 7 Ill-fated TV vehicle
 - 8 War ___
 - 9 Puts up
 - 10 Drill bits?
 - 11 Analysts' org.
 - 12 Just adequate
 - 13 Trick
 - 14 Apparent horizon
 - 16 Collagen product
 - 22 Contributed to
 - 23 Types of reinforcements
 - 25 Naps
 - 26 Not natural-looking
 - 27 Spread out
 - 28 Take hold
 - 29 Salsa specification
 - 30 Submarine
 - 31 Brits call it "vanilla slice"
 - 32 Swimmer with barbels
 - 33 2009 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee
 - 35 One of a Luxembourg dozen
 - 36 "Rats!"
 - 37 Duster part
 - 38 Allen ex
 - 40 ___ Park
 - 41 Dictates
 - 43 Takes off
 - 44 Sign of aging?
 - 46 Draw off
 - 47 "I'm sure ___ pleasure it can gie": Burns

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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49													

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Courtesy photo

The Activity Therapy Department at Big Spring State Hospital conducted a celebration of Arbor Day Friday. The ceremony was presented in the Wellness and Recovery Plaza of ATD. Leo Walters, a peer support specialist for BSSH, made a short presentation which included information about the history of Arbor Day. A horticulture crew of staff and patients planted a Desert Willow tree in honor of the celebration. Bookmarkers inscribed with "A Tree planted today is hope for tomorrow" were given to those in attendance to commemorate the occasion and to emphasize the philosophy of "Hope" that is a prevalent part of BSSH culture. The event was well-attended by patients and staff. Pictured here is James Naylor, a patient who assisted with the planting.



Courtesy photo

Sands FFA made a solid showing at state competition recently. Pictured left to right are Michael Costeliche, Michael Gomez, A.J. Hernandez, Brian Moore, Hayden Ware, Alberto Ybarra, Richard Lucio, Priscilla Ybarra, and Kynnne Campbell.

Sands FFA judging teams place well in state contests

ACKERLY — Sands FFA placed eighth in the State FFA Cotton Judging Contest out of 58 teams present.

The group ranked fifth in Area II for cotton judging. The cotton judging team consisted of Richard Lucio, Logan Gaskins and Brian Moore. Richard was fourth high individual out of 216 contestants and Logan Gaskins ranked 12th high in the cotton contest.

The Sands FFA Wool Judging Team placed 21st out of 47 teams. They ranked 7th in Area II Competition. The team was made up of Hayden Ware, Michael Gomez, Michael Costeliche and A.J. Hernandez.

Sands FFA Plant I.D. Team placed 21st out of 28 teams. They ranked 3rd in Area II Competition. The team consisted of Priscilla Ybarra, Kynnne Campbell and Alberto Ybarra.



Courtesy photo

Members of the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club presented library books to Bauer Elementary School earlier this month.



Thursday, Hangar 25 Air Museum honored its 2009 April Veteran of the Month, Marie Mejia-Justice. She served in the United States Army from 1988-1994 and worked as a telecommunications operator while stationed in Germany and Korea. She is pictured with her husband, David.

Courtesy photo



The Midland Rattlers 14U Select Baseball Team brought home the championship from the USSSA March Madness NIT Tournament played March 27-29 in Mansfield, Texas. With the win, the Rattlers earned a berth in the USSSA World Series to be played this summer, one of Midland Rattlers team members is Big Spring's own **Max Pappajohn**, son of David and Dawn Pappajohn. The Rattlers won the Beef O' Brady's Spring Classic USSSA 14U Select Baseball Tournament played April 17-19 in Amarillo, Texas. The Rattlers went undefeated in the tournament, outscoring opponents 39-6. This brings their season record to 17-2.

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A spring guide to help you clean out the clutter

MEGAN K. SCOTT

Associated Press Writer
Toss, reuse, sell, recycle.

When it comes to getting rid of stuff, knowing what to throw out is only part of the equation. You also have to figure out what to do with it.

Here's a guide to getting rid of the things you don't use, need or even want:

BOOKS

If books are overcrowding shelf or basket space, it's time to reassess, said certified professional organizer Erica Ecker, owner of the organizing company, The Spacialist. Did the book change your life? Do you get nostalgic when you see the binding?

Out-of-date paperbacks can go into the mixed paper bin at the recycling center or at curbside if the city or county picks up paper, Ecker said. Some take hardcovers, too, so check.

Sell newer books on sites like Amazon.com or Half.com, an eBay company with fixed prices and no listing fees.

If the book is autographed, a first edition or was written by a high profile author who has passed away, consider listing it on eBay, said Marsha Collier, author of "eBay for Dummies." (Starting in May, Half.com sellers can choose to have their listings show up on eBay product pages at no extra cost.)

You can also donate books to a charity, such as an organization that promotes literacy, or take them to an independent book seller for money or credit, said Standolyn Robertson, president of the National Association of Professional Organizers.

CARS

Do you need cash from the car for another purchase or expense? While donating a car comes with tax benefits, you won't see them until the following tax season, said Mark Scott, spokesman for AutoTrader.com.

President Barack Obama recently announced his support of a plan to give vouchers to people who turn in old, gas guzzlers and buy vehicles that get good gas mileage.

Donate the car if it is a clunker or your goal is simply to get it out of the driveway. Most charities that accept car donations will pick them up within days of your call, Scott said.

If you're donating your car, make sure you keep a good record of its condition and any evidence you can find for its market value, Scott said. If you get audited, the Internal Revenue Service is going to want you to prove you didn't inflate the value for the bigger tax break, he said.

CLOTHES

Get rid of clothes that are too small, especially if you haven't been able to wear them for more than a year, said Yahoo! Shine's fashion and beauty editor, Jennifer Romolini.

"Your wardrobe needs to be about practicality, not hope," she said.

But if you think you will drop the weight — if it's pregnancy weight, for example — Ecker suggests keeping a limited amount of the smaller clothes you love and would wear again, even if it's in a year.

If you're not sure whether to keep something, enlist the help of a friend who knows you well and will give you her honest opinion, said Anne-Marie O'Neill, deputy editor of Real Simple.

Do not donate clothes that are unwearable, Romolini said.

"If something has a tiny tear or button missing, that's one thing; if a piece is practically torn in two or forever-stained, throw it in the trash."

For consignment, most shops only take high-end pieces that are in excellent condition, Romolini said. While some take lesser quality clothing, it might not be worth the time. She once received \$11 for an entire bag of clothes, which barely covered her transportation to the store.

Designer/name brand and new or barely worn items will fetch the highest bids on eBay, Romolini said.

Be honest about the condition, be descriptive about the color, size and fabric and make sure you spell the designer's name correctly, says Collier. Include photos.

While people sell clothes on Craigslist, Romolini says to think twice.

"Do you really want a parade of people coming through your house, deciding whether or not they want what you're selling?" she asked.

ELECTRONICS

Get rid of an old gadget or appliance as soon as you get a new one, said Christopher Null, Yahoo! Tech columnist. He said gadgets and tech products lose value quickly, so the longer you wait, the more worthless they get.

Check eBay to see if the gadget is worth something. Make sure to look at actual sales, not listings with initial prices that didn't get any bids, he said.

"You'll usually get a better price on eBay rather than trying to sell it in a more limited venue, like Craigslist," he said.

If you can't sell it, consider donating or recycling it. Staples recycles used computers, monitors, desktop printers and fax machines even if the item wasn't purchased there. There is a recycling fee of \$10 per large item.

GreenDisk (www.greendisk.com) accepts everything from cell phones to laptop computers to iPods. Pack items in your own box, print a label from the site and ship. The cost for disposal of up to 20 pounds is \$6.95. GreenDisk will also send you a collection box and pick it up for an additional charge.

ENTERTAINMENT

Check with your local library to see if it wants old VHS tapes, said Vicki Norris of Vicki Norris' Restoring Order in Portland, Ore.

go unless you have a tape player in your car, and can and will listen to them while you're commuting," she said. If you're not sure, give yourself a month to "use them or lose them."

Some game retailers like GameStop will buy games for more recent video consoles like Wii and Xbox 360, according to Chris Kohler, Wired.com's Game Life editor. But he said in many cases, they won't take back games for older consoles.

Amazon.com's Video Games Trade-In store allows users to trade in some old games for an online gift card to the site.

Make sure you are not sitting on a gold mine, Kohler said. Games from 20 years ago are collectibles, and classic game lovers will pay a high price for them on eBay.

GreenDisk also takes all electronic media, including diskettes, zip disks, CDs, VHS, cassette tapes and game cartridges.

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

First, why aren't you using the equipment? Is the room too cluttered, too hot, boring because there is no television? Sometimes changing the space is enough to get people back on the machine, Ecker said.

But she said she has found old NordicTrack machines that have been acting as clothes hangers in people's bedrooms for years.

"Those kinds of items must leave ASAP," Ecker said. "There's no hope for them."

The key, Robertson said, is whether you have the space to store the machine.

"An unused treadmill in the bedroom, living room or family room is a problem," she said. "Those same items in a home gym or exercise room is no big deal."

You can try to sell it on eBay if shipping is not going to be a problem, she said. If you want to give it away, try The Freecycle Network. (www.freecycle.org)

FURNITURE

When it comes to getting rid of furniture that you don't have room for or that's not your style, Norris has some advice: Don't hold on to it for when your children grow up or because you inherited the piece from a loved one. If the item

has sentimental value, take photos and write down the memory associated with it.

You can try selling the item on eBay or Craigslist, Norris said. The downside is you have to post it, photograph it and arrange for people to come see it.

She recommends donating furniture to charitable organizations that help people set up households, such as shelters.

If the furniture is beyond repair or poses a health hazard, such as mold or cushions filled with dust mites, consider other disposal options, she said.

JEWELRY

Be careful about sending your jewelry to a place you saw on television or the Internet, said Harry Glinberg, a jeweler from Wauwatosa, Wis., who holds top diplomas from the Gemological Institute of America.

Many of them will not pay you what the jewelry is worth. He recommends getting two or three quotes from a jeweler that has a graduate gemologist on staff.

If you believe the piece is an antique, take it to an antique store and get an appraisal.

MAGAZINES

Don't keep more than three issues of magazines, Ecker said. If it's March and you still haven't read the December issue, you're probably not going to, because the April issue is coming, she said.

If there's an article or recipe you want to save, tear it out of the magazine and file it away, Ecker said.

Magazines that are collectibles are good candidates for eBay, Collier said. But often, the vintage ads are worth more. She recommends cutting out the ads, framing them and putting them up for sale.

Some hospitals take magazines, preferably issues that are not older than three months. You can also check with your local library. Recycle magazines that are old and have no real value.

SHOES

Try eBay for high-end designer shoes that are in good condition, Collier said.

If you want to recycle, Nike accepts athletic shoes of any brand with the exception of shoes containing metal, such as cleats or spikes. The shoes are ground up and used to make sports surfaces. (www.nikereuseashoe.com) There are also several charitable organizations, such as Samaritan's Feet (www.samaritansfeet.org) and Soles4Souls (www.soles4souls.org) that collect shoes and donate them to those in need.

Don't try to sell or donate shoes that are in need of a shoe surgeon. Better to toss, she said.

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Are evergreens eating your house? Prune with care

LEE REICH

For The Associated Press

You don't have to look far to find homes whose entrances, windows and very walls are being gobbled up by yews and junipers planted along the foundations.

Nothing wrong with evergreens planted near house walls — the plants do soften that transition between the wall and the ground. But when a few years of neglect turns these plants into ominous, billowing masses of greenery, it's time to take out the pruning tools.

Unless your goal is to kill the plants — cutting stems to the ground, grubbing out roots, and replanting — you have to be careful about how much and where you cut evergreens. These plants vary in their tolerance to severe pruning, and the right cut can spell the difference between a plant that is butchered, even dead, and one that is pleasing to look at.

DIFFERENT HABITS, SAME POINTY LEAVES

Take a look at conifers, that group of evergreens with needle-like leaves. You will notice two kinds of branching patterns. Junipers and yews are examples of conifers that branch randomly. Contrast that with pines and spruces, whose branches are arranged in whorls at discrete intervals along their trunks and stems.

Generally, random branching conifers are more tolerant of being wantonly hacked back than are whorled branching conifers. That's because random branching conifers grow in spurts throughout the growing season, and along their stems have many latent buds just waiting to be awakened when the stem is cut back. Cut

back yew when and where you want, and new sprouts will grow out along whatever stubs remain. The same can be said for hemlock, firs, arborvitae and most junipers.

Whorled branching conifers generally have few latent buds on leafless parts of stems, so do not grow again when cut back severely. And, as growth begins, each bud is already programmed for the single flush of growth it will make for that season. Therefore, don't expect a whorled branching conifer to grow again from where you cut it back to old wood.

BROADLEAF EVERGREENS

Not all evergreens have needle-like leaves; so-called broadleaf evergreens, which include plants such as rhododendron, mountain laurel, Oregon grape holly and pieris, have wide leaves.

These plants generally will send up vigorous new growth whether a stem or even the whole plant is cut back severely. There are exceptions, though, such as rhododendrons having smooth bark.

CUTTING PLANTS DOWN TO SIZE

The quickest way to bring down the size of any evergreen that resprouts readily is to merely lop the whole plant to near ground level. It will look forlorn for two, perhaps three years as it fills in. Fueled by the large, existing roots system, however, new growth will be rapid.

Another approach to making an overgrown evergreen smaller is to lower it gradually. That takes a little longer, but avoids that two or three years of desolate appearance.

Gradual lowering is also the method of choice if a plant is particularly



AP Photo/Lee Reich

A man shears his hedges Monday April 6, 2009 in Warren, Rhode Island.

valuable and you have any doubts about its ability to resprout after severe pruning.

To gradually reduce the size of an overgrown evergreen, each year for a few years cut a few larger limbs back to their origins or to side branches within the canopy. This removes a lot of wood with just a few cuts, and pruning stubs are hidden in the plant

canopy rather than staring out from the edge.

Occasional removal of a few large limbs is also a good way to bring down the size of an overgrown whorled branching conifer. Even without regrowth, pruning stubs are at least hidden, and if you choose your cuts carefully, your plant can retain a pleasing form.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Mars and Pluto battle it out until the end of the month. Being an outer planet, Pluto's effects are generally felt on a global level, but with Mars involved, the global becomes personal. It's a fine time to solidify your stance — to have an opinion about world events and to recognize how your personal choices contribute to the big picture.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You have been rediscovering your talent for the written word. Seize the opportunity to jot off a pithy letter or a heartfelt communication. Your style will be fluid. You'll impress yourself and others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You may be flattered by the attention of people who are younger than you. However, when it's time to partner up for the purpose of work or pleasure, you need to team up with someone wise with depth of character.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will make a friend. Avoid complicated people. You'll naturally gravitate toward the one who smiles at you with great warmth. This person also has kind, soulful eyes and a stellar sense of humor.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's important to you to keep growing as a person. Developing your interests leads to something more profound. Your capacity for love and compassion will expand right along with your talents.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Avoid dilettantism. It's sometimes very helpful to know just enough on a variety of topics; however, right now is not the time for dabbling. Find a project you can throw yourself into — completely.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The issue involving you and a loved one will arise once again. You could bring the matter to a conclusion if you wanted to, although you may not be ready just yet. Today, you'll be able to stay objective and gather more insight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll finally have the time to pick up that book you want to finish or a piece of handiwork you've been meaning to complete. This detour from your usual routine will be soul fortifying.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The communication channels are open. You'll enjoy catching up with friends and family. Have a few stories ready to tell and re-tell. You'll feel more comfortable when you know what you want to convey.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Test out your ideas. Bounce them off of smart people, silly people and people who have no idea what you're talking about. The reactions you get will help you hone your work into something more lucrative.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you want someone to understand you, you make yourself quite clear. However, you might enjoy being a bit mysterious now, if only to be entertaining. You stir a bit of confusion and keep people on their toes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A certain relationship is on your mind all day. If this relationship had a soundtrack, what would the music be like? Scary and percussive? Shimmering and ethereal? Raucous? This afternoon brings a welcome change in mood.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You could face and overcome your opposition, but it would take an awful lot of energy. It's probable that this battle is not important in the scheme of things. Conserve your personal power.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: Things are getting mighty edgy between Mars and Pluto this week. As these warriors angle off, it's easy to see where the tension lies in our own social circles, at work, in our communities and in the world at large. It's all an opportunity to realize how you are affected by the big picture and also how you affect it. An exercise in objectivity will be most enlightening. Image yourself rising above your body, your home and your city, watching the scenes of your life and the lives of those around you play out. Hover above and enjoy the drama. Perhaps after a while it will all seem just a little bit silly, or maybe one area pops out as more poignant than the others. The exercise may change your mind about what is important. Friday is the first day of May and the midpoint of spring. In case you were starting to take the beauty of the season for granted, the Taurus sun renews your sense of wonder, opens your senses and dangles some intriguing and fresh delights just out of reach to drive us forward into a delicious part two of this season.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The irresistibly attractive Jessica Alba has Mercury, Venus and Mars all in sensual Taurus so aesthetics will always be important to her. This Venus-ruled Taurus is perpetually on the top of hot lists of the most desirable women in Hollywood. Her intellectual Aquarian moon shows a studious side. She's a serious learner of her craft who's studied with William H. Macy and Felicity Huffman!

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Softball Region V Tournament Foundation Field	May 2,3
HC Choir Recital Hall Auditorium	May 4
HC Band Concert Hall Auditorium	May 5
LVN Nursing Celebrates 50 Years Reception	May 6
All Day Improv Workshop with Second City	May 8,9
Improv Show	May 9
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SWCID Awards Convocation	May 14
SWCID Commencement	May 15
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Howard College Commencement	May 15
Howard Cottage Graduation	May 19
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New self-help books inspire in our troubled times

MEGAN K. SCOTT

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Finding a better job. Staying calm. Reinventing yourself. In these tough times, there's a wealth of books offering the silver lining you may be desperately seeking.

Amy Hertz, editor at large at Dutton, a division of Penguin USA, said she's handling a "dramatic increase" in book proposals on recession-specific topics.

Rick Wolff, editor in chief for Business Plus, an imprint of Grand Central Publishing, said he's looking at a "steady rise" in self-help proposals, ranging from how to survive the downturn to avoiding foreclosure.

Some new releases were written in direct response to the financial meltdown, including Stephen Leeb's "Game Over: How You can Prosper in a Shattered Economy." Robert Kiyosaki was short on time, so he's releasing his "Conspiracy of the Rich: The 8 New Rules of Money" for free online — chapter by chapter.

Other books were in the works before the collapse but rushed, such as Spencer Johnson's "Peaks and Valleys: Making Good Times and Bad Times Work for You — At Work and in Life." Hertz is rushing out a book about career reinvention. Others were already scheduled.

A roundup of new titles, what they're

about and their advice:

"The Secrets to the Bulletproof Spirit: How to Bounce Back from Life's Hardest Hits" (Ballantine Books Hardcover, \$25) by Azim Khamisa and Jillian Quinn.

Face life's obstacles with optimism and courage. Khamisa, a peace and forgiveness advocate, and Quinn, a life and spiritual coach, offer readers 30 keys to emotional resiliency that they themselves have used to cope with losses. Khamisa's son was murdered; Quinn lost a baby late in pregnancy.

Some advice: Cut up some small slips of paper. On each, write down something you felt or feel entitled to. Read through the slips and consider the energy that you gave or continue to give to those feelings. Safely burn all the slips and watch as the smoke from the fire disappears.

"Emotional Freedom: Liberate Yourself from Negative Emotions and Transform Your Life" (Harmony Books, \$24.95) by Judith Orloff.

A road map for people who are stressed out, discouraged or overwhelmed, or for those who simply want to get to a better place. Orloff, a psychiatrist, offers a step-by-step way to change outlooks, alter behavior and cope with life's challenges.

Some advice: If you encounter someone who is negative and draining, set

kind but firm limits: "Our relationship is important but I can only listen for 5 minutes until you're able to talk about solutions."

"The Hourglass Solution: A Boomer's Guide to the Rest of Your Life" (Da Capo Lifelong Books, \$25) by Jeff Johnson and Paula Forman.

Johnson, a psychologist, and Forman, a former sociology professor, teach boomers how to make the years after age 50 as exciting as the ones before.

Some advice: The idea of "enough money" has always been a moving target. You're never going to reach that arbitrary goal. How much money do you need is no longer the relevant question. The real question is, "What can you do with the money you have?"

"Five Minutes on Mondays: Finding Unexpected Purpose, Peace and Fulfillment at Work" (FT Press, \$21.99) by Alan Lurie.

Lurie, managing director of the real estate services firm Grubb & Ellis and an ordained rabbi,

shares some of the five-minute sermons he gave every Monday morning to inspire and motivate real estate professionals. The book shows readers how to maximize who they are and what they can become.

Some advice: When you make a mistake, recognize and admit it without assigning blame. Then fix the mistake, whether it's with a simple apology or changing your behavior. Be determined to learn from the mistake and not repeat it in the future.

"It's Never Too Late to Be What You Might Have Been" by BJ Gallagher (Viva Editions, due out in May, \$15.95)

Taking inspiration from a George Eliot quote, Gallagher gives readers the motivation they need to start a new chapter in their lives. It's never too late to find true love, go back to school, start a new career, become athletic, live your dream?

Some advice: Create a mental picture of what your life would look like if you were living your dream. Use images and sounds for the "mental

movie." Play and replay the movie often.

"Get Off Your 'But': How to End Self-Sabotage and Stand Up for Yourself" (Wiley, due out in May, \$19.95) by Sean Stephenson.

Stop with the Buts. Based on his personal story, clinical training and work as a therapist, Stephenson teaches readers how to overcome emotional paralysis, build self-confidence and achieve a higher level of success. Stephenson, who has brittle bone disease, suffered more than 200 bone fractures by age 18. He's 3-feet-tall and confined to a wheelchair.

Some advice: Take full responsibility. Rather than wasting time blaming others when things go wrong, work on coming up with a solution. Doing so takes the focus off negative emotions that cloud your judgment and puts you on a path to solving the problem.

"AdaptAbility: How to Survive Change You Didn't Ask For" (Broadway Books, due out in May, \$23.99) by M.J. Ryan.

Ryan, an executive life coach, shows readers how to live with uncertainty, identify new opportunities and align their thinking with their talents, values and purpose.

Some advice: If you find yourself worrying all the time, set aside one 15 minute worry period each day. Then, when your mind starts worrying at other times, push the worry aside until your designated time and do something that occupies your mind.

"The Difference: How Anyone Can Prosper in Even the Toughest Times" (Crown Business, \$24.95) by Jean Chatzky.

Chatzky, a financial journalist, offers practical steps people can take to transition from living paycheck to paycheck to living a financially comfortable life. She details eight things that matter most, including happiness, resilience, habitual saving and gratitude.

Some advice: People who are rich — and stay rich — aren't just grateful; they give to their communities, organizations they believe in and people they care about. If you view something as mundane, like your job, think about it as a gift and focus on what your life might be like if you didn't have it.



KIM L. BANGO, MD
Board Certified in Family Medicine

432-263-0500
1608 W. FM 700, Suite D
Big Spring, Texas



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