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### Steers top Andrews Tuesday night

Page 1B



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January 13, 2010



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# Yes, your electric bill is going up

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

If your electric bill seems higher than normal these days, officials with the city of Big Spring say it's not your imagination, as the battle between municipality and electric company continues over rate increases implemented in November.

City Finance Director Peggy Walker told the city council Tuesday night the Public Utilities Commission gave Oncor the green light to implement more than \$100 million in rate increases, despite evidence gathered by a steering committee of cities that says the company's prices are already too high.

"In January of 2008, the city received notice from Oncor that they were filing for a rate increase," said Walker. "The city council acted in July, giving the steering committee time to review records. Then, on Oct. 14, 2008, the council

See BILL, Page 3A



Brady Weber, left, answers judges' questions about his project during the Big Spring independent School District Science Fair, held today at Dora Roberts Community Center.

### Council OKs absorbing shortfall caused by error

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Big Spring City Council approved first reading of an order amending its 2009-

2010 property tax revenues Tuesday night, in hopes the municipality will be able to absorb a budgetary shortfall

in certified values issued last year by the Howard County Appraisal District.

According to city officials, caused by a \$9 million error the shortfall will cost the city

an estimated \$91,000 in tax resetting the tax rate, but de-

City Attorney Linda Sjogren said the city had the option to go through the process of cided against it.

"We spoke with TML (Tex-

See SHORTFALL, Page 3A

## Forsan ISD financial status sound

### Lighting project in the works, maybe artificial turf, too

Staff Writer

FORSAN — Curriculum and finances will be two of the main concerns for Forsan Independent School District in the coming months.

As the district plunges into 2010, those two items are high on FISD's to-do list, Superintendent Randy Johnson said. Like many other school

districts in the state, FISD is training personnel in the C-SCOPE curriculum package, designed to bring different districts' curriculum more in line with each other, so that a teacher in one part of the state is teaching essentially the same thing as his or her counterpart in another area of Texas, Johnson said.

"C-SCOPE is a program that

"This is the first year we have to make Robin Hood (equalization) payments and we saw a \$100,000 increase in our bill from the county appraisal district."

-Randy Johnson, Forsan ISD superintendent

educational centers with the help of classroom teachers ...

was created by the regional to adopt a more standardized curriculum," Johnson said. "That's the big push going on

in districts now. Big Spring has been training its teachers in it for some time ... and our teachers are going through a tremendous amount of training. Our main focus is on science right now, but we're using it in a couple of other

areas." The reason science was

See FISD, Page 3A

**INDEX** 

**Comics** 

Classified



An officer with the Big Spring Police Department leads a person away in handcuffs Tuesday evening following a traffic accident at the intersection of Fourth Street and Nolan. No injuries were reported as a result of the accident. Details concerning the cause of the wreck were not available at press time.

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6B 4-5B

**Features 5A Obituaries Opinion 4A Sports** 

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### SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Joe Zigtema at 263-7331, Ext. 237. E-mail results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

> Page 1B Wednesday, January 13, 2010

### Lady Steers fall to Plainview; Lake View next



Cerbi Ritchey shoots against Plainview on Tuesday at Steer Gym.

By JOE ZIGTEMA

Sports Editor

The Big Spring Lady Steers endured another tough district matchup Tuesday night at Steer Gym, falling to Plainview 63-17.

The loss, the Lady Steers' fourth straight, drops the team to 8-14 on the year, but that's not all they lost.

Sophomore point guard Bridgette Tuitt, the team's leading

trict performer, went down Tuesday night in a scary moment with a lower leg injury.

Coach Mike Warren said Tuitt will be out at least seven to 10 days, but she did not suffer a significant injury.

The Lady Steers had trouble handling the Plainview press all night, committing 33 turnovers.

Taylor Seaton was 3-of-6 from the floor

scorer and an all-dis- for six points to lead the Lady Steers. Cerbit Ritchey added four points in the game. The Lady Steers were successful on offense when they could get the ball in the paint with the two.

"We just have to do that consistently," Warren said. "We have to play defense and then come down and do it again."

With district powers Frenship and Plainview

out of the way, the Lady Steers can focus on San Angelo Lake View, which Big Spring will likely battle with for the fourth playoff spot in 4-4A.

The Lady Steers will get Lake View at home Friday before hitting the road Tuesday against Lubbock Cooper.

Tipoff at Steer Gym is 6 p.m.

See Saturday's Herald for results.

Plainview (2-0)21-51 E. Welch 5, Ritter DeLaGarza 4, Jackson 9, A Welch 4, Gamboa 2, Vereen 5

5, Hearn 7 Big Spring (7-13, 0-2)- 7-3 Seaton 6, Ritchey 4, Fletcher 3 Smith 2, Kennedy 1, Ross 1

Ramirez 6, Castillo 11, Chave

Vereen, Ramirez 2, Chavez); BS 1-7 (Fletcher); F PHS 11-21, BS 3-5; Rebounds 14, BS 33; Assists PHS 9, BS 4; Steals PHS 17, BS 8; Blocks

### **Big Spring breezes past Andrews**

BY JOE ZIGTEMA

Sports Editor

Down 6-0 Tuesday night, Steers needed someone to step up if they were going to end their seven-game slide.

Enter Tristian Clay.

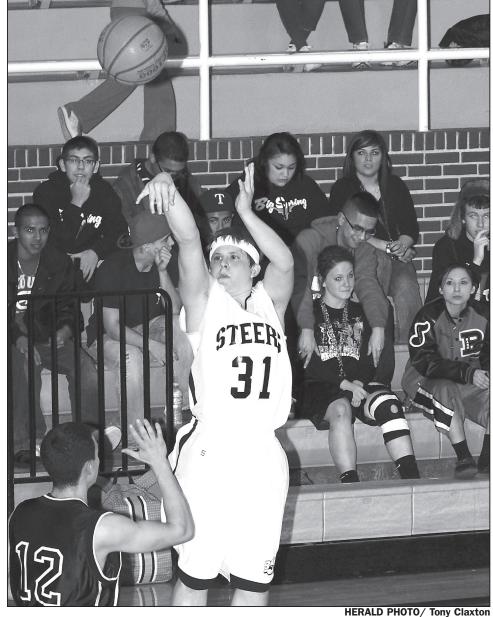
Clay scored the first 11 Big Spring points as the Steers romped the Andrews Mustangs at Steer Gym for their first win since Christmas.

"I had to get us a jumpstart because we were down, and I had to get us a boost," Clay said. "All I needed was confidence in shooting the ball and knowing I was going to make it."

The Steers also got a boost from newcomer Luke Adams, who finished with 12 points, two rebounds and seven assists in his debut.

"He's going to do nothing but make us better," coach Marcus Morris said of Adams, who is the son of Howard College men's coach Mark Adams. knows the flow of the game. There probably isn't much he hasn't seen as far as situations on the basketball court."

The Steers moved the ball around the court with a speed they had not shown before, and it translated into efficiency. Big Spring shot 55 percent from the field in the first half and finished 24-of-50 from the floor. Adams made an immediate impact on



Luke Adams puts up a 3-pointer Tuesday at Steer Gym. Adams scored 12 points and recorded seven assists in his first game as a Steer, and Big Spring rolled over Andrews 59-42.

the floor, finding open shooters on offense and taking charges on the defensive end.

"The ball was moving around on time," Morris said. If you have people to deliver the pass on time without taking the extra dribble, without bobbling it, it makes a huge difference in the

way everybody plays." Jerrell Williams led the Steers with 14 points, followed by Clay's 13. Tyler Tannehill grabbed 10 rebounds for Big Spring.

been carrying the bulk of the scoring load for the Steers this season, was able to play a more relaxed style, Morris

"It was like a weight was lifted off his shoul-

Williams, who had See STEERS, Page 2B

### **Big Spring swimming** competes in Andrews

**Herald Staff Report** 

ANDREWS — Results are in for the Big Spring swim team's performance at the Andrews Tournament on Saturday, where the boys team placed 15th and the girls placed 10th out of 26 teams.

Drew Breckinridge placed fifth in the 50-yard freestyle and eighth in the 100-yard freestyle with times of 24.21 and 54.26, respec-

The 200-yard free relay team of Breckinridge, Caleb McMahon, Justin Pearson and Andrew Johnson took 12th and the 200-yard medley relay team of Robert Burnaza, Aaron Hanes, Mcmahon and Breckinridge placed 13th in the meet to give the boys a total of 43 team points.

On the girls side, Kelly

in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 28.18 and seventh in the 100-free with a time of 1:00.92. Jennifer Walker took 12th in the 100-yard butterfly, and Ashley Pike placed 15th in the 100 breaststroke.

The girls 200 medley relay team of Sage, Walker, Pike and Rebecca Loya grabbed sixth place in the meet, and the same team placed 12th in the 200free relay for a total of 68 team points.

Pecos High School ran away with the team meet championship, beating second-place Clovis by 200 points. El Paso High School won the girls meet, beating Clovis with Pecos taking third.

The swim team will be in action again this weekend at the Lubbock Invitational at Pete Sage took sixth place Regus Aquatic Center.

### Forsan sweeps Baird as Buffs squeak by

**Herald Staff Report** 

The Forsan Lady Buffs kept the ball rolling Tuesday night at Baird, picking up a 54-32 win.

The Lady Buffs improved to 15-4 on the year with their fifth straight win and are picking up steam at the right time heading into district play.

"I'm very pleased with the way we've played to this point in the season," head coach Robert Hillger said. "Every time we tipoff we expect to win."

The Lady Buffs took

See FORSAN, Page 2B

### Area roundup: Coahoma falls to Ballinger; Stanton sweeps Trinity

**Herald Staff Report** 

BALLINGER — The Coahoma Bulldogettes fell to 0-2 in district play Tuesday with a 44-26 loss at the Ballinger Lady Bearcats, their second straight district road defeat.

The Bulldogettes couldn't seem to find their offense against Ballinger's man-to-man defense.

The Lady Bearcats held Coahoma to six first-half points and built a 13-point lead at the half. Coahoma held pace with Ballinger in the last two periods, but they couldn't recover.

"We played really good defense, we just struggled on offense," head coach Derek Faught said. "We didn't exe-

Kylie Gee scored 14 points for Coahoma in the loss. The Bulldogettes will face rival Colorado City at home Friday. Tipoff is 6:30 p.m. Stanton 75, Trinity 34

STANTON — The Stanton Buffaloes rode Tyler Fulton to their 15th victory of the season Tuesday with a 75-34 victory over Midland Trinity.

Fulton scored 28 points and Jorge Reyna added 11 as the Buffs took con-

Stanton has one more non-district foe at Wink on Friday before they open the slat with McCamey on Tuesday.

Stanton 60, Trinity 20

STANTON — The Stanton girls shut out Midland Trinity in the first quarter as they ran with an early 17-0 lead to a 60-20 win Tuesday in Stanton.

Rachel Fleckenstein scored 19 points for the Lady Buffs as they notched their 18th win of the season.

Stanton travels to Wink on Friday. Tipoff is 6:30 p.m.

Sands girls 65, Dawson 24

ACKERLY — The Sands girls got rolling in the first half as they beat Dawson 65-24 at home Tuesday, improving to 2-0 in district play.

The Lady Mustangs outscored Dawson 24-2 in the second half to take a 40-7 halftime lead. Ashley Stockton scored 20 points to lead Sands, Morgan Yarbrough added 13 and Lani Robles scored 11 for Sands. Jennifer Gomez was also in double figures with 10.

The Mustangs will play at Klondike on Friday. JV starts at 4 p.m.

See ROUNDUP, 2B

### Sports in brief

#### Tuesday's hoops results

Big Spring boys 59, Andrews 42 Big Spring girls 17, Plainview 63 Ballinger 44, Coahoma 26 Forsan Boys 36, Baird 24 Forsan girls 54, Baird 32 Grady boys 65, Klondike 25 Grady girls 22, Klondike 42 Stanton boys 75, Trinity 34 Stanton girls 60, Trinity 20 Sands girls 65, Dawson 24

#### Rotary Club to host trout fishing contest

The Greater Big Spring Rotary Club will host its third Annual Trout Fishing Contest for kids Saturday at the Comanche Park Lake.

The event is free and will be held from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Registration will begin at 1 p.m. at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Kids 17 and under are

Prizes will be awarded. Call the Rev. Ken McIntosh at 517-4821 for more information.

#### **BSHS Cheerleaders** to offer mini-camp

The Big Spring High School cheerleaders are offering a mini-cheer camp for girls kindergarten through eighth grade.

The camp will be held Feb. 13 from 10 a.m. to noon, Feb. 14 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. and Feb. 15th from 6-7 p.m. Sign up through Jan. 25.

The girls will perform at halftime of the boys basketball game on Feb. 16. Cost is \$50 per child. Call Shannon Stuteville at 264-3641 ext. 1416.

### **Obituaries**

#### Johnny D. Mills

Johnny D. Mills, 65, of Big Spring died Monday, Jan. 11, 2010, in Glasscock County. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Samuel A. Segundo Jr. officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

He was born Nov. 16, 1944, in Madera, Calif., and

married Linda Green Aug. 5, 1966, in Snyder. Johnny had worked in the oilfield for 36 years. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He was a

Survivors include his wife, Linda Mills of Big Spring; three daughters, Renea Mills, Donna Mills and husband Matt, all of Big Spring, and Angela Mills Evans and husband Bill of Ponca City, Okla.; one son, Donny Mills and wife Ashley of Big Spring; five brothers, Jimmy Mills and wife Andrea, Kerry Mills and wife Carolyn, Mark Mills and wife Susie, and Richard Mills and wife Loyce, all of Big Spring, and Billy Mills and wife Kim of Sundown; two sisters, Judy Roberts and husband Danny, and Laurie Hesson, all of Big Spring; 16 grandchildren; three step grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; five step great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Novie Mills; and one brother, Terry Mills.

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

#### Wylene Brown 'Brownie' Kemper

Wylene Brown "Brownie" Kemper, 87, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010, in a Midland hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

### **Take Note**

- How do you become a legend? One way is to do something first ... and keep doing it longer than anyone else who may duplicate whatever it is you are doing. If that sounds complicated, try this: The Stamps Quartet is the oldest quartet in existence today, and they will be in concert at the First Baptist Church this Friday at 7 p.m. The Stamps have included First Baptist in their "Tour of Faith" for the past several years. They come for a love offering — no ticket required. Invite your friends to come with you to this event.
- The West Texas Amputees monthly meeting will be held Saturday, Jan. 16, at 11 a.m. at Health South Rehab Hospital of Midland, 1800 Heritage Blvd. For more information, contact Linda at (432) 684-6092.
- American Legion Post 506 will hold a fish fry at 3202 W. Highway 80 from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday. Plates are \$10 each. Delivery will be from 11 a.m. to
- A class to become a certified Master Gardener is forming now and will begin Jan. 19. Cost is \$85 per person and includes a workbook and live instruction. Those participating will be required to complete 50 hours of classroom work and 50 hours of volunteer service. For more information or to register, contact Shelley Borgstedte at (432) 664-9660, Joni Boyd at (325) 829-8398 or the county Extension Chickasaw. One person was transported to SMMC. service at 264-2236.
- Birdwell Lane Baptist Church is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the church. The cook books can be purchased by calling Pat Steen at (432) 263-
- The Permian Basin Foundation has awarded West Texas Opportunities Inc. \$130,000 through the Texas Resources for Iraq Afghanistan Deployment fund. WTO will assist current and former military personnel serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Funding will serve Howard, Martin, Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry and Upton counties. For more information, contact Diana Martinez or Debbie Wilson at 110 Johnson in Big Spring or call (432) 267-9536.





### Police blotter

LOCAL

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

- MICHAEL MCNEW, 19, of 7805 N. Service Road, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxi-
- LARRY PAYNE, 47, of 1746 Purdue, was arrested Tuesday on warrants from another agency. • HASSONA OVERTON, 52, of 1203 Stanford, was
- arrested Tuesday on six local warrants.
- JUNE MCMILLAN, 76, of Colorado City, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of theft.
- ROD PUGA, 47, of 1202 S. Main, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of theft.
- VICTOR ZAMORA, 32, of 2505 Gunter, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of theft.
  - THEFT was reported:
  - In the 200 block of FM 700.
  - In the 1000 block of Ridgeroad. In the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- In the 200 block of FM 700.
- STALKING was reported in the 200 block of FM
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was
- reported in the 1000 block of 12th Street. • ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the
- 1900 block of N. Highway 87.

### Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 61 inmates at the time of this

- OROSCO HERMENEJILDO, 44, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of illegal dumping (two counts). • JUNE BLACK MCMILLAN, 76, was transferred
- to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft – more than \$50, less than \$500. MICHAEL JOSEPH MCNEW, 18, was trans-
- ferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication. • HASSONA ALI OVERTON, 52, was transferred
- to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of hindering official duties, failure to appear (two counts), no driver's license, speeding and failure to stop at a stop sign. LARRY DALE PAYNE, 47, was transferred to
- the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of allowing a child between 4 and 17 years to ride unsecured and no valid motor vehicle inspection. ROD LEE PUGA, 47, was transferred to the
- county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft with two or more previous convictions. • JIMMY MARMOLEJO YBARRA, 44, was trans-
- ferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of forgery of a financial instrument.
- VICTOR HERNANDEZ ZAMORA, 32, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft - more than \$1,500, less than

### Fire/EMS

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

- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of Nolan and Fourth Street. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 5300 block of Longshore. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of

### **Support Groups**

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

#### **THURSDAY**

· Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Nonsmoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9



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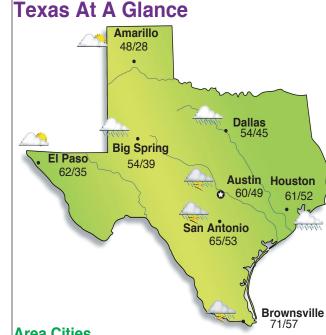
- Sexual Dysfunction

(432) 714-4600 1501 W. 11th Place Suite 103

Big Spring, Tx 79720

**Today's Weather** 

#### **Local 3-Day Forecast** 1/16 1/14 1/15 54/39 47/32 55/30 Considerable cloudi-Chance of showers. Clouds giving way to ness. Occasional rain Highs in the upper 40s sun . Highs in the mid and lows in the low 50s and lows in the noon. High 54F. Winds SSE at 5 to 10 Sunrise: 7:47 AM 7:47 AM Sunset: Sunset: Sunset: 6:05 PM 6:03 PM 6:04 PM



Area Cities	•					
City	Hi	Lo Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	56	42 rain	Kingsville	70	56	t-storm
Amarillo	48	28 cloudy	Livingston	58	46	rain
Austin	60	49 t-storm	Longview	52	43	rain
Beaumont	62	49 rain	Lubbock	50	32	cloudy
Brownsville	71	57 t-storm	Lufkin	54	46	rain
Brownwood	59	47 rain	Midland	55	42	rain
Corpus Christi	66	56 t-storm	Raymondville	71	55	t-storm
Corsicana	54	44 rain	Rosenberg	61	52	t-storm
Dallas	54	45 rain	San Antonio	65	53	t-storm
Del Rio	57	47 rain	San Marcos	61	50	t-storm
El Paso	62	35 cloudy	Sulphur Springs	49	42	rain
Fort Stockton	51	39 rain	Sweetwater	56	42	rain
Gainesville	49	40 rain	Tyler	51	42	rain
Greenville	48	41 rain	Weatherford	54	41	rain
Houston	61	52 rain	Wichita Falls	52	38	cloudy
National O		_				

National	Citie	S					
City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta				Minneapolis	31	17	cloudy
Boston	35	26	mst sunny	New York	39	31	sunny
Chicago	36	27	cloudy	Phoenix	66	43	mst sur
Dallas	54	45	rain	San Francisco	59	41	pt sunn
Denver	44	28	mixed	Seattle	50	45	rain
Houston	61	52	rain	St. Louis	44	34	cloudy
Los Angeles	72	48	sunny	Washington, DC	46	33	sunny
Miami	70	63	cloudy				
	City Atlanta Boston Chicago Dallas Denver Houston Los Angeles	City         Hi           Atlanta         55           Boston         35           Chicago         36           Dallas         54           Denver         44           Houston         61           Los Angeles         72	Atlanta       55       30         Boston       35       26         Chicago       36       27         Dallas       54       45         Denver       44       28         Houston       61       52         Los Angeles       72       48	CityHiLo Cond.Atlanta5530 pt sunnyBoston3526 mst sunnyChicago3627 cloudyDallas5445 rainDenver4428 mixedHouston6152 rainLos Angeles7248 sunny	CityHiLo Cond.CityAtlanta5530 pt sunnyMinneapolisBoston3526 mst sunnyNew YorkChicago3627 cloudyPhoenixDallas5445 rainSan FranciscoDenver4428 mixedSeattleHouston6152 rainSt. LouisLos Angeles7248 sunnyWashington, DC	City         Hi         Lo Cond.         City         Hi           Atlanta         55         30 pt sunny         Minneapolis         31           Boston         35         26 mst sunny         New York         39           Chicago         36         27 cloudy         Phoenix         66           Dallas         54         45 rain         San Francisco         59           Denver         44         28 mixed         Seattle         50           Houston         61         52 rain         St. Louis         44           Los Angeles         72         48 sunny         Washington, DC         46	City         Hi         Lo Cond.         City         Hi         Lo           Atlanta         55         30 pt sunny         Minneapolis         31         17           Boston         35         26 mst sunny         New York         39         31           Chicago         36         27 cloudy         Phoenix         66         43           Dallas         54         45 rain         San Francisco         59         41           Denver         44         28 mixed         Seattle         50         45           Houston         61         52 rain         St. Louis         44         34           Los Angeles         72         48 sunny         Washington, DC         46         33

### Lottery

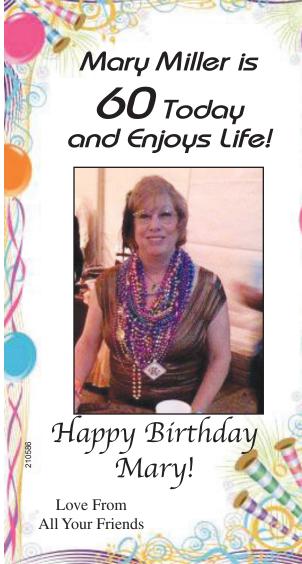
The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the Mega Millions game were: 05-09-31-37-56, Mega Ball: 16.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 5-7-10-12-30. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$20.519.

Winning ticket purchased in: Houston.

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

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



### Cowboys vs. Vikings brings back Hail Mary memory

Dallas Cowboys are headed to Minnesota for a playoff game Sunday, which means longtime Vikings fans probably won't want to watch much television the next few days.

Otherwise, they're going to see it again. The Hail Mary.

On Dec. 28, 1975, the Vikings were hosting a first-round playoff game against the wild-card Cowboys, and were winning 14-10 in the final half-minute, when Roger Staubach threw a 50-yard pass to Drew Pearson

for the winning touchdown. Known at the time as merely "a bomb," Staubach entered a new term into the vernacular of football when he described how he pulled off the miraculous throw by saying, "I closed my eyes and said a Hail Mary."

The quote is what made the pass stand out in NFL lore. But it meant so much more to both

The Cowboys were plucky upstarts, a year removed from missing the playoffs and supposedly in rebuilding mode.

Twelve rookies made the club, earning them the nickname "The Dirty Dozen." Dallas rode the momentum of the Minnesota game all the way to the Super Bowl, only to lose a thriller to the Pittsburgh Steelers.

For Vikings fans, it remains perhaps the most excruciating film clip imaginable — for so many reasons.

First off, the '75 Vikings might have been the best in franchise history.

Led by NFL MVP Fran Tarkenton and running back Chuck Foreman on offense, and featur-

Baird was led by

ing a defense fronted by a group known as the "Purple People Eaters," Minnesota won its first 10 games and finished 12-2, tying for the best record in the NFL. Coach Bud Grant's group had few weaknesses, perhaps fewer than his four teams that reached the Super Bowl.

Inthis game, Minnesota fell behind 10-7 early in the fourth quarter, then Tarkenton led a 70-yard drive for the go-ahead points with 5:56 left. Dallas had the ball on its own 15 with less than 2 minutes left. It was cold

outdoors in Bloomington, so some fans headed to the exits.

It looked over when the Cowboys were facing fourth-and-16 from the 25. Then Pearson, who hadn't caught a pass all game before this drive, caught a pass and went out of bounds at the 50. While he was sliding on the ground, a security guard kicked him.

After an incomplete pass to Preston Pearson, Staubach and Drew Pearson talked about a play that had worked before, a deep pass down the sideline with a pump

fake along the way.

"We knew what we needed to do; we had to have a bomb," Hall of Fame offensive lineman Rayfield Wright said Tuesday. "It's a play I'll never forget."

Staubach put so much into selling the fake that he nearly lost control of the ball. He held on, but awkwardly, which is why he underthrew the

And that leads to the next layer of Vikings fans' ire.

Pearson slowed to catch

See MIRACLE, 3B

### FORSAN

Continued from 1B

control of the game with a 17-8 second quarter, building a 12-point lead at the end of the first

They extended that lead to 18 points at the end of the third quarter and coasted home with the win. Miranda Park, Kelsey Jones and

Brittany Roemer each scored 10 points in the game to lead the Lady Buffs, who used their defense to pick up some quick baskets on the

"We made some outside shots, but we got a lot of transition buckets that the defense helped create," Hillger said. "We're fighting and battling, and it's starting to come together for us."

Katelynn Mitchell, who scored 15 points on the night. Ambra Hill scored

seven points for Forsan, Morgan Forshee added five and Casey Stanlee and Shelby Jones each added four.

Forsan 36, Baird 34

BAIRD — It wasn't a light-up-the-scoreboard affair, but the Forsan Buffaloes will take it.

beat Baird Tuesday night on the road despite scoring just three points in the fourth quarter. The good news is they held Baird to just four points to preserve the 2-point victory.

The Buffs held on to

Evan Burton scored 11 points, grabbed seven rebounds and notched five thefts to lead the Buffs, who used their defense to hold Baird in

check. The Buffs did not allow a single Baird player more than six points.

Forsan got out to a 10-4 lead at the end of the first period and clung to a 2-point lead at the break at 19-17.

The game was neckand-neck from there, largely due to Forsan's inability to hit free throws. They were just 7-of-18 from the charity stripe.

But, again, it was the Buffs' defense that saved them for their third straight win. Forsan will get Friday

opponent Iraan on the road Tuesday. Tipoff is Forsan 7 17 14 16 -- 54

off to prepare for district

Forsan- Ambra Hill 7, Miranda Park 10, Shelby Roemer 1, S. Jones 4, K. JOnes 10, M. Forshee 5, C. Stanlee 4, B. Roemer 10 3-point- 3 (Park 2, K. JOnes

### STEERS

Continued from 1B

ders, and he looked like he was having fun" he said of Williams. "If he misses a couple shots he tends to start pressing, and I never saw him press tonight."

Joe Haygood

Andrews with points.

After Andrews hit two quick 3-pointers, Clay responded with two 3-pointers from the corner, assisted by a nolook pass from Adams. Later in the first quarter, with the score knotted at 12, Big Spring took off on a 13-0 run

that propelled them into the locker room with a 29-18 lead.

The Steers started the second half on a 12-2 run to open up a 20-point margin, highlighted by two consecutive Adams 3-pointers. Big Spring finished 7-of-18 from behind the arc.

Andrews made a run

late in the third quarter to close the margin to 12 early in the fourth period, but the Steers kept them at arm's length to hold on for the victory.

For the Steers, their first victory in more than three weeks came none too soon.

"We went through a stretch where out of five games, we played four state-ranked teams,' Morris said. I knew our schedule was tough, but then you play (Lubbock) Cooper, which is always solid, and Brownfield, and you have to show up to play. You can't just show up and expect

**Big Spring 59, Andrews 42**Andrews 12 6 13 11-- 42
BSHS 19 10 17 13 -- 59

Andrews- Haygood 18, Alaniz Davis 7, Estrada 3, Marques Chavez 1, Huey 2, Rondan 3 Big Spring (9-11)- Williams 14 Clay 13, Adams 12, Plakhotny Ritchey 6, Lloyd 2, Tannehill Anderson 2

3-point- AHS 7-25 (Haygood 4, Davis, Marquez); BS 6 (Clay 2, Williams 2, Adams 2); Fouls-AHS 8, BS 15; Rebounds 32-20 BS; Turnovers AHS 18, BS 20;

### ROUNDUP

Continued from 1B

Dawson 43 Mustangs 32

ACKERLY The Sands Mustangs fell to 0-2 in district play with a 43-32 home loss to Dawson.

Sands lost control of the game in the second half as they scored just 13 points, while Dawson turned a 2-point halftime lead to an 11-point win.

Johnny Rogers scored 12 and Preston Zant scored 11 to lead Sands.

The Mustangs will travel to Klondike on Friday.

#### Klondike 42 Lady Wildcats 22

LENORAH Grady High School girls fell to Klondike 42-22 on Tuesday, dropping the team to 0-2 in district play.

Klondike scored 15 points in the second quarter to pull away from Grady, which falls to 8-13 on the season.

Kelly Cook scored six points to lead Grady. The Lady Wildcats will travel to Borden County on Friday. Tipoff is 6:30

Grady 65, Klondike 25 LENORAH — The

Grady Wildcats used a 25-1 first quarter to notch their second district win of the season with a 65-25 victory.

Dylan Cox scored 15 points and Jacob Rodriguez scored 12 to lead Grady. Johan Wiebe was also in double figures with 10.

Grady improves to 17-2 on the season. The Wildcats play Borden County at 8 p.m. Friday.

#### **Box Scores**

Ballinger 44, Coahoma 26 Coahoma 3 3 8 12 -- 26 Balliger 13 6 13 12 -- 44 CHS (12-8, 0-2)- Gonzales 2, Buske 3, Gee 14, Neff 2, Fowler

BHS- Multer 5, Michalewiez 5 Matschek 15, Zentner 2, Hite 10, Delgado 2, Albarado 5

3-point- CHS 1, BHS 8 (Multer, Michaelweiz, Matschek 4, Hite 2) (Buske) FT- 5-15, BHS 6-10

Trinity 7 10 7 10 -- 34 SHS 14 22 14 25 -- 75 Trinity- Brock 3, Bello 2, Hajar Schorf 20, True 2, Islam 2,

Stanton (15-5)- Fulton 28, Sidle 6, Reyna 11, Jr. Rodriguez Koonce 7, Evans 9, Gray 8, Almanza 2 3-point- Trinity 3 (Brock, Schorf

2), SHS 2 (Fulton, Koonce) Stanton 60, Trinity 20 Trinity 0 11 1 8 -- 20 SHS 17 9 22 12 -- 60 Trinity- Olive 3, Midkiff 4,

SHS- Snellgrove 5, Jones 9, Saucedo 5, Ramsey 5, Patterson Fleckenstein 19, Sanchez Beasley 2, Ryan 4, Hale 4,

Trinity 3-7, SHS 4-12; 3-point- Trinity 1 (Olive); SHS 4 (Fleckenstein 2, Ramsey, Snellgrove); Total fouls- SHS 13, Trinity 11 Mulkey 2,

**Sands 65, Dawson 24** Dawson 5 2 7 10 -- 24

Dawson- Cruz 20, Quintilla 2 Napper 1, Straley 1, Sands- Stockton

Yarbrough 13, Robles 11, Gomez 10, Me. Yarbrough 4, N. Gomez 3, Wigginton 2, Ybarra 2 FT- Dawson 6-11; Sands- 8-22

3-point- Sands 2 (Stockton 2, J. Gomez 2, N. Gomez); Fouls-Sands 15, Dawson 17 Dawson 43, Sands 32

10 9 7 6 -- 32 Sands- Jo. Rogers 12, P. Zant 11; Reynos 10, Rhoades Brown, Morrison 7 FT- 3-4, 3-13

3-point- 5-22 (Zant 3, Jo. Rogers 2), Dawson 2 (Brown, Fouls-Sands 13, Dawson 3

Klondike 42, Grady 22 GHS 6 4 6 6 -- 22 KHS (1-1 district)- Conde 8, Howard 8, Torres 5, Wiebe 3, Banuelos 6, Archer 1, Dyck 4, Skiles 7:

Grady (8-13, 0-2)- Cook 6, Arnold 5, Sawyer 4, Blocker 2, Price 2, Meeks 2 FT- KHS 10-23, GHS 6-15; Fouls- KHS 16, GHS 22

Grady 65, Klondike 25 KHS 1 6 9 9 -- 25 GHS 25 15 9 16 -- 65

GHS (17-2, 2-0)- Teague 9 Cox 15, Matthews 7, Wiebe 10 Russell 3, Pinkerton 7, Rodrigue 12. Perez 2 T-KHS6-11, GHS7-8;3-poin

KHS 3 (O'Brien 2, Sented), GHS 4 (Teague, Cox, Wiebe, Russell); Fouls- KHS 7, GHS 8

Garden City 41, Blackwell 24 BHS 5 5 9 5 -- 24 GC 15 9 6 11 -- 41 BHS (6-14, 0-2)- Allen Metcalf 6, Davis 5, Saunders Roland 1

GC (19-1, 2-0)- A. Halfmann 12, M. Schwartz 6, Niehues 5, L. Schwartz 5, L. Ramirez 5, K Halfmann 4, Hirt 2, A. Ramirez 1

Bearkats 42. Blackwell 34 BHS (11-6, 0-1)- White 15, Burrick 9, Magness 7, Ware 2,

Schults 1 GC (5-3, 1-0)- Chudej 13, Long 12, H. Halfmann 7, Hirt 7, R

Halfmann 2, Montes 1 FT- BHS 10-24, GC 7-16; 3-point- BHS 4 (White 2, Burrick 2), GC 3 (Long 2, Hirt); Fouls-BHS 15, GC 17; Foul out- H. Halfmann



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#### Haitians await help after capital shattered by country's worst earthquake in 200 years

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Dazed and injured Haitians sat on darkened streets pleading for help Wednesday and untold numbers were trapped in tons of rubble brought down by the strongest earthquake to hit this poor Caribbean nation in more than 200 years.

Destroyed communications made it impossible to tell the extent of destruction from Tuesday afternoon's 7.0-magnitude tremor — or to estimate the number of dead lying among thousands of collapsed buildings in Haiti's capital.

The ornate National Palace crumbled into itself, the headquarters of the U.N. peacekeeping mission collapsed and swaths of rickety shacks lay in shambles. Clouds of dust thrown up by falling buildings choked Port-au-Prince for hours.

#### **BILL**

Continued from Page 1A

passed an emergency resolution denying the rate increase based on the findings of the steering committee that the rate increase was unreasonable. "There have been

transactions several since that time. Oncor appealed to the PUC,

SHORTFALL

Continued from Page 1A

as Municipal League) to

see what options we had

in front of us, and

according to their offi-

cials, the council had

the option to go through

the process of setting

the tax rate all over

again," said Sjogren.

"It's unprecedented,

and the people at TML

said this is the first time

they've heard of this

happening. However,

Texas law says a city

has 60 days from the

time the certified values

are set by the district to

the appraisal district

resubmitting its certi-

fied values, the city has

the option to go back

through the entire pro-

cess, including public

hearings, and reset the

tax rate. However, that

was not something the

council wanted to do,

opting instead to absorb

Continued from Page 1A

targeted is because it is

the area where FISD

students have struggled

the most in state test

Financially, the dis-

trict is in good shape

to meet the new year,

"This is the first year

(equalization)

we have to make Robin

payments and we saw a

\$100,000 increase in our

bill from the county ap-

praisal district," John-

Because of a signifi-

cant increase in prop-

erty valuations the past

few years, FISD has be-

Johnson said.

son said.

scores, Johnson noted.

FISD

with

set its tax rate.

"Technically,

the shortfall from within the budget." According to Brett

which heard their plea

and granted their re-

quest. They originally

requested an increase

of about \$253 million.

Oncor gave the PUC a

request for \$115 million.

and the steering com-

mittee recommended

they actually do a rate

reduction of about \$175

million. That recom-

mendation was based on

certifiable facts that On-

cor is actually receiving

profits in excess of what

McKibben, chief appraiser for the Howard County Appraisal District, equipment at Western Container was accidentally added into the local company's tax valuation twice, creating a \$9 million discrepancy in the certified taxable values submitted to the council last year.

"It was a clerical error. The new assets were added to Western Container's valuation in two different areas, and you can't tax someone twice for the same thing," said McKibben. "Once we caught the error, we corrected it and resubmitted our certified values."

During an emergency meeting held last week, the council agreed to absorb the shortfall within the budget, a task will be able to achieve

come a "property rich"

district and is required

to disburse a portion of

its wealth - approxi-

mately \$1 million —

funding guidelines.

under state education

Forsan's bill from the

appraisal district in-

creased for two reasons

— to pay part of the ap-

praisal district's legal

fees stemming from the

recent lawsuit filed by

Alon USA; and because

of an increase in the

portion of the appraisal

district's budget FISD is

"Even with that, the

regular budget should

be sufficient to meet our

needs this year," John-

FISD also is looking at

required to pay.

son said.

The United States and other nations began organizing aid efforts, alerting search teams and gathering supplies that will be badly needed in Haiti, the Western Hemisphere's poorest country. The international Red Cross and other aid groups announced plans for major relief operations. Associated Press journalists found the damage

staggering even for a country long accustomed to tragedy and disaster.

#### **Obama highlighting White House** report saying up to 2M jobs created or saved by stimulus WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama

is trumpeting a new White House estimate that his top economist calls "stunning": His stimulus plan has already created or saved up to 2 million jobs. The analysis is part of the administration's quar-

terly report to Congress on the controversial \$787

their authorization will allow."

According to figures released by the city in 2008, the increase would amount to approximately 17.6 percent for residential customers and 9 percent for commercial accounts.

Unfortunately, the figures submitted by the steering committee did little to persuade the PUC to deny the electric company's request.

without decreasing services to Big Spring's citizens. "We plan to hold off

on some hiring and other expenses in order to make up the \$91,000 shortfall," she said. "If at the end of the year we have to dip into the general fund because of this, that's something we'll just have to deal with at that time." Also during Tuesday's

meeting, the council awarded a \$169,000 bid to Lubbock-based Tom's Tree Place for landscaping services in the downtown area. The work, dubbed "streetscaping," is part of the city's Main Street Extension Project.

The council also approved a contract for professional services with Water Technologies Inc. during the meeting, moving forward efforts to either Sjogren said the city renovate or replace the municipal swimming

some large facility ex-

penditures this year, he

The first project is a

"retro-fit" of the lighting

system at district cam-

puses — replacing exist-

ing lighting with newer,

more energy efficient

systems. That process

will cost approximately

Also, the district will

\$200,000, Johnson said.

look into the possibility

of installing an artificial

field at its football sta-

watering system out at

the football field is more

than 20 years old and is

in need of replacement,"

Johnson said. "We're

investigating a variety

of possibilities, includ-

underground

added.

dium.

"Our

their increase," said Walker. "The increase has actually been implemented, and has been in place since November, so all of our citizens have already begun feeling the effects of those increases. "The paperwork we

"The PUC did approve

received shows Feb. 10 of this year is the deadline to file the appeal. I spoke with the lawyer handling this case for

pool.

According to Assistant City Manager Todd Darden, representatives from the company will be making a presentation next week during a special work session the council plans to hold. "They've informed us

they will be here and ready to answer questions," Darden told the council. ``The committee"in charge of this matter looked at three different companies, and they felt Water Technologies Inc. is the best company for us to work with."

Darden said a second special meeting has been planned for Feb. 16, but the focus won't be on the swimming pool.

"We'll be going over code enforcement in the city. We want the council to give us some direction for the coming year," he said.

Contact Staff Writer

ing putting in artificial

that artificial turf would

be a significant invest-

ment, but noted that

with the savings in wa-

tering costs and other

expenses, the new sur-

face would pay for itself

FISD trustees will con-

sider bids for the light-

ing system upgrade this

month. Discussion on

improvements at the

football field likely will

be held in February,

Contact Staff Writer

Steve Reagan at 263-7331

ext. 234 or by e-mail at

reporter@bigspringher-

conceded

turf."

Johnson

in 10 years.

Johnson said.

billion package of spending and tax cuts he signed weeks after taking office.

Obama planned to highlight the report Wednesday during a visit to a Lanham, Md., training center for union electricians that specializes in "green" technology.

Republicans have denounced the stimulus plan as an expensive flop, pointing to a national unemployment rate stuck at 10 percent and December figures showing the economy shed 85,000 more jobs.

But the report from the President's Council of Economic Advisers said the economy is a lot better off than it would have been without the stimulus. Citing its own analysis plus a range of private sector summaries, the council estimated the annual growth rate last year would have been roughly 2 percentage points lower, and there would have been 1.5 million to 2 million fewer jobs.

the steering committee, and there is every intent to actually file the appeal. It won't require council authorization because you appealed the original increase." Walker said the steer-

jurisdiction over Oncor rates. "At this point, we're unsure which issues will be addressed in the

ing committee is made

up of numerous cities

that retained original

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



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appeal, but it will move forward," Walker told the council.

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

#### MYERS & SMITH **FUNERAL HOME** & CHAPEL 24th & Johnson 267-8288

Bacilisa "Bessie" Lara, 58, died Sunday. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Dragon China Buffet, 1300 Gregg 268-8888 \$1.00<sub>Off Per Adult</sub> .50<sub>Off Per Child</sub> Up to 10 People (NOT FOR CARRYOUT) EXP. 01/31/10 178311

#### CORRECTION

On the front cover of our Style Stock Up circular inserted in today's newspaper, the Clearance offer mistakenly states 70% off when you take an additional 50% off clearance prices. The correct offer is 70% off when you take an additional 40% off clearance prices. We apologize for any inconvenience

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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

USPS 1431-48 ISSN 0746-6811 (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$14.58 monthly

Spring, Texas. USPS 0055-940 BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.85 monthly; \$95.58 yearly

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Publisher... Ext. 250

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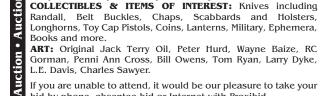
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### Kiffin heads back to USC from Vols in stunning hire

Nobody was surprised Southern California replaced Pete Carroll with a coach who has rich ties to the Trojans. From Knoxville to Hollywood, almost everybody was stunned to learn exactly which former Trojan is back.

Lane Kiffin abruptly left Tennessee after one season Tuesday night to return to USC, where he was an assistant coach for six years before embarking on one of the strangest, swiftest and rockiest journeys in recent coaching history.

After 20 tumultuous games as the Oakland Raiders' head coach and 14 months at Tennessee in which he accumulated nearly as many NCAA and SEC reprimands as victories, the 34-year-old Kiffin has emerged with one of the most coveted jobs in college football. He will be introduced by the Trojans on Wednesday afternoon.

"This is something that happens very quick," Kiffin said in a brief statement on Tennessee's campus Tuesday night while hundreds of shouting, mattress-burning fans gathered outside the building. "I really believe the only place I would have left here to go was ... Southern California."

choice by embattled USC athletic director Mike Garrett and school trustees, who apparently gauged the interest of three coaches with strong Trojans ties — former players Jack Del Rio and Jeff Fisher and former assistant coach Mike Riley — before quickly grabbing Kiffin 24 hours after Carroll's farewell.

Kiffin was a blindside

"We are really excited to welcome Lane Kiffin back to USC," Garrett said. "I was able to watch him

closely when he was an assistant with us, and what I saw was a bright, creative young coach who I thought would make an excellent head coach here if the opportunity ever arose. I'm confident he and his staff will keep USC football performing at the high level that we expect."

Kiffin might be leaving Knoxville just ahead of an angry mob, but he's bringing along his father, respected defensive coach Monte Kiffin, and defensive line coach Ed Orgeron, a bulldog recruiter and former USC assistant. Until leaving for a short tenure at Ole Miss, Orgeron helped land much of the talent that allowed Carroll to win 97 games, seven Pac-10 titles and two national championships in nine seasons before leaving for the Seattle Seahawks.

"Ed did a marvelous job during his previous time at USC, and we all know that Monte is a defensive guru," Garrett said. "I know Lane will fill out his staff with other outstanding assistants like them, ones who Trojan players and fans will really like."

Though reports differ wildly on how much Kiffin contributed to the Trojans' best teams, he's one of Carroll's most prominent disciples from his nine-year tenure at USC. Kiffin worked his way up to offensive coordinator in 2005 while also showing impressive skills as the Trojans' recruiting coordinator after Orgeron's departure.

For two seasons, Kiffin shared responsibility for the Trojans' offense with fellow longtime Carroll assistant Steve Sarkisian, who left USC to take over at Washington in late 2008.

Although Kiffin's

forceful personality and youth didn't make him a beloved figure among players or administrators, Kiffin and Sarkisian coordinated the Trojans' offense and provided instruction to quarterbacks Matt Leinart and John David Booty during two dynamic seasons.

Kiffin then was Al Davis' improbable choice to take over the Raiders as a 31-year-old coach with almost no NFL experience. He made it through just 20 games before an ugly public firing in which Davis called Kiffin a liar who brought "disgrace" on the Raiders.

Kiffin went 7-6 at

Tennessee last season as the voungest head coach in the Football Subdivision. Bowl Many credited him with revitalizing the program through his fierce recruiting and sometimes outlandish statements to the media, but he also brought an unwelcome spotlight on the Vols with several minor NCAA violations.

"I know that I can walk out of here and say this, that we've been here for 14 months and there's not one day I didn't give everything I had to the Tennessee football program," Kiffin said. "We're leaving here 14 months later a lot better team than we were 14 months ago."

Knoxville fire officials and university police were on campus after Kiffin's announcement as students burned mattresses and gathered around the athletic department building in hopes of blocking Kiffin from leaving campus. It was not clear if Kiffin was still on campus at

"I think the students have had kind of a violent reaction to that, and a lot of them are disheartened, upset and feel betrayed



AP PHOTO via Knoxville Sentinel/J. Miles Car

Lane Kiffin speaks at a news conference Tuesday in Knoxville, Tenn. Kiffin announced that he will take the USC job after one season in Knoxville.

that less than a year in that he would be leaving and taking off," Knoxville Fire Department spokesman D.J. Corcoran said.

"The Rock," a giant boulder on campus where students often paint "Happy Birthday" messages, had obscenities directed toward Kiffin. Students tried to enter the room where Kiffin read his statement, holding a sign that read "Go home traitor. It's time," mimicking a campaign the university used to promote Kiffin when he was hired. But the students were turned back before Kiffin talked.

During Kiffin's tenure, the Volunteers reported six minor NCAA violations ranging from mock news conferences for prospects to mentioning recruits by name on the radio and on his Twitter and Facebook accounts. The Twitter account belonging to Kiffin, whose missteps earned him the nickname "Lane Violation" at other SEC schools, disappeared had

Tuesday night.

Three Tennessee freshman players were recently charged in an attempted robbery near campus, and the university confirmed the NCAA is looking into the activities of members of the university's Orange Pride student ambassador program as possible recruiting violations.

Kiffin returns to USC

with the school facing a yearslong NCAA investigation over events during his tenure as an assistant, including Reggie Bush's final years at the school. While no discipline has been handed down, it's widely expected to arrive later this year—but Carroll has long intimated he believes the punishment will be

### su do ku

minor.

#### © Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

#### **MIRACLE**

Continued from 2B

catch it and bumped into cornerback Nate Wright as they jumped for the ball. Wright landed on the ground while Pearson felt the ball go through his arms. Somehow, he actually pinned it to his hip - a la David Tyree and his head in the Super Bowl two years ago. Pearson turned and scampered the last few yards into the end zone, then the former college quarterback heaved the ball into the crowd.

The throw fans wanted to see was a flag. The only one that came was against Minnesota's Alan Page for griping about the non-call. Fans threw all sorts of things onto the field. An official

**BEFORE** 

reached to pick up some trash when a whiskey bottle conked him in the head, opening a gash.

"I don't think he pushed off," Rayfield Wright said, smiling.

Hours after the game, things got far worse for Tarkenton. He learned that his father — a pastor named Dallas — died of a heart attack while watching the game on television.

Dallas beat Minnesota in an NFC championship game following the 1977 season, then again in the playoffs on Dec. 28, 1996. That had been the Cowboys' most recent playoff victory until last Saturday.

The Vikings have won five of the six meetings since the '96 playoffs, including a playoff game following the 1999 season.

Foreign · Domestic

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# In **Sunday's**Big Spring Herald



### Mistaken indentities

What started out as cases of mistaken identities have turned into lucrative careers for many celebrity impersonators. For these great pretenders, there is no business like faux business! Plus, Rosie's Garage and shrimp and pasta.

**American**Profile



By Steve Becker

#### Planning the Play

East dealer.

East-West vulnerable.

↑ KJ ↑ AJ3 ↑ KQ103 ↑ AK96 SOUTH ↑ A108632

▼ K Q 9 ◆ J • Q 7 5 The bidding:

 East
 South Pass
 West Dble A ♣

 Pass
 1 ♠
 Dble A ♠

 Pass Pass Dble Opening lead — king of clubs.

Endplays seldom come about by themselves. Declarer must usually do at least some preliminary preparation to develop the end position he seeks.

Consider the present case where

to develop the end position he seeks.

Consider the present case where
West leads the king of clubs against
four spades doubled, then shifts to
the king of diamonds at trick two.
Declarer wins with dummy's ace and
sees that if the missing cards are

badly stacked against him, he could

lose a spade and two hearts in addition to the club he has already lost.

**South has no control** over the trump loser if the spades are divided 2-0, so he should focus on holding himself to one heart loser instead of two. In line with this, he ruffs a diamond at trick three, the first step in the elimination process that he hopes will produce the desired result. Without this diamond ruff, South would lose the contract.

He next plays the ace of trumps, on which East shows out, and continues by ruffing a club, a diamond, a club and, finally, dummy's last diamond. Having eliminated all the clubs and diamonds from his own hand and dummy, South is ready for the coup de grâce.

At this point, dummy has three hearts and two trumps, as does South, while West is down to three hearts, a club and the trump king. Declarer now puts West on lead with a trump. West wins the trick — the second for his side — but he is not happy. If he returns a club, he hands South a ruff-and-discard as well as the contract. And if he returns a heart instead, the outcome is exactly the same, since South then loses only one heart trick.

It pays to plan the play.

**Tomorrow:** Bridge is a logical game. ©2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.

# Window Replacement Full Service Collision Center Lifetime Warranty 207 Goliad 263-7306

**Big Spring Collision Center** 

"Quality Is A Way Of Life"

**THOMAS** 

**JENKINS** 

# 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."

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

### Don't forget we like your letters to us

t's the so-called "dead of winter," and, although nobody's going to be snowed in very often in these parts, there's not much of anything better to do on a really cold day that sit down and enjoy a good book or read the day's newspaper.

What's more, there's still quite a bit going on these days in our community and we here at the Herald want to take this opportunity to remind our readers that we welcome your letters to the editor and want to publish them in the

On an almost daily basis, you can find our policies concerning letters to the editor located on our "Opinion" page, but here is a reminder:

While it is not an absolute requirement, we ask that letters be limited to no more than 300

Yes, we have printed quite a few letters in the past year that were considerably longer than 300 words. However, letters are printed on an "as space is available basis," and longer letters are more difficult to find space for publication and sometimes wait more than a week to be

Letters must be signed and include a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address, for verification purposes. Anonymous or unsigned letters, or those that do not include a telephone number or street address, will not be considered for publication.

Letters determined to be libelous or slander-

ous will also not be printed.

We do reserve the right to edit letters for style and clarity and we also reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period for each author.

Unfortunately, the limited size of our staff makes it impossible for us to acknowledge the receipt of letters.

And, as one might expect, letters submitted from those living in our readership area will receive priority.

There are a number of ways to submit letters. They can be mailed to: Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring 79721. Or they can be hand delivered to our offices at 710 Scurry St. during normal business hours Monday through Friday. In addition, you can go to our Website at www.bigspringherald.com and click on the Letters to the Editor icon and be provided with a form that will guarantee it arrives in the editor's office.

We also encourage readers to submit letters via e-mail at editor@bigspringherald.com.

The thing to remember is that the Big Spring Herald is your community newspaper and we want to provide you with a forum to express your views.

So, please let us hear from you.

#### 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

#### A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Amen

We are at our best, Lord, when we walk with

### It's tax time, beware of phishers

he tax season has to be one of the most emotionally conflicted times of the year in the United States. For those expecting to receive a sizable tax return, it's anticipated much like a child waiting for Christ-

mas morning. For those who usually end up owing taxes, it's a huge pain in the rear and comes entirely too quickly. Those expecting

returns aren't the only one's glad to see the season get here, though, as the prospects of fat government checks have many

criminals licking their proverbial chops. With a whole laundry lists of scams and get-rich-quick schemes at their disposal, these defrauders are after your money, and if you're not smart about things, they may very well get it. According to officials with the

Internal Revenue Service, phishing — a tactic used by Internetbased thieves to trick unsuspecting victims into revealing personal information they can then use to access the victims' financial accounts — is one of the most popular ways criminals use to defraud tax-filers. Criminals use the information

obtained to empty the victims' bank accounts, run up credit card charges and apply for loans or credit in the victims' names. Phishing scams often take the form of an e-mail that appears to come from a legitimate source. In fact, some scam e-mails falsely claim to come from the IRS, and unlike the fake \$20 bill you tried to pass off to your uncle Wilbur when you were 5 years old, they look rather convincingly legit.

And the ways in which these "phishermen" bait their hooks is rather diverse. In 2008, the IRS reported receiving more than 30,000 scam e-mails forwarded to them, including at least 1,500 different schemes. As we all know,

if only 30,000 were reported, millions were most likely sent out, and there's no telling how many thousands of dollars lost to these

Sadly enough, victims of these schemes could have avoided the entire mess if they had known one simple fact: The IRS never uses e-mail to contact taxpayers about their tax issues.

Some phishing e-mails threaten a dire consequence if you don't respond quickly. The messages direct you to a Web site that looks just like a legitimate organization's site. But it isn't. It's a bogus site whose sole purpose is to trick you into divulging your personal information so the operators can steal your identity and run up bills or commit crimes in your name.

Here's an example of a phishing e-mail that uses eBay to exploit its victims:

Subject: eBay Account Verifica-

Date: Fri, 20 Jun 2003 07:38:39 -0700

Dear eBay member, As part of our continuing commitment to protect your account and to reduce the instance of fraud on our website, we are undertaking a period review of our member accounts. You are requested to visit our site by following the link given below: http://arribba.cgi3.ebay.com/ aw-cgi/ebayISAPI.dll?UpdateInfo rmationConfirm&bpuser=1

Please fill in the required information. This is required for us to continue to offer you a safe and risk free environment to send and receive money online, and maintain the eBay Experience. Thank

Once you add the eBay logo and graphics — which can easily be ripped from the Web site by even the most novice computer user — there's really no immediate reason to think the e-mail is anything but legitimate. However, if you look a little closer and use some good, old-fashioned common sense, there's a pretty glaring error in the message.

The link points you toward the server http://arribba.cgi3 before following with the subdomain ebay.com. Those who are Web savy know an e-mail or link from ebay will almost always begin with ebay.com, even if it contains subdomains. The link above was shut down some time back by law enforcement.

In most cases, if you receive an e-mail like this, it's always better to call the company assuming you actually have an account with them — and make sure it's legit before volunteering any information whatsoever In about 90 percent of the phishing e-mails I receive at my Big Spring Herald e-mail address, the scam claims to reference an account with a company I've never even done business with. Those messages go directly to the junk folder.

Dishonest tax return preparers can also cause many problems for taxpayers who fall victim to their schemes. These scam artists make their money by skimming a portion of their clients' refunds and charging inflated fees for return preparation services. They attract new clients by promising large refunds.

Some preparers promote the filing of fraudulent claims for refunds on items such as fuel tax credits to recover taxes paid in prior years. Taxpayers should choose carefully when hiring a tax preparer, especially one who promises something that seems too good to be true.

Whether tax time feels like Christmas or a violent mugging, you can avoid making matters worse by having your identity along with whatever you might have in your bank account safe by keeping a vigilant eye out for these scams.

Taxpayers who receive unsolicited e-mail that claims to be from the IRS can forward the message to a special electronic mailbox at phishing@irs.gov.

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

#### **ADDRESSES**

#### **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT** BARACK OBAMA

President The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON U.S. Senator

703 Hart Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 Phone: 202-224-5922

 JOHN CORNYN U.S. Senator 517 Hart Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 Phone: 202-224-2934

 RANDY NEUGEBAUER U.S. Representative 19th Cong. District 1510 Scurry

Big Spring Phone: (432) 264-0722

#### **STATE GOVERNMENT** RICK PERRY

Governor State Capitol, Room 2S.1 P.O. Box 12428 Austin, 78711 Phone: (512) 463-2000

JOE HEFLIN

**D**ANIEL

KLINE

State Representative Texas 85th District P.O. Box 2910 Austin, 78768 Phone: (432) 213-2897 or (512) 463-0604

·KEL SELIGER State Senator

Texas 31st District 401 Austin, Suite 101 Big Spring, 79720 Phone: (432) 268-9909

**BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL** Russ McEwen, Mayor

— Home: 263-0907; Work (Russ McEwen Insurance): 267-1413.

TERRY HANSEN -Home: 263-26169; Work (Howard Cooege): 264-

MANUEL RAMIREZ JR. -Home: 268-9692; Work (VA Medical Center): 263-

STEPHANIE HORTON — Home: 264-0306: Work (VA Medical Center): 263-

JOANN STAULCUP -Home: 263-4980. GLORIA McDonald -

Home: 263-4835. Work: 263-7615.

Troy Tompkins — Home: 267-8769. Work: 263-0180.

### Without jobs, it's still a recession

ood news, America. On a completely meaningless, utterly technical level, the recession has ended. It hasn't ended in a way that means you might get a job anytime soon or in a way where you won't have

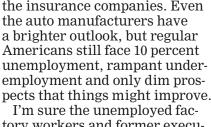
to to be worrying about money, but under the textbook definition of a recession, it's all

I'm personally relieved and plan to go on a spending spree fueled by readily available credit and easily obtainable, lucrative side-jobs. I'll also spend the

money I'm saving on my government-sponsored affordable health care and perhaps I'll use a few dollars from my rapidly growing home equity.

Sadly, that does not seem to be the way things are going and even though the recession may be over as far as the politicians and eggheads are concerned, it has not stopped for us regular folks. It seems that the endless government meddling that began under President George Bush and continued under President Barack Obama has resulted in the kind of recovery where regular people do not recover.

The banks are healthier as are



tory workers and former executives now working at Starbucks take great pleasure in the fact that their bankers and insurance agents have nothing to worry about. Of course, they probably had to drop their insurance and are mostly avoiding calls from the bank because they can't afford to make their mortgage payments.

As a nation we have spent billions of dollars on an economic recovery that created no jobs. I'm against government messing with the free market, but if we're going to spend public money on anything shouldn't it be on directly creating jobs?

Instead of boondogles like "cash for clunkers" and giving billions to prop up companies that should have been allowed to go out of business, maybe we could have built some bridges or fixed up our inner cities? Or, if we're going to be in two wars, we should at least go back to bombing Iraq and Afghanistan so American factories can get back to work making more? Once again, I prefer less government, much lower taxes and

letting the free market solve its

Daniel B. Kline's work appears

to spend government money (i.e. our money) on anything it should be on putting people back It's absurd to call any efforts

own problems, but at least public

works programs actually stimu-

late the economy. If we're going

to end the economic downturn a success until companies begin to hire. I'm glad that inventories are up 2 percent, holiday sales showed a slight increase and whatever other meaningless stats politicians throw out in order to pat themselves on the back, but it mean nothing without a drop in unemployment. The current situation is akin

to your doctor telling you that while he can't cure your cancer, he does have a pill that will make you slightly better looking while you die. Real people don't judge the economy based on fancy reports, they judge it based what they can afford.

A mediocre economy is one in which working hard allows you to make ends meet and a good economy is one that allows you to do that, take a vacation and buy some new stuff.

It's not complicated.

If we have a few dollars we're doing great and if we don't, we aren't.

in more than 100 papers weekly. He can be reached by e-mail at dan@notastep.com

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#### **Cemetery Lots**

2 LOTS- Trinity Memorial Park. "Garden of Sharon". Valued at \$3,680.00. Will sell together for OBO. \$3,000.00 Call (432)413-2773 (775)220-1244 leave message.

#### **Help Wanted**

CITY OF BIG SPRING Administrative Secretary Communications Officer Senior Center General Worker Maintenance Worker Utility Service Worker **Temporary Plant Operator** Waste Treatment Plant-Operator

Airpark Maintenance-Superintendent For more information go to www.mybigspring.com or call (432)264-2346

COOK NEEDED Part-time. Must be Neat in Appearance. Honest & Dependable. No experience necessary, will train. Inquire at Wagon Wheel, 2010 Scurry. No phone call Please!

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FARM HAND Wanted! Experience only apply. \$500.00 Weekly. Call after 7:00p.m. (432)684-5418.

FIBERPAR LINEPIPE is the leader in high-strenght, fiber reinforced tubular products for the oil and gas industry. We are seeking a Field Service Technician in the Big Springs area. Fiberspar offers a full benefits package. Contact Charli Ann at 281-854-2609 or email/fax resume

cramin@fiberspar.com, Fax 713-849-9202.

APPREN-JOURNEYMAN/ TICE Electrician. Must have industrial and rigid pipe experience. Call (972)414-7028/ Fax resume to (903)327-8460.

**LINEMEN & Equipment Opera**tor wanted, must have CDL. Apply at TESSCO 3217 E. FM 700 between 8am-4pm or call 432-263-0633.

#### **Help Wanted**

LOOKING **FOR** reliable, friendly, full-time Night Auditor 11pm-7am shift. Housekeepers needed immediately. Apply in person at Super 8 formerly Comfort Inn 2900 East I-20.

**NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE** Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

### ΔPPLY

PERSONAL CARE assistant needed for the Big Spring area. Must be 18 yrs. old and have dependable transportation. SUCASA Home Come by Health, 1311 West Florida, Midland or fax resume to (432)620-8250.

#### PIZZA INN

HIRING DELIVERY KNOW DRIVERS. MUST HAVE CLEAN DRIVING RECORD AND INSURANCE. MAKE UP \$12.00 PER HOUR. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG.

**PRIMARY UTILITY** Services is accepting applications for the following positions: Experienced Lineman- Experienced Apprentice. Must pass physical drug exam. (325)575-1782 or apply online www.primaryutilityservices.com

PROPERTY MANAGER for new 112 units. Apartment community in Big Spring, Must have strong organizational and management skills with the ability to work independently. Experienced prefer, but not required. Hourly plus medical, 401K, vacation. Please fax resume to: (254)793-2775. EOE

**REGIS HAIR** Salon Big Spring Marketplace, now hiring full-time Manager and Stylist. Benefits include 401k, 529 college fund, incentive program, on going education. Medical, Dental and Eye Insurance. All furnished supplies except shears. Call Jack Borrego (432)263-1111 1-888-888-7778 ext. 41147.

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#### Miscellaneous

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#### Pets

GREY GHOSTS!! Full-blood Weimaraner pups. Two males, one female. Tails docked, dewclaws removed, first shots. \$300.00. Contact Misty (432)517-2977

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1 & 2 Bedroom Furnished Apt.. Weekly or Monthly Rental. All bills paid including cable & Internet. Call (432)466-9277.

1005 BLUEBONNET. 2 Bdrm, bath. No pets. Call (432)517-0640 or 517-0025.

#### **Real Estate for Rent**

1303 STANFORD, 2 Bdrm, 1 bath, CH/A, no pets. \$500.00 month, \$500.00 deposit. Call (432)816-5570.

1311 TUSCON 2 bdr, 1 bath, garage Tile and wood floors, ČH/A, 600/month 550/deposit. 432-213-4647.

1504 B Wood. 2 bdrm, 1 bath Duplex. All bills paid. \$600.00 month, \$500.00 deposit. Call (432)212-3646.

1810 S. BENTON. 3 Bedroom, 1-1/2 bath Brick House, Large Livingroom, fireplace, large carport, fenced backyard, 2 building. storage Monthly, \$700. deposit. One Year Lease. (432)267-7032 leave message.

1ST MONTH Free Rent with One year lease. Good Credit Only. Completely Remodeled with crown molding, new appliances. \$595. Monthly. Please Call (432)816-7104.

2 BEDROOM, 1 bath, garage, Clean. No pets, non smoking environment. Credit/ Background check. \$750 month plus deposit. Call (432)413-0394.

2606 CHANUTE Drive, 3 bdrm, 1-1/2 bath, fenced yard, CH/A \$785. month, \$500. deposit. One Year Lease Required. No pets. Call indoor (432)770-5656 Owner/ Broker.

3202 AUBURN 3 bdr, 1 bath, garage, tile and wood floors. CH/A \$675/month \$600/deposit. 432-213-4647. 3621 CONNALLY- 3 Bedroom,

2 bath, CH/A, fenced yard, tile floors, carpeted bedrooms, No pets, No HUD. \$700.00 month, \$400.00 deposit. (432)816-1464.

3704 CALVIN, 3 bedroom, 1 bath brick, CH/A. \$700. Month, \$400. deposit. No HUD. No Pets. Non-smoker. References required. Call (432)270-3849 for more information.

405 11TH St.. 2 Bdrm, 1 bath, CH/A. Located by High School. Small cozy house. Nice. No HUD or pets. \$500.00 month. References. (432)213-6943.

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All BILLS PAID 2 Bdrm, 1 bath Apartment with Cable \$699/month Call (432)263-1252

BUILDING FOR Rent-East 1st Street (Big Spring). \$350 month, \$350 deposit & 1 year lease required. Please contact Lucy (432)263-5000 for more information.

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Pools & covered parking No application fees No credit checks Senior Discounts 1425 East 6th Street (432)263-6319

SMALL BUILDING for Rent-1308 Highway 350 (Big Spring). \$250 month, \$250 deposit & 1 year lease required. contact Please (432)263-5000 for more information.

#### SUNSET RIDGE **APARTMENT** 2911 West Hwy 80

Big Spring 432-263-2292 Free Application Fee

!!! \$99 Move-In Special !!! Large 1 Bdrm \$350 month Large 2 Bdrm \$395 month Security **HUD OK** 

**TANGLEWOOD GROVE APT.** 2 & 3 Bdrm Available Various Discounts 3304 W. Hwy 80 (432)714-4840

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2528 and 2530 Fairchild, square feet duplex. 2,500 \$499.00 down, \$776.75 per month. Call (432)270-8920 or Home Realtors. FOR SALE By Owner: Garden

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Any Condition. Tax Liens No Problem. Call (512)940-5200, 432-631-8100.

#### Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT ConocoPhillips Company, 3300 N.A. Street, Building 6, Midland, TX 79705, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation that is productive of oil and gas. The Applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Yates formation, Settles Yates Unit, Well No. 113. This well is a vertical oil producing well. The well is located 2 miles SSW from Forsan, Texas, in the Howard Glasscock Field in Howard County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into the subsurface depth interval of 1238-1305'.

**LEGAL AUTHORITY:** Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of The Railroad Commission of Texas.

Request for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application, should be submitted, in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Division, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Drawer 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711. (Telephone (512)463-6792) #6399 January 13, 2010

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# Jourgal Viola alenge

2010 Best Loser **Fat to Fitness Spring Challenge!** 

We are seeking teams (of 4 people any age) ready to take part and lose weight in February, March, April and May competing to claim

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If you are ready to start losing weight, sign up for

**The Best Loser Spring Challenge!** 

We are seeking teams (of 4 people any age) ready to take part in this fitness/lifestyle change, and compete for a Grand Prize Package! Team fee: \$50 (Only \$12.50 per person any age). Individuals or corporate sponsor

- Team photos and updates will be published. Here you'll be able to follow along with the progress of each team, and see how your team measures up.
- Official Weigh In Location: **Serenity Spa**
- We will only provide your team's total percentage of weight loss not individuals.
- At the end of the 3-month program, the winning team will be determined by the highest percentage of weight lost, and receive the "Grand Prize."
- Contest prizes determined on number of teams.
- To join the Best Loser Spring Challenge, fill out the form below and return to us with a check or money order for \$50 no later than January 31, 2010.

Questions? Call 432-263-7331 Ask for Rick

#### (TEAM PHOTOS MUST BE TAKEN TO OUALIFY FOR PRIZES)

Mail form or drop off along with \$50 team fee to:

The Best Loser C/0 Big Spring Herald P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721

Team Member 4:





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### Why not check this out? At the library

es, it is that time of year when new materials begin trickling into the library! As you may have noticed, we no longer have books on cassette,

only those recorded on CD. The majority of the books on cassette will be available at the annual book sale in Septem-

ber. We



will put some on the Friend's Sale Shelf, but it will be a hit or miss proposition as to what is out Here are a few of the

new books on CD that have come in: "The Scarpetta Factor," by Patrician Cornwell; "Intent to Kill," by James Grippando; one by Tami Hoag, "The Trouble with J.J.;" and a favorite author of mine, Thomas Perry, who wrote the Jane Whitehead series, "Dance for the Dead." New non-fiction just

#### NOTICE OF SCHEDULED **ENTRY INTO FIELDS**

Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code Sec. 74.117, cotton producers Permian Basin Weevil Eradication Zone, which Howard, Martin, and portions of Borden and Midland counties are hereby notified that Texas Eradication Weevil Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities around their fields beginning January 16, 2010 All cotton fields will be mapped and treatment will begin during the cotton-growing season. For prior chemical treatment, call 1-800 location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Weevil Eradication Foundation at 1-800-687-1212.

in: "Cowgirls: Stories of Trick Riders, Sharp Shooters and Untamed Women" (978.008 TUR E),) edited by Erin H. Turner. It is the story of fiercely independent, untamed women of the old West — the

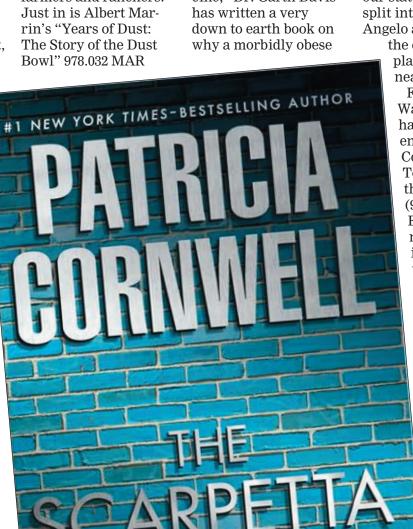
cowgirl. The West was indeed populated with strongwilled women who worked and played as men did in the saddles of their favorite bucking broncos — women whose sacrifices, hard work and can-do attitude helped build a nation. "Cowgirls" celebrates this previously overlooked aspect of the Western experience by bringing together their stories, including their own thoughts about being cowgirls.

"After Ike: Aerial View from the No-Fly Zone" (976.410 CAR B) contain photographs taken by Bryan Carlyle. Views of the devastation left on the Texas coast are extraordinary. Andrew Sansom, a native coastal Texan, offers his thoughts on Hurricane Ike and what it meant to the area. Carlyle's photographs are graphic in depicting the aftermath; in some instances there are before photos, areas where homes were enmeshed in trees, shrubs, grass. The after photo shows exactly what was destroyed. Truly a "food for thought" book; should man build in such fragile areas?

In our book club, we read "The Worst Hard Time" by Timothy

Egan who wrote of the dustbowl and how it affected thousands of farmers and ranchers. Just in is Albert Marrin's "Years of Dust: The Story of the Dust Bowl" 978.032 MAR

loss surgery. Written by the star of TLC's television show "Big Medicine," Dr. Garth Davis



A), filled with photos by award-winning photographer Dorothea Lange. This is sort of the Reader's Digest version of Egan's book; there are certainly some of the same photos, but I do think you would enjoy comparing the

An interesting book has come in on weight

two books.

person should consider weight-loss surgery. "The Expert's Guide to Weight-Loss Surgery'

(617.43 DAV G) is a very

readable book with a

great deal of informa-

tion to offer someone

who is considering this type of surgery. Some Texas books for you to check out. "Ghosthunting Texas"

(133.109 SLA A) by

April Slaughter is an amusing book on various ghostly places in our state. She has it split into sections, San Angelo and Waco are

the closest haunted places she lists; a neat little book.

For you Civil War buffs, we have "The Seventh Star of the Confederacy: Texas During the Civil War" (973.746 HOW K). Edited by Kenneth W. Howell, it incorporates the latest scholarly research. Each contributor will take you from the battlefield to the home front of those who fought and tended the home.

"Fire in the Cane Field: The Federal Invasion of LA and TX, January 1961-January 1963" 973.730 FRA D) by Donald S. Frazier, professor at McMurry Univer-

sity in Abilene, talks of the consequences of

secession. "Sacred Memories: The Civil War Monument Movement in Texas" (973.76 MCM K) by Kelly McMichael, takes you on a tour of Civil War monuments throughout the state. Short articles give the details as to the who and why a monument was erected.

samund Pilcher, Maeve Binchy and the like will be sure to enjoy it, too. But make no mistake Marcia Willett is no imitator. "A Week In Winter" (WIL M) by Marcia Willett is the story of Maudie Todhunter, the elderly protagonist and her story of life newly-widowed is told while two subplots of young love interweave with her story. The novel focuses on a wonderful English farmhouse called Moor gate which stands at the entrance to the English moors. What transpires in that house during one very special week sends ripples through

the lives of a host of

richly textured char-

granddaughter Posy,

the house renovator

ately ill Melissa and

her brother Mike, to the estranged Selina

and Patrick, everyone

is touched forever by

the event that occurs at

Moorgate. This review

is from Amazon.Com.

The library does have a

couple more of Willett's

acters. From Maudie's

Rob Abbott, the desper-

Anyone who loves Ro-

The New Book Binder will make its appearance for 2010 soon! Look for it at the circu-

The Library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is www.howard-county. lib.tx.us. The Library will be closed Saturday, Jan, 16 and Monday, Jan. 18 for the MLK Holiday. We will reopen Tuesday at 10 a.m.

# Pets get cold too, ya' know

Never leave your

become chilled very

quickly when outside

for very long. Stay out

cold, your pet is prob-

ably cold also.

with your pet; if you are

If your small dog has

been clipped for easier

get cold much quicker.

jacket or sweater is also

Never leave it out for

extended periods. A

maintenance, it will

pets outside in freezing

weather. Small pets can

Shared knowledge from Animal Control



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Payless**Powe** 

West Texas. The frosty and sometimes snowy mornings are lovely to look at from a window in a cozy room and our pets seem to like dashing around and playing

We do need to take some precautions to ensure they stay healthy in winter. Animals and children having fun seem to forget about being cold and uncom-

to be aware and make when outdoors. Pets should not be left outfreezing weather — like humans, they can suffer from hypothermia and frostbite.

Winter has arrived in in the brisk weather.

fortable. It is our responsibility sure they don't become over-tired and chilled side for long periods in

If left out they should have a secure warm place to escape from the cold wind and wet weather.

a good idea for a pet that has been clipped. Larger dogs with heavy coats can endure colder temperatures for a longer time, but they can and do become chilled and uncomfortable when left out for long periods of time.

> An animal that has gotten wet playing in water or snow can become chilled and unable to maintain its body temperature. Never leave a wet, cold pet outdoors. Bring it in and dry it completely by rubbing briskly with

a towel. Cats are also easily chilled when left out in cold weather. Most cats do not have water resistant fur and can become wet and chilled very quickly. A cat's ears are very thin and have a thin covering of hair. They can become frost bitten verv easily.

Short-haired cats have very little fur covering the pads of the feet; toes can also get frostbite. If your pet has been out in snow and ice, always check feet to be sure there is no ice or snow stuck in the pads and toes.

Older and very young animals tire out and become chilled much more quickly than a healthy, mature animal. Always supervise the older and young ones very close. They can slip on wet or icy surfaces and injure themselves or get wet and chilled very quickly. Close supervision can prevent a costly trip to the vet clinic.

Keep an eye on your pet's water. Sometimes owners don't realize that a water bowl has

frozen and their pet can't get anything to drink. Animals that don't have access to clean, unfrozen water are more likely to drink out of puddles or gutters, which can be polluted with oil, antifreeze, household cleaners and other

chemicals. If you walk your pet in areas that have been "de-iced," the chemicals can cause dry, chapped and potentially painful paws. This will encourage the pet to lick their paws, and ingestion may cause gastrointestinal irritation and upset. Wash off your pet's feet after an outing with a warm wet cloth or footbath.

Do you have enough of the following items to last a few days, should the roads become unsafe for travel or the veterinary office is closed?

- Extra pet food
- Extra kitty litter
- Fresh water supply Soft warm bedding
- Extra medications your pet takes on a regular basis

When traveling with your pet, it is always a good idea to carry extra supplies, just in case your trip is extended.

If you have any questions about pets or animal regulations in Big Spring, Contact Animal Control at AC@ bigspringpd.net

### The Legendary Stamps Quartet



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5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Friends Office	Cortes Harris	BBC Business	Cash Cab	Arnold	CSI: Crime Scn	Leverage	BET's Top 10	Phineas Suite Life	Around Interrupt	SportsCenter
6 :PM	News Ent. Ton.	Jeopardy! Wheel	Gancho	Two Men Two Men	News Ent. Ton.	12 Cora- zones	News Millionaire	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Mark Swallow	PBS News- Hour	Man vs. Wild		UFC's Ulti- mate Fight	Leverage	Live	Wizards Montana	College Basketball	College Basketball
7 :PM :30	Family Middle	Family Middle	Nombre- Amor	American Idol	Christine Gary	Más Sabe el Diablo	Mercy	Payne Payne	Upd House	The Human Spark	Man vs. Wild	ator, Jesse	Night	Leverage	Movie: Posse,	Movie: The Wild, James		
8 :PM	Family Cougar	Family Cougar	Sortilegio	Our Little Genius	Criminal Minds	Pobres	Law & Order: SVU	Browns Browns	Light of the Southwest	Great Perfor- mances	Man vs. Wild	Ventura	Die Die	Leverage	Charles Lane	Phineas	College Basketball: Kansas at	College Basketball
9 :PM	(:01) Ugly Betty	(:01) Ugly Betty	Don Fran- cisco	Simpsons Friends	CSI: NY	Victorinos		Browns Browns			Solv.History	Movie:	Die MAN	Leverage	Game Game	Phineas Montana	Nebraska.	
10 :PM	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Raymond TMZ	News Letterman	Noticias Decisiones	News Tonight Show	Lopez Tonight	Upd Dr. Young	Crown		Aliens, Mi- chael Biehn	Blue Blue	CSI: NY	The Mo'Nique	Wizards Suite Life	College Basketball: Utah State at	SportsCenter
11 :PM :30	Insider Jimmy Kim-	Jimmy Kim- mel Live		Law & Order: SVU	Late Late	Decisiones	Late Night	Name Name	Israel	BBC T. Smiley	Solv.History		MAN Die	CSI: NY		Suite Life So Raven	Nevada.	Fastbreak
12 :AM :30	mel Live News	Extra Paid	Torrente, un Torbel	Paid King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex & Sex &	Upd Sanchez	(Off Air)	Man vs. Wild	Movie:	CSI: Crime Scn	Leverage	Movie: Posse,	Cory Kim	Final Baseball	SportsCenter
1 :AM :30	Foods Paid	Paid Paid	Mujer Cero	Paid RENO 911	Ent. Ton. Paid	Pagado Pagado	Poker After Dark	Lopez Tonight	Light of the Southwest		Overhaulin'	Aliens, Mi- chael Biehn	Unsolved Mysteries	Saving Grace	Charles Lane	Replace Emperor	Wtr. X- Games	SportsCenter

#### **DENNIS THE MENACE**



'HOW COME WHEN WE 'NEED TO TALK,' I'M THE ONE WHO DOES ALL OF THE LISTENING?"

#### THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"How did my wisdom teeth get smarter than the others?

#### **HAGAR**



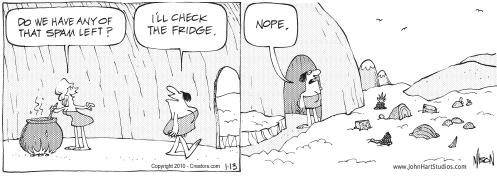
#### **BLONDIE**







#### BC



#### WIZARD OF ID









ANY CLIPS, AND WATCH OUT FOR

DEADLY AVALANCHES





### This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 13, the 13th day of 2010. There are 352 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight History:

On Jan. 13, 1794, President George Washington approved a measure adding two stars and two stripes to the American flag, following the admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the union. (The number of stripes was later reduced to the original 13.)

On this date:

In 1733, James Oglethorpe and some 120 English colonists arrived at Charleston, S.C., while en route to settle in present-day Georgia.

In 1864, composer Stephen Foster died in New York at age

In 1898, Emile Zola's famous defense of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, "J'accuse," was published in Paris.

In 1910, opera was experimentally broadcast on radio for the first time as Lee De Forest

transmitted a performance of "Cavalleria Rusticana" and "Pagliacci" from the stage of New York's Metropolitan Opera.

In 1945, during World War II, Soviet forces began a huge, successful offensive against the Germans in Eastern Europe.

In 1962, comedian Ernie Kovacs died in a car crash in west Los Angeles 10 days before his 43rd birthday. In 1966, Robert C. Weaver

was named Secretary of Housing and Urban Development by President Lyndon B. Johnson; Weaver became the first black Cabinet member.

In 1978, former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey died in Waverly, Minn., at age 66.

In 1982, an Air Florida 737 crashed into Washington, D.C.'s 14th Street Bridge after takeoff during a snowstorm and fell into the Potomac River, killing 78 people.

In 1990, L. Douglas Wilder of Virginia became the nation's first elected black governor as he took the oath of office in Richmond.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Liz Anderson is 80. Actress Frances Sternhagen is

80. TV personality Nick Clooney is 76. Comedian Rip Taylor is 76. Actor Billy Gray is 72. Actor Richard Moll is 67. R&B musician Fred White is 55. Rock musician James Lomenzo (Megadeth) is 51. Actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus is 49. Rock singer Graham "Suggs" McPherson (Madness) is 49. Country singer Trace Adkins is 48. Actor Patrick Dempsey is 44. Actress Traci Bingham is 42. Actress Nicole Eggert is 38. Actor Orlando Bloom is 33.

Thought for Today: "The whole secret of life is to be interested in one thing profoundly and in a thousand things well." Horace Walpole, 4th Earl of Orford, English author (1717-1797).

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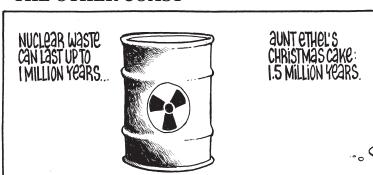


#### HI AND LOIS





#### THE OTHER COAST



#### **SNUFFY SMITH**





#### BEETLE BAILEY





### **Newsday Crossword**

**ACROSS** 1 Sound

reasonable 6 "Beat it!"

11 Kind of camera.

for short

14 Reagan's

chimp costar

15 Either of two

African nations

16 After-dinner drink

17 Gavel wielder

19 Cereal grain

20 Firm up, as

muscles 21 Treasure find

23 Advisory group

27 Breathed out

29 Retort to

"Am too!" 30 Excellent

two-pair hand **31** Coin redesigned

in 2009 32 French fashion

designer 33 Former Italian

coin

36 Stamped

return env., for example

37 Orchestra section

38 Bartender's

supply

39 Willy Wonka

creator

41 Pancake topper 42 Shoplifting, e.g.

44 Emulated a banshee

46 New Orleans cuisine

47 Played for time 49 Gave the cold

shoulder to **50** Wall painting 51 Mushroom piece 52 "Big Blue" 53 Throne, say

**60** Director Ang or Spike

**61** Pursuer of Bugs

62 Oneness 63 Muff one

**64** High society

**65** Canterbury

coins

#### **DOWN**

1 Symbol of ease

2 Homer Simpson's cry

4 Action-film gun

complainer

**6** Trail for hounds

part

3 Genetic letters

5 Philip Roth's

7 Nuclear reactor

8 ICU workers 9 Time past

23 Dressed like

Dracula

**24** Place for a bout

**25** Second-stringer

26 Tourist stop 27 Low-budget

**11** Police informer

shore time

worthy of

18 Sonnet creator

22 Cuban leader

Castro

12 Sailor's

13 Deemed

prefix

28 Gen-(post-boom

babies) 30 Ran on TV

32 Rationed,

with "out" 34 Biathlete's

weapon

PARK IT by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com 10 Fairly long time

35 Contributed,

with "up"

37 Financial bind

40 Song syllables 42 Fabricate, as

charges

43 Coop brooder 45 "Haven't

decided vet" 46 Wolfgang Puck,

for one

47), in an emoticon 48 Potato or yam

49 Squirrel away 51 "Keep it" mark

54 90-degree bend **55** "What

chopped liver?" 56 Early afternoon

57 Pitcher's success

58 Miscellany abbr.

59 Diner loaf

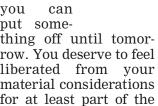
11 |12 |13 10

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Saturn, the lesson planner of the zodiac, goes retrograde in Libra, the sign of relationships. Lessons in love will be repeated, just to make sure we got it the first time. The lucky part about this review is that it gives us a chance to bring a greater degree of grace and class to our interactions than we might have the first time around.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Yes, you have responsibilities. But must you handle all of them in one day? Consider

whether



HOLIDAY

**M**ATHIS

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Balance and moderation are in order. There are those around you who will want to push you in a direction that is too extreme. Be reasonable. Also: Avoid spicy or unusually rich foods.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Some days you are content to fit in, be a friendly force deflect all praise and admiration. Not today. You want to be the envy of all who know you, and you'll work toward that goal the whole day through.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you think of a certain person, your temperature soars. You are distracted from whatever you are doing by the mere thought of this person. Resolve your unresolved feelings.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Spiritual levity leads to physical weight loss. Lighten your load. Toss off the weight of worry. If you're still thinking of a mistake you made long ago, forgive yourself. Create your own ritual for doing so.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). After a hectic morning, you'll finally relax into the day. By the afternoon, everything will seem to come to you with much less effort than before. Tonight brings a friendly and

informative call. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your mind can be cruel to you — far more so than any person has ever been to you. Do not let negative thinking keep you from taking an exciting risk. If you desire it, you can break

your mental chains. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). In a relatively brief amount of time, you forge a bond with someone. Why not use your talent for connecting with people for personal gain? Sell something, or gather support for your favorite cause.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have run around enough. You've seen as many places as you need to see for the moment. If you sit in one place, there's a good chance the whole world will come to you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). One project is coming to a close. That makes it a good time to improvise. You want to make sure that you end on a memorable note. Apply your creative impulses.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Something in you does not want to cooperate with the tall orders of the day. Maybe you feel underappreciated or the reward for hunkering down seems too minimal. Give yourself time to dream and recharge.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Someone is thinking about you just as often as you are thinking of that person. You may even run into him or her today as you go where the lovely people are. And of course, you'll fit right in.

T O D A Y BIRTHDAY (Jan. 13). Life wasn't meant to be a struggle. The material barriers between you and what you want will crumble as you recognize that the obstacles are merely symbolic. spiritual approach. February brings a victory. You'll give an important performance in March. You'll improve your health and fitness in June. Cancer and Aries people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 16, 23, 41, 19 and 1.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I don't know if I'll ever be able to trust another man again. And if I do, he won't be a Capricorn. It turns out that my soonto-be ex-husband was cheating on me for years with not one, but two different women. And until a few weeks ago, I never suspected a thing. He covered his tracks so well! What should a divorced soon-to-be Scorpio do next? I want to get it right this

BrandingallCapricorn men as possible cheaters is not fair! Most Capricorn men are decent, honest and hardworking. Just because one match didn't work out doesn't mean you couldn't create a better relationship with another person of the same sign. But that's not what's most important now. A year off of dating is the best "next move." You're not even divorced yet! You're still spinning from all of the new information you've



received. recently Furthermore, you need time to process what has gone on in your marriage. Take responsibility for your part in it so that you don't think of yourself as a victim who's been wronged. You're a powerful creator, Scorpio. One of your symbols is the phoenix, and like that magnificent and magical bird, you will rise up the from ashes renewed. CELEBRITY

PROFILES: UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Orlando Bloom is a heartthrob with heart. Three luminaries in Capricorn lend earthy strength and presence to this driven actor, even if he happens to be playing an elf or fighting a computergenerated pirate. His Venus in Pisces suggests that he's a sensitive romantic, and that he's so in tune with his love interest that he can sometimes read her mind.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.cre-

ators.com and click on read her past columns, "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

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### ALKING: KNOW IT. NAME IT. STOP IT.

### JANUARY 2010 StalkingAwarenessMonth.org

### IF YOU'RE STALKED

#### You might:

Feel **fear** of what the stalker will do.

Feel vulnerable, unsafe, and not know who to trust.

Feel anxious, irritable, impatient, or on edge. Feel depressed, hopeless, overwhelmed, tearful,

Feel **stressed**, including having trouble

concentrating, sleeping, or remembering things. Have eating problems, such as appetite loss,

forgetting to eat, or overeating. Have flashbacks, disturbing thoughts, feelings, or

Feel **confused, frustrated, or isolated** because other people don't understand why you are afraid.

These are common reactions to being stalked.

#### IF SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS BEING STALKED, YOU CAN HELP.

Listen. Show support. Don't blame the victim for the crime. Remember that every situation is different, and allow the person being stalked to make choices about how to handle it. Find someone you can talk to about the situation. Take steps to ensure your own safety. For more ideas on how you can help, call 1-800-FYI-CALL

### We can help.

To learn more about stalking, visit the Stalking Resource Center Web site www.ncvc.org/src

#### THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR lictims of Crime

We can help you make a safety plan, learn more about your legal rights, and find help in your area.

#### 1-800-FYI-CALL (1-800-394-2255)

TTY 1-800-211-7996 Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. ET

If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

www.ncvc.org · gethelp@ncvc.org

#### **Victim Services** 263-3312 www.vsofbigspring.com

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# threatening note on car followed to school broke car are you being STALKED?

#### ARE YOU BEING STALKED?

Stalking is a series of actions that make you feel afraid or in danger. Stalking is serious, often violent, and can escalate over time.

#### Stalking is a crime.

A stalker can be someone you know well or not at all. Most have dated or been involved with the people they stalk. Most stalking cases involve men stalking women, but men do stalk men, women do stalk women, and women do stalk men.

#### Some things stalkers do:

- Repeatedly call you, including hang-ups.
- Follow you and show up wherever you are.
- Send unwanted gifts, letters, cards, or e-mails. Damage your home, car, or other property.
- Monitor your phone calls or computer use.
- Use technology, like hidden cameras or global positioning systems (GPS), to track where you go.
- Drive by or hang out at your home, school, or work.
- Threaten to hurt you, your family, friends, or pets.
- Find out about you by using public records or on-line search services, hiring investigators, going through your garbage, or contacting friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers. Other actions that control, track, or frighten you.

You are not to blame for a stalker's behavior.

### THINGS YOU CAN DO

Stalking is unpredictable and dangerous. No two stalking situations are alike. There are no guarantees that what works for one person will work for another. vet you can take steps to increase your safety.

If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

Trust your instincts. Don't downplay the danger. If you feel you are unsafe, you probably are.

Take **threats** seriously. Danger generally is higher when the stalker talks about suicide or murder, or when a victim tries to leave or end the relationship

Contact a crisis hotline, victim services agency, or a domestic

violence or rape crisis program. They can help you devise a safety plan, give you information about local laws, refer you to other services, and weigh options such as seeking a protection order.

Develop a safety plan, including things like changing your routine, arranging a place to stay, and having a friend or relative go places with you. Also, decide in advance what to do if the stalker shows up at your home, work, school, or somewhere else, Tell people how they can help you.

Don't communicate with the stalker or respond to attempts to contact you.

Keep evidence of the stalking. When the stalker follows you or contacts you, write down the time, date, and place. Keep e-mails, phone messages, letters, or notes. Photograph anything of yours the stalker damages and any injuries the stalker causes Ask witnesses to write down what they saw.

3.4 million people are stalked each year in the United States.

> Contact the **police**. Every state has stalking laws. The stalker may also have broken other laws by doir things like assaulting you or stealing or destroying

Consider getting a **court order** that tells the stalker to stay away from you.

Tell family, friends, roommates, and co-workers about the stalking and seek their support. Tell security staff at your job or school. Ask them to help watch out for your safety.

Women are three times more likely to be stalked than men.

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### News in brief

#### Haitians await help after

capital shattered by earthquake

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Dazed and injured Haitians sat on darkened streets pleading for help Wednesday and untold numbers were trapped in tons of rubble brought down by the strongest earthquake to hit this poor Caribbean nation in more than 200 years.

Destroyed communications made it impossible to tell the extent of destruction from Tuesday afternoon's 7.0-magnitude tremor — or to estimate the number of dead lying among thousands of collapsed buildings in Haiti's capital.

The ornate National Palace crumbled into itself, the headquarters of the U.N. peacekeeping mission collapsed and swaths of rickety shacks lay in shambles. Clouds of dust thrown up by falling buildings choked Port-au-Prince for hours.

The United States and other nations began organizing aid efforts, alerting search teams and gathering supplies that will be badly needed in Haiti, the Western Hemisphere's poorest country. The international Red Cross and other aid groups

announced plans for major relief operations.

#### Wall Street executives come to Washington to face grilling

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top bank executives can expect a grilling when they appear before a congressionally appointed panel investigating the causes of the 2008 financial collapse.

Four of Wall Street's most powerful leaders — Goldman Sachs Group Inc. Chairman-CEO Lloyd Blankfein, JPMorgan Chase & Co. CEO James Dimon, Morgan Stanley Chairman John Mack and Bank of American Corp. CEO-President Brian Moynihan — were to give sworn testimony before the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, which was holding its first session Wednesday.

The bipartisan, 10-member panel was handed the job of writing the official narrative of what went wrong before the financial system nearly collapsed in the fall of 2008.

The banking executives summoned to testify spent the days leading up to the hearings in meet-

ings with corporate lawyers and government relations specialists.

#### 2 U.S. troops, 4 Afghan soldiers killed in explosions in eastern Afghanistan

KABUL (AP) — Two U.S. service members died and four Afghan soldiers were killed in separate explosions Wednesday in eastern Afghanistan, an area of the nation rife with violence, officials said.

Nine members of the Afghan National Police were injured Wednesday in other incidents, offi-

NATO said the two American troops died in a bomb blast, but disclosed no other information. Their deaths bring to 12 the number of American troops killed in Afghanistan so far this month.

In Khost city, members of the Afghan National Army found two explosives, said Amir Hassan, a spokesman for the police chief in Khost province near the Pakistan border. He said the soldiers detonated one and removed the other, which subsequently exploded.

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#### Obama highlighting White House report

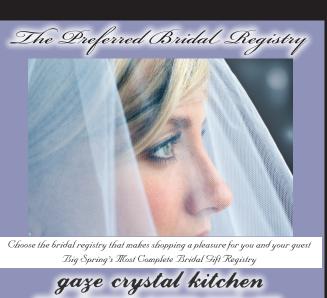
WASHINGTON (AP) President Barack Obama is trumpeting a new White House estimate that his top economist calls "stunning": His stimulus plan has already created or saved

up to 2 million jobs. The analysis is part of the administration's quarterly report to Congress on the controversial \$787 billion package of spending and tax cuts he signed weeks after taking office.

Obama planned to highlight the report Wednesday during a visit to a Lanham, Md., training center for union electricians that specializes in "green" technology.

Republicans have denounced the stimulus plan as an expensive















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