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STEERS WIN SEASON OPENER OVER SNYDER PAGE 1B

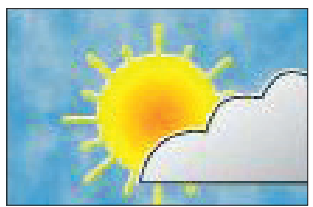


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HIGH BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY

AUGUST 30, 2009



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Cell phone users, beware the zone!

New laws Sept. 1 deal with safety belts, booster seats and crime

By STEVE REAGAN Staff Writer Buckle up, drivers. And when you're going through a school zone, lose the cell phone, too. Hundreds of new state laws take effect Tuesday, most notably those that aim to improve driver safety. Perhaps the highest-profile of the new laws passed by



Orr a school faces a fine of up to \$200. Cell phone usage in

the Texas Legislature this year targets the use of cell phones while driving through a school zone. Effective Tuesday, anyone caught using a cell phone while driving near a school faces a fine of up to \$200. Cell phone usage in

these areas is allowed only in case of emergency or if the vehicle is stopped. Robin D. Orr, assistant district attorney for Howard County, said the law is designed to improve traffic safety in school zones, but said the law will only be effective if it's adequately enforced. "People are going to talk on their cells phones while driv-

ing and most of them will be doing it (out of habit)," Orr said. "It's probably going to take a few people getting caught before this law has any real effect." Another possible problem Orr pointed out is that signs must be posted in school zones notifying drivers of the potential penalties, forcing some financially strapped

municipalities to shell out even more money. In other laws designed to increase safety on the road, the age of children required to sit in a booster seat has been increased from under five to under eight or shorter than 4 feet, 9 inches. Also, all vehicle passengers, regardless of See LAWS, Page 3A

County officials to mull tax rate

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer Falling mineral values will most likely equal higher taxes for Howard County residents this year, as commissioners prepare to tackle the issue Monday morning. With an effective tax rate — meaning the rate necessary for the county to collect the same amount in tax revenue as the previous year — of 60.8656 cents per \$100 valuation, up from last year's rate of 53.62 cents, County Judge Mark Barr said it's likely local taxpayers will see their bill go up. "The difference between last year's effective rate of 41.34 cents and this year's effective rate is the fall in mineral values," said Barr. "We lost almost 20 percent in mineral values compared to last year. We're working really hard to keep this year's rate below 60

See COUNTY, Page 3A

SANDS QUEEN



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler Sands High School homecoming queen Kim Wigington poses with escort Johnny Rogers and youngsters Peyton Nichols and Savannah Avey during ceremonies Friday night in Ackerly.

Voc Ed Big Spring EDC signs off on training grant for Howard College

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer The board of directors for the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation unanimously approved a \$220,000 grant for Howard College this week in hopes of jump-starting workforce development in the Crossroads area. The grant will provide funding for several new programs at the college, including a welding course and virtual training for students looking at a career involving the operation of heavy equipment, according to Big Spring EDC Executive Director Terry Wegman. "These first two programs represent a real step in the right direction," said Wegman. "One of the biggest problems facing our area — as well as the rest of the state — is the dropout rate, and technical and vocational training will be a big part of curbing it.

"They will offer concurrent credits, meaning high school students can receive both high school and college credit for completing them. They will also be available through continuing education and to existing employees." —Terry Wegman, BSEDC executive director



"We've been looking at getting state and federal grants for these programs for some time now, but most grants at See GRANT, Page 3A

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HOWARD COLLEGE CONSTRUCTION Work continues on a new addition for the science building on Howard College's Birdwell Lane campus. The new addition is part of \$23 million in campus renovations approved by voters two years ago. HERALD photo/Steve Reagan



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FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

Strong start Anderson leads Steers to comeback victory

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor

If there was any question who the fastest player on the field at Memorial Stadium Friday night, Big Spring Steers Monte Anderson proclaimed the answer on the second play of the third quarter.

With the Steers trailing 13-7 at halftime, Anderson broke off an 80-yard touchdown scamper, leaving the entire Snyder Tigers defense in his dust and giving

Big Spring its first lead of the game, 14-13.

The long run was the awakening the Steers needed as they never looked back in a 40-21 victory over Snyder to open the 2009 season.

Anderson finished the game with 264 yards and two touchdowns on 23 carries. He picked up 201 of those yards in the second half as halftime

See **STEERS**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring Steers running back Monte Anderson breaks a tackle during the Steers' 40-21 victory over the Snyder Tigers Friday at Memorial Stadium. Anderson finished the game with 264 yards and two touchdowns on 23 carries.



Courtesy photo/Bob Fishback

Forsan Buffaloes quarterback Foster Burchett passes under duress from an Eldorado defender during the Buffs' 20-13 loss Friday night at Buffalo Stadium.

Forsan falls to Eagles in opener

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor

FORSAN — Forsan had a heartbreaking end to its season opening football game with the Eldorado Eagles Friday.

Eldorado's Miles Mikeska returned an interception 20 yards for a touchdown with seven minutes left on the clock, putting the Eagles up, 20-13.

That lead would hold up as a miscommunication late in the game cost the Buffs a season-opening victory.

"Overall, our effort was great. We had some mistakes that kept us from winning this game by two touchdowns," said first-year Forsan Head Coach Jason Phillips. "We're a young team

and we expected to make some mistakes. We just have to learn to recover from those mistakes and make sure one doesn't turn into several. Everything that went wrong is easily fixable."

Forsan was putting together a drive with less than three minutes to play, pushing the ball to midfield. On a third and 4, sophomore quarterback Foster Burchett passed the ball, forcing Forsan into a fourth down situation. The Buffs attempted a screen pass, but were kept two yards short of the first down. Eldorado was able to run out the clock from there.

See **FORSAN**, Page 4B

Area roundup: Sands starts 2009 with 56-20 homecoming win over Hermleigh

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor

ACKERLY — Alumni of Sands High School left the Mustangs' season opener, which doubled as their homecoming celebration, happy as Sands drubbed Hermleigh, 56-20.

The Mustangs were spurred by the combination of seniors Johnny Rogers and Daniel Armendariz as the duo united to score 30 points in the second quarter alone. Sands was leading 8-6 after the first stanza, but the Mustangs' dynamic seniors vaulted them to a 38-6 advantage by halftime.

"Outside of those two guys, we're really a young team and it was really a matter of us fig-

uring out what Hermleigh was doing defensively then adjusting to it. We started sealing our blocks better and the lanes opened up for Johnny and Daniel," said Sands Head Coach Wayne Henderson. "That's going to be key for us throughout the season."

Rogers first got Sands on the board at the six minute mark in the first quarter with a 17-yard touchdown run. Armendariz started the second quarter scoring onslaught with an 11-yard scamper with 8:39 left in the half. Rogers then ran 27 yards at the 4:30 mark and passed to Adam Hernandez for a 48-yard score with 1:19 left in the second for a 30-6 advantage.

See **AREA**, Page 4B



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

Sands Mustangs running back Daniel Armendariz fights for yards in the Mustangs' 56-20 win over Hermleigh Friday in Ackerly.

CROSSROADS SCOREBOARD ZERO WEEK

Big Spring
40
Snyder
21

Van Horn
vs.
Coahoma
(Sat.)

Eldorado
20
Forsan
13

Grape Creek
25
Stanton
19

Sands
56
Hermleigh
20

Grady
46
Sanderson
0

Throckmorton
at
Garden City
(Sat.)

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Photo courtesy of Getty Images

WEIGHING IN ON WEIGHT LOSS

Finding a plan that measures up

FAMILY FEATURES

Celeste LaBonte's knee gave out one day at home. Her orthopedist told the Blackstone, Mass. mom that the knee damage was caused by her excessive weight.

Celeste found that, at 294 pounds, she had to use a seat belt extender on planes and that she had a difficult time going up stairs. But it wasn't until she learned of her husband's upcoming professional award and imagined embarrassment at the ceremony that she decided to make a big change.

Celeste isn't alone. With challenges to the body like a slowing metabolism, stress, childbearing and easy access to less than nutritional food, it's no wonder that so many women struggle with their weight.

Weight can affect your health. According to the Centers for Disease Control, being overweight increases your risk for a host of health problems, including:

- Coronary heart disease
- Type 2 diabetes
- Cancers (endometrial, breast, and colon)
- Hypertension
- Stroke
- Liver and gallbladder disease
- Sleep apnea and respiratory problems
- Osteoarthritis
- Gynecological problems (abnormal menses, infertility)

The Search for a Solution

Millions of dollars are spent each year on diet programs, yet up to 95 percent of dieters fail to maintain weight loss. There is often an initial loss of weight, but then many people hit a plateau and stop losing weight. Another problem with many diets is that people just can't maintain a diet long-term.

But many of those programs are based on a flawed premise: if you simply eat less and move more, then you'll be smaller. There's more to it than that.

Metabolism Matters

When calories are restricted, your metabolism drops. When this happens, you hit a plateau and the pounds stop coming off. In order to break through that plateau, most diets call for a further reduction in calories. This lowers the metabolism more, requiring a lifetime of low-calorie dieting to maintain your goal weight.



Celeste LaBonte

Celeste joined Curves, a fitness franchise designed for women. She signed up for their free weight management plan, which takes metabolism changes into account. She's lost over 60 pounds so far.

"The Curves plan has changed how I think about food," said Celeste. "It helped me jump-start my weight loss, and I've been following the essentials of the plan ever since." She also found that the program, combined with 30 minutes of exercise three times a week, improved her cholesterol, blood pressure, acid reflux and knee pain.

The Real Key to Weight Loss

"The secret is not willpower or self discipline," says Nadia Rodman, senior dietician for Curves, "but rather a proper understanding of how we can change our behavior, or, more specifically, our habits."

Rodman believes that women can take charge of their health and combat the effects of aging and disease. "We're about fitness, health, and moving away from disease," she says. "We're about losing weight and gaining strength. In a community of support and encouragement, you can reach your goals."

Celeste has a new vision of herself. "I'd always be looking around, asking myself, 'Am I the fattest person in the room?'" This has changed the way I view myself. I've always been happy, but now it's about having fun, not making fun of myself."

For more about the free Curves Weight Management Plan, visit your local Curves or curves.com.



Nadia Rodman, senior dietician for Curves International

Picking a Plan

According to the Weight-Control Information Network, safe and effective weight-loss programs should include:

- Healthy eating plans that reduce calories but do not forbid specific foods or food groups.
- Tips to increase moderate-intensity physical activity.
- Tips on healthy habits that also keep your needs in mind, such as lower-fat versions of your favorite foods.
- Slow and steady weight loss. Depending on your starting weight, experts recommend losing weight at a rate of 1/2 to 2 pounds per week. Weight loss may be faster at the start of a program.
- A plan to keep the weight off after you have lost it.

Plan the Solution

From the book "Curves Fitness and Weight Management Plan":

Setting goals is a must. Your goals must be specific, written, exciting and achievable. Begin by asking yourself these questions:

- What personal strengths will help you succeed?
- What are your triggers for making poor food choices?
- How can you manage those triggers more effectively?
- What time of day will you take a 30-minute walk?
- What are your biggest fears about starting a new plan?
- How can you proactively address those fears?

How One Plan Works

The Curves Weight Management Plan is a cycle made up of three phases.

- Phases 1 and 2 are weight loss phases that you use for a combined 30 days.
- Phase 3 is two to four weeks of metabolic recovery.

Research has shown that by following a strength training program, such as the one offered by Curves, and eating a higher protein diet, metabolism is not significantly decreased. Sometimes, it actually increases — making it easier to burn fat and maintain permanent weight loss.

For more about the free weight management classes — available to non-members as well as members — visit your local Curves or curves.com.

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STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

adjustments made on both sides of the ball allowed Big Spring to overcome the halftime deficit.

"The big thing for me in the second half was having the offensive line step up like it did," said Anderson. "In the first half, those guys seemed a little tense. They were all making their first varsity starts at their positions. They really picked it up in the second half and gave me some great blocking. This is the type of game I expect to have all season with them blocking like that. You should expect to see this several more times this season."

Steers Head Coach Phillip Ritchey echoed Anderson's statements about the offensive line.

"Monte simply had the performance that we know he's capable of," said Ritchey. "What most impressed me was our offensive line. They were absolutely dominant in the second half. It was great seeing them come out and gel the way they did."

"Our defense made some great adjustments in the second half," he added. "Our defensive line dominated the line of scrimmage. Derrick

Anderson had a great game at defensive end as did several other defenders. Our secondary stepped up big in the second half, too."

Snyder appeared to catch Big Spring off guard in the first quarter as they came out in a spread formation, opposed to the power-run scheme expected from the Tigers. With sophomore quarterback Keenon Ward at the helm of the offense, the Tigers used misdirection and play-action passes to pick up two quick scores on the Steers.

Snyder's first touchdown came on an end around pass as Ward handed off to slot receiver Nick Zajicek, who is also listed on the roster as a quarterback. Zajicek found Shade Roemisch all alone 30 yards down the field, leading to an easy 69-yard touchdown and a 6-0 lead after the failed two-point attempt.

Snyder's scheme continued to plague Big Spring's defense on the Tigers' second drive as well. The Tigers used eight plays to go 91 yards down the field for a touchdown. Snyder converted third downs of 12 and 17 yards during the drive as three long passes of 30, 42 and 22 yards set up a 6-yard touchdown run by Kydrick Reed.

Trailing 13-0, the Steers finally got on the board with 3:15 to play in the first half, converting on fourth and

long for the score. With 15 yards needed for a first down at the Snyder 25, Big Spring opted to just score instead as quarterback Tyler Tannehill found Xavian Parnell at the 10. Parnell then broke two tackles and found his way into the end zone, making the score 13-7.

Ritchey felt fortunate that tally held until halftime.

"To say we got off to a slow start is an understatement," said Ritchey. "We seemed a bit overwhelmed. Snyder did some things we weren't expecting. They did some stunts on defense that caught our offensive line off guard. We had never seen that quarterback before and our defense wasn't ready for him. Once we got adjusted, then we were fine. Give a lot of credit to Snyder. They came out and executed a good game plan at the start of the game."

Following Anderson's 80-yard jaunt to start the second half, the Steers began moving down the field on their next drive as well, but stalled out at the 13-yard line. Big Spring set up to attempt a field goal, but a botched snap forced holder Martin Yanez to roll out to his left and lob a pass to Devante Lloyd who secured it for a touchdown and a 21-13 Big Spring lead.

Yanez, who starts on offense and defense and plays on every Steers special teams unit, didn't forecast a touchdown pass as one of the ways he would contribute to Friday's win.

"That was the last thing I expected to have," said the Big Spring senior. "I think that was the first pass I have thrown in a game since the fourth grade. I just tried to lob it up there so Devante could make a play on it."

The first play of the fourth quarter was another Big Spring touchdown as Matt Ritchey lined up under center and snuck into the end zone. It was the third straight quarterback sneak the Steers ran with Ritchey under center with the first coming from the 8-yard line.

Following the kickoff that was returned by Roemisch to midfield, Ritchey picked up his second touchdown in as many plays. The Steers defensive line swarmed Snyder's Ward in the backfield and Derrick Anderson knocked the ball out of his hands. Ritchey scooped it and ran it back 41 yards for a touchdown, placing the Steers ahead 34-13 with 11:30 to play in the fourth.

Snyder added a score with 8:48 to

play on a 23-yard pass from Ward to Anthony Taylor. However, Big Spring immediately answered with an eight-play, 73-yard drive that was capped by a 17-yard touchdown run by Anderson with 4:10 left.

An interception by Big Spring linebacker Dayvion Young sealed the victory for the Steers.

"Starting off the season with a win is always big," said Ritchey. "It's a good beginning for us and we'll just try to keep it up."

The Steers host the Denison Yellow Jackets at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Memorial Stadium. Last season, the Yellow Jackets stole a win from Big Spring's grasps as running back D.J. Jones scored from 56 yards out with 19 seconds left for a 44-37 final.

Denison (1-0) destroyed Little Elm in its opener, 57-16.

Big Spring 40, Snyder 21	
Snyder	13 0 0 8-21
Big Spring	0 7 14 19-40
First quarter	
Sny - Shade Roemisch 69 pass from Nick Zajicek (run failed), 11:15	
Sny - Kydrick Reed 6 run (Jose Ramirez kick), 5:12	
Second quarter	
BS - Xavian Parnell 25 pass from Tyler Tannehill (Tannehill kick), 3:15	
Third quarter	
BS - Monte Anderson 80 run (Tannehill kick), 11:17	
BS - Devante Lloyd 13 pass from Martin Yanez (Tannehill kick), 5:51	
Fourth quarter	
BS - Matt Ritchey 1 run, (Tannehill kick), 11:57	
BS - Ritchey 41 fumble return (kick failed), 11:30	
Sny - Anthony Taylor 23 pass from Keenon Ward (Jimmy Holt recovers blocked kick in end zone), 8:48	
BS - Anderson 17 run (kick failed), 4:38	

	Sny	BS
First downs	17	19
Total yards	359	383
Rushes-Yards	32-62	37-264
Passing yards	297	119
Comp.-Att.-Int.	15-25-1	9-17-0
Punts-Avg.	1-33.0	3-40.0
Fumbles-lost	2-2	3-0
Penalties-Yards	7-50	4-20
Third down conv.	6/11	3/9
Time of poss.	23:05	24:55

Individual stats
Rushing: Snyder - Keenon Ward 16-28, Kelton Garcia 10-23, Kydrick Reed 1-6, Shade Roemisch 1-5, Nick Zajicek 4-0; Big Spring - Monte Anderson 23-264, Matt Ritchey 4-11, Pete Chavarria 1-7, Martin Yanez 1-6, Jake Hernandez 1-6, Michael Felton 1-1, Tyler Tannehill 6-(-31).
Passing: Snyder - Ward 13-23-1 214, Zajicek 2-2-0 83; Big Spring - Tannehill 8-16-0 106, Yanez 1-1-0 13.
Receiving: Snyder - Roemisch 3-100, Anthony Taylor 4-94, Garcia 3-58, Dakota Carroll 3-40, Zajicek 1-4, Brandon Davis 1-1; Big Spring - Xavian Parnell 2-47, Tevian Parnell 2-34, Devante Lloyd 1-13, Ritchey 1-8.



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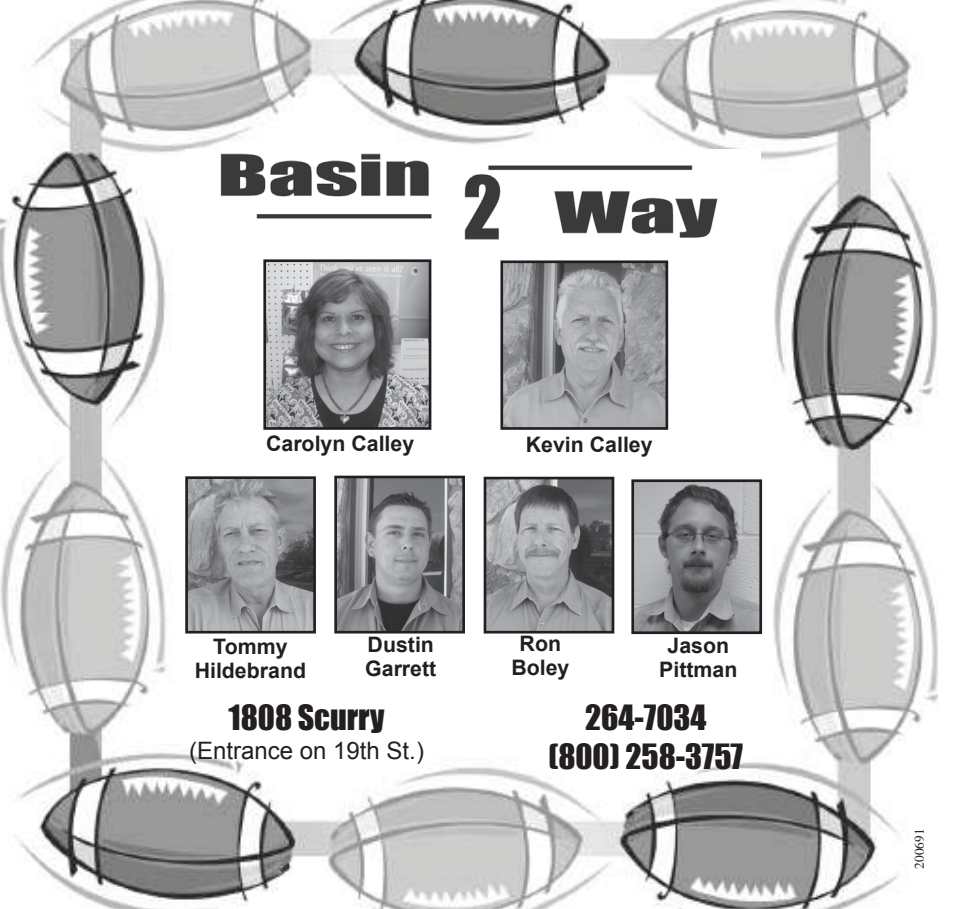
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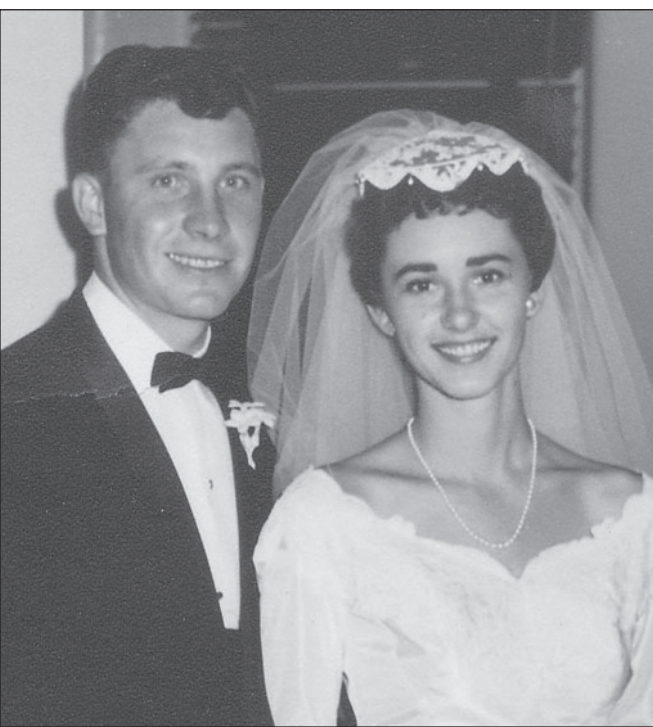
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► Anniversary



Wayne and Londa Henry
50th anniversary
Sept. 5, 2009

Wayne and Londa Henry will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009, with an intimate dinner hosted in their honor by their children at the home of Ricky and Jeffie Phinney. On Sunday, Sept. 6, there will be a reception in the parlor of First Baptist Church, Big Spring from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.. Everyone is invited.

They met in Lubbock while both were students at Texas Tech University and were married Sept. 5, 1959, at First Baptist Church in Big Spring. The Henrys are blessed with three wonderful children: Shawna Ashlock and husband Larry, Greg Henry and wife Lori and Kurt Henry and wife Amy, along with five terrific grandchildren, Lauren Ashlock



Barksdale and husband Ben, Aaron Ashlock, Heston Henry, Holland Henry, and Kord Henry with one fabulous great-grandchild, Evie Barksdale.

They spent the early years of their marriage in Big Spring while the children were growing up and then moved away to follow career opportunities. Londa and Wayne recently moved back to Big Spring after being gone for almost 20 years to be near her mother, Evlyn Coker.

Wayne worked in oilfield sales, had an insurance agency and later several steakhouses throughout Texas. He now splits his time between Big Spring and the family ranch in Shamrock where he raises Red Angus cattle and Boer goats. Londa continues her quest in making the world a prettier place as a beauty consultant for Mary Kay Cosmetics. Both agree the joy of family and faith in the Lord has sustained them throughout their marriage.

MENUS

Sept. 1-4

Senior Center

Tuesday: Barbecue chicken, potato salad, mixed vegetables, fruit, cornbread, milk.

Wednesday: Hamburger on a bun, lettuce, tomatoes, onion, baked tater tots, sugar cookies, milk.

Thursday: Chicken fajuitas, Spanish rice, lettuce, tomatoes, picante sauce, cheese, mixed fruit cup, milk.

Friday: Chopped steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, tossed salad, dressing, peaches, biscuit, milk.

Big Spring ISD

Tuesday: Breakfast- Sausage patty, biscuits, fruit cup, milk; Lunch- Sweet and sour chicken, rice, broccoli, mandarin oranges, rolls, margarine PCs, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast- Breakfast pizza, fruit juice, milk; Lunch: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, sliced apples, rolls, margarine PCs, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast- PBJ uncrustable, fruit cup, milk; Lunch: Chicken fajitas, tortilla, ranch beans, Spanish rice, salsa, apricot cobbler, milk.

Friday: Breakfast- Honey bun, fruit juice, milk; Lunch: Hamburger on bun, french fries, lettuce, tomato, applesauce, banana, milk.

Coahoma ISD

Tuesday: Breakfast- Pancakes, sausage, syrup, orange juice, milk; Lunch- Pizza, salad, oranges, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast- Pop Tarts, ham, apple juice, milk; Lunch- Tacos, salad, ranch beans, fruit cup, milk, corn dog.

Thursday: Breakfast- Biscuits, gravy, sausage, jelly, grape juice, milk; Lunch- McRibs, potato salad, strawberries, sliced bread, milk, Sloppy Joe.

Friday: Breakfast- Oatmeal, sausage, orange juice, milk; Lunch- Hamburgers, salad trays, chips, apple slices, milk.

Surrounded by volunteers all day long

I am surrounded by volunteers all day long — they

dance circles around my efforts day-in and day-out. One who is

particularly exhausting to watch is Doris Smith. Sometimes I

think about what she does every day and I become overwhelmed. And her jobs are instruments to the operations of our biggest source of income — The Chalet Resale Shop. She sorts, prices and rearranges the blouses at the shop, travels with her sister to Fort Worth securing clothes racks to use in The Chalet upon her return. Also, when she finds donated items that can grab a higher price in the Metroplex, she takes them to her daughter's resale shop to sell and the money generated is forwarded to the Volunteer Services Council. Doris also includes her sister Neva on many of her ventures and she has proven to be a great hand as well. It's no surprise that Doris was named our July Volunteer of the Month. We name a volunteer each month who is worthy of the award.

The Chalet volunteers closed for a few days last month when street

construction prevented many shoppers from reaching The Chalet's front doors. Although the store was "closed" per se, they continued plugging along keeping busy painting, cleaning, sorting, pricing, and restocking. Sometimes I think they forget they are volunteering and that it's not a 9 to 5 job. This group of volunteers epitomizes what giving is all about.

The Nursing Scholarship Committee reviewed applications for Nursing Scholarships the first of the month. The committee members awarded eight scholarships to qualifying applicants. This year turned out to be one of the best for number of applications received for review.

The Cars and Stars Committee members were the "stars" at a "thank you" celebration held Aug. 25. It was a time for this commit-

ted group of volunteers to sit back and enjoy an evening of fun and relaxation before time to prepare for next year's Fourth Annual Cars, Stars, Handlebars and what else? Yes, rumor has it there may be an additional recreational vehicle added to the line-up from which patrons can choose.

This event grows with excitement each year. Give me a call if you would like to be a part of next year's Cars and Stars.

Believe it or not, volunteers are busy mailing out Christmas appeal letters and preparing Christmas shopping lists. When you prepare Christmas for 200 people and organize and host numerous activities you never can start too early. We also are excited that Shelley Parker will be coming on board as Co-Chair of the Christmas committee.

The Volunteer Services Executive Committee is busy with budget preparation and getting ready to kick off their new year Sept. 1. VSC Board members need to mark their calendars

See BSSH, Page 3C



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LAWS

Continued from Page 1A

age or where they are seated, will be required to wear seat belts.

Laws pertaining to drunk drivers also were tightened to allow law enforcement officials more freedom to obtain breath or blood samples, Orr said. In drunk driving cases involving child passengers, collisions resulting in bodily injury or drivers with previous DWI convictions, officers can now obtain blood or breath samples without first obtaining an evidentiary search warrant.

Other notable changes in criminal law include:

- Continuous violence against families is a third degree felony, punishable by up to 10 years in state prison.
- The punishment for online harassment has

increased from a Class A misdemeanor (up to a year in county jail) to a third degree felony.

- Acquiring cell phones for prisoners in a correctional facility is a third degree felony.
- Firearm smuggling, now a third degree felony, can be enhanced to a second degree felony if the offender is caught with more than three firearms.
- Concealed handgun license holders will no longer face license suspension for refusing to display it to peace officers on demand.
- Carrying a concealed handgun into a bar will still be a Class A misdemeanor, but it's defensible if the business does not clearly state that 51 percent or more of its income is from the sale of alcoholic beverages.
- Non-criminal law changes of note include:
 - Teenagers trying to get their first driver's license

will have to get 34 hours of behind-the-wheel driving instruction. And they'll have to take a driving skills test in addition to the written test.

- Smokeless tobacco users will pay a higher tax.
- A proper method for folding the state flag becomes law.
- High school students are being given more freedom to pursue the elective courses of their choice on the recommended graduation plan. Some districts have delayed implementation of the plan.
- Defaulting on a student loan will no longer disqualify an applicant for a concealed handgun license.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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

Take Note

- DAV Chapter 47 will sponsor the third annual 9/11 Memorial at the Mall at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11 in front of the yellow ribbons at the Big Spring Mall. For more information, call Mike Tarpley, DAV junior vice commander at (432) 556-2227.

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

TUESDAY

- Coahoma Senior Citizen luncheon is set for 11 a.m. in the Coahoma Community Center.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.
- VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.
- Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.
- The Howard County Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. at the Sheriff's Posse building on the Andrews Highway. For more information, call Bert Sheppard at 263-4483 or Rose Armstead at 263-2769.

GRANT

Continued from Page 1A

that level have to come with guaranteed jobs, something that's pretty rare right now with the economy the way it is. However, if we can get the ball rolling and have something to show for it when we apply for these grants, we have a much better chance of getting them."

Wegman said the welding and virtual heavy equipment training — which is centered around Caterpillar-made equipment — will be offered during the college's fall semester this year at a roll-out cost of approximately \$157,000.

"These programs are

available to a rather wide range of students," said Wegman. "They will offer concurrent credits, meaning high school students can receive both high school and college credit for completing them. They will also be available through continuing education and to existing employees."

Wegman said funding will also allow for two more programs during the spring and fall semesters next year.

"During the spring semester the college will begin its hydraulics program, and then, during the fall 2010 semester, they will begin their electrical program," said Wegman. "Both of those programs will cost about \$65,000 to get

off the ground." Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said support from Big Spring EDC and the new programs are all vital to addressing the vocational and technical needs of Big Spring's youth and workforce.

"After extensive discussions with involved parties, decisions have been made — and continue to be made — regarding the next logical step to address basic skill sets needed by local business and industry," said Sparks. "While Howard College has had a strong presence in the business and health industries components of workforce development, our presence in the industrial and technical fields has been sporadic

and limited through the years.

"Full-fledged programs that are costly and fluctuate in demand do not seem reasonable to pursue at this time. However, the establishment of skill sets through dual credit and short-term training as a part of a broad industrial production technology program that supports our existing business and industry appears to be the right answer for this area, and it could attract new companies to the area."

Sparks said the college and Big Spring EDC are taking a broad approach to the idea of technical and vocational training in hopes of not oversaturating the local workforce with more special-

ized training.

"The skill sets proposed in this project cross-over in numerous industrial fields, making them more attractive and viable to our area," said Sparks. "Skill sets such as these that have broad application across numerous occupations and can sustain enrollment over time without saturating one particular job market."

Wegman said he and other supporters of the effort know these new curriculums aren't necessarily fix-alls for the local dropout rate, but said it's certainly moving things in the right direction.

"We're very excited about this," he said. "We know this isn't

something we can fix overnight, but we're certainly taking a stab at it."

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

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

cents, but unless their property value declined since last year, they will likely see their taxes go up."

Barr said the court should be able to avoid going above the rollback rate of 62.7323 cents per \$100 valuation this year, a mark commissioners exceeded by nearly a nickel last year due to tax revenues tied up in litigation with one of the county's biggest taxpayers, Alon USA.

And while there are no such shortfalls being projected for the 2009-2010 season, Barr said it's important for the court to look ahead when setting the tax rate.

"We have to look further ahead

than just the coming year when we set the tax rate," he said. "We have to be prepared for trouble in future years, and the tax rate can play a very large role in that."

As for the county's 2009-2010 fiscal plan, Barr said the budget work sessions the court has been holding during the past several months are coming to a close.

"It's pretty much cut and dried at this point," said Barr. "We'll go over the budget some more Monday, but we have a pretty good idea where we stand at this point."

According to County Auditor Jackie Olson, the court will have to make some key decisions on the tax rate during Monday's meeting, but a final vote on the matter won't be held until the last meeting in September.

"There's a lot of work that has to be done before the rate is actually set, so we'll need the commissioners to decide whether they are going to stay below the effective rate Monday," said Olson. "They won't be able to actually set the rate, but we have to know what direction they are going to take."

The meeting will get under way at 10 a.m. in the commissioner's courtroom, located on the second floor of the county courthouse. For more information, contact the County Judge's Office at 264-2202.

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

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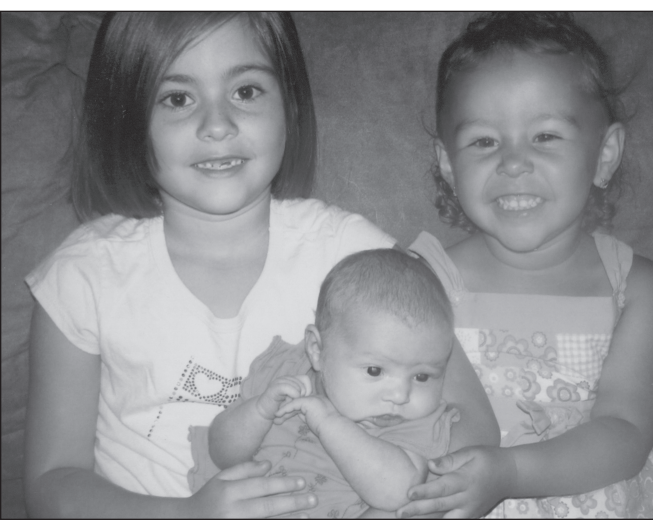
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Travone Hughes

Kejuan Hughes and Brittney Randle of Big Spring announce the birth of their son, Travone Hughes, at 12:56 p.m. Aug. 19, 2009, weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces and 20-1/4 inches in length.

Grandparents are Angela K. and Anthony E. Randle of Big Spring and Ladonna Billingsley of Tulsa, Okla.



Emily Rose Hallford

Cecilia and Billy Wayne Hallford announce the birth of their daughter, Emily Rose Hallford, born at 3:15 p.m. July 17, 2009, weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces and 19 inches long.

She is the granddaughter of Manuela Galindo of Big Spring and the late Felipe Galinda and Sandra and Billy Hallford of Big Spring.

She was welcomed home by siblings Destiny and Amber.



Allie Elyse Hipp

Riley and April Hipp of Grand Prairie announce the birth of their daughter, Allie Elyse Hipp, born at 5:51 p.m. July 30, 2009, weighing

8 pounds, 9 ounces and 21.5 inches long.

She is the granddaughter of Barbara Hipp and Gary Hipp, both of Coahoma, and Todd and Jamie Evans of Cleburne. Her great-grandparents are Bill and Darlene Hipp of Big Spring and Annie Ward of Coahoma.

She was welcomed home by sibling Ashlyn.

Dear Margo

Dear Margo: I am the wicked stepmother. I am a lying, thieving, money-hungry tramp who finds no greater joy than that which comes from destroying another couple's loving, stable marriage. Or so the child has been convinced by her mother. She is 8 years old and loathes me. Her weekends with us are tense and awkward as I try desperately to make light conversation and am met with cold stares and one-word responses. My husband is angrily instructing me to be more "fun" for the girl. While I have never felt that an adult's responsibility is to provide entertainment for children, I need to do something to build a relationship with my stepdaughter. I am by nature a shy and quiet person. The more my husband urges me to become a comedian, the more terrified I become around his daughter because I feel pressured to perform. What can I do to be more "fun"? — Just a Normal, Nice Person

Dear Just: An 8-year-old who has been primed to think you are awful is not looking for "fun." Your husband needs to see the total picture for what it is, and for this, you and he may need a few sessions with a professional. Since you can't inform the little girl that her mother is bitter and troublemaking, your best bet is to stop trying so hard, be yourself and warm her up gradually with kindness and thoughtfulness. Kids are intuitive. With time, I think she will see you for who you are. A great mistake stepparents make is to try to move in on a child too quickly, and it is this I suspect your husband doesn't understand. — Margo, relatively

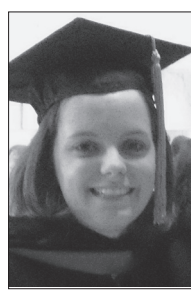
BSSH

Continued from Page 2C

Billie Christie is Director of Community Relations for Big Spring State Hospital.

Joy Clark receives doctorate

Joy Humphreys Clark, daughter of Dale and Beverly Humphreys of Big Spring, received her doctorate of philosophy in clinical psychology in ceremonies at Texas Tech University Saturday, Aug. 8. Dr. Clark is a 1999 graduate of Forsan High School. She received a bachelor of arts in psychology in 2003 and master of arts in psychology in 2005 from Texas Tech University. She is currently working as a postdoctoral fellow in clinical neuropsychology at the Mississippi Methodist Rehabilitation Center in Jackson, Miss. Dr. Clark and her husband Jeb reside in Jackson, Miss.




Military

Navy Seaman Recruit Julio C. Diaz, son of Irma G. and Francisco S. Diaz of Westbrook, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.


During the eight-week program, Diaz completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event

of boot camp is "Battle Stations." This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Its distinctly "Navy" flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a Sailor. Diaz is a 2009 graduate of Westbrook High School.



September Employees
of the Month
Sylvia Trevino
&
Bertha Balcazar




Bertha Balcazar

Sylvia Trevino

Parkview Nursing and Rehab would like to congratulate Bertha Balcazar and Sylvia Trevino for earning Employee of the Month. Bertha has been with us since October 2007 and Sylvia has been with us since January 2009. They both do a wonderful job in our Laundry Department. The residents, families and employees of Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation appreciate all that ya'll do!

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

Rollback petition effort expected, but think twice

You almost knew it had to come — opposition to the proposed 2009-2010 Big Spring city tax rate. And anyone expecting that some way of avoiding at least an attempt to conduct a rollback election had to have been dreaming.

So, it shouldn't have come as any real surprise Thursday when the Concerned Citizens Council of Big Spring and Howard County announced it will conduct a rollback petition.

Several weeks ago, by a 6-1 vote, the council gave the OK to a tax rate of \$1.0132 per \$100 valuation. The effective tax rate — the tax rate necessary to collect the same amount in taxes as the previous year — is set at 95.0783 cents per \$100 valuation, with the rollback rate set at 97.9398 cents per \$100 valuation.

City Finance Director Peggy Walker said the proposed tax rate will generate approximately \$230,000 in additional funding, all of which the council plans to use on a new municipal swimming pool.

Concerned Citizens Council Chairman Shannon Thomason said his organization plans to pursue a rollback election if the council agrees to adopt the \$1.0132 tax rate.

"While our members are split on whether or not they believe the city needs a new \$4.2 million pool or water park, we all agree an expenditure of this magnitude should be voted on by the citizens of Big Spring as a general obligation bond," said Thomason. "The city is currently planning to finance the project through certificates of obligation bonds, which are not voted on by the citizens."

If a rollback election were successful, the city would be forced to adopt the effective rate, which would cause a budgetary shortfall of nearly \$250,000 when compared to the proposed budget.

Mayor Russ McEwen said he's unsure if the threat of the petition will spur the council to reconsider the proposed rate, but to our way of thinking, the council considered that in the first place.

If enough people sign a petition for a rollback election, so be it.

McEwen was correct when he said the Concerned Citizens Council is well within its rights under the law, but we can't help but agree with him, and the other five council members who voted in agreement, that keeping the tax rate the same as it was last year and trying to do some good for the citizens of Big Spring is worthwhile.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Perfect harmony comes from knowing You,
Lord.

Amen

Kennedy lived his promise

With the passing of Sen. Edward Kennedy last week, I couldn't help but be reminded of a Biblical verse. Luke 12:48 of the American Standard Version of the Bible tells us "And to whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required: and to whom they commit much, of him they will ask the more."

There's not much question in this corner that Ted Kennedy was given much in life, much was expected of him, and he delivered in spades.

Now, I'm anything but a Kennedy Democrat ... after all, them's fightin' words down here in Texas, especially in West Texas ... but I have for quite some time been somewhat awed by Ted Kennedy.

And there was plenty to awe. He spent 47 years in the United States Senate; authored more than 2,500 pieces of legislation, of which more than 300 became federal law — more than 550, if you count those he co-sponsored; became patriarch of perhaps the most powerful political family of our time; and, despite his flaws, was admired both personally and professionally by those on both aisles in the Senate.

Sen. John McCain's statement upon learning of Kennedy's death was:

"My friend, Ted Kennedy, was famous before he was accomplished. But by the end of his life he had become irreplaceable in the institution he loved and in the affections of its members. He

grew up in the long shadow of his brothers, but found a way to be useful to his country in ways that will outlast their accomplishments.

"Many of his fellow senators, Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, will note today that Ted was sincerely intent on finding enough common ground among us to make progress on the issues of our day, and toward that end he would work as hard and as modestly as any staffer. Many will recall his convivial nature, his humor, his thoughtfulness. We will praise as his greatest strength the integrity of his word. When he made a promise to you, he kept it, no matter what.

"What is harder for us to express is the emptiness we will feel in the Senate in his absence. Even when we are all crowded in the chamber for a vote, engaged in dozens of separate conversations, it will seem a quiet and less interesting place, in the knowledge that his booming voice, fueled by his passion for his convictions, will never encourage or assail or impress us again.

"I will miss him very much."

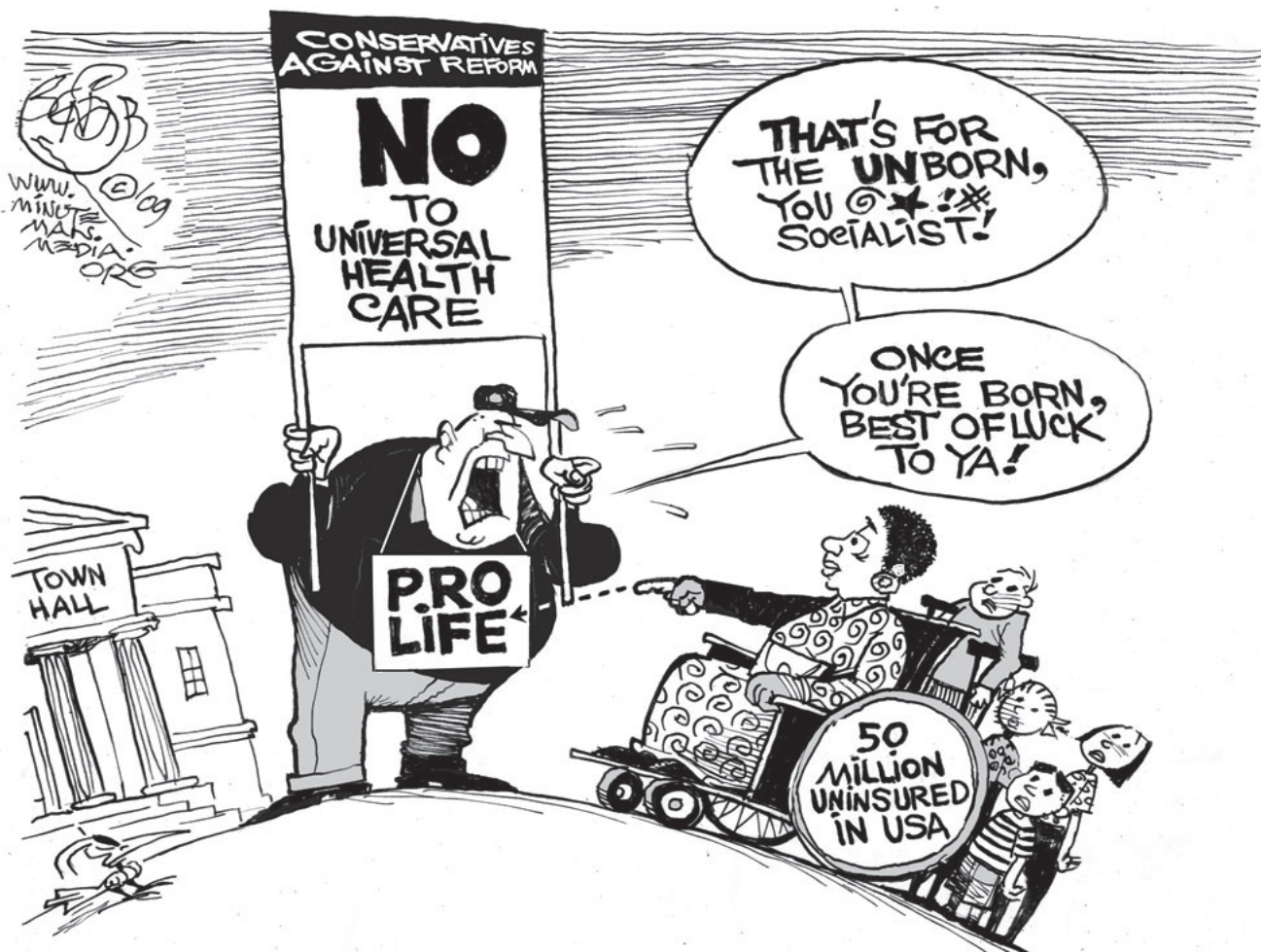
What a tribute, and from a political foe!

Sen. Chris Dodd, now the ranking Democrat in the Senate, said he wasn't sure if America had ever had a greater Senator, "but I know for certain that no one has had a greater friend than I and so many others did in Ted Kennedy.

"I will always remember Teddy as the ultimate example for all of us who seek to serve, a hero for those Americans in the shadow of life who so desperately needed one."



JOHN A. MOSELEY



YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

Thomas Jenkins' column in Thursday's Big Spring Herald was great. I appreciated his comments on cell phones.

I went to the town hall meeting this week and voiced my disappointment that the legislature had failed to pass a law enforcing responsible use of cell phones while driving and eliminating texting by anyone operating a motor vehicle. A recent study has said that driving while texting is the equivalent of driving drunk.

I expressed my hope for a ban on using hand-held communication devices while driving, with exceptions allowed for police and other emergency personnel.

Sen. Seliger said he felt that such a ban would not solve the problem, that all conversation on cell phones while driving was distracting. His response ignored the fact that banning hand-held devices would make texting while driving unlawful.

Eight bills addressing the problem were filed in the last legislative session. Some were heard by the House Committee on Transportation, but none ever made it to the full House of Representatives or Senate for a vote.

Sen. Seliger also said that cell phone companies were much opposed to any phone restrictions.

This raised a disturbing thought: Surely our legislators would not be more concerned with the interests of cell phone companies than they are with the safety of their constituents.

We can only hope!

JEAN WARREN
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I am concerned about the future of our city. I am afraid we are going to spend ourselves into bankruptcy.

I believe a new (nice) pool is an absolute necessity. I just don't want to go farther into debt to buy it. Lets use funds on hand or available to get it. Let's use the Big Spring Development Board funds.

The soon to be proposed tax increase is completely unacceptable. I will support any roll back effort if it is indeed proposed.

One last thought — let's not forget our crumbling high school is in need of very expensive repairs or replacement.

MARCELLOUS (BOOSIE) WEAVER
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a resident of Big Spring, but I attend school at Wayland

Dodd continued, "He worked tirelessly to lift Americans out of poverty, advance the cause of civil rights, and provide opportunity to all. He fought to the very end for the cause of his life — ensuring that all Americans have the health care they need.

"The commitment to build a stronger and fairer America, a more perfect union, was deeply ingrained in the fiber of who he was, and what he believed in, and why he served.

"That's why he stands among the most respected Senators in history. But it was his sympathetic ear, his razor wit and his booming, raucous laugh that made him among the most beloved.

"Whatever tragedy befell Teddy's family, he would always be there for them. Whatever tragedy befell the family of one of his friends, he would always be there for us.

"I will miss him every day I serve, and every day I live."

In the end, I can't help but remember Kennedy's concession speech following his unsuccessful challenge of President Jimmy Carter for the Democratic presidential nomination.

I'd voted for Carter, never even considered voting for Kennedy.

His closing remarks of that speech were, "For all those whose cares have been our concern, the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives and the dream shall never die."

Why do those words come to mind today?

Because he lived them to the very end.

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

Baptist University in Plainview. I am writing this letter in regard to what I have experienced in the past month.

About a month ago, I saw an ad in the paper for puppies at the Animal Control Shelter. I went and visited and was horrified at the conditions that the dogs were in. There were messes there that had been left unattended for quite some time.

I ended up leaving with a miniature dachshund puppy. I had him for a month until I had to return to school. But for the first few days I was gone, my dog had gotten extremely ill.

My parents notified the veterinarian. He said the dog was experiencing symptoms of parvovirus. Parvo is a disease that puppies can contract when they are in very poor situations. The symptoms usually start showing after a month of the puppy being infected.

I know that the Big Spring Animal Control shelter is doing its part in saving abused and neglected animals, but the conditions can certainly be improved. My puppy died because of this disease we believe he contracted while he was at the pound.

I am not trying to place blame

See LETTERS, Page 5A

FORSAN

Continued from Page 1B

"We had just a little miscommunication on that last drive. It's not Foster's fault in any way," said Phillips. "The same things weren't being communicated from the sideline. We wanted him to run the same play we just ran, but he thought we said to spike the ball. Things like that will happen with a young team. We just have to roll with it. Again, everything we saw is very fixable. We're encouraged by this group's performance." Eldorado struck first as quarter-

back Lux Garrett scored from four yards out with 3:45 to play in the opening quarter. Burchett snuck into the end zone midway through the second stanza to tie the game at 7-7. That score held up until halftime. The two teams traded touchdowns again in the third with Eldorado striking at the 10:59 mark with a 48-yard run from tailback Wes Brown. Ryan Flores tied it at 13 with 5:18 to play in the third, courtesy of a 2-yard dive. Unfortunately, the tight game only set the stage for Eldorado's Mikeska to make the big defensive play. Regardless of the loss, Phillips feels his team is ready to compete on the

road with Coahoma at 7:30 p.m. Friday. "The kids' spirits are really good. They're not down about the loss much," he said. "We have to attack practice this week and work on fine tuning some of the mistakes we made. If we can fix those little things, then I think we'll be ready to give Coahoma a run for its money."

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Eldorado 20, Forsan 13. Includes quarter-by-quarter breakdown.

Table with 2 columns: Team, Stat. Individual stats for EHS and FHS including Rushing, Passing, Receiving.

AREA

Continued from Page 1B

Armendariz capped the big second stanza by picking off a pass in the end zone and returning it 82 yards for a touchdown. Armendariz kicked off his senior season with a bang, gaining 70 yards rushing and two touchdowns on 11 carries. He also led Sands with 17 tackles on defense. Rogers finished with 173 rushing yards and two touchdowns on 15 carries, while throwing for another 105 yards and a score. Hernandez caught three balls — two for touchdowns — for 32 yards. Sands travels to Wilson for a game at 7:30 p.m. Friday. Wilson (1-0) defeated Lubbock Home School 57-22 in its season opener.

Table with 2 columns: Team, Stat. Hermleigh vs Sands. Includes Rushes-Yards, Passing yards, Fumbles-Lost.

Table with 2 columns: Team, Stat. Punt, Penalties. Grady 46, Sanderson 0.

Grady 46, Sanderson 0. LENORAH — Grady's struggles on the gridiron from 2008 appear to be well in the past as the Wildcats opened the 2009 season with an easy 46-0 victory over Sanderson. Senior quarterback Dylan Cox threw for 146 yards and four touchdowns — two each to Jacob Rodriguez and Tyler Mathews — as Grady showed it can compliment Cox with a proficient ground game. Junior John Ramirez ran for 74 yards on 10 carries. As a team, the Wildcats had 119 yards on the ground. Ramirez had the contest's final score with a 16-yard jaunt at the 4:19 mark. Anibal Medina brought the game to a close via the 45-point mercy rule by hitting the 2-point PAT. Grady (1-0) plays at Meadow at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Grape Creek 25, Stanton 19. STANTON — Special teams is the most overlooked facet of football, but it haunted the Stanton Buffaloes Friday night. Stanton had just tied the game via a 43-yard field goal by Thomas Ramos with 18 seconds left to play when Kelton Gauwain returned the ensuing kickoff 85 yards for the winning score with three seconds on the clock. Stanton's junior quarterback, Tyler

Fulton, shined in the 25-19 loss, rushing for 110 yards and a touchdown, while passing for another 74 and a score. Thomas Ramos caught Fulton's touchdown pass from 37 yards out and hit two field goals at 27 and 43 yards, respectively. The Buffs (0-1) return to action at 7:30 p.m. Friday when they play host to Reagan County.

Table with 2 columns: Team, Stat. Grape Creek 25, Stanton 19. Includes Rushes-Yards, Passing yards, Fumbles-Lost.

BOARD

Continued from Page 3B

screen within a punter's reach. "We will continue to address the particular circumstances in Dallas,

giving full consideration to the competitive, safety and fan experience issues involved," Goodell said in a statement. "The Cowboys have been fully cooperative as we have addressed this subject, and we will continue to work closely with the club on a longer term resolution."

Midwest Finance & Income Tax Service advertisement. Features a woman in a chef's hat, photos of Cathy and Lisa, and text: "SHORT ON CASH! We Have you Covered Labor Day Loan Specials \$100 - \$1,000".

Large advertisement for Bob Brock Ford Lincoln Mercury Nissan. Headline: "HELLO HOWARD COUNTY!!! BIG TIME BACK TO SCHOOL SAVINGS!!! STOP AND SEE OUR SELECTION!! IF WE DO NOT HAVE IT, ASK IF WE CAN GET IT FOR YOU." Lists various vehicles with prices and "SOLD" stamps.

BOB BROCK Ford Lincoln Mercury Nissan

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Brush control

Water yield increase is key for state

By the Permian Basin UWCD

Water will likely be the most limiting natural resource in Texas in the future. The ability to meet future water needs will significantly impact growth and economic well being of this state.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) estimated that brush in Texas uses over 3.5 trillion gallons of water annually. Control of brush presents a viable option for increasing the availability of water allowing the state to meet its future needs.

In Texas, the clearing of "brush" species — Ashe juniper, mesquite and salt cedar — is a popular technique to increase water yields and improve livestock grazing and wildlife habitat. Many factors must be considered for responsible brush control projects to achieve these results, including amount of rainfall, evaporation rate, physical characteristics of the site, and the region of the state. Since brush management can be expensive, it is important to ensure that it is done correctly, with an eye toward long-term follow-up maintenance practices and grazing management so that both wildlife and human communities will benefit.

Brush management can, under some circumstances, increase water yield. The amount of water "freed up" by brush control can vary widely, however, depending on site characteristics and on what vegetation comes in to replace the brush. In some cases, the grass that replaces the brush may actually have an evapotranspiration rate equal to or higher than the brush that was removed.

On certain sites, brush clearing might be effective because it could enhance groundwater recharge. Brush management on sites with shallow soils that drain rapidly and are underlain by fractured materials, such as the Texas Edwards Plateau, is most likely to increase groundwater recharge.

Brush management on a large scale can be costly, requiring heavy equipment, such as bulldozers, hydraulic shears, or airplanes to spray herbicides. Moreover, most areas need repeat treatments every few years and must be re-vegetated. For land to retain its value for grazing or hunting, cleared areas may need to be replanted with grasses unless sufficient



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Work crews install street lighting along Greeg Street Friday.

Boost Texas

Texas AgriLife Extension Service Howard County will provide booster seats to qualifying families as part of the Department of State Health Services Give Texas a Boost Initiative. Families will need to pre-register for a booster seat and then attend a one-time event or appointment to receive the seat and have it properly fitted for their child by a certified child passenger safety technician.

How to register

Low-income families are encouraged to call Howard County Extension Service at (432) 264-2236 to see if they qualify for a booster seat.

What is a booster seat?

A booster seat "boosts" the child up so the lap/shoulder belt will fit correctly and provide protection in a crash. Many parents are under the impression that a child can be moved to the vehicle seat belt system when they have outgrown the weight limits of their child safety seat. Most conventional forward-facing child safety seats have a 5-point harness system that can be used until the child reaches 40 pounds. However, most children weigh 40 pounds long before they are tall enough to fit in the vehicle lap/shoulder belt. In order to get the best protection from a seat belt, children usually need a booster until they are about 4 feet 9 inches tall and weigh between 80 and 100 pounds.

New laws in Texas

Effective Sept. 1, Texas will have a new child safety seat law. The law states that children under 8 years of age — unless taller than 4 feet 9 inches — will need to be in a child safety seat system (this includes traditional

4 STEPS FOR KIDS

Step 1. Rear-facing seats: For the best possible protection, keep babies in the back seat in rear-facing child safety seats for as long as possible up to the height or weight limit of the particular seat. At a minimum, keep babies rear-facing until age 1 and at least 20 pounds.

Step 2. Forward-facing seats: When children outgrow their rear-facing seats (at a minimum of age 1 and at least 20 pounds), they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats, in the back seat, until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the particular seat (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds).

Step 3. Booster seats: Once children outgrow their forward-facing seat (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds), they should ride in booster seats, in the back seat, until the vehicle safety belts fit properly. Safety belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest (usually at age 8 or when they are 4 feet 9 inches tall).

Step 4. Safety Belts: When children outgrow their booster seats (usually at age 8 or when they are 4 feet 9 inches tall), they can use the adult safety belt in the back seat if it fits properly (lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt across the chest).

child safety seats with harnesses and booster seats). Many are referring to this new law as the 'booster seat law' because it will extend the current law to cover older children who need to ride in booster seats.

According to the law, once a child

See **BOOSTER**, 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.



The market remains in a churning consolidating correction that does not show signs of being complete at the moment. So far, the market has been working off short-term excesses in a positive fashion. The current big question making the rounds on financial TV stations is whether we face a V, W, or U type recovery next year. These are the most common projections by economists as to the type of economic recovery that will follow our apparently just-ending "Great Recession."

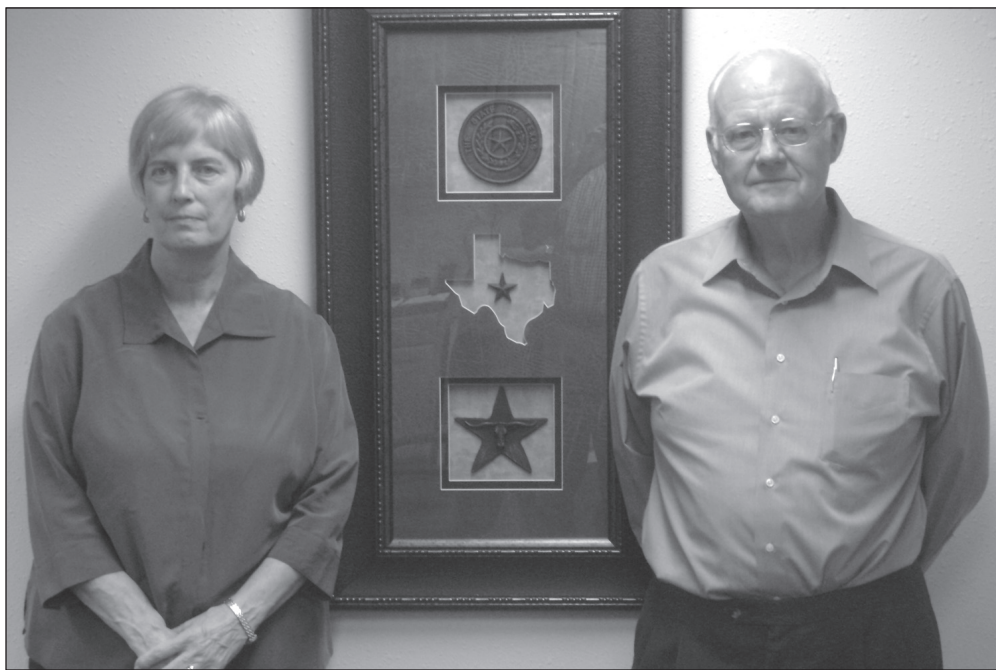
Let's begin the discussion by stating that we certainly do not know for sure what the shape of the recovery will be, but we do have an opinion. Some see a V recovery that rises quickly from the ashes of the deep recession. The thinking is that consumers have pulled back spending dramatically due to the recession, and thus there is great pent-up demand for lots of goods and services. Also, inventories have been reduced substantially by corporations so production will come back strong. These are certainly reasonable thoughts that have been gaining in popularity lately.

The W shaped recovery camp believes that after a short economic recovery we will have yet another recession. As we have stated in the past, this fear is not unusual as recessions end. With interest rates and inflation very low and most Americans having suffered a great deal the past two years, we believe the odds on another quick recession are low. Also, our economy has a very impressive history of resilience. OK, so what about the kind of "middle of the road" or U shaped recovery? In a U recovery, the economy bottoms out over a few months and then turns up moderately, but in a step ladder fashion. This represents a kind of "steady" economic recovery, that doesn't excite but can be sustainable and can build more strength down the road.

At this time, a U recovery makes the most sense to us. Yes, consumers have a great deal of pent-up demand but the labor market, if it follows history, will stay soft for another year or so. Thus, consumer spending will probably not boom anytime soon. Back to school sales are already dragging. Also, most people are feeling poorer due to much lower home prices, and this problem doesn't appear to be going away near-term. The financial markets have unfrozen, but still are not functioning normally. The Federal Reserve will likely start pulling back some of its heavy monetary stimulus by year end. So a U recovery seems most likely to us. However, there are tons of things going on in Washington and the world that could alter our opinion.

If it is to be a U or V, the stock market should do OK. Some of this uncertainty is why the S&P 500 is selling at a very reasonable 13.5 times an estimate of \$73 per share for its 2010 earnings. If it's to be a W recovery, we feel the stock market has trouble ahead and will keep you posted.

Past Performance is no guarantee of future results. Portions of this article were produced Aug. 17 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 instrumental to participate in any trading strategy. Additional information is available upon request at (432) 684-7335. Wells Fargo Advisors LLC, member SIPC is a registered broker dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.



LONE STAR STATE BANK

Lone Star State Bank has announced two new employees, Bruce Griffith and Cheri Shoup. Together they bring more than 60 years of Howard County banking experience. The addition of Bruce and Cheri will allow Lone Star State Bank to better serve Howard and surrounding counties for all your banking needs, said Ron Brooks, president.

They join staff members Brookst; Genia Andrews, officer; Colby Hirt, Jo Etta Hart, and Paula Jones, as well as the local community board members Jimmy Taylor, Skipper Driver, T.L. Griffin, Delbert Halfmann, Clyde McMahan, Rip Patterson, Gene Perry, Bill Pollard, Don Reynolds and R.H. Weaver.

Courtesy photo

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

on anyone for what happened to my puppy. All I ask is that something be done for these animals, so that no other family has to experience what my family and I have gone through.

CLINT LOCKHART
PLAINVIEW

TO THE EDITOR:

I found Mrs. Simmons' article on page 5A of the Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009, edition interesting. She talks about cleaning up East 15th from Goliad to Birdwell Lane.

I grew up in a house on that street. It was the big white house on the corner of East 15th and Donley with the big fruitless mulberry tree by the street. We lived there from 1972 until my parents moved out in 1997.

The house began to deteriorate over the years. My brother and I put many holes in the sheetrock walls of that house. That fruitless mulberry tree also rotted away over time. But the yard of that house was covered with fruitless mulberries.

I remember the Vines home at 600 E. 15th. My grandmother wanted to move into that house when she first moved to Big Spring in the 1980s. She accused us of "forcing" her to "move into it." So she rented one on Young St. behind the old 7UP plant, just a stone's throw from where we lived.

I applaud Mrs. Simmons for her work. Hope you meet all the goals you listed in the article. It's not an easy task. But it's doable.

ROBERT RAINWATER
SWEETWATER

TO THE EDITOR:

The big old rectangular cement swimming pool offers great family entertainment at a minimal fee.

Families unable to afford a vacation to a lake, river or beach have a great time at the current pool.

When the fence was moved back and people could rest under the trees or even picnic, a great deal was added to the pool.

The older children loved the large slides. The kiddie end was enjoyed by all.

Assistant City Manager Todd Darden was quoted in Tuesday's paper that the existing pool can be put into compliance with an estimate of \$500,000 to \$600,000, compared to the Big Spring City Council's idea of looking at building a \$1.7 million swimming pool.

I say fix the existing pool where families can continue to enjoy the pool at the minimal price and be able to enjoy it several times a week.

If taxpayers have to put out again on another million-dollar project, how much will the fee cost families to enjoy such an expensive water park?

My next question is why would an entity want to change the old sign of a building that so much effort has been made to authenticate the building by seeking original furniture, chandelier, knobs, etc., then ruin it all by changing the most original and eye catching item of all — the sign?

The original sign is just as nostalgic as the building to a lot of us "authentic Big Springers."

DEAN KRAUS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Your Sunday, Aug. 23, issue of the Big Spring Herald on the "Nation/World" page contained an

Florida police lure fugitives with stimulus checks

MIAMI (AP) — Police in Florida are using the promise of a stimulus check to make some arrests.

Authorities in Fort Lauderdale say they sent letters to fugitives offering them stimulus money. The suspects were asked to call a hot line and set up an appointment to pickup a check from an auditorium where "South Florida Stimulus Coalition" banners hung.

When the fugitives arrived, they were identified and about 75 were arrested on offenses ranging from grand theft to fraud to attempted murder.

Police spokesman Sgt. Frank Sousa says the two-day sting was dubbed "Operation Show Me The Money." Sousa says the operation saved man hours and allowed police to make arrests in a controlled environment.

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H&R Block, the nation's leading tax preparation company, is actively interviewing candidates who want to learn to prepare taxes and earn extra income as a tax professional.* As part of this initiative, H&R Block offers it's highly informative Income Tax Course, designed with times and locations convenient for busy people with jobs, school, and family commitments. Upon successful completion of the course, graduates can earn extra income as a tax professional.

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article entitled "As Lutherans liberalize gay clergy policy, some conservatives vow to fight."

Although the content of the article is completely correct and 68 percent of the delegates at the Minneapolis convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America did indeed vote to "liberalize" their stand on "gay clergy," what was not contained in the article anywhere is that the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) is only one segment of the Lutheran Churches in America and does not represent all Lutherans.

Actually there are more than 20 different Lutheran Church bodies in North America alone not counting the rest of the world. In the minds of many of your readers when the word "Lutheran" appears, it is assumed that this stands for all Lutherans. It is like saying Texans are liberals.

Well, indeed some Texans are liberals, but that certainly is not true of all or even the majority of Texas. To say that the "Lutherans" are doing or approving something does not mean all Lutherans are involved.

Here in West Texas there are very few ELCA churches or members. There are none in Big Spring or Howard County. Most of the Lutherans in West Texas, and this includes the two Lutheran Churches in Big Spring, Alive in Christ Lutheran Church on Lynn Street and St. Paul Lutheran Church on Scurry Street are members of what is called the Lutheran Church, Missouri-Synod (LCMS). This world wide branch of Lutheranism has its international headquarters in St Louis, Mo., and thus the name.

The LCMS since its founding in 1847 has maintained a conservative, historic belief in its Biblical doctrines and practices — this so much so that it is considered "old fashioned" by many "modern liberal" Christians. We in the LCMS have watched with sadness the movement of the ELCA further and further away from what was once considered the norm for Christianity.

The news article stated that some within the ELCA were not pleased with the direction their church body was taking. The news article did not say that there are entire Lutheran Church bodies, including specifically the Missouri Synod, who are not pleased with the direction the ELCA is taking.

The president of the LCMS was invited as a courtesy by the ELCA convention to address their assembly. The complete text of his message can be found at <http://www.lcms.org> but I would like to share this brief excerpt from the address of President Kieschnick to the ELCA Church-wide Assembly, Aug. 22, 2009:

"I bring you these greetings on behalf of the 2.4 million members of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod at a difficult time in the world and in the church....

I speak these next words in deep humility, with a heavy heart and no desire whatsoever to offend. The decisions by this assembly to grant non-celibate homosexual ministers the privilege of serving as rostered leaders in the ELCA and the affirmation of same gender unions as pleasing to God will undoubtedly cause additional stress and disharmony within the ELCA. It will also negatively affect the relationships between our two church bodies. The current division between our churches threatens to become a chasm. This grieves my heart and the hearts of all in the ELCA, the LCMS, and other Christian church bodies throughout the world who do not see these decisions as compatible with the Word of God, or in agreement with the consensus of 2000 years of Christian theological affirmation regarding what Scripture teaches about human sexuality. Simply stated, this matter is fundamentally related to significant differences in how we understand the authority of Holy Scripture and the interpretation of God's revealed and infallible

Man stole woman's car on 1st date

FERNDALE, Michigan (AP) — Police say a first date went from bad to worse when a man skipped out on the restaurant bill, then stole his date's car.

Police say 23-year-old Terrance Dejuan McCoy had dinner with a woman April 24 at Buffalo Wild Wings in the Detroit suburb of Ferndale. The woman says the two met a week earlier at a Detroit casino and she knew McCoy only as "Chris."

The woman told police that McCoy said he left his wallet in her car and asked for keys. He then sped away in the 2000 Chevrolet Impala.

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Word....

May God have mercy upon us all, and grant us His peace in Christ. "

Your readers may applaud the action of the delegates to the 2009 ELCA Convention or they may, like me, be saddened by the actions of the ELCA last week, but whatever their reaction, I would once again remind your readers that Alive in Christ Lutheran Church and St. Paul Lutheran Church here in Big Spring, and most of the Lutheran Churches in West Texas, are in no way affiliated with the ELCA, nor do they endorse the actions of the same.

REV. CARROLL C. KOHL
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Today (Friday), I drove down Main Street and was horrified to see that the "beautification" project involved block long medians that prevent drivers from turning left anywhere on the block.

In order to have access to businesses on Main Street, a person must either want to patronize a business on their right or make a U-turn at the end of the block and go back to the business he or she needs to visit.

I am all for making Big Spring the best and most beautiful town in West Texas, but we must use common sense. If a project causes more harm and inconvenience than good, we must scrap the idea and come up with another.

When I called Assistant City Manager Todd Darden's office, I was told that the plans for the block-long medians were posted at city council meetings for the last year and a half.

I do not attend city council meetings because I, like most average citizens, am busy with my own activities. I have trusted our city council to watch out for our best interests.

How does our city council expect the average citizen to know about these plans if they are not published in the paper or announced on our local news channels?

We have just been certified as a retirement community. One of the businesses that many retirees use is Paradigm Physical Therapy and it is one of the businesses that will be hard to reach because of the medians on Main Street — there are also access issues with the library and bank on that side of the street.

I am very angry with those responsible for passing this plan. Why not make small island medians that do not run the entire block?

My faith in city government has just been shaken to the core. I will be much less trusting in the future. In the meantime, unless some common sense resurfaces in our city manager and his assistants, I guess I will have to put up with my tax dollars funding projects that are ill thought out and poorly managed.

What a shame for the citizens of Big Spring.

LINDA LIGHT
BIG SPRING

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Courtesy photo

The Guinness World Record for having the largest guitar pickin' session was broken Aug. 23 in Luckenbach. Zac, left, and Jay Phinney of Big Spring were among the 1,859 guitarists who participated. Also present but not pictured from Big Spring was Paul Nabors.



Courtesy photo

The 18th and Main Fire House has received the latest Doing Your Part Award. Pictured are Firefighter Sam Nevils, Keep Big Spring Beautiful President Walter Ward, Code Enforcement officer Brandi Hilario, Lt. Chris Glenn Driver, Steve Davenport and KBSB member Pat Simmons.

They say it can't be done!

People are saying E. 15th Street can't be done, that is, it can't be made into a showcase street in Big Spring. Well, I disagree — there is nothing impossible when you believe and don't doubt.

We can make a difference. People's hearts can be changed when they see their neighbors raking, cleaning and painting their property.

Not only does it improve the appearance of the neighborhood, but it increases property value.

When people do not take responsibility for their property, they not only suffer, but the neighborhood does as well, and it like the domino effect — when one does not care, the neighbors lose heart.

But I am here to tell you that I believe the residents of Big Spring, owners and renters alike, desire a nicer place to live. It is like the domino effect mentioned above, but in the reverse — beauty leads to more beauty.

We can restore Big Spring to the beautiful city it once was. I keep repeating this, because I believe it!

That includes E. 15th Street. Residents of East 15th have been contacted by KBSB to advise them of our project and ask for their help.

I personally have contacted a person in most of the blocks and ask them to be block captains, and we found some great willing spirited people who share our goals. I still have about three blocks I have not been able to contact.

Thursday evening, I stopped at a

house where the sprinkler was going, and thought, "This could be a pretty good prospect." After a short conversation I found they were indeed a great prospect; they are willing to make a difference in their block.

So keep your eyes on a house in the first few blocks off of Goliad and is on the north side of the street, I think in a year we will have another house that will be as pretty as the Vines home at 600 E. 15th.

I will arrange for a meeting with Code Enforcement for the residents so they see how the city is willing to help them. This not only gives them the opportunity to make new friends, but give them the resources to challenge other blocks on E. 15th.

After E. 15th is on it's way to becoming a showcase street, they can then think of challenging another street to do the same.

One thing that is driving me crazy is the weeds and grass growing out of the cement, gutters and streets as well as around businesses — I wish I had a method to eradicate them. It makes our town look that we don't care.

Businesses, please check your property — front, back and sides. What do you see?

People, when you mow your lawn, please don't leave the grass clippings in the gutter. It takes just a few minutes to sweep them up. When they are left they grow and become so unattractive.

Look at property where the lawn is mowed and edged and there's no grass growing in the gutter vs. the one mentioned above — there's a huge difference.

Thanks to all of you who take responsibility for your property and improve the appearance of our city. We must keep on trying!



PAT
SIMMONS

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Do You Know the FACTS About Family Violence?

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- T F ① *It's not against the law to slap your own spouse.*
- T F ② *"Battering" means beating someone to the point of bleeding or broken bones.*
- T F ③ *Alcohol and drug abuse cause family violence.*
- T F ④ *Battering is passed from generation to generation.*
- T F ⑤ *Men being injured by women is just as big a problem as women being injured by men.*
- T F ⑥ *Most victims of family violence are not seriously injured.*
- T F ⑦ *If a battered women would leave her abuser, she'd be safe.*
- T F ⑧ *The police can't do much about family violence.*
- T F ⑨ *Arresting batterers and putting them in jail will end family violence.*
- T F ⑩ *Violence in someone else's family is not my business.*

**Victims Services
Of Big Spring
263-3312**

200210

Something special's happening in the Circle.

September 2009 Activities

- Sept. 1** – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Coffee @ PRL, 10:00 a.m.
Supper Club "Carlos", 5:30 p.m.
- Sept. 2** – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
"Taco Salad"
Movie, 1:00 p.m. "Calendar Girls"
- Sept. 3** – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Coffee @ Just Peachy's, 10 a.m.
\$3.50 Thursdays "Turkey Divian"
Bunko, 5:00 p.m.
- Sept. 7** – Closed - Holiday
- Sept. 8** – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Supper Club "Pizza Inn", 5:30 p.m.
- Sept. 9** – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
"Pork Chops"
Movie, 1:00 p.m. "27 Dresses"
- Sept. 10** – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Coffee @ Just Peachy's 10 a.m.
\$3.50 Thursday's "Spaghetti"
- Sept. 11** – Lunch Bunch & Birthday's
"Al's BBQ", 11:30 a.m.

Call Anita Cline today at 268-4721 to find out what the Circle is all about.

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Audiologist Glen Carrigan has a Masters Degree in Audiology from UT El Paso. Glen has worked for Texas Rehabilitation Commission (now DARS) as a Counselor for the Deaf. He has worked at the Permian Basin Rehabilitation Center in Odessa and at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center in Big Spring. He worked at the Rusk State Hospital and then returned to Big Spring in 1980 when SWCID was established and has been in Big Spring since.



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Location: PA 111
Instructor: Joyce Baumann
Cost: Free



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