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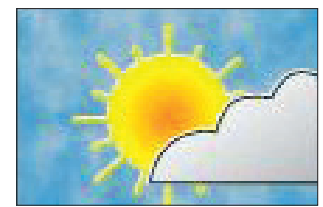

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HIGH SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

JULY 9, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 186

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Death: Court to seek misdemeanor charge

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A 19-year-old Big Spring man formerly charged with intoxication manslaughter in the death of an 18-year-old Forsan High School graduate will face misdemeanor charges for driving while in-

toxicated later this month, according to local officials.

Jeffrey Ray Pierson, 18, of Glasscock County was initially charged with intoxication manslaughter in August 2008 after a passenger riding in the bed of the truck he was driving was thrown from the

vehicle and killed on Longshore Road, south of Big Spring.

Michael Robert Creel, 18, was pronounced dead just after 1 p.m. by Howard County Justice of the Peace Benny Green. Law enforcement officials say he was believed to

have fallen or been thrown from the back of the pickup during the late night hours of Aug. 20, 2008.

According to County Attorney Joshua Hamby, Pierson's case was originally handled by District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson, and was turned

over to his office May 15.

"We're working on setting a date for pre-trial," said Hamby. "Pierson is being charged with driving while intoxicated, and because it is his first offense it's a Class B misde-

See **CHARGES**, Page 3A

Memories Stanton readies for Old Settlers Reunion

Herald Staff Report

STANTON — Memories? The folks of Martin County will be recalling the past in more than a few ways Saturday when the 76th annual Old Settlers Reunion gets under way here.

Themed "125 Years of Memories Come Alive," the day will feature the traditional parade, games, a tractor pull, recognition of a pioneer family, an evening meal and a dance. A special highlight will be opening a time capsule buried 25 years ago.

Everything gets started at 9 a.m. with registration at the Martin County Community Center. At 9:15 a.m., a bicycle decoration contest will be held at the corner of St. Peter and Business 20.

The traditional downtown parade roll down the brick streets beginning at 10 a.m. For those who plan to participate, entries need to be made

at the Methodist church by 9 a.m. Parade judging will be held at 9:15 a.m. Cash prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third-place floats. Certificates will be awarded to the best non-themed float and the best class reunion float.

Spectators can also guess who the mystery rider is and cast their ballots at the drug store.

Following the parade there will be downtown games at the Star Pavilion. Concessions will be available. Rho XI will be providing a hamburger meal with chips and a drink for \$6.

At 11 a.m., the time capsule will be opened at the community center. The capsule was buried by a group of residents in 1984.

Those who enjoy big boy toys will make their way to the Farmers Co-op Gin at 1 p.m. for the 5th annual Sandy

See **REUNION**, Page 3A



A clown hands out candy to children during a previous Old Settlers Reunion parade in downtown Stanton. This year's reunion will be held all day Saturday.

St. Thomas Festival begins with Friday lunch

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

For more than 20 years, the Catholic community in Big Spring has gathered around St. Thomas Church each summer for fun and games, and this year is no different, as the local parish prepares

to get its festival under way Friday.

Sylvia Salazar, St. Thomas Church secretary, said the event is an excellent chance for friends and family to spend some time together, not to mention partake in wonderful food and entertaining

games.

"The summer festival is geared towards families," said Salazar. "It gives friends and family a fun, safe place to visit with one another and have a good time."

Salazar said the festival begins Friday at 11 a.m. with

one of the event's largest draws — the food.

"The kitchen opens at 11 a.m. The food is one of the things that people come back year after year for," she said. "We'll be serving three different plates this year. The first one features gorditas with

all the trimmings, including beans, rice and a salad. We also have a guiso plate and an asada plate, both of which have the same side dishes. Each plate is \$6. Drinks and deserts are an additional

See **FESTIVAL**, Page 3A

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House Democrats look at taxing the rich for health care

ERICA WERNE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — House Democrats at work on health legislation are narrowing in on an income tax surcharge on the highest-paid wage earners to help pay the cost of subsidizing insurance for the 50 million who lack it.

Pushing to complete a comprehen-

sive health care bill by Friday and bring it up for committee votes next week, House Democrats abandoned earlier money-raising proposals, including a payroll tax. They planned to meet behind closed doors Thursday to fine-tune the details.

The action in the House stood in contrast to the Senate, where Democrats edged away from their goal of

passing health care legislation by early August amid heightening partisan controversy over tax increases and a proposed new government role in providing insurance to consumers.

As discussed in the tax-writing House Ways and Means Commit-

See **HEALTH**, Page 3A

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Inside The Big Spring Mall 267-6335

Howard College, Garden City hosting all-star weekend

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

First games of the 2009 high school football season are still more than a month away.

Most people aren't even thinking about the new basketball season, yet. Former Garden City Athletic Director Ken Hoskins has already got both sports in mind, though.

Hoskins is once again leading the

charge in coordinating an All-Star weekend in Garden City and Big Spring, highlighting some of the area's top small-school basketball talent along with a few of the state's best six-man football players.

At 6 p.m. Friday, Dorothy Garrett Coliseum will host the seventh installment of a small school all-star basketball game. A girls game will start the night with the boys then taking the court afterwards at approximately

7:45 p.m.

Then, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, the all-star festivities continue in Garden City with the 14th Annual Texas Bowl. The game features some of the top six-man talent from both the bigger (Division I) and smaller (Division II) classifications of the fast-paced brand of football.

"We invite some of the best players from Division I and pit them against some of the best from Division II,"

said Hoskins. "This is the third year we've done it this way and it's netted us two very competitive games in the prior season. When we started this, it was referred to as the Texas vs. The World game, but the cost of it became too much. So we scaled it back and just went with the top Texas players. It's worked out well for us."

See ALL-STAR, Page 2B

Marion to Mavs

Dallas makes deal with Raps, bring in former All-Star forward

JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — A person with knowledge of the deal says the Dallas Mavericks will acquire forward Shawn Marion from Toronto.

The trade is not official, but the person told The Associated Press on Wednesday it should be completed. The person was granted anonymity because the deal was still being worked on.

The Raptors couldn't afford to re-sign Marion because they need to clear salary cap space for Hedo Turkoglu. They are close to an agreement with the Orlando Magic free agent.

The deal was first reported by The Dallas Morning News.

Marion is a versatile player who can be used at either forward position. He spent just half a season in Toronto after being traded from Miami.

The trade is expected to include at least one other team to make the salaries work. Oklahoma City and Memphis are likely candidates because they are far enough under the salary cap to facilitate a deal.

The Mavericks have been busy during the offseason, agreeing to give point guard Jason Kidd a three-year contract for more than \$25 million to remain in Dallas. They also are trying to reach a deal with Marcin Gortat, Orlando's backup center.

Marion was a four-time All-Star in Phoenix but is facing a major pay cut from the \$17.8 million he earned last season. He scored 12.9 points per game, well below his career average of 17.8.

Marion will join Kidd, Dirk Nowitzki and Josh Howard, giving the Mavericks four former All-Stars.



AP photo/Chris Carlson

Texas Rangers slugger Andruw Jones connects for his third home run of the night against the Los Angeles Angels during the fifth inning of an AL baseball game in Anaheim, Calif., Wednesday. The Rangers routed the Angels, 8-1, taking sole possession of first place in the AL West.

Alone on top

Jones' 3 homers lifts Rangers to first in AL West

SOLANGE REYNER

Associated Press Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Andruw Jones had two shots at matching one of baseball's most famous records.

Jones homered in his first three at-bats of Texas' 8-1 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Wednesday night. He had two shots at becoming the first player in six years to hit four homers in a game, but he popped out and struck out.

"I was thinking about it. I tried. I just didn't get it done," Jones said. "I'm just happy we won."

Rangers manager Ron Washington was impressed with what he saw from Jones.

"I saw Kirby Puckett do some great stuff. I saw Dave Engle do some great stuff. Matter fact, I saw Mickey Hatcher get nine hits in a row — nine straight in three straight days," Washington said. "This ranks as one of the highest because he got us a win for it."

The Rangers got to Angels starter Ervin Santana early, with Jones hitting home runs off him in the first

See RANGERS, Page 2B

Police: McNair shot dead in sleep by girlfriend

LUCAS L. JOHNSON II

Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Former NFL star Steve McNair was shot dead in his sleep last week by a 20-year-old girlfriend distraught about mounting financial problems and her belief that he was seeing someone else, police said Wednesday.

Sahel Kazemi "was spinning out of control" when she shot McNair four times as he dozed on a sofa early Saturday, then turned the gun on herself, Police Chief Ronal Serpas said.

Interviews with friends revealed that she was making payments on two cars, her rent was doubling and she suspected the married McNair was having a sec-

ond affair with another young woman.

She told a friend on Friday that "My life is a ball of s--- and I should end it," Serpas said.

Police earlier had labeled McNair's death a homicide, but waited for further tests and the revelations about Kazemi's personal problems before concluding that she pulled the trigger of a 9 mm semiautomatic pistol in a condominium McNair rented with a friend.

McNair, 36, a quarterback for the Tennessee Titans most of his career, met Kazemi six months ago at a sports cafe where she was a waitress and his family often ate. She seemed happy and eager to build a life with him, but something went wrong.

"We do know that she was clearly

sending a message during the last five to seven days of her life that things were going bad quickly," Serpas said, though there was no indication she told anyone she planned to harm McNair.

Serpas said detectives learned that Kazemi recently found out about another young woman she thought McNair was romantically involved with and had even followed that woman home, though she did not confront her.

Serpas said police believe McNair was asleep when he was killed because there were no defensive wounds. After shooting McNair in the head, Kazemi apparently shot him twice in the chest before shooting him again in the head.

See MCNAIR, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Howard College hosting three baseball camps

The coaching staff of the 2009 National Champion Howard College baseball team is lending its services to baseball camps for three different age groups beginning July 20 and lasting through July 23 at Jack Barber Field, located on the Howard College campus.

The first is called the Rookie League Camp and is for players ages 6-8 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. each day. Cost is \$100 if it is paid by Tuesday and goes up to \$125 after that date.

The Texas League Camp is for ages 9-12 and is from 10 a.m. to noon each day. Cost is \$125 by Tuesday and \$150 there after.

The Big League Camp is for ages 13-18 and lasts from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost is \$150 by Tuesday and \$175 if paid after that date.

Howard College baseball camps are skill intensive teaching camps. They are designed to create a fun environment to improve skills and develop a love for the game. Group and individual instruction will be provided by the Howard College coaching staff and players. Emphasis is placed on field-

ing and hitting techniques.

For more information, call the Howard College athletic office at 264-5040.

Coahoma Bulldogs Football Camp set for July 28-30

Bulldog Stadium is the site for the Coahoma Bulldogs Football Camp set for July 28-30 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. each day.

The camp is for ages 8-years-old through incoming eighth graders. Cost is \$20 if paid by July 15 and \$25 after that date.

The camp will be coordinated by the Coahoma football coaching staff. Campers will be divided into age, skill and position groups and will work with the fundamentals of football specific to their offensive and defensive positions.

For more information, contact Head Coach Stacey Martin at 394-4535.

12 and Under softball all-stars raising money at Pizza Inn

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association 12U

All-Stars team is raising money to attend its all-star tournament.

One of its fund-raisers will be waiting tables at Pizza Inn from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. today.

A portion of the profits will benefit the team. Donations will also be accepted.

Country club site for 2-person tourney

Big Spring Country Club will host a two-person low-ball golf tournament July 25-26, officials announced.

Entry fee is \$60 per player plus golf cart. Private carts are welcome. Entry includes a barbecue meal on the course July 25.

Practice rounds will be available the day prior to the tournament's start.

The tournament will feature a shotgun start at 1 p.m. both days. The field will be flighted by first round scores.

For more information, contact the BSCC pro shop at 267-5354.

Obituaries

Virginia Murphy Newsom

Ginger Newsom, 77, formerly of Big Spring, died Wednesday, July 8, 2009, in Fort Worth. Graveside funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 11, 2009, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring.

She was born July 24, 1931, in Arkansas and married Jimmie D. Newsom in 1966 in Fort Worth. He preceded her in death July 1, 2003. Ginger was a longtime resident of Howard County.

Survivors include one daughter, Jana Upchurch of Fort Worth; two sons, Jimmy Newsom of Big Spring and Shane Newsom of Fort Worth; five grandchildren; 10 brothers and sisters; and a multitude of loving family members.

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

Jackie Eugene Tibbets

Jackie Eugene Tibbets, 58, of Big Spring died Thursday, July 2, 2009, at University Medical Center. Private family services will be held at a later date.

Jackie was born Nov. 15, 1950, in Big Spring to Opal and John Tibbets. He was a lifetime resident of Howard County. He married Chrysta Kay Burnett June 15, 1996, on top of the Davis Mountains. He was a welder by trade and served in the United States Army for four years during the Vietnam Era. He was a member of the American Legion and the Vietnam Memorial Committee.

He is survived by his wife, Chrysta of Lake J.B. Thomas; one daughter, Tina Henderson of Big Spring; two stepsons, Timothy Reed of Lubbock, and David Allen Reed of Arkansas; one step-daughter, Shannon Thrasher of West Virginia; one brother, Jerry Tibbets of Big Spring; a nephew and three grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Jackie was preceded in death by one brother, Johnny Tibbets.

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

Ruth Cook

Ruth Cook, 97, of Midland died Wednesday, July 8, 2009, in a Midland nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Tennie Hays

Tennie Hays, 103, of Big Spring died Thursday, July 9, 2009, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take Note

• Angel Food order days for July will be Friday, July 11, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, July 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the church. Orders will also be taken from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 12 at the Big Spring Mall. For more information, call 267-2203.

• Eagles Lodge 3188 will be holding a fundraiser from 9 a.m. Saturday to 1 a.m. Sunday at its building at 703 W. Third St. Hamburger plates will be available for \$7 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call in orders are welcome. A auction begins at 3 p.m. and the public is invited to dance to the Pure Gold band from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Admission is \$7 per person. There will be a plant and cake walks, a fun toss, 50-50 drawing and more. For further information, call 263-6862. The Eagles Lodge benefits numerous charitable organizations through its Bingo fund but cannot use those funds to benefit its own facility, which is what this fundraiser is for.

• A bake sale benefitting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will be held Saturday in front of Wal-Mart. The sale will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until all baked items are sold out.

• Big Spring High School cheerleaders will be doing a car wash fundraiser this Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Supreme Car Wash on FM 1700, next to Culligan. Funds raised will help support the girls for cheer camp and other related expenses.

Correction

In Wednesday's editorial about Business After Hours, the address of Lone Star State Bank was listed as 406 E. FM 700. The bank's correct address is 600 E. FM 700. The event is from 4:30-6 p.m. today.

Police blotter

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

- BLAKE LAMB, 21, of 109 Hilltop Rd., was arrested Wednesday on local warrants.
- MICHAEL GARZA, 21, of 507 W. Sixth St., was arrested Wednesday on two local warrants.
- ERNESTO MUNIZ, 23, of 1112 Sycamore, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of criminal mischief.
- CREIG HOLLAND, 50, of 613 N. Osage, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JIMMY RAMIREZ, 40, of 1401 Sycamore, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.
- ALICE GUZMAN, 36, of 703 S. Aylesford, was arrested Wednesday on a local warrant and a warrant from another agency.
- ROSENDO JIMENEZ, 18, of 2410 Runnels, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- AARON GUZMAN, 17, of 2911 W. Highway 80 Apt. 137, was arrested Wednesday on two warrants from another agency.
- ATHEA DARROW, 25, of 1900 Alabama, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of accident involving damage to vehicle.
- THEFT was reported in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported: in the 700 block of Interstate Highway 20. in the 1100 block of Sycamore.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1400 block of Robin.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 71 inmates at the time of this report.
- GINNIFER ROSSANN BOSWELL, 28, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for possession of a controlled substance and a charge of violation of parole.
- MICHAEL GARZA, 21, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of minor in possession of alcohol and public intoxication.
- AARON JOE GUZMAN, 17, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance and violation of parole.
- ALICIA RIOS GUZMAN, 36, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of animal at large and driving while license invalid.
- CRAIG HOLLAND, 50, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- ROSENDO JIMINEZ, 18, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.
- EDWARD LAMB, 21, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of open container, failure to appear, no driver's license and violation of a promise to appear.
- CHRISTOPHER LIMON, 30, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of revocation of probation for driving while intoxicated — second offense and theft by check.
- ERNESTO MUNIZ, 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.
- JIMMY RAMIREZ, 40, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of violation of parole.
- CHRISTOPHER ROBERTS, 22, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on charges of no insurance (two counts), failure to appear (two counts) and a local warrant.
- LARRY ROBERT VALLES, 19, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of burglary of a habitation and burglary of a building.
- DOMINIQUE WILLIAMS, 20, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 2400 block of E. Marcy. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2300 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 400 block of Dallas. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3700 block of Wright. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of Bates. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.

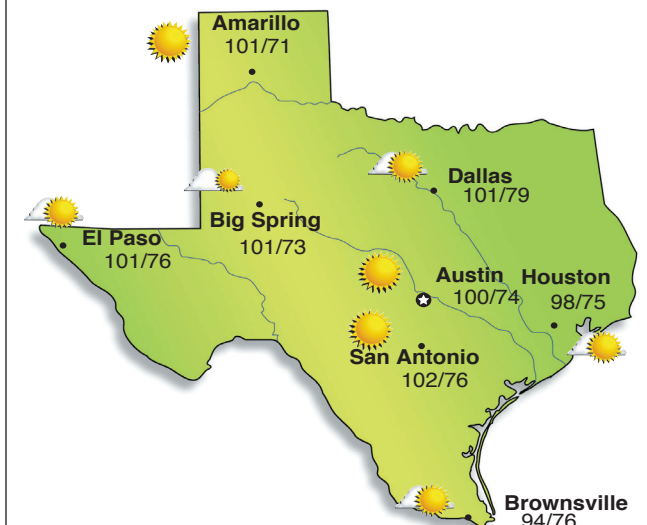
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 7/10	Sat 7/11	Sun 7/12	Mon 7/13	Tue 7/14
101/73 Partly cloudy skies. Near record high temperatures. High 101F.	99/74 A few clouds. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the mid 70s.	96/73 Sunny. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.	97/73 Sunshine. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.	98/74 Sunny. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the mid 70s.
Sunrise: 6:47 AM Sunset: 8:55 PM	Sunrise: 6:48 AM Sunset: 8:55 PM	Sunrise: 6:49 AM Sunset: 8:55 PM	Sunrise: 6:49 AM Sunset: 8:54 PM	Sunrise: 6:50 AM Sunset: 8:54 PM

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Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	102	74	mst sunny	Kingsville	99	76	sunny
Amarillo	101	71	sunny	Livingston	99	72	mst sunny
Austin	100	74	sunny	Longview	99	76	mst sunny
Beaumont	95	75	mst sunny	Lubbock	102	72	mst sunny
Brownsville	94	76	mst sunny	Lufkin	98	73	mst sunny
Brownwood	102	74	mst sunny	Midland	103	75	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	97	79	sunny	Raymondville	98	76	mst sunny
Corsicana	99	76	mst sunny	Rosenberg	98	74	mst sunny
Dallas	101	79	mst sunny	San Antonio	102	76	sunny
Del Rio	104	79	mst sunny	San Marcos	101	74	sunny
El Paso	101	76	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	99	77	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	100	72	windy	Sweetwater	102	74	pt sunny
Gainesville	101	77	sunny	Tyler	99	75	mst sunny
Greenville	99	76	mst sunny	Weatherford	101	76	sunny
Houston	98	75	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	105	74	sunny

Bulletin Board

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

- TODAY**
- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.
 - American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
 - The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340.
 - Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

- FRIDAY**
- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.
 - AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
 - Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing of five: 0.
Wednesday night: The winning Daily Winning numbers 4 numbers drawn drawn: 3-11-17-23-24-36. Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: Number matching six 9-5-9-2. Sum It Up: 25. of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Winning numbers Wednesday night by the drawn: 20-22-26-29-34. Texas Lottery, in order: Number matching five 8-7-0. Sum It Up: 15.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.
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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.
USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.85 monthly; \$95.58 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$14.58 monthly Howard; \$18.33 elsewhere.

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sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Fishing in Troubled Waters

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠K 7 2
♥9 6 2
♦A 1 7
♣Q J 9 4

EAST

♠10 9 4
♥K 8 7 5
♦K 8 2
♣A 6 3

WEST

♠J 8 5 3
♥Q 10 4
♦10 9 6 5 3
♣7

SOUTH

♠A Q 6
♥A J 3
♦Q 4
♣K 10 8 5 2

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead — five of diamonds.

This hand from a team-of-four contest illustrates how matches are sometimes won or lost for no good reason. Both Souths wound up in three notrump, and at each table, West's opening lead was a diamond.

At the first table, declarer followed low from dummy and lost the finesse to East's king. East then returned the heart five. South's choice of plays was now immaterial. When he followed low, West won with the ten and continued with the queen and another heart to force out the ace.

Declarer then led a club to the jack, hoping that whoever had the ace did not have the last heart, but it was not his lucky day. East won and cashed his good heart, and South was down one, losing a diamond, a club and three heart tricks all told.

At the second table, declarer had no trouble whatever making three notrump. He saw nine sure tricks as soon as dummy appeared, and could think of no good reason to jeopardize the contract by attempting a diamond finesse at trick one.

So he went up with the ace of diamonds and led the club queen at trick two. East ducked, then won the next club with the ace and shifted to a low heart, but South already had nine tricks — four clubs, three spades, a diamond and a heart.

It is granted that many players would experience at least a fleeting temptation to try the diamond finesse at trick one, since two overtricks can be made if West has the king. However, yielding to such a temptation is not a very good practice, since declarer can gain only a little if he's right and lose a lot if he's wrong.

If South's goal was simply to try to make as many tricks as possible, he would certainly be correct to play low from dummy at trick one. But that is not the primary goal here. Making the contract is the first consideration.

Tomorrow: Two double-dummy problems.

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ALL-STAR

Continued from Page 1B

Garden City will be well represented during the all-star weekend with some of its own athletes taking the court Friday and the field Saturday.

Melissa Hirt and Macy Schwartz — members of Garden City's district championship team in 2008-2009 — will both be playing in the girls all-star game Friday.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

and third, the latter sailing over the left field pole to give Texas a 4-0 lead.

Jones added a solo shot in the fifth off reliever Rich Thompson.

"My fastball was way better, and I had good command with my off-speed pitches," Santana said. "They were very good pitches, but when you're hot, no matter what a pitcher throws, you're going to hit it."

With a chance to tie the major league record for home runs in a game, Jones popped out in the sixth against Kevin Jepsen and struck out against Jason Bulger in the ninth.

In, all the Rangers hit five homers as Tyler Teagarden and Marlon Byrd also connected. That matched a season-high for the Rangers, who regained the divisional lead for the first time since June 26.

It's the second career three-homer game for Jones, who last did it September 25, 2007, against Philadelphia. He's also the second player to hit three homers in a game in the last two days. Paul Konerko of the Chicago White Sox went deep three times against Cleveland on Tuesday night.

"Andrew put us on his back and everyone followed,"

Taking the gridiron Saturday is Garden City's Cole Schwartz and Levi Schaefer. Hoskins said athletes from Grady and Sands will also be participating in the weekend.

"We've got some local ties in this game," said Hoskins. "We always try to bring some of the local kids in and get them involved. We've also got players who are covering quite a few miles to get here. We've got one from Sierra Blanca. There's also one from Strawn and another from Lefors. They're making a

Washington said.

Jones also had a three-run homer in an 8-5 win over the Angels on Tuesday.

"He's having a terrific season for them," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "He's obviously much more comfortable in the batter's box than he was last year when we saw him with the Dodgers."

Vicente Padilla (7-4) struck out four and gave up one run in six-plus innings before leaving the game because of a bruised right palm. Pitching on eight days rest, Padilla gave up seven hits against the short-handed Angels, who were missing center fielder Torii Hunter and slugger Vladimir Guerrero because of injuries.

Jason Grilli, Eddie Guardado and Darren O'Day combined to shut out the Angels over the final three innings.

Bobby Abreu drove in the solo run for Los Angeles, which has lost all three series against the Rangers this season.

The oft injured Santana — he's had two DL stints this season — has failed to show the All-Star form of 2008 when he won 16 games.

"There's concern. We've been talking about this for a while. I'm sure he's healthy, because if he wasn't, I don't think he'd be able to throw the ball 94 miles an hour like he did. He's hitting 90-94 and he has plenty to pitch with, if you

long trip to play this weekend."

One of the real appeals of the Texas Bowl in particular is the fact that every player on the roster recently graduated, making the game potentially the final time many of the athletes will put on their pads and helmet.

"That's what I tell them. This could be it. This could be the last time they get to put on a football uniform," said Hoskins. "That makes the game important for them. This game is all about getting on the field for these kids and playing one more game."

can make some pitches. And that's what his challenge is right now. He's not getting the ball where he needs to and not being able to repeat pitches," Scioscia said.

"It's simple pitching. It's getting ahead and putting guys away and tonight he struggled with that. Pitchers are going to go through stages like that, but they still find ways to win. That's what Ervin is searching for."

Santana (1-5) had trouble in every inning but the second and allowed Omar Vizquel to score in the third on a wild pitch. He then gave up the homer to Jones, a first-pitch hit that was driven over the left center field wall into the grassy knoll alongside the rocks in center field.

"I was just patient enough to put a good wood on the bat and drive it," Jones said.

NOTES: The last Rangers player to hit three home runs was Brad Wilkerson on July 3, 2007.

... Hunter and Guerrero underwent MRI tests on Wednesday morning for their injuries. Hunter, who is out with a strained adductor, could miss the All-Star game in St. Louis. "It's cloudy," Hunter said, "hopefully the next couple of days we'll see some signs of healing." ... Angels 1B Kendry Morales extended his career-high 12-game hitting streak when he singled in the second.

MCNAIR

Continued from Page 1B

Before shooting herself, she sat next to his body and "tried to stage it so she would fall in his lap," Serpas said. She did, but her body slid to the floor and ended up at McNair's feet. The gun was found underneath her.

The man McNair shared the condo with discovered the bodies and called a friend, Robert Gaddy, who

arrived and called 911. Serpas said the man didn't call 911 himself because he was in shock.

Gaddy said Wednesday that what he saw in the condo will haunt him for the rest of his life, but he was glad police made clear that his longtime friend did not suffer.

Kazemi's family told reporters that the woman was so confident McNair was divorcing his wife of 12 years that she was preparing to sell her furniture and move in with him.

But associate Mike Mu, who has worked with McNair's charitable association for years, said earlier Wednesday that McNair's wife, Mechelle McNair, "didn't know who this girl is." No records of divorce proceedings have surfaced. The McNairs have four children.

Gaddy defended McNair as a great husband.

"When Mechelle is ready to speak, she will let people know that,"

Gaddy said. "We can't justify anything that people are starting to find out, but the one thing that we can say, that I know for sure, is that Steve loved his family."

Two days before the shooting, police stopped Kazemi driving a Cadillac Escalade sport utility vehicle that McNair had given her for her birthday in May.

According to an arrest affidavit, Kazemi had bloodshot eyes and alcohol on her breath. She refused a breath test and told an officer "she was not drunk, she was high." She was charged with DUI. McNair was with her but not charged. He later made her bail.

Police are awaiting toxicology reports on both bodies.

Serpas said that even though both her name and McNair's were on the Cadillac's title, she was apparently responsible for making payments. She was also making payments on another car after she couldn't sell it.

Kazemi had no history of violence, but "on the last several days of her life it's obvious that she made some very poor decisions," Serpas said.

Mechelle McNair has not spoken publicly since the shooting. Bishop Joseph W. Walker III of Mount Zion Baptist Church, which the McNairs have attended since moving to Nashville in 1997, said Wednesday that she is doing as well as can be expected.

A memorial service is set for Thursday night in Nashville, with the funeral Saturday in his native Mississippi.

The four-time Pro Bowl quarterback was being remembered Wednesday at the stadium where he played much of his career. The Tennessee Titans opened LP Field for fans to watch video highlights of McNair's 13-year NFL career and look at photos of the quarterback.

There was also a book for them to write messages that will be given to the family.

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CHARGES

Continued from Page 1A

meanor, punishable by up to 180 days in jail and a \$2,000 fine."

According to reports filed with the Howard County Sheriff's Office, the two young men were at Creel's residence the evening before the young man's body was discovered, and had left with a juvenile just after midnight.

"We have confirmed there was a juvenile in the vehicle at that time," said HCSO Chief Deputy Mark Hall shortly after Pierson's arrest. "They left Creel's residence at about midnight. Pierson returned to

the Creel residence at about 2:30 a.m. Creel was missing approximately 13 hours before his body was found, but he was never reported missing to the authorities.

"Pierson told us he thought Creel had gotten out of the back of the truck at a stop sign during their trip between midnight and 2:30 a.m. However, when he went back to look for him he was unable to locate him. It's been really hard to get good information on just what happened."

According to Michael Creel, the father of the victim, the 13-hour period leading up to Creel's death — and then the hours following his disappearance — have family

members baffled as to what really happened.

"After Michael was believed to have fallen out of the truck, the kids — Pierson and his friends — came to mine and my son's house," said Creel. "They never said a word about Michael being missing or anything. They told us they had dropped him off at his grandmother's, and he had said it was alright for them to stay at our house that night. They stayed up playing video games and doing all the things kids do, but they never once said anything about Michael disappearing or them looking for him."

Creel said a phone call earlier in the evening also left

family members unsettled.

"One of my children took a call from Michael that night," said Creel. "It was supposedly Michael telling them it was OK for Pierson and the others to stay at the house. But my child told me later the call was strange, and he really didn't think it was Michael. The whole thing just seems strange to me."

According to Wilkerson, who presented the case — along with testimony from witnesses — to the grand jury seeking an indictment for intoxication manslaughter or manslaughter, there just wasn't sufficient evidence to sway the grand jury to true-bill the case.

"The witnesses were very consistent in what they testified to," said Wilkerson. "However, the grand jury didn't feel like there was sufficient evidence to prove Pierson contributed to Creel's death. There's just no way to know if Pierson was driving erratically and that's what caused Creel to be thrown from the vehicle, or if he simply fell out or was thrown out accidentally. Once the grand jury failed to true-bill the case, I turned it over to the county attorney."

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

REUNION

Continued from Page 1A

Land V8 and Antique Tractor Pull. A concession stand will provide refreshments.

From 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. a reception will be held for the Charlie Smith family in the Martin County Museum. The Smith family is the pioneer family for 2009. Also during that time, the Connell home and the museum will be open for touring.

Various types of entertainment will

be held at the community center from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The evening meal, catered by Lester and Kim Baker, will be served at 6 p.m. in the community center. Tickets are \$9 per plate.

A program at the community center will conclude the reunion at 7:30

p.m. However, old settlers are also invited to a dance outside the community center, sponsored by the Martin County Chamber of Commerce.

For more information about the Old Settler's Reunion, contact Kathleen Lewis at (432) 756-3745 or 756-2344.

FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1A

cost. You can also order to-go plates by calling 263-4337."

While the eating will begin at 11 a.m., according to Salazar, the fun and games are to get started at 6 p.m.

"That's when all of the booths will open," she

said. "We'll have cake walks, baseball throws, bingo, and it's all aimed at kids and adults. There will also be a give-away, with the winners announced during the Sacred Heart campus festival Aug. 14-15. Prizes include a laptop, play station, two \$400 Walmart gift cards, a \$300 H-E-B gift card, a \$250 Visa Gift Card and an

I-Pod."

Salazar said there will also be festival-style foods available during the evening.

"We'll have sausage on a stick, corn on the cob, brisket burritos, you name it," she said with a laugh. "We also have a couple of different bands lined up to perform. They are expected to start at around

8 p.m. Bingo will run from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m., and the whole thing is expected to wrap up at midnight."

With the first day of the festival set to come to a close at midnight Friday, what will the church's volunteers and staff do Saturday morning?

"We'll get up and do the whole thing over

again," said Salazar. "We'll have the same attractions — the 11 a.m. Mexican plates, the 6 p.m. start for the booths and games, music, food — everything we had on Friday, we'll have at the same time Saturday. It's a lot of fun, and something we're really looking forward to."

Salazar said funds raised by the festival —

hosted by the Holy Trinity Catholic Parish — go back to fund next year's event.

For more information, call 714-4930, or visit the church campus, located at 605 N. Main St.

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

HEALTH

Continued from Page 1A

tee, the surtax would apply to individuals with adjusted gross income of more than \$200,000 and couples over \$250,000, according to officials involved in the discussion. Most spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks were private.

In addition, key lawmakers are expected to call for a tax or fee equal to a percentage of a worker's salary on employers who do not offer health benefits.

Ways and Means Chairman Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., has said his committee needs to come up with \$600 billion in new taxes to deliver on President Barack Obama's goal of sweeping changes to the nation's health care system to bring down costs and cover the 50 million uninsured. Hundreds of

billions of dollars more would come from cuts to Medicare and Medicaid to pay for legislation expected to cost around \$1 trillion over 10 years.

Top administration officials, including White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel, conferred with Rangel's committee Democrats on Wednesday as they met throughout the day.

"They know what I'm thinking about and I have no reason to believe I'll have any problems with them on that part of the bill," Rangel said of the tax proposals.

Rep. Shelley Berkley, D-Nev., a member of the panel, said the proposed surtax on high-income taxpayers appealed to her and others as a way to avoid a "nickel-and-dime" approach involving numerous smaller tax increases.

Lawmakers cautioned that no final decisions

have been made, either by the tax-writing committee or by the Democratic leadership, which hopes to have legislation drafted by the end of the week and through the House by month's end.

Smaller tax options remained possibilities, depending on the overall cost of the legislation, including a tax on sugared soft drinks and ending a tax break that drug companies receive for advertising.

In the Senate, New York Democrat Chuck Schumer told The Associated Press that he believes the "ultimate goal" is to have a bill by the end of the year that is signed into law by the president.

Separately, Republicans who met with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he expressed flexibility on the timetable,

indicating that he was willing to allow more time before legislation is brought to the floor.

Any failure to meet the August goal would be a setback — but not necessarily a fatal one — for Obama's attempt to achieve comprehensive health care legislation this year. A group of Democratic and Republican senators led by Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., is still working toward a bipartisan deal, but that effort appeared set back by concerns Reid and other leading Democrats expressed this week over a tax on health care benefits that Baucus was considering to pay for it.

The White House expressed its support Wednesday for the emerging House legislation, noting that the Congressional Budget

Office had said planned changes to Medicare would save more than \$500 billion over 10 years. A significant part of that money would come from the steep reduction in subsidies paid to insurance companies that offer private Medicare coverage.

But in a letter to Rangel and other committee chairmen, budget director Peter Orszag urged additional cuts in projected Medicare and Medicaid spending, as well as consideration of a plan to give an independent commission a greater role in setting future payments rates for Medicare health care providers — something that could weaken

Congress' involvement.

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Garage Sales

2 FAMILY Garage Sale 2324 Brent Drive. Friday 8:00-1:00 Saturday 8:00-3:00. Trampoline, toddler, girls, and women's clothes. Lots of misc. Burritos and Drinks.

3 FAMILY Garage Sale!!!! 3620 Dixon, Friday & Saturday 8:00-? Lots of kids clothes, everything price to sell. Too much to list.

3612 PARKWAY (in back) Multi-Family. Saturday 7:30a.m.-?? Bikes, toys, costume jewelry, king mattresses and frame, queen bedding, Bombay bedding, zebra-animal print decor, Mary Kay clearance, name brand junior clothing, men and ladies business and casual clothing, coca cola items, dishes, pots, pans, fixtures, household items, books, frames, LOTS more.

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2 FAMILY Yard Sale: 1603 Wren Street, Saturday 8:00-?? Furniture, misc. house wear, little girls clothes, womens clothes, shoes, and tools.

BACKYARD SALE Friday, July 10th, 8am to 5pm and Saturday 8am-noon at 426 Westover Rd. Some furniture, adult clothing and much more.

BAKE SALE To Benefit Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, at Wal-Mart, Saturday 9:00-1:00.

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FIRST OF Several sales as I clean out closets and 2 storage buildings. Priced to sell! Clothes, Mary Kay, candles, lots of misc. 700 Scott Drive, Saturday 8:00-12:00. Please NO CHECKS.

GARAGE SALE: 2511 Broadway (Take Thorp to Broadway), Saturday 8am-2pm. Too much to list. Come See.

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GARAGE SALE Saturday Only! 8:00-2:00. Furniture, liners, Christmas decorations, clothing, canning jars, and misc. small appliances. 1606 Nolan.

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GARAGE SALE: 2604 E.16th St., FM 700 in front of Carpet Place, Saturday 7-? Furniture, Harley clothes man and women, Harley jackets, helmets, home decorations, baby clothes, boys clothes, toys, etc.

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GARAGE SALE: 513 Hillside Dr., Saturday Only 8am-? Loveseat, swing set, electronics, lots of household items, clothing of all sizes child to adult, lots of misc.

GARAGE SALE: 549 Hillside Drive, Friday 9am-8pm and Saturday 8am-Noon. Piano, chairs, Lazy-Boy, wallpockets, baby stroller- swing & etc., golf clubs, sewing machine, jewelry check, desk and more.

GARAGE SALE: 9 Coachman Circle, Saturday 7-? 52" HD TV, microwave, exercise equipment and other items, yard stuff, house stuff, pet stuff, lots of misc. Come See. 264-6352.

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MULTI-FAMILY YARD Sale: Saturday and Sunday 7am-?? 2403 Alabama. TOO MUCH to list!!!

THREE FAMILY Backyard Sale: 1102 East 12th, Saturday 8:00am-? No matter the weather. Too much to list. Come See.

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Help Wanted

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
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Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

Time to submit nominations for Family of Year

Do you know a family in our community that deserves to be considered for Family of the Year honors? If you do, the Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas wants to hear all about them.

Churches, civic groups and individuals are eligible to nominate a local family.

The counseling center, according to Alison Peeler, wants to know about families that are involved in their community and their churches.

The award is meant to recognize families who have a healthy relationship with each other and contribute to the community. Families where parents are raising healthy children and are guiding them into positive futures.

The center honors one family from each of its primary service areas — Big Spring, Midland and Odessa. This year's Family of the Year recipients will be honored during a luncheon, set for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1 at the Hall Center for the Arts on the Howard College campus.

Past Family of the Year recipients from the Big Spring area have included Rocky and Barbara Harris, Henry and Patsy Sanchez, Richard and Pam Steel, the Rev. Ken and Elesha McMeans, Augustin and Gloria Ypina and last year's recipients, Todd and Jennifer Patterson.

Nominations are now being accepted for Big Spring's 2009 Family of the Year. If you would like to nominate a Big Spring family, you may go online to www.samaritanccwtx.org or contact Liz Rose at Samaritan's main office in Midland at 432-563-4144 or 800-329-4144.

The Big Spring Family of the Year committee wants people to know that they aren't looking for perfect families, but families who love and care for each other, their churches and their community.

Nominations can be sent to: Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas Inc., P.O. Box 60312, Midland 79711-0312 or faxed to 432-561-8611.

Samaritan is a non-profit, faith-based counseling center with offices in Midland, Odessa, Big Spring and Andrews serving a 28-county area in West Texas and Eastern New Mexico. The Big Spring office is located at the First Christian Church, 911 Goliad. With 35 years of service in the Permian Basin, two-thirds of the clients who seek counseling are low income. Proceeds from the Big Spring luncheon will benefit Samaritan's Client Assistance Fund, helping families and individuals in psychological distress who might not receive help from any other professional source.

Take a few minutes to consider friends and relatives you believe are deserving. Then call the counseling center or go online and get the process started.

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, our future changes for the better.

Amen

If it smells like a cop...

The military raided the president's home, forcibly put him on an airplane and sent him out of the country, yet we are told that what happened in Honduras June 28 was not a coup d'etat.

Of course, "if it looks like a duck, swims like a duck and quacks like a duck, then it probably is a duck," and Honduras doesn't pass the duck test.

President Manuel Zelaya's deportation may have been ordered by the courts and supported by the Congress of that Central American nation. It may have been well-deserved for a president who constantly defied the other two branches of the Honduran government. It may have been a well-intended effort to save democracy in Honduras from another leftist president who wants to become a dictator. Heck, it even may have had the support of the majority of the Honduran people.

But it was definitely a coup d'etat! What else would you call such a sudden, unconventional and unconstitutional deposition of a legitimate government?

Unfortunately, the coup had the effect of turning a law-breaking president into a victim and — even worse — a hero. This is a coup that backfired.

Granted, it may not have been the classic coup, in which the military takes control of the government and bans elections and the coup leader turns into a dictator. Honduras is now ruled by a civilian interim president, and free presidential elections still are planned for November.

But the way they went about removing Zelaya from power, the way they deported the democratically elected president without even a hearing in which he could defend himself, they turned a perfectly impeachable crook into an "overthrown president" and an undeserving celebrity. And they forced even Zelaya's potential critics to defend him.



MIGUEL PEREZ

World leaders, starting with President Barack Obama, had no choice but to call the "coup" by its proper name and to demand respect for democracy. "We believe that the coup was not legal and that President Zelaya remains the president of Honduras, the democratically elected president there," Obama said.

In a Moscow speech, Obama noted that "we respect the universal principle that people should choose their own leaders, whether they are leaders we agree with or not."

Amazingly, leaders of the Free World were lining up to support a president who clearly had abused his constitutional power and who, just a few days earlier, had been on the verge of a justified impeachment.

Even worse, the cynical Latin American leftist presidents, known for their totalitarian ambitions, were given an opportunity to come off as champions of democracy.

They have spent the past week hopping around Central America unable to control their oral diarrhea, charging that the Honduran oligarchy is imposing a right-wing dictatorship. They also are doing everything possible to provoke unrest within Honduras, threatening sanctions and even insinuating military intervention.

Curiously, these are the same leftist leaders who clearly do not "respect the universal principle that people should choose their own leaders," the same leaders who hypocritically claim that the whole world should butt out of Cuba because, although the Castro brothers have not held elections in 50 years, we should respect the Cuban people's alleged right to self-determination. As long as the dictator is a leftist, they see no problems.

Let's be clear: The reason Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, Cuba's Raul Castro, Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega, Ecuador's Rafael Correa and Bolivia's Evo Morales are so upset about what has happened in Honduras is they were getting ready to add a new comrade, Zelaya, to their Latin American axis of evil.

Although Zelaya was consid-

ered a right-of-center moderate when he was elected in 2005, he sold his soul to the left, declared himself a socialist in 2007, and set out to criticize U.S. policies in the region and to find ways to circumvent the rule of law to impose another Latin American populist dictatorship.

The reason Zelaya repeatedly was sanctioned by Honduran legislators, prosecutors and courts was he was following the Chavez playbook on calling referendums to rewrite the constitution and keep himself in power indefinitely. He couldn't get away with it because the Congress wouldn't support him and the courts kept telling him that such a referendum is unconstitutional, but he kept trying.

When the military refused to follow Zelaya's directive to defy a court order and organize a referendum, he fired the commander of the armed forces, Gen. Romeo Vasquez. And when the Supreme Court reinstated Vasquez and found that his removal had been illegal, it became clear that Zelaya deserved to be impeached for repeatedly and defiantly abusing his authority.

A Supreme Court judge ordered the president's detention June 26. The logical thing would have been to prosecute him. Yet two days later, a hasty decision to expel Zelaya from the country turned a perfectly legitimate procedure to remove a president into a sham.

Now the government of interim President Roberto Micheletti is fighting pro-Zelaya demonstrators on the streets and blocking the airports to prevent Zelaya from re-entering the country. And if Zelaya manages to step on Honduran soil, they are pledging to do what they should have done in the first place: arrest him and try him for treason and abuse of authority.

Yet now that they have turned Zelaya into a celebrity victim and a phony symbol of the so-called struggle to save democracy in Honduras, prosecuting this law-breaking president may be harder to accomplish.

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Music can recharge the soul

Standing amidst a sea of the middle aged and the nearly middle aged packed into a fairly small rock club in Boston, I felt tired and old, but hopeful and alive. As the band (middle aged and maybe a little world weary themselves) took the stage with a lightly crackling energy, you couldn't help but forget about your problems at work, at home or the general gravity of life as you get older.

As I looked around the sold out Paradise in Boston, I saw faces mostly older than mine, people who had not gone out in a while decked out in their best thirty-something (or fourtysomething) "night at a rock club gear." My fellow concertgoers wore old t-shirts, faux old t-shirts (likely from Target), ironic golf shirts or somewhat fanciful Polo shirts with the collars askew. I opted for khaki shorts and a black "wow am I deep, plus I used to live in New York" T-shirt.

The sold out club was a sort of alternate universe, a place where Buffalo Tom — never a major commercial success, was the biggest band in the world.

The 500 or so of us knew every word, laughed at every bit of stage repartee and sang along to the wonderfully articulate and melodic rock songs that pulsed from the stage.

I personally reveled in the sense of belonging, enjoying the fact that everyone in the crowd not only knew the band, but believed in them. After a week of explaining to the high school and college kids who work for me exactly who I was seeing and why they are great it was nice to be amongst the faithful — united in the idea that this was something special that we shared, damn everyone else not wise enough to join in.

Music has the power to be transformative and on this night Bill Janovitz, Tom Maginnis and Chris Colbourn — Boston's own Buffalo Tom — turned us from a bunch of middle aged parents and wage slaves into the college kids most of us were when we first heard the band. We danced as much as our pre-arthritis knees would allow and reveled in the cathartic joy of the moment in a way that just doesn't happen too often once you have responsibilities.

While nostalgia and reliving past glories has its place, perhaps the most illuminating parts of the evening were when the band sprinkled in new songs. Instead of being a sign to head for

the bar or the bathroom, the new material filled me with a sense of hope about maintaining my own creative vibrancy.

Buffalo Tom might now write songs about their kids and growing older, but they retain an energy and relevance that has gotten stronger as they — and their fans — age. We may not be able to go back to college and experience the joy of discovering something new and wonderful for the first time, but there are experiences left to have, joys we have not yet discovered.

Sometimes, it takes an old friend to remind you who you are and who you can be. On a crowded stage in a sweaty club tucked into a pretty mediocre neighborhood, some old friends got up before us, strapped on their instruments and reminded me exactly who I am and who I want to be.

Maybe the show wasn't as illuminating for everyone else and for some I'm sure it was just a pretty good rock show from a band they remember fondly. For me, though it was cleansing and reinvigorating — a reminder that small victories matter and defeat only happens when you stay down for the count.

Daniel B. Kline's work appears in more than 100 papers weekly. He can be reached at dan@notastep.com



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'Frenemy,' 'staycation' among new Webster's words

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — Do you use a sock puppet to secretly keep track of your frenemies?

Plan to spend your staycation watching vlogs and webisodes?

Or perhaps you plan to signal a flash mob for a quick bite of shawarma.

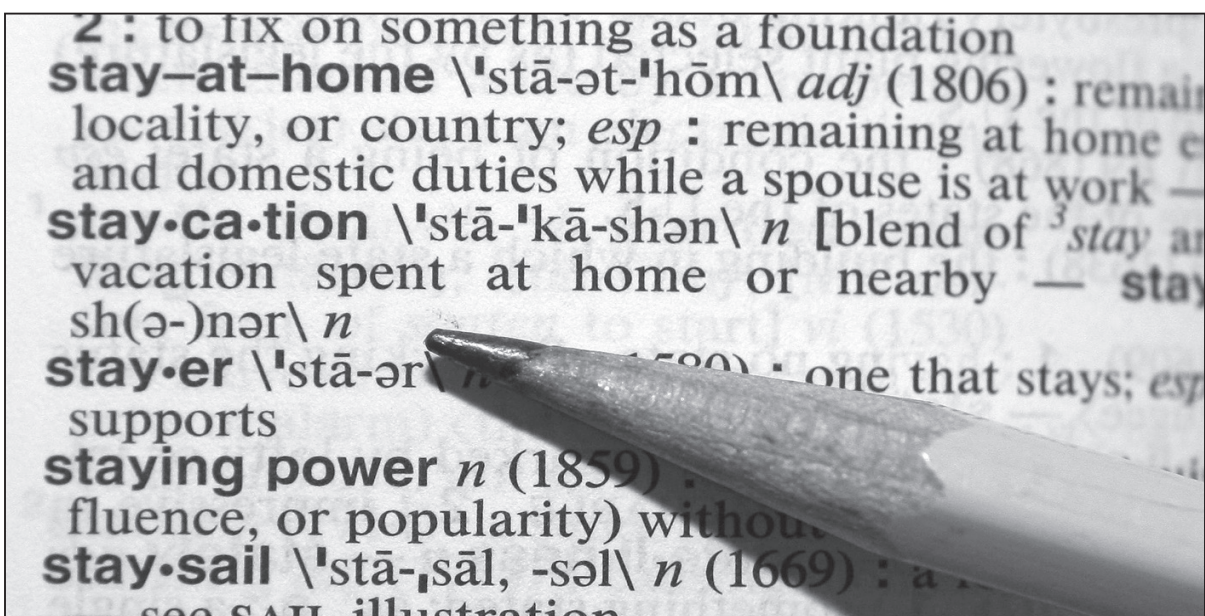
If you're not entirely certain what all that means, turn to the latest edition of the Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, which has added about 100 new words that largely reflect changing trends in American society.

John Morse, president and publisher of the Springfield-based dictionary publisher, said many of this year's new words are tied to changes in technology, increasing environmental awareness and

aging baby boomers' concerns about their health and have become part of the general lexicon.

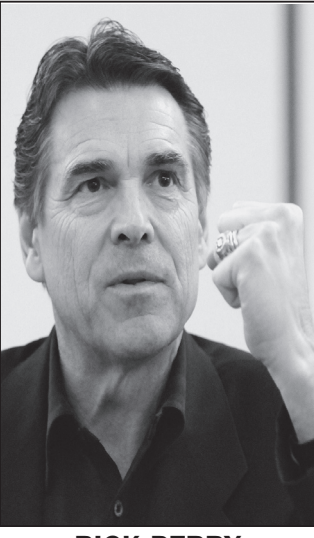
"These are not new words in the language, by any means," Morse said. "(But) when words like 'neuroprotective' and 'cardioprotective' show up in the Collegiate, it's because we've made the judgment that these are not just words used by specialists. ... These really are words now likely to show up in The New York Times, in The Wall Street Journal."

There are words such as locavore (one who eats foods grown locally), frenemy (someone who acts like a friend but is really an enemy) and waterboarding (an interrogation technique used to induce the sensation of drowning).



AP Photo/Charles Krupa

The word "staycation" appears in the most recent edition of the Collegiate Dictionary at the headquarters of the Merriam-Webster dictionary publisher in Springfield, Mass. John Morse, president and publisher of the Springfield-based dictionary publisher, said many of this year's new words are tied to changes in technology, increasing environmental awareness and aging baby boomers' concerns about their health.



RICK PERRY

Palin to help Perry's campaign

CONROE (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry said Wednesday that Sarah Palin is committed to campaigning for his re-election and that he welcomes the support of the soon-to-be-former Alaska governor.

"Sarah and I were friends well back before she became a national star," Perry told The Associated Press after a luncheon speech to a Lions Club in Conroe, just north of Houston. "She'll be here."

Republican Perry also said he intends to complete the full four years if he's re-elected next year to a third term. Palin, the GOP vice presidential nominee in 2008, resigned in a surprise announcement last week before completing her first term in office.

"Each person has to decide that on their own," he said.

Palin associates say her decision was driven in part by a desire to help Republican candidates around the country. Some, like Perry, are eager for her help. Others, like Perry's colleagues in New Jersey and Virginia, are more wary.

But while welcoming Palin to his campaign, Perry said completing his own third term was "up to the good Lord."

"I don't try to outguess Him," the governor said. "For me, my intention is obviously to serve out the full four years."

"Some people would like to distract me by saying Perry is going to Washington. I have no desire to go to Washington, D.C. I don't know how many times you have say it or how many times you have to prove it, but Washington has no allure to me."

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The fun of doing cartwheels is that the whole world appears to spin around you. The zany Aquarius moon is like that, too, turning reality on its ear with a mixed-up point of view -- suddenly nothing seems quite normal. Trying to make sense is, well, senseless. Instead, add your own unpredictable twist to the goings on and enjoy the effect.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be adding to your mental toolbox. The activity of solving a problem is a gift. Once you learn a solution and learn it well, you can repeat it and also apply it with success to other areas of life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The financial side of your life needs some attention. You'll benefit from getting more organized in regards to keeping track of your expenses. You'll find tax

write-offs you hadn't considered before.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Menial work will help you get on track with the bigger picture of your life. For instance, cleaning the refrigerator or organizing the linen closet. You'll metaphorically clear the way for bigger things to happen.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The belongings you surround yourself with reveal your emotional state. Something you've been wearing, toting around with you or looking at every day needs to go. Chuck it and you'll immediately feel lighter.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The job you face isn't hard at all. The thing that makes it challenging is all the baggage around it. Refrain from thinking that you're not supposed to be the one doing it, or attaching other meaning to the job and just do it.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JULY 9). You shake free of the past and create a new path this year. There's a remarkable increase in your energy and physical vitality. A relationship pushes you

into unknown territory in August. You make a terrific team and can do together what neither of you could do alone. You'll beautify your home or move in January. Scorpio and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 17, 9, 40, 48 and 22.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll be doing something you love, but unfortunately, you'll only have a few minutes to devote to the activity. This is better than nothing. Do what you can and tomorrow the opportunities are greater.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's a wonderfully balanced day. You will be surrounded by busy, noisy people and then energy will uplift you. Then you will enjoy a quiet break in the action - a peaceful slice of heavenly solitude.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When you walk into a room, feel the vibes. Stay away from tense and unhappy characters. Supportive people around you will make you feel comfortable enough to turn in your best performance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Usually you

don't mind making personal concessions in order to suit your environment. Today you'll make a point to be with the people and in the situations that allow you to be yourself, no change necessary.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Celebrate your limitations. A lack of funds increases your resourcefulness. The less you have, the more you'll make. Revel in the high that comes from realizing how creative you can be.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When you're working at what you love, you're happy, electric and fun. You're not there yet, though. Have a fantasy about your ideal professional situation. You'll strategize effectively after you've reveled in the possibilities.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What you don't actively disagree with, you silently approve of. This concept has personal impact for you these days. There's a state of being that is no longer tolerable to you; take action to change it.
ASTROLOGICAL

QUESTIONS: "After two decades of dating, I'm a 35-year-old woman who has had more breakups than I can count. The first two were painful, the next slew merely awkward and now I would barely classify a breakup as difficult. It's more like taking out the trash -- not my favorite thing to do, but necessary. My close friends have suggested that I've become heartless. I'm a Scorpio who really does believe in true, lasting love. I just haven't found it yet. Should I stop breaking up? Am I really heartless?"

Did you know that Scorpio is the sign of surgery? What you've been doing is a kind of relationship surgery, and you are now such a skilled surgeon that you can do what you need to do quickly and painlessly -- for you. But like any surgeon, you are also responsible for doing what's best for your patient -- the guy. As long as you go into the relationship in good faith and are honest in thinking that you might be able to exchange

something of value with your partner, you are in the clear as far as karma goes. Check yourself often to be sure that your intentions are pure and that you really do think you might find love with the person you are with.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Oscar winner Tom Hanks can boast box office receipts in the billions, but that's not what's most important to this Cancer movie star. It's family first for Cancer men. On screen in "The Great Buck Howard," Tom played the father character to his real-life son, Colin Hanks. Working with family is a great pleasure for Cancer people, especially ones with natal Mercury in Cancer.

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

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: A few weeks ago, I discovered that my husband had sent a mildly flirtatious e-mail to a female acquaintance. When I confronted him, he admitted he found her good-looking, but claimed he wasn't looking to start anything. He said he just wants to feel attractive again. He has not written her since that initial contact.

The problem is, this happened once before. I forgave him because I had had a few slip-ups myself (before we were married) and felt he deserved some leeway. He swears he has no desire to cheat, but he wants to exercise the right to flirt now and then. He can't promise it won't happen again. We have a good sex life and toyed with the idea of counseling.

We live in a small town that does not offer free counseling services, and people would notice if we went to a therapist. Are there online counseling services? What can I do to stop this from happening again? Or should I just let him have these mild flirtations every so often and simply look the other way? We truly love each other. -- Confused

Dear Confused: It depends on how much you trust him. If he is flirting without taking it any further and you are willing to put up with that, leave it alone. If you fear it will lead to an affair or fixation on a particular woman, it needs to stop, and counseling can help both of you work on that. Yes, you can do it online. Local counselors may offer online

services (call and find out), or you can find someone through the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (aamft.org) or the Better Business Bureau (bbb.org).

Dear Annie: An employee of a local firm invited my husband and me to a very nice restaurant. Our hosts were two men from a large company. This was definitely a business dinner. It turned out that one of our hosts couldn't attend and instead allowed the employee and his girlfriend to bring her daughter, age 15.

Instead of seating the child between them, she ended up next to me. As soon as she sat down, she took out her cell phone, placed it next to her plate and stared at it all evening.

I was appalled that she was permitted to be so rude. I did my best to ignore her, talking business with my husband and our host, but my eyes kept drifting back to that phone. Frankly, I was waiting for it to ring so I could toss it in my water glass.

How would you tell a rude person (child or adult) to put their distracting phone away? What was her mother thinking? In the meantime, we won't be accepting any more dinner invitations from this employee without a no-child guarantee. -- No Cell Manners in Hawaii

Dear Hawaii: We feel sorry for the kid, stuck having dinner with her mother's boyfriend's business associates. Mom should not have brought her, and yes, the girl

should have kept the phone in her pocket, purse or lap, but at least she didn't spend the time texting all her friends about how bored she was. There was no reason for you to be fixated on her silent phone. If you could not engage her in conversation, the correct response would be to leave her alone, as you did.

Dear Annie: I don't think your answer went far enough for "Desperate for Help in Massachusetts," whose otherwise wonderful wife refuses sex and is also a therapist who refuses counseling. For either spouse to deny a physical relationship is a form of abuse. He should seek counseling on his own to determine the next step. This man deserves some answers. -- Been There

Dear Been There: You

are absolutely right that counseling can help him, but we don't know that it will provide the answers his wife is unwilling to give.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@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.

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COMMUNITY EDUCATION - 2009 Schedule

Be a part of Howard College's Department of Community Education's non-credit programs and classes.

Our wide variety of classes will help you keep in step with today's rapidly changing world. You choose the class that's right for you. Topics are current, challenging, and taught by individuals dedicated to teaching.

Community Education programs at Howard College have been designed to give you an opportunity to explore new activities for personal growth and enjoyment as well as lifelong learning opportunities and professional development.

Community Education classes are offered on a non-credit basis. Community Education Units (CEU's) are awarded for successful completion of some courses.

Generally, there are no entrance requirements or examinations.

Computer Classes

Facebook, Twitter, Blog

July 27-28, 2009

Monday and Tuesday, 6:00PM- 8:30pm

Instructor: Debra Tate

Cost: \$35.00

Description: Learn how to use Facebook, Twitter, and Blog on the Internet.

Introduction to Microsoft Word

September 1-10, 2009

Tuesday and Thursday 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Instructor: James Luna

Cost: \$55.00

Description: Learn the basics of Microsoft Word.

Introduction to Computers

August 4-13, 2009

Tuesday and Thursday 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Instructor: James Luna

Cost: \$55.00

Description: Learn the basics for operating a computer.

Advanced Microsoft Word

October 6-15, 2009

Tuesday and Thursday 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Instructor: James Luna

Cost: \$55.00

Description: Learn more advanced techniques of Microsoft Word.

Introduction to Excel Spreadsheet

November 3-12, 2009

Tuesday and Thursday 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Instructor: James Luna

Cost: \$55.00

Description: Learn the basics for creating Excel electronic spreadsheets for better organization for your work or everyday need.

Advanced Excel Spreadsheet

December 1-10, 2009

Tuesday and Thursday 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Instructor: James Luna

Cost: \$55.00

Description: Learn more advanced techniques for creating Excel spreadsheets for your work or everyday need.

Are Your Job Skills up-to-date?

August 3,4,6, 2009

Time: 6:00pm - 8:30pm

Instructor: Debra Tate

Cost: \$50.00

Description: Look at online job sites, analyze the skills being required & the jobs available, do a self analysis of those identified job skills & create an action plan for updating and/or acquiring those skills.

Impress Your Boss with Polished Professional Presentations

October 12, 13, and 15 2009

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Instructor: Debra Tate

Cost: \$45.00

About the choices needed for professional & effective presentations and how to deliver them, not the software - a lead-in to Powerpoint.

Certified Nurse Aide

Designed to provide basic nursing skills, emphasizing long-term elderly care facilities. Includes physical and psychological needs, safety, infection control, and resident rights. Applicants must read, write, speak, and understand English to be successful in this course. Tuition includes \$10.00 malpractice insurance and \$83.00 state certification exam fee. Scrubs are required for clinicals. (NURA 1001, 89 hours, 8.9 CEU's).

Prior to enrollment in this program, a background check must be completed through the following website: howardcollegecx.com. The cost of the background check is \$39.00. Students employment status will also be verified through the DADS' Nurse Aide Registry and the Employee Misconduct Registry. Upon registration, students must bring their social security card, driver's license, and shot records showing they have had at least the first 2 hepatitis B vaccines.

Day Course August 17 -September 29, 2009

Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays 8:00am - 12:00pm

Instructor: Jane Gilmore, LVN

Cost: \$350.00

Night Course August 24 - October 8, 2009

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 6:00pm - 10:00pm

Instructor: Linda Porter, RN

Cost: \$350.00

Medication Aide Certification

August 11, 2009 - December 15, 2009

Tuesday and Thursdays 6:00pm - 10:00pm

Instructor: Vanessa Arista, RN

Cost: \$545.00

Not long ago only doctors and nurses were allowed to administer medications. Times have changed! Medication aides now may administer medications in nursing homes and state correctional facilities. They must hold a permit issued by the Texas Department of Health. A permit holder must function under the direct supervision of a licensed nurse on duty or on call by the facility. Medication aides are a cost effective option now open to Medicare skilled nursing facilities as well as Medicaid nursing facilities. Medication aides must also comply with certain nurse aide requirements. Since there are several prerequisites that must be met for this course, an enrollment packet detailing these prerequisites must be obtained and signed prior to enrollment.

English Second Language

July 13-August 6, 2009

Monday -Thursday 8:00am - 1:00pm

Instructor: Joyce Baumann

Cost: Free

Description: Designed for students whose primary language is other than English. Presentation of industry-related basic reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Emphasis on high-frequency vocabulary and phonics; refining oral and written production and listening skills for enhanced job productivity; and increasing control of the English sound system.

Books Needed: The students will need to WAIT until they've attended class before knowing which books to buy. They will need to buy ONE of each of the following sets from the Howard College Bookstore AFTER the instructor tells them which one they will need: one NorthStar at approximately \$26.00, one Focus on Grammar at approximately \$18.25, and one Longman Dictionary at approximately \$13.50.

Create a Slideshow for the Holidays

November 16, 17, and 19, 2009

6:00 - 8:30pm

Instructor: Debra Tate

Cost: \$50.00

Description: slideshow, collage, basic photo editing using Google's Picasa

Summer Ballet

July 23 - August 13, 2009

Mondays and Thursdays 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Instructor: Eulaine McIntosh

Cost: \$50.00

Heartsaver First Aid

July 11

August 1

Saturday 8:00am - 5:00pm

Instructor: Lynn Toman

Cost: \$30.00

This course provides the skills to effectively recognize and treat emergencies in the critical first minutes until emergency medical services personnel arrive. Included in the course is a complete health and safety training solution for first aid, adult CPR and AED.



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