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# HIGH SPRING HERALD

**SUNDAY**

**JUNE 7, 2009**



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VOLUME 104, NUMBER 158

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# The crown fits Forsan

## Lady Buffs Class 1A state softball champions

**By JONATHAN HULL**  
Sports Editor  
AUSTIN — In 2006, Forsan High School started a softball program. Four seasons later, the Lady Buffs are Class 1A state champions. Forsan defeated Alto's Lady Yellow Jackets, 2-1, Saturday in the title game after scoring its only two runs of the game in the first inning and holding off three Alto rallies for the victory. "Four years ago, I could see us getting here in the back of my mind," said Forsan Head Coach Shanna Roberts. "Getting here is one goal. Winning it is another. This team came together and got really focused at the end of the year. After we beat Iola (2-1 in the semifinals Thursday), I thought we were going to win a state title."



**Forsan's Lady Buffs pose with their medals Saturday after defeating Alto, 2-1, to win the Class 1A state softball championship.**

The quest to claim the championship seems unlikely when considering the different obstacles facing the Lady Buffs at the beginning of the season. For starters,

the season began with two-time Offensive MVP Amanda Longorio out with a broken foot.

However, Longorio came back in time to pitch in a game against Junction that essentially gave the Lady

Buffs their first outright district title. Her return turned out to be timely as the Lady Buffs had just lost their start-

ing pitcher Ashley Buzbee to a broken collarbone. See **BUFFS**, Page 3A



**Tyrone Clemons of Big Spring High School clears the bar at 6 feet, 9 inches to win the Class 4A high jump title at the University Interscholastic League State Track Meet in Austin Friday. BSHS placed fifth in the overall team competition. See related story, page 1B.**

## County officials work on proposed budget

*Slated to convene Monday at 10 a.m.*

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer  
Howard County commissioners are expected to continue efforts to plan for the 2009-2010 budget Monday morning, as the court continues its budget work sessions and meetings with department heads. According to County Judge Mark Barr, the commissioners court is approximately halfway through its planned meetings with county department heads, the first part of the gov-

ernment body's process to construct a fiscal plan for the coming year. "Some departments have managed to make cuts, while others are needing more funding to pay for things like travel expenses for when they have to attend required classes and whatnot," said Barr. "So it's just a matter of hashing all of that out and trying to come up with an idea what these things are going to cost in the coming year." Barr said he's not expecting any employee layoffs — similar to the ones the county made in 2007 to avoid a budgetary shortfall — or major cuts in the coming budget, but the court isn't

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A

## It's going to be lights out at Howard College

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer  
Construction projects at Howard College will soon be going lights out — literally. Howard College trustees meet at 12:30 p.m. Monday in the Maddux Student Activity Center auditorium on the

campus of SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf. At that meeting, they will hear updates on projects connected to a \$21.6 million renovation of the college's Birdwell Lane campus. One of the projects is nearing completion, but it will re-

quire workers to temporarily pull the plug on the campus' electrical system. Dr. Cheryl Sparks, college president, said work on the college's electrical infrastructure will be completed during a three-day period starting June 26 — but the work will

come with a catch. "We won't have any electrical service for those three days," Sparks said, "so we'll have to shut down most of the campus." No summer school activities are scheduled for that period, so Sparks said disrup-

tions will be minimized. "We looked at all different kinds of scenarios and we decided this was the best of our alternatives," Sparks said. Elsewhere across campus, construction projects continue. See **COLLEGE**, Page 3A

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LaRay Woodard is shown competing as part of Big Spring High School's 4X100 meter relay squad at the University Interscholastic League state track meet Friday. BSHS finished fifth overall in the Class 4A team competition.

HERALD photo/James Schwartz

## Clemons golden in 4A high jump

### Big Spring finishes fifth in team competition at UIL state track meet

By JONATHAN HULL  
Sports Editor

AUSTIN — The hardware is pouring in for the Big Spring Steers track team after the first day of the Class 4A state track and field meet at Myers Stadium in Austin.

Highlighting the Steers' first-day abilities of Tyrone Clemons. Clemons claimed a state title in the high jump Friday, clearing six feet, nine inches, which was an inch better than Justin Benavidez of Corpus Christi Calallen and Jevon Colbert of Arlington Seguin.

The victory didn't come without drama, though.

Clemons was facing elimination at the 6-8 height. Benavidez and Colbert had already cleared 6-8, but Clemons missed on his first two attempts.

With a state title on the line, he regrouped and launched himself over the bar, advancing to the next height.

After being the only athlete to clear 6-9, Clemons could rest easy because the state gold was his. He did try to clear 6-11, but this was after the championship was already in the bag.

"There was a lot of pressure," said Clemons, whose personal best jump this season was at 6-10. "I hadn't cleared 6-8 in the last few track meets."

Powered by Clemons' performance, a silver medal finish by senior LaRay Woodard in the long jump and a bronze brought home by Clemons' cousin Mike Menefield in the triple jump, the Steers found themselves ahead in the team standings with 34 points through the first 10 events.

However, Big Spring ran out of athletes and four teams eventually surpassed the Steers. Lancaster eventually won with 54 points, while the Steers placed fifth.

Woodard's second-place finish in the long jump matches the performance he put forth at last year's state meet. He leaped 22 feet, 11.5 inches, which was a foot and three inches short of winner Darius Jones of Marshall.

Menefield, a sophomore who was a surprise at the District 4-4A meet, also fell short of Jones, who claimed his second gold medal in the event. Menefield cleared 48 feet, seven inches. He was slightly more than an inch shy of second-place Derek Edwards of Brenham and less than a foot away from eclipsing Jones. Clemons finished fifth in the event.

The Steers first got on the board thanks to senior Kade Parker. Parker finished fourth

See **GOLD**, Page 2B

## Kuznetsova claims French Open women's title

STEVEN WINE  
AP Sports Writer

PARIS — Svetlana Kuznetsova conquered her nerves and beat a shaky Dinara Safina to win the French Open.

Showing uncharacteristic calm, Kuznetsova earned her second Grand Slam title Saturday by defeating Safina 6-4, 6-2

in an all-Russian match-up. Jitters have often betrayed Kuznetsova in big matches, but she swept the final four games with steady play.

Instead it was the top-ranked Safina who battled her emotions. She double-faulted seven times, struggled with her movement and

appeared near tears late in the match.

"Today I think she was too tight," Kuznetsova said. "She had so much pressure on her. But I could bring my better game today — that's why I won."

Four-time French Open champion Justine Henin and others have criticized Safina's rank-

ing because she has yet to win a major. She climbed to No. 1 in April and will remain there through at least late July, but she's now 0-3 in Grand Slam finals.

The younger sister of two-time Grand Slam champion Marat Safin was runner-up at Roland Garros last year to Ana Ivanovic.

"Here I am back in the same situation as last year," Safina said during the trophy ceremony, her voice cracking. "Hopefully one day I can win here."

The loss ended her 16-match winning streak and was the latest in a series of lopsided women's finals at Roland Garros. The last

one to go three sets was in 2001, when Jennifer Capriati beat Kim Clijsters.

On Sunday, Roger Federer will play in his fourth consecutive Roland Garros final, with one big difference this year: He's facing Robin Soderling, not

See **FRENCH**, Page 2B

## Sports in brief

### Howard College Hawks national championship attire available

The Howard College Hawks are the 2009 Division I Junior College baseball national champions and T-shirts and hats commemorating the feat will be made available in the Howard College Bookstore.

The cost for each item is \$19.99 and could be available by Monday.

Contact the Howard College Bookstore at 264-5050 if you'd like to pre-order an article.

### Hillger, Stewart and Harris place first at CTLGA playday

In the Comanche Trail Ladies' Golf Association weekly playday Monday, the team of JoAnn Hillger, Benella Stewart and Ramona Harris took first place, shooting even par.

Second place went to Daury Cockrell, Shirley Long and Dee Jenkins with a one over par score.

In couples play Thursday, the team of Gus Leonardi, Michael Carroll and Linda Dewaters placed first with a score of five under par.

Three under par was good enough to earn the team of Forrest West, Debra Lusk and Bob and Benella Stewart.

Debra Lusk shot closest to the pin on the sixth hole.

### Big Spring ISD announces sports skills camps

The Big Spring High School Athletic Department will host a variety of sports skills camps during the summer.

Call Kay Cook at the Athletic Training Center with any questions at 264-3662.

#### Steers Baseball Skills Camp

Big Spring Steers Head Coach Burt Otto will host a baseball skills camp beginning Monday and ending June 11 at Steer Park for first through eighth graders.

Cost is \$25 with an optional T-shirt fee of \$10.

#### Lady Steers Basketball Skills Camp

Lady Steers Head Coach Mike Warren will lend his skills in teaching a basketball camp for girls entering second through eighth grade June 22-25.

The camp will be split into two age groups. Second through fifth graders participate from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. each day at Steer Gym, while sixth through eighth graders take the court every day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$25 with an optional \$10 T-shirt fee.

#### Steers Football Skills Camp

A skills camp for first through eighth graders

interested in football will be held June 15-18 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. each day at the Athletic Training Center.

Cost is \$25 with an optional T-shirt fee of \$10.

#### Volleyball Skills Camp

A volleyball skills camp has been scheduled for June 17-19 at the Big Spring Junior High gymnasium.

The camp is for incoming junior high and high school female athletes. Incoming seventh and eighth graders work out from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., while the high school aged girls take the floor from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost is \$25 with an optional \$10 fee for a T-shirt.

### Wayland Baptist University conducting baseball tryouts

The Pioneer baseball coaching staff at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview is conducting a tryout camp for all graduating high school seniors and/or players with college eligibility remaining.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. June 13 at Wilder Field on the WBU campus. Tryouts follow at 9 a.m. There is no charge for the camp.

For more information or to make reservations, contact WBU Head Coach Brad Bass at (806) 291-1157 or Assistant Josh Milner at (806) 291-1158.



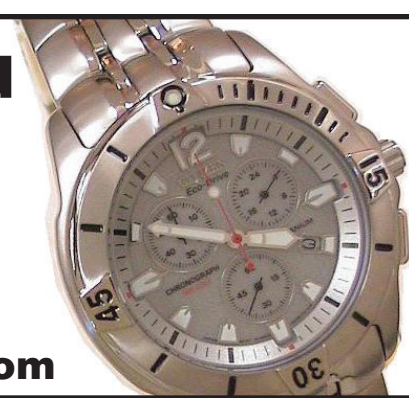
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# WEDDING TRENDS

## Delicious and Affordable Ways to Say "I Do"

### FAMILY FEATURES

Springtime ushers in the glitz and glamour of wedding season, which lasts into late fall. This year, economizing is foremost on everyone's minds, but betrothed couples want their weddings and the events leading up to them to be as special as ever.

These wedding trends are how brides and grooms are turning bridal showers, couples' showers and, of course, the wedding itself into priceless yet affordable experiences for everyone involved.

- Revisiting food classics that are guaranteed to please the palate but don't break the bank, like the Sizzling Mini-Sliders featured.
- Choosing fresh and flavorful wines that present incredible value for the price but don't compromise a smidge on quality.
- Serving food in smaller portions, a restaurant trend, is a hit for guests and a boon for the budget.
- Conserving resources with 3L Premium Wine Casks, a convenient, no-waste way to serve a crowd.

Here are some stylish, budget-friendly food and wine options that allow happy couples to have their cupcakes and eat them too.

### Bridal Shower

To create an elegant and festive party atmosphere, decorate the event space with fresh flowers and set aside a table where gifts can be presented. A buffet table lets guests serve themselves and also provides a tableau for food and wine selections to be artfully displayed. Arrange an inviting layout of fresh seasonal salads and bite-sized desserts, with a delectable angel hair pasta dish as the centerpiece. Pair with the delicious Angel Juice Pinot Grigio, quintessentially Californian with delicate peach notes and a refreshing finish.

### Couples' Shower

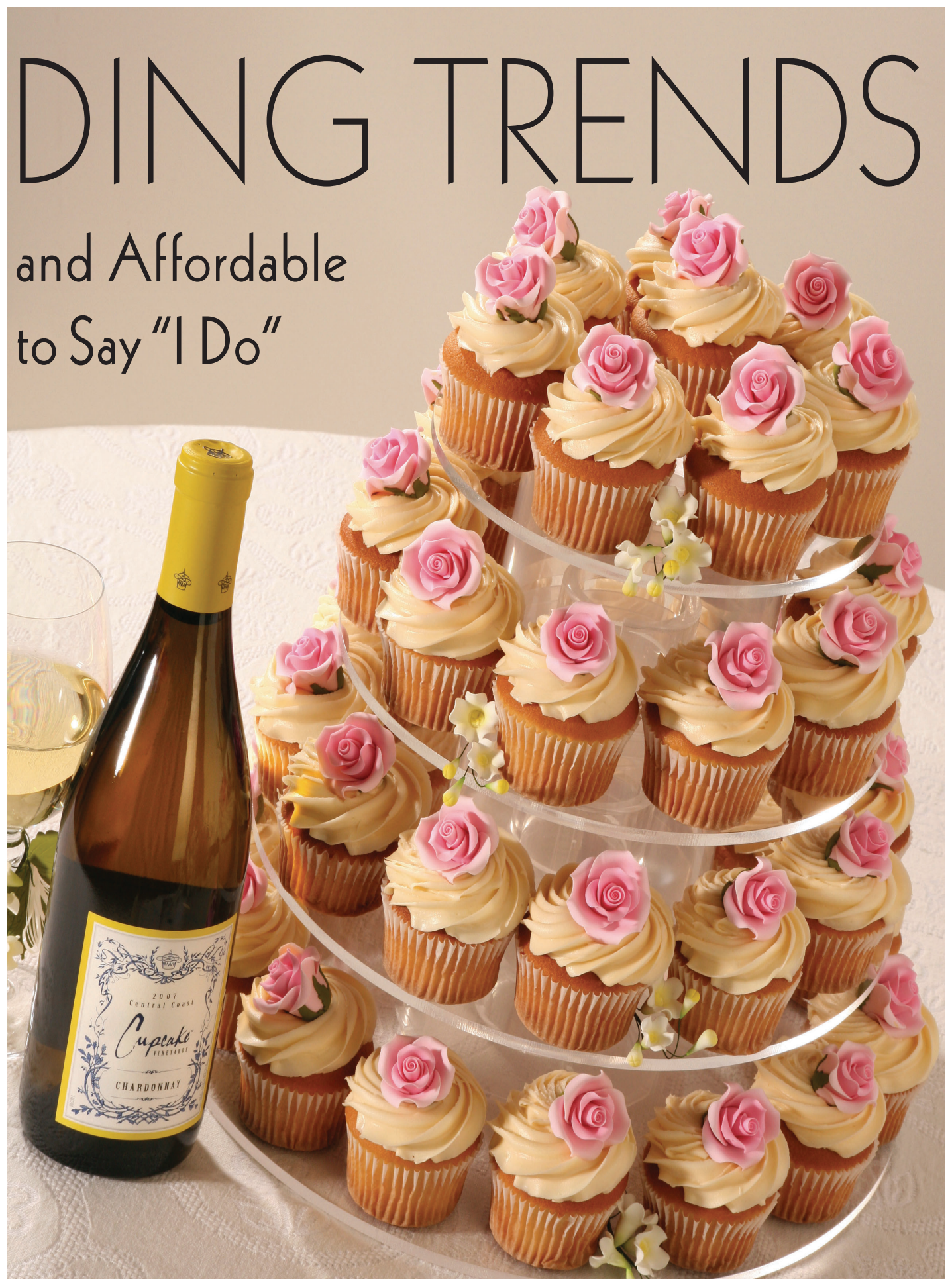
A couples' shower is the ideal way to informally celebrate the upcoming marriage. Commonly known as a Jack and Jill party, the event can be a luncheon, a laid-back barbecue or a party at a local park. A couples' shower is a prime opportunity for everyone to take a break and enjoy spending time together. Mini-burgers, or gourmet sliders, have universal appeal and offer up a new twist on an old favorite. Paired with the vibrant Big House Red, a California blend bursting with ripe red fruits that costs less than \$10 a bottle, they will easily satisfy guests.

### Wedding Reception

As an alternative to the traditional wedding cake, a cupcake wedding tree is a sophisticated way to end the momentous occasion on the sweetest of notes. Paired with the luscious, food-friendly Cupcake Chardonnay from the prized Central Coast winegrowing region, this spectacular dessert and the creamy, fruit-forward wine are a match made in heaven.

## Wine Planning Checklist for Parties

- Use 3L Premium Wine Casks for large groups, as each cask will serve up to 20 guests, each guest with a standard five-ounce glass.
- Guests at daytime parties usually drink less wine. Serve approximately one glass of wine per guest every 90 minutes.
- For evening parties, serve approximately one glass of wine per guest every hour.
- Chill white wine for at least three hours before guests arrive.
- Open and decant red wines about 30 minutes before guests arrive to allow the flavors to open up and breathe.
- Be a responsible host and offer special non-alcoholic beverages and plenty of water for thirsty guests.



### Angel Hair Pasta With Shrimp & Rosemary

Serves 6

Prep time: 30 minutes

- 16 ounces dried angel hair pasta
- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 3/4 cup chopped onion (about 1/2 onion)
- 4 teaspoons minced garlic
- 3 teaspoons seeded and minced serrano chile (about 1 chile)
- 2 teaspoons finely chopped fresh rosemary and sprigs for garnish
- 2 cups Angel Juice Pinot Grigio
- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice, about 1 lemon
- 24 large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1/4 cup pine nuts, toasted in a 350°F oven for 10 minutes until lightly browned
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Cook pasta according to package directions. Set large saucepan over medium heat and add olive oil. Sauté onions, garlic, chiles and rosemary about 4 minutes or until soft.

Add wine and lemon juice, raise heat to high and boil until liquid is reduced by half.

Add shrimp and cook until pink, about 2 minutes. Remove pan from heat, stir in butter and pine nuts, and toss with drained pasta. Add salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste.

Pairing suggestion: Angel Juice Pinot Grigio

### Sizzling Mini-Sliders

Serves 4

Prep time: 30 minutes

- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1/2 cup Big House Red
- 1 1/2 pounds ground chuck
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 12 3-inch dinner rolls

#### Condiments

Caramelized onions (sauté in olive oil, very slowly, about 20 minutes)

- 1/2 cup loosely packed watercress
- 1/2 cup thinly shredded radicchio

In medium bowl, combine onion powder, garlic, wine, beef, salt and pepper. Shape into twelve 1/2-inch-thick patties. Grill until browned, 3 to 4 minutes per side. Grill dinner rolls until slightly toasted. On bottom of each roll, place caramelized onions, patty, watercress and radicchio. Top with roll top.

Pairing suggestion: Big House Red

For more information about these wines, please visit [www.UnderdogWineMerchants.com](http://www.UnderdogWineMerchants.com).

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## Take Note

• An account to defray funeral costs for the family of Justin Hernandez has been set up at Western Bank — formerly known as First Bank of West Texas — located on FM 700. Hernandez was killed in a shooting May 29. For more information, contact the bank at 267-1113.

• The Pentecostals of Big Spring will have a silent auction and barbecue at the corner of 11<sup>th</sup> Place and Locust St. from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday to support Sunday School department summer youth camps. The barbecue meal will include brisket, beans and potato salad, including all the trimmings for \$7.50 per plate.

• Chorus rehearsals for Pops in the Park are from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. June 9, 16, 23 and 30 at the First United Methodist Church. Parking is on the corner of Fifth and Gregg streets. Pops in the Park, Big Spring's annual symphony and fireworks show, will be held July 3 in the Comanche Trail Park amphitheater.

• Area residents are invited to participate in Vacation Bible School events being offered by the Southern Baptist Churches of Big Spring. Listed are the churches, dates, times and ages included:

- Baptist Temple, July 20-24, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., ages 4 through sixth grade.
- Berea Baptist, June 22-26 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Central Baptist Elbow, July 12-16, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., ages kindergarten through adult.
- College Baptist, June 7-11 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., ages kindergarten through sixth grade.
- E. Fourth St. Baptist, June 29-July 1 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., ages first grade through sixth grade.
- Big Spring First Baptist, June 8-12 9 a.m. to noon, ages kindergarten through sixth grade.
- Coahoma First Baptist, July 6-10 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., ages pre-kindergarten through sixth grade.
- Stanton First Baptist, May 31-June 4 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., ages kindergarten through sixth grade.
- Tarzan First Baptist, June 1-5 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., ages pre-kindergarten through sixth grade.
- Forsan Baptist, June 22-26 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., ages 4 through sixth grade.
- Gateway Baptist, July 6-10 9 a.m. to noon, ages 4 through sixth grade.
- Hillcrest Baptist, July 26-30 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., ages kindergarten through sixth grade.
- Midway Baptist, June 8-12 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (VBS camp with breakfast, lunch and snacks).

• Road to Recovery, a free service for those in the Big Spring area taking cancer treatments at Allison Cancer in Midland, is still in operation. The coordinator and phone number to call have changed. To get a ride to cancer treatment in Midland, please call Amy Carnes at (432) 334-6121, which is the American Cancer Society office in Odessa. If Amy is out of the office, you may leave your information with Melissa. An alternate number to call is 1-800-ACS-2345, which is the regional patient services offices; they will relay your information to Amy for the local drivers.

• The Big Spring High School class of 1979 is seeking classmates to attend our 30-year reunion Sept. 18-19. Please contact Debbye Salazar ValVerde at debbyeval@bigspringchamber.com or Cheryl Carter Joy at joycheryl79@hotmail.com with any contact information, be it an e-mail address or physical address.

• 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. You will be helping the senior citizens of Big Spring. Contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Friday:

- ORLANDO MONTANEZ, 27, 610 Linda, was arrested on a local warrant.
- ANGELA DUGGER, 31, 904 E. 14, was arrested on four local warrants.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 200 block of Third.
- ASSAULT ON THE ELDERLY OR DISABLED was reported in the 1300 block of Third.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the 1200 block of Harding.
- THEFT was reported in the 900 block of Willia and the 2500 block of Wasson.

## Support Groups

### SUNDAY

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

### MONDAY

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

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

### TUESDAY

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

• The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministeries, 1209 Wright St. Tuesday, Jan. 6, Teen Challenge will be held at The Path. They will present a Rally for Jesus.

• 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.

## Lottery




Here are the winning numbers selected Friday in the Mega Millions lottery: 5-20-38-41-52; Mega Ball: 20.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night: Winning numbers drawn: 29-30-14-15-37. Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-0-0-3. Sum It Up: 4.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-7-4.

## Your Local Weather

Sun 6/7	Mon 6/8	Tue 6/9
		
<b>98/68</b>	<b>98/67</b>	<b>99/71</b>
Considerable clouds early. Some decrease in clouds later in the day. Hot.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the upper 60s.	Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.

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## Bulletin Board

### 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.

• Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.

• Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.

• The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library. For more information, call 264-6116.

• Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.

• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

• Big Spring Society of the Order of Beacieants meets at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

• Big Spring Commandry meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

• The Christian Motorcyclists Association meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Dragon Restaurant, 1300 S. Gregg. Everyone is welcome. Call 263-3869 for more information.

### TUESDAY

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• The Big Spring chapter of the American Cancer Society meets at Home Hospice, located at 111 E. Seventh St. at noon. Lunch is provided. For more information, contact Sherry Hodnett at (432) 264-7599.



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# Engagements

# Blum's Jewelry

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beautiful accents.

Below are our family registrees

- Micaela Purcell & Blake Baxter
- Stephanie Wright & Guy Poorman
- Kortney Kemper & Brian Pritchard
- Erica Guzman & Nicholas Puentes

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## Dickson and Johnston

Jana Dickson and  
Jeff Johnston, DDS,  
of Denver, Colo., are  
planning a September  
wedding.

Jana is the daughter of  
Doug and Mavis Dickson  
of Sgt. Bluff, Iowa.

Jeff, a former Big  
Spring resident and a  
1996 graduate of Big  
Spring High School,  
is the son of Patricia  
Edwards of Abilene  
and James and Sharon  
Johnston of Austin.  
He is the grandson of  
the late D.D. and Lois  
Johnston of Big Spring.

The bride-to-be served  
in the Marine Corps for  
four years after high



Jana Dickson and Jeff Johnson

school. She received her  
business management  
degree from the  
University of Phoenix  
and is employed as a  
human resource  
manager for Kinder  
Morgan.

The prospective groom  
received his bachelor  
of science degree from  
Texas Tech University  
and doctor of dental

surgery from the  
University of Texas  
Health Science Center  
in San Antonio. He  
is practicing family/  
general dentistry in  
Denver and is the owner  
of Ascent Dental Group.

Jana and Jeff plan to  
be married Sept. 19 2009,  
in Beaver Creek, Colo.,  
with a reception to  
follow in Vail, Colo.

## Births

### Brennan Brodie Wash

Brennan Brodie Wash, a boy, was  
born at 2:01 p.m. April 3, 2009, weigh-  
ing 6 pounds, 3 ounces and was 20-3/4  
inches long.

He is the son of Brodie and Kaci  
Wash of Lubbock.



He is the grand-  
son of Kathy Ay-  
cock of San Ange-  
lo and Mark and  
Sherleen Aycock  
of Menard and  
Lisa and David  
Hobbs and the  
late Billy Wash.

His great-grandparents are Bob and  
Lila Barron and J.W. and Billie Nel-  
ton and Bob Wash and Jo Ann Loud-  
amy of Big Spring.

### Adyson Donna Jones

Adyson Don-  
na Jones, a girl,  
was born at  
8:01 a.m. May  
29, 2009, weigh-  
ing 5 pounds, 12  
ounces and was  
17 inches long.



She is the daughter of Tiffany E. Land  
and Adam R. Jones of Big Spring.



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# Whatever you call it, a curve's tough to hit

**BEN WALKER**

AP Baseball Writer  
Bert Blyleven threw a wicked curveball, and whatever batters called it — the deuce, the yakker, the hook or Uncle Charlie — it was pretty tough to hit.

Why?  
"It's a figment of your imagination," he kidded.

Ever since someone snapped off the first curve, and there's been a century-old debate whether it was Candy Cummings or Fred Goldsmith, there's been equal discussion over exactly what the pitch does in flight.

"There's something physical about it and something illusory about it," Bucknell University professor Arthur Shapiro said.

A diehard New York Mets fan well versed in the field of visual sciences, Shapiro has studied curves from every angle, and reached the same conclusion as many other experts.

"They look like they jump or break or do all these funky things, but they don't. The idea that the bottom falls out isn't

so," he said.

"I'm not saying curveballs don't curve. I emphasize that, yes, they curve. They just do so at a more gradual rate. Instead of making a sudden hook, they would form a really big circle."

That might've pleased Dizzy Dean. He had a favorite line for those who doubted the ball moved at all.

"Stand behind a tree 60 feet away and I'll whomp you with an optical illusion!" ol' Diz liked to say.

Shapiro, however, offers a new theory on why hitters might think a ball bends so drastically: The eye exaggerates the break.

Shapiro said the brain processes objects it sees in peripheral vision differently from things it observes looking straight on. As in, a batter tracking a pitch from the corners of his eyes might throw himself for a curve.

To illustrate his point, Shapiro presented a tantalizing design that recently was judged the world's best visual illusion by a group of

neuroscientists and psychologists.

It depicts a spinning ball that quickly changes direction, depending at which angle it's viewed. Straight on, it appears to simply drop; from the side, it seems to veer.

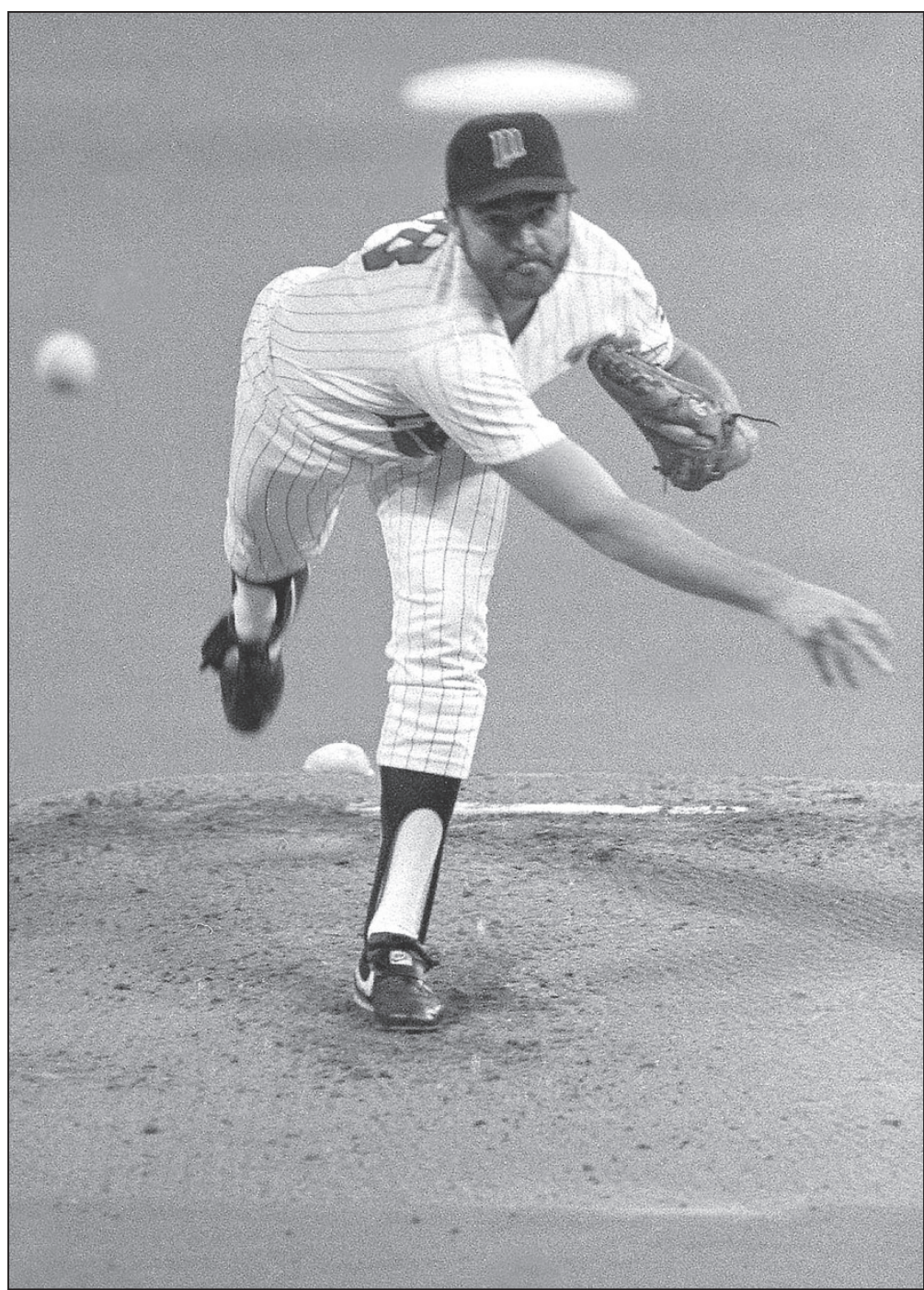
"I'm not saying this is it," Shapiro said. "It's a hypothesis."

Shapiro developed the illusion with three collaborators — Southern California professor Zhong-Lin Lu and former students Emily Knight and Robert Ennis.

"I would agree there is an illusion taking place when a batter visually tries to deal with a curving pitch, but not due to peripheral vision," Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt told The Associated Press in an e-mail.

"Curveballs are like snowflakes, none are the same. No two curveballs have the same rotation speed, velocity toward the hitter, arm delivery angle or break.

"Nolan Ryan and Bert Blyleven had the tightest rotation and velocity combination," he wrote.



AP file photo

In this 1987 photo, Minnesota Twins starter Bert Blyleven pitches to the Detroit Tigers in the first inning in Game 2 of the American League Championship baseball series in Minneapolis. Blyleven threw a wicked curveball and whatever hitters called it — the deuce, the yakker, the ol' hook or Uncle Charlie — it was tough to handle.

# NCAA discusses Memphis' possible violations

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The NCAA met with Memphis officials on Saturday to discuss major violations and the school must now wait at least six weeks for a ruling on whether its 38 wins from the 2007-08 season will count.

The most serious allegation taken up at the meeting was whether an unknown person took the SAT for a player.

The NCAA has said the athlete in question played for the Tigers for only the 2007-08 season and the 2008 NCAA tournament.

The only person who fits the description in documents obtained by The Associated Press is Derrick Rose, the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft

after that season.

Memphis athletic director R.C. Johnson had no comment as he left the four-hour meeting. Memphis president Dr. Shirley Raines also would not speak, but issued a statement.

"Although we cannot comment on the specifics of what occurred during the hearing, I can say that as president, I reiterated the university's commitment to NCAA rules compliance," Raines said.

"We believe we were able to fully answer the committee's questions and present the actions we have already taken based upon our internal investigations."

Memphis officials have said the school

should keep the victories from the 2007-08 season that ended in the national title game. An NCAA spokeswoman said a ruling is expected between six and eight weeks.

"We are hopeful that we will receive a favorable decision on behalf of the university in this matter," Raines said.

"We look forward to having more to say after the committee has released its decision."

A letter from the NCAA forced new Kentucky coach John Calipari to participate in the hearing.

The NCAA says Calipari, who coached the Memphis Tigers during the season in question, isn't consid-

ered "at risk" in the probe.

Calipari explained in one letter than he wouldn't be able to attend because of a previously scheduled trip to China, but the chairman of the NCAA's com-

mittee on infractions told him he needed to participate anyway, either through phone or video conference.

Calipari responded on May 27 that he would join the hearing by phone, but it wasn't

clear on Saturday whether he had.

Memphis could face similar meetings with the NCAA in the future.

Another player, Robert Dozier, also has had questions surface about his entrance exams.

## 76TH BIG SPRING COWBOY REUNION RODEO PARADE

5 p.m. — Thursday, June 18

Let's make this the biggest and best rodeo parade ever! Award categories include floats, tractors, riding clubs, motorcycle, custom and classic cars and bicycles. First- through third-place entries will receive cash awards of \$100, \$50 and \$25, respectively; while the top entries from the six categories will receive a plaque.

ENTRANT \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE ENTRY  
(Check type)

- Float  Riding Club
- Custom/Classic Car
- Bicycle  Tractor
- Motorcycle

CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE No. \_\_\_\_\_

Return entries to the Big Spring Herald, 710 Scurry, no later than noon on Monday, June 15, then get your boots, hat and western wear ready to join us in the celebration!

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# ► Anniversary



**Mr. and Mrs. Orville Spradling**  
65th Anniversary  
June 3, 2009

It was just a few days before D-Day when Orville and Reta Spradling got married. Sixty-five years later the Big Spring residents are still very content to be sharing their lives together.

Reta Bigony graduated from Big Spring High School in 1940 and attended McMurry University. Orville was a student at Texas Tech. They met in 1942 while attending a Methodist youth fellowship in Idalou. After exchanging vows June 3, 1944, in the post chapel at Camp Rocker in Alabama, the couple planned to head for Panama City, Fla., for a honeymoon. However, travel problems cut the trip short. As they were returning, D-Day was taking place across the Atlantic.

It would be 50 years before they'd complete their honeymoon in Panama City. When they did, they took the opportunity to renew their wedding vows.

"It was just as sweet as 50 years ago," Reta said at the time.

In between, Orville was sent to Europe and returned home safely. The Spradlings lived in Lubbock, Costa Mesa,

Calif., Houston and Dallas. Orville was head of General Telephone's oil Yellow Pages. Reta was a church secretary, religious education director and school secretary. After Orville retired, they moved to the Fairview community near Luther and later to Big Spring.

Orville has been a longtime pilot, a love which he passed on to



their two sons, William O. Spradling and Dennis Michael Spradling. They have three grandchildren.

Orville is associated with several Masonic and aviation clubs. Reta

enjoys reading and is associated with the Garden Club and Genealogy Society.

They are affiliated with the First United Methodist Church of Big Spring.

**Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Phinney**  
50th Anniversary  
June 5, 2009

Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Phinney of Sand Springs will observe their 50th wedding anniversary with a come-and-go reception from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 7, in the Midway Baptist Church fellowship hall. The couple will renew their vows at 2:15 p.m.

The celebration is being hosted by Jay Phinney, Lori Phinney Henry, Jean Ann Wolf and respective families.

Rickey Harry Phinney was born in Big Spring. Jeffie Lee Gore was born in Olney. They met as students at Coahoma schools and both worshiped at First Baptist in Coahoma.


They were married June 5, 1959, at Coahoma First Baptist Church.

They have two children, Jay Phinney of Big Spring and Lori Henry of Fort Worth, and two grandchildren, Zac and Ashley Phinney of Big Spring.

He is retired from Getty Oil and the Big Spring State Hospital. She is a homemaker.

They attend Midway Baptist Church and enjoy gardening, collecting and entertaining friends.

Their marriage has remained strong through devotion to family and faith.




## June 2009

### Employee of the Month

#### Tye Brown

*Parkview Nursing and Rehab would like to congratulate Tye for earning employee of the month. Tye has been working with us since April '07. She is the Activity Assistant. The residents, families and employees of Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation appreciate all you do! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.*



**Tye Brown**

### Why do batterers threaten, abuse, or kill animals?

- To demonstrate and confirm power and control over the family.
- To isolate the victim and children.
- To eliminate competition for attention.
- To force the family to keep violence a secret.
- To teach submission.
- To retaliate for acts of independence and self-determination.
- To perpetuate the context of terror.
- To prevent the victim from leaving or coerce her/him to return.
- To punish the victim for leaving
- To degrade the victim through involvement in the abuse.

### Is animal abuse a form of domestic violence? YES.

- Animal abuse exposes the deliberateness of battering rather than loss of control.
- Animal abuse and child abuse are closely related.
- Animal abuse is often a tool used by batterers to emotionally control or coerce victims.
- Threatening, injuring, or killing animals can indicate the potential for increased violence or lethality.
- Victims may postpone leaving out of fear for their pets' safety.
- Identifying animal abusers can help identify other victims of violence within the family.





## 2009 Big Spring Baby Contest



**Did you or someone you know have a baby in 2008 or 2009**

If so, they are eligible to participate in the

"2009 Big Spring Herald Baby Contest" which will be printed on Sunday, June 28th. To enter your baby simply fill out the information below and bring the photo, information to the Big Spring Herald before 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17th and your baby will be entered into the contest. Bring \$15 to have baby's photo published.

An independent panel of judges will be judging the photos.

The "First Place" winner will receive a

**\$100 Savings Bond**

"Second Place" winner will receive a

**\$50 Savings Bond.**

Baby's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

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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

### Boys & Girls Club summer program begins Monday

Summer is finally here. That's right, it doesn't matter a bit what the calendar says, summer actually starts when our children get out of school. It's an absolute boon for youngsters, if memory serves correctly, and it does. However, for working parents — and there are a great many more of them than when we were children — the nearly three-month vacation presents somewhat of a nightmare when it comes to childcare.

The parents of 100 local children are in luck, though. The Big Spring Salvation Army's Boys & Girls Club of America offers them a reliable, cost-effective answer with its summer program, which begins Monday and continues through Aug. 14.

"We have a lot of different activities planned this year," said Sonnet Hildebrand, director of the annual project. "Our new program coordinator this year is Barry Barnett, who did a lot of work for the programs at the YMCA. We have all sorts of activities planned, from arts and crafts to a splash day."

One thing that will be missing from the club's agenda this year are trips to the municipal swimming pool, because the city of Big Spring will not open the facility this summer as it plans to make repairs at the facility.

The program is operated Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

For a lot of parents, daycare just isn't an option, due to financial concerns, according to Hildebrand.

But the Boys & Girls Club will be charging \$20 for each of the first two months, and \$10 for August. "That's the whole summer for \$50, which is within the reach of most parents," Hildebrand noted. "And they have the option of paying the entire amount up front or just paying on a month-to-month basis."

And it's important, we believe, to note that there are not financial restrictions parents must meet to qualify for the program.

Lunches will be provided during the first month of the program, as the youngsters will be bused to Big Spring High School for lunch, but after that, children will be expected to bring a sack lunch. However, a snack will be provided throughout the program's run.

The program, limited to 100 children, is currently filled, but Hildebrand is taking applications for a waiting list, in case any of the children drop out of the program.

That rarely happens, however, which tells us the program is not only a good one for parents, but enjoyable for the children involved. Simply put, that's a win-win situation.

## 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

With You, Lord, everyday kindness can be used for others and our greater good.

Amen

# Hey, GOP, what is enough?

When is enough, enough? It's just a question, mind you, but I absolutely think the question needs to be asked of folks like Tina Benkiser, who's chairman of the Republican Party in Texas.

And, no, I'm not talking about the plethora of e-mails I get from the Texas GOP — at least one per day — but the absolute dogmatic approach that Republicans seem to be taking these days.

You see, friends, the Republicans just aren't a happy bunch of campers. In fact, a great many of us are reasonably certain most of them lack a sense of humor, but that's a different matter.

So what's this all about? Well, it seems that the Republicans are not just satisfied being the dominant political party in the state, they have their sights set on every political office in the state. In other words, the Republicans hope to make Texans into "yellow dog Republicans."

That's right, if the GOP has their way, folks in these parts will start voting for anyone brandishing the Republican tag.

Now, to my way of thinking, that's insane.

Understand, George W. Bush and most of the people who surrounded him, both in Austin and Washington, did their dead-level best to turn me into a yellow dog Democrat, there were just some people in the GOP I felt deserved our support — folks like Kel Seliger and Robert Duncan, a couple of state senators we're pretty familiar with.

But now the Republicans say they are "gearing up to fight and win the 2010 election across the Lone Star state," according to a press release they e-mailed me Monday morning.

Seems the state GOP is launching the Local Republican Leadership Fund, which, the party says, is designed to establish, for the first time in history, a majority of all offices in the state.

That's right, the Republicans aren't satisfied with currently holding all statewide offices and enjoy majorities in the state leg-

islature and in the state's Congressional delegation, but they have their sights set on an absolute majority in the more than 5,000 elected offices in Texas.

"We are going to go after offices in every precinct and county in this state," Benkiser was quoted in the release. "Areas that have long been traditionally 'yellow dog Democrat' are often naturally conservative and Republican in their politics. They already support us at the state and federal levels. So we are going to reach out to those areas and the entire state with our message of freedom, strength and prosperity for Texans."

Some of us, particularly me, have a different take. While many of us Texas Democrats are, indeed, conservative to some extent, there's no way for us to be truly Republican ... we don't have enough money to be real Republicans.

In fact, most Texans don't have enough money, or ever will make enough money to be real Republicans.

Real Republicans ... you know, like Dick Cheney; George Bush, the elder; Claytie Williams and Bill Clements ... believe in GOP principles, because it behooves them financially to do so.

Most of us don't. Still, there are clearly many, many Texans that continue to vote against their own economic best interest.

That's because they've believed the tripe folks like Karl Rove, Rush Limbaugh, Ann Coulter, Sean Hannity and the rest of the folks at FOX News have been dishing them.

That's why things like what happened not too long ago in my doctor's office transpire.

I really don't even know how the subject got started that day, but it's not uncommon for people to be discussing political topics whenever a newspaper person is present. Maybe that's not true. Maybe it's just that we're more likely to pick up such a conversation as a result of what we do for a living.

But I was sitting there in the doctor's office having my blood pressure taken when the nurse performing the task opined, and I quote, "Well, I'm a Christian, so there's no way I could vote for a Democrat."

"Excuse me. Did I hear that right?" I asked.

She said I had indeed heard

her correctly.

"Well, I'm a Christian, too," I said.

Then, just before she had a chance to tell me how wonderful she thought it was that I was a Christian, I added, "And I'm a Democrat, too."

She seemed stunned that I didn't consider the two mutually exclusive.

I let it pass, because it really didn't seem worth arguing about. Not in the doctor's office and not when I was having my blood pressure taken.

But come to think of it, so many of the things the so-called Moral Majority and Republican Party have used and continue to use as issues — particularly gay marriage and abortion — just really aren't that important.

The same people opposed to gay marriage and abortion seem, in large part, to be perfectly all right that we condoned torture, but getting a legal ruling that what we said was torture in World War II wasn't torture following 9-11.

Seems to me that Christ left us with one commandment, to love the Lord with all our mind, body and soul and to love one another.

They seem to forget that one, if you ask me.

But then again, it doesn't matter what I think on that front. The same is true about what they think about gay marriage and abortion.

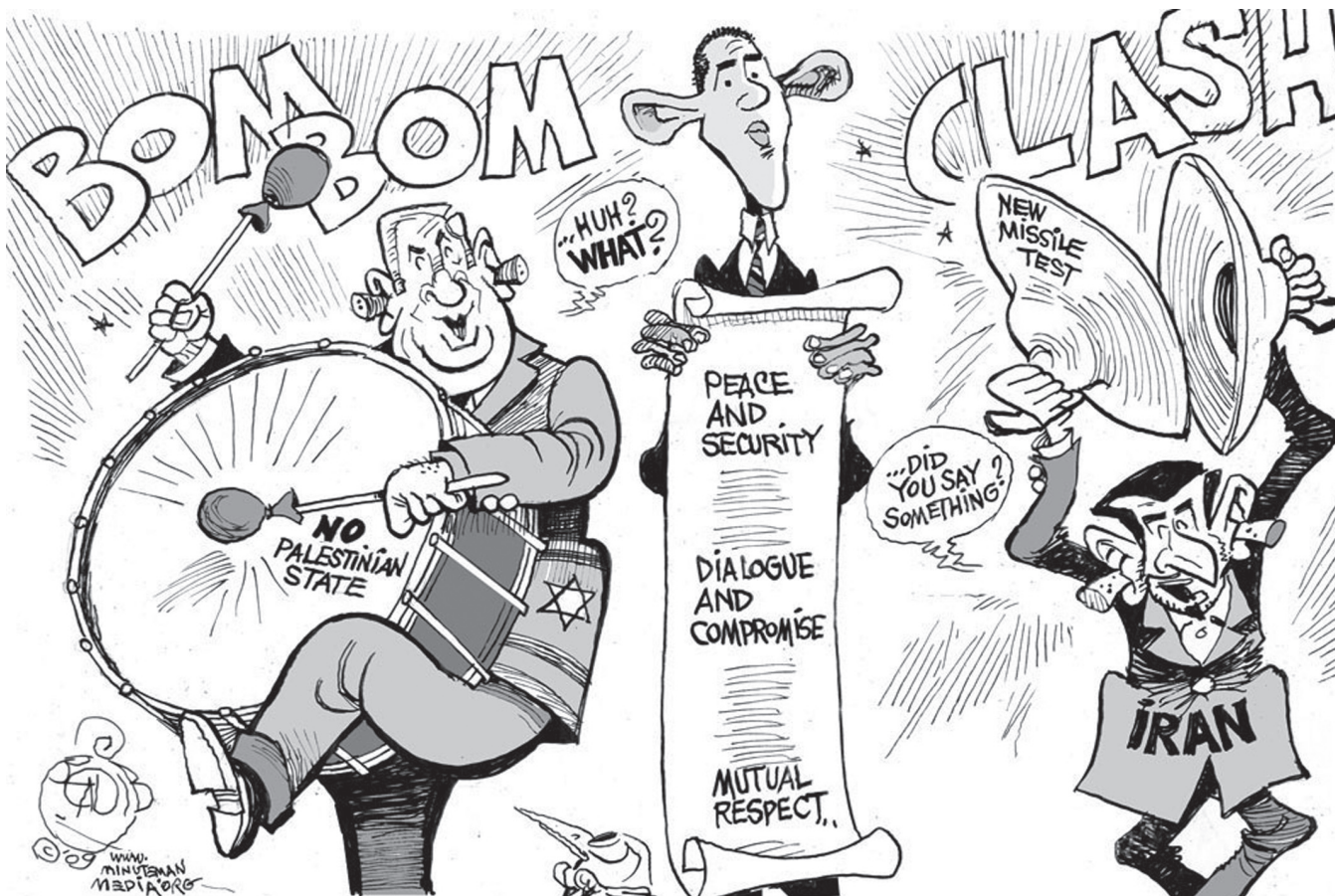
What matters is what God thinks, and he's always been able to take care of things himself.

Now, I know that's diverged a little, but I can't help but be a little afraid when the Texas GOP announces the Local Republican Leadership Fund, which is designed "to bring the party's expertise to each county in the state, to assess their needs, recruit candidates, build party infrastructure and train county party officials, workers and candidates."

"Our message and history of keeping Texas strong and free resonates with Texas' spirit and can-do attitude," Benkiser said. "We're going to keep Texas red, and paint it a little redder, in 2010."

All I can say is, I hope not.

Contact John A. Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230, or by e-mail at editor@bigspringherald.com



## YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

On behalf of the entire Marcy Elementary School staff, I would like to take this opportunity to thank businesses for their contributions this past school year.

Members from businesses have served on our Site Base Team, and have been partnered with Marcy, sponsoring programs like Balloons for Reading Achievements for the first grade, the Healthy Eating Essay for second graders and provided refreshments for campus events. They support us in our academic efforts and we are truly grateful.

Furr's has joined as a partner this year, and has furnished refreshments for several school functions as well, including our Celebrate Freedom Walk and faculty meetings. Western Contain-

er made a donation of \$1000 to our PTO Fund which will be used to purchase academic reading materials for the 2009-2010 school year.

We also want to thank First Baptist Church for furnishing much needed school supplies for students who cannot afford them and the coat drive at Christmas so that each of our students has a coat. They have also been willing to help out with individual needs when we call on them and, for this, we are truly grateful.

Businesses have supported activities that have helped make learning fun and worthwhile and the Marcy Elementary staff wishes to express its gratitude for all their contributions. We feel fortunate to be educators in a community that is so supportive

in educating our children.

BRENDA DUNLAP  
PRINCIPAL  
MARCY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to the letter in Sunday's, May 31, paper written by Rita Brown, I only have one thing to say: Amen.

KENNETH CARSON  
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I believe that retaining the right and liberty to choose a safe, legal abortion is the most important issue facing American women since we had to fight for our

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A





Courtesy photo

From left, Steve Smith and his mother, Edna Faye, Smith pose with Jobeth and Tommy Corwin, winners of the Big Spring State Hospital Jack Y. Smith Award. Posing with the Smiths and Corwins are Assistant Superintendent Olivia Flournoy and Superintendent Ed Moughon. The award was presented Wednesday during the hospital's annual Volunteer Services Council's awards luncheon. The award is presented in memory of Jack Y. Smith, one of the hospital's earliest volunteers.

## Dedicated volunteers

*Tommy, Jobeth Corwin receive Jack Y. Smith Award at BSSH*

By VALERIE AVERY

Special to the Herald

Big Spring State Hospital volunteers Tommy and Jobeth Corwin were presented with the Jack Y. Smith Award Wednesday during the hospital's annual Volunteer

Services Council's luncheon.

The award has been given for the past 36 years to the organization's top volunteer in honor of Jack Y. Smith — one of the hospitals' first and most dedicated volunteers.

Jack Y. Smith established the award in 1973 and presented it for many years before his death. His son, Steve, and Jack Y. Smith's widow, Edna Faye, now present the award every year to the hospital's most decorated volunteer.

In presenting the award, Smith told the crowd of more than 100 volunteers and guests, which included the Corwin's children

who surprised them by traveling from as far away as Houston to attend, that they were joining a prestigious list of recipients.

"Their colleagues say she is a silent leader whose actions speak louder than words, and he is the 'wind beneath our wings,'" Smith said.

Jobeth Corwin began volunteering in 1992 and in that time has worked 3,393 hours; Tommy officially began his career in 1998 and has given 2,648 hours of his time.

Both have done a huge share of

See **AWARD**, Page 5C

## Energy Watch



**Bhupen Agrawal is branch manager and a managing director — investments for the Wachovia Securities Midland office.**

**Bill Franks, AAMS, is a senior registered client associate and the senior associate to the branch manager.**



Last week's market session experienced a tug-of-war between the bulls and the bears. The last half saw the bulls win out as greed overcame fear. The greed side is being fueled by many indications that the recession is ending, a seven-decade record setting rally by the S&P 500, and a last week's government bond market rally. The fear side is made up of concern that the stock market has gotten way ahead of the economy's recovery, that the recovery will be sluggish at best, and lots of inflation fears.

Helping the bulls recently has been short covering as those bears have gotten hung out to dry. Energy stocks have also led the market up as oil prices rose reflecting the improving economic outlook and perhaps some fear of international political problems (North Korea). Banks and financials were also strong as treasuries rallied on reduced fear that record government debt sales will trigger higher borrowing costs.

We did have a sharp sell-off Wednesday encouraging those on the sidelines to believe their hoped for pullback had finally started. But by Thursday, when the market started to rally, you could almost hear the shorts and sidelined cash screaming, "I've got to cover or get on-board." This is a nice environment for us bulls but it does set up a probable short term top fairly soon. We therefore continue to advise investors to remain somewhat cautious and traders to look to sell into strength.

We share the concern with the bears that the economic recovery in 2010 will not be robust and that international problems have become even more severe. At some point those factors will likely sponsor a normal pullback, probably when those hoping for one have given up on its possibility. It is critical to remember that markets are not a one-way street and we feel holding some buying power back makes good investment sense at this time.

On the commodity front...Wow! Natural gas futures had a big day Thursday, advancing 8.7 percent (which is the most in 10 weeks) after a government report showed a smaller-than-forecast gain in U.S. stockpiles signaling that reduced drilling may be starting to cut supply. Meanwhile, crude oil headed for its biggest monthly gain in a decade as economic indicators from Asia and shrinking U.S. crude inventories hinted at the beginnings of a global economic recovery. Oil rose to a six-month high (above \$66 a barrel) after India's economy grew more than expected in the last quarter and Japan said that its April industrial output climbed the most in at least six years.

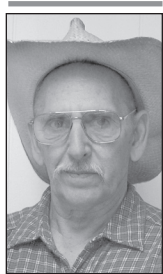
For us here in the Permian Basin, oil's advance of 29 percent in May and the natural gas rally are as welcome as the recent rains.

*Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Portions of this article were produced May 28 by Al Goldman, Wells Fargo Advisors chief market strategist. Wells Fargo Advisors 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 Wells Fargo 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 instrument to participate in any trading strategy. Additional information is available upon request (432) 684-7335. Wells Fargo Advisors, member SIPC, is a registered broker-dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.*

## Time to water, mulch

Summer comes this month and brings with it heat that can be very stressful for plants. Providing proper care can reduce the amount of stress felt by the plant.

Deep, infrequent watering is better than light, frequent watering as it provides the same amount of water but gives the plant a reason to develop a more extensive root system in searching for it. This allows the plant to take in more nutrients which results in a healthier, more productive plant.



WALTER WARD

Most plants prefer cool roots, so mulch, mulch, mulch! Apply mulch 3 to 6 inches deep. In general, coarser mulches will need to be deeper than finer ones. Mulches also help reduce weed growth in flower beds.

There are many kinds of mulches, both organic and inorganic. Plants generally prefer organic mulches as the mulch decomposes and provides food for the plant, but some plants and some purposes require inorganic mulch. Inorganic mulches are rock chips, gravel, tufa (lava chunks), coarsly ground tires; anything that decomposes so slowly that for practical purposes it can be said to not decompose.

The organic mulches are anything that decomposes that

### Howard County Master Gardeners

does not mat to prevent the flow of air and water through it to the soil. The most common are bark chips but shredded wood, peat moss and many others are also available.

I prefer the shredded wood mulch from the Big Spring Compost Facility (3201 Perimeter Road) because it is about the same color as the stones that my house is built from. It works for me. If you use an inorganic mulch, don't forget to rake it back and apply 1 inch of compost

See **GARDEN**, Page 5C

## Why harvest rainwater?

Can rain save you money? Yes. Even if you live where annual rainfall averages only 12 inches, you can save money by collecting and storing rainwater and using it to irrigate your trees, shrubs and lawn.

Efficient water use is increasingly important to Texas. With the state's growing population and limited supply of both groundwater and surface water, Texans must use water wisely. Rainwater harvesting is an innovative approach anyone can use.

Rainwater harvesting captures, diverts and stores rainwater for later use. Rainwater can even be used for drinking, with proper treatment. But the

easiest way to use stored rainwater is for landscaping. In many communities, 30 to 50 percent of the total water is used for landscape irrigation. If that demand for a limited natural resource can be reduced, everyone benefits.

Harvesting rainwater for use in the home landscape:

- Saves you money by reducing your water bills.
- Reduces demand on the municipal water supply.
- Makes efficient use of a valuable resource.
- Reduces flooding, erosion and the contamination of surface water with sediments, fertilizers and pesticides in rainfall runoff.

Rainwater is good for plants because it is free of salts and other minerals that harm root growth. As

See **RAINWATER**, Page 5C



Courtesy photo

Wal-Mart recently presented a \$500 gift to the Pops in the Park Foundation. From left are Manny Negron, Wal-Mart community relations associate; Jan Hansen, Pops in the Park chairman; Debbye ValVerde, Pops treasurer; and Tim Walsh, Wal-Mart manager.

Enter the Big Spring Herald's Reader's Choice Poll by filling out this questionnaire.

Drop off your completed entry form at the Big Spring Herald, 710 Scurry, or mail it to us at PO Box 1431, to be received by **Monday, June 15, 2009** by 5 p.m. Late entries will be disqualified.

The winners of each category will be revealed to the public in our upcoming special section

**"The Reader's Choice" to be published on Sunday, June 28, 2009.**

Thank you for your participation, but please hurry! The deadline is coming soon! Only ballots clipped from the newspaper will be accepted.

## YOU MAY VOTE FOR 10 PER PAGE

**(MORE THAN 10 SUBMITTED WILL BE DISQUALIFIED)**



### Dining/Restaurants

- Barbecue \_\_\_\_\_
- Burritos \_\_\_\_\_
- Chicken \_\_\_\_\_
- Chinese \_\_\_\_\_
- Coldest Beer \_\_\_\_\_
- Donuts \_\_\_\_\_
- Fish \_\_\_\_\_
- French Fries \_\_\_\_\_
- Hamburgers \_\_\_\_\_
- Margaritas \_\_\_\_\_
- Mexican Food \_\_\_\_\_
- Pizza \_\_\_\_\_
- Sandwiches \_\_\_\_\_
- Steaks \_\_\_\_\_

### Grocery Stores

- Deli \_\_\_\_\_
- Meats \_\_\_\_\_
- Produce \_\_\_\_\_

### Businesses

- Abstract/Title Co. \_\_\_\_\_
- Animal Hospital \_\_\_\_\_
- Apartments \_\_\_\_\_
- Appliances \_\_\_\_\_
- Auto Garage \_\_\_\_\_
- Auto Glass \_\_\_\_\_
- Auto Parts \_\_\_\_\_
- Auto Dealer \_\_\_\_\_
- Bail Bond \_\_\_\_\_
- Bakery \_\_\_\_\_
- Bank ATM \_\_\_\_\_
- Bank Drive Thru \_\_\_\_\_
- Bank Hours \_\_\_\_\_
- Bar \_\_\_\_\_
- Barber Shop \_\_\_\_\_
- Beauty Salon \_\_\_\_\_
- Boutique \_\_\_\_\_
- Carpet \_\_\_\_\_
- Cellular Dealer \_\_\_\_\_
- College \_\_\_\_\_

### Businesses

- Collision \_\_\_\_\_
- Construction \_\_\_\_\_
- Crop Insurance \_\_\_\_\_
- Credit Union \_\_\_\_\_
- Dance Hall \_\_\_\_\_
- Day Care \_\_\_\_\_
- Drinking Water Co. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dry Cleaning \_\_\_\_\_
- Farm Store \_\_\_\_\_
- Fencing Company \_\_\_\_\_
- Florist \_\_\_\_\_
- Furniture Store \_\_\_\_\_
- Gift Shop \_\_\_\_\_
- Hardware Store \_\_\_\_\_
- Health Food Store \_\_\_\_\_
- Hearing Aid Ctr. \_\_\_\_\_
- Heating/Cooling Service \_\_\_\_\_
- Home Health Care \_\_\_\_\_
- Hospice \_\_\_\_\_
- Internet Provider \_\_\_\_\_
- Jewelry Store \_\_\_\_\_
- Landscaping \_\_\_\_\_
- Liquor Store \_\_\_\_\_
- Medical Supply \_\_\_\_\_
- Mortgage Company \_\_\_\_\_
- Museum \_\_\_\_\_
- Nail Salon \_\_\_\_\_
- Nursery \_\_\_\_\_
- Paint Dealer \_\_\_\_\_
- Pest Control \_\_\_\_\_
- Pharmacy \_\_\_\_\_
- Plumbing Service \_\_\_\_\_
- Real Estate Agency \_\_\_\_\_
- Retirement Home \_\_\_\_\_
- Roofing Company \_\_\_\_\_
- R.V. Dealership \_\_\_\_\_
- Siding Dealer \_\_\_\_\_
- Tattoo Parlor \_\_\_\_\_
- Television Dealer \_\_\_\_\_
- Thrift Store \_\_\_\_\_
- Tire Dealer \_\_\_\_\_

### Businesses

- Travel Agency \_\_\_\_\_
- Work Out Facility \_\_\_\_\_

### People

- Attorney \_\_\_\_\_
- Auctioneer \_\_\_\_\_
- Teller \_\_\_\_\_  
at \_\_\_\_\_
- Chiropractor \_\_\_\_\_
- City Employee \_\_\_\_\_
- Customer Service \_\_\_\_\_
- CNA \_\_\_\_\_  
at \_\_\_\_\_
- Dentist \_\_\_\_\_
- Doctor \_\_\_\_\_
- EMT \_\_\_\_\_
- Financial Advisor \_\_\_\_\_
- Fire Fighter \_\_\_\_\_
- Insurance Agent \_\_\_\_\_  
at \_\_\_\_\_
- LVN \_\_\_\_\_  
at \_\_\_\_\_
- Massage Therapist \_\_\_\_\_
- Ophthalmologist \_\_\_\_\_
- Pastor \_\_\_\_\_  
at \_\_\_\_\_
- Pediatrician \_\_\_\_\_
- Pharmacist \_\_\_\_\_  
at \_\_\_\_\_
- Physical Therapist \_\_\_\_\_  
at \_\_\_\_\_
- Police Officer \_\_\_\_\_
- Real Estate Agent \_\_\_\_\_
- RN \_\_\_\_\_  
at \_\_\_\_\_

**THANKS FOR VOTING!**



## LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

right to vote.

Personally, I intend to do everything in my power to retain that right. This issue does not belong in the political arena, the Vatican or in the hands of men. I believe in the separation of church and state. This is an extremely personal and private decision that only we women can make for ourselves.

I refuse to be silent and let the government interfere in my private life and continue to chip away at my rights. I oppose any legislation that prohibits health professionals, hospitals and clinics from informing, performing or assisting with abortions.

Each of the many denominations and faith groups in this country approach the issue of abortion from the unique perspective of its theology and their members hold widely varying viewpoints as to when abortion is morally justified.

It is exactly this plurality of beliefs that leads me to the conviction that the abortion decision must remain with the individual to be made on the basis of conscience and personal religious principles, and free from the government's interference.

CAROL SMITH  
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I had an experience in the past few days that I feel the need to share. Many people know me as a professional social worker and that I am thorough in my work. It caved in on my and I have a new T-shirt.

A week or so ago, a man rang my doorbell and asked me if he could mow and trim my lawn. I told him the lawn wasn't ready to be attended. He said he was a construction

worker on a church that was being built here in Big Spring and was laid off because he got a hernia on the job. He showed me the surgery scar.

I took his name and phone number in case I needed him to attend my lawn.

Four days later the doorbell rang again and it was he. He said he was desperate and would mow and trim my yard for \$20. Again I explained the yard was not ready and that I would call him if I needed him.

A few days later I called him to attend my yard and he came over to make sure what I needed — mowing, trimming and hauling off an old yard swing.

I went ahead and paid him \$60 and he said he would take care of it about noon the next day.

Then he blessed me for being a Christian and said he was a member of the church of my neighbor and his wife, who live across the street from me.

He didn't show up. I accidentally ran into him and he told me he and his wife had just been evicted from where they lived and that he had come to see if a cousin would take them in.

He promised to do my yard at 6 p.m. He never showed up and he had been evicted.

I think what I learned was to absolutely never pay anyone for promised work, regardless of how desperate they are for food, rent, etc. Also, desperately poor people can be liars and manipulators, and have no value for integrity whatsoever.

I saw his wife sitting in their old, beaten up pickup truck twice. I feel sorry that she chose a person like this for her husband. He should make an excellent father for children.

I shall remember this really destitute man the next time I am asked to serve the verifiable poor, and I think I shall not be so helpful.

ORAND CARROLL  
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

After observing some aspects of the current street modification project, I am mystified by what I have seen. One area in particular has me wondering, what is the intention of the council by constructing what appears to be a single-lane intersection at the corner of Second and Main Streets. The implication seems to be that vehicular traffic is to be discouraged in the downtown sector. Is this design to be repeated at Third and Main and at Fourth and Main?

Another facet of these "improvements" that is obtrusive is the widespread use of white concrete. Besides being incongruous with the surroundings, it is not pleasant to look at and is going to be an eyesore in the future when it becomes stained and marked up. Whose "better idea" was that?

I applaud the city for having the foresight to not put any more money in the existing city swimming pool. If a pool is to be made available, then certainly it makes more financial sense to construct a completely new one.

The mayor obviously intends to pay for a new pool by the issuance of a new bond. Quote: "We have a bond that was paid off in February 2009. The current rate on that bond (as applied to the tax rate) is 2.9016 cents, which will free up 3 cents on the tax roll. That generates \$150,000 a year. On a \$3 million bond, the annual payment would be right at \$237,000, which means we would be looking at a difference of \$87,000 a year. Instead of putting that \$87,000 a year on the taxpayers, I'm asking the city staff to find a way to save that much on the annual budget. The pool is something the kids use. I feel that we have to have something

for the kids to do."

This approach implies that since the taxpayer has paid off one debt this frees up money to take on another debt. Individuals are being chided by economists and our federal government to stop accumulating so much credit card debt. This should also apply to our governmental agencies as well. What is good for the goose is good for the gander. Bond issues are similar to credit cards in that money is being borrowed with the intent of paying it back and being charged a fee for doing so.

Renovating the existing law enforcement center to offer needed space to the police department seems to be needed. However, I question the proposed means of financing these renovations as stated by the mayor, "We have a correctional fund that was established when MidTex was out at the airpark. That fund has around \$2 million in it and this is one thing we can do with the funds." Are not funds such as this one relegated for use for the airpark only?

The mayor obviously does not think much of the current residents by making the following statement in the aforementioned edition of the Big Spring Herald: "...However, if we could cut staffing by as much as 10 percent, we could give the savings back to the people of Big Spring, and possibly attract better people to (come and live in) Big Spring."

Another example of our local government in action.

ARDIS McCASLAND JR.  
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Our park was buzzing Saturday before last with members of KBSB attacking the trash in the park while Kid Zone was buzzing with many volunteers striving to get Kid Zone back up and ready for

play as soon as possible.

Members of Keep Big Spring Beautiful had 11 adult volunteers and two young people participate in phase one of cleaning up our park. We needed a lot more help to eliminate all the trash that others using the park and facilities left behind. We hope to get control of that. This is the citizens' of Big Spring park and we need it respected. With these members and volunteers we eliminated approximately 600 pounds of trash.

After lunch was finished, we took a few pictures and deposited the 30 bags of trash we picked up in the dumpster. It was a good morning well spent.

A few of us decided to join in with other KBSB members in working on Kid Zone.

Yours truly and Debbie Wegman decided we should join them and we could paint, so we attacked some of the posts with green paint, it was a great time. My pants will never be the same. It is going to be such beautiful place for the kids to play and I do hope and pray that they will use it and not abuse it.

Many hours of labor and love has been extended in not only the reconstruction, but raising the funds for this to happen. We so appreciate the city employees, and especially Todd Darden, for his leadership to see that this project was completed in a timely fashion.

It is with much care that I want to take our park back to the beautiful park it once was. I am asking everyone that uses this park to be mindful of the promotion and that we desire and have everyone's help.

So I am asking every resident of Big Spring to participate in controlling their trash and be a part of Keep Big Spring Beautiful.

PAT SIMMONS  
BIG SPRING

## Road Construction Blues



At the Big Spring Herald we are suffering through the same road construction problems as everyone else. Over the last 2 weeks the front of our building has had no parking and it has been very hard for our customers to get to us. It is now available for parking and our newspaper racks that are out front are again available. We also realize that it is not easy to get to places on Gregg St. to get your copy of the paper. We would like to make everyone aware of all the different locations the Big Spring Herald is sold at for your convenience.

All the 7-11 Stores	Park's Convenience	All the Star Stops
Wes-T-Go	H-E-B	Zoom Grocery
Fast Stop Wasson Rd.	D's One Stop	Wal*Mart
Gold Rush	Fast Stop East 4 <sup>th</sup>	Travel Centers of America
Travel Mart	Buffalo Country Fina	Kate's Fina Mart
Town & Country	Town & Country (Coahoma)	Little Sooper (Coahoma)

Racks:		
Medicine Center Pharmacy	Whataburger	Herman's
VA Hospital	McDonald's	Cowboy's Steakhouse
Greg's Grill	Chicken Express	Neighbor's Convenience
Brenda's BBQ	Denny's	Texas Cajun Café
Kwikies	Dollar General (Stanton)	Lawrence Brothers (Stanton)
Uncles (Sand Springs)	Lakeway Grocery (Sand Springs)	

BIG SPRING  
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**Obituaries**

**Ruby Gill**



Ruby Gill, 96, of Big Spring, went to be with her Lord and Savior on June 3, 2009. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Walter McCall of Compass Hospice, and the Rev. Dennis Teeters of Spring Creek Fellowship officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Ruby Gill was born in Arkansas March 6, 1913, to Johnny and Susie Lough. She was the eldest child of eight siblings. She came to Big Spring at the age of 16 to pick cotton with her aunt and uncle. Always the classy lady, she wanted her first purchase to be a pair of silk stockings. And that's exactly what she did. She met the love of her life in Midland, Thomas H. Gill. It was love at first sight. Her family moved to San Angelo. He followed her there and they were married almost immediately. After their marriage, Tom went to work on the Will Terry Ranch as a ranch hand and she became the cook and fed the ranch hands from a chuck wagon.

When she became pregnant with their first child, they returned to Arkansas, where Tom worked as a share cropper. They returned to Midland, where she had her second child. Later they moved to Big Spring and opened a body shop where they remained until retirement. They retired in Seagoville. When Tom died in 1981, she returned to Big Spring.

Ruby was always the life of the party. She was a lady who was never afraid of an adventure. She loved to garden. She could plant a stick in the ground and it would turn into a beautiful plant. She was also known as a fantastic cook. People would beg her to make her chocolate pies for any occasion. She loved her family and loved to cook for them. She was known as "Sarge" in the kitchen. She loved to dance and went to dances all around West Texas. She lived life to the fullest until her health began to decline.

She was preceded in death by her husband Thomas H. Gill; a grandson, Clayton Thomas Franklin; three brothers, Garland Lough, J.C. Lough and Jewel Lough; and two sisters, Emma Lee Hubbard and Martina Ross.

She is survived by a daughter, Bonnie J. Franklin and husband George Franklin of Big Spring; a son, James T. Gill and wife Betty Gill of Austin; one granddaughter, Janice Ferguson and husband Glen Ferguson of Big Spring; and a great-grandson, Lance Justin Monteleone and wife Lindsay Monteleone of Coppell.

Also, she is survived by one brother, Delmer Lough and wife Betty Lough of Hope, Ark.; and one sister, Sue Smith and husband Buddy Smith of Columbus, Miss.

Pallbearers will be Jerry Hill, Glen Ferguson, J.L. Stevens, James Lough, Lance Monteleone and Charles Minchew.

We would like to extend our deep appreciation to the Marcy House Staff and Compass Home Hospice for their caring and compassionate handling of Ruby Gill in her last years. Words cannot adequately express our gratitude.

Ms. Ruby will be sorely missed by all who knew her, but especially by her family. We can all be comforted, however, in the knowledge that our precious Ruby can now see the mansion built for her, as well as the beautiful garden we know she will till throughout eternity. Share our joy as we send our mother and grandmother home.

The family suggests memorials to Spring Creek Fellowship Building Fund, Box 2070, Big Spring 79720.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

*Paid obituary*

**Lyman Greer**

Lyman Greer, 95, of Big Spring, died Saturday, June 6, 2009, in a Sweetwater nursing home. Funeral services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com)

**Billie Wynona Clements**

Billie Wynona (Bigby) Clements passed away in her home June 4, 2009. Billie was born Jan. 31, 1923, in Garden City to William A. and Christine (Hanson) Bigby. She attended school in Garden City and Stanton. Billie was an operator for the first telephone company in Glasscock County. On Aug. 25, 1945, she married William W. Clements, and they spent most of their life in and around the Glasscock County area, farming and ranching. After Bill's death in 1965, she gave up farming and continued with the ranching operation.

Upon retiring in 1972, Billie moved with her mother and son to Wright County, Mo. She loved spending time with her family and grandchildren. She enjoyed traveling, especially to the Branson area. She also enjoyed visiting with people and never met a stranger. In years past, she was an avid CB radio operator, belonging to several area CB clubs. Billie was a 37-year member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles 3260.

Billie was preceded in death by her husband; parents; one son, William W. Clements Jr.; and one brother, James L. Bigby.

She is survived by three daughters, Linda S. Casey and husband Robert of Burkburnett, Brenda D. Long of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Glenda P. "Pattie" Olive and husband Steven of Urbana, Mo.; five grandchildren, Gene Long, Kristie Casey, Robert Casey, Clint Berry and Justin Thurman; and seven great-grandchildren.

Billie was a kind and caring person with a big heart. We celebrate her life and accomplishments and will cherish the wonderful memories she has created for her family and friends.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday, June 8, 2009, in Holman-Howe Chapel, Mansfield, Mo., with burial to follow in the Mansfield Cemetery. Friends may call at their convenience in the funeral home or may visit with the family at Billie's home at 214 N. Lincoln in Mansfield, which is directly across the street from the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Mansfield Fire & Rescue Department, Fraternal Order of Eagles or Diabetes Research Center and made through Holman-Howe Funeral Home, P.O.Box 199 Mansfield, MO 65704

*Paid obituary*

**Daniel O. Gonzales**



Daniel O. Gonzales, 60, of Big Spring, died Saturday, June 6, 2009, at Hospice of Midland Inpatient Unit. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 3 p.m. Monday at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Coahoma. Burial will be at Coahoma Cemetery.

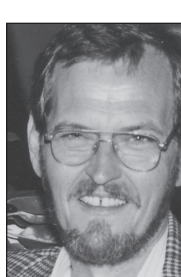
He was born Dec. 11, 1948, to Felicitas and Francisco Gonzales Sr. in Coahoma. He married Juanita Rodriguez Sept. 12, 1970 in Big Spring. He was a lifetime resident of Howard County and was a cotton farmer. He was a member of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

He is survived by his wife, Juanita Gonzales; two sons, Tommy Gonzales of Big Spring and Daniel Gonzales Jr. of Eaton, Colo.; three daughters, Cathy Gonzales, Samantha Gonzales and Becky Gonzales, all of Big Spring; four brothers, Ysidoro "Izzy" Gonzales, Angel Gonzales and his wife Mary of Midland, Frank Gonzales and his wife Teri of Kersey, Colo., and Ben Gonzales and his wife Susanna of Big Spring; two sisters, Rosie Dixon and her husband Marvin of Minford, Ohio, and Martha Martinez and her husband Robert of Eaton, Colo.; eight grandchildren; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

**George Daniel Dunning**



George Daniel Dunning, 56, of Big Spring died Wednesday, June 3, 2009, peacefully at home with his friends by his side. Private family services will be held at a later date.

George was born Feb. 24, 1953, to Joyce and George Dunning Jr., in Washington, D.C. George came to Big Spring two years ago from Port Charlotte, Fla. George had taught school in Nicaragua and was an artist.

George is survived by his mother, Joyce Bernette Dunning and one sister, Jane Dunning, both of Port Charlotte, Fla.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

**James Walter Ussery Jr.**



James Walter Ussery Jr., 49, of Kingfisher, Okla., formerly of Big Spring, died Thursday, June 4, 2009. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 9, 2009, at Myers & Smith Chapel with Courtney Ballard officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

He was born Jan. 29, 1960, in El Paso, to Lona and James Walter Ussery. He came to Big Spring from El Paso in 1975. He was a driller in the oil field.

He is survived by his wife, Susie Edwards of Big Spring; one son, James Ussery III and his wife Jennifer of Fort Worth; one daughter, Whitney Dickens and her husband Daniel of Hinesville, Ga; one sister, Karan Gilbert Wilcher of Big Spring; and three grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one daughter, one grandson and a brother-in-law.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

**PROFILE: CASA OF WEST TEXAS**

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.

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BUTTERBALL VARIETY PK LUNCHMEAT - 9-OZ.		<b>89¢</b>
CHOCOLATE DOUGHNUTS 6-PK.		<b>6/\$1.00</b>
<b>GWALTNEY BOLOGNA</b>		
<b>2/\$1.00</b> 16-OZ. PKG.		
TYSON LEG QUARTERS		<b>49¢</b> LB.
THIN CRUST PIZZA PEPPERONI 23-OZ.		<b>\$1.69</b>
GARLIC BREAD 16-OZ. LOAF		<b>2/\$1.00</b>
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# Mexico day care fire kills 31 children

OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press Writer  
HERMOSILLO, Mexico  
— A fast-moving fire killed 31 children in a day care center in northern Mexico despite desperate attempts of firefighters who punched through the walls and fought their way through flames to rescue babies, toddlers and others trapped inside.

At least 25 children and five employees were hospitalized after Friday's fire in ABC day care in the city of Hermosillo, said Jose Larrinaga, a spokesman for investigators in the state of Sonora, which borders Arizona.

Some of the injured suffered severe burns and might be taken to U.S. hospitals, Sonora Gov. Eduardo Bours said.

"For now, we're concentrating on saving as many kids as possible," he said.

There were about 100 children in the day care at the time, with ages ranging from six months to 5 years, said Guadalupe Ayala, coordinator of Red Cross rescue workers.

Reforma newspaper reported that the building was a converted factory with no emergency exits. Ayala said the day care's exits were inadequate but did not have further details.

"Firefighters had to knock holes in the walls to get the children," he said.

Authorities have identified 27 of the 31 children killed, according to a Sonora government statement Saturday.



AP Photo/EI Imparcial

**Rescue workers put an injured child who was pulled out of a burning day-care center onto an ambulance in the city of Hermosillo, Mexico Friday. Flames engulfed the day care center in this northern Mexico city, killing at least 29 children and injuring dozens.**

The fire may have started at a neighboring tire and car warehouse Friday afternoon, state officials said. Firefighters took two hours to control the blaze, the cause of which was still unconfirmed.

Most of the children died from of asphyxiation or smoke inhalation.

Neighbors rushed to help pull out the children as screaming preschool teachers ran through thick clouds of black smoke, Reforma newspaper reported.

Sobbing parents flooded hospitals, desperate for news about their children.

Photographs showed the

sidewalk outside the day care strewn with upturned, slightly blackened baby seats and cribs. Cribs also could have been seen through huge holes punched through the walls.

The Mexican government sent a team of 15 burn specialists, three air ambulances, and other medical equipment,

President Felipe Calderon said. Mexico's Social Security Institute outsourced services to the privately run day care.

Calderon said he ordered an investigation by Mexico's attorney general.

Building safety violations have been blamed for previous disasters in Mexico.

## Air France probe focuses on airspeed instruments

PARIS (AP)—Airspeed instruments on Air France Flight 447 were not replaced as the maker recommended before the plane crashed in turbulent weather, the French agency investigating the disaster said Saturday.

The French accident investigation

agency, BEA, found the doomed plane received inconsistent airspeed readings by different instruments as it struggled in a massive thunderstorm on its flight from Rio de Janeiro to Paris with 228 people aboard.

No confirmed debris from the ai

craft has been found and without its black box recorders, aviation investigators have little information to help them determine what caused the crash.

Airbus had recommended to all its airline customers that they replace speed-measuring instruments known as Pitot tubes on the A330, the model used for Flight 447, said Paul-Louis Arslanian, the head of the agency.

"They hadn't yet been replaced" on the plane that crashed, said Alain Bouillard, head of the French investigation. Air France declined immediate comment.

Arslanian cautioned that it is too early to draw conclusions about the role of Pitot tubes in the crash, saying that "it does not mean that without replacing the Pitots that the A330 was dangerous."

He told a news conference at the agency's headquarters, near Paris that the crash of Flight 447 also does not mean similar plane models are unsafe, adding that he told family members not to worry about flying.

Airbus had made the recommendation for "a number of reasons," he said.

The investigation chief played down the idea that terrorism was involved in the crash, saying "We can't completely close the door at the present time but it seems incoherent with the first facts we have established."

The Pentagon has said there are no signs of terrorism. Brazil's defense minister said the possibility was never considered. French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner agreed that there is no evidence supporting a "terrorism theory," but said "we cannot discard that for now."

The investigation is increasingly focused on whether external instruments may have iced over, confusing speed sensors and leading computers to set the plane's speed too fast or slow — a potentially deadly mistake in severe turbulence.

Pitot tubes, protruding from the wing or fuselage of a plane, feed airspeed sensors and are heated to prevent icing. A blocked or malfunctioning Pitot tube could cause an airspeed sensor to work incorrectly and cause the computer controlling the plane to accelerate or decelerate in a potentially dangerous fashion.

Air France has already replaced the Pitots on another Airbus model, the 320, after its pilots reported similar problems with the instrument, according to an Air France air safety report filed by pilots in January and obtained by The Associated Press.

The report followed an incident in which an Air France flight from Tokyo to Paris reported problems with its airspeed indicators similar to those believed to have been encountered by Flight 447.



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## ► News in Brief

### Obama, Sarkozy call for Iran not to develop a nuclear weapons program; call for end of settlements in West Bank

CAEN, France (AP) — President Barack Obama and French President Nicolas Sarkozy are again mutually calling for Iran not to develop a nuclear weapons program.

Talking with reporters after a meeting Saturday, Obama said that in, and Obama said that he appreciates Sarkozy's leadership on a host of issues. And the U.S. president reaffirmed that there must be "tough diplomacy" with Tehran on this issue.

Sarkozy agreed with Obama's call for Israel to stop building settlements in the West Bank and said he worries about "insane statements" by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Obama said that he and Sarkozy will work "in close collaboration" on many issues, including anti-terrorism strategy, and Sarkozy said France will accept some Guantanamo detainees as the United States has requested it to do.

### Report: Obama administration said to be weighing guilty pleas in 9/11 capital cases

WASHINGTON (AP) — A plan under consideration by the Obama administration would permit Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detainees facing the death penalty to plead guilty without a full trial, it has been reported.

This option would principally be aimed at a group of detainees accused of planning the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks, five people who have already indicated they prefer this resolution of the case, The New York Times said in a story posted late Friday on its Web site.

The terrorism-era U.S. military commission format has come under withering criticism from legal and human rights quarters, and American military prosecutions employing this structure and legal rules have for the most part been put on hold since January while the new administration considered other options.

President Barack Obama recently ap-

proved the continued use of these commissions. And the Times reported in its story that the possibility of permitting guilty pleas under some circumstances is among a series of options circulated within the administration by a special task force. The newspaper cited individuals who had been briefed on the proposal or had studied it.

Traveling in France with Obama, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said: "The president has been clear that he hopes to work with Republicans and Democrats in Congress to improve the military commissions act to ensure that we can ensure more due process and deliver what has been long in coming: swift and certain justice. To suggest that any of the decisions have been made is not accurate."

### Detroit Big Three to see more foreign brand competition under racing titan's deal to buy Saturn

DETROIT (AP) — More foreign car brands could find their way into American garages under a plan by auto racing magnate Roger Penske's dealership group to snap up Saturn from the ruins of General Motors Corp.

The deal announced Friday is another example of how the cataclysm that hit Detroit's three carmakers is reshaping the global automotive landscape in profound ways, reducing their worldwide influence and — if Saturn turns out as Penske envisions — opening new markets to smaller companies.

"There's no doubt that the automotive deck chairs are changing," said Michael Robinet, vice president of CSM Worldwide, a Detroit-area auto industry consulting firm.

In the shake-up, well-known brands are changing flags quicker than an oil tanker in pirate-infested waters. Italy's Fiat SpA is waiting for U.S. courts to approve its acquisition of Chrysler LLC's assets. GM has worked deals to turn its German subsidiary Adam Opel GmbH over to a Canadian auto parts company with Russian backing. And Hummer may be going Chinese, although state media there reported Friday that the deal has hit regulatory hurdles.

Yet industry experts are doubtful that the flurry of mergers and al-

liances will be any more durable than failed marriages of the past, proving to be just one big distraction from the underlying issue that made them so vulnerable in the first place: making more cars than people can buy.

### Top Republican senator says Sotomayor's Supreme Court nomination should hinge on impartiality

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Alabama senator leading the GOP's vetting of Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor said the American tradition of impartial courts is "under attack" and the pivotal question in her nomination should be whether she allows personal views to color her decisions as a judge.

Delivering the Republican Party's weekly radio and Internet address Saturday, Sen. Jeff Sessions didn't say if he thinks Sotomayor crosses that line. But he raised questions that reflect a growing chorus of GOP criticism that Sotomayor sees her role as something more than an impartial umpire.

Republicans have recently seized on speeches in which Sotomayor said she hoped a wise woman or Latina "with the richness of her experiences" would make better, more compassionate decisions in court than a white man.

Sessions said Americans should follow the confirmation process

closely and ask what kind of judge they would want in court.

### Carradine's family wants FBI to investigate actor's death in Bangkok hotel

BANGKOK (AP) — The family of American actor David Carradine has asked the FBI to help investigate his death after his body was found in a hotel closet in

Thailand's capital with a rope tied to his neck, wrist and genitals.

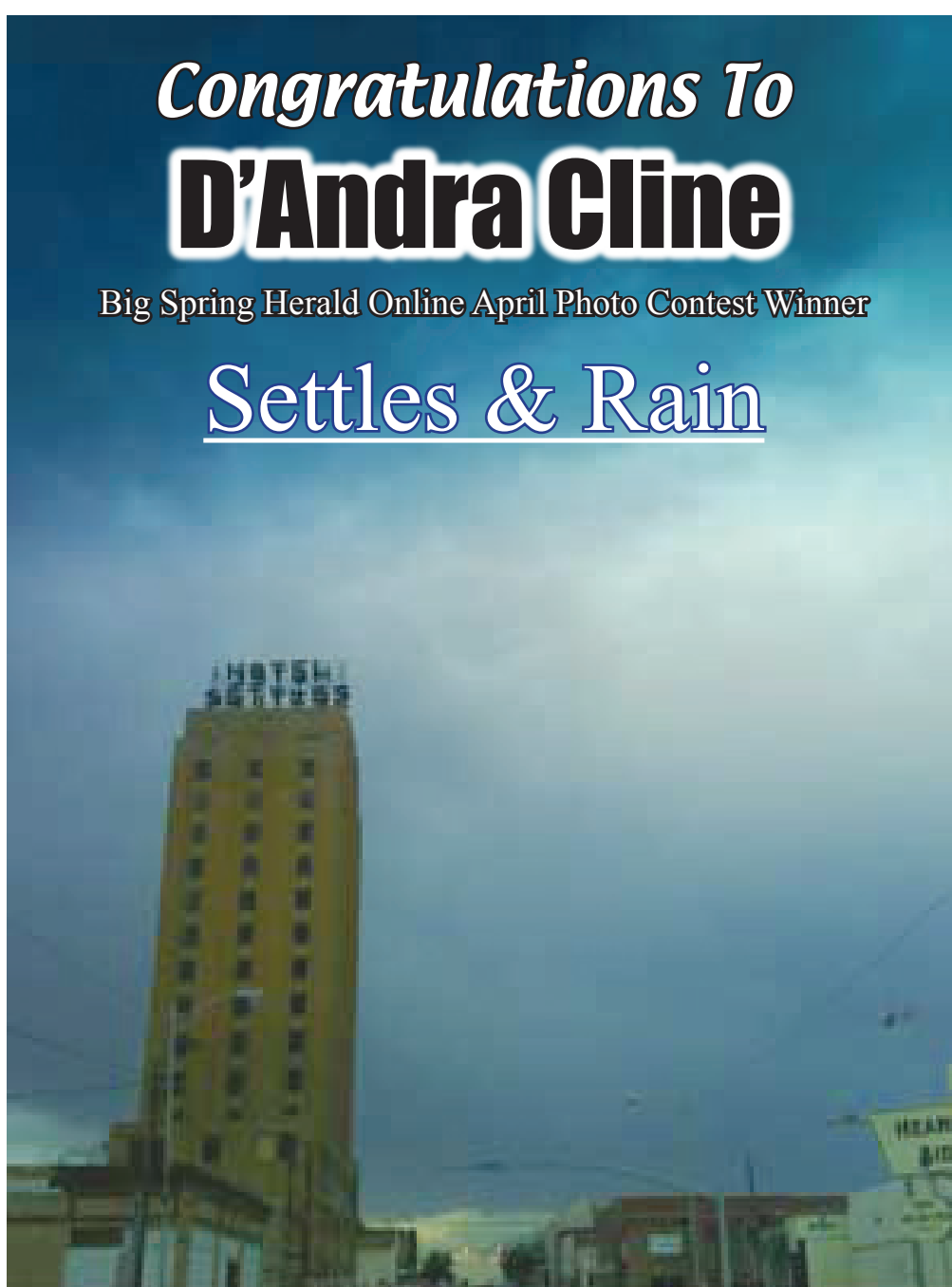
Carradine's family does not believe he committed suicide and is troubled by conflicting accounts about the circumstances of his death, Mark Geragos, an attorney for brother Keith Carradine, told CNN's Larry King late Friday.

"They want an investigation," Geragos said. "I would think that the people in Bangkok

would want to support an investigation and allow the FBI to go over there and assist in the investigation so we can get the answers to the questions."

Thai police said Saturday they have not been contacted by the FBI.

Police initially said Carradine's body was found "naked, hanging in a closet," causing them to suspect he committed suicide, though no suicide note was found.



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# Our park: 'If you use it, don't abuse it'

Our park is one of our city's valuable attractions as it holds within it our namesake, the Spring. It is my prayer that we, as citizens, can assist the city in caring for this place that can be so beautiful.

Several members of Keep Big Spring Beautiful and a couple of teens forged ahead in an attempt to eliminate as much trash and debris as possible two weeks ago. With the 13 participants, we eliminated approximately 600 pounds of trash. What a shame that we have visitors to our park who just unload their trash in our beautiful layout. And then, when we have out-of-town visitors at our park, I wonder what they



PAT SIMMONS

think? Most would say it's a negative thought about our park and Big Spring. That is going to change.

We do not have enough park employees to take care of all of the facilities they are responsible for. They have several small parks, plus Roy Anderson Sports Complex and Mt. Olive Cemetery to look after. So this is why we, as citizens, need to step up to the plate and help, especially with Comanche Trail Park.

Hopefully, we of KBSB can help them with the beautification process. I've been successful in adopting out all of our pavilions. Those taking responsibility for the pavilions are: Old Settlers pavilion, East Fourth Street Baptist church's RAs and GAs; Belaski pavilion, Howard County Masons; the two pavilions across from Belaski, Boy Scout Troop 187; Alice Haynes pavilion, Boy



Scout Troop 5; and one more pavilion, the Hilario family.

We should see some work going on in these areas soon. I have other spots in the park that I would like to adopt out, so give me a call.

With the Kids' Zone reconstruction, many visitors will be coming out to see all the new equipment and how

beautiful it is. They will notice it is larger than the one torched Dec. 9, 2008. The kids will be surprised with all the new features added and will really enjoy it.

Thanks to Todd Darden, assistant city manager, for his passion to see Kids' Zone restored to a greater and better playground than before. He and Jim Little responded, asking for assistance with fund-raising, and many times they did not need to ask.

We have a great volunteer spirit in Big Spring, and they are always willing to do their part. The city employees were out doing their part and going beyond their hours required at work. There were many volunteers who came out and really worked the full week. Keep Big Spring Beautiful had about 15 volunteers, according to Darden. Yours truly spent a couple of hours helping with the

painting.

While mapping out what we can do, we came across the possibility of the rock scout hut becoming a viable building. This is just speculation currently, but it could be a useful and beautiful building with grounds around it.

A slogan I have come up with is, "If you use it, don't abuse it." Hopefully, this will be a slogan we use throughout the park and other facilities. Some signage will be going up at each pavilion showing the adopter's name, our KBSB sign and the slogan.

We need the whole community out helping us to take this park back and restore it to the beautiful park it once was.

We will be doing painting, planting and anything to beautifying it. Whatever we can do will help make a difference.

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Pat Simmons, left, the founder of Keep Big Spring Beautiful, the organization's president, Walter Ward, second from right, and city code officer Brandi Hilario, (right), present June's Doing Your Part Beautification Award to Brantz, Vanessa and Bill Burchett of 2304 Allendale.

HERALD photo/Alex Newsom

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

You never know where your next inspiration will come from under the full moon in Sagittarius. Being open to new experiences is what the Sagittarius moon is about, and if those experiences happen in a different neighborhood — for that matter, better. What you will perceive in the world differs as a result.

**ARIES** (Jan. 21-April 19). At least 10 percent of the population is perceptive in their environment and especially around you. A new sense of curiosity guides you, adding depth to your encounters.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Unlike some people, you can find amusement in ordinary things and don't need to be constantly, overtly entertained by life. The person who can appreciate you for this quality is a true friend.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Unplanned moments are exhilarating. They

can only happen when you agree to go along for the ride, though. You're good at following your impulses and you'll get the best kind of attention for it.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Recall that time when you felt so powerful, like there was nothing standing between you and your glorious destiny that couldn't be blown out like a candle. You are that powerful again today.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You have fantastic ideas and others will do well to listen up. Of course, they don't have to, and they might not. The ones who follow you are your supportive team members, so don't even worry about the rest.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you find yourself getting overly irritated with your next of kin, just know that it's normal. You're probably expecting of them the same standards you set for yourself, which may not, in reality, be reasonable.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct.

23). Your job requires you to think fast. But it's the opposite skill that will help you in your personal life. Take your time and ponder where a loved one is coming from. Don't jump to conclusions — walk to them in slow motion.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are a master at keeping secrets and today's happenings only prove your command of the skill. Some will be challenged by your silence and will try to solve the puzzle, but you are always one step ahead.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be creating things for a group of people. Whether it's food, a story or a cozy environment, do it to your own liking. For instance, cook what you would want to eat and others will just love it.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The big picture and the little picture line up in obvious ways — the social issues you care about emerge on a personal level. This

helps you figure out a solution that anyone can apply.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You will reach a beautiful, cheerful mood eventually. First, you have to get over your frustration with someone close. Cut yourself some slack and it will suddenly be easy to do the same for your loved one.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Your schedule for the upcoming week errs on the side of being impossible. There are so many little details to remember! Here's a stress reliever: Sit down and make a few helpful lists to guide you along the way.

**FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:** The full Sagittarius moon starts off the week by presenting a broad spectrum of possibilities.

The more open-minded you are, the more possibilities will be presented to you. It may be worthwhile to become slightly less choosy, lifting a few of your

more constricting rules and doing away with limiting preferences.

In other words, you can always go back to disliking camping or hating jazz another week.

This is the time to stay flexible because it just may happen that the experience of a lifetime comes via a jazz festival in the middle of the forest.

Tuesday and Wednesday are the most practical days of the week and it's likely that projects will develop quickly when you follow a plan for those two days.

The Capricorn moon favors mentorship so don't be afraid to ask your superiors for help and advice — they'll like you better for it. Mercury and Jupiter are in a stressed position mid-week, making it easy to say the wrong thing.

But don't obsess over every slip of the tongue or worry about how people are perceiving you. Just do your best to think about what you're

going to say, and when in doubt, it's not a bad idea to stay silent.

**C E L E B R I T Y PROFILES:** Gemini is a witty and intellectual sign and lovely Natalie Portman fits the bill perfectly.

A movie star since the age of 13, Portman makes a smart impression on screen and off. She's a Harvard graduate who speaks six languages!

Last year, Portman made her directorial debut at the Venice International Film Festival and her stars favor furthering this interest in the years to come.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://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](http://www.creators.com).

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HOLIDAY MATHIS

Annie's Mailbox ®

**Dear Annie:** I am 15 years old and in the 10th grade. I have two best friends. One of them, "Alyssa," is a gorgeous and nice girl with few flaws.

She's the one the guys always fall for. But she randomly ignores me or seems really mad at me, especially in the morning. In the afternoon, things are fine.

She treats our other best friend great all the time, so I guess it's just me. I don't get it.

Our other friend has noticed it, too, and doesn't think it's right. She says it's because sometimes a guy will like me, as well as Alyssa. But that doesn't happen so often, and Alyssa's weird behavior is becoming a regular thing.

I've tried to joke about it, like when our other friend says, "Alyssa, you could never be mad at me," and I'll reply, "Yeah, but she certainly likes to be mad at me."

But it doesn't seem to get the point across. I really don't want to lose Alyssa as a best friend, but I don't know what to do except confront her and I'd rather not. I could use some advice. — *Hurting BFF*

**Dear Hurting:** Confrontation often indicates speaking with anger. But you can talk to Alyssa in a civil tone, with consideration, and simply tell her how much it hurts when she treats you unkindly.

Ask if there is something you can do to repair the damage that is happening to your friendship. She may deny behaving this way, but it will get her to pay more attention and allow you to remind her gently when she does it again.

**Dear Annie:** I read your column every day, so I have to ask: Do all men constantly look at porn on the Internet?

I've been married 28 years, and our kids are grown and out of the house. In the past few years, sex has been great, but my husband has begun asking me to do different things in the bedroom.

So I looked at his Internet searches and discovered he's been looking at porn nearly every day. This makes me sick to my stomach, and I really don't want to have sex with him. I guess it's better than him cheating on me with someone else, but seriously, is this what most men do? — *Flustered Wife*

**Dear Flustered:** Ah, well, probably.



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

Not all men, mind you. But based on our mail, we'd have to say there's a sizeable number of guys who check out online porn in the same casual way you'd get a cup of coffee.

In most instances, it's within normal male behavior, and it can add spice to a marriage to vary one's routine.

However, here are some signs that it's a problem: Your husband would rather be online than with you; he begins a cyber-affair; he

spends more than your budget can afford on porn sites; he asks you to perform in the bedroom in ways that are degrading or dangerous; his expectations of your sexual life and behavior are unrealistic, overly fantasized or borderline abusive.

**Dear Annie:** I read the letter from "Unhappy Parents," whose daughter is being bullied. We had similar problems with our fourth-grader.

When we reported it to the office and the teacher, the bullying only became worse. Although the verbal abuse stopped briefly, she was ostracized and ignored during lunch and recess by her classmates because her friends were afraid to get on the wrong side of the bullies.

I strongly recommend the website [bullies2buddies.com](http://bullies2buddies.com) for a sure-fire way to make it stop.

It took two weeks and a couple of false starts, but she is no longer bullied and now has the tools to stop any future bullying behavior. It was a terrific boost for her self-esteem because it taught her to solve the problem herself. Hope this helps. — *Mililani, Hawaii*

**Dear Hawaii:** Thanks for the recommendation. We hope children, parents and teachers will check out the website.

*Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [annies-mailbox@comcast.net](mailto:annies-mailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*

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# SC slave cabins were home to family through '60s



AP Photos/Mary Ann Chastain  
Above, the branch of an Oak tree frames the Gardener's Home as visitors tour the newly restored slave cabins at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens in Charleston, S.C. At left, Johnnie Leach, 86, sits on the steps at the restored cabin he lived in and raised 13 children. Bottom, The Freedmen home of the 1870's was set up to function as a kitchen and gathering place as well as used for sleeping



**BRUCE SMITH**

Associated Press Writer

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Eighty-six-year-old Johnnie Leach leans on his cane as he sits in warm sunshine on the steps of the old slave cabin where he raised 13 children four decades ago.

Despite the humble setting and the terrible history of the place, living there is a time he and his family remember fondly.

"The good Lord blessed me. I sent three of them to college from here," he says, reminiscing about his old home.

The building is one of four former slave cabins at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens that have been restored to show visitors the path of blacks from slavery to freedom.

"The time has come to tell this story," says Preston Cooley, a tour guide who helped with the cabin project. "All this beauty you look around and see at this plantation was created by the people who lived on the slave street."

The cabins at the plantation, which attracts tens of thousands each year to the banks of the Ashley River, have been restored to reflect different eras of the black experience.

One appears as it would have during slavery in 1850 with limewashed walls and a loft where sleeping mats were stored. A second shows how freedmen lived after the Civil War, some of their furnishings cast off from the plantation house.

The poverty of blacks in the Jim Crow South of the 1920s, walls lined with newspapers for insulation, can be seen in the third. The Leach cabin is restored to how it looked during the civil rights era.

Visitors with cameras and knapsacks pass through the cabins with their wooden shutters and old brick fireplaces. The buildings say only so much. The real stories belong to those who lived in them.

The Leach family worked on the plantation for four generations, staying on the street until 1969, nearly three centuries after the plantation was built. They were the last to

live in a cabin without modern conveniences, only a single electric line powering a couple of light bulbs.

They got water from a pump, cooked on a wood stove that heated the house and used an outhouse. Leach added two small rooms as the family grew.

Their cabin and two others were used into the late 1900s by others but electricity, running water and toilets were added. Those conveniences were removed as part of the \$500,000 restoration.

"It's very good to have it the old way so some of the young ones can see what they didn't see," said Leach, a combat engineer during World War II who later moved into the cabin to work as a gardener at Magnolia.

Leach speaks with the lilting accent of the Gullah, the culture of slave descendants who live on the sea islands and the coast of the Carolinas.

"To me it don't have the old looks. It looks like a brand new place," said Leach, who was married and widowed twice, as he looked along the restored slave street.

Now more open, the street used to be wooded with trees and bushes, ideal for playing hide-and-seek at night.

"Everybody loved the place and it was real good for kids. We played in the dark in the moonshine. I loved the place," recalled Hector Maxwell, 61, Leach's brother-in-law, who lived here for several years in the 1960s.

The hardships weren't really hard, or at least they didn't feel that way, said Leach's 52-year-old son Isaac, who also works at Magnolia. "With me it didn't matter because this was my home and my father had made the best of it for the kids and the family."

Indeed, he misses some things about the cabin. "We had the wood-burning stove with the oven and the thing to me was everything tasted better," Isaac Leach said. "You would cook your meat and then you would put your potatoes on the coals when the fire dies."

As the family grew, the older children moved in with relatives or struck out on their own.

"When it got too crowded the way it was, some were large enough to go out," said Johnnie Leach, whose children range in age from 37 to 53.

Although no one lives on the slave street anymore, it will always conjure home for the Leach family.

"I have a son who just turned 12 and we were approaching the plantation the other day and just getting ready to turn in," Isaac Leach said. "He said 'Dad, I can't get enough of this place.'"

On the Net:

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens: [www.magnoliaplantation.com](http://www.magnoliaplantation.com)



## Community Guide

*A resource for newcomers to  
Big Spring and Howard County*

**Publication Date: July 26, 2009  
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